

PROBLEM 3**WHAT SHOULD OUR PURPOSES BE AND
WHAT MEANS SHOULD WE USE TO SERVE THEM?**

The Seizure of the *Mayagüez*: What analysis might best avoid a repetition of the *Mayagüez* incident?

Every seagoing country faces the risk that one of its naval vessels, or a fishing or other commercial vessel owned by its citizens, will at some point be seized by a foreign state off that state's shores. Presumably that foreign government will claim the right to do so because of where the ship was or what it was doing. Looking to the future, what should a country do to deal with the problem of its ships being seized by foreign governments?

Based on the readings, class discussion, and anything else you know, prepare a one- or two-page worksheet answering the following questions:

1. Government X has just had one of its ships seized by a foreign government.
 - a) Consider the possible purposes (even those that are conflicting) that you think Government X should have in this situation. In doing so, distinguish between those purposes that focus on:
 - i) being victorious and winning what we want now
 - ii) increasing the government's power in the future;
 - iii) maintaining peace and order in the way such problems are dealt with.
 - b) Given these purposes, how should Government X respond in order to achieve them? Consider:
 - i) measures of self-help;
 - ii) measures to exert influence;
 - iii) measures designed to have an educational impact.

2. Some time has passed since the above incident occurred, and Government X is now looking forward, considering what it might do before another ship is seized.
- a) With this in mind, what should the purposes of any action Government X takes be?
 - i) in terms of victory;
 - ii) given its interests in becoming more powerful in the international community;
 - iii) regarding its interests in preserving a peaceful, orderly process for dealing with international conflict.

 - b) What means should Government X use in order to serve these purposes?
 - i) by way of self-help;
 - ii) by influencing other governments (in order to make such seizures less likely or less dangerous);
 - iii) by way of educating its own personnel or others about the way in which such problems ought to be handled.