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ROUTINE
R 201817Z MAY 75
FM CIA/MILDIST

TO CINCPAC
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~~SECRET/WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND~~

~~METHODS INVOLVED/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~
CIA INTEL INFORMATION REPORT CITE 50X1
COUNTRY CAMBODIA
DOI MAY 1975
SUBJECT THAI ARMY DEBRIEFING OF THAI FISHERMEN RELEASED
ALONG WITH THE CREW OF THE U.S. SHIP "MAYAGUEZ"
ACQ THAILAND, BANGKOK (20 MAY 1975)
FIELD NO. 50X1
SOURCE A RELIABLE SOURCE 50X1 WITH
GOOD CONTACTS IN THE ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA)
TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER. HIS REPORTING
RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. HE
PROVIDED A COPY OF THE DEBRIEFING REPORT. HE
WAS PROBABLY AWARE THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD
REACH U.S. OFFICIALS.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF A
THAI ARMY REPORT BASED ON THE DEBRIEFING OF THE FIVE THAI
FISHERMEN RELEASED BY THE KHMER COMMUNISTS ALONG WITH THE CREW
OF THE U.S. SHIP "MAYAGUEZ."

----- INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION -----

CPF 2(9) ACT
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Classification Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, Sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2019-014, Doc. 1
Declassification Date: Nov. 9, 2022

CONTROL NR 275358/140 CHANNEL NR BTR 6639 PAGE OF PAGES 1 OF 1 TIME OF RECEIPT 140/1917Z DATE TIME GROUP 201817Z MAY 75

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(1) ON 12 MAY 1975 AT 1400 HOURS, THE THAI FISHING "SIN WARI" WAS TAKEN BY THE KHMER COMMUNIST (KC) GUNBOAT NO. 126 WHILE IT WAS SAILING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE VICINITY OF KOH TANG ISLAND AND WAS FORCED TO LAND AT KOH TANG, WHERE THERE WERE ALSO TWO CAPTURED VIETNAMESE VESSELS.

(2) THE THAI FISHING BOAT BELONGED TO C H O N G R A K NARINTHUWARI OF TALAT AMPHOE KHLONG YAI, TRAT PROVINCE. THE FIVE CREW WERE P U PHAKDIKIT, Y A N G BUNMI, TAENGTANG, U D O M (LAST NAME UNKNOWN), AND N U (LAST NAME UNKNOWN).

(3) ON THE EVENING OF 12 MAY 1975, 50X1 THE KC BRING A GUNBOAT TOWING THE FREIGHTER "MAYAGUEZ" TO DOCK AT KOH TANG WITH A CREW OF 39 AMERICANS AND ONE FILIPINO, TOTAL OF 40 PERSONS. LATER ON 13 MAY 1975, THE KC FORCED ALL THE "MAYAGUEZ" CREW TO BOARD THE "SIN WARI". AT THE SAME TIME FOUR U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING RECONNAISSANCE. THE KC FIRED AT THE U.S. PLANES WITH MACHINEGUNS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS BUT MISSED.

(4) ON 14 MAY 1975 THE KC TRIED TO BRING THE "SIN WARI" TO KOMPONG SOM, BUT THE BOMBING FROM THE U.S. PLANES PREVENTED THEM. THE U.S. PLANES ATTACKED THE GUNBOAT AND THE KC FORCES ON KOH TANG AND KOH PHU RO WAI, WHICH IS 48 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOH TANG. THE KC THEN BROUGHT THE SHIP TO LAND AT KOH TANG, 50 KILOMETERS FROM THE REAM NAVAL BASE.

(5) ON 15 MAY 1975 THE KC RELEASED THE SIN WARI WITH ALL THE CREW. THE THAI CREW BROUGHT THEIR BOAT ALONGSIDE THE "MAYAGUEZ" TO DELIVER THE U.S. CREWMEN. THE "SIN WARI" THEN GOT FUEL AND FOOD FROM A U.S. WARSHIP. THE "SIN WARI" HEADED FOR THE THAI COAST ARRIVING AT AMPHOE KHLONG YAI, TRAT PROVINCE AT 0400 HOURS, 16 MAY 1975.

(6) WHILE AT THE REAM NAVAL BASE, 50X1 THE KC THAT THEY HAD ABOUT 17 GUNBOATS IN OPERATION AND ONE WARSHIP DOCKED THERE. MOST OF THE KC CREWS HAD BEEN ON FISHING BOATS BEFORE, AND EACH GUNBOAT CARRIED A CREW OF EIGHT MEN. THESE BOATS COULD OPERATE FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS, AND THEN THEY WOULD BE OUT OF ORDER BECAUSE THEY LACKED SPARE PARTS.

(7) THE KC FORCES AT KOH TANG NUMBERED ABOUT 60 AND AT KOH PHU RO WAI ABOUT 100, WITH 40 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE KC SUFFERED HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE IN

CONTROL NR 275358/140 CHANNEL NR BTR 6639 PAGE OF PAGES 2 OF TIME OF RECEIPT 140/19:17Z DATE TIME GROUP 201817Z MAY 75

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THE U.S. ATTACKS.
(8) WHILE THE "SIN WARI" WAS SAILING CLOSE TO KOMPONG
SOM PORT ON 14 MAY 1975, 50X1 [REDACTED] THREE FREIGHTERS
FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, LOADED WITH A LARGE
QUANTITY OF RICE AND PETROLEUM, DOCKED THERE. 50X1
FREIGHT TRUCKS RUNNING ALONG ROUTE 4, 50X1
THAT THERE ARE NOW CHINESE EXPERTS WHO HAVE COME TO HELP DIRECT
THE CAMBODIAN LABORERS IN REBUILDING ROADS".

2. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY, DEFATT, USMACHAI,
USOM, USIS (DIRECTOR ONLY) AT BANGKOK.
SENT TO CINCPAC, IPAC, CSG, PACAF, PACFLT, KUALA LUMPUR,
SINGAPORE
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~/WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
~~SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~
CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER, EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B
(2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

END OF MESSAGE

CONTROL NR 275358/140 CHANNEL NR BTR 6639 PAGE OF PAGES 3 OF 3 TIME OF RECEIPT 140/19:17Z DATE TIME GROUP 201817Z MAY 75

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