

Thesis Title	The Mayaguez Incident : A Study of Crisis Decision-Making
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ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to study the factors which influence the Thai government's decisions during the Mayaguez incident. Its hypothesis holds that internal factors, namely changes in the political system after 14 October 1973, Thai leaders' perceptions and the roles of extra-bureaucratic political groups, are the crucial ones in influencing the government's decisions.

From the analysis contained in this thesis it is found that, although external factors can not be disregarded, for they impact upon Thai leaders' perceptions of the U.S. and the Thai-American alliance, it is the internal factors which were the most important. Of particular significance was the change from military to civilian government whose members had different perspectives on the American alliance and different political requirements from military officers. Moreover, the change from "closed" to "open" politics in this period also allowed a number of political forces to assert themselves and influence policy-making in general and in the Mayaguez incident in particular. Thus, it can be said that the analysis serves to support the hypothesis put forward in this thesis.