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position of 37-10N1 004-03E7, PIM (Point of intended movement) coastal easterly of 15 knots. (2) LIBERTY message dtg 042050Z June 1967 reported an 042400Z position of 37-22N4 011-15E8, PIM 12-16 until 050130Z thence 106/15. These two messages were received at the U. S. Communications Station, Morocco but there was no evidence that the Communications Station refiled these messages into common user channels for onward delivery. LIBERTY message dtg 051934Z June 1967 reported an 052400Z position of 35-20N 19-11E, PIM of 106/115, and that LIBERTY had assumed condition readiness three-modified. Condition readiness three-modified meant that LIBERTY had her normal steaming watch on deck, plus one man standing by the forward gun mounts. LIBERTY carried two pedestal mounted .50 cal. Browning Machine Guns on her forecastle and identical mounts on either side of the deck-house aft of the bridge. Under "modified condition three", bridge lookouts would man the two after guns until the crew manned general quarters. By its message dtg 062036Z, LIBERTY stated it would be reporting to the OPCON of COMSIXTHFLT at 070001Z, and further advised that its armament consisted of four .50 caliber machine guns. COMSIXTHFLT directed LIBERTY to conduct operations as previously directed but

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advised LIBERTY that in view of the then present Arab/Israeli situation and the unpredictability of the UAR actions, to maintain a high state of vigilance against attack or threat of attack and to advise if the local situation dictated a change in the area of operations (COMSIXTHFLT msg dtg 062349Z June 1967). In its message dtg 070908Z LIBERTY reported on 070800Z position of 33-06N 28-54E PIM 109/16.5 until 072300Z, thence stationary within 30 nautical miles of 31-45N 33-30E. The final sitrep of LIBERTY reported on 080800Z position of 31-45N 33-30E PIM within 30 nautical miles of the above position. (LIBERTY msg dtg 080800Z). This reported operating area was within the operating areas set forth in JCS message dtg 011545Z -- the latest guidance received by LIBERTY prior to the attack.

The following three messages which modified LIBERTY's area of operation were not received by the ship prior to the attack: (1) JCS message dtg 072230Z, (2) JCS message dtg 080110Z, and (3) COM SIXTHFLT message dtg 080917Z. The facts relating to the non-delivery of these three messages as indicated in the Court of Inquiry are summarized hereafter.

LIBERTY OPERATIONS on 8 June 1967 (All Times are BRAVO)

The projected operations of LIBERTY on the morning and afternoon of 8 June were to proceed to a point 13 nautical miles from the UAR

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Coast at 31-27.2N 34-00E (Point Alfa) thence to 31-22.3N 33-42E (Point Bravo), thence to 31-31N 33-00E (Point Charlie) retracing this track until new orders were received. If fixes could not be obtained accurately as Point Charlie was approached, it was intended to head due north until the 100 fathom curve was crossed and the track moved to the north to more or less move back and forth on the general average of the 100 fathom curve. The normal steaming speed was to be five knots. Normal steaming colors were flown and there was no intention to steam at darken ship. At 0754 LIBERTY was steaming on a course of 130°T at a speed of 10 knots. At 0849, LIBERTY passed through Point ALFA and changed course to 253°T. At 0905, speed was decreased to 5 knots. Point Bravo was passed at 1032 and the ship's course was changed to 283°T.

OVERFLIGHTS OF LIBERTY ON 8 June 1967 PRIOR TO THE ATTACK

There were a number of overflights of LIBERTY by unidentified aircraft prior to the attack on 8 June 1967. The first overflight occurred at 0515 -- after sunrise. Although no markings or insignia were seen, this aircraft was noted to have a double fuselage -- looking somewhat "like an old P-38 or a small flying boxcar" (Record, p. 60).

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This plane circled about three or four times off the port beam and then took off in a true direction toward Tel Aviv. At 0850 a single jet crossed astern of the ship at a distance of approximately three to five miles. This aircraft circled the ship from starboard to port and returned to the mainland in the direction of the UAR. A "locating two" message was transmitted on this sighting -- LIBERTY message dtg 080742Z. At about 1030, a flight of two unidentified jet aircraft orbited the ship three times at about 10,000 feet and at a distance of approximately two miles. At about 1056 an aircraft similar to the American flying boxcar crossed astern of the ship at a distance of about three to five miles. This plane circled the ship around the starboard side, proceeded forward of the ship and headed back toward the Sinai Peninsula. Overflights by aircraft similar in configuration to the American "flying boxcar" (C-119) occurred at about 1145, 1220 and 1245. During the 1145 and 1245 flights the ensign was specifically noted to be flying from the foremast, and, due to a slight breeze, was extended. It has been determined that the NORD 2501 of which the Israeli Government [illegible], is a twin fuselage plane similar in appearance to the American "flying boxcar".

AIR ATTACK ON LIBERTY

At 1147 LIBERTY passed Point Bravo and changed courses to 283°T. At 1348 the ship secured from general quarters drill.

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1351, while on a course of 283°T, three small surface contacts at a range of 32,200 yards and a bearing of 082°T were picked up on LIBERTY radar. This contact was reported to the bridge. The Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and the Officer of the Deck were on the bridge at the time. At 1353 radar reported possible aircraft passing over the surface contacts. At 1358 a single aircraft was sighted approaching the ship from 135° relative at an altitude of approximately 7,000 and at a distance of approximately 5-6 miles from the ship. This aircraft was noticed to have similar if not identical characteristics to the jet aircraft which had orbited the ship at 1230. LIBERTY received no communications from this aircraft nor did it attempt to transmit any to the aircraft. The Commanding Officer directed the Officer of the Deck to call the forward gun mounts stating he believed the aircraft were going to attack. The Officer of the Deck tried unsuccessfully three times to raise the forward mounts. One aircraft passed down track of the ship and at about 1403 there was a loud explosion -- portside amidship. Prior to the attack, at about 1400, the Commanding Officer personally sighted the minaret at El Arish at a bearing of 240° from the ship and range determined from radar of 25.5 miles. Prior to the air attack there was no fire directed from LIBERTY at any of the aircraft. Immediately following the

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explosion, the Commanding Officer ordered general quarters and signalled all ahead flank on the engine order telegraph. Between 1405 and 1410 LIBERTY was under repeated air attack with two or more aircraft making between 6-8 coordinated strafing, rocket and incendiary runs over the ship. The attacks were made in a criss-cross fashion over the ship with each attack coming at approximately 45-second to one-minute intervals. These attacks caused three major fires topside covering large areas of the ship with flames and smoke. Two 55 gallon gasoline drums on the portside 01 level and a motor whaleboat on the starboard side on the 02 level aft of the bridge were set ablaze. In addition, the public address system, the UHF/AM/FM and most sound-powered phone circuits were severed or destroyed during the first of the attack. While the air attack was in progress and despite a severe leg injury from shrapnel, the Commanding Officer obtained a camera from the safe on the bridge and commenced photographing the attacking aircraft and later the motor torpedo boats engaged in the strafing and torpedo attack.

SURFACE ATTACK ON LIBERTY

During the latter moments of the air attack three motor torpedo boats (MTB's) were noted to be approaching the ship from the northeast

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on a relative bearing of approximately 135° at a distance of about 15 miles. LIBERTY was on a course of 283°T at a speed in excess of five knots. The boats were in wedge formation, 150-200 yards apart, with the center boat the lead point of the wedge. Their speed was estimated at 27-30 knots. Since they appeared to be coming in a torpedo launch attitude, the Commanding Officer directed mount 51 to take the boats under fire. He also noticed that the normal steaming ensign had been shot away during the air attack and ordered a second ensign to be hoisted from the yardarm. A holiday size ensign was hoisted on the port yardarm. It has been determined that the size of this flag was 7 x 13 feet. The Commanding Officer directed the crew to standby for a torpedo attack from the starboard side. LIBERTY continued on a course of 283°T at maximum speed. At about 1428 when the boats were approximately 2,000 yards from LIBERTY, there appeared to be signalling from the center boat. It also appeared to the Commanding Officer that the boat was flying an Israeli flag. Because of the intermittent blocking of the view by smoke and flames, it was not possible to read the signals of the boat and no signals were transmitted from LIBERTY due to the fact that the starboard searchlight had been destroyed in the air attack. In view of the possibility

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that the attacking aircraft were Israeli and the attack was conducted in error, the Commanding Officer yelled to mount 51 to hold fire. However the order was apparently not received and at about 1431, mount 51 fired a short burst at the boats. As soon as mount 51 opened fire, mount 53 began firing at the center boat. Mount 53's fire was described as extremely effective and blanketing the area and the center torpedo boat. Simultaneous with the firing from mounts 51 and 53, the MTB's commenced strafing the starboard side of LIBERTY. The flames from the burning whaleboat made it impossible to approach mount 53 from the starboard wing. The Commanding Officer ordered Ensign Lucas around the portside of the bridge to get machine gun 53 to cease fire. Simultaneously the Commanding Officer passed the word to standby for a torpedo attack. Ensign Lucas returned and stated he saw no one at mount 53. At 1434 a torpedo passed 75 yards astern of LIBERTY. At 1435 a torpedo struck the starboard side of LIBERTY amidship. The torpedo hit caused no major fires but the blast caused a loss of electrical power throughout the ship, and a 5° starboard list. The explosion caused the ship to come dead in the water with all power and steering control lost. Engines and boilers were secured at 1436. The torpedo struck the research coordination center. These spaces flooded instantly. The condition of the remains recovered from this space indicated that death was instantaneous.

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ACTIVITIES OF MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS AFTER ATTACK

Immediately after the ship was struck by a torpedo, the MTB's stopped dead in the water and milled around astern at a distance of approximately 5-600 feet from LIBERTY. One of the MTB's was seen to have a hull number of 206-17. One of the boats started signalling the ship. Code Lima India signifying that the ship was not under command was hoisted by LIBERTY. Using a hand-held Aldis lamp, LIBERTY signalled "U. S. Naval Ship". The MTB then sent in English "Do you need help?" followed by "Do you want us to standby?" The LIBERTY reply to both inquiries was in the negative. The MTB then came up to the portside and flashed "Good Luck" and returned astern to join the other two boats. At about 1505 the MTB's retired towards shore to a range of about five miles. At about 1507 a helicopter bearing the Star of David approached LIBERTY from the portside and hovered at a distance of about 500 yards. A second helicopter approached the ship at 1509. The markings on these helicopters were 04 and 08 or D4 and D8 respectivel,. Passes were made around and over the ship but they were not observed to pick up bodies, persons or debris. At 1536, the MTB's which had departed again headed towards the ship at high speed. The order to standby for torpedoes was again given. No attacks occurred and the MTB's departed. Between 1536 and 1710

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the MTB's returned to the ship several times. By 1713 they had retired out of sight over the horizon. At about 1615, two unidentified jet aircraft approached the ship from the starboard side and reconnoitered from a distance. At about 1645 an Israeli helicopter circled close to LIBERTY and attempted to signal. The craft appeared desirous of landing, but the Commanding Officer ruled out landing as too hazardous. Repeated attempts to communicate with the helicopter were unsuccessful. At 1852 a message packet was dropped on the forecastle. The message written on a calling card of the U. S. Naval Attache, Tel Aviv asked "Have you casualties?". LIBERTY attempted by several means to communicate that there were many casualties, but there was no indication that the message was understood. The helicopter departed shortly after sunset -- about 1905.

MESSAGES OF 7 AND 8 JUNE ORDERING CHANGES OF LIBERTY OPERATIONS

Means and time of transmission and handling of several messages are of importance in the sequence of events leading up to the attack on LIBERTY on 8 June 1967. Included in the record of the Court of Inquiry are evidence and testimony to the effect that from 1 June and until and during the attack on LIBERTY, communications systems concerned were

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inundated with large numbers of messages many of which were of high precedence. The messages discussed below were competing with this flood of messages for the available capacity of message handling systems and talents of the personnel involved.

LIBERTY was, on 8 June 1967, copying the JRTT Broadcast originating from U. S. Naval Communications Station, Asmara and the XRI Broadcast originating from U. S. Naval Communications Station, Greece. The former broadcast was LIBERTY's primary means of receipt of general service messages and the latter its primary means of receipt of messages pertaining to its research mission. LIBERTY had been copying JRTT since 070001Z June and prior to that time had been copying the KRTT Broadcast, keyed from Morocco. Each of these broadcasts is crypto covered. Physical locations of the broadcast terminals and communications files in LIBERTY were in the research spaces, the area in which the torpedo hit. These files were not available to the Court since they were largely destroyed.

JCS priority precedence message 7337 072230Z June 1967, addressed to USCINCEUR for action and LIBERTY, COMSIXTHFLT, CINCUSNAVEUR and others for information, stated that LIBERTY's previously assigned operating area (JCS 6724 011545Z June 1967) was

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for guidance only and could be varied as local conditions dictated. Closest points of approach to UAR and ISRAEL were increased to 20 and 15 miles respectively. The record does not indicate the time of receipt of this message by USCINCEUR. However, it was received by CINCUSNAVEUR at 08/1642Z and COMSIXTHFLT at 08/0724Z. LIBERTY did not receive the message prior to the attack since the message was not received by Naval Communications Station, Asmara until 08/2125Z and broadcasted ten minutes later. It should be noted that JCS message 7347 which is discussed below cancelled this message and that 080110Z was received by the action addressee, USCINCEUR, prior to receipt of 072230Z.

JCS message 7347 080110Z June 1967 was a Top Secret, immediate precedence message addressed to USCINCEUR for action and CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT, LIBERTY and others for information. The message requested that LIBERTY comply with operating areas previously imposed on SIXTHFLT units, i.e., not closer than 100 miles to Israel, Syria and Egypt and 25 miles to Cyprus. This message when transmitted for LIBERTY by the Department of the Army Communications Center, (DACC), was misrouted to Naval Communications Station, Philippines where it was received at 08/0400Z. Naval Communications Station, Philippines personnel then rerouted the

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message to Naval Communications Station, Morocco at 08/0449Z, however, it was received by DACC at 080502Z and routed by DACC to National Security Agency. The message was not received by Naval Communications Stations, Asmara or Morocco for transmission to LIBERTY. Time of delivery to CINCUSNAVEUR was 08/0312Z. COMSIXTHFLT received the message via Naval Communications Station, Morocco at 08/0639Z. Time of delivery to USCINCEUR, the action addressee, is not shown in the record, however, this time has been established as 08/0211Z.

USCINCEUR immediate precedence message ECJC/JRC 09045 080625Z June 1967 was addressed to CINCUSNAVEUR for action and COMSIXTHFLT, LIBERTY and others for information. Reference (a) of this message was a telephone conversation between an officer of the originator's headquarters and CINCUSNAVEUR duty officer which occurred at 080425Z. This conversation is discussed below. Reference (b) was the JCS 100 mile message. The entire text was "This confirms reference A to take reference B FORAC." It has been determined that the time of receipt of this message by CINCUSNAVEUR was 08/0727Z. This message was transmitted on JRTT Fleet Broadcast at 08/1059Z.

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CINCUSNAVEUR immediate precedence message 080455Z June 1967 directed COMSIXTHFLT to take JCS 080110Z June 1967 for action. It has been determined that COMSIXTHFLT received this message 08/0518Z. In addition to sending the message discussed above, the CINCUSNAVEUR Contingency Watch Team, using a teletype conference circuit, passed JCS 080110Z June to COMSIXTHFLT along with a [illegible] note to take it for action. This occurred at about 08/0[illegible]Z.

COMSIXTHFLT immediate precedence message 080917Z June 1967, addressed to LIBERTY for action and sixteen information addressees, directed LIBERTY to proceed immediately to a new operating area and not to approach the coast of the UAR, Israel, Syria or Lebanon closer than 100 miles and Cyprus closer than 25 miles. This message was transmitted to Naval Communications Station, Morocco at 08/1058Z and entered into the Defense Communications System at 08/1100Z for delivery to Naval Communications Station, Asmara. (LIBERTY was copying the Asmara Fleet Broadcast). After relay by DCS Major Relay Station, Seville (San Pablo) the message was transmitted to DCS Major Relay Station, Asmara where it was erroneously relayed to Naval Communications Station, Greece at 08/1215Z or 08/1238Z (conflict of evidence) from which it was returned to DCS Major Relay Station, Asmara at 08/1503Z* and then sent to Naval Communications Station [illegible]

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*Although it is not questioned in the record of the court, there are indications that this time may be in error.

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Asmara from which it was broadcast at 08/1525Z. The first air attack occurred at 08/1203Z.

In addition to, and concurrent with, the record communications discussed above there were a number of telephone conversations/directives between members of the commands concerned which are important in considering the sequence of events.

1. At 07/2350Z there was a VOCOM (secure telephone) from an officer in the Joint Reconnaissance Center, (JRC) Washington, to a member of the CINCUSNAVEUR Contingency Watch Team, in which it was requested that LIBERTY be withdrawn to an operating area not closer than 100 miles from Israel, UAR and Syria. The record further indicates concern by CINCUSNAVEUR personnel since the call had bypassed USCINCEUR, was not confirmed by a message or date-time group of a message, and they "had been burned in the past when a phone call directive was not backed up with a message".

2. At 08/0[illegible]Z the CINCUSNAVEUR Command Center Duty Officer called and advised a USCINCEUR staff member of the JRC call [illegible] requested that the directive be confirmed and a date-time group be provided.

3. At 08/0325Z the CINCUSNAVEUR Command Duty Officer called and requested another USCINCEUR staff member to apprise him

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of action taken on the request made in the 08/0030Z call. Shortly thereafter, the USCINCEUR representative returned the call and provided the date-time group (JCS 080110Z). A copy of JCS message 080110Z was delivered to the CINCUSNAVEUR duty officer coincident with this call. At this time the teletype conference noted above was initiated.

During the air attack, pursuant to an order received in the ship's radio control via the general announcing system, the CINCUSNAVEUR High Command voice net was utilized by LIBERTY to report the attack and the situation as it developed. These transmissions were received by USS SARATOGA and passed to higher authority via Naval Communications Station, Greece. This High Command circuit became the primary means of communication with LIBERTY since LIBERTY carried out destruction procedures of classified material including keying material.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The air and surface attacks on USS LIBERTY resulted in the death of thirty-four persons and injuries to 171 persons. Copies of the death certificates (NAVMED N) of those killed are attached to this summarization as Appendix C. Appendix D to this summary contains

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a list of the injured with diagnosis, prognosis, expected disability and the actual or expected loss of time from duty for each injured person. Pertinent treatment records as obtained by the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery are also contained in Appendix D. It has been determined that as of 21 September 1967, all but ten of the total injured have been returned to a full duty status.

MATERIAL DAMAGE

The major material damage to LIBERTY resulted from the torpedo explosion. This explosion resulted in a hole centered at frame 60 and extending 24 feet downward from just below the second deck and longitudinally from frame 53 to frame 66 (39 feet). The hole was teardrop in shape, larger at the bottom. Outboard 15 feet of the first platform and the associated structure were badly damaged. There was lesser damage to the second platform deck. The second deck and frames were buckled from frame 53 to frame 62 and extending inboard 15 feet. In addition there was major damage to all interior joiner bulkheads below the second deck from frame 52 to frame 78 along the entire width of the ship. The two research compartments which extend the entire width of the ship suffered severe structural damage and were flooded. Installed equipment and facilities were reduced to twisted wreckage.

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Topside damage resulting from aircraft's strafing and rocket attacks and from MTB strafing -- the ship was hit by more than 821 shells and rockets, many of them incendiary -- resulted in the pilot house and signal bridge, forward deck house, all gun tubs, many antennas, numerous bulkheads and decks being holed by explosive rockets. The whale boat was destroyed and many life rafts holed or burned. There were numerous fires resulting from incendiary munitions. The gyro-compass, air conditioning plant and many minor items of equipment which were located in superstructure spaces were damaged or destroyed. Numerous living spaces and personal effects were damaged by holing, shrapnel and wetting during firefighting.

The total cost to effect repairs of damage to the ship and equipment has been estimated as $5,612,160.00. Appendix E to this summary contains an itemization of the estimated cost of repairs.

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JAG

NAVAL MESSAGE

FM CINCUSNAVEUR

TO USCINCEUR
CNO

COURT OF INQUIRY USS LIBERTY (U)
A. USS LIBERTY 032028Z JUN 67
B. USS LIBERTY 042050Z JUN 67

1. AS A RESULT OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION [illegible] DETERMINED THAT REFS A AND B WERE TRANSMITTED LIBERTY TO NAVSECGRUDET MOROCCO [illegible] 0403592 AND 0505302 RESPECTIVELY. TAPE [illegible] THAT EITHER MESSAGE WAS REFILED [illegible]

2. THE TWO MESSAGES IN QUESTION ARE QUOTED [illegible]

QUOTE:
P 032028Z JUN 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO JCS
CNO
CONFIDENTIAL
CINCLANT
CINCLANTFLT
DIRNSA
DIRNAVSECGRU
ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU
DIRNAVSECGRUALNT
COMSERVLANT
COMSERVRON EIGHT
USCI[illegible]
VFC
VSAER
CINCNAVSECGRUEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
CONFAIRMED

61 ...ACT
SN 0P4 00 00 07 06 92 94 040 00: VDDC IP

App. A to Encl. (1) of JAG End JAG:13L:1:
DBB:ss, Ser 00010 of

[illegible]	PAGE 1: OF PAGE 3	TIME OF RELEASE 23/1952Z	[illegible]

A

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[redacted]MESSAGE

[redacted]
[redacted]
"AVCOMNMS" MOROCCO
[redacted]
JCS PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP/POSIT

1. 03240029 POSIT 37-10N1 004-03E? [redacted]
GASTARLY 15 KTS.

2. TASSCOM HYDRAULIC SYSTEM AGAIN [redacted]
BEYOND CAPACITY OF SHIP'S FORCE TO [redacted]
PARTS RECEIVED NEXT PORT OF CALL. SITREP #3.
TASSCOM CASREP SEPARATELY.
DP4
BT UNQUOTE
DWDTG
R 040050Z JUN 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO JCS
CNO
CINCLANT
CINCLANFLT
CINCNELM
CINCNELMFLT
CINCSOUTH
CINCSOUTHFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSNAVEURLANT
COMSERVLANT
COMSERVRON EIGHT
USDAO
USFO
USNAVEUR
CINCNAVSOUTHEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
COMFAIRMED
CCP160
CCP164
"AVCOMNMSTA MOROCCO
BT
[redacted]
JCS PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP/POSIT

1. 04240020 [redacted] 31-15E8 PIN 11
[redacted] 050130Z [redacted] 135/15.

CONTROL NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGE	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE
C35084/1/PO	2		3	23/1052Z	[redacted]

[redacted]

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NAVAL MESSAGE

2P4
ST
CNOUOTE

4. REQUEST A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY AS EXHIBIT 48.
2P-4



Love

CONTROL NO.	PAGE OF PAGE	TIME OF RELEASE
C38084/1/PD-	3. 3	20[illegible]PDT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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IN REPLY REFER TO
Op-002:tr
Op-00 Memo 000365-67
7 July 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

Subj: USS LIBERTY Court of Inquiry; addenda to

Encl: (1) USDOCOSOUTH 011020Z July 1967 (TS)
(2) USDOCOSOUTH 021734Z July 1967 (C)
(3) NAVCOMMUNIT NAPLES 061222Z July 1967 (S)
(4) Photographs (4) of USS LIBERTY in drydock at Malta (U)

1. At the request of Rear Admiral I. C. Kidd, Jr., President of the Court of Inquiry convened by Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe on the USS LIBERTY incident, enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded herewith for insertion into the Record.

2. Records of this office indicate that your office holds copy number 1 of the Record of the Court of Inquiry.

Very respectfully,

J. H. KING, JR.
Captain, U. S. Navy
Executive Assistant to the
Chief of Naval Operations

App. B to encl (1) of JAG End JAG:13L.1:
DBB:as, Ser. 00010 of

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App. B

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

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R 0110Z97 JUL 67
FM VADCNOUTH

TO CNO

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

T O P S E C R E T NOFORN

FOR CAPT KING OP-002. INFO LCDR FLINGERSCH, ASST COUNSEL LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY
SUBJ: LIBERTY.

1. CINCUSNAVEUR 2016492 PASEP TO CNO FOR CAPT KING REFERS.

2. [illegible] MSG TO BE INSERTED INTO LIBERTY RECORD TOGETHER WITH [illegible]

3. [illegible] EVIDENCED MUCH INTEREST IN LIBERTY'S [illegible] IN ROUTINE REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM MISSIONS WERE [illegible] UP WITH MUCH MORE CRITICAL OUTCOME THAN WAS A [illegible]. THIS PRACTICE COVERED IN PARA 4C AS I RECALL IN CINCUSNAVEUR COVERING ENDORSEMENT. [illegible] FEELING SHOULD BE THAT SHIP WAS POSSIBLY A LITTLE SLIPPERY IN FILING SUCH ROUTINE REPORTS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO RECORD OF SOME OF HER [illegible] AND POSITS EVER BEING RECEIVED.

4. MY CONVICTION FROM MOST CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SURVIVING MEMBERS SHIP'S COMPANY WAS THAT SHIP WAS METICULOUSLY THOROUGH IN THIS AND ALL OTHER AREAS BUT COURT COULD NOT PROVE AT TIME REPORT SUBMITTED ON 10 JUNE. WE KEPT DIGGING AND REFERENCED MSG PROVES WE WERE CORRECT.

5. THIS APPEARS TO BE LAST [illegible] OF FACTUAL EVIDENCE [illegible] ISSUE [illegible] SHIP'S INTENSITIES THE LAST LIGHT OF INDICTMENT ON [illegible] COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES.

DECL

Encl (1) to CNO Memo Op-002
000345-67 of 7/7/67

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NAVAL MESSAGE confidential NAVY DEPARTMEN

confidential
FOR DECLASSIFIED

ROUTINE
R 021734Z JUL 67
FM USDOCOSOUTH

TO CHO

CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN

NOFORN

FOR CAPT KING OP-002
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFO:
R 241647Z JUN 67
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO NUFAT/COMFAIRMED

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN
COMFAIRMED NOT ADDEE. PLEASE PASS TO RADM KIDD IN
U.S. NATIONAL CHANNELS
PERSONAL WIRENOTE FOR RADM KIDD.
LIBERTY INCIDENT (U)

1. OFFICIAL FOLLOWUP ACTION REVEALS THE TWO LIBERTY SITREP/POSIT MESSAGES SENT ON 3 AND 4 JUNE DROPPED THROUGH THE CRACKS AT THE SECURITY GROUP IN MOROCCO. INVESTIGATION BY MOROCCO PERSONNEL REVEALS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SECGRU REFILED THE MESSAGES INTO COMMON USER CHANNELS FOR ONWARD DELIVERY AS THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE. MISHANDLING IS ATTRIBUTED TO OPERATOR ERROR

2. AS YOU DIRECTED, THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO CHO AND USCINCEUR FOR OFFICIAL INSERTION INTO THE RECORD. THE CONTENT OF THESE MESSAGES IS QUOTED FYI:
A. USS LIBERTY 032028Z
QUOTE
CONFIDENTIAL
JCS PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP/POSIT

1. 03240029 POSIT 37-16N1 004-03E7. PIM COSTAL EASTERLY 15 KTS.

CAPT KING(002) CICF 000004
VIA 94815F *

Encl (2) to CNO Memo Op-002
000565-67 of 7/7/67

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C02537/3/CO	1		2	19077Z	021734Z JUL 67

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NAVAL MESSAGE ~~confidential~~ NAVY DEPARTMENT

2. TRSSCOM HYDRAULIC SYSTEM AGAIN FAILED. LEAKS BEYOND CAPACITY OF SHIP'S FORCE TO REPAIR UNTIL SPARE PARTS RECEIVED NEXT PORT OF CALL. SITREP NO. TWO TRSSCOM CASREP SEPARATELY.
UNQUOTE.
B. USS LIBERTY 042050Z
NOFORN
QUOTE
CONFIDENTIAL
JCS PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP/POSIT

1. 04 2400Z 0 POSIT 37-22N4 011-19E8
FIN 12-18 UNTIL 0501300Z. THENCE 101/15.
UNQUOTE.

3. THERE IS ONE FINAL ACTION CONCERNING PHOTOGRAPHS OF CERTAIN LOGS WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN CONTAINED IN THE ONE ROLL OF RUINED FILM. LIBERTY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE APPROPRIATE NEGATIVES OR POLAROID PICTURES. UPON RECEIPT THEY WILL BE REPRODUCED AND COPIES SENT TO CNO AND USCINCEUR COMPLETING THEIR RECORDS.
4. THE MASTER FILE HAS BEEN COMPILED AND IS STORED IN THE TOP SECRET VAULT AT THIS HDQTRS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED. VERY RESPECTFULLY, YOUR JUNIOR LEGAL ADVISOR, LCDR FEINGERSCH.
BT=4

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T02537/3/67	2	2	02/1[illegible]	0217342 JUN 67

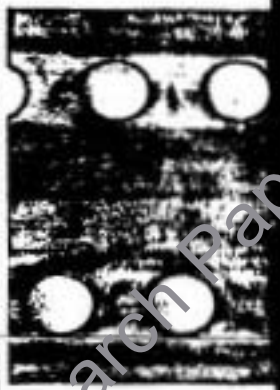
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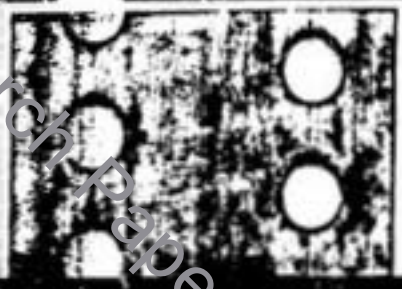




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DECEASED PERSONNEL FROM USS LIBERTY

ALLENBAUGH, William D.	CT3	484 49 96
ARMSTRONG, Philip H., Jr.	LCDR	549825/1100
BLANCHARD, Cary Ray	SN	771 37 22
BROWN, Francis	QM3	778 76 70
CAMPBELL, Ronnie J.	CT2	856 13 23
COUTURIE, Jerry L.	CT2	794 79 44
EISENBERG, Robert B.	CT2	776 09 35
GRAVES, Curtis A.	CT1	519 58 24
GOSS, Jerry L.	CT1	511 31 28
HAYDEN, Lawrence F.	CTSN	307 53 70
HERSEY, Warren E.	CT1	903 67 11
HIGGINS, Alan	CT3	788 62 97
HOAR, Carl Lewis	SN	774 46 48
KEENE, Richard W., Jr.	CT3	778 82 75
LEHAU, James Lee	CTSN	957 56 58
LINCI, Raymond Eugene	CTC	571 13 74
LUPTON, James H.	CT1	511 31 28
MAPOGRAF, Duane Rove	CT3	772 96 39
MCALISTER, David W.	CTSA	316 04 [illegible]
MENDIB, Anthony P.	CT2	777 62 [illegible]
MYCHEN, Carl C.	CT3	788 37 [illegible]
PIERCE, James C.	LT	649[illegible]
RAFER, J. L.	SGT, USMC	7[illegible]
RAUCHEYER, Edward E. III	CPL, USMC	21[illegible]
SKOLAK, David	FN	[illegible] 77 83
SMITH, John Caleb, Jr.	CT1	[illegible] 77 94
SMITH, Melvin D.	CTC	493 95 96
SPICHER, John Clarence	PC2	473 41 77
THOMPSON, Alexander H. Jr.	GMG3	770 47 21
THORNTON, Thomas B.	[illegible]	967 [illegible]
TIEMTKE, Philippe C.	CT3	914 32 64
TOTH, Stephen S.	LT	669613/1100
WALTON, Frederick J.	CT1	236 31 86

BLUE, Allen M. Civilian

ENCLOSURE (1)

Appendix C to encl. (1) of JAG End JAG:13L.1
DBB:as, Ser. 00010 of

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App. D

USS LIBERTY INJURED PERSONNEL

(2) T...

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
...INGTON, Reginald Norwood	CT1	349 53 80	Fracture 5th Metatarsal Right foot	34 days	none
...th, Timothy Paul	CT2	774 03 93	Sprain, left ankle	10 days	none
...ERSON, Joe Danny	CT3	771 76 77	Contusions & Abrasions, mult. Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 days	none
...P...N, Richard Edwin	FA	851 81 55	Laceration 5th digit, lt hand	none	none
...USH, Joseph Wayne	FN	699 53 81	Contusions and abrasions multiple	3 days	none
...ER, Richard K.	CT1	486 80 12	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	1 week	none
...TH, Edward A.	CTSN	840 15 47	Laceration, right hand	none	none
...DGE, Nathan Dow	CTSN	139 55 74	Shrapnel wounds	5 days	none
...RT, Lee Roy	CTSN	998 12 79	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	1 week	none
...ERT, Maurice Hogue	Lieut.	625125/1610	Flash burns, face & neck, multiple lacerations & contusions	1 day	none
...SON, Lovell Thomas	CT1	521 38 68	Puncture wounds, lt & lt hands	none	none
...N, Gerald Robert	FN	810 22 23	Contusions and abrasions, right leg	none	none
...LOCK, Donald	Civilian		Shrapnel wounds, soft tissue, back burns, 1st & 2nd degree, lt forearm	5 days	none
...HAM, Glen L.	CT2	774 27 59	Burn, first degree right elbow	none	none
...ELLA, Salvatore	CS3	796 37 68	Lacerations, multiple, both hands	1 week	none
...TH, John Edward	MM3	998 [illegible]	Burn, first degree, left forearm	none	none
...IC, Calvin	FN	[illegible]	Shrapnel wound, rt. hand	none	none
...ER, Don Reuben	FN	779 52 59	Laceration, third digit, left hand	none	none

App. D to encl (1) of JAG End JAG:13L.1:DBB:as. Ser. 00010 of

James M. Ennes Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
WEN, Larry L.	CT2	796 85 28	Contusions & abrasions left thigh	3 days	none
ONG, James Victor	CT3	913 41 23	Shrapnel wounds	5 days	none
OOKE, Richard John	MMC	454 62 63	1st & 2nd degree burns, hands, bilateral mult abras, contu.	1 week	none
OOK, Frank Johnson	RT3	796 69 65	Lacerations, multiple burns, 1st & 2nd degree	1 day	none
OOKFIELD, Virgil Louis	YN3	794 23 49	Multiple shrapnel wounds with keloid formation	9 days	none
OOMEY, Gary Wayne	RT3	696 29 20	Flash burns, first degree, facial	none	none
OK, Ronald D.	CT3	918 25 70	Lacerations, fifth digit right hand	none	none
RD, Danny R.	FN	290 54 86	Contusions and abrasions right forearm	none	none
RLSON, Richard Carl	CT1	444 13 12	Shrapnel wound, left thigh	39 days	none
RNAHAN, David Neal	CS3	810 42 33	Contusions, left leg	none	none
RPENTER, Jeffery Robert	CT1	535 14 85	Cervical sprain	34 days	none
RPENTER, Joseph F.	CT3	794 04 55	Contusions and abrasions multiple	1 week	none
RPER, William E.	SN	796 40 74	Shrapnel wounds multiple	53 days	none
RSLEY, Calvin L.	CT2	686 66 82	Abrasion and contusion left knee	none	none
RVELAND, Frederick M.	CT2	353 80 14	Abrasions & contusions, rt. forearm,& lac. 1st digit, rt hand	none	none
SLSTON, "J" "C"	SN	771 04 46	Shrapnel wound, lt ankle & abrasions, multi, both forearms	1 week	none
SCEPCION, Rodney Carl	FN	474 38 09	Gunshot and shrapnel wounds multiple, left leg & back	14 days	none
OOK, Eddie Lamar	SN	9[illegible] 59 71	Gunshot and shrapnel wounds multiple, ocular rupture	62 days	Permanent Partial
RNISH, George Robert	MMFN	998 07 12	Contusion and abrasion right leg	none	none

James M. Ennes II Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
EY, Rodney L	CTSN	820 04 91	Burn, 1st degree, rt foot & contusion, rt knee	none	none
[illegible], Dale E.	CTSN	860 44 53	Lumbo-sacral strain	10 days	Temporary
D, Russell O'Neal	EM2	683 33 65	Gunshot and shrapnel wounds, multiple	47 days	none
DSON, James Ray	CT2	699 64 72	Contusions, multiple, both arms	none	none
D, Marvin Francis	CT2	399 79 51	Puncture wound, rt thigh & contusion of buttocks	7 days	none
EWSKI, Henry Edward	SH3	346 83 16	Abrasion, left calf	none	none
, Robert H.	MM2	599 67 51	Lacerations and burns, 1st degree, lt forearm	none	none
[illegible], Kenneth Burton	CTSN	794 04 69	Contusions and abrasions, multiple	1 day	none
N, Kenneth Paul	SN	851 30 48	Contusion, left knee	none	none
ART, Louis D.	CT1	393 59 34	Contusions, right thigh	none	none
LEBERRY, Dennis M.	CT2	5[illegible] 81 10	Puncture wound, multiple left calf & thigh	7 days	none
N, James M.	Lieutenant	633848/1615	Comminuted fracture, left femur Shrapnel wounds, multiple	7 months	none
LIN, Donald Fletcher	SN	917 66 74	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	1 day	none
THER, Kenneth R.	CT3	771 37 90	Lacerations, left hand & thigh	5 days	none
SON, Ronald Dean	RD3	796 71 33	Abrasions & contusions, right arm	none	none
EN, George Houston	Lieutenant	574328/6302	Multiple lacerations, abrasions	none	none
NTSKI, Ronald Frank	CTSN	880 56 19	Abrasions & contusions, multiple	none	none
CHIV, Steven Charles	YN3	697 82 42	Contusion, sacro-iliac	5 days	none
KINS, David W.	CT2	118 73 49	Contusion, right thigh	none	none

James M. Ennes II Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
[illegible], David Carl	CM03	696 84 98	Shrapnel & gunshot wounds, multiple, rt pneumothorax	[illegible] days	[illegible]
[illegible]Y, Warren Dennis	SN	918 44 63	Abrasions & contusions, multiple	none	none
[illegible]ICKS, Charles Richard	CT2	685 56 42	Shrapnel wound, rt hand	none	none
[illegible]LD, Donald	BM2	609 22 48	Gunshot & shrapnel wounds, multiple	8 months	none
[illegible], John S.	CT3	692 96 29	Shrapnel wounds, multiple, superficial	5 days	none
[illegible]KOWSKI, John Michael	FN	210 43 15	Abrasions & contusions, both arms	none	none
[illegible]ON, Thomas Franklin	SN	687 13 99	Shrapnel & gunshot wounds, multiple	56 days	none
[illegible], Frederick K.	CT2	796 91 41	Shrapnel wound back of neck & labyrinthine concussion	14 days	none
[illegible]ON, Melvin P.	CT3	997 32 29	Shrapnel wound left lower leg and sprain left ankle	14 days	none
[illegible]AGH, James F.	CTSN	918 [illegible]7	Shrapnel wounds, lower extremities, both, & rt ilio-inguinal region	47 days	none
[illegible], Glen Douglas	FA	3[illegible]0 76 86	Sprain, rt ankle, & contusions both knees	14 days	none
[illegible], James Frederick	BT3	773 86 89	Contusions, multiple, both legs	none	none
[illegible]S, Richard Francis	Lieutenant	710107/7105	Lacerations, multiple	7 days	none
[illegible], Eugene Henry	CTSN	918 81 30	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 days	none
[illegible]L, David John	[illegible]	998 70 04	Contusion, Scalp	none	none
[illegible]HANEY, Stephen John	FN	354 82 98	Sprain, left ankle	10 days	none
[illegible]N, Loren W.	CT3	538 49 76	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	42 days	none
[illegible]EN, Alan Francis	SN	779 57 67	[illegible] digit right hand	none	none
[illegible], Ronald G.	CT1	539 0[illegible]	[illegible]	5 days	none

James M. Ernest Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
AUAS, John D.	SN	770 56 36	Shrapnel & gunshot wounds multiple	55 days	Permanent Partial
AMSIN, Carlyle Francis	CTC	518 69 45	Lacerations, right hand, & contusions, back	5 days	none
ANDIS, Calvin L.	CT2	777 52 31	Puncture wounds, multiple	none	none
A TORRE, Steven J.	EMFN	914 73 89	Fracture, simple, proximal tip, left tibia	20 days	Temporary
EDSAN, Joel Wayne	SKSN	771 54 07	Laceration, [illegible] thumb rt forearm & scalp	5 days	none
EDSAN, Terry Walder	CTSN	914 59 44	Contusions & abrasions, multiple, shrapnel wounds, mult.	9 days	none
EHAY, William Michael	EM3	773 35 21	Perforated bowel, hemothorax compound fracture, left patella	90 days	none
EHCHO, Thomas William	SN	917 49 31	Shrapnel wound upper back	4 days	none
EHTUH, Joseph Charles	CT1	594 81 [illegible]	Compound fracture, left lower leg, pneumothorax, rt lung, abras wd scalp	7 months	none
EHIS, David E.	LCDR	584570/1310	Bilateral tympanic membrane perforations, traumatic, tatooing, face	89 days	none
IEFELD, Anthony J.	CT2	476 30 20	Fractured right incisor	none	Permanent Partial
OCKWOOD, Bryce F.	SSGT, USMC	1859856	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 days	none
ONG, Philip L.	CT2	692 84 63	Lacerations, 4th & 5th digits, right hand	[illegible]	none
OSSO, Gerald Francis	FN	769 18 83	Contusions, multiple, both knees	none	none
OAS, David George	Ensign	710515/1105	Multiple shrapnel injuries facial nerve palsy	14 days	Permanent Partial
OSATO, James Anthony	FN	916 29 05	Contusions, multiple both legs	5 days	none
UFFI, Sofronio Perez	TN	776 98 09	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	27 days	none
ASSENGALE, John L.	CT2	695 14 21	Contusions, multiple, face left ankle, right hand	3 days	none
ATHEWS, James Lee	SN	998 21 92	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	28 days	none

James M. Ennes III Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
ANDREWS, JAMES L.	CTC	345 19 53	Contusions & abrasions multiple	5 days	none
ANDREWS, Patrick H.	CTSN	511 44 71	Lacerations, left hand and left knee	none	none
CALLISTER, Robert Lee	SN	919 61 90	Laceration, third digit, left hand	none	none
CFARLAND PARLIN, T. L.	CT3	795 75 54	Contusions, multiple both legs	5 days	none
PEOGAN, David Lee	CT2	774 71 98	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	14 days	none
OONACLE, William L.	CDR	494467/1100	Mult shrapnel & concussion Synovitis r. knee, hemorrhage, lat. sup. post-vein, shock	21 days	none
TURFF, Frank	CTSN	861 44 71	Lacerations, multiple both hands	7 days	none
EAPORS, Joseph Leslie	SMSN	871 04 56	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 days	none
YER, Stephen Edward	CT2	771 42 [illegible]	Contusions & abrasions, multiple Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 days	none
LLER, David Bruce	FN	354-[illegible]-36	Burn, 1st degree, left elbow, laceration, left hand	none	none
ERS, David V.	CT3	510 45 88	Hematomas, both legs	none	none
ERS, Richard Dale	SF1	490 77 24	Contusions & abrasions both hands	5 days	none
MEld., John Paul	BT3	776 08 93	Contusion, left hand	none	none
'CONNOR, James George	Lieutenant	671765/1616	Contusion, right kidney	3 months	none
VENS, Eugene	CT2	549 85 64	Contusion, right hand	none	none
AGE, David W.	CT2	904 28 51	Contusions & abrasions multiple	5 days	none
ACELER, Donald W.	CTSN	860 58 17	Contusions & abrasions both legs	5 days	none

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
IDES, Stanattie	SN	793 34 78	Contusions & abrasions multiple	7 days	none
NTRA, Lloyd Clyde	LT(jg)	692274/1105	Laceration, right hand hematoma, right flank	2 days	none
FER, Herbert J.	CTSN	138 54 18	Burn 2nd degree, right hand	none	none
TEN, Dennis Allyn	CS3	904 30 77	Laceration, left hand	none	none
AN, Salvador	SN	796 66 15	Skull fracture (multiple gunshot & shrapnel wounds)	28 days	none
NF, Garland Wray	CT2	772 94 77	Laceration, left wrist	none	none
DOM, Herbert C.	CTSN	797 04 78	Laceration, left leg	none	none
KINS, Edward George	SK3	776 42 83	Contusion, left leg	none	none
RSON, Gerald Benson	CMCSN	794 09 20	Contusions & abrasions, multiple, shrapnel wounds	7 days	none
ASANTS, Carl L.	CT1	535 78 1[illegible]	Shrapnel wound, right thigh, contusions, right arm	3 days	none
LARD, Floyd M.	QM3	353 [illegible] 47	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	9 days	none
ELSKI, John C.	CT2	778 80 00	Laceration, right parietal scalp	none	none
CELL, Harvey Lee	SKSN	917 37 39	Hematoma, left knee	none	none
NTERA, Thomas Alvarez	SN	737 [illegible] 85 796 43 32	Contusions & abrasions multiple	5 days	none
MELSBURG, Albert Edwin	[illegible]	119 90 38	Laceration, left knee	none	none
HALL, John R.	YC1	517 81 45	Shrapnel wound, rt forearm	5 days	none
LLY, Robert Brice	SN	812 40 15	Contusion, scalp	none	none
LLY, Thomas Joseph	SN	913 50 66	Gunshot & shrapnel wounds multiple, shrap frag, skull	5 months	temporary

James M. Ennes Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
K, Charles L.	CT1	458 48 03	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	7 days	none
, Victor John	SN	340 67 53	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	7 days	none
CROUGH, Robert A.	CTSN	778 80 10	Puncture wound, left wrist	7 days	none
EY, Kenneth Michael	EM3	694 00 58	Contusions & abrasions multiple	7 days	none
ECK, Ronald W.	EM	360 64 72	Contusion, right knee	none	none
LI, Robert J.	CT2	542 55 84	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	7 days	none
HUM, S. L.	HM3	353 06 33	Laceration, upper back	none	none
R, Maurice B.	CT3	695 94 86	Contusions & abrasions multiple shrapnel wounds	7 days	none
David A.	CTSN	904 39 56	Shrapnel wound, left ant. thigh	9 days	none
CK, Michael Ray	FN	917 52 08	Contusions, multiple [illegible]	none	none
Merald E.	CT3	777 58 58	Laceration dorsum, right hand Shrapnel wounds, multiple	35 days	temporary
RS, Larry J.	SN	9[illegible]	Gunshot and shrapnel wounds, multiple	30 days	none
Clayton , James F.	DC 3	77[illegible]	Contusions & abrasions multiple	7 days	none
, Jerry D.	CTSN	915 81 02	Traumatic arthritis, left knee	7 days	none
, Thomas R.	HM3	918 04 37	Lacerations multiple, both hands	14 days	none
per , D. C.	[illegible]	776 28 26	Laceration, right shoulder	none	none
, Larry L.	[illegible]	698 89 13	Shrapnel wounds, multiple	63 days	none
T, Joseph Daniel	HM3	370 41 42	Multiple contusions both arms	7 days	none

James M. Ennes Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
Ralph B.	CT3	775 06 25	Lumbo sacral strain	5 days	none
John R.	CT2	795 24 58	Multiple abrasions & contusions, both legs	7 days	none
Richard Patton	Ensign	6869116/3105	Multiple shrapnel wounds legs, left hand	5 days	Temporary
Charles J.	CT3	789 48 42	Multiple abrasions & contusions, lumbo sacral strain	2 days	none
H. Harold Jaffe	CTC	471 37 37	Shrapnel wounds, left forearm and flank	none	none
L. B.	MM3	688 22 63	Lumbo sacral & service back strain	10 days	Temporary
AN, Barry Robert	ET3	770 11 63	Fracture left radius, comminuted Shrapnel wounds, multiple	7 months	none
T. J. L.	FN	354 81 55	Contusions, chest and left arm	5 days	none
, Philip Francis	STP3	773 22 68	Laceration, right hand	none	none
D.	SK2	370 92 58	Lumbo sacral strain	5 days	none
AVE, T. L.	MM1	298 39 72	Laceration, right hand	none	none
COUSE, Thomas E.	CTSN	830 24 80	Laceration, left hand	none	none
NTES, Robert R.	CTSN	516 69 47	Laceration, right hand	none	none
, Carl Joseph	SN	770 67 19	Lacerations, multiple right hand	none	none
erry Wayne	BM1	775 76 78	Gunshot & shrapnel wounds, multiple	10 months	Permanent Partial
Robert M.	CT3	840 69 13	Lacerations, both hands	14 days	none
Malcolm M	(Lt.jg)	699039/1105	Contusions & abrasions, multiple	7 days	none
Richard Larry	SN	999 88 63	Fragment wnd, abdomen Shrapnel wounds, multiple	5 months	none
G. J.	CS2	428 92 84	Contusions & abrasions, right flank	none	none

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

NAME	RANK/RATE	SERVICE NO.	DIAGNOSIS	ESTIMATED LOST TIME	ESTIMATED DISABILITY
ACH, G. L.	CT2	694 46 31	Contusions & abrasions multiple	7 days	none
LSON, G. W.	SN	529 36 49	Compound fracture, 1st left metacarpal, shrap & gunshot wnd	10 months	none
D, Daniel R.	CTSN	796 87 55	Abrasion, left hand	none	none
ER, Robert R.	CTSN	840 63 62	Contusions & abrasions multiple, right leg	none	none
ker, Sammy Michael	CT3	917 08 36	Laceration left Calf	none	none

atient Still Hospitalized

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
United States Atlantic Fleet
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

TOP SECRET DECLASSIFIED

Ser 00073 /J141
6 September 1967

TOP SECRET

From: Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) on 8 June 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) CNO ltr Op-618/jrb Ser: 000204P61 of 21 Jun 1967

1. (U) In accordance with the request contained in reference (a), enclosure (1) thereto has been reviewed.

2. (TS) A review of the proceedings reveals that the court was not required by the convening authority to submit opinions and recommendations and none were in fact submitted.

3. (TS) The Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet generally concurs in the comments of CINCUSNAVEUR except as stated in this paragraph. CINCLANTFLT is of the opinion that:

a. The senior officers in the operational chain of command who received the JCS directive to keep the LIBERTY to 100 miles off the coast of Israel should have taken direct and positive action to inform the implementing agent, COMSIXTHFLT, without delay.

b. The U.S. Army Communications Center, Asmara should be required to furnish a detailed report of the reason for the failure to pass the [illegible] message C8011 correctly to its proper destination, if this has not already been done.

c. There is a critical shortage of experienced communications personnel assigned to communications stations.

d. Lack of emergency reserve signaling devices on board LIBERTY for use after the signal lights were destroyed may have contributed to the MTBs attack since the IDF claims that the MTBs attempted to contact the ship prior to their attack.

e. Inadequate physical identification by Israeli forces engaged in the attack may be correctly cited as the reason for the attack on LIBERTY.

RECEIVED 11 Sep 1967

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not automatically declassified

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Ser [redacted] /2141

TOP SECRET

f. The investigation does not adequately portray the magnitude of the damage wrought by the IDF. (As an example, no mention is made of the use of napalm or anti-personnel type bombs.)

g. Defense Attache Officers should be furnished with current information relating to the presence of a ship with the configuration and mission of ships such as LIBERTY.

4. (TS) CINCLANTFLT recommends as follows:

a. Senior Watch Officers and action staff officers throughout the armed forces should be emphatically reminded of their responsibilities in handling directives of high priority and sensitivity.

b. The qualifications of radiomen, particularly in the grade of second class and higher, be reviewed with a view to establishing training programs and upgrading where necessary and further testing if such is indicated.

c. The Defense Communications Agency be requested to review communications procedures with a view to reducing the number of messages which are clogging the communications systems, and thus permit the rapid flow of the truly important messages.

d. Implementation of opinion g. which is stated in paragraph 3 hereof.

e. Damage control procedures used by LIBERTY personnel be documented for future use Navy-wide as an example of outstanding performance of duty under the most adverse circumstances.

5. (U) CINCLANTFLT will initiate action to implement the items recommended in paragraph 4 which can be implemented within the resources and authority of the Commander in Chief.

6. (U) Subject to the foregoing, the proceedings, findings of fact, and recommendations of Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe, are concurred in.

[redacted]

E. J. HOLMES

Copy to:
JAG

[redacted]

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TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98
By NARA, Date 12/22/98

5830
Ser N00/00 0002 /68
18 June 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on ltr of RADM Isaac C. KIDD, USN, 111645/1100 of 18 June 1967

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe
To: Judge Advocate General

Subj: Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on 8 June 1967 (U)

1. Readdressed and forwarded.

2. On 8 June 1967, the USS LIBERTY suffered an unprovoked attack by Israeli air and naval forces in international waters off the coast of the United Arab Republic. The Court of Inquiry convened by CINCUSNAVEUR to look into the circumstances and prepare findings related to this attack, has completed its deliberations which are forwarded herewith.

3. It is the opinion of the convening authority that USS LIBERTY was operating in international waters in conformance with the most recent guidance received by her provided by competent authority. It is important to note that there were in fact command decisions made by responsible authorities subsequent to receipt by LIBERTY of the guidance under which she was operating. These subsequent decisions and actions, which the ship did not receive for a combination of several reasons, could have resulted, had they been received in timely fashion, in the ship being as much as 100 miles away from the position in which she found herself at 1200Z on 8 June.

4. The circumstances, when viewed in retrospect through the record of proceedings, indicate that any one or combination of the several communications delays and/or non-receipts varied in the reasons therefor from personnel error to technical difficulty, including errors in judgment.

5. Had LIBERTY not been attacked, the probability is high that none of the aforementioned problem areas would have been identified as critical which is usually the case in circumstances of this sort. It is important to keep in mind that decisions subsequent to LIBERTY's initial operational

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tasking were based upon no known new evidence of potential danger to the ship; but were rather based upon factors other than operational in nature. It is the conviction of the convening authority, that, had new hard intelligence been available and been the basis for new decisions governing LIBERTY's movements, follow-on actions taken with specific regard to guaranteeing timely delivery of such critical guidance would have been handled differently. Such was not the case. Therefore, normal formal procedural practices were followed, and the new command decisions were relayed to the ship in routine fashion, i.e. by standard fleet broadcasts rather than by emergency direct communication capabilities which were available--such as the HICOM net.

c. It is the further conviction of the convening authority in regard to the foregoing, that prospective implementors, such as the ship itself, of action directed by higher authority, when the immediacy of action is critical, must be informed of the planned action concurrent with the transmission of action instructions by the higher authority involved. In this respect, we found LIBERTY's situation being discussed at the highest command levels where decisions were being made and instructions issued without taking concurrent precautions to inform the ship of the planned actions by the same most rapid means of communications available--in this case, telephonic and voice-radio systems. On the other hand, however, there was apparently absolutely no new intelligence and operational evidence at the time of the aforementioned discussions to dictate utilizing such special and high precedence communications capabilities.

7. In summary on this point, certain remedial measures for future situations are indicated, some of which are within the capabilities of this headquarters. These will be implemented by CINCUSNAVEUR and his subordinates, to include, for example, concurrent paralleling intentions known to CINCUSNAVEUR from higher authority direct to prospective action subordinates immediately upon receipt of the guidance in question. It must be borne in mind, however, that here again, the best professional judgment will dictate on a case by case basis the degree of urgency required. Such was the case in the LIBERTY incident and, nothing in the findings of fact disclosed justifiable rationale for taking emergency measures to get the information of planned OP area changes to the ship, other than the fact of the attack itself. The LIBERTY incident provides a classic example of the devastating effects complete surprise produces.

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FF1-3
5830

8. Further to the foregoing, the convening authority has reviewed the proceedings most carefully to determine whether or not there was any indication received by the ship's embarked capabilities prior to the attack which would have dictated a need for emergency measures. Every piece of available evidence indicates that such was not the case.

9. On the matter of command and control, the convening authority, as Naval subordinate to USCINCEUR was exercising operational control of LIBERTY through his subordinate, Commander, Sixth Fleet. The fact that the precise operational guidance applicable to LIBERTY at the time of the attack had been received from still higher authority in no way altered the full responsibility for the ship resting on CINCUSNAVEUR himself. There is no question but that CINCUSNAVEUR had the continuing responsibility for monitoring the position of this ship and insuring the ship's relative safety while in assigned areas. Further, there was no evidence available to CINCUSNAVEUR, up to the moment of the attack itself, to indicate the ship was in jeopardy to a degree beyond normal and continuing risks extant in any operational situation proximate to the shores of warring nations.

10. In summary, in this instance as in others throughout recent years, it was the judgment of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, that the technical research efforts of USS LIBERTY were well worth the calculated risks involved, keeping in mind that proper precautionary measures had already been taken by CINCUSNAVEUR and by his subordinate, COMSIXTHFLT, on 4 June (two days before the attack), both of which directives all concerned assumed were known to USS LIBERTY. The record discloses, however, that while LIBERTY had received the CINCUSNAVEUR guidance, the COMSIXTHFLT, LIBERTY had not received COMSIXTHFLT's message of 4 June wherein details for the implementation of this temporary and discretionary guidance had been provided, together with proper precautions for the protection of the ship in the event of an emergency.

11. On the technical and material side, the convening authority noted with great interest the remarkable efficiency of the coordinated Israeli air and surface attack. The efficacy of air-delivered rockets was particularly noteworthy with regard to their penetrating capabilities and devastating accuracy. Preliminary evidence of damage based upon limited available information at this time, indicates long lead time procurements will require

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approximately one year. Major overhaul requirements approximately two to four months. Aggregate dollar costs total some twelve to fourteen million dollars.

12. On the matter of personnel, heroism was the order of the day. The Commanding Officer is being recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor and the ship for the Presidential Unit Citation.

13. It is the conviction of the convening authority that the possibility is high that the ship would have been lost completely had there not been the highest order of damage control competence on board combined with the fact that the ship had secured from General Quarters for drill only minutes before the attack took place.

14. Visual identification procedures, and techniques require early attention. We, as well as the Israelis, were apparently deficient in our recognization competence compared to World War II levels of proficiency. Current United States ship profiles are not readily locatable except in such documents as Jane's "Fighting Ships". Where we have active ship configurations susceptible to confusion with other ships of other nations, we should explore immediately improved identification measures such as national colors on vertical and horizontal surfaces using high visual intensity paints, a safeguard not susceptible to being shot down in the opening stages of an action as was the case in the LIBERTY incident. Intense fires on the ship coupled with herculean efforts by the engineer department to increase speed both produced heavy black smoke which compounded the recognition problem facing the attacking forces.

15. The foregoing comments by the convening authority lead to an overall conclusion that the attack was in fact a mistake; that the element of complete surprise without inquiry eliminated any possibility for a timely government to government announcement of the ship's presence had we been asked; that communication shortfalls resulted in delays in delivery of operational traffic which, had they not occurred, might have resulted in the ship being at a safer distance off shore. The lessons learned in these instances are reminiscent in many respects of those learned after the attack on Pearl Harbor as they apply to the need for complete and free exchange of mission and operational information between responsible authorities and fleet units themselves. In the final analysis, it is this same fleet unit that must enjoy timely advice to be effective. No useful purpose is served by complete knowledge and awareness of decisions at high levels without appropriate concurrent actions stemming therefrom at the lowest echelons in the critical chain.

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FFI-3
8830

16. Communications limitations continue with us. Improvements in equipment never seem quite able to fully offset load increases and the ever present personnel error. Where such combine with staffing delays and completely unexpected actions through mistake by another state, the results cannot be other than explosive in international potential.

17. The proceedings and findings of the Court of Inquiry are approved, based upon knowledge available as of 191425Z.

JOHN S. McCAIN, Jr.

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18 June 1967

TOP SECRET - Downgraded to UNCLAS upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Rear Admiral Isaac C. KIDD, USN, 111645/1100
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe

Subj: Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on 8 June 1967

Ref: (a) CINCUSNAVEUR ltr FF1-3 Ser 1550/13 of 10 June 1967

Encl: (1) Subject record of proceedings

1. As directed by reference (a), a Court of Inquiry was convened on 10 June 1967. The original record and two complete copies thereof are forwarded herewith as enclosure (1).

ISAAC C. KIDD

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 9 COPIES

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COMMANDER IN CHIEF
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES, EUROPE
FPO NEW YORK [redacted] 09510

FF1-3
5830
Ser 1550/13
10 JUNE 1967

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe
To: Rear Admiral Isaac C. KIDD, Jr., USN, 111845/1100

Subj: Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on 8 June 1967

Ref: (a) JAG Manual

1. In accordance with section 0402 of reference (a), a Court of Inquiry is hereby appointed to inquire into the circumstances surrounding an armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) which occurred at approximately 1230Z, 8 June 1967, while steaming in the vicinity of 31°23' North Latitude, 33°25' East Longitude. The Court will convene at Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, London, England, at 2000 on 10 June 1967, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

2. The Court shall consist of you as president, and Captain Bernard F. LAUFF, USN, 097651/1100, and Captain Bert M. ATKINSON, Jr., USN, 447058/1100, as members. Captain Ward BOSTON, Jr., USN, 419063/1610, a lawyer qualified in the sense of article 27(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, is hereby designated counsel for the Court, and Lieutenant Commander Allen FEINGERSCH, USN, 612119/1100, is hereby designated assistant counsel for the Court.

3. The Court is directed to inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack; damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to naval personnel. After deliberation, the Court shall submit its findings of fact.

4. The duty of the Court to designate individuals as parties to the inquiry during the proceedings, when appropriate, is set forth in section 0302 of reference (a).

5. The Court is directed to take the testimony of witnesses under oath and to submit a verbatim record of the proceedings. Military witnesses will be warned of their rights in accordance with article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice prior to the taking of their testimony.

Ex. A

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FF1-3
5830

6. The Court will conduct its proceedings in closed session.

7. Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, will furnish the necessary reporters and other clerical assistance to the Court for the purpose of recording the proceedings and preparing the record of this Court of Inquiry.

JOHN S. MCCAIN, Jr

Copy to:
CNO
CINCLANTFLT
COMSIXTHFLT
CAPT Bernard J. LAUFF, USN
CAPT Bert M. ATKINSON, Jr., USN
CAPT Ward BOSTON, USN
LCDR Allen FEINGERSCH, USN

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U. S. NAVY

MESSAGES

STATE DEPT AND OTHER

MESSAGES

ROUGHLY INDEXED

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

FROM 29 MAR 67

TO 6 DEC 71

MOST MESSAGES ARE

JUNE 1967

FOLDER 6

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

1358Z ATTACK
1359Z — (FIRST REPORT OF ATTACK?
1401Z
1355Z SAFA RELAYS REPORT OF ATTACK
1359Z CGF REPORTS A/C TO TORPEDO
1357Z SAFA RELAYS A/C OF TORPEDO
1401Z NCS GREECE RELAYS REPORT 1355Z TORP HIT.
1365Z CGF INGP ON THE WAY
1416Z CTF 60 TELLS AIR & SAFA TO LAUNCH AN, AI,
CGF ESTIMATES LAUNCH 1345Z & ETA 90 MINUTES LATER (1515Z)
1 :GF DECLARES ATTACKING HOSTILE, AUTHORIZES DESTRUCTION.
1415. USDAO TEL AVIV REPORTS APOLOGY
1416Z USS AUTHORIZES FORCE (IA SHOULD HAVE TAKEN UP TO 30 MINUTES)
1416Z CTF 60 CLARIFIES RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
1425Z CGF REPORTS NO CONTACT LIB; BRIEFS RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
1426Z CGF REPORTS NCS GREECE TALKING TO LIB
1429Z NCS MOROCCO CAN LIB UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ATTACKING CRAFT
1439Z CGF HAS RECALLED ALL A/C
1455Z CGF RPTS LIB UNDERWAY AT 1532Z
1528Z USDAO TEL AVIV RPTS REVISED TO HELO TO LIB.
1609Z CGF CANCELS 1339Z, ADVISE NO LONGER AUTHORIZED
1649Z CGF RPTS ALL A/C RECALLED & RETURNED TO

1. THIS IS INTERIM REPORT ON USS LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS JUST PRIOR TO AND AT TIME OF ATTACK.

2. GENERAL COMMUNICATION SITUATION FOLLOWS. THE USS LIBERTY HAD BEEN COPYING ASMARA FLEET BROADCAST SINCE 0700GMT. LIBERTY WAS ALSO COPYING THE MOROCCO OPINTEL BROADCAST FOR OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE TRAFFIC. NO PERMANENT SHIP/SHORE CIRCUIT WAS MAINTAINED BY LIBERTY. THE NORMAL PATH FOR TRAFFIC TO THE USS LIBERTY WAS VIA NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA FOR GENERAL SERVICE TRAFFIC AND VIA THE NAVAL SECURITY GROUP DEPARTMENT OF NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO FOR SI TRAFFIC. BOTH THE ASMARA AND MOROCCO BROADCASTS IN QUESTION ARE ON-LINE BROADCASTS.

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FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPMW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPMW/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEPNV/CNO
RUENG/DEPT STATE
RHOKOF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSV/CINCSTRIKE
RHBLMD/CINCNELM
RUFPRK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUSKDV/JCS
INFO RUEPDI/
RUEHOT/USUN
RUTPRW/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUTPRW/USNFE
RUTPRW/CINCUSNAVEUR

RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
PT

0819Z JUN 67
SUBJ: USS LIBERTY INCIDENT
REF USDAO TEL AVIV 0819Z JUNE 67

1. IDF SPOKESMAN REPORTED DAY LONG AIR AND SURFACE SEARCH CITED IN REF HAS PRODUCED NEGATIVE RESULTS AND TERMINATED AT NIGHTFALL. HOWEVER NUMEROUS IDF NAVY UNITS ARE OPERATING SEARCH AREA. HAVE BEEN BRIEFED AND TOLD KEEP ALERT WATCH FOR SURVIVORS OF LIBERTY.

2. SPOKESMAN SAY IDF WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE KNOWING WHEN LIBERTY REACHES PORT SAFELY.

MAG OUT...3..... CON...31/2....

TOR 191532Z JUNE 67 NR 29411 CWO...PA...JKD

191925Z JUNE 67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

POL 27 ARAB-ISR
AR JEF 12 US

007807

DEFENSE DEPT.

1967 JUN 8 PM 12 57

RECEIVED BY NMCC

*****ZZ RUEHC RUEHDT
ZNY CCCCC ZFD RUFPCS
SVNA388
*****ZZ RUDLKD RUEDPSA RUEPVW RUEPNAA RUEPJS RUEHC RUEKDA RUEHDT RUFPBK
DE RUQMVL 0827 1591529
ZNY CCCCC
Z 0 081528Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPVW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
PJEPNAA/CNO
RAKUC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLKD/CINCNAVEU
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPBK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPRH/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPBV/USAFE
RKAPAG/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
BT

0827/ALENE 67.

REF MY 0825. FLO REPORTS SHIP IDENTIFIED U.S.S. LIBERTY

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0827
TR-5). PRESENTLY UNDERWAY COURSE NORTHWEST AT 10 KNOTS. ISRAELI VTBS OFFERED ASSISTANCE WHICH SHIP REFUSED. NO INFO CASUALTIES. ISRAELIS ARRANGING HELLICOPTER FOR ALUSNA TO OVERFLY SHIP AND ATTEMPT COMMUNICATE.
COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.

BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 1:05 P.M., 6/8/67.

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(3)

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

PUL 21 AKAB-ISR
AR DEF 12 US

(306)

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-8-67

96 Action

NEA-7
SS-25
GPM-3
AF-6
EUR-5
IO-3
INR-7
OPR-2
RSE-1
62

ZNY CCCCC
FM [redacted] 8815232 JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPMN/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNA/CNO
RHKUC/DEPT STATE
RUQMCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLKD/CINCNAVEU
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHOT/USUN
RUFPBK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPRN/CTG SIX ZETO PT TWO
RUFPBW/USAFE
RHKPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRL/CTG SIX ZETO
BT

7773

1967 JUN 8 PM 12 01

[redacted] 0821Z JUN 67.
[redacted] DTG 0823Z. FLO REPORTS SHIP IDENTIFIED U.S.S. LIBERTY

PAGE 2 RUQMVL C32 [redacted]
(154.5). PRESENTLY UNDERWAY COURSE NORTHWEST AT 12 KNOTS. ISRAEL
NAVY OFFERED ASSISTANCE WHICH SHIP REFUSED. NO INFO CASUALTIES.

ISRAELIS ARRANGING HELLICOPTER FOR USN TO OVERFLY SHIP AND
ATTEMPT COMMUNICATE.
COORDINATED WITH CNO ASSY.
CPS.
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 12:50 P.M. 6/8/67

(2) [redacted]

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PAGE 3 RUDKVL 0988/2

E. TCOL BLOCH HAD INTERVIEWED ALL PILOTS OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT EXCEPT ONE. ALL STATED THEY HAD SEEN NO ONE IN OR ENTERING WATER.

F. IDF HAD INSTITUTED LIGHT PLANE SEARCH UPON RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS REGARDING SEARCHES AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL DARKNESS 9 JUNE.

G. IDF NAVY ESTIMATED STANDARD WIND AND CURRENT CONDITIONS WOULD CARRY SURVIVORS OR DEBRIS TO POINT ON GAZA STIP COAST OPPOSITE CITY OF RAFAH.

H. IDF AGREED TO CONDUCT SEARCH ATTACK AREA AND WATERS TO GAZA COAST LINE BEGINNING FIRST LIGHT 10 JUNE.

I. AS ABOVE BEING DRAFTED AS USDAO FLASH MSG, REF F, LTCOL BLOCH TELEPHONED INFO THAT LAST PILOT HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED. THAT PILOT THOUGHT HE SAW SIX TO TEN YELLOW RAFTS WITH PEOPLE IN WAKE OF LIBERTY. BLOCH DISCREDITED THIS REPORT.

12. [redacted] AT 100730Z, LTCOL BLOCH REPORTED AIR SEARCH WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS BEGAN AT 1308[illegible]Z AND THAT SURFACE SEARCH WOULD BEGIN IN AFTERNOON. ALUSNA RECOMMENDED TO US AUTHORITIES THAT IF NO RESULTS DEVELOPED BY NIGHTFALL, TERMINATION OF SEARCH BE AUTHORIZED. INFO THIS PARA SENT AS USDAO FLASH MSG, REF G.

PAGE 5 of 6 [illegible] JUNE 67

PAGE 4 RUDKVL 0988/2 [redacted]

13. [redacted] AT APPROX [illegible]Z, USDAO SOURCE REPORTED SECONDARY SOURCE GAVE INFO GATHERED BY OVERHEARING IDF AF AIR-TO-GROUND CONTROL FREQUENCIES. INFO SUGGESTED THAT IDF AIRCRAFT MADE TWO OR THREE IDENTIFICATION PASSES OVER A SHIP SOMETIME PRIOR TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. AIRCRAFT REPORTED SHIP HAD U.S. FLAG BUT NO PERSONNEL ON DECK. INFO THIS PARA FORWARDED TO LIMITED ADDRESSEES INCLUDING CNO AND DIA IN USDAO 0854 JUN 67.

14. [redacted] AT APPROX 101915Z, IDF SPOKESMAN REPORTED NEGATIVE RESULTS FROM DAY LONG AIR AND SURFACE SEARCH BUT SAID IDF NAVY STILL OPERATING IN AREA AND WOULD CONTINUE ALERT WATCH FOR SURVIVORS. THIS INFO SENT IN USDAO IMMEDIATE MSG, REF H.

15. [redacted] ON QUERY FROM DIA, USDAO TEL VIV IMMED MSG, REF I REPORTED INABILITY TO RECHECK STORY OF SECONDARY SOURCE CITED PARA 13 ABOVE. HOWEVER USDAO WAS ABLE PROVIDE REF I INFO ON MTB ATTACK RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OFFICER FROM IDF NAVAL OFFICER WHO SAID HE WAS ABOARD MTB. SAID MTB'S LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT. MTB CREW SAW U.S. FLAG AFTER TORPEDO LAUNCH. SAID FLAG HAD BEEN OBSCURED BY SMOKE. IN SAME REF ALUSNA OFFERED PROBABLY BUT NOT CERTAIN SERIES OF EVENTS AS FOLLOWS:

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2

CODE

MESSAGES NOT INCLUDED IN DTG FILE.
SEE EXHIBIT FILE FOR FULL TEXT ——— →

INITIAL CRIES FOR HELP ——— →

STATE DEPT STUFF ——————→

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3

CAPTIAL INDEX - DOCS and INCLUDE BY TAB

MESSAGES

JCS 011545Z LIBERTY OPORDER

LIBERTY 062000Z Announces LIBERTY chop to COMSIXTHFLT at 070001Z

LIBERTY 062036Z Message declares LIBERTY plan to chop at 070001Z

JCS 072230Z Message modified OPORDER to CPA UAR 20NM, Israel 15 NM

------Z Notice to Mariners: Lights on Israeli coast may be extinguished.

------Z Notice to Mariners: Keep away from Coast of Israel during darkness.

JCS 080110Z Directs LIBERTY to remain 100 miles from coasts of belligerents.

CINCUSNAVEUR 080455Z Directs COMSIXTHFLT to take JCS 080110Z for action.

USCINCEUR 080625Z Directs CINCUSNAVEUR to take JCS 080110Z for action.

LIBERTY 080625Z Reports 0800 position.

USS LIBERTY 080742Z Reports air reconnaissance

COMSIXTHFLT 080917Z Directs LIBERTY to take JCS 080110Z for action.

USS SARATOGA TOR/ 081209Z SARATOGA's initial relay of LIBERTY attack report.

SARATOGA 081235Z Relays: "UNIDENTIFIED GUNBOATS APPROACHING NOW."

SARATOGA 081245Z Relays: "UNDER ATTACK AND HIT BADLY."

COMSIXTHFLT 081250Z Orders AMERICA and SARATOGA to provide fighter cover.

SARATOGA 081245Z Relays: "HIT BY TORPEDO. NEED ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY."

SARATOGA TOR 081300Z Relays text of 081235Z

NAVCOMMSTA GREECE 081301Z Relays: "HIT BY TORPEDO. REQ ASSISTANCE."

COMSIXTHFLT 081305Z "SENDING AIRCRAFT TO COVER YOU."

CTF 60 081316Z Directs AMERICA & SARATOGA to launch armed aircraft.

COMSIXTHFLT 081320Z SITREP ONE TO CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT 081339Z AUTHORIZES USE OF FORCE

CINCUSNAVEUR 081340Z Asks LIBERTY to confirm report of attack.

COMSIXTHFLT 081348Z CRITIC Reports LIBERTY hit by torpedo.

CINCUSNAVEUR 081400Z SITREP Quotes LIBERTY distress messages.

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CTF 63 0814102 Recommends USS PAPAGO be diverted to assist LIBERTY.

08/14102 Highlights of CINCUSNAVEUR HICOM

NAVCOMMSTA 0814122 Reports LIBERTY unable identify boats; Helo circled.

USDAO TEL AVIV 0814162 Reports Israeli apology for attack.

JCS 0814162 Authorizes USCINCEUR to use force to defend LIBERTY.

CTF 60 0814162 Clarifies rules of engagement.

USE TEL AVIV 0814242 Reports Israeli apology for attack.

COMSIXTHFLT 0814252 SITREP TWO Briefs rules of engagement / Lib off the air.

COMSIXTHFLT 0814262 SITREP THREE Reports LIB now talking to NCS Greece.

NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO 0814282 Relays LIB report of Helo.

0814302 Note: Captain Thomas briefs Secy McNamara by telephone.

COMSIXTHFLT 0814392 Reports recall of all Sixth Fleet aircraft.

~~COMSIXTHFLT 0815492 0815Z Reports LIBERTY hit by torpedo.~~

COMSIXTHFLT 0814552 SITREP FIVE Reports LIBERTY underway 1430Z at 8 Knots.

COMSIXTHFLT 0815022 SITREP SIX Reports that two DDs sent to LIBERTY.

DIRNSA 0815072 Proposes that BELMONT be sent to relieve LIBERTY.

COMSIXTHFLT 0815082 Message concerns LIBERTY escort

COMSIXTHFLT 0815142 Reports that LIBERTY has destroyed crypto pubs/lists.

CINCUSNAVEUR 0815172 CYRUS VANCE directs no news releases except fm Washington.

CINCUSNAVEUR 0815182 Directs LIBERTY to head north.

COMSIXTHFLT 0815212 CRITIC FOLLOWUP "LIBERTY ATTACKED BY ISRAEL"

USDAO TEL AVIV 0815282 Reports that ALUSNA will go to LIBERTY by helo.

COMSIXTHFLT 0815522 SITREP SEVEN Reports that CDR12 is on the way.

COMSIXTHFLT 0816092 Revokes authority to use force.

COMSIXTHFLT 0816212 SITREP EIGHT Initial damage report.

CHINFO 0816382 Text of 1530Z DOD press release.

COMSIXTHFLT 0816492 SITREP NINE All Sixth Fleet Aircraft recovered.

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USCINCEUR 081650Z Public Affairs guidance.

USS LIBERTY 081715Z LIBERTY's report of attack

COMSIXTHFLT 081935Z Directs CTF 60 to send EZA to assist LIBERTY.

CTF 60.5 082036Z SITREP ONE CDR12 ETA LIBERTY 0600B

USDAO TEL AVIV 082100Z Reports ALUSNA overflight of LIBERTY unproductive.

CTF 60 082122Z Promises air cover for CDR12.

USS LIBERTY 082202Z Preliminary casualty report.

SECDEF 082248Z Gives text of Pentagon press release on attack.

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MESSAGES

CTG 60.5 090240Z 090430Z 090512Z	SITREP TWO THREE FOUR
COMSIXTHFLT 090513Z	"DAVIS & MASSEY HAVE ROVU WITH LIBERTY"
CTG 60.5 090544Z	SITREP FIVE
COMSIXTHFLT 090551Z	LIBERTY MISSING PERSONS: "DID YOU SEARCH FOR BODIES?"
CTG 60.5 090708Z	STATUS REPORT: READY TRANS WOUNDED: UNDER 0915.
CTG 60.5 090722Z	"NO SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED FOR BODIES"
CTG 60.5 090852Z	SITREP SIX
CTG 60.5 091010Z	SITREP EIGHT: "DEAD AND WOUNDED TRANSFER COMPLETE
CTG 60.5 091012Z	REPORT ON CONDITION OF REMAINS
CTG 60.5 091014Z	SITREP SEVEN: "FIVE HELO TRANSFERS COMPLETED"
CTG 60.5 091126Z	"NO CHANCE OF SURVIVORS IN FLOODED SPACE"
SECDEF 091213Z	"LIBERTY MEETS DAVIS & MASSEY"
CTG 60.5 091406Z	"DAVIS & MASSEY BOATS SEARCHED WATER FOR CLASS. MATTER"
COMSIXTHFLT 091503Z USDAO TEL AVIV 091509Z COMDESRON 12 091511Z	"COMM GUARD FOR LIBERTY First WORD OF ISRAELI'S RATIONALE FOR ATTACK. "ADVISE IF ANY CLASSIFIED MATL RECOVERED"
USS LIBERTY 091653Z	"C&F INSPECTED SHIP & TALKED TO CREW"
USS LIBERTY 091700Z	"FOLLOWING WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY DAVIS TODAY:---"
USS PAPAGO 091721Z	"SOME CLASS. MATL WAS FOUND. CO HAS."
USCINCEUR 091744Z	recap of Pentagon news releases
CTG 60.5 091900Z	SITREP NINE: MASSEY DETACHED. PAPAGO IN LIB WAKE"
COMSIXTHFLT 091954Z	not held - this is ref in LIB 110900Z - re: LIB Casualties
CTG 60.5 092119Z	DISCUSSION OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL
AMERICA 092143Z	not held - this is ref in AMERICA 131211Z
SECDEF 092/12Z	Pentagon news release - badly garbled text of SECDEF 091213Z is probably the same message
CTG 60.5 092230Z	SITREP TEN: "ACCOMPLISHMENTS TODAY ---- "

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MESSAGES

CTG 60.5 100200Z	SITREP ELEVEN - 0400 posit
CTG 60.5 100550Z	SITREP TWELVE - 0800 POSIT; LIST IMPROVING
LIBERTY 100845Z	"LIST REMOVED BY SHIFTING FUEL"
CTG 60.5 101100Z	SITREP THIRTEEN - POSIT, FUEL STATUS, SUPPLIES
COMDESRON 12 10/1205Z	FLASHING LIGHT MSG ASKS FOR TIME OF RECEIPT OF JCS 080110Z and CINCEUR 080425Z if received.
LIBERTY 101230Z	not held - this is a reference in CO's funeral service message of 11 JUN, DTG [illegible].
CTG 60.5 101455Z	"SITREP THIRTEEN" less POSIT
COMDESRON 12 10/1521Z	DESTINATION IS [illegible]
CTG 60.5 101750Z	SITREP FOURTEEN - posit & status report
AMERICA 1021/9Z	not held - this is a rr/ in AMERICA 131211Z - casualties
COMSIXTHFLT 102235Z	not held - PA guidance - a ref in SECDEF 122015Z
LIBERTY 11////Z	CO's message for funeral services
SYLVANIA 11[illegible]	CONDOLENCES
CTG 60.5 110300Z	SITREP FIFTEEN - ROVU WITH SYLVANIA & MATTABASSET.
CTG 60.5 110610Z	SITREP SIXTEEN - refueling DAVIS and PAPAGO.
LIBERTY 110900Z	battle damage repair discussion
CTG 60.5 111112Z	SITREP SEVENTEEN - two bodies recovered - am attempting to cover hole with canvas.
CTG 60.5 111600Z	SITREP EIGHTEEN - "CANVAS SWEPT AWAY; AGI ARRIVED"
CHINFO 111607Z	news releases
CINCUSNAVEUR 120950Z	not held - a ref in CHINFO 171307Z JUN
COMDESRON 12 121602Z	not held - a ref in LIBERTY 122000Z
LIBERTY 122000Z	BRAVO ZULU TO DAVIS
SECDEF 122015Z	public affairs guidance
DIRNAVSECGRP 122109Z	COOK SENDS CONDOLENCES

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MESSAGES 3

✓AMERICA 131211Z REPORT OF STATUS OF PATIENTS

COMDESRON 12 14----Z BZ and report of arrival MALTA

✓CTG 60.5 140041Z CINCUSNAVEUR asks about colors & signals before & during attack

✓LIBERTY 140143Z LIBERTY answers 140041Z

✓SECDEF 141747Z COURT IS NOW IN SESSION: SECDEF WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT

✓CINCUSNAVEUR 142145Z REPORT ALL NEWS INTERVIEWS TO BE

✓CNO 152106Z CONDOLENCES

✓SECDEF 160000Z readdresses SECDEF 141747Z

✓CINCUSNAVEUR 161055Z CONDOLENCES

✓CHINFO 171307Z McGrath of BOSTON GLOBE WANTS TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

✓CINCLANTFLT 171[illegible]Z MOORER CHANGE OF COMMAND

✓COMSIXTHFLT 1[illegible]Z BRAVO ZULU TO THE SIXTH FLEET

USDAO TEL AVIV 181030Z report of Israeli Court of Inquiry

✓CINCUSNAVEUR 181105Z message reports George's "DELIBERATE ATTACK" story

✓AMCONSUL LUANDA 190905Z CONDOLENCES

USCINCEUR 191021Z not hold - press recap - ref in SECDEF 212100Z JUN

✓USDAO ROME 191022Z reports "ATTACK WAS DELIBERATE" story

✓USE VALETTA 191610Z McGrath Interview Request

✓LIBERTY 191806Z on McGrath Interview Request

✓CINCUSNAVEUR 201043Z Readd of USDAO ROME 191022Z

✓CINCUSNAVEUR 201525Z Readd of USDAO ROME 191022Z and NAVEUR 201043Z

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MESSAGES 4

✓ SECDEF 212100Z JUNE (DON'T HOLD McGRATH INTERVIEW

??? 241532Z JUN this is ref in a message discussing communications

✓SECDEF 272241Z JUN NO TALKING TO PRESS UNTIL COURT IS OUT

SECDEF 281051Z JUN not held - press guidance - a ref in CINCUSNAVEUR 0200,4Z

✓ CHINFO 281930Z JUN NO TALKING TO PRESS UNTIL COURT IS OUT

✓SECDEF 282051Z JUN CANCEL 272241Z - interviews now ok, but...

✓ COMSIXTHFLT 282147Z Readd 272241Z

SECDEF 282150Z JUN ground rules for press interviews

LIBERTY 291005Z JUN not held - [illegible] LIB press conf msg 301401Z

CNO 291156Z JUN not held - [illegible] in press guidance msg 020054Z

✓ CHINFO 292234Z JUN OK for McGrath interview

CINCUSNAVEUR 301306Z Recommends Medal of Honor for McGonagle.

CINCUSNAVEUR 301401Z JUN guidance re "PRESS QUERIES & INTERVIEWS" [illegible]

✓ NAPLES 301853Z JUN Irving R. Levine interviews Admiral Kidd

✓ NAPLES 011240Z JUL Levine & Kidd, readdressal of 301853Z JUN

CINCUSNAVEUR 020030Z JUL - not held - classified PA guidance

CINCUSNAVEUR 020034Z JUL - PA guidance [illegible]

SECDEF DTG ?? JUN SECDEF release #0523 not held - PA guidance - ref in 020054Z

✓ CINCUSNAVEUR 131557Z PA GUIDANCE

✓ COMSERVLANT 151430Z readdressal of 131557Z

✓ COMSERVLANT 131543Z readdressal of 131557Z and 151430Z

✓ CINCLANTFLT 282132Z JUL WELCOME HOME LIBERTY

✓ COMSERVRON 8 291725Z JUL WELCOME HOME LIBERTY

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EXHIBIT # 48

MESSAGES PERTAINING TO LIBERTY
FROM CINCUSNAVEUR MSG FILES

EXHIBIT 48 MESSAGES
REARRANGED IN DTG ORDER

THE FOLLOWING ARE ELIGIBLE:

Doc # 1, pp 390-391-392-393
1, pp 447-448
19, pp 431-432
21, p 429
22, p 428
23, p 427
24, p 426
25, p 425
26, p 424
27, p 396-397-398
56 pp 423 OK SAME AS # 26
61 p 422
65 p 388

THE FOLLOWING ARE APPARENTLY MISSING:

Doc # 4
13
[redacted]
28
72

III

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12

USCINCEUR

RE[illegible]

USCINCEUR

241212Z FEB 67

291430Z FEB 67

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13

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[illegible]
OO RUFLKD
DE RUEDSPA5884 [illegible]
ZNY CCCCC
O R[illegible]Z MAY 67
FM COMSERVRON EIGHT
TO RUTPA/USS LIBERTY
INFO R[illegible]/COMSERVTAMI
RUEDSPA/CTG LANTFLT
RUE[illegible]/[illegible]
RUEP[illegible]/[illegible]/DRC
RUEDSPA/CTG MOLAND/DRC
RUEP[illegible]/DIRNSA
RUEL[illegible]/DIRNAVSECGRU
RUEDSPA/[illegible]
RUDL[illegible]/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTAG/COMSIXTHFLT
RUCINSA/[illegible]/NAVSECGRUDUR
RUTAG/COMCRUDESGRU SIXTY
RUTAG/NAVSTA ROTA
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
A. [illegible] 813302Z APR 67

Passed to USCincEur
DECLASSIFIED
[illegible]

[illegible] CONFIDENTIAL
[illegible]
1. [illegible] PARAS 3C AND 3 REFERENCE A.
2. MAKE IMMEDIATE PREPARATIONS TO GET UNDERWAY. WHEN RFE ARAP DEPART ADRIAN AND PROCEED BEST PRAC SOA TO ROTA SPAIN TO LOAD TECH SUPPORT MATERIAL&RPC
3. WHEN RFE PROCEED TO OP AREA OFF PORT SAID. SPECIFIC AREAS WILL FOTLOW.
4. REMAINDER REF A UNCHANGED.
GP-1
BT

[illegible]

[illegible] CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

NAVEUR NCU LOM 3100/2 (REV 10-60)

Doc. 110 Ex NP-LIBERTY

[illegible]

24 30 20 E

14

Liberty

NC/300

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Doc. 109 Ex 98 Library

453

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15

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Liberty Folio

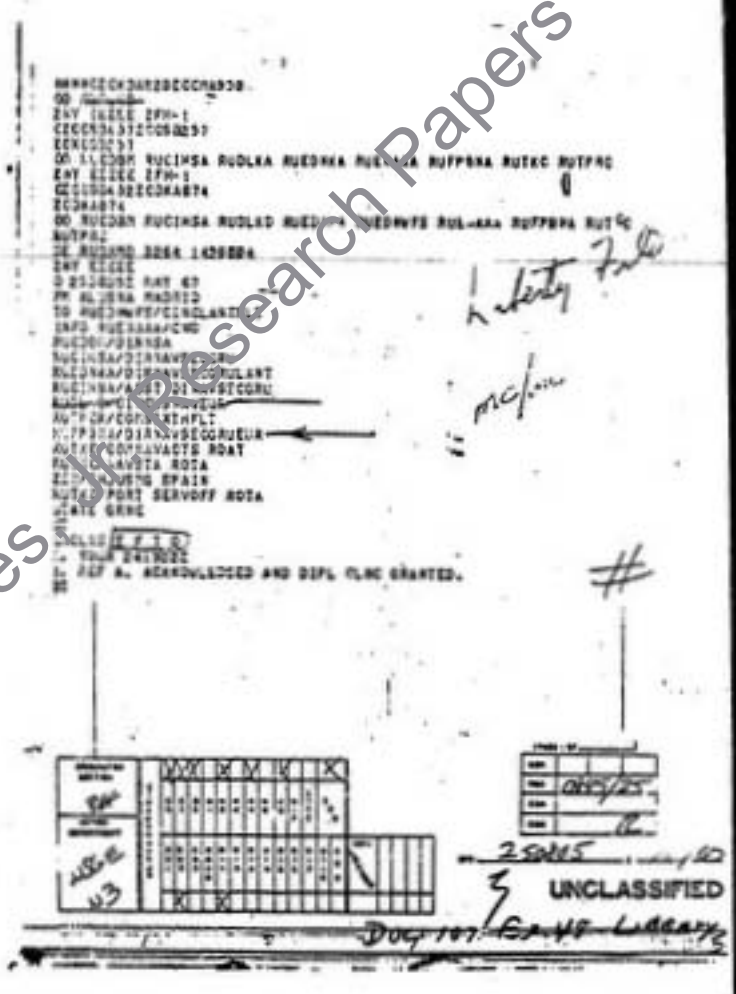
MC(SDO

C O N F I D E N T I A L

DOC. 108 EX HP LIBRARY

241922Z MAY

16



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17

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UNCLAS E F T O
FM USS LIBERTY
BT
UNCLAS
MSG FORWARDED BY CONSERVLANT. THEREFORE REQ
YOU TAKE PARA 2 REQUIRED FOR ACTION.
BT

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DOC. 104 EX VF LIBERTY

25125Z MAY

18



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Doc 105 Ex VE Liberty

457

29/2008 MAT

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Q/P 2916022 MAY 67 ZFF1
FM JCS
TO CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
CNO
CINCLANTFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSERVLANT
COMSIXTHFLT
COMSERVRON 8
USS LIBERTY
DIRNSA
DIRNAVSECGRU
ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU
DIRNAVSECGRULANT
DIRNAVSECGRUEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L JCS6499 J3 SENDS.
SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY
1. (C) FOR CINCLANT: UPON PASSING SEA BUOY INBOUND ROTA, A/A 1 MAY REQUEST CHOP LIBERTY OPCON USCINCEUR.
2. (C) FOR USCINCEUR: UPON ASSUMING OPCON, REQUEST YOU MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT EASTERN MED. WILL PASS SKED ASAP.
GP4

(From declassified Court of Inquiry Report, page 301, Exhibit 48, Document #104.)

(Xerox copy filed as Exhibit #9)

29/0022 MAY

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20

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

21

CIC#A1932CC0R669
OO RUFLKO
DE RUENSPA#216 1991251
ZNY CCCCC
O 01.0ZOZ MAY 67
FM COMSERVRON EIGHT
TO RUTPPA/USS LIBERTY
RUEDWRA/COMSERVLANT
INFO RUEDWRA/CINCLANTFLT
RUEDWRA/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEVWAA/CNO
RUEVWAA/CINCLANT/JIC
RUEPWSJ/DIRNSA
RUEPWSJ/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUEPWSJ/DIRNSA FT MEADE MD
RUEPWSJ/DIRNSA FT MEADE MD
RUTPPA/COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT
BT
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO RUENSPA#216 C O N F I D E N T I A L
A. TOP SECRET APR 67 NOTAL
B. CINCLANTFLT 302040Z MAY 67 NOTAL
C. FOR COMSERVLANT: ORIG TAKES REF B FORAC.
D. FOR LIBERTY: CANCEL THE UNEXECUTED PORTION OF REF C.
CHOP TO USCINCEUR 96 ARRIVAL ROTA.
E. KEEP CINCLANT/JIC AND [illegible] YOUR [illegible]
GP-4
BT

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[illegible]

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300202Z MAY

459

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22

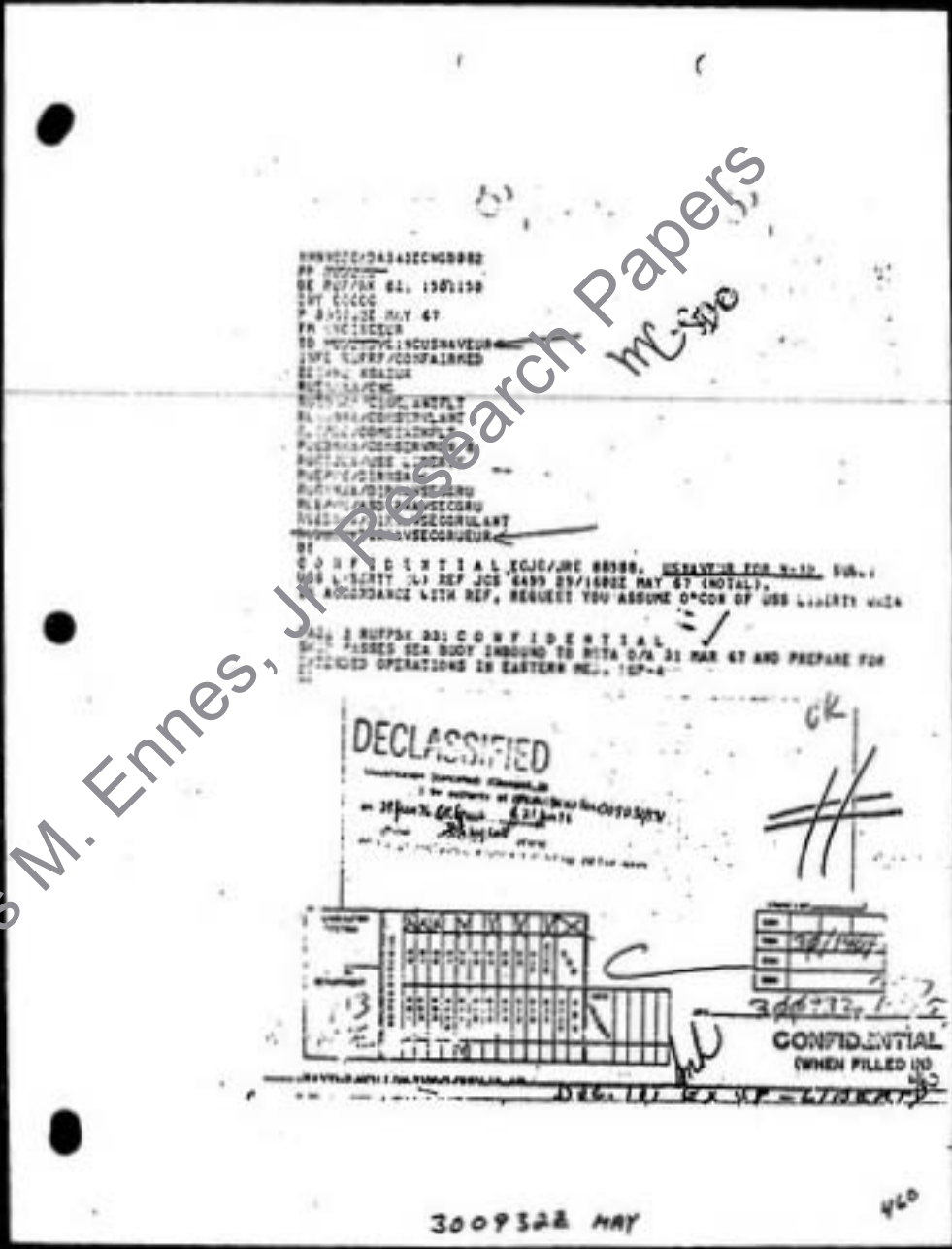
LIBERTY 300[illegible] MAY 67

MSG IS A REFERENCE IN
CINCUSNAVEUR 031016Z TO CGF
DEALING WITH LOGISTIC SUPPORT

300602Z MAY

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23



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24

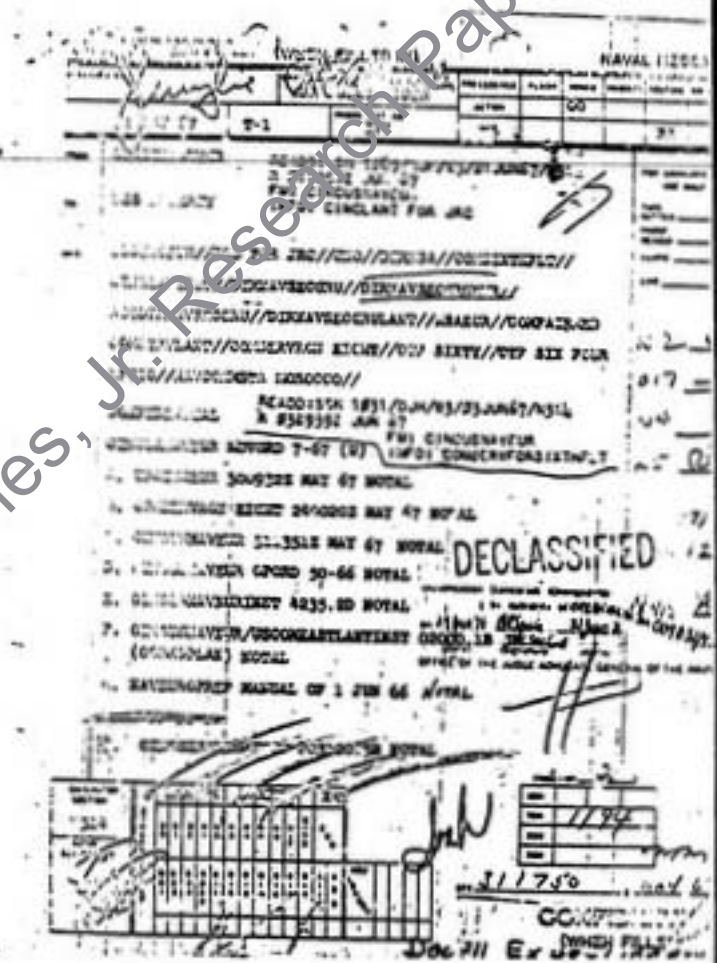
MRC [illegible] READY

[illegible] 291300Z MAY

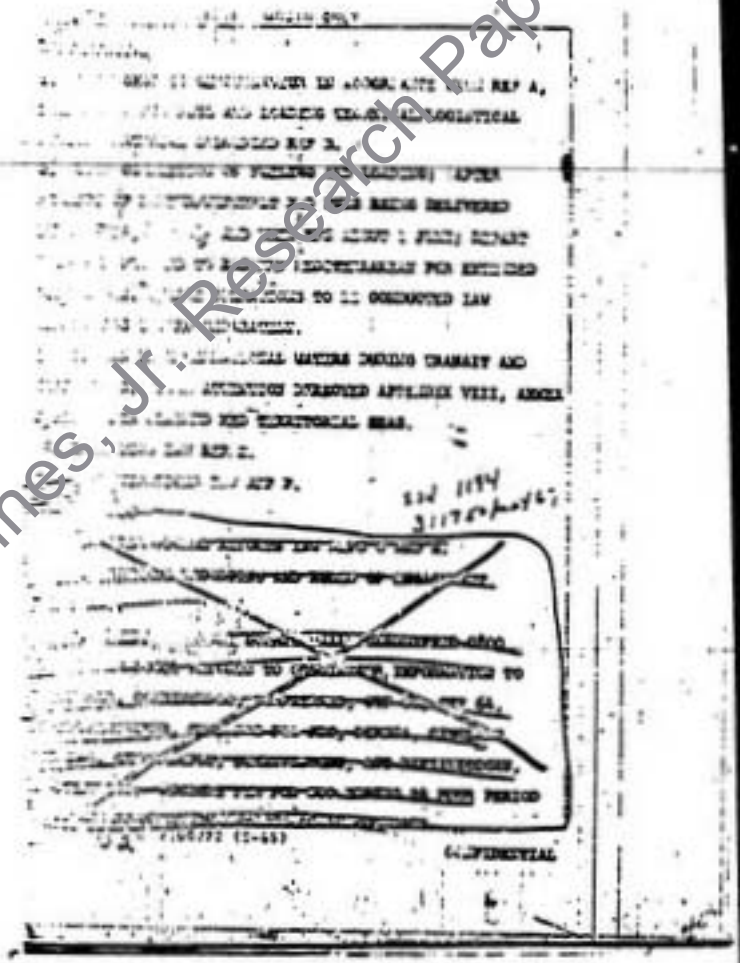
MOVED

301925Z MAY

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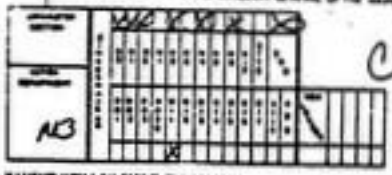
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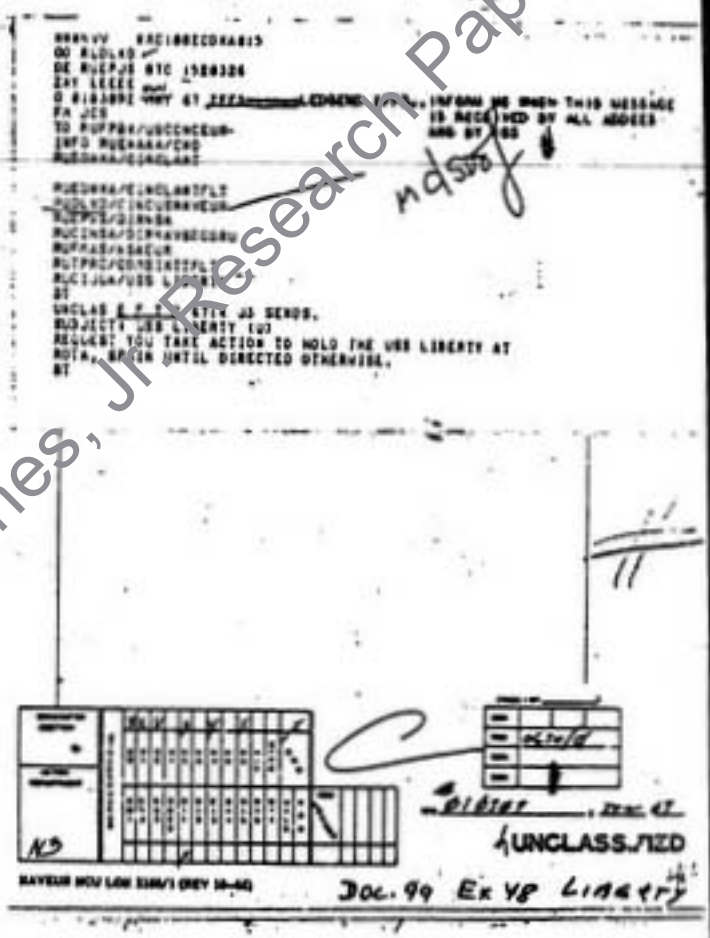
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FM JCS
TO RUFPBAA/USCINCEUR
INFO RUEHAAA/CNO
RUEHAAA/CINCLANT

RUEHAAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUFPDS/COMSIXTHFLT
RUCINSA/USDOCINCEUR
RUFRAS/USAFE
RUTPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUCIJSA/USS LIBERTY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O [illegible] JJ SENDS.
SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY (U)
REQUEST YOU TAKE ACTION TO HOLD THE USS LIBERTY AT
MOTA, [illegible] UNTIL DIRECTED OTHERWISE.
BT

NSA

Dec. 67

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SAVELIB MCU LOM 5300/1 (REV 10-66)

Doc. 99 Ex 48 Liberty

010107E

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EXCEDE

R/JCS/JCS

R/DIRNSA

R/DIRNAVSECGRU

R/JAC/USS LIBERTY

ST

S E C R E T ECJC/JRC [illegible] JCS FOR JAC, USNAVEUR FOR N-3; AND [illegible].

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY (U)

REF A. JCS 6714, [illegible] MAY 67

B. DIRNSA [illegible] 312215Z MAY 67

1. (S) PER REF A, REQUEST YOU TAKE ACTION TO HOLD USS LIBERTY AT [illegible] PENDING ARRIVAL OF THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL BEING PROVIDED BY DIRNAVSECGRU, ACTION, AS OUTLINED REF B.

2. (S) REQUEST YOU ADVISE THIS HQ WHEN PERSONNEL ARE ABOARD AND [illegible] DEPARTURE ITEM [illegible] OP-6

D. JAIL UNTIL Directed otherwise

Add 1 per recom from Comm

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[illegible]

SECRET
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NAVEUR NCU LOR 3108/3 (REV 10-62)

Doc. 98 Ex VS-Liberty

01 04 19 E

463



Dec. 93 EX 44 - LIBERTY

0107128

464

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R 011[illegible]Z JUN 67
FM CINCLANTFLEET
INFO CINCLANT FOR JRC

(READD OF CNE 311758Z MAY 67)

011256Z JUN

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CONFIDENTIAL (When Filled In) NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM: CINCUSNAVEUR

TO: USS LIBERTY

INFO: CINCLANTFLT/CINCLANTFLT/COMNAVSECGRULANT//NSAEUR//COMFAIRMED
COMSERVRON EIGHT//COMSERVRON EIGHT//CTF SIXTY//CTF SIX FOUR
AFSOUTH//NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO//CINCLANT FOR JIC

CONFIDENTIAL

CINCUSNAVEUR MSGID 7-67 CHANGE ONE (U):

A. CINCUSNAVEUR 2117302 MAY 67 PARAP

1. MODIFY REF A AS FOLLOWS:

A. DELETE PARA TWO.

B. INSERT NEW PARA TWO, QUOTE. UPON COMPLETION OF FUELING AND LOADING; AFTER RECEIPT OF NAVGRU/ SIXTYFLT MED PUBS [illegible] DELIVERED BY COURIER (REF C); AFTER PERSONNEL INCLUDED DIRNSA 312021Z MAY 67 (OTHER ORIGINAL) HAVE REPORTED; AND WHEN RFS; REPORT READINESS FOR OPERATIONS. WHEN DIRECTED, DEPART NOTA AND PROCEED

CONFIDENTIAL (When Filled In)

011305Z

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CONFIDENTIAL

TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN FOR [illegible] OPERATIONS. THESE OPERATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED IAW [illegible] ISSUED SEPARATELY. CHARTS AND SCHEDULE WILL BE PROVIDED. ENCODE.

C. ADD NEW PARAGRAPH 3[illegible]. QUOTE. 6. REPORTS.

A. CONTACT REPORTS AND [illegible] OF ENGAGEMENT IAW REF H.

B. SUBMIT CLASSIFIED SITREP AND POSIT REPORT AS OF 2400Z DAILY. USE PRIORITY PRECEDENCE UNLESS CONTENT WARRANTS INCREASED SPEED. INCLUDE POR FOR NEXT 24 HOURS AND [illegible] AS APPROPRIATE. ADDRESS ACTION CINCLANTFLT, INFO ADDRES SAME AS THIS MESSAGE. ENCODE.

GP-3

Ø1/13050 JUN 67

1092

PAGE 2 OF 2 CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

467

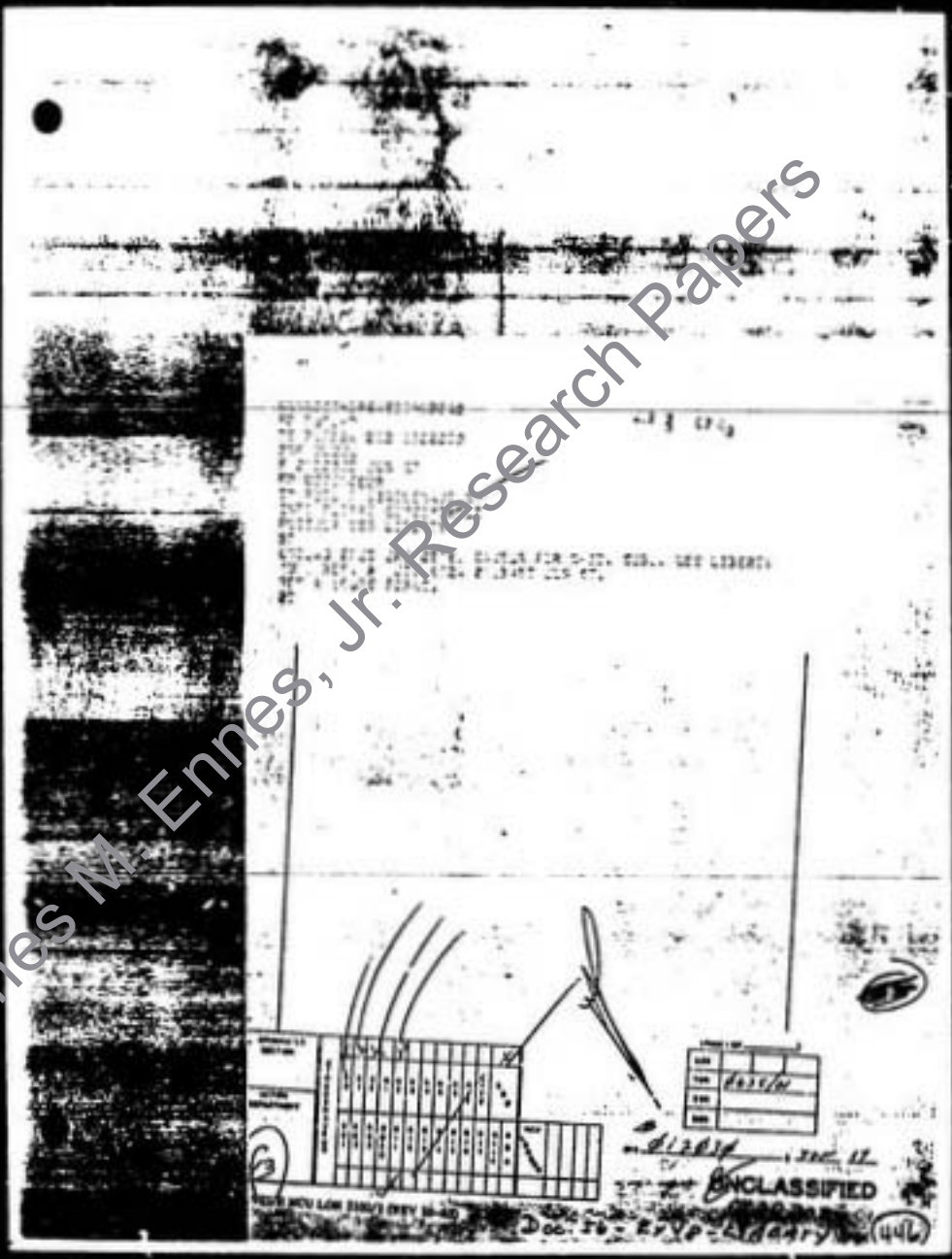
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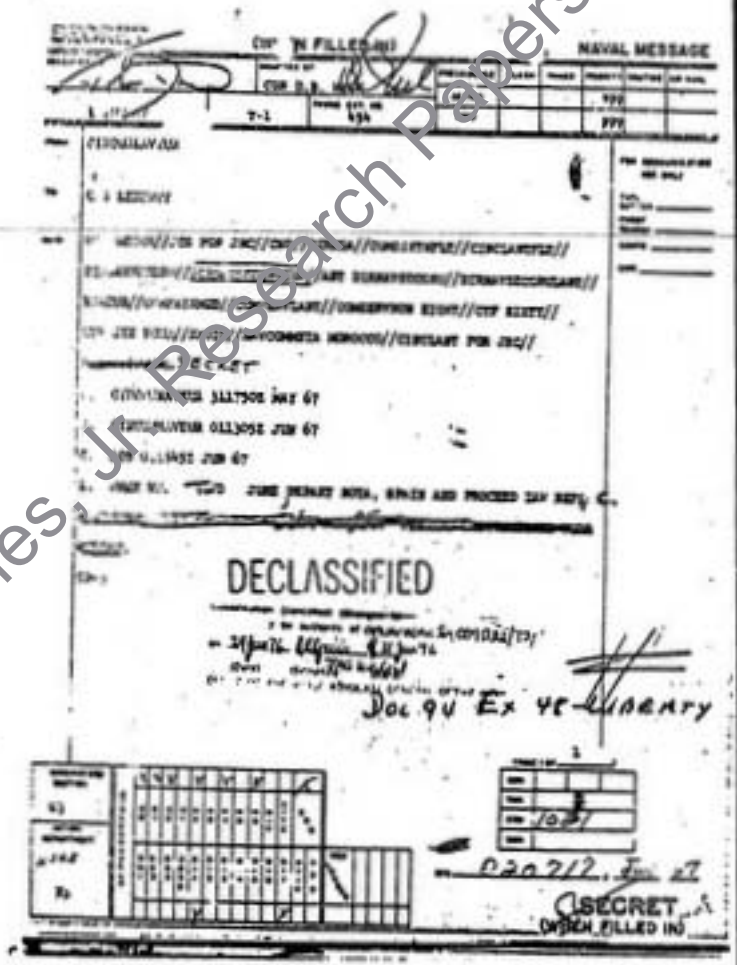
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NAVAL MESSAGE

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020717 Ex

48

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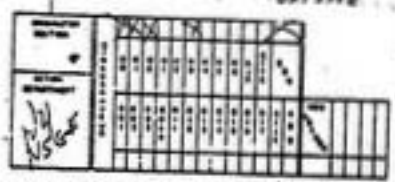
[illegible]
GG RUDLKS
DE RUTHC 181A 1501132
ZNY CCCCC
O 021132Z JUN 67
FM USS L10S
ZY
TO RUDLKS/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
*UEPJS/JCS

RUCINAA/CNO
RUCFCR/IKUSA
RUTPAC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUSDINA/CINCLANTFLT
RUCINSA/DIRNAVCEFORU
RUDLKD/DIRNAVSEJOR
RUCINSA/ASSTDIRNAVSEJORU
RUCINSA/DIRNAVSECLANT
RUFPBK/NSIE
RUFRF/COMFIVEZ
RUSDNAA/COMSIXTHFLT
RUSDSPA/COMSECONDFLTRON EIGHT
RUTVRE/CTF SIXTY
RUFRD/CTF SIX FOUR
RUCINAA/NAVPOSO

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PAGE TWO RUTHC 181A C O N F I D E N T I A L
RUTPC/NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
RUSDNAA/CINCLANT
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
JCS FOR JRC - CINCLANT FOR JRC
RFS (2)
A. YOUR 011309Z JUN 67
1. TEMPORARY REPAIRS MADE TO INBOARD HYDRAULIC SYSTEM, SYSTEM CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL.
2. RFS AT 021030Z. WILL DEPART ROTA AT THAT TIME AND PROCEED BEST SPEED IAW REF A. MOVE/ SEPARATE.
GP-4
BT

021314



NAVEXOS NCU LOG 2196/2 (REV 10-48)

021132

3 CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

Dec. 93 Ex VP Lidecky

469

NNNNCZCKDA533CCMSA648
OO RUDLKD
DE RUIEC 1814 1531132
ZNY
O 021132Z JUN 87
FM USS LIBS
TY
TO RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUFPSK/USCINCEUR
RUEPJS/JCS

RUENAAA/CNO

RUIPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUSDNKA/CINCLANTFLT

RUEDNKA/COMSERVLANT
RUEDSPA/COMSERVRON EIGHT
RUTKRE/CTF SIXTY
RUFRD/CTF SIX FOUR
RUCIHSA/NFOIO

PAGE TWO RUTKC 1814
RUTPC/NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
RUEDNKA/CINCLANT
ZT

JCS FOR JRC
CINCLANT FOR JRC
RFS (U)
A. YOUR 011305Z JUN 87
1. TEMPORARY REPAIRS MADE TO TRSSCOMM HYDRAULIC SYSTEM. SYSTEM CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL.
2. [illegible] AT 021230Z. WILL DEPART ROTA AT THAT TIME AND PROCEED BEST SPEED IAW REF A. MOVREP SEPARATE.
3.4
ZT

JCS FAX PHONE TOPS

021132Z JUNE

3 (WHEN FILLED IN)

NAVEUR NCU LOK 2100/2 (REV 10-85)

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PAGE TWO RUFUS MAPA CONFIDENTIAL
AUTHENTICATOR SIX ZERO
SUPPLEMENTARY SIX FOUR
AIRCRAFT/AVIONICS - MOROCCO
RUNWAY/AVIONICS - GREECE
RUNWAY - COMPARTA ASMARA
JE
C O N F I D E N T I A L
JOINT PASS TO JMC
SECRET PASS TO JMC
CONFIDENTIAL, PPP MOVREP 02133[illegible] LIBERTY ACTR-5, PGXX
SUBJ/ OP LIBERTY ACTR-5, 83//
REF A/ DOCID: GRAPH, 4814802[illegible] 83//
REF B/ 33-5748 813-5543, 813.066 GO 813.066 84//
REF C/ 33-5802 813-5823, 813.066 RH 813.066 85//
REF D/ 33-5815 813-5826, 813.066 86//
NARR/ 33-5824 [illegible] 50 MILE RADIUS-SPECOPS, CONCURRENCE
[illegible]
1. (C) 3.4(B) KILO ROMEO TANGO TANGO, LIBERTY, 8788812R JULIETT ROMEO TANGO, LIBERTY, [illegible] 813.066, ETATUM8, 885-3543, 02173823, 813.066,
[illegible]
RUFUS THREE RUFUS MAPA C O N F I D E N T I A L
(A-5781, 813-5823, 85033823, 813.066, 33-5745, 833-8826, 88838321,
(B-5885, 813-5829, 88838743, 31175821, 8788812R, 85//ERS
3.4
Page 2 of 2 02133[illegible] Lw 67

(illegible)

02133[illegible] Lw

452

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

R 030939Z JUN 67

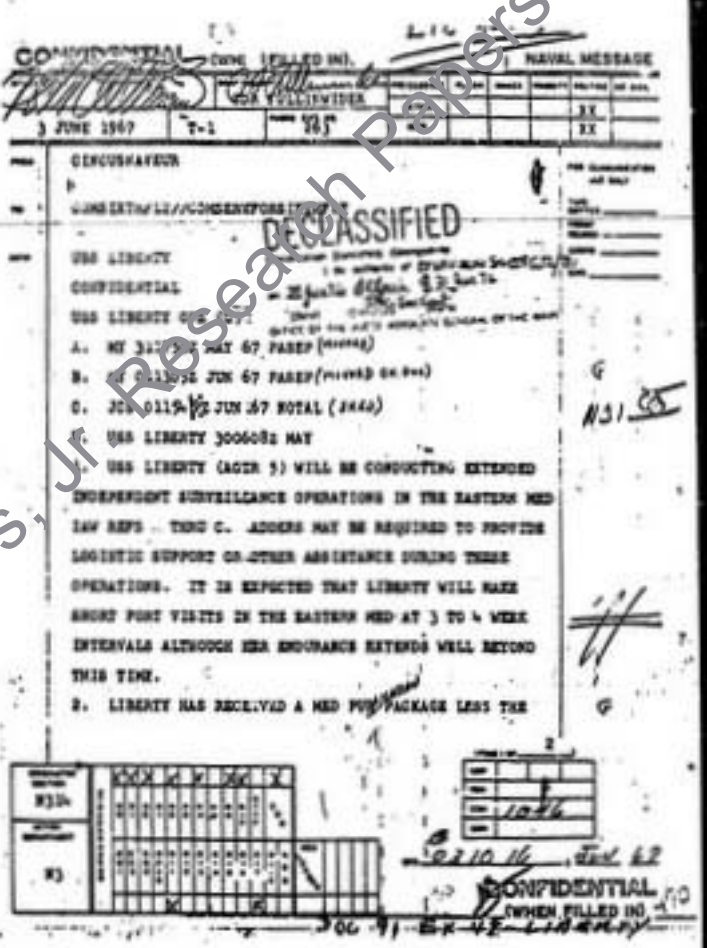
FM CINCUSNAVEUR

TO CONSERVRON SIX INFLT

(READD OF CNE 31/1750Z MAY

0309392 JUN

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers



CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN FILLED IN) NAVAL MESSAGE

FOR WILLIAMSBURG

3 JUNE 1967 T-1

CINCUSNAVEUR

CONFIDENTIAL

USS LIBERTY

CONFIDENTIAL

USS LIBERTY

A. MY 31[illegible] MAY 67 PASEP (MSGID)

B. [illegible] JUN 67 PASEP (MSGID)

C. JCS 0119[illegible]/2 JUN 67 NOTAL (SAGA)

D. USS LIBERTY 3006082 MAY

1. USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) WILL BE CONDUCTING EXTENDED INDEPENDENT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN MED IAW REFS B AND C. ADDRS MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT OR OTHER ASSISTANCE DURING THESE OPERATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT LIBERTY WILL MAKE ABOUT FOUR VISITS IN THE EASTERN MED AT 3 TO 4 WEEK INTERVALS ALTHOUGH HER ENDURANCE EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THIS TIME.

2. LIBERTY HAS RECEIVED A MED FUEL PACKAGE LESS THE

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 968130

By [illegible] NARA, Date 12-18-96

CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN FILLED IN)

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TYPE (WITHIN MARGIN ONLY)

CONFIDENTIAL

FOLLOWING INSTRUCT[illegible]S. RESPONSE TO THIS LIST SHOULD ASSIST IN REACHING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING SHOULD ADDRES BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT LIBERTY.

A. CONSINTHFLT [illegible] 3370.1A, 3720.6A, 5840.1, 6000.1, 03510.2

B. CONSEXPLOSINTHFLT INST: 4000.10, 03180.1A

3. REQUEST CINCLANTFLT PROVIDE COPIES OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS TO LIBERTY BY MAIL.

GP-4

SSN: 1046
DTG: 031016ZJUN 67

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES CONFIDENTIAL

NAVEUR NCU LOG 2100/22 (9-65)

471

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KRAJ NR 8658
R 031816Z JUN 67
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO RUTPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUTPRE/COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT
INFO RUQFNA/USS LIBERTY
BT

USS LIBERTY OPS (U)
A. MY 311456Z MAY 67 PASEP (MOVORD)
B. MY 011315Z JUN 67 PASEP (MOVORD CH. ONE)
C. JCS 011545Z JUN 67 NOTAL (SKED)
D.

IAW REFS A THRU C. ADDEES MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPOYT OR OTHER ASSISTANCE DURING THESE OPERATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT LIBERTY WILL MAKE SHORT PORT VISITS IN THE EASTERN MED AT 3 TO 4 WEEK INTERVALS ALTHOUGH HER ENDURANCE EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THIS TIME.
2. LIBERTY HAS RECEIVED A NIS PUBLICATION PACKAGE LESS THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS. REFERENCE OF THIS LIST SHOULD ASSIST IN REACHING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING SHOULD ADDEES BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT LIBERTY.
   A. COMSIXTHFLT INSTC 3376.1A, 5840.1, 6000.1, 05510.2H
   B. COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT INSTC 4000.1C, 03180.1A
3. REQUEST COMSIXTHFLT PROVIDE COPIES OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS TO LIBERTY BY MAIL.
P-4
BT

FLAG: ACT.....

TOR 031508Z JUNE 67 NR 582/03 CWO.....CAP

03 18 16Z JUNE 67

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DECLASSIFIED

FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUTPRS/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUEPJS/JCS
RUEAHAA/CNO
RUEDNAA/CINCLANT
RUEDNAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUEPCR/DIRNSA
RUCINDA/CINCUSTDCOM
RUEPNAA/COMSECOND
RUTPRS/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPNAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUEPCR/DIRNSA
RUTAIA/CCIF 68

Dec 5- Exempt
LIBERTY

RUEPCR/DIRNSA
RUTAIA/CCIF 68

CONFIDENTIAL

FM USS LIBERTY

TO RUTPRS/CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO RUEPJS/JCS

RUEAHAA/CNO

RUEDNAA/CINCLANT

RUEDNAA/CINCLANTFLT

RUEPCR/DIRNSA

RUCINDA/CINCUSTDCOM

RUEPNAA/COMSECOND

RUTPRS/CINCUSNAVEUR

RUTPNAA/CINCLANTFLT

RUEPCR/DIRNSA

PPNO 639
P 051934Z
FM USS LIBERTY
CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO JCS
CNO
CINCLANT
CINCLANTFLT

COMSERVRON EIGHT
USCINCEUR
AFOIO

COMSIXTHFLT
COMFAIRMED
CTF 60
CTF 64
NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
BT

JCS PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP/POSIT
1. 2400Z POSIT 35-28N 0[illegible]9-18E IPIM 106/15
2. ASSUMED CONDITION OF READINESS THREE MODIFIED.
GP-4
BT

3

FLAG ACT .....

CWO ..... III/MIC

TOR 0814292 JUN 67 NR 554/06

051934Z JUN 67

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CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN FILLED IN) Liberty Liberty

NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM: [illegible]

DTG: 6 JUN 67 Z-1

4 ENCLOSURES

CONSENTRIP FOR LIBERTY

Ref B

USCINCEUR FOR JRC//CS FOR JRC//CNO//DIRNSA//CINCLANTFLT//

DIRNAVSECGRU//CTF 64//DIRNAVSECGRUDET//ALDIRNAVSECGRU//

DIRNAVSECGRULANT//CTF 64//CTU//COMFAIRMED//COMSERVLANT//

COMSERVRON EIGHT//CTF 60//CTF 602 FOOD//INFOSIO//

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA MOROCCO//CINCLANT FOR JRC//COMSERVRON EIGHT//

CONFIDENTIAL

USS LIBERTY OPERATIONAL CONTROL (U)

DECLASSIFIED

A. MY 311117Z MAY 67 (LIBERTY MOVORD 7-67, WITH CH-1)

B. MY 031016Z JUN 67

C. USS LIBERTY 021130Z JUN 67 (MOVREP)

D. JCS 011545Z JUN 67 (USS LIBERTY SITREP)

E. USS LIBERTY 022108Z JUN 67

1. FOR CONSENTRIP. TO FACILITATE AREA COMMAND AND CONTROL DURING HOSTILITIES, USS LIBERTY WILL BE CRIPPED TO CONSENTRIP AT 070001Z JUN 67. OPERATE LIBERTY IAW REF D TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL CAPABILITIES. REF D MAY BE MODIFIED FOR SAFETY REASONS

Doc 6 - Ex. Liberty

1865

0613578

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"TYPE MEMO" ONLY

CONF IMPL

AS DICTATED BY THE LOCAL SITUATION.

A. REQUEST CHANGE [illegible] REPORTS (REPS A AND B) TO AS OF 180GC, CHANGE PRECEDENCE TO IMMEDIATE AND CHANGE ADDEE FOR UNCINCPAC TO UNCINCSOA FOR JRC.

2. FOR USS [illegible]. CROP TO COMMENCE AT 0700GLT BY HELICOPTER.

A [illegible] REPORT NOT RECEIVED SINCE REP E.

GP-3

1968
#61312

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES CONFIDENTIAL

DAVCOM REG LOG 7100/22 (1-65)

445

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ACTION PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE | INFO PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE | SPECIAL HANDLING: NONE

FROM: CINCUSNAVEUR DATE: 6 JUNE 67 ACT:

TO: COMSIXTHFLT INFO:
USS LIBERTY
USCINCEUR
JCS
[redacted]

COMSERVLANT
COMSERVRON EIGHT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX FOUR
USFOR
NAV COMSTA MOROCCO
CINCLANT
COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT

USS LIBERTY OPERATIONAL CONTROL (U)

USCINCEUR FOR JRC, JCS FOR JRC, CINCLANT FOR JRC

A. MY 311750Z MAY 67 (LIBERTY MOVORD 7-67, WITH CH-1)

B. MY 031816Z JUN 67

C. USS LIBERTY 021330Z JUN 67 (MOVREP)

D. USS [illegible]1545Z JUN 67 (USS LIBERTY SKED)

E. USS LIBERTY 022108Z JUN 67

1. FOR COMSIXTHFLT. TO FACILITATE AREA COMMAND AND CONTROL AND ANY POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT FOR PROTECTION DURING

DRAFTER: TW/CJH | RELEASING OFFICER: | RELEASED AT (DTG):

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 1 OF

END OF MESSAGE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ADD

AD:

DTG 060135Z

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ACTION PRECEDENCE | TWO PRECEDENCES | SPECIAL HANDLING

ROUTINE

AIRCRAFT WHEELS IDLE, USS LIBERTY WILL BE CHOPPED TO COMSIXTHFLT AT PTARMIC JUN 67. OPERATE LIBERTY IAW REF D TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL CAPABILITIES. REF D MAY BE MODIFIED FOR SAFETY REASONS AS DICTATED BY THE LOCAL SITUATION.

A. REQUEST CHANGE FIM REPORTS (RLFS A AND B) TO AS OF 152001, CHANGE PRECEDENCE TO IMMEDIATE AND CHANGE ADDEE FOR USCINCEUR TO USCINCEUR FOR JRC.

B. FOR USS LIBERTY, CHOP TO COMSIXTHFLT AT PTARMIC BY MESSAGE.

C. FIM REPORT NOT RECEIVED SINCE REF C.

GP-3

NOTE: REF "C" IS [illegible] 41875
REF "D" [illegible] TO LOCATE
REF "E" IS AGI 40957

DRAFTER: TW/EJH

RELEASING OFFICER

RELEASED AT [illegible]

DOCUMENT NUMBER

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS:
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.

PAGE

TO MESSAGE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ADD

ADI

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DENY

DD RUSLAD
DE RUFPUS 049 1571151
ENV CCCCC
O 061141Z JUN 67
FM USCINCEUR
TO RUSLAD/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RADAC/USS LIBERTY
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L [illegible] USNAVEUR FOR N-31
AND N-32. [illegible] FOR [illegible] USS LIBERTY (LT, REFS A, MY
EC/[illegible] 2158Z, 01 JUN 67. B. CINCUSNAVEUR
0[illegible] JUN 67.
1. (C) REF A REQUESTS SITREPS AND PIR REPORTS FROM USS
LIBERTY AREA [illegible] AND MLT RADIO DAILY. REF B DIRECTS THE USS
LIBERTY TO [illegible] THE DAILY SITREP MESSAGE AS OF 24002 HOURS
AT PRIORITY PRECEDENCE.
2. (C) RECEIPT OF USS LIBERTY SITREPS AND PIR REPORTS AT THIS
HQ HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY BEYOND TIME REQUESTED IN REF A.
REQUEST THESE REPORTS BE ASSIGN
ALI PRECEDENCE OF IMMEDIATE
AND BE TRANSMITTED DAILY AS OF 18002. JP-4
BT

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[illegible]
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

Doc 7 - Ex 48 - LIBERTY

N3

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NAVEUR NCU LOR 11062 (REV 11-66)

0614102

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PAGE TWO RUHAC 1666 CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

JCS PASS TO JRC

CONCLANT PASS TO JRC

CINCEUR PASS TO JRC

3. TEMPORARY REPAIRS HAVE RETURNED THROTTLE HYDRAULIC SYSTEM TO SATISFACTORY OPERATIONS.

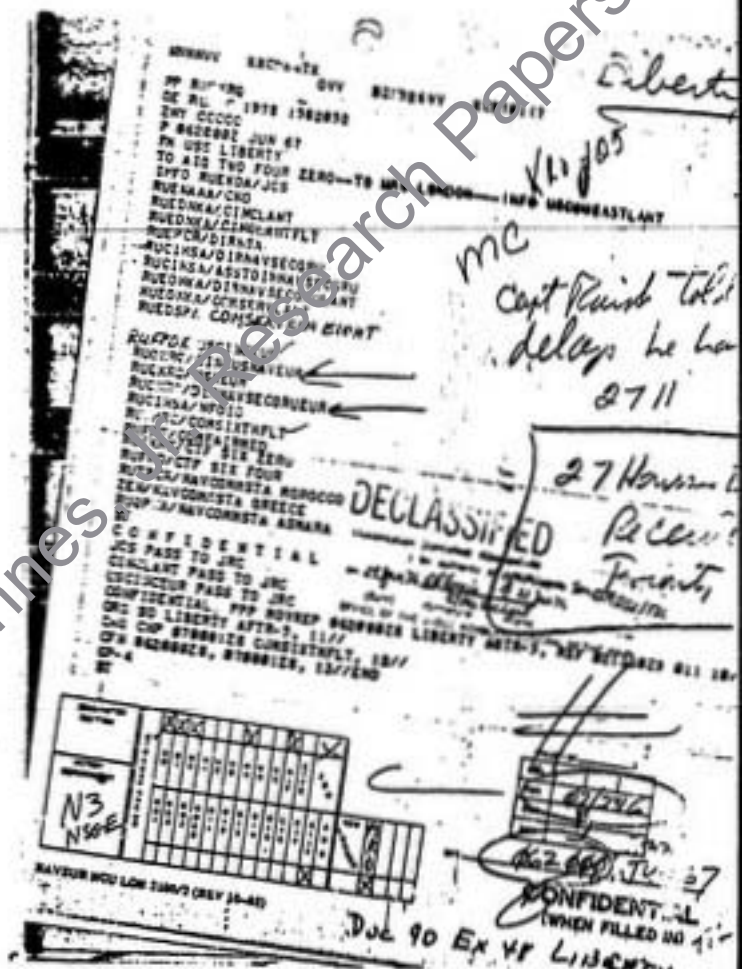
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PAGE TWO RUGKC 1994 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RUTPLA/NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
RUKDNAA/CINCLANT
RUGARD/COMSERVPORSIXTHFLT
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
USS LIBERTY OPERATIONAL CONTROL (U)
USCINCEUR FOR JAC
JCS FOR JAC
CINCLANT FOR JAC
A. CINCUSNAVEUR 061337Z JUN 67
B. COMSIXTHFLT OPORD 1-67
1. REPORTING FOR OPCON NAV PARTY REP A AT 070001Z JUN 67.
2. FUEL STATE EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT NORMAL CONSUMPTION VALID ON STATION APPROXIMATELY ONE PERCENT PER DAY.
3. ESTIMATED PACVISION END USAGE/DAYS:
A. DRY/ .8
B. FROZEN/ 35 -
C. CHILL/ 75
4. NAVY ASSUMED CONDITION OF READINESS THREE MODIFIED. SELF DEFENSE CAPABILITY LIMITED TO FOUR .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS AND SMALL ARMS.

PAGE THREE RUGKC 1994 C O N F I D E N T I A L
5. CURRENT ITEM - PROMULGATING MESSAGE NOT HELD. PARA 8B ANNEX DELTA REF A NOT USED.
6. REPORT OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC REPAIRMEN ON BOARD WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.
7. ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.
8. REQUEST ADVISE TASK ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED/OTHER NECESSARY DATA.
9. N

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MAT PADDLE JC

CINCLANTFLT

SACLANT

CINCLANTFLT

JSD ...SECRETY OPERATIONAL CONTROL (U)
JSDIVCEUR FOR JRC
JCS FOR JRC
CINCLANT FOR JRC
A. CINCUSNAVEUR 0413572 JUN 67
B. CINCLANTFLT OPORD 1-66

1. REPORTING YOUR OPCON IAW PARA 2 REF A AT 0700012 JUN 67.

2. FUEL STATE EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT. NORMAL CONSUMPTION WHILE ON STATION APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERCENT PER DAY.
3. ESTIMATED PROVISION ENDURANCE/DAYS:

...(5) ...COG 022420Z
...(14) ...(25) IP(7) FP(1) BFR(1) * 056

	PAGE 01	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GRP.
C10740/3/PD	1	00/01497	0620342 JUN 67

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4. DELETED

5. DELETED

6. FOLLOWING CONVERSION OF AMERICAN FLAGG MISSILE, SELF DEFENSE CAPABILITY LIMITED TO FOUR .50 CALIBER MACHINGE GUNS AND SMALL ARMS.

7. CURRENT TERM - PROPULSATING MESSAGE NOT HELD. PARA 8B AVAILABILITA REF A PERTAIN.

8. REVISE OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC REPAIRMEN ON BOARD WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY

9. ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

10. REQUEST ADVISE TASK ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED/WHEN NECESSARY DATA.

CONTINUED

PAGE

TASK GROUP

PAGE

DD FORM 0262 JUN 67

CLOTHO/SAFO

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RUEPRC 1ED 1312340
DWF CCCCC
O P 0623492 JUN 67
FM COMSIXTHFLT
TO RUEPP/USS LIBERTY
INFO RUEPNRN/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUFPBA/USCINCEUR
RUEPJS/JCS
RUENAAA/CNO
RUEPVS/C.NAVA
RUEDNAA/CINCLANTFLT
RUCIUSA/DIRNAVSECGRU
RUCIUSA/ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU
RUCIJUA/DIRNAVSECGRULANT
RUEPLAD/CO NAVEUR
RUFRF/COMFAIR
D
RUCILLA/COMSERVLANT
RUCIJUA/COMSERVRON EIGHT
RUFPP/CTF SIX ZERO
RUFRD/CTF SIX FOUR
RUCIJUA/NFOIO
PAGE TWO RUTPAL 1ED C O N F I D E N T I A L 062341
RUFPDR/NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
RUEDMA/MAAG PORTUGAL
RUFPP/CTF SIX THREE
RUFRF/CTF SIX SEVEN
RUCHCC/NAVCOMMSTA GREECE
RUFDAP/NAVCAMS MOROCCO
RUFGAA/NAVCOMMSTA SPAIN
C O N F I D E N T I A L
SUBJ: LIBERTY OPERATIONAL CONTROL
A. CINCUSNAVEUR 061335Z JUN 67 NOTAL
B. JCS 011345Z JUN 67 NOTALB
C. CINCUSNAVEUR 311758Z MAY 67 (NODIS) T-633 NOTAL
D. CINCUSNAVEUR 011305Z JUN 67 NOTAL
E. COMSIXTHFLT OPORD 1-66 NOTAL
F. CINCUSNAVEUR/JCS FROZEN 58 NOTAL
1. UPON CHOP TO COMSIXTHFLT AT 070001Z, CONDUCT OPERATIONS IAW REF. B, C AND D.
2. IN VIEW PRESENT ARAB/ISRAELI SITUATION AND UNPREDICTABILITY OF UAR ACTIONS, MAINTAIN A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE AGAINST ATTACK OR

062342, JUN 6
CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

NAVEUR NCU LOG 3340/3 (REV 10-65)

Doc. 9 - Ex 48 - LIBERTY

440

062347Z

PAGE THREE RUTPRC 129 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THREAT OF ATTACK. REPORT BY FLASH PRECEDENCE ANY
THREATENING OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST [illegible] OR ANY
DIVERSION FROM SCHEDULE NECESSITATED BY ENEMY THREAT. ADVISE
IF LOCAL SITUATION DICTATES CHANGE IN AREA OF OPS ASSIGNED BY REF B.
3. KEEP COMSIXTHFLT AND CTF 63 INFORMED OF LOGISTIC NEEDS SUFFIC-
IENTLY IN ADVANCE TO ENABLE ORDERLY LOGSUP PLANNING. MAIL DELIVERY
WILL BE ARRANGED IF FEASIBLE.
4. INCLUDE COMSIXTHFLT AS INFO ADDEE ON REPORTS REQUIRED BY PARA
2 REF B AS MODIFIED BY REF C AND D.
5. SUBMIT REPORTS OF CONTACT WITH [illegible] AIRCRAFT AND SUBMARINES
WHICH ARE UNIDENTIFIED, HOSTILE, OF SPECIAL INTEREST OR ENGAGED IN
HARASSMENT, IAW REF F. EMERGENCY PLAN CHARLIE NOW IN EFFECT IN
SIXTHFLT.
6. COMSIXTHFLT OPERATIONAL REPORTS ON [illegible]LENTS, ENEMY ACTIONS AND
NUCLEAR RELEASE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED, THEREFORE ACTION IS NOT
REQUIRED ON NATIONAL [illegible] AND DRILL MSGS IDENTIFIED BY FLAG
WORD WHITE OR BLUE DURING [illegible] ACTION REQUIRED AND EXERCISE MSGS.
IN EVENT OF ACTUAL [illegible] OR OTHER EMERGENCY, COMSIXTHFLT WILL
SEPARATELY DIRECT [illegible] BY CLASSIFIED MSG.
7. COMMUNICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX CHARLIE REF C.

PAGE FOUR RUTPRC 129 C O N F I D E N T I A L
A. COPY OF BROADCAST, ADVISE IF CARDS AVAILABLE TO COPY ARA BCST.
B. IF [illegible]MENT TERMINATION REQUIRED WITH MSG COMM STA SUBMIT
REQUEST IAW [illegible] TO ANNEX CHARLIE TO REF E.
C. ALTCC [illegible] NOT ASSIGNED TO TF 63 UTILIZE TF 63 TACTICAL
CIRCUITS AS REQUIRED.
D. [illegible] AREA TO ENTER SIERRA ALFA AS REQUIRED.
ACKNOWLEDGE.
BT

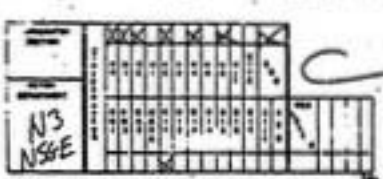
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TVV XXC083 RRRRRVV UUAR14
OO RUOKRQ
DE RUOKC 1972 1362416
ZNY CCCCC
O 0716062 JUN 72
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUHPDO/COMSIXTHFLT
INFO /BEKEA/JCS
RUEAHA/CNO
RUEDA/CNOLANT
RUEDMA/CNOLANTDEPLT
RUEPCW/DIRNSA
RUCJEA/DIRNAVSECGRU
RUCJSA/ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU
RUCKLA/COMCRUDESGRULANT
RUEDNA/DIRNAVSECGRULANT
RUEDSA/COMSERVLANT
RUEDSPA/COMSERVPAC
RUFPRA/USCINCEUR
RUCIXSA/NFOIO
RUDKRC/NAVEUR
RUC [illegible]
RUC [illegible] F UUU ZUNO

PASS TWO RUOKC 1972 CONFIDENTIAL
RUFIT, COMSIX FOUR
RUFPRA/NAVCOMMSTA NORFOLK

CONFIDENTIAL
[illegible] PASS TO JRC
[illegible]EUR PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
SITREP POSIT
A. USCINCEUR 061400Z JUN 67 (NOTAL)
B. 070000Z3 POSIT 33-06N 28-54E, PIR 1MP/16.3 UNTIL
070600Z. THENCE STATIONARY WITHIN 30NM OF 33-45N 33-05E.
C. SUBSEQUENT PIR/SITREP WILL BE SUBMITTED AS OF 0000Z
INV RUF A.
GP-4
BT



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Liberty mc SDB 319

070709Z JUN 67
CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)
Doc. 11 Ex 4F-Liberty

NAVEUR NCU LOG 3100/2 (REV 10-68)

070907Z

437



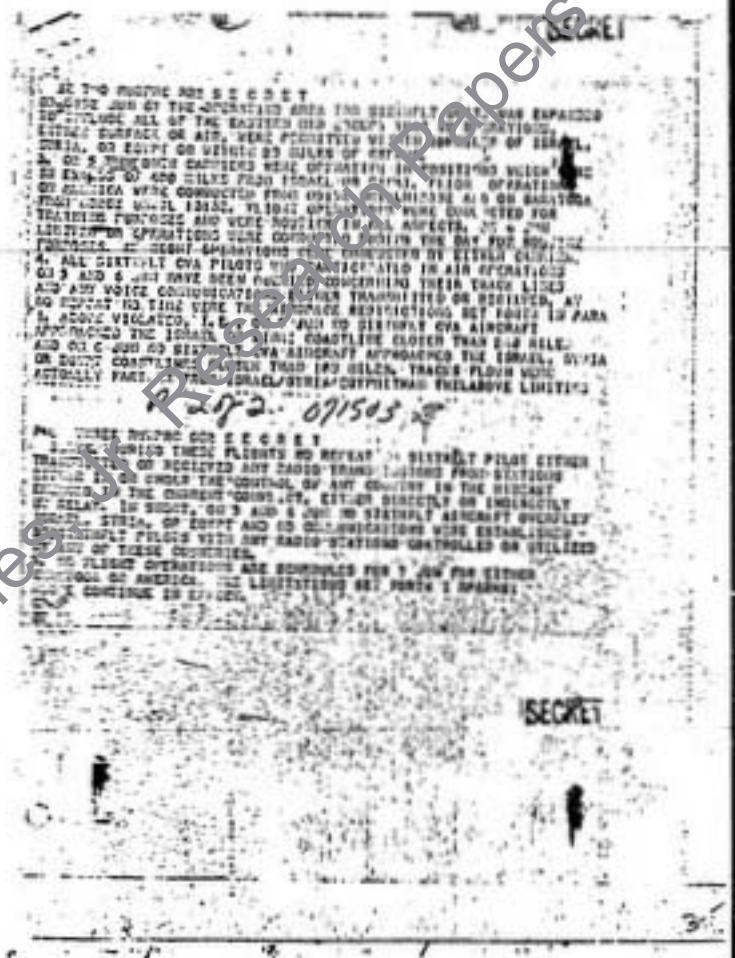
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394

07/5C 22

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SECRET

SECRET

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COURIER
P 072230Z Jun 67
FM JCS
TO USCINCEUR
INFO CNO
CINCLANT
CINCLANTFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF 67
USS LIBERTY
HQNASAUD
NASABUR OFF GERDA
DIRNSA
DIRNAVSECGRU
ADIRNAVSECGRU
DIRNAVSECGRULANT
DIRNAVSECGRUEUR
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L JCS 7337 J-3 SENDS
SUBJ: USS LIBERTY (U)
REF: JCS 6724/011540Z JUN 67
1. IN VIEW PRESENT SITUATION EAST MED, OPERATING
AREA SPECIFIED [illegible] FOR GUIDANCE ONLY AND MAY BE VARIED
AS LOCAL CONDITIONS DICTATE.
CHANGE CPA [illegible] TO 20 NM, ISRAEL 15 NM.
GP-4

MSG DIST: CO 01 03

072230Z

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072230Z Jun

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ALL SHIPS

UNCLAS
COPIED ON SKD KCR INT DISTRESS

BT WARNING NR 156BT
ALL VESSELS ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE COAST OF ISRAEL
DURING DARKNESS

...BT...

ØØ

11

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ALL SHIPS

UNCLAS
COPIED OF SCD KCS INT DESTRESS

TTT TTT TTT
BT WARNING NR 150 BT
THE ATTENTION OF MARINERS IS DRAWN TO THE
POSSIBILITY THAT LIGHTS ALONG THE ISRAELI COAST MAY BE EXTINGUISHED
WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE BT

DTG

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[redacted] PUNCH FILLED BY NAVAL MESSAGE

[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
by DTES
10 Mar 76

[redacted]

COPY 22 OF 27 COPIES

[redacted]

PUNCH FILLED BY

0701107

UNCLASSIFIED

NAVAL MESSAGE

TS Liberty ??

yes

Doc 15 Ex #8 - LIBERTY

1016

0804552

UNCLASSIFIED

436

0804552

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VV KRCIBIZCECDKAB3VV TVARB
OO RUDLKD
DE RUFPBX #11 1390428
ZNY CCCCC
O 0826252 JUN 67
FM USCINCEUR
TO RUDLKD/LINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUDAC/USS LIBERTY
RUFPVN/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEPJA/JCS
RUEPVW/DIRNSA
ZEN/NSAEUR
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ECJC/JRC 89043 USNAVEUR FOR M-32 , D h 31,
JCS FOR JRC, SUBJ: USS LIBERTY (C), REF A, FLAGCOM LTC RUA ELL
THIS HQ, AND COMDR ANDERSON, DUTY OFFICER, NAVELM, 0806252Z JUN 67.
REF B, JCS 3147, 0801102 JUN 67.
(C) TAKE ACTIONS REF A TO TAKE REF B PORAC, LP-A
BT

DISCONTINUED

Liberty

Liberty

1-3

CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

NAVEUR NCU LOR 2100/3 (REV 10-63)

Doc. 16 Ex #2 to LIBERTY

0806 252Z

435

Liberty

DECLASSIFIED

MCI

2 3/4 hours
Good

R 081643Z JUN 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUTPK/COMSIXTHFLT
INFO RUEADA/JCS
RUEHAA/CNO
RUEDNRA/CINCLANT
RUEDNRA/CINCLANTFLT
RUEPCR/CINCPAC
RUCIWSA/DIRNAVSECGRU
RUEDNSA/ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU
RUEGRD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEDNKA/DIRNAVSECGRULANT
RUEONKA/COMSERVLANT
RUEDSPA/COMSERVPAC
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
RUCIWSC/JFDID
RUMRTZ/NSAEUR
RUEPDT/DIRNAVSECGRUEUR
RUFGIT/COMFAIRMED
RUTARE/CTF 60

R 081643Z CONFIDENTIAL
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUTPK/COMSIXTHFLT MOROCCO
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
CTG PASS TO JRC
CINCLANT PASS TO JRC
USCINCEUR PASS TO JRC
RUTKEP/POSIT
1. 000000Z4 POSIT 31-45N 033-36E. FIX WITHIN 30MM OF ABOVE POSIT
BT

NAVEUR NCU LOG 5300/3 (REV 10-63)

3 CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

** Doc 17 Ex #8 Lucas

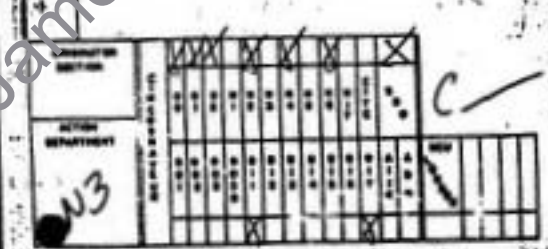
0106342

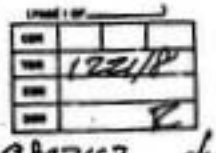
45

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[redacted]XXC170YFIVV . BBH978VV KCA863
[redacted]RUCKRC
DE RUQKC 2144 1510705
ZNY EEEEE
O P 080742Z JUN 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUQKRC/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPP/COMSIXTHFLT
RUFAF/CONFAIRMED
RUFRS/PATRON SIGONELLA
RUTKC/PATRON ROTA
RUTPP/CTF 60
RUTPP/CTG 60.8
RUTPP/CTU 60.1.5
RUTPP/CTU 60.2.5
RUEDSPA/USCINCEAFSA
RUQPNAA/COMIDEASTFOR
INFO.RUENAAA/SECNAV
RUENAAA/CNO
RUEDNKA/CINCLANTFLT
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
RUCLBKA/FICEUR
RUFPDW/CINCUSAFE
RUVQNLB/CINCONAD

[redacted]UE TWO RUQKC 2144 UNCLAS E F T O
RUEPJS/DIA
RUENAAA/OSD (ISA)
RUEDNKA/COMSERVLANT
RUEDSPA/COMSERVRON EIGHT
ST
UNCLAS E F T O [redacted]CASING TWO
TWO DELTA WING SINGLE ENGINE JET FIGHTER A/C ORBITED USS LIBERTY
THREE TIMES AT 31-27N, 34-08E AT TIME 08/0650Z. NO IDENT. VISIBLE
DUE ALT. EST 9,000 FT, DISTANCE EST. 2 MILES. NO AMPLIFYING
REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.
ST





080742. dtw

UNCLASSIFIED

NAVEUR NCU LOM 2100/1 (REV 10-65)

Doc 88 Ex VP Liberty

OPNAV

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USS LIBERTY 0807422

Message reports two delta-winged aircraft circled ship three times at 31-27N/34-00E. No identification visible. Estimated altitude 5,000 feet; estimated distance 2 miles.

0807422

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USS LIBERTY 0607422 JUNE

"LOCATING TWO"

Message reports single unidentified jet that crossed astern at 0650Z.

(not received in CNSG until [illegible])

080742Z

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Liberty

DECLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

USS SARATOGA 081209Z ("081209Z" marked in summary as "not DTG.")

This is Saratoga's initial report of attack relayed from LIBERTY. Unclear what "1209Z" means, but it appears to be time of LIBERTY transmission.

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081209Z

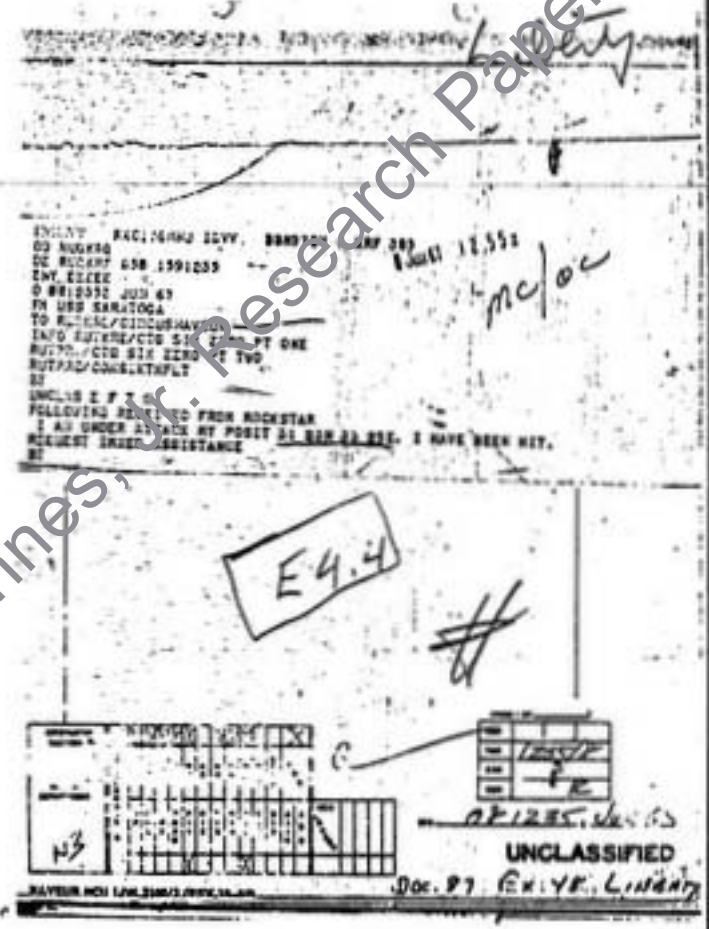
USS SARATOGA 081235Z

SARATOGA reports to CINCUSNAVEUR and COMSIXTHFLT that liberty message intercepted: "I AM UNDER ATTACK. MY POSITION IS 31-32N/33-25E. I HAVE BEEN HIT. REQUEST IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE." UNIDENTIFIED GUNBOATS ARE APPROACHING VESSEL NOW.

(SARATOGA 081235Z is described twice in reports of attack. CDR12 copy of message stops at garble following "REQ IMMED". CNSG message synopsis summarizes SARATOGA 081235Z as "Unidentified gunboats are approaching vessel now." Best guess is that message said both--that lastsix words were lost in the garble in msg CDR12 copied.)

081235Z

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Doc. 97 Ex. 4 YE. Linda

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081252

-R- 081272Z

-TO CTU 60.2.9

// CORRECTED COPY //

-FM CINCUSNAVEUR

-INFO COMUSKYTHFLT
CTG 60.2
CTF 60

BT

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM [redacted] LIBERTY THREE UNIDENTIFIED GUNBOATS APPROACHING OUR POSITION NOW.

BT

TOR: 081272Z JUNE 1967/USS/L/L CALL FROM NSACOG/

081272Z JUN 67

TOP SECRET UNCLASSIFIED

AVEDAR MCU LOW 2196/1 (REV 10-64)

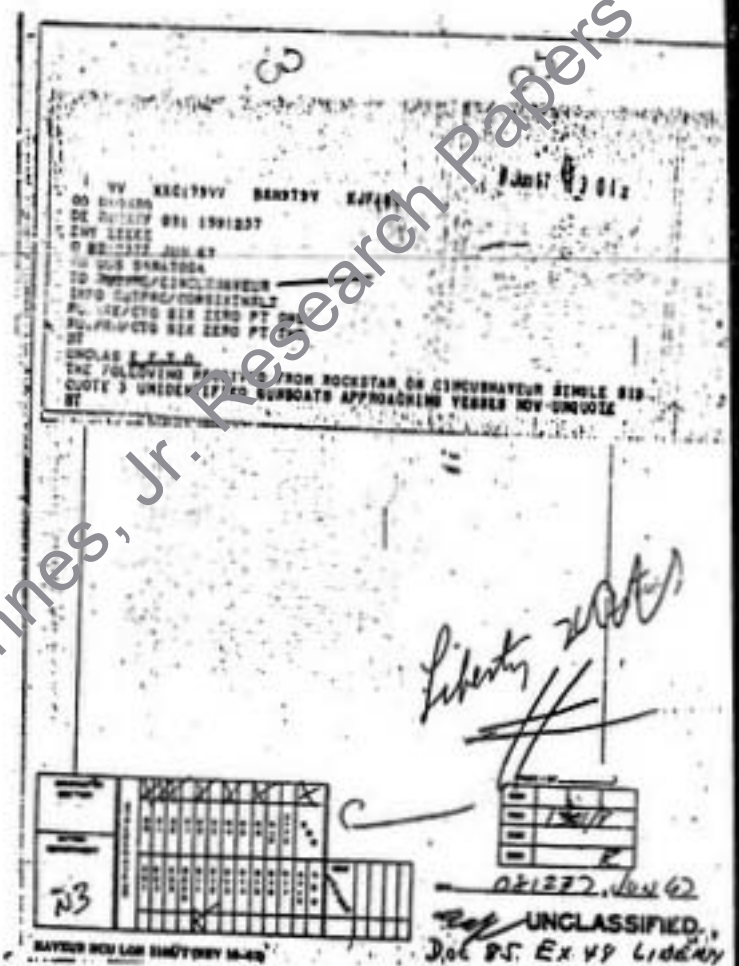
Doc 86 Ex VS Liberty

4:5

081272Z

4:5

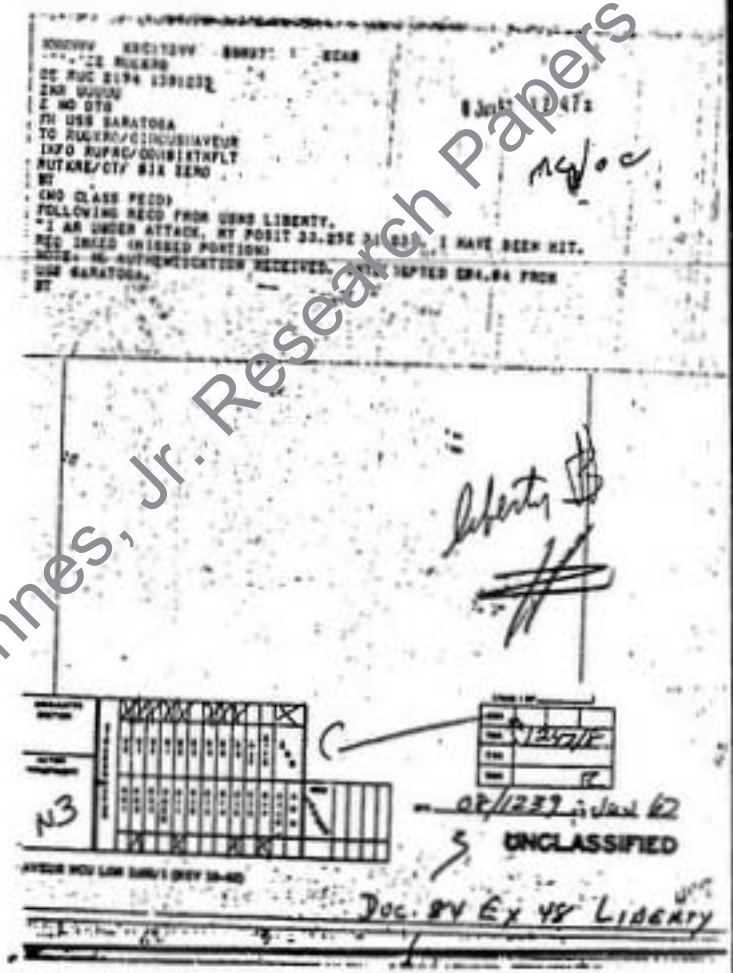
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081237Z

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Liberty

N3

UNCLASSIFIED

Doc. #V Ex #5 Liberty

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UNCLAS E F T O
AE FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ROCKSTAR:
ORDER ATTACK AND HIT BADLY

UNCLASSIFIED

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COMSIXTHFLT 081250Z

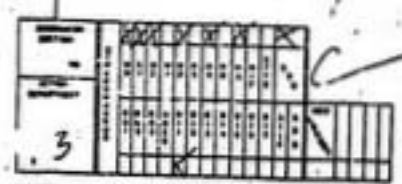
message orders AMERICA (CVA 66) and SARATOGA (CVA 60) to proceed to 31-23N/33-25E to provide fighter cover and defend LIBERTY.

081250Z

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VV XXCIBIV SBMB4IVV KRF3BB
ZZ RUCKNQ
DE RUCKFF 032 1591234
ZNY ZZZZZ
I 081254Z JUN 67
FM USS SARATOGA
TO RHMAMD/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUSHRE/CTG SIX ZERO PT ONE
RUSPRIV/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUSPRG/COMDESTHPLT
BT
UNCLAS E F T O
THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ROCKSTAR
HIT BY TORPEDO STARBOARD SIDE LISTING BADLY. NEED ASSISTANCE
IMMEDIATLEY
BT



Liberty

081254Z JUN 67

UNCLASSIFIED

RAYEUR RCV LOG 3386/1 CHEV 59-60

Doc 82 Ex 42 Liberty

417

081254Z

479

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MSG IS PAGE 4/7
CONT FORMAT
WITH TOR 0/1330Z

TOR 08/1300Z

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Liberty

TV KKCIRUVV . RHMRUVV KCABDD
R 021301Z JUN 67
FM SUDA BAY
TO RUHKCP/COMSIXTHFLT
INFO RUHKCP/CTF SIX ZERO
RUHMS/CINCUSNAVEUR
S E C R E T
SKLAS
FOLLOWING RCVD VIA VOICE NET FROM USS ROCKSTAR
QUOTE
R 021230Z AT 0612302 WE HAVE BEEN HIT BY A TORPEDO
TOR SIDE LISTING BADLY REQ ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY
UNQUOTE
T

[redacted]

021301 Jun 67
Rep UNCLASSIFIED

Doc #1 Ex #P Liberty

0713012

480

DATE 16 JUNE 1967	TIME 1922Z					
	#113852	PRECEDENCE				
		ACTION				
		INFO				

FM: CinCSIXTHFLT

TO: USS LIBERTY

ST

UNCLAS

YOUR FLASH TARRIFIC THECIEVED SENDING AIRCRAFT TO COVER YOU.

SURFACE UNI S ON THE WAY. [illegible] ESCORTSHEPS GOING.

BT

SU=CF

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(Make One Only)

RED=COURIER

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NCS GREECE RELAYED FOLLOWING OVER [illegible]

FM: CTU 60.2.9

TO: ALL STATIONS THIS NET

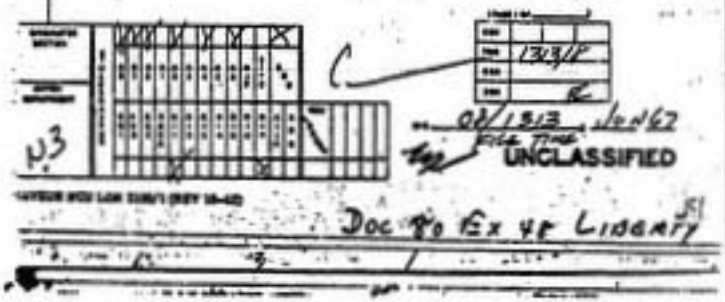
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM USS LIBERTY

[illegible]ACKATTACK NEED ASSITANCE POSIT [illegible]N 33.05E

HIT BY TORPEDO STARBOARD SIDE [illegible]ING BADLY NEG ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY

BT

TOR:1132



Doc #0 Ex #8 Liberty

08/1313Z

481

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CTF 60 081316Z

Directs AMERICA to launch four armed A4's, SARATOGA four armed A1's to defend LIBERTY.

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081216Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP ONE TO CINCUSNAVEUR DTG 081320Z

AT 081252Z USS LIBERTY REPORTED UNDER ATTACK AT POSIT 31-23N/33-25E... HIT BY TORPEDO...LISTING BADLY. TF60 DIRECTED TO PROCEED TOWARD SCENE. AMERICA DIRECTED TO LAUNCH FOUR ARMED A4's and SARATOGA four armed A1's with FIGHTER COVER TO DEFEND LIBERTY. ETA FIRST AIRCRAFT ON SCENE ONE HOUR 30 MINUTES AFTER LAUNCH. ESTIMATE LAUNCH 1345Z.

081320Z

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COMSIXTHFLT 081339Z

COMSIXTHFLT informed AMERICA and SARATOGA that forces attacking LIBERTY declared hostile, authorized use of force including destruction.

081339Z

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NAVAL MESSAGE

[illegible]

FM: [illegible]

TO: USS LIBERTY

INFO: [illegible]

BT

UNCLAS

1. ESTABLISH [illegible] COMMUNICATIONS WITH ANY ISD AREA COMSTA.

2. [illegible] AVAILABLE ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH [illegible] WHEN ESTABLISHED.

3. FOR USS LIBERTY [illegible] REPORT OF ATTACK.

BT

WU-EF

REC-COURIER

00 01 03J
X X A

UNCLASSIFIED

[illegible]

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Liberty

Relay

Rec'd

EUCOM

0911Z WHITE HOUSE TIME

1549 LIBERTY TIME

CONFIDENTIAL

USS LIBERTY POSIT 31-03N 33-05E HIT BY TORPEDO STARBOARD AT MIDDAY UNIDENTIFIED GUNBOATS IN VICINITY. LIBERTY LISTING BADLY. MESSAGE FROM LIBERTY AUTHENTICATED.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 963043 By NARS Date 12-28-96

Copy 2 of 2

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Doc 79 Ex 49 Liberty

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387



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PAGE TWO RUTPRC 111 NATOCONFIDENTIAL
NATOCONFIDENTIAL
FOLLOW

1. USDAO TEL AVIV RECEIVED FROM FLO THAT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND MTBS ERRONEOUSLY ATTACKED US SHIP AT [redacted], POSIT 31-23N, 33-33E. RAYBE NAVY SHIP. IDF HELOS IN RESCUE OPS. NO OTHER INFO ISRAELIS [redacted] OBJECT APOLOGIES. SIXTHFLT SENDING ASSISTANCE.

A. PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO CAT B ENCRYPTION. PHYSICALLY REMOVE ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DTG PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION.

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DTG IS WRONG SAME AS ORIGINAL CRITIC & TOO EARLY

484

08134Z

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VV [redacted]

[redacted]
ENT CCCCC ENT RUNKC
EPIC-2 [redacted]
VV [redacted]
[redacted]
DE RUENNY 694 1091338
ENT CCCCC
R [redacted] JU 67
FM USS SARATOGA
TO UTPRC/COMSIXTHFLT

BT
CONFIDENTIAL
THIS STATION RECEIVED ATTACK REPORT FROM STATION ROCK STAR AT [redacted] CHANNEL [redacted] WITH VB ROCK STAR AUTHENTICATED CORRECTLY WITH [redacted] PUB USED WAS [redacted] 33.
[redacted]
BT

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[redacted]

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Doc. 2P Ex VP-Linenity

01358

01358



CONFIDENTIAL

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RELEASED FROM USS LIBERTY BY USS SARATOGA AT 081915Z. THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM DOCKSIDE(LIBERTY) QUOTE 3 UNIDENTIFIED COMBATANT APPEARING VESSELS NOW UNDATE. AT 081400Z WERE UNDER ATTACK AND SET BATTLE UNDATE. AT 081415Z WERE SET TO TURNED REARWARD FROM LAUNCHING BASE NEED ASSISTANCE UNDATE AND MESSAGE IS NOT AUTHENTICATED.

GP-3

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Doc. 77 Ex 48-Liberty

1857

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081400Z

356

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CTF 63 081410Z

recommends USS PAPAGO be diverted at maximum speed to assist LIBERTY.

081410Z

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM RADIO LOG OF CINCUSNAVEUR NICOM

MONITORED AT NAVCOMMSTA GREECE

1410Z (first entry) NCS Greece notifies all stations he is working LIBERTY. COMSIXTHFLT asks LIBERTY to identify MTBs. LIBERTY reports unable to identify aircraft, but believes MTB to be Israeli. Reports has taken photographs and believes positive identification can be made from the photographs.

---- CINCUSNAVEUR asks LIBERTY for SITREP and asks: HAVE YOU BEEN ATTACKED? BY WHOM?

1435Z LIBERTY reports underway 8 knots, course 340 Magnetic

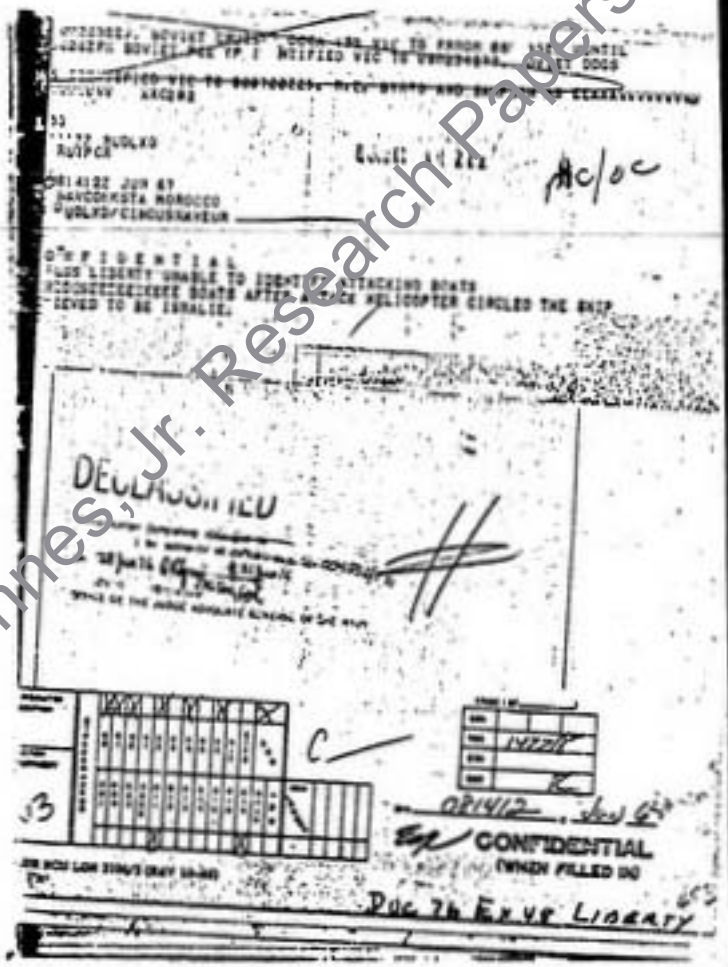
1440Z NCS GREECE TO LIBERTY: "I PASS FROM COMSIXTHFLT. ASSISTANCE IS ON THE WAY."

1520Z LIBERTY TO CTF 60: "THERE ARE UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT APPROACHING THIS STATION AT THIS TIME."

(no reply heard)

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1410Z

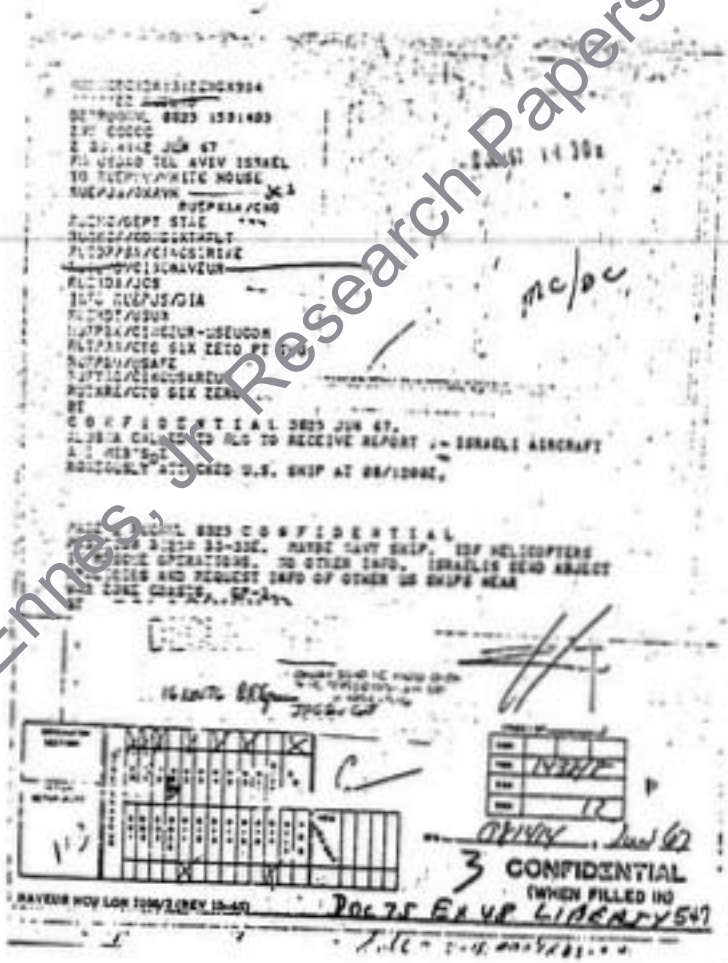


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Doc 7h Ex VP Liberty

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 0823 JUN 67.
ISRAELI CLEARED OLD TO RECEIVE REPORT .-- ISRAELI AIRCRAFT
DELIBERATELY ATTACKED U.S. SHIP AT 08/1200Z.

C O N F I D E N T I A L
[illegible] 33-33E. HAIFA NAVY SHIP. IDF HELICOPTERS
[illegible] OPERATIONS. NO OTHER INFO. ISRAELIS DENY ABJECT
[illegible] AND REQUEST INFO OF OTHER US SHIPS NEAR

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DOC 75 FRUS LIBRARY 547

547

08/14/12

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JCS 0814162/JCS 1354

AUTHORIZES USCINCEUR to use whatever force required to defend LIBERTY from further attacks.

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CTF 60 081416Z

message to AMERICA and SARATOGA clarifies rules of engagement.

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08/4/68

CGF READ
OF
CGF [illegible]
081492

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0814172

INT GEL PLS

8 Jun 67

YY... [redacted]
DE RUQAC 2226 1591420
ZNR [redacted]
NO DTG
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
INFO [redacted]/CINCUSNAVEUR
BT
SECRET
FM LOVING RECVD VIA VOICE [redacted]
QUOTE
FASTCHARGER DE ROCKTOP
BT
1. -WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT OR SURFACE VESSELS, WE BELIEVE TO BE ISREALI HELICOPTERS THAT CIRCLED THE SHIP AFTER ATTACK
BT
2. -POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT MADE. WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FROM SHIPS PHOTOGRAPHS +4-KZ
UNQUOTE
3. NCA GREECE COMMENTS: NOT AUTHENTICATED.
BT
#

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

NAVEUR NCU LOG 5500/1 (REV 10-63)

Doc 73 re: USS Liberty

485

08/1420Z

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FLASH
0814242 JUNE 1967
FM USSE TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO WHITE HOUSE
OCB
CNO
DELTA STATE
COMSIXTHFLT
CINCUSTRIKE
CINCNAVEUR
JCS
INFO CIA
USUN
CINCEUR USEUCOM
CTG 60.2
USAFE
CINCUSAREUR

(READDRESS)
FM NAVCOMMSTA GREECE
INFO USS LIBERTY
ATHENS USDAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0825 JUN 67.

ALUSNA CALLED TO FLO TO RECEIVE REPORT. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND MTB'S ERRONEOUSLY ATTACKED U.S. SHIP AT 08/1200Z, POSITION 31-25N 33-37E, MAYBE NAVY SHIP. IDF HELICOPTERS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS. NO OTHER INFO. ISRAELIS SENT ABJECT APOLOGIES AND REQUEST INFO OF OTHER US SHIPS NEAR WAR ZONE COASTS.
GP-3
BT

WU-EP
REC-COURIER
TOO 08/1603Z
8 JUNE 1967

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COMSIXTHFLT 081425Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP TWO

Message advises of inability to communicate with LIBERTY on any circuit. Briefs rules of engagement issued to pilots.

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081425Z

SITE 2



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SITREP

[redacted]
ZZ RUDLAN
VTPRC 006 1391426
[redacted]
0819ZKE JUN 67
CONSISTNFLT
RUFPSK/[redacted]
INFO AIG NINE NINE EIGHT (TO [redacted])
UENAAA/CNO
UCPJS/JCS
UPRF/CONFAIRMED
UTPP/CTF SIX ZERO
UTPP/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
[redacted]
SECRET
SECRET. FLASH/SITREP 80[redacted] CONSISTNFLT 0819ZKE JUN.
. REESTABLISHED COMMUNICATIONS WITH LIBERTY THROUGH GAVCONRP'A
REECE. ATTACKING UNITS [redacted] IDENTIFIED.
. LIBERTY REPORTS FIVE MIG'S THAT FLEW OVER AFTER REPEAT AFTER
ATTACK. HE BELIEVES WERE ISRAELI. HOWEVER, POSITIVE ID NOT
IT MADE.
[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED

[redacted]

SECRET
(WHEN FILLED IN)

DOC 71 - EN VP - LIBERTY

08/1426

3DY

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KYC 263

ZNY CCCCC
I 081408Z JUN 67
FM NAVCOMSTA MOROCCO (CAMS)
TO RUTPRO/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEKJAA/CNO
RUTPRO/CORSEXTHFLT
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
1. RECEIVED OVER VOICE NICOM FROM USS LIBERTY.
USS LIBERTY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ATTACKING CRAFT.
AFTER ATTACK A HELO CIRCLED THE SHIP. BELIEVED TO
BE ISRAELIAN.
GP-4
BT

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N3

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Doc 79 Ex VP Liberty

4/96

081420Z

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041430 to 081437Z

CAPTAIN THOMAS of CNSG talked to Secretary McNamara by telephone and gave him ship's mission, manning, last port and other background info.

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081430Z

SITREP?

COMSIXTHFLT 081439Z

reports that COMSIXTHFLT has recalled all Sixth Fleet aircraft in view of USDAO Tel Aviv report that Israelis had erroneously attacked LIBERTY and subsequently had sent abject apologies.

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081439Z

SITREP 4



383

081447E

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SITREP 5

RELAY

VV SSCC410C CNL VV AGB943VV AFC007

ZZ DUDLAN
DE RUTPRC 185 1991439
ZNY CCCCC
E 081439Z JUN 67
FM COMSIXTHFLT
TO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
INFO AIG NINE NINE EIGHT (TO DINOUS [illegible])
RUENAAA/CNO
RUEPJSA/JCS
RUTRF/COMFAIRMED
RUTPP/CTF SIX ZERO
RUTPP/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
CONFFLASHSIXTHFLT 06085 COMSIXTHFLT 081VTEE
1. FOLLOWING MSG REC [illegible] TEL AVIV.
QUOTE: ALUSNA CAIRO [illegible] TO RELAYVC REPORT.
ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND MTB'S ERRONEOUSLY ATTACKED U.S. SHIP AT
081000Z. POSITION 31-23N 33-33E. NAVAL NAVY SHIP. IDF
HELICOPTERS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS. NO OTHER INFO. ISRAELIS SEND
ABJECT APOLOGIES AND REQUEST INFO OF OTHER US SHIPS NEAR WAR
COAST. UNQTE.
2. AT 081[illegible] LIBERTY REPORTED UNDERWAY AT EIGHTEEN KNOTS,
340 DEGREES MAGNETIC.
GP-4
BT

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OPNAV 5 ... Rev 67

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NAVEXOS NCU LOM 2306/2 (REV 10-63)

Doc 6f 6x VF LIBERTY

3rd

081455Z

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COMSIXTHFLT 031502Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP SIX

Message advises that COMSIXTHFLT has directed that two DD's (names to follow) proceed at maximum sustained speed to assist LIBERTY and that air cover be provided when the approach Egyptian coast within 100 miles.

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081502Z

DIRNSA 0815032

DIRNSA message proposes that USS [redacted] (AGTR-4) be sent to eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to replace LIBERTY.

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081503Z

COMSIXTHFLT 081508Z

This message is a reference in CTG 61.1 0821222 and concerns LIBERTY escort and protection of escort.

081508Z

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21.

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

SECRET

Action SS

Info

007776

V
CZCGMAOB 9VLA264
OO RUEHC RUTPOR
DE RUCIVL 4014 1591525
ZDY SSSSS
O 081510Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUTPOR/COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
STATE CTHC
BT
S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4014

EXDIS

REF: CONF. 0805

ATTACK BY ISRAELI NAVAL AID AIR UNITS ON AN ALLEGED US FLAG VESSEL REPORTED BY REFTEL. ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY SHOCKED BY ERROR AID TENDER SINCERE APOLOGIES. INVESTIGATION NOW UNDER WAY TO OBTAIN MORE INFO ABOUT VESSEL. ISRAELIS DO NOT INTEND GIVE ANY PUBLICITY TO INCIDENT.

GP-3. BARBOUR
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O 6/8/67 1:35 PM

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 6/8/67 1:50 PM

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Liberty

ZEXRUHV EXCZYUV AD00600 XYZ011
DD CCCUUUU RUTPRL 114 1391314
ZNY CCCCC
O 081314Z JUN 67
FM CONSIXTHFLT
TO RUENAAA/CNO
RUDLAD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPER/NAVCOMMSTA NORDOOD
RUGNC/NAVCOMMSTA G
LECE
RUDPGAA/NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA
RUTXC/NAVCOMMSTA SPAIN
RUDLAD/NAVCOMMD LONDON
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
1. USS LIBERTY APXIDES SHE HAS CARRIED OUT EMERGENCY DESTRUCTION OF
ALL CRYPTO PUBS AND KEY CARDS. [illegible] ICOM E04.84.
GP-4
BT

DECLASSIFIED

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DOWN FILED IN

PAYTUR ROU LOK 2206/1 (REV 10-48)

Jan 67, ENVR HIMARY

487

071514Z



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0815152

CINCUSNAVEUR 0815172

CINCUSNAVEUR message advises CONSTHPLT that SECDEF VANCE has directed that all news releases on LIBERTY affair will be made at Washington level. No releases to be made on ship.

0815172

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CINCUSNAVEUR 0815182

message directs COMSIXTHFLT to have LIBERTY proceed, if possible, "on northerly course in order that rendezvous with assisting ships is as far from shore as possible".

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081518Z

COMSIXTHFLT 081521Z (RECEIVED OPR [illegible] 081345Z)

COMSIXTHFLT FOLLOWUP NUMBER ONE (AND FINAL TO CRITIC.

USDAO TEL AVIV RECEIVED WORD THAT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND MTBs had erroneously attacked U.S. SHIP at 0812DOZ, position 31-25N/33-33E. May be Navy ship. Israeli helicopters conducting rescue operations. Israelis send abject apologies.

081521Z

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

AF JEF 12 US

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DEFENSE DEPT.

6-8-67

HEA-7
ZZZZ
ZNY CCCCC
SS-25 FM 0815282 JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
GPM-3 TO RUEPMR/WHITE HOUSE
AF-6 RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNA/CNO
EUR-8 RUKUC/DEPT STATE 7773
IO-3 RUDKCF/COMSIXTHFLT 1967 JUN 8 PM 12 01
INR-7 RUDLHQ/CINCNAVEU
RUENDA/JCS
OPR-2 INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHOT/USUN
RSC-1 RUFPAK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPAN/CTG SIX ZETO PT TWO
62 RUFPOA/USAFE
RHAPHG/CINCUSNAEUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZETO
BT
CONFIDENTIAL 0821Z JUN 67.
REF MY 0825. FLO REPORTS SHIP IDENTIFIED U.S.S. LIBERTY

PAGE 2 RUDMVL 032 CONFIDENTIAL
(154-53). PRESENTLY UNDERWAY COURSE NORTHEAST AT 17 KNOTS. ISRAELI
MTPS OFFERED ASSISTANCE WHICH SHIP REFUSED. NO INFO CASUALTIES.

ISRAELIS PREPARING HELLICOPTER FOR USN TO OVERFLY SHIP AND
ATTEMPT COMMUNICATL.
COORDINATED WITH LVN-SST.
GP-3.
ST

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 12:50 P.M. 6/8/67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

PUL 27 ARA8-15X
AR DE 12 US (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

007807

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-8-67

Action

*****ZZ RUEHC RUEHDT
ZNY CCCCC ZFD RUFPCS
SVNA38B
*****ZZ RUDLKD RUEDPSA RUEPWW RUEPNAA RUEPJS RUEHC RUEKDA RUEHDT RUFPBX
DE RUQMVL 0827 1591529
ZNY CCCCC
Z 0 081528Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNAA/CNO
RAKUC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLKD/CINCNAVEU
RUUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPBX/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPAH/CTG SIX ZETO PT TWO
RUFPBV/USAFE
RXAPAG/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKHE/CTG SIX ZETO
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0827 JUNE 67.
REF MY 0825. FLO REPORTS SHIP IDENTIFIED U.S.S. LIBERTY

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0827 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TR-5). PRESENTLY OBSERVED COURSE NORTHWEST AT 10 KNOTS. ISRAELI
VTBS OFFERED ASSISTANCE WHICH SHIP REFUSED. NO INFO CASUALTIES.
ISRAELIS ARRANGED HELLICOPTER FOR ALUSNA TO OVERFLY SHIP AND
ATTEMPT COMMUNICATE.
COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.
GP-3.
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 1:05 P.M., 6/8/67.

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CATEGORY "A"
Confidentiality Classified
Transferred to Original
by ____ Date 4/21/21

VIA

WUI26GR B WU TELTEX WSHRP71(1434)

S/S # 10713

6/9/67

ISE CON NY NYK

1967 JUN 8 PM 3 36

ISRAELGOVT TELTEX PD NEWYORK JUNE 8 NY

ETAT/ISRGOVT

THE HONORABLE DEAN RUSK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY

AS YOU KNOW MY GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED DEEP REGRETS AT THE TRAGIC AND ACCIDENTAL ERROR WHICH COST THE LIVES OF FOUR AMERICANS AND INJURY TO MANY MORE IN MIDDLE EASTERN WATERS. ISRAELS SINCERE REGRET IS ACCOMPANIED BY DEEP AND RESPECTFUL CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD AND INJURED WHO HAVE BECOME INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC TURMOIL OF WAR.

YOURS SINCERELY

ABBA EBAN

Israeli Foreign Minister

CDC CKD

MICROFILMED BY S/S: CMS

(HANDLE AS EXDIS)

ALSO FILMED FOR RELOCATION SITES 1 & 2

POL 27 Arab-ISR ✕ DEF 12 US

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Department of State

SECRET

1

7772

1967 JUN 8 PM 12:02

..... ZZ RUENC RUT/ZNC
DE RUEIVC 8205B 1591550
ZNY SSSSS
Z 081545Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUENC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH
RUIPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
STATE UNNC
BT
S E C R E T CAIRO 6705

WE HAD BETTER GET OUR STORY ON TORPEDOING OF USS LIBERTY OUT FAST AND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD. [illegible]
BT
DOPE: HANDLED AS EXDIS FOR S/S-O.
NOW: PASSED S/S-O AT 12:19 PM 6/8/67
PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 12:50 PM 6/8/67

SECRET

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COMSIXTHFLT 081552Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP SEVEN

Message reports COMDESRON 12 (USS DAVIS (DD937) with USS MASSEY (DD778) proceeding at best speed to rendezvous with LIBERTY.

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081552Z

COMSIXTHFLT 081609Z

COMSIXTHFLT message cancels [illegible]0813392 which declared forces attacking LIBERTY hostile and authorized use of force. States use of force no longer authorized.

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081609Z

COMSIXTHFLT 081621Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP EIGHT

LIBERTY damage: flooding stopped; nine-degree list; torpedo hit amidships starboard; radar, gyro, fathometer inoperative. Casualties (approximate): four dead, three severely wounded, 50 wounded. LIBERTY Position 081600Z, 31-35N/33/32E; course NW; speed 10 knots.

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081621Z

Return to 13

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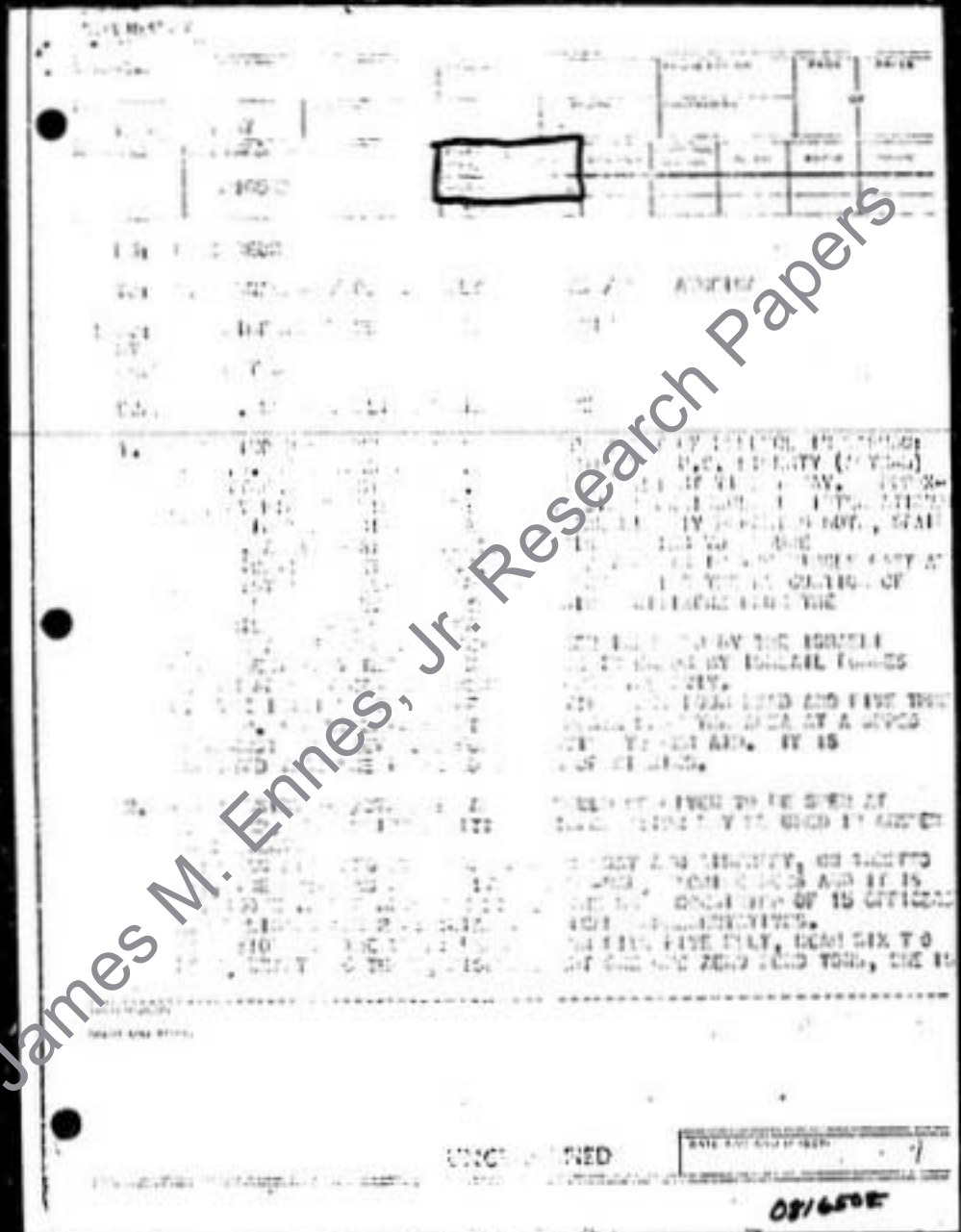
COMSIXTHFLT 081649Z

COMSIXTHFLT SITREP NINE

reports all aircraft from AMERICA and SARATOGA recalled and accounted for. USS PAPAGO (ATF 160) diverted to render assistance.

081649Z

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NAVAL MESSAGE

		PRECE DENCE				
		ACTION	—			
		INFO				

DESIGNATED AN AGTR (TECHNICAL RESEARCH SHIP).
THE [illegible] OF THIS TYPE OF SHIP IS TO [illegible]
OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NAVY [illegible]
WHICH INCLUDE [illegible] TIC [illegible]
COLLECTION OF [illegible] SATELLITE [illegible]
FOR [illegible]
TO THIS [illegible]
[illegible]
ATTACK [illegible]
BEGINNING TWO FIVE MINUTES EAST.

3. FOR ALL: DETAILS OF RESCUE/ASSISTANCE ARE [illegible]
BE NEGATIVED WHEN AVAILABLE.

GT

(Print Over Stamp)

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CONCUR AVEC

NAVCOGISTA

VEAENOVE FOR [illegible] COL BAILEY

UNCLAS EFTO

[illegible]

1. REF A WAS ADDRESSED TO SEVERAL ADDEES INCL[illegible]
[illegible] WAS RELAYED TO AUTOVON
USS LIBERTY. IMMEDIATELY TO ASCERTAIN THAT THIS MESSAGE
HAS IN FACT BEEN RECEIVED BY LIBERTY. ASSUME DELIVERY
SHOULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTED MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY IF FAILS RECEIVED
CHECK AND ASCERTAIN THAT MESSAGE WAS PLACED ON
BROADCAST AND ADVISE IF YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION
LIBERTY ACTUALLY RECEIVED.

Advise "also" if any e mail for us
to use Liberty and if should [illegible]
[illegible] Ref. Bell Report Cyp Link

1674

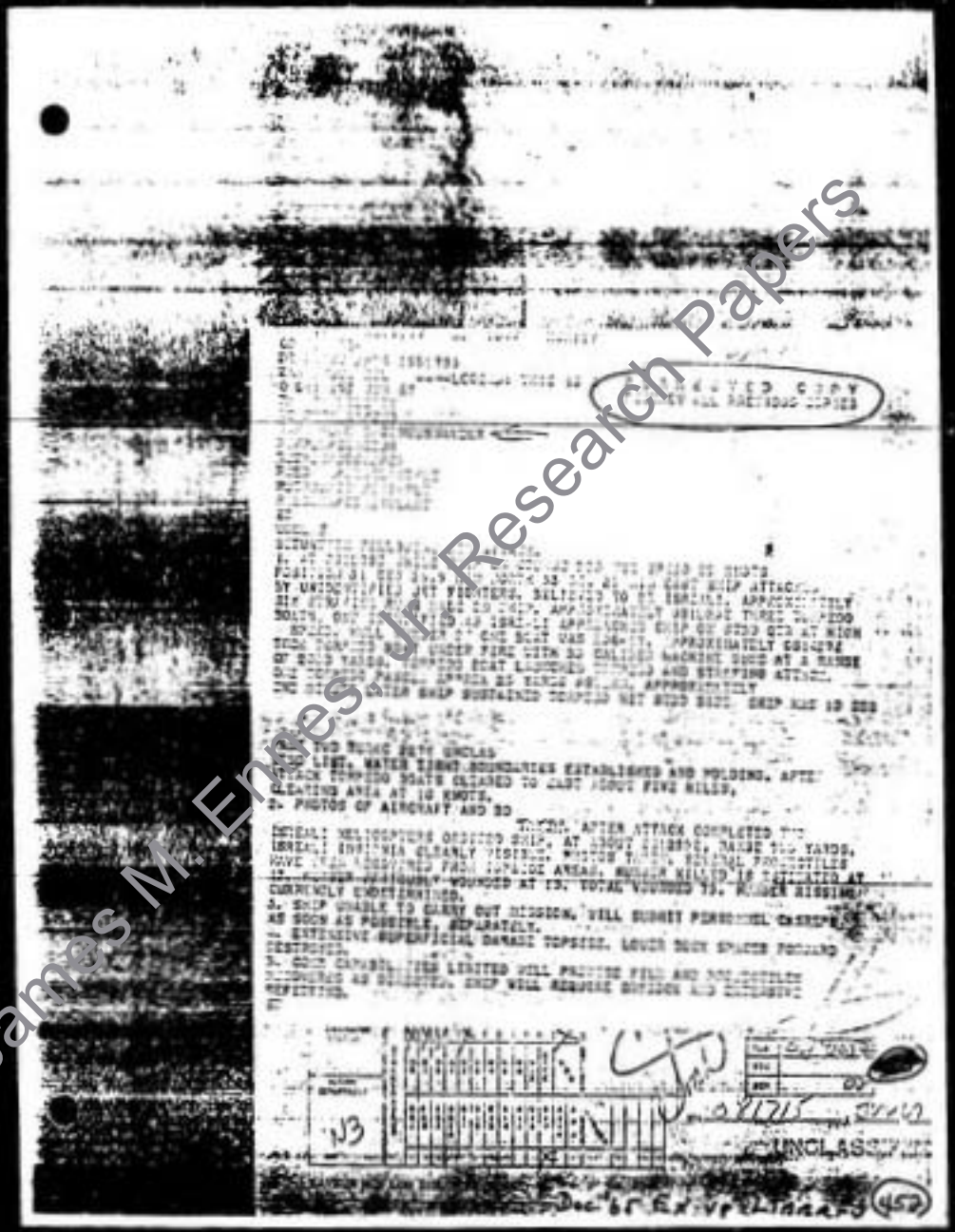
081711

UNCLASSIFIED

[illegible] CAPT USN

081711Z

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UNCLASSIFIED

IMMEDIATE

081715Z JUN 67

FM: USS LIBERTY

TO: NAVCOMSTA GREECE
UN

UNCLASSIFIED

081715Z JUN A

405

081715Z

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UNCLAS
IMMEDIATE
0817152

FROM USS LIBERTY
TO NAVCOMMSTA GREECE

UNCLAS
SITREP FOLLOWS AIR ATTACK
AT TIME 0812052Z SHIP CUS 263° SP 5 KTS, POSITION 31°35.5N 3329E
[illegible] WITH UNID JET FIGHTERS BEGINS ISSERIAL APPROX. 6 STRAFFING
RUNS. MADE ON SHIP TIME 0812253 3 TORP BOATS SIID AS ISSERIAL APPROACHED
STARBOARD QUARTER AT HIGH SPEED HULL NUMBER BOAT 206-17 APPROX 0814272
TOOK TORP BOAT UNDER FIRE 2000 YDS LAUNCHED TORP ATTACK AND
STRAFFING RUN. 1 TORP PASSED APPROX 75 YARD ASTERN. 1 MIN LATER TOOK
TORP HIT STBD SIDE. SHIP HAS HEAVY STBD LIST. W/T BOUNDRY ESTABLISHED
AM HOLDING. AFTER ATTACK TORP BOATS CLEARED TO EAST ABOUT 5 MILES.
CLEARING AREA AT 10 KNOTS KTS.
2. PHOTO OF A/C AND BOATS TAKEN. AFTER ATTACK COMPLETED 2 ISER.
HELO ORBITED SHIP AT 500 YDS. TIME 081255. ISER. INSIGNIA CLEARLY
VIS. PHOTO TAKEN SEVERAL PROJ. RECOVERED FROM TOP SIDE AREA.
NUMBER DEAD EST 10. SEVERELY WOUNDED 15, TOTAL WOUNDED 75, NUMBER
MISSING UNDETERMINED.
3. SHIP UNABLE TO CARRY OUT MISSION WILL PERSONNEL CASREPS ASAP.
4. EXTENSIVE SUPERFICIAL TOPSIDE DAMAGE. DAMAGE LOWER DECKS FORWARD
DESTROYED.
5. COMM EQUIP. LIMITED WILL PROVIDE FILM AND PROJ. AS DIRECTED
SHIP WILL REQUIRE DRYDOCK AND EXTENSIVE REPAIRS.

SHIP-STAFF-INFO
VIA...CIC
DTG...0817502
WU....TG
MSG NR 75/08

0817152

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31 35.5N 3329E

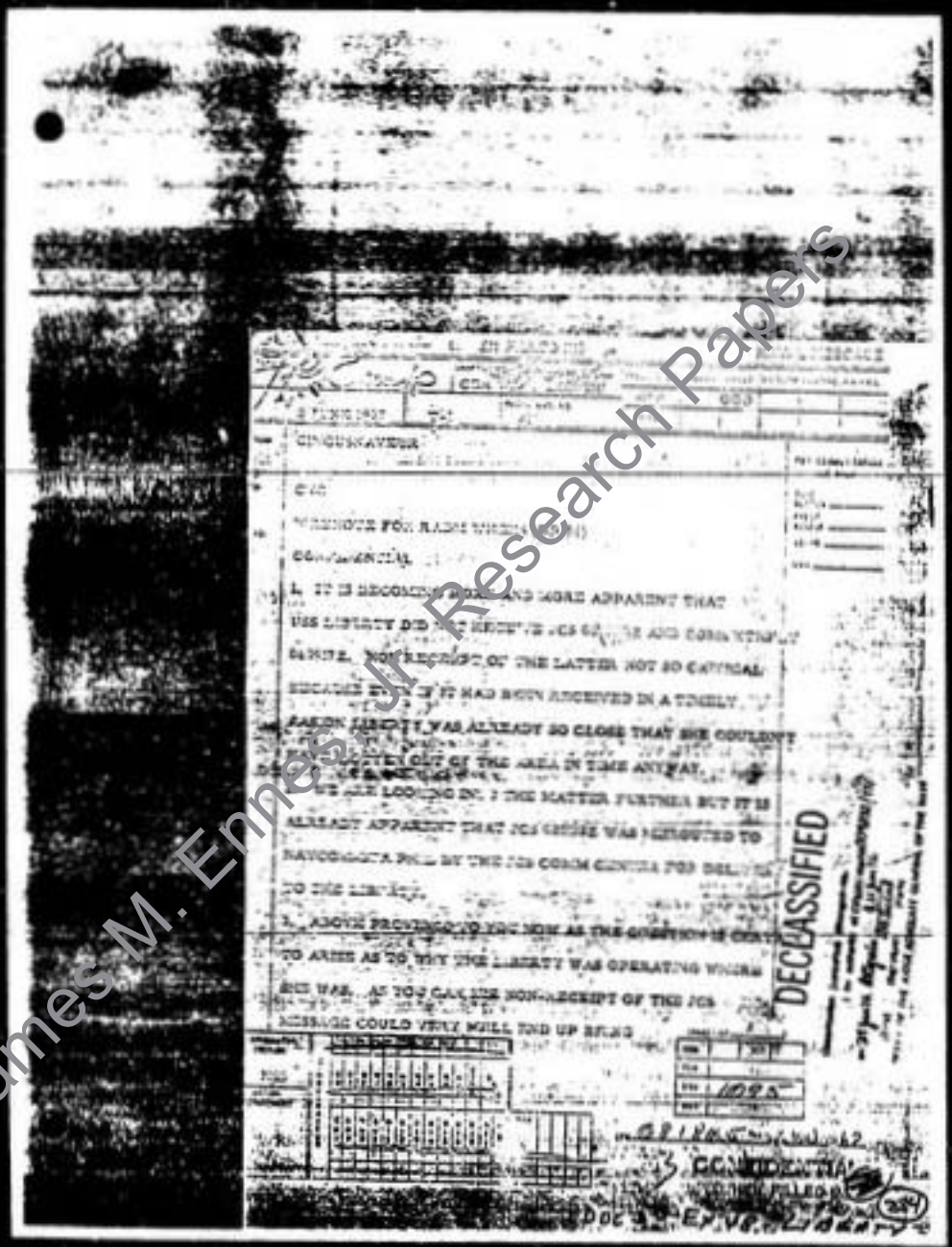
330

081478

156R.

081715

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CONFIDENTIAL

TO ME.

VERY RESPECTFULLY, CAPT RAIN.

CP-1

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES CONFIDENTIAL

1095

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CDR W. L. LOGAN

CINCUSNAVEUR

CNO

WARNINGS FOR [illegible] (OP-94)

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1. IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE APPARENT [illegible]

USS LIBERTY DID NOT [illegible] 08 [illegible] AND [illegible]

0609172. NON RECEIPT OF THE LATTER NOT [illegible]

BECAUSE EVEN IF IT HAD BEEN RECEIVED [illegible]

FASION LIBERTY WAS ALREADY SO CLOSE [illegible] TO BE COMPLETELY

HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THE AREA BEFORE ANYTHING

2. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER FURTHER BUT IT IS

ALREADY APPARENT THAT NO RESCUE WAS MOUNTED BY

NAVCOMSTA PHILBY [illegible] OR OTHER CINCNEA FACILITIES

TO THE LIBERTY.

3. ABOVE PROVIDED TO YOU NOW AS THIS SITUATION IS CERTAIN

TO ARISE AGAIN WHY THE LIBERTY WAS OPERATING WHERE

SHE WAS. AS YOU CAN SEE NON-RECEIPT OF THESE [illegible]

MIGHT WELL END UP BEING [illegible]

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Authority (Executive Order) [illegible]
By authority of CSAF/NAVOP/CMC/JS
By [illegible] Date 21 Jun 76
[illegible] Date 11 Jun 76
Deputy The Judge Advocate General of the Navy

(384)

DOC 3 - EX V8 - LIBERTY

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* POL 27 ARAB-ISR

CONFIDENTIAL

NEA 7
SSNNV
IVLA288COMA156
OO RUEHC RUEHDT
DE RUQMVL 0832 1591981
ZNY CCCCC
O 081900Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUQMKO/USDAO AMMAN
RUEHDT/USUN
INFO RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUQMJR/AMCONGEN JERUSALEM
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPRN/CTG SIX ZETO PT TWO
RUFPIN/CINCUSAFE
RUFPAO/CINCUSAREUR
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEHDA/JCS
RUDLKD/USDAO LONDON
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZETO
RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA
BT

007964

1967 JUN 8 PM 3:38

JEFENSE DEPT.

6-8-67

RECEIVED BY FMIB

PAGE - RUQMVL 0832 CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL 0832 JUN 67

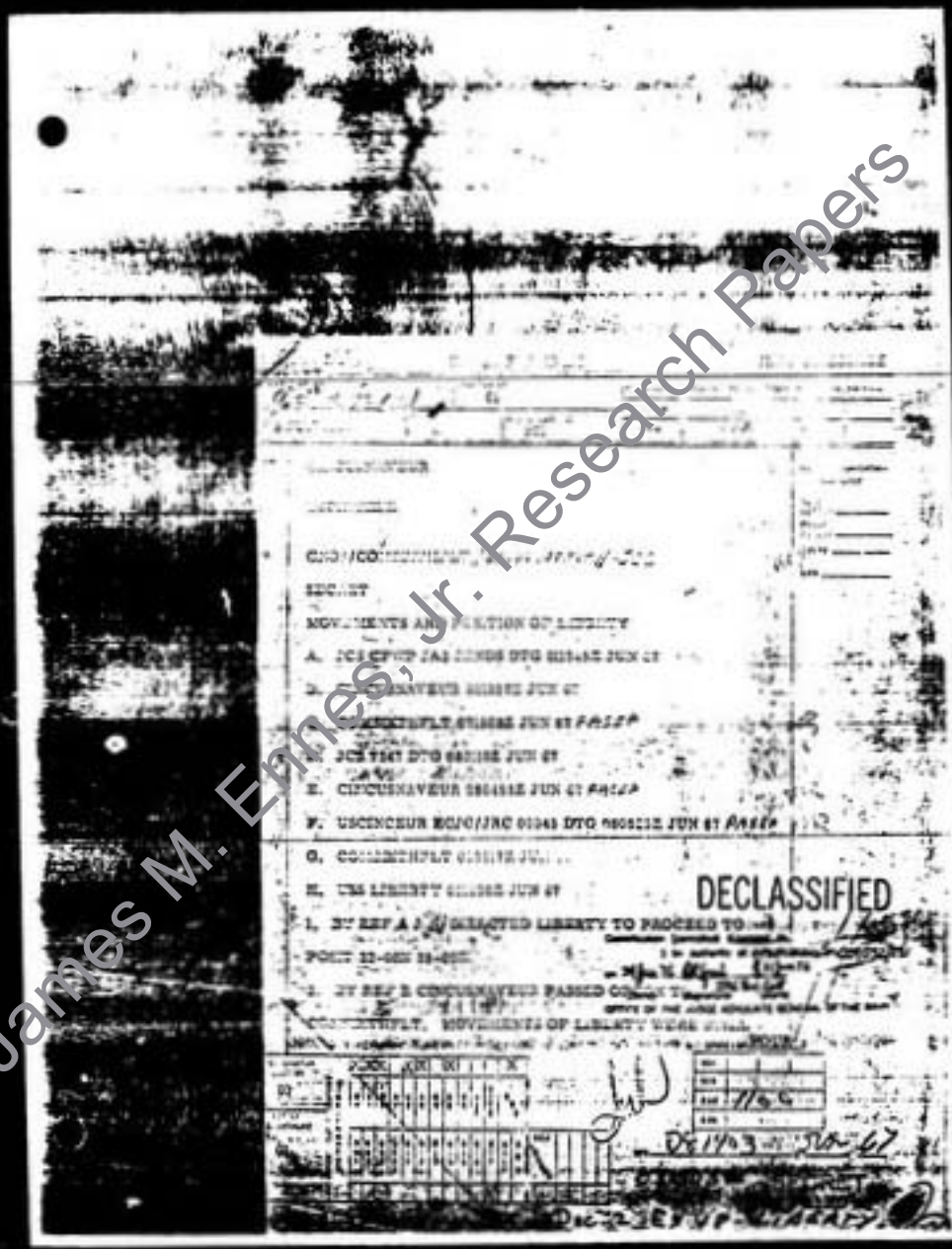
1. ARMA OBSERVED HAWK BATTERY AT 1600Z IN PLACE 2 KM NORTH TEL AVIV NEAR SEA COAST.
2. FLO ADVISED BLACKOUT CONTINUES IN TEL AVIV, AND THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TONIGHT, 8 JUN.
3. SYRIANS CONTINUE SHELLING BORDER SETTLEMENTS IN NORTH GALILEE AT 1800Z.
4. DATT FORECASTS STRONG IDF ATTEMPT TONIGHT TO SILENCE SYRIAN POSITIONS CONTINUEING TO FIRE.
5. ALUSNA IN PHONE CONTACT WITH NMCC ON ACCIDENTAL IDF NAVY ATTACK THIS AFTERNOON ON USS LIBERTY. MESSAGE WILL FOLLOW.
6. FLO REPORTS WEST BANK QUIET WITH "NORMAL 1ST DAY PROBLEMS." COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.

GP-3.

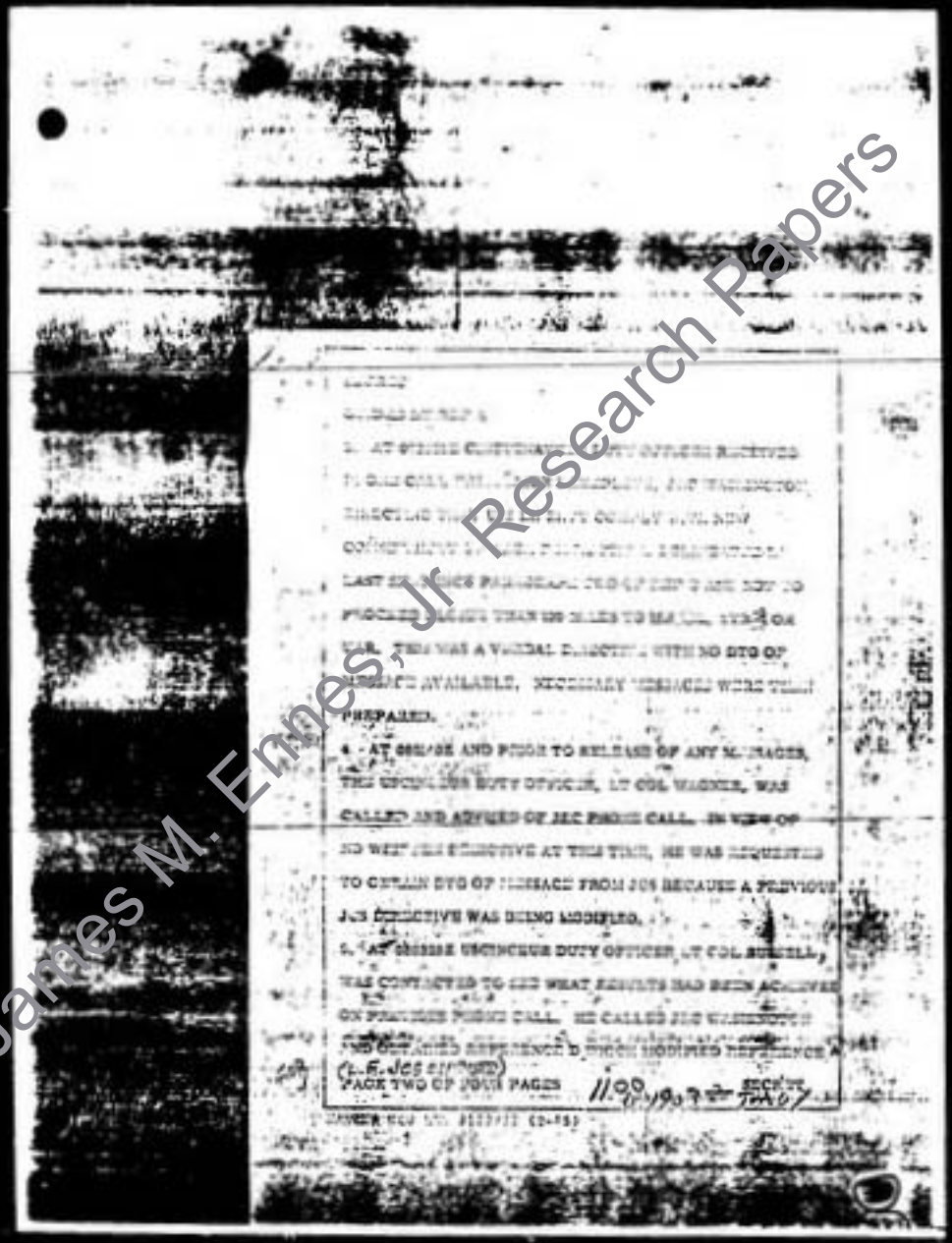
NOTE: ADVANCE COPY DELIVERED TO S/S-O JUN 8 3:39 PM

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PREPARED.

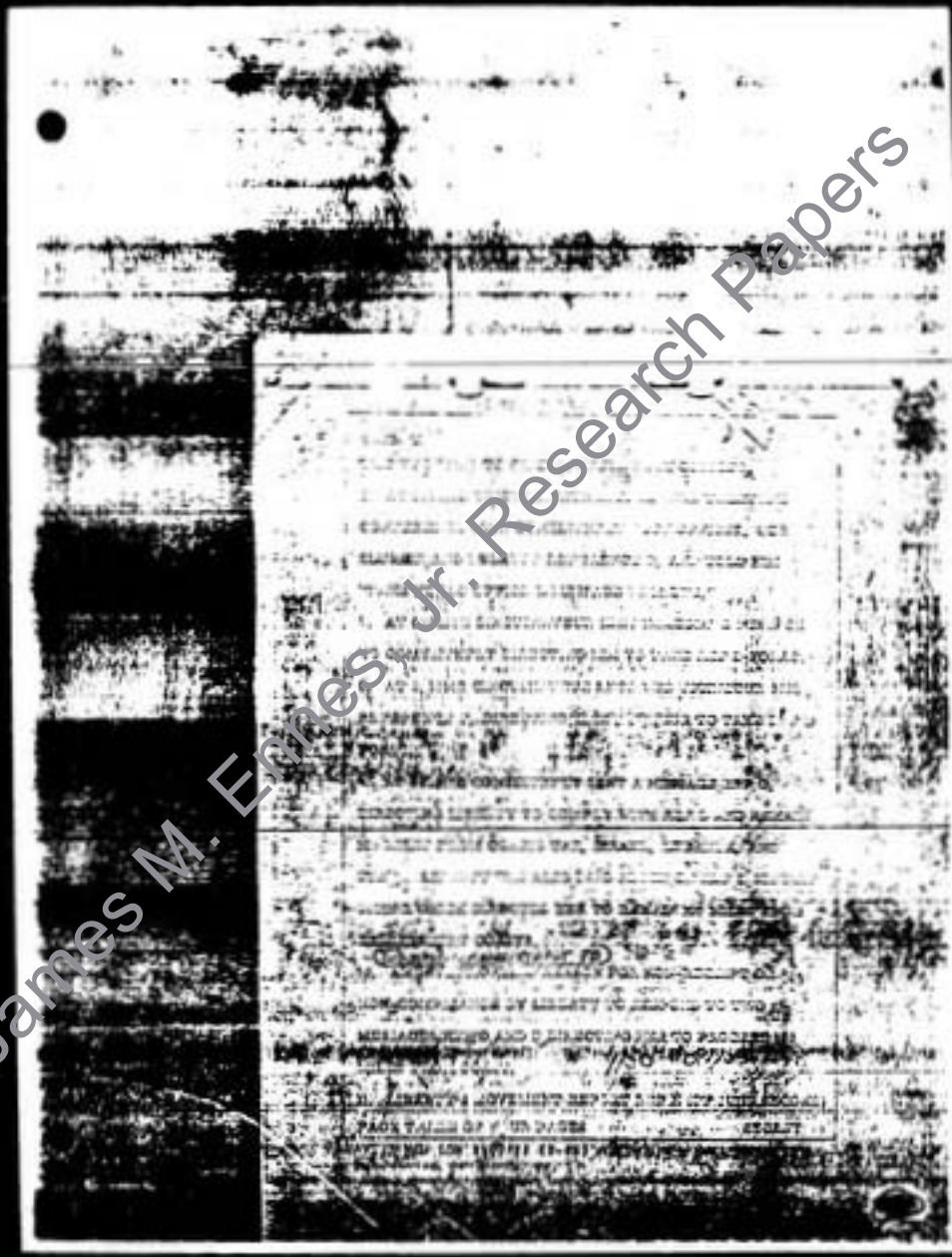
4 - AT 0815E AND PRIOR TO RELEASE OF ANY MESSAGES, THE OPERATIONS DUTY OFFICER, LT COL WAGNER, WAS CALLED AND ADVISED OF SEC FORCE CALL. IN VIEW OF NO WEST JCS DIRECTIVE AT THIS TIME, HE WAS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN DTG OF RELEASE FROM JCS BECAUSE A PREVIOUS JCS DIRECTIVE WAS BEING MODIFIED.

5. AT 0830E DUTY OFFICER, LT COL RUSSELL, WAS CONTACTED TO SEE WHAT RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON FORCIBLE FORCE CALL. HE CALLED JCS WASHINGTON AND OBTAINED REFERENCE D FROM NORTHERN PACIFICOM A

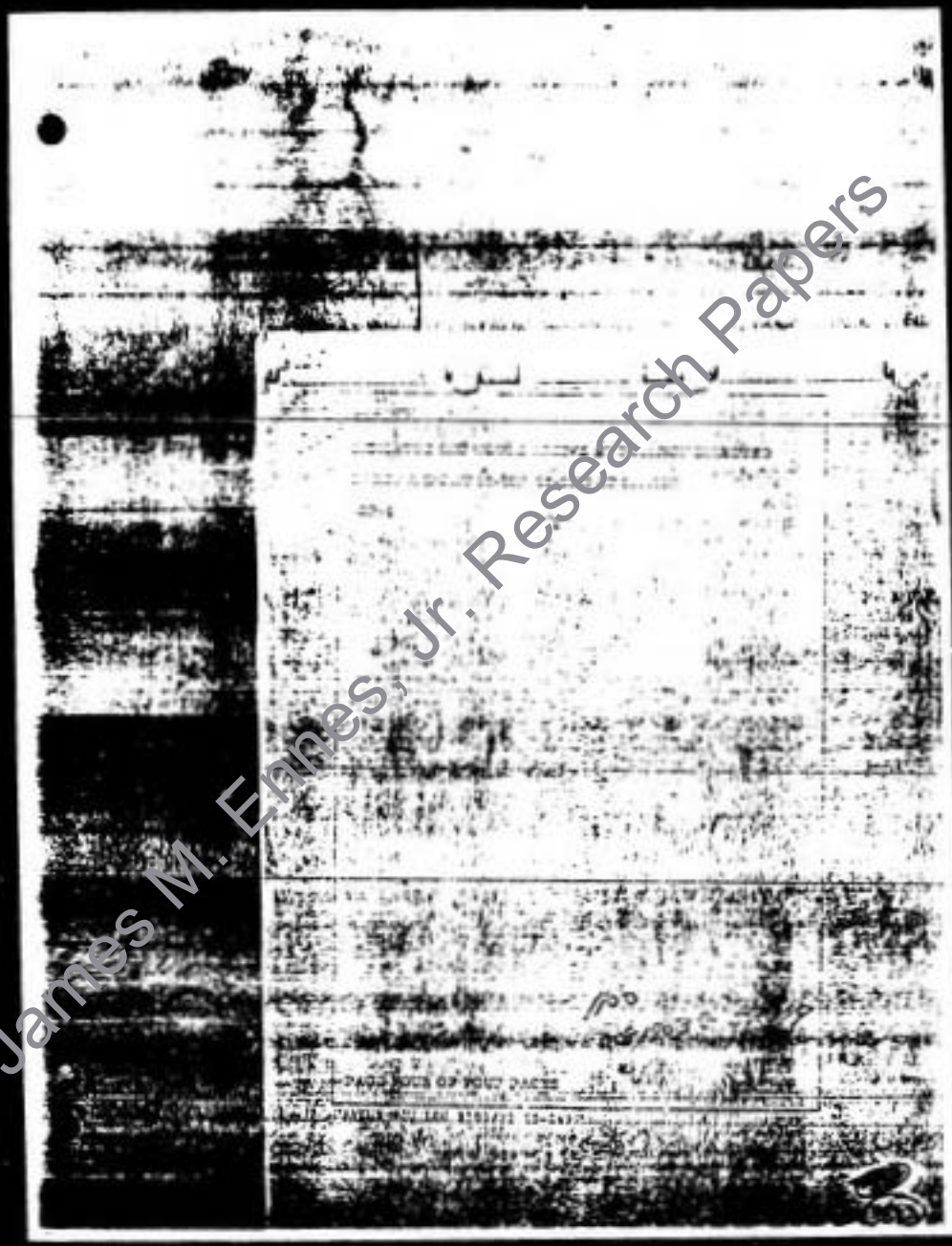
(L.E. Jos attached)

PAGE TWO OF FOUR PAGES 1100 [illegible] SECRET

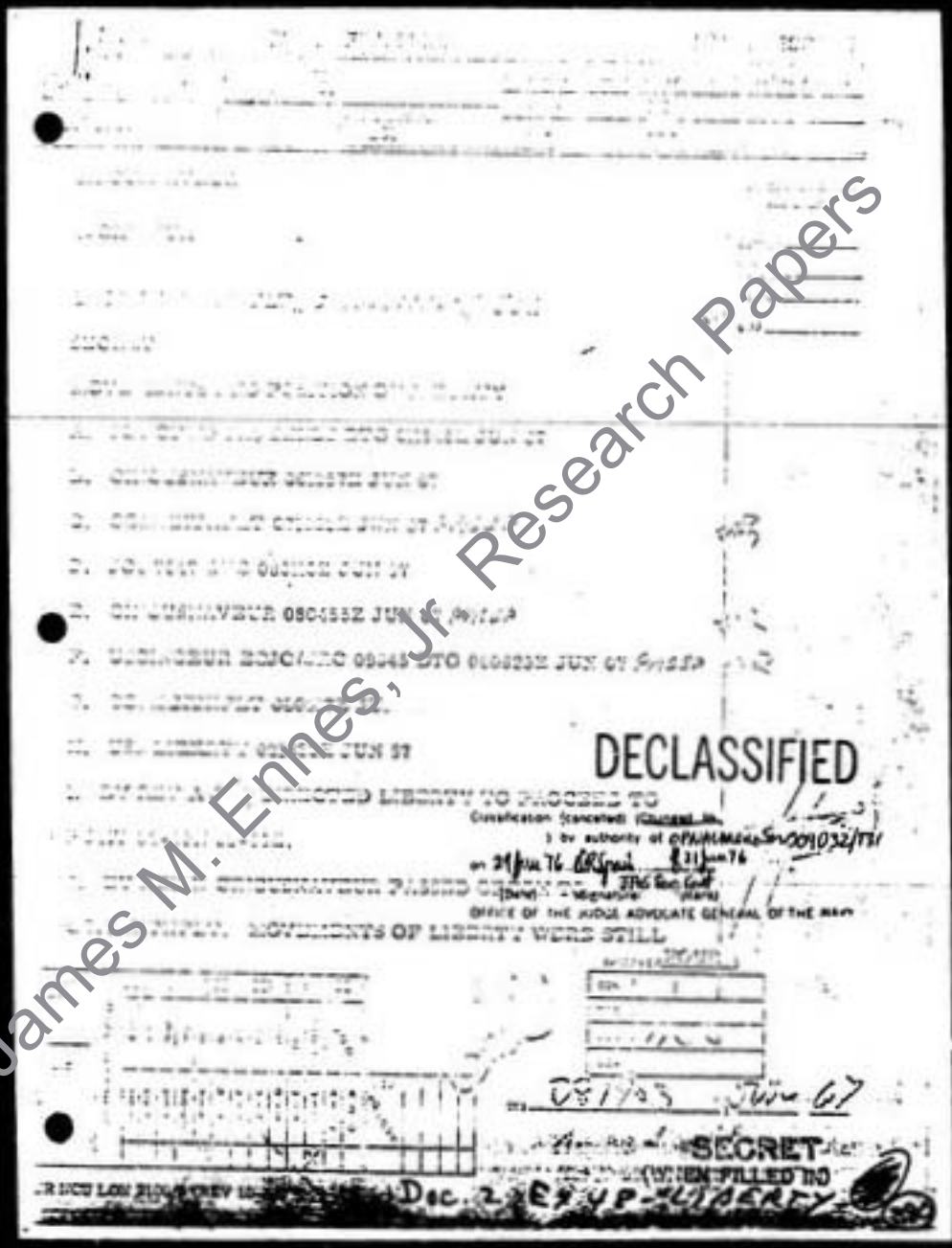
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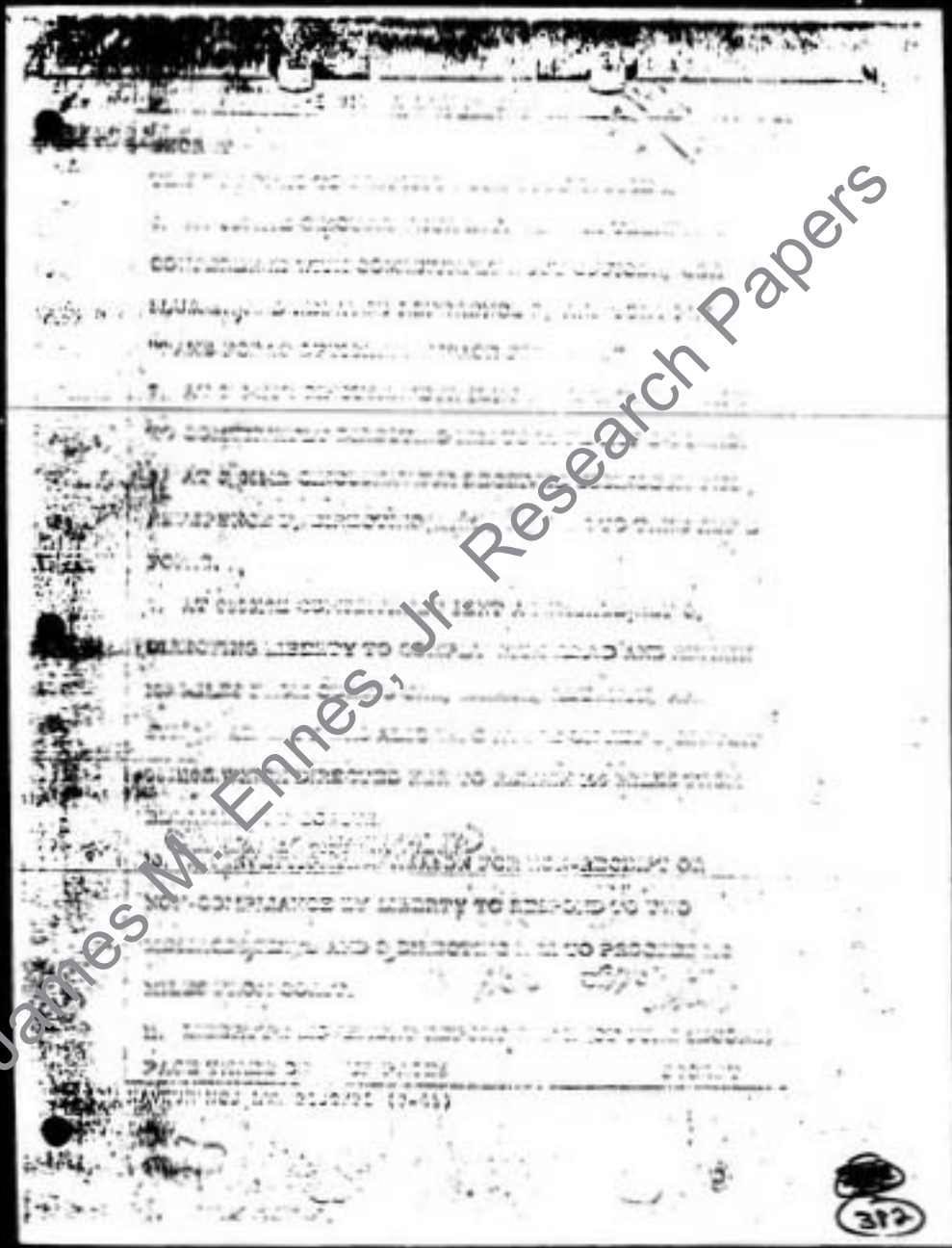


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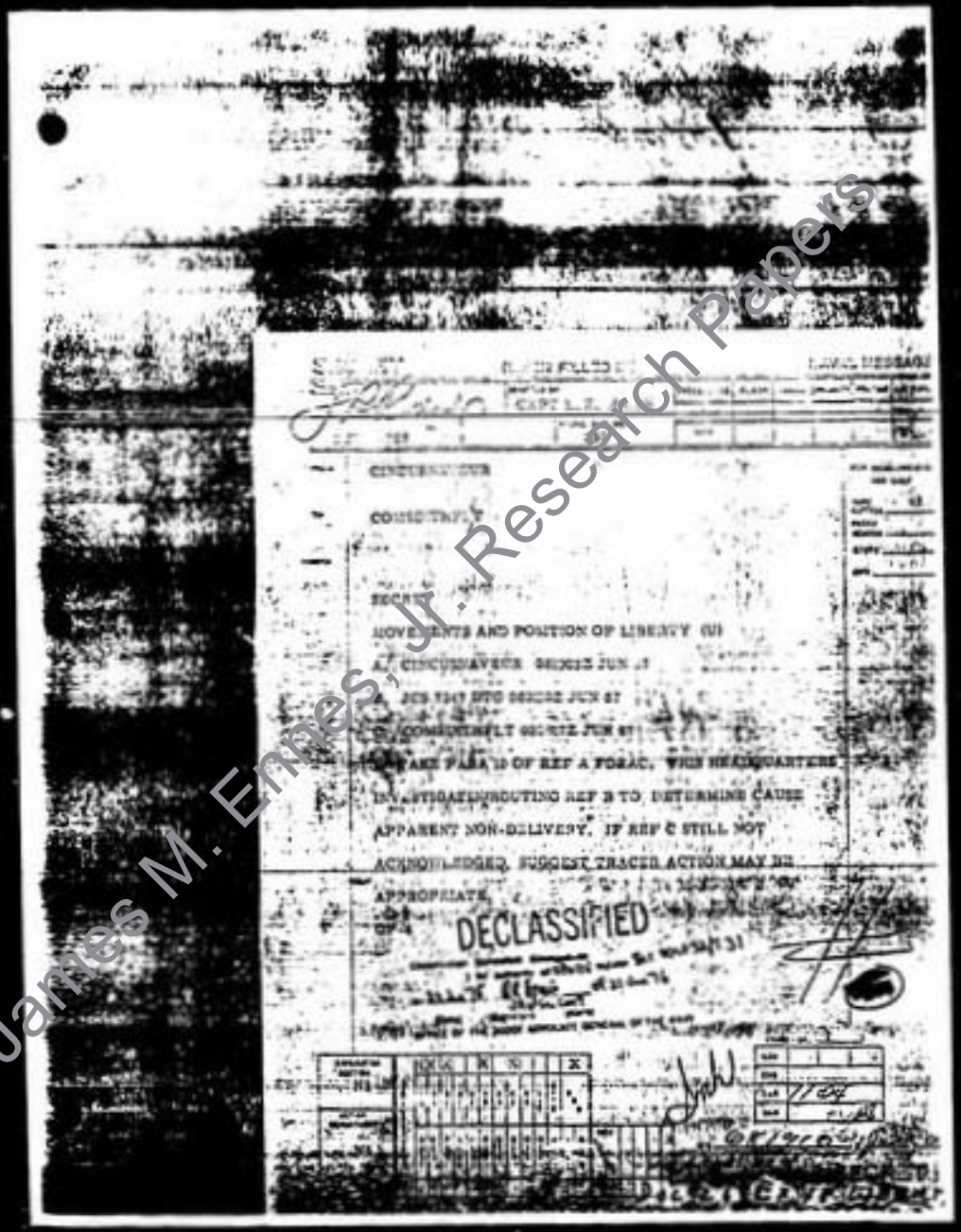
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SECRET

MOVEMENTS AND POSITION OF LIBERTY (U)

A. CINCUSNAVEUR [illegible] JUN 67

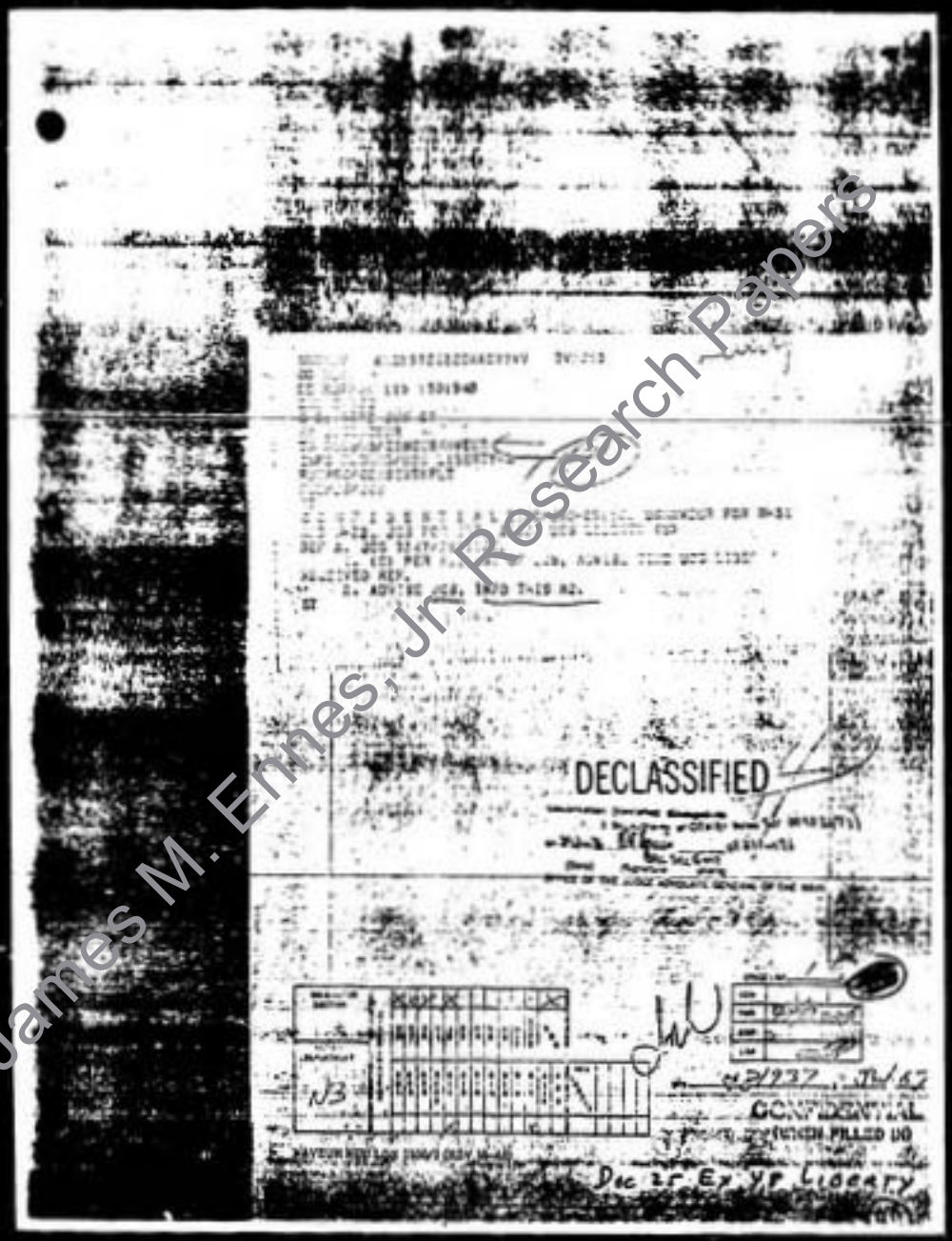
B. JCS [illegible] JUN 67

C. COMSIXTHFLT [illegible] JUN 67

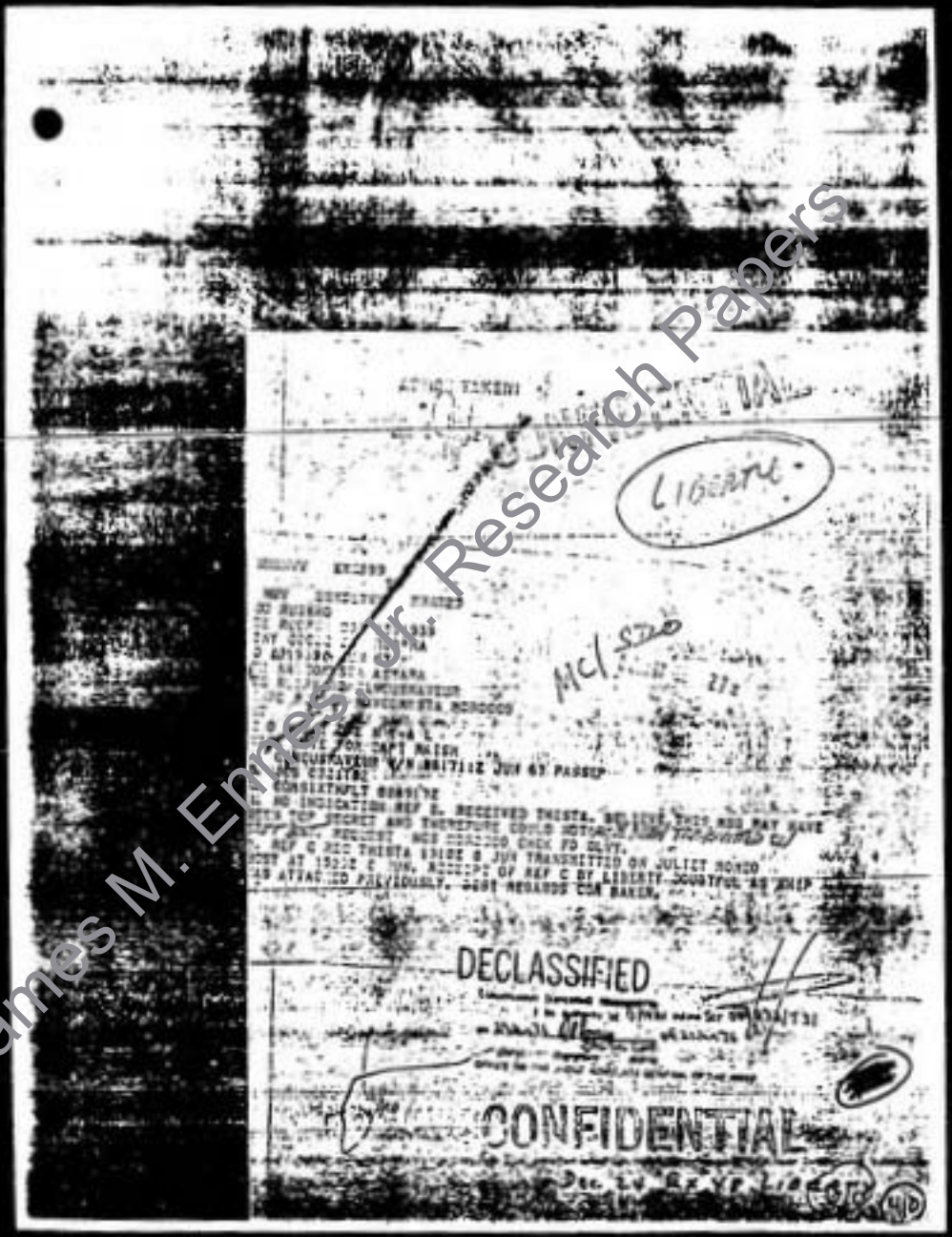
1. (S) REF A PARA 10 OF REF A FORAC. THIS HEADQUARTERS INVESTIGATE/ROUTING REF B TO DETERMINE CAUSE APPARENT NON-DELIVERY. IF REF C STILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGED, SUGGEST TRACER ACTION MAY BE APPROPRIATE.

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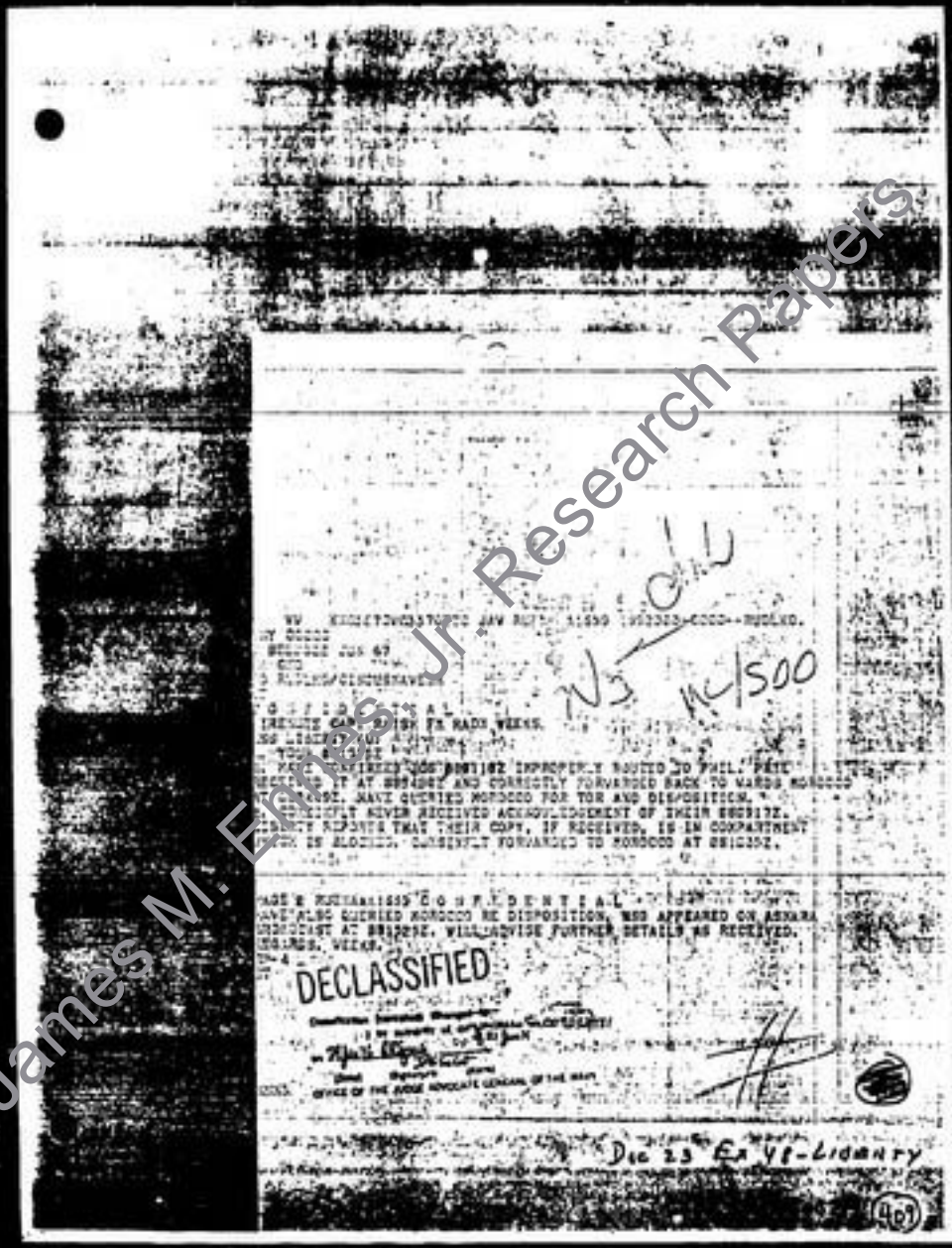
A NT 0816482

8

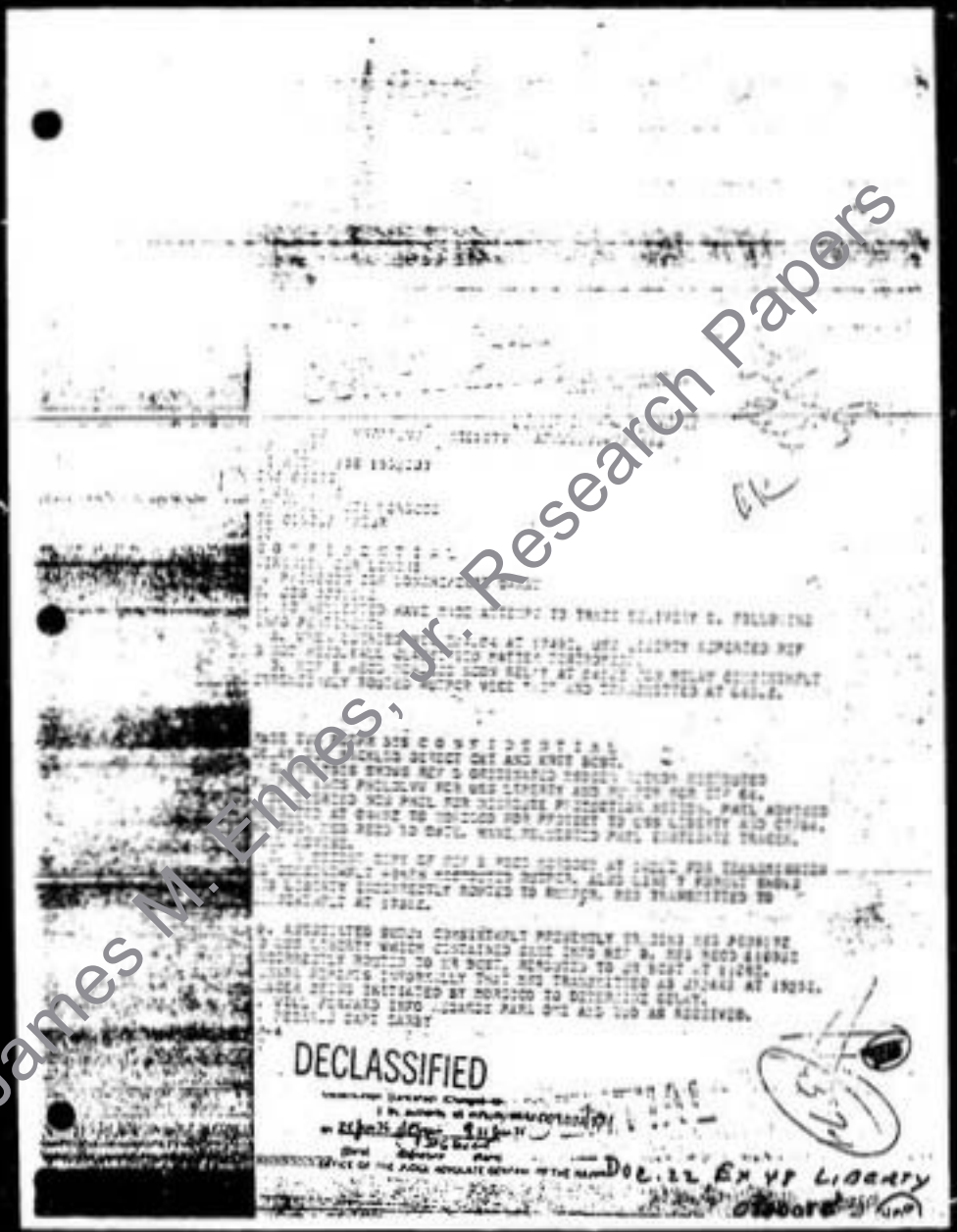
6720

CONFIDENTIAL

0819538



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CTG 60.5

CONSISTING FLT 60

CTG 60.2 63

22008/4 33-234/1 21[illegible]/9

8219/32 [illegible] IF BUT NOT TO 07008/7.

A/C CPR UNR.

SIDE

IF OR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 072076Z

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

POL 27 ARAB-ISR

CONFIDENTIAL

XR DEF 12 US

Action

M OOCZCOMA194XMTEBEHYX
OO RUEHC RUEHDT
DE RUQMVL 0834 159 2187
ZNY CCCCC
O 081000Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUEPJS / OSD
RUQMKJ/ USDAO AMMAN
RUEHDT/ USUN
INFO RUEDPSA/ CINCSTRIKE
RUQMJR/ AMCONGEN JERUSALEM
RUFPBK/ USCINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUDLKD/ CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPRH/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPDW/ CINCUSAFE
RUFPAG/CINCUSAREUR
RUQKCF/ COMSIXTHFLT
RUEKDA/ JCS
RUDLKD/ USDAO LONDON
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUQMRA/ AMEMBASSY JIDDA
BT

DEFENSE DEPT. 6-8-67

067 JUN 8 PM 6 18 008072

RECEIVED BY AFMIC

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0834 C O N F I D E N T I A L
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0834 JUN 67.
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ACCIDENTAL ATTACK ON U.S.S. LIBERTY, 8 JUNE.

1. FLO HAS PASSED IDF ARMY SPOKESMAN STATEMENT RELEASED TO PRESS AT 1930Z. QUOTE: AN UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL APPROACHED THE EL ARISH (3107N-3345E) AREA AT NOON TODAY. FIRE WAS OPENED ON THE VESSEL. AFTER IT WAS VERIFIED THAT THE VESSEL WAS NOT AN ENEMY VESSEL, ASSISTANCE WAS OFFERED BUT THE VESSEL CONTINUED UNDER ITS OWN STEAM. THE VESSEL BELONGS TO THE U.S. NAVY AND THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES APOLOGIZED. THE VESSEL WAS 18 MILES OFF THE COAST UNQUOTE.

2. LOCAL APOLOGIES FROM IDF PASSED TO ALUSNA EARLIER. SEE DAO 0825.

3. GOI HAS MADE NO COMMENT TO IDF, WHO ARE APPARENTLY VERY CONCERNED AND WORRIED HOW ACCIDENTAL ATTACK WILL BE TREATED BY USG.

4. EGYPTIAN SHELLING ATTACK FROM SEA IN GAZA AREA REPORTED BY IDF YESTERDAY. SEE DAO 0812.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2- USDAO TELAVIV 0834 JUN 67

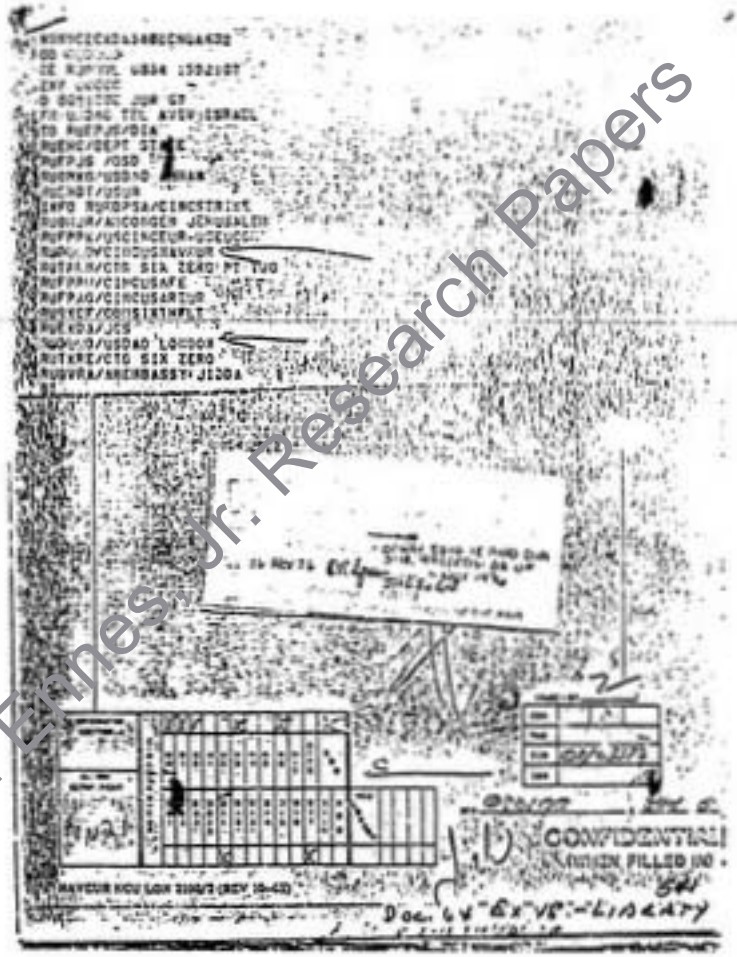
5. ASSISTANCE AFTER ACCIDENT OFFERED BY IDF NAVY MTB WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD USS LIBERTY WAVED OFF.
6. REF PHONE CONVERSATION (COL TAYLOR DIA AND COL PERNA DAO).

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0834 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TEL AVIV) ISRAELI HELICOPTERS NOT USED OR PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED FOR RESCUE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PHONE CONF. USS LIBERTY DOES NOT PRESENTLY SEEK ISRAELI ASSISTANCE, AND HAS SATISFACTORY RADIO CONTACT WITH USN NET.
7. ALUSNA OVERFLIGHT IN IDF HELICOPTER FOR INSPECTION AND ATTEMPTED CONTACT NON PRODUCTIVE, EXCEPT TO OBSERVE SHIP UNDER WAY AT APPROX 8 KNOTS NORTHERLY, COURSE 60 NM WEST OF ASKELON AT 1930Z. LIBERTY LISTING APPROX 10 DEGREES STARBOARD AND MAY BE HAVING SOME STEERING DIFFICULTY.
8. IDF WILL RESPOND IN RESCUE IF ASKED, HOWEVER WE SHALL INITIATE NO REQUEST REPEAT NO REQUEST UNLESS ADVISED BY NMCC OR OTHER WASH AGENCY.
9. IDF REQUESTS THAT IF ANY OTHER US SHIPS (OR AIRCRAFT) ARE IN OR CONTEMPLATE ENTRANCE TO COMBATANT AREAS, WE PROVIDE APPROPRIATE NOTIC COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3.
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY DELIVERED TO S/S-O 6/8/67 6:26 PM

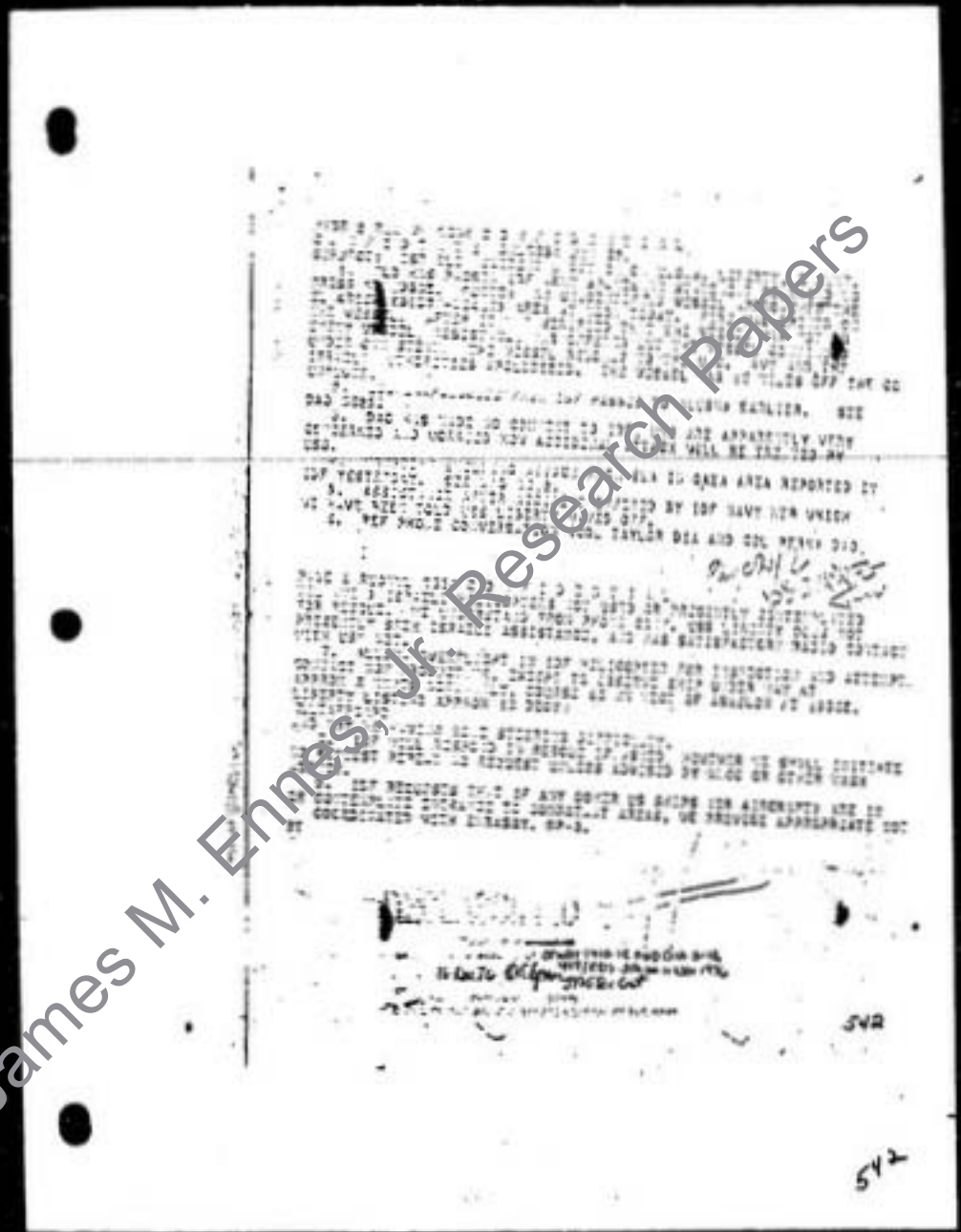
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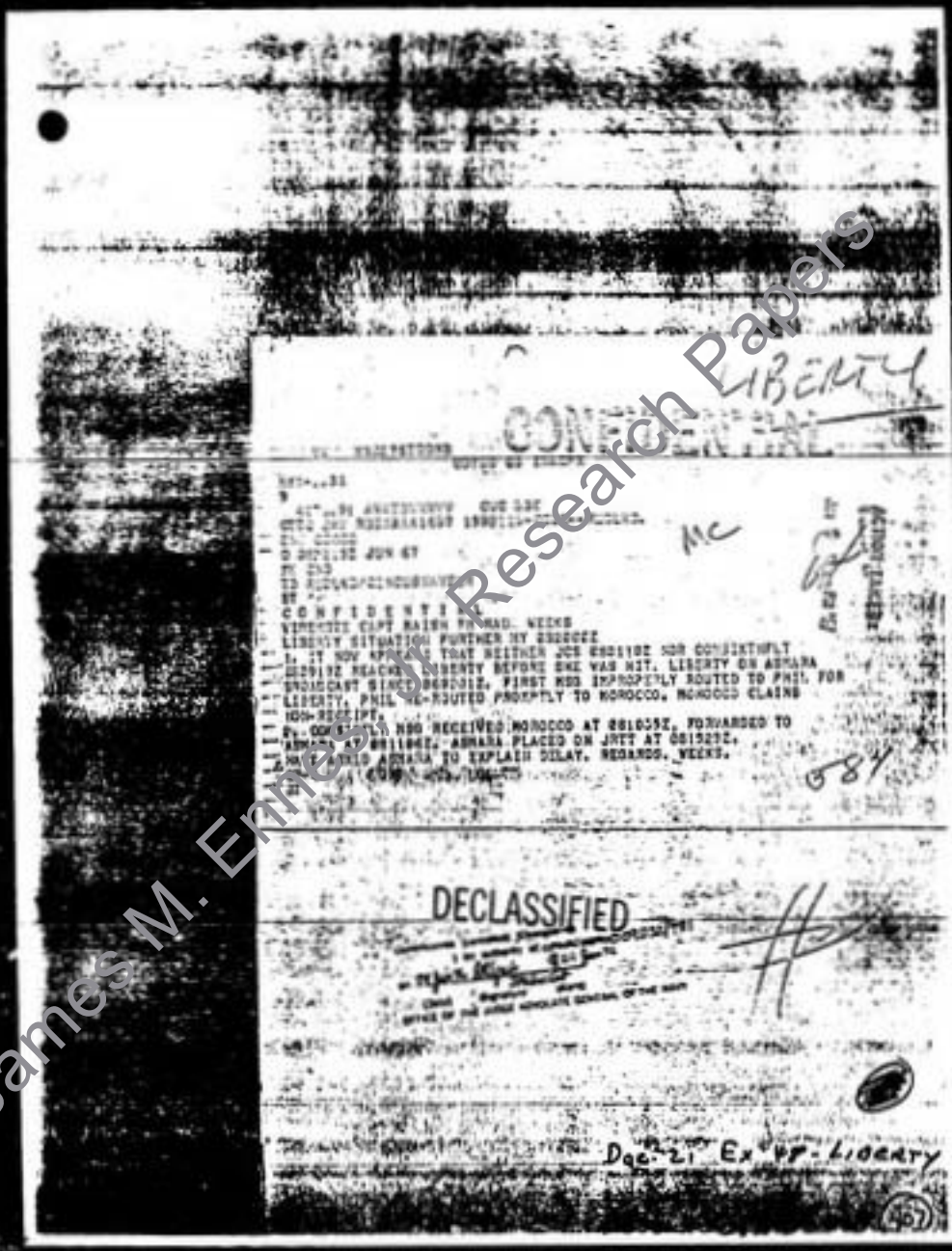


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0821002



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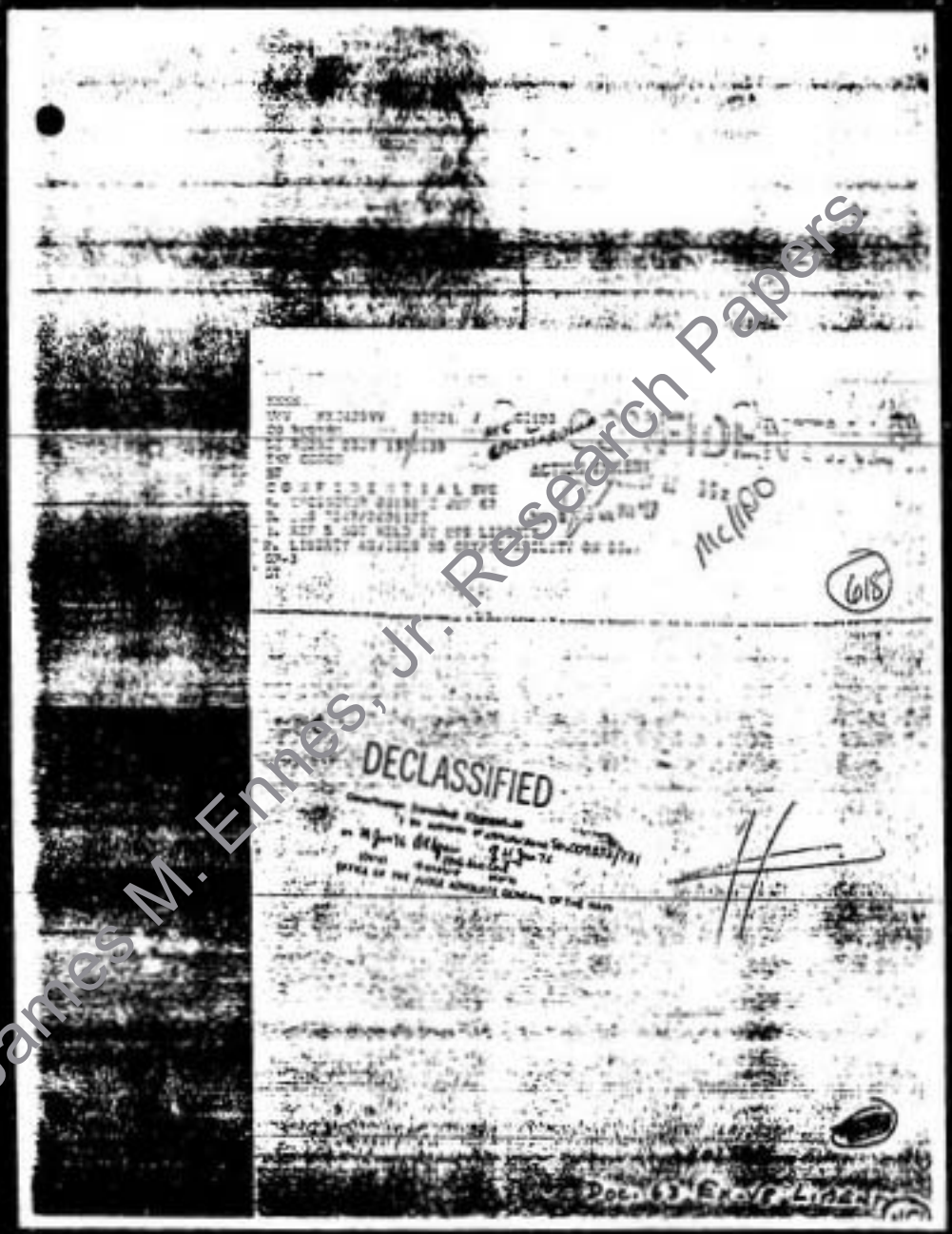
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TOR: 10 JUNE 1967

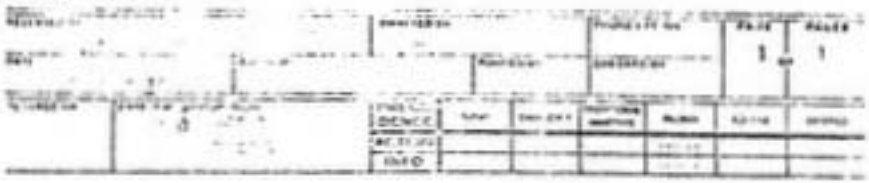
COURIER
IMMEDIATE
0821222 JUNE 67
FM CTF 60
TO CTG 60.5
INFO USS LIBERTY
USS AMERICA
COMSIXTHFLT
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
A. COMSIXTHFLT 0815082 (PASEP)
1. AMERICA READY CAP ON ARS 10.NCF EVE NECESSARY YOU PENETRATE ONE HUNDRED MILS LINE OF UAR, ADVISE ONE HOUR PRIOR. CAP WILL LAUNCH AND PROVIDE COVER.
2. YOUR ORDERS ARE ESCORT LIBERTY TOMORROW. AFTER RENDEZVOUS AND REVIEW OF SITUATION, SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION.
GP-4
BT

082/22Z

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1.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

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From: Operations Officer, USS LIBERTY (DL 933)
To: Commander Destroyer Squadron Twelve
Subj: Ni Type traffic, Liberty Incident

1. Logs were not maintained. However, the following situation messages were received over the [illegible] and 9 June are considered pertinent.

2. Guard of the 600th MSB was changed at 010600Z.

3. UHF communications on 277.8 MCS [illegible] established at 090130Z with USS LIBERTY.

Glen V. Smith
LT USN

Doc. #3 Ex #8-Liberty

403

Court Ltr for 071202Z

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JAN 67

FM: CG/ [redacted]

TO: [redacted]

INFO: [redacted]

[redacted]

1. [redacted] INFO IN ADVANCE OF [redacted] CAN BE PROVIDED EARLIER.

2. WE HAVE BEEN [redacted] FOR TRANSFER.

[redacted]

3. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] 222922Z JAN 67

0T22022

4 of

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

Return to 13

0822472

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

S/S # 10040

CATEGORY "A"
Completely decontrolled
Transferred to N.A. and RG
by S/S3 date 2/2/77

June 8
1967

Dear Mr. Secretary,

May I convey to you this expression of condolences and grief on the tragedy which occurred to the USS Liberty and my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were killed.

Both officially and personally it is the source of the deepest sorrow to me that my countrymen were responsible for this tragic accident which has caused many lives of men serving under a flag which is for us the symbol of honor and friendship. I pray that the wounded may speedily recover.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible]
Ambassador

The Honorable
Dean Rusk,
Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

MICROFILMED
S/S-S/S1 CMS

(HANDLE AS EXDIS)
ALSO FILMED FOR RELOCATION SITES 1 & 2

Israel Embassy POL 27 Cond - ISR KR DEF 13/5

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO CTG 60.2 / CTF 63 / USS PAPAGO

UNCLAS E F T O
SITREP TWO
1. TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION LIBERTY LAT 32/[illegible] LONG 031/58E7
[illegible] MILES AHEAD OF ME. ETA 043027

DRAFTED AND RELEASED BY LT HARRIS

STAFF -OUT
VIA SHIP/SHORE [illegible]
TOD 09/02422 June 67
M/U...FB
MSG NR 11/09

090240Z / JUN 67

090240Z

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

XR DEF 12 US
XR PS 9-6 US-NEAR E

UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM **Department of State**

CONFIDENTIAL

9-S
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ACDA
OPR
RSR

PP RUENC
DE RUMJKL 4697 1660400
ZNY CCCCC
P 090333Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
STATE GRNC
BT

0081 05 11
1967 JUN 9 AM 8 29

Kuala Lumpur #4697

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4697

REF: KL 4694

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST

1. UNLESS DEPT HAS OBJECTION, I PROPOSE SEND FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANATORY NOTE TO PRIME MINISTER. REQUEST CONCURRENCE URGENTLY.

"DEAR TUNKU,

DURING OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I TOLD YOU THAT AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FROM THE AREA OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOME ARAB STATES. THE PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS AN ATTACK ON A UNITED STATES NAVY RESEARCH VESSEL IN MILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SINAI PENINSULA. THIS VESSEL, THE U.S.S. LIBERTY, IS A CONVERTED CARGO SHIP AND HAS NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IT WAS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO ASSURE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO ASSIST IN RELAYING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST."

2. SUGGEST SIMILAR STATEMENT BY DEPT SPOKESMAN, IF NOT ALREADY MADE, WOULD BE USEFUL.

GP-3. RFN
BT

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

ACTION Amembassy KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

DATE 209626

REF: Kuala Lumpur 4691 - POL 27 A: NG - ISR

Subject: Middle East Crisis

1. Dept concurs transmittal note proposed reftel. Suggest it say Liberty has no QUOTE combat capability UNQUOTE rather than QUOTE offensive capability UNQUOTE. At your discretion, you may issue similar statement to press.

2. USG public statements have already been made concerning attack on U.S.S. Liberty.

GP - 3

END

RUSK

EA/P - Mr. Killion (subs) 6/5/67

EA - William P. Bundy

NEA/IAI - Mr. Matter (subs)

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Classification

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO CTF 60 / COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO CTG 60.2 / CTF 63 / USS PAPAGO

UNCLAS E F T O

SITREP THREE

POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION LIBERTY. POSIT 33-01.0N, 34-59.0E TIME 04252. INTENTIONS: CONTINUE NORTHERLY COURSE TO OPEN COASTLINE WHEN NOT REQUIRED TO STOP FOR [illegible] PERSONNEL AND EQUIP.

DRAFTED AND RELEASED IN THE ROUGH BY MR. PAYNE.

090430Z JUN 67

090430Z

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO CTG 60.2 / CTF 63 / PAPAGO

UNCLAS E F T O

SITREP FOUR

1. TWO MEDICAL ASSIST TEAMS NOW ONBD LIBERTY. [illegible] MANEUVERING TO GO ALONGSIDE. FIFTEEN HIGH PRIORITY INJURED TO EVACUATE.

DRAFTED AND RELEASED IN THE ROUGH BY LCDR PETTIJOHN

090512Z JUN 67

090512Z

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USCINCEUR

60/ 60.2 USCINCEUR GRETHOUNG/SINCFURSE/USCINCEUR

0601O 0905OOZ 0904O2Z.
RE[illegible] WITH
0933Z 33-01N/ 31-59E

05347/09

0905132/

CONFIDENTIAL

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO CTF 63 / CTG 60.2 / PAPAGO

UNCLAS E F T O

SITREP FIVE

1. DAVIS ALONGSIDE LIBERTY. MATL DAMAGE UNDER CONTROL. DAMCON TEAMS ON BOARD TO ASSIST CUTTING, WELDING, DEWATERING. MED TEAMS AND EQUIP ON BOARD. HOT FOOD AND WATER PROVIDED.

DRAFTED AND RELEASED IN THE ROUGH BY LCDR PETTYJOHN

0905442 / JUN 67

0905WE

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60.5

SEARCH

CONFIDENTIAL

0905512

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408

0906252

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UNCLAS
IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO CTF 63 / CTG 60.2 / USS PAPAGO / USS LIBERTY / CINCUSNAVEUR
USCINCEUR / CHINFO / CNO

CONFIDENTIAL
1. (U) READY TRANS FIFTEEN SERIOUS WOUNDED LIBERTY FORECASTS ZERO REL WIND WHEN HELOS ARRIVE. NINE DEAD TO FOLLOW. MEDICAL ASST ON SCENE ADEQUATE AFTER ABOVE TRANSFER. MOST DEAD VIEWABLE. SEVERAL NOT.

2. (C) BASED ON INSPECTION MAJOR DAMAGE AREA COMBINED WITH OPINION LIBERTY CO, BELIEVE POSSIBILITY ALIVE PERS IN FLOODED SPACES IMPOSSIBLE. BULK HEADS FIRM AND FLOODING CONTAINED. IN VIEW ABOVE SEE NO NEED ATTEMPT PLUG TORPEDO HOLE AND DEWATER AT SEA.

3. (C) SHIP COMPLETELY MOBILE TO TEN KNOTS. FUEL AND WATER AMPLE.

4. (U) OIL LEAKING OUT WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NEGATE PORT ENTRY IF CONTINUES. WILL WATCH AND ADVISE.

5. (U) CO HAS LEG WOUND. HE IS EXHAUSTED AND DANGER OF INSPECTION. EXEC OFF DEAD. MY OPS OFF QUAL COMMAND TRANSFERRED. AM NOW MAKING DECISION AS TO COMMAND. OTHER PERS TRANSFROM DAVIS INCLUDE TEN ENG AND DECK RATINGS.

6. (C) HAVE ASSUMED ALL [illegible] GUARDS.

7. (C) INTEND UNDERWAY AT TEN KNOTS ABOUT 0915.

8. (U) SERVICES [illegible]GEY NO LONGER REQUIRED WHEN PAPAGO ARRIVES.

9. (C) YOUR 090551Z REPLY TO FOLLOW.

RELEASED IN ROUGH

START.OUT TOD---- MSG NR.35/09
VIA....SHIP/SHORE W/U....HK

(ORIGINAL MESSAGE BLANK REVEALS MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED AS CONFIDENTIAL, BUT CHANGED TO UNCLAS)

090708Z

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR / USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL

LIBERTY MISSING PERSONS

YOUR 090551Z JUN 67
1. NO SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED PRIOR TO LEAVING ATTACK AREA. LIBERTY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF BODIES BEING PICKED UP BY ISRAELIS. ALL MISSING PERSONS BELIEVED STILL TRAPPED IN RESEARCH SPACES (POINT OF IMPACT OF TORP). LATEST MUSTER INDICATES TWENTY TWO MISSING

GP-4

REF A: LIBERTY MISSING PERSONS

RELEASED IN THE ROUGH

STAFF..OUT
VIA....SHIP/SHORE
TOD----
W/U....MK
MSG NR 32/09

090722Z

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5

TO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO CNO / CHINFO / CINCUSNAVEUR / USCINCEUR / CTF 63 / CTG 60.2 / USS PAPAGO

UNCLAS E F T O

SITREP SIX

1. DAVIS CLEAR. LIBERTY UNDERWAY. FIRST TWO HELOS ARRIVED. UUE WIND REQUIREMENTS SOA WILL BE SLOW UNTIL APPROX THIRTY FIVE TRANSFERS COMPLETE. COMMANDING OFFICER JURIED IN AND PROBABLY WILL NOT REQUIRE RELIEF. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TRANSFERRED LT ENG OFF, BTC, EMCS, DC1, PN1, BM3. MINOR OIL LEAKAGE, WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE.

DRAFTED AND RELEASED BY MR. PAYNE

/ 9 3 8 / 2 2 JUN 67

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0528

IMMEDIATE

0910122 JUN 67

FROM: CTG 60.5

TO: CINCEURREP NAPLES / NAVSUPPACT NAPLES

INFO COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60 / CTF 63 / CINCUSNAVEUR / USS AMERICA

UNCLAS EFTO
A. COMSIXTHFLT 08_28Z
LIBERTY
REMAINS OF WHICH THREE OR FOUR BADLY MUTILATED WILL BE TRANS
DURING AFTERNOON 9 JUN.
ABOUT TWENTY TWO REMAINS ENTOMBED IN LIBERTY UNDER WATER. WILL
PROBABLY BE RECOVERED IN SUDA ABOUT 12 JUN.

PCF: WHEN KNOWN ADVISE CONDITION OF REMAINS AND NUMBER
FOR EMBALMING PURPOSES.

0910122

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1. 14208/7

33-034/a 31-44E/2.

//ETTC//UNCLASSIFIED//

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091014Z IMMEDIATE

FROM: CTG 60.5

TO: COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO: CNO / CHINFO / CINCUSNAVEUR / USCINCEUR / CTF 63 /
CTG 60.2 / USS PAPAGO / USS TIDEWATER

UNCLAS EFTO
SITREP SEVEN
1. OIL SEEPAGE STILL MINIMUM. RECOMMEND TIDEWATER HAVE CARBONIZED SAND OR DETERGENT AVAILABLE TO MEET LIBERTY.
2. FIVE HELO TRANSFERS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AS OF 12000/3.
3. MY 12000/3 POSIT 33-08N/4 AND 31-44E/2.

091014Z

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

BRITISH BROADCASTING COMPANY
NEWSCASTS
LONDON, ENGLAND PS4
BT
N.I. TWO DESTROYERS DAVIS ETNASSEY LEFT SIXTH FLEET FORMATION 1800 HRS LOCAL TODAY STEAMING 30 KNOTS EASTSOUTHEAST TO RENDEZVOUS WITH LIBERTY 440 MILES AWAY STOP RV TIME 0400 HRS GMT STOP THEY WILL BE FIRST BOATS TO RENDER AID AND ASSISTANCE STOP
BT
MANGOLD
BT

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
BT
URGENT SVA WA
OP195 EX-USS AMERICA DILLMAN HAVE FILED SECOND FLIGHT LEAD FLEET CONCERNING ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY BY ISRAELI TORPEDO BOATS BUT MAY BE HELD UP IN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. APPRECIATE OUTCHECK AND REGDS.
BT
STATHOS
BT

NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK CITY
NEW YORK
BT
FOR COLLECT TRANSMISSION TO NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK PARA PROTOPPING CARRIER AMERICA IS FILLING MY STORY ON WHAT HAPPENED HERE THIS AFTERNOON AS CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC TO PENTAGON URGE WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY WORK ON PENTAGON PUBLIC AFFAIRS TO [illegible] SPAING IT LOOSE THANKS
BT
SHEEHAN
BT

SPRING

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
[illegible] CARRIER SENT PENTAGON ON PRIORITY BASIS MY FRAGMENTARY COPY ON CARRIER ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM ISRAELI ATTACK ON U.S. SHIP, WHICH WE UNLEARNED ABOUT UNTIL SAW WX STORY AT 5:30 P.M., GMT. MAY HAVE TO BREAK IT OUT OF SECURITY CLASSIFICATION. HORTON
BT

TOR 09/1015Z

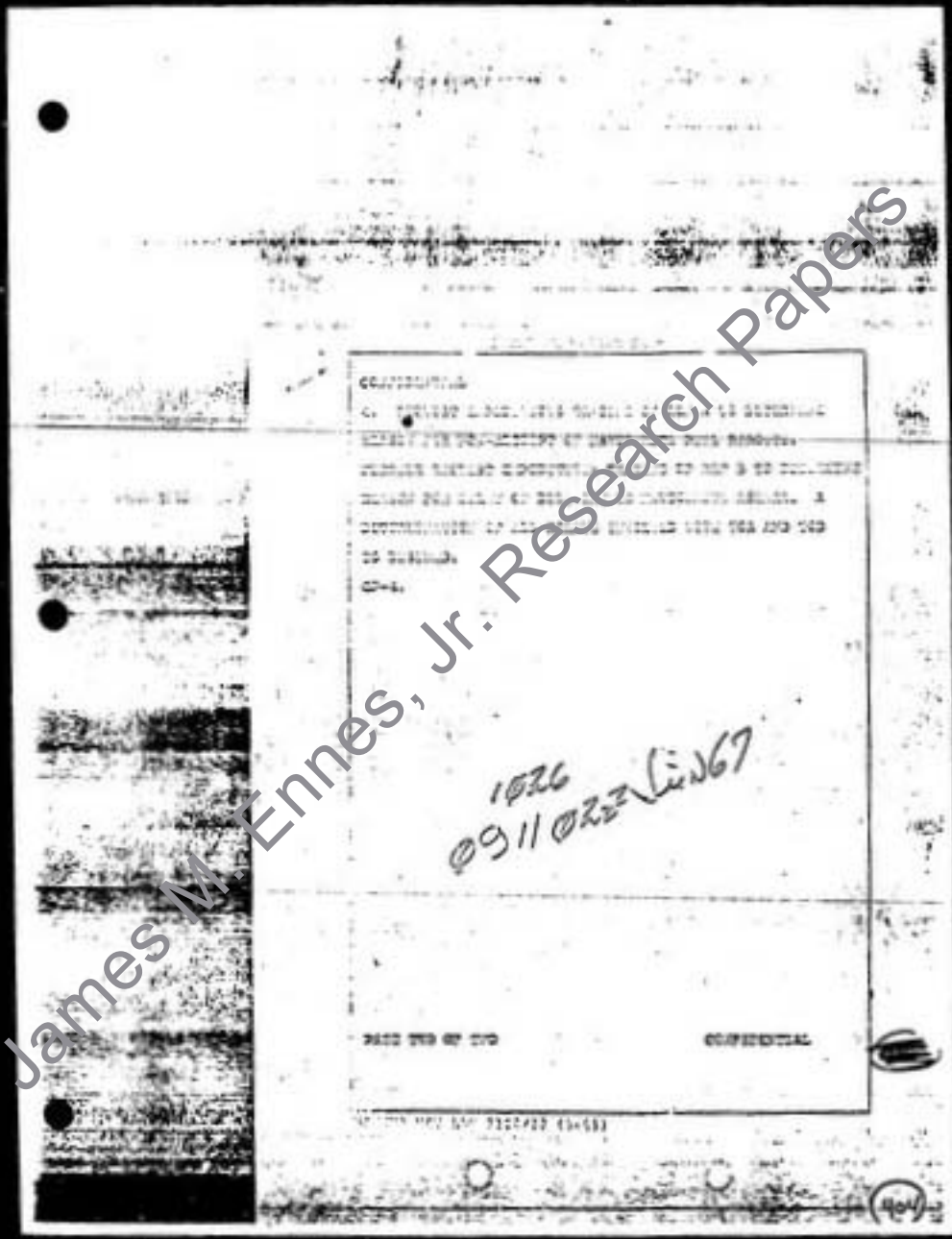
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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action

Info

CZCOMA331
RR RUEHC
DE RUQMVL 4028 1601145
ZNY CCCCC
R 091115Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4028

LIMDIS

PRIME MINISTER ASKS THAT USG BE INFORMED THAT GOI WILLING TO MAKE RETRIBUTION TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE LIBERTY NAVAL INCIDENT AND TO INQUIRE WHETHER SUCH RETRIBUTION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE ADVISE. BARBOUR
BT

Declassified Release

008497
1967 JUN 9 AM 9 52

Tel Aviv 4028 6-8-67

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UNCLAS EFTO

IMMEDIATE 0911262 JUN 67

FROM: CTG 60.5

TO: COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO: CNO / CHINFO / CINCUSNAVEUR / USCINCEUR / CTF 63 / CTG 60.2

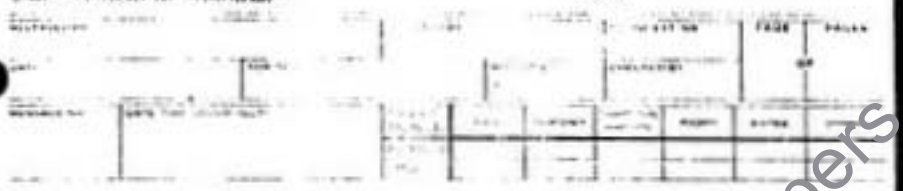
UNCLAS E F T O
YOUR 0910102. LIBERTY CO AND L.C. TEAMS FEEL CHANCE SURVIVORS ALMOST NON EXISTANT.
I CONCUR. SPACES RECEIVED FULL IMPACT OF EXPLOSION AND ARE NINETY PERCENT FULL WATER AND OIL WITH HEAVY OIL FUMES. NO SIGNALS OR NOISES HEARD AT ANY TIME THOUGH CAREFULLY LISTENED FOR.

RELEASED THROUGH BY LT STRACHWITZ

0911262

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ANAL MESSAGE



CONFIDENTIAL..... 9 JUNE 1967

P [illegible]Z JUN 67
FM [illegible]F
CO [illegible]FLY
[illegible]
CINCPAC
USS A[illegible]RICA
USS L[illegible]ERTY
BT
UNCLAS PASS F[illegible] CASTER[illegible]
THE [illegible] AT
[illegible] (EDT) [illegible]
THE L[illegible]ERTY [illegible]ERS, USS DAVIS AND
USS [illegible]Y, AT [illegible] (CUT) AT
THE [illegible], [illegible]AST,
DET[illegible]AY, [illegible].
UNDER [illegible] TO
THE L[illegible]ERTY. [illegible]
[illegible] AT [illegible] CRAFT CARRIER
[illegible] [illegible]
33-[illegible]. [illegible]
THEY [illegible] SERIOUSLY TORPEDO
FROM [illegible] OF [illegible]
SERIOUSLY [illegible]
THE [illegible] AS [illegible] ING A TOTAL OF 33
KILLED AND [illegible].
AT [illegible] ITH THE LIBERTY, A
TASK [illegible] ERTY, AND INDO.
TWO [illegible] DIATED
THAT [illegible] THE [illegible] GROUP
IS [illegible] TY [illegible] THE
LIBERTY AT [illegible], AND 75 REQUIRED.
AT LEAST [illegible] OF THE 75 [illegible]
I DO [illegible] THE [illegible].
THE [illegible] OF THE [illegible] THAT HE BELIEVES
THAT [illegible] OF THE MISSING ARE [illegible] IN THE VICINITY AND

[illegible]

UNCLASSIFIED [illegible]12132

James M. Eames, Jr. Research Papers

NAVAL MESSAGE

2 2

PRIOR DEFER
ACTION
INFO

CUSPART [illegible] IN THE FORWARD PART OF THE SHIP.
NEXT OF KIN ARE BEING NOTIFIED AS RAPIDLY AS [illegible].
BE SENT AS SOON AS NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION [illegible].
HAVE [illegible] ASKED [illegible] CONTACTED [illegible]
DEEP [illegible] TO WHAT THE USS LIBERTY [illegible]
[illegible].
NO [illegible] BE INFORMED OF THE PRESENCE OF THE USS LIBERTY
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. [illegible]
AT ALL TIMES. IT IS A [illegible]
[illegible]
TRAVELS TO [illegible]
BOARD [illegible] SHIP IN [illegible].
IN ADDITION TO OUR [illegible], IT WAS [illegible]
DEN [illegible] TRANSFERRED FROM THE CARRIER AMERICA TO THE LIBERTY
TO HELP SUPPLEMENT THE CREW.
BT

UNDERLINED PORTIONS IN DOUBT - [illegible] REQ

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12:132

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DECLASSIFIED

Dec. 20 Ex VP-Library

0912572

IMMEDIATE

091406Z

FROM: CTG 60.5

TO: CTF 60

INFO: COMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL
1. BOTH DAVIS AND MASSEY BOATS SPENT 2 HOURS RECOVERING SUBJECT MATERIAL BASED ON SIMILAR REPORT BY LIBERTY; NONE WAS CLASSIFIED. BELIEVE GOOD CHANCE NO CLASSIFIED ADRIFT.

RELEASED [illegible] BY LT STRACHWITZ

091406Z

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USDAO TEL AVIV 091520Z JUN

Message reports seven points telephoned to AIUSNA by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) spokesman LCDL Michael Bloch. Bloch explains attack was caused through following circumstances:

1. LIBERTY was sighted and recognized as a Navy ship.
2. Her presence in a war zone was not in accordance with international custom.
3. She was not in a common passage for ships.
4. Egypt had declared that area closed to neutrals.
5. LIBERTY looks like El Quseir.
6. LIBERTY was not flying a flag.
7. El Arish was bombarded from the sea during the morning.

SEE GEN 10 NEXT PAGE FOR FULL TEXT

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STATE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SECRET

529

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09152



SECRET

529

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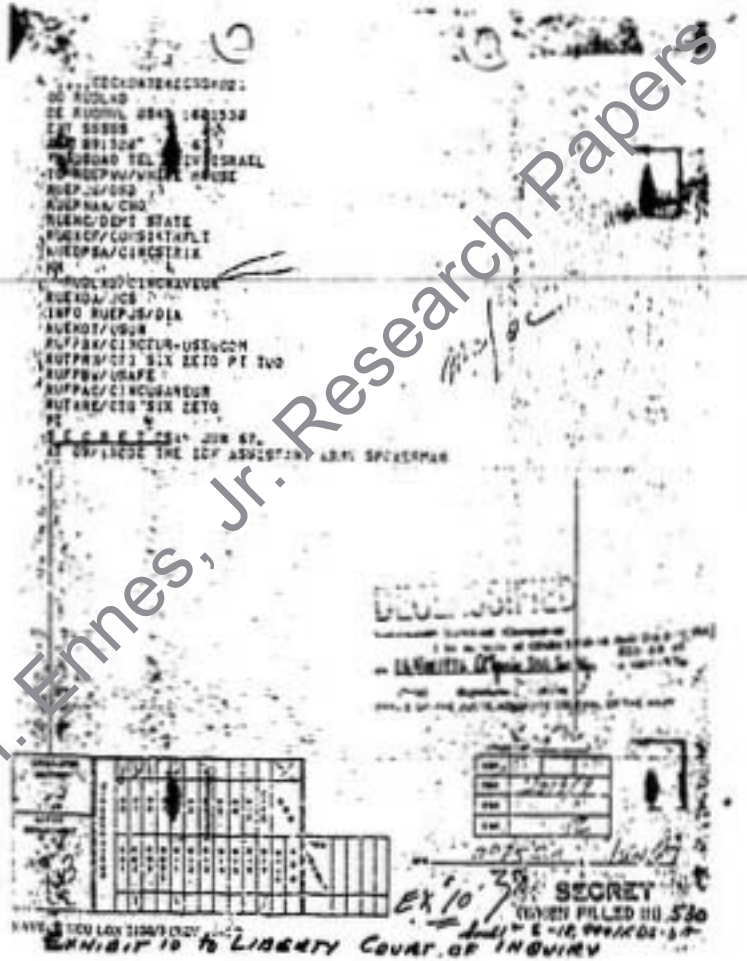


EXHIBIT 10 TO LIBERTY COUNT OF INQUIRY

SECRET

530

091502

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PAGE 2 RUOMVL 0043 S E C R E T

[illegible] COL MICHAEL BLOCK, TELEPHONIC [illegible] AUSTRIAN POSITIONS
[illegible] BOARD POLARIS AS QUOTED. FURTHER WHEN [illegible] IN INTERNATIONAL
[illegible] AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN SHIP, LIBERTY.
[illegible] SHIP WAS SLOW AND RECOGNIZED AS A NAVAL SHIP
[illegible] HIGH [illegible] CONFIGURATION.
B. [illegible] A FRIENDLY AM
[illegible] ORL AGAINST INTERNATIONAL
[illegible] CUSTOM.
3. [illegible] THE AREA IS NOT A [illegible] PASSAGE FOR SHIPS.
4. [illegible] HAD DECLARED THE AREA CLOSED TO SEA
5. LIBERTY RESEMBLES THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP [illegible]
[illegible] SHIP WAS NOT FLYING FLAG WHEN SIGHTED. [illegible]
QUOTATION SPEED INDICATE WESTWARD TOWARD [illegible] COAST.
7. [illegible] HAVE HAD EARLIER REPORTS OF AUSTRIAN [illegible]
ELEVATION FROM SEA.
COMMENT: 1. AT FIRST COL BLOCK [illegible] AND OFF SEVERAL
POINTS. [illegible] ALUSKA PRESSED HIM FOR A [illegible] OF THE STATEMENT
ASKING IF THERE WERE AN OFFICIAL [illegible] OF INCIDENT.
COL BLOCK COULD NOT SUPPLY A [illegible] ON HIS OWN AND
ALUSKA REQUESTED HE CONSULT [illegible] AUTHORITY WHO
COULD. BLOCKAVLOP
[illegible] IN TWO MINUTES WITH [illegible] ABOVE

PAGE 3 RUOMVL 0043 S E C R E T

QUOTE HEADING. 2. [illegible] COL BLOCK BELIES A HIGHLY
SUPERFICIAL RESEMBLANCE TO LIBERTY, ALUSKA CAN NOT
UNDERSTAND HOW TRAINED PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS
COULD BE SO INEPT TO CARRY OUT [illegible]
ATTACK. CERTAINLY [illegible] MUST BE WELL DRILLED IN
IDENTIFICATION [illegible] EGYPTIAN SHIPS. EL QUSEIR IS LESS
THAN HALF [illegible] SIZE) AS MANY YEARS OLDER. AND LACKS THE
ELABORATE [illegible] AND WELL [illegible] OF LIBERTY.
3. ALUSKA EVALUATES YESTERDAY'S [illegible] ATTACK
[illegible] FROM TRIGGER HAPPY [illegible] TO BLEED SOME PORTION OF
THE [illegible] VICTORY LIKELY [illegible] BY [illegible] ARMS AND AIR.
[illegible] IS UNSEEN [illegible] WAS USE STRIKE. GP-3.

DECLASSIFIED

[illegible]

[illegible] OFFICE OF THE NAVAL [illegible] GENERAL OF THE NAVY

531

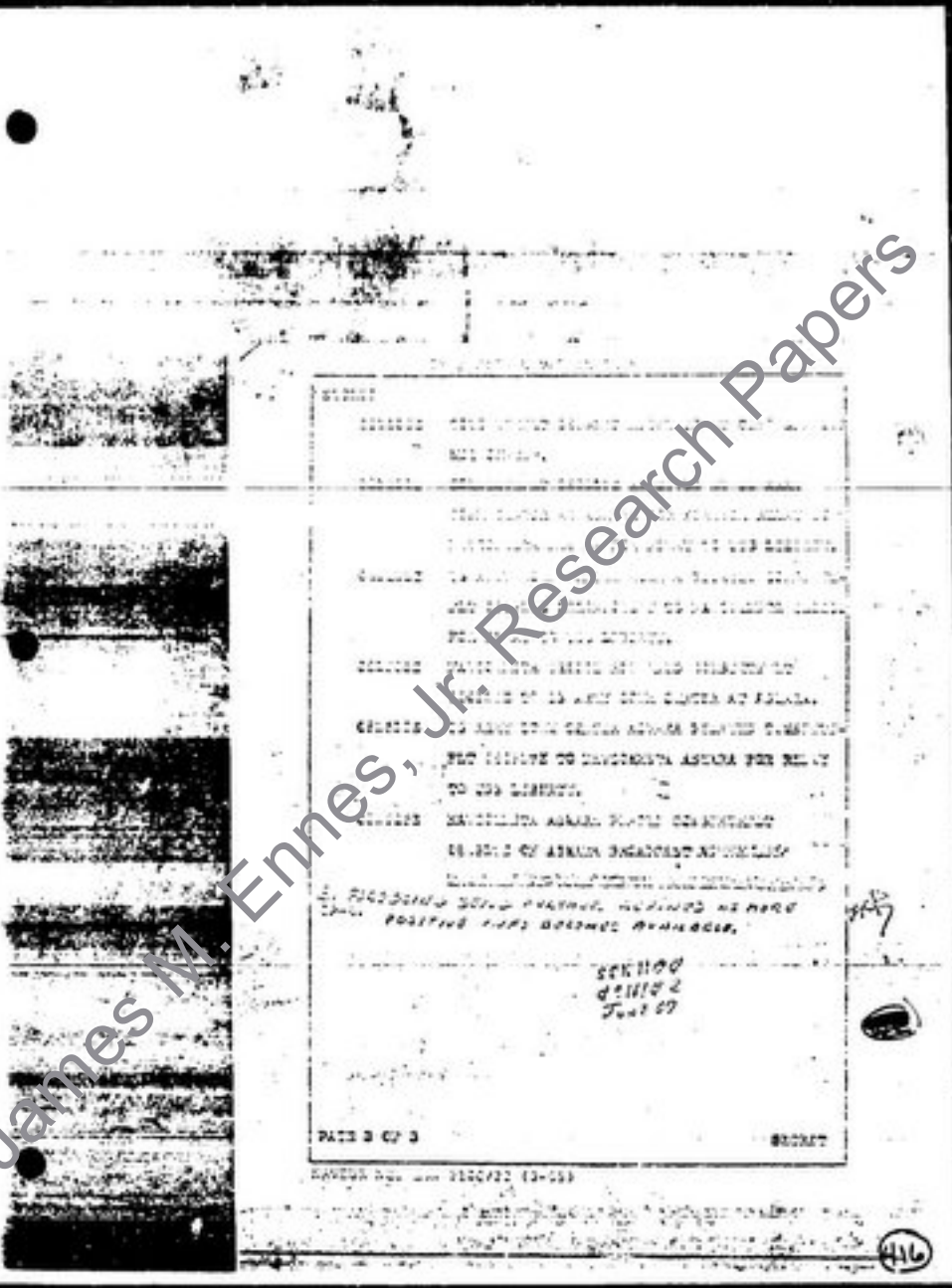
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CONSIGNMENT

CRT

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ROUTINE

FM: USS LIBERTY
TO: USS DAVIS

UNCLAS
1. THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ITEMS WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY DAVIS PERSONNEL TODAY.
A. ELECTRICAL POWER TO EMERGENCY FIRE PUMP.
B. JURY RIGGED GYRO.
C. PUT EMERGENCY DIESEL IN WORKING CONDITION.
D. RIGGED FOR NAV AND RUNNING LIGHTS.
E. RIGGED LIGHTING THROUGHOUT DECK HOUSE AND MADE NUMEROUS REPAIRS IN BREAKS.
F. ASSISTED IN ALL HELO OPS HANDLING CASUALTIES, ETC.
G. ASSISTED IN SHORING, CHECKING MACHINERY AND MANY OTHER JOBS.
2. DAVIS PERSONNEL ARE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB AND THEIR HELP IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.
3. SHIP NOW HAS A 3 DEGREE LIST.

RIR TO GOD, CO, SWO

091700Z JUN

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UNCLAS

PRIORITY

P 091721Z JUN 67

FM: USS PAPAGO

TO: COMDESRON TWELVE

UNCLAS
THERE WAS CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. ALSO BINDER. CO HAS IT. SUGGEST PAPAGO USE AVAILABLE SEARCHLIGHT AND COVER TRACK AT SLOWER SPEED.

STAFF/IN
VIA F/L

091721Z JUN 67

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NAVAL MESSAGE

	DRAFTED BY		PHONE EXT NO	PAGE	PAGES
DATE	TOR TOD	RELEASED BY	CHECKED BY		OF
15 JUN 67					

		PRECE DENCE						
		ACTION						
		INFO						

COURIER ..... 15 JUNE 1967

KR MR #6735
O 9917442 JUN 67
FM USCINCEUR
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF 58
USS AMERICA
USS LIBERTY
BT
UNCLAS EGAP 340665, SUBJ: INFORMATION CONCERNING USS LIBERTY
1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE USS LIBERTY WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C. TODAY. THE CASUALTY LIST ON THE LIBERTY NOW STANDS AT 9 DEAD, 75 WOUNDED (INCLUDING AT LEAST 15 SERIOUSLY) AND 22 MISSING. THE SKIPPER OF THE LIBERTY SAYS THAT HE BELIEVES THAT SOME OF THE 22 MISSING MEN MAY BE FOUND IN THE FLOODED COMPARTMENTS OF THE SHIP AND NEXT-OF-KIN HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED YET.
THE LIBERTY RENDEZVOUSED WITH TWO DESTROYERS AT 1225 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME ABOUT 420 MILES ESE OF SOUDHA BAY, CRETE. ONE DOCTOR AND ONE CORPSMAN FROM EACH DESTROYER WENT ON BOARD THE LIBERTY. AT 0430 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME, HELICOPTERS FROM THE AMERICA MET THE LIBERTY ABOUT 385 MILES FROM SOUDHA BAY. 15 SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE AMERICA. A TOTAL OF ABOUT 35 ARE EXPECTED TO BE MOVED BY CHOPPER TO THE AMERICA, PLUS THE NINE BODIES. AT 0530, A.M. WASHINGTON TIME THE LIBERTY RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE AMERICA. NOW THE LIBERTY AND TWO DESTROYERS ARE PROCEEDING TO SOUDHA BAY. THE LIBERTY IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT SOUDHA BAY 0630 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME TOMORROW. THEY ARE MAKING ABOUT 18 KNOTS. THE AMERICA PUT SEVERAL OFFICERS AND MEN ABOARD THE LIBERTY TO HELP MAN HER.
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CANNOT SPECULATE ABOUT THE FATE OF THE 22 MISSING MEN BEYOND THE INFORMATION ABOVE. IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS " WAS EGYPT OR ISRAEL NOTIFIED THAT THE LIBERTY WAS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ?" A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, "WE ARE CHECKING INTO THAT."
IN ADDITION TO QUERIES, IT MAY BE SAID THAT NINE THREE TECHNICAL.....

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DD #1 #2 #3 0405

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#917442

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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				OF
DATE: 15 JUNE 1967	TOR/TOD	ROUTED BY	CHECKED BY	

MESSAGE NR	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	EMERGENCY	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	DEFERRED
		ACTION						
		INFO						

REPRESENTATIVES ABOARD THE LIBERTY WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
BT

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(Must Be Outl)

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)
#017447

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USCSB

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NSA TRACER ACTION

A. CINCUSNAVEUR 091100Z JUN 67

B. JCS 05110 Z JUN 67

C. COMSIXTHFLT 031[illegible] JUN 67

1. IAW REF A FOLLOW[illegible] REPORT ON MASELLOS OF REFS B AND C AS DENIED FROM LOCAL OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL TRACER ACTION WITH STATIONS INVOLVED.

2. REF B RECEIVED VIA NAVCOMMSTA NSGA AS CHANNEL ON VOICE AT 08[illegible]. ROUTED TO RUSSIAN DESK FOR ORIGINATOR FOR DELIVERY CONFIDENTIALLY [illegible]. PROJECTED TO NSA AT 09[illegible] AS FYNO 593. DELAY DUE TO POOR BACKLOG MGMT AND [illegible] CONFIDENTIAL. NSG NEVERTHELESS ERRONEOUS ROUTED [illegible] NSG PARIS. [illegible] PARIS [illegible] NSG [illegible] DELAY CAUSED BY NSG [illegible] PARIS. NO COPY RECD TO DATE.

3. REF C RECD AS CHANNEL 68 FNC 865 AT 10302 ROUTED WATT DESK. DESK OFFICER [illegible] RESOLVED TO RECEIVE FOR DELIVERY CONFIDENTIALLY [illegible] COPYING JUTT BOAT SERVICE 030400Z. MSG SENT AS AFN 568 AT 11002 TO SAN PABLO. SAN PABLO 091310Z ADVISED MSG RECD AT 03[illegible] TRANSMITTED AS RKA [illegible] AT APPROX 23/1115Z TO ARMY ASMARA. UNOFFICIALLY ADVISED BY ARMY ASMARA VIA NAVY ASMARA, MSG RECD AT 1530Z BY ARMY ASMARA AND MISSENT TO NSA GREECE AS NSA 499 AT 1819Z. ARMY ASMARA AGAIN RECD MSG FROM GREECE AT 1536Z AND TRANSMITTED TO NAVY ASMARA (MULTIPAR) AT 1518Z. LATTER CONFIRMED BY NAVY ASMARA VNO TRANSMITTED ON JUTT BOAT AT 1920Z AS JR 0443. INFORMALLY, NSG GREECE ADVISED MSG RECVD AS NSA 499 AT APPROX 0245Z. REROUTE PACK TO ARMY ASMARA AS VNO 185 AT APPROX 0255.

4. TOTE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN NSG GREECE AND ARMY ASMARA WILL PROBABLY BE CLEARED AFTER ARMY ASMARA VNOVERS OFFICIAL TRACER MSG. CINCUSNAVEUR DEA

[illegible]

031745Z Jun67

3 CONFIDENTIAL

(WHEN FILLED IN)

Declassified



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091815

532



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538

533

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IMMEDIATE

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091'0Z?

FM: CTG 60.5

TO: COMSIXTHFLT / CTF 60

INFO: CNO / CHINFO / CINCUSNAVEUR / USCINCEUR / CTF 67 / CTG 60.2 /
USS PAPAGO / USS MASSEY

CONFIDENTIAL
SITREP NINE
1. MASSEY DETACHED TO JOIN CTU 60.1.9. PAPAGO JOINED ESCORT UNIT AT 170088.
2. MY 200082 POSIT 33-10N7 031-01E5 COURSE 300 SP 9.
3. FOLLOWING IN LIBERTY'S WAKE FOR ONE HOUR. NO DEBRIS WORTHY OF NOTE.
SOME OIL LEAKAGE STILL CONTINUING. PAPAGO NOW FOLLOWING IN WAKE OF LIBERTY.

GP-4

released in rough by LT STRACHWITZ

STAFF OUT
VIA...KWT

091900Z JUN 67

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ZNY SSSSS (bells)
O/P 091936Z JUNE 67 ZFF1
FM JCS
TO USCINCEUR
INFO CNO
USS LIBERTY
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT

S E C R E T JCS7531 J-3 SENDS.
SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY (U)
REFS: A. JCS 7547/080110Z JUN 67
B. CINCUSNAVEUR 080455Z JUN 67
C. USCINCEUR ECJC/JRC 09045/090622Z JUN 67
D. COMSIXTHFLT 080917Z JUN 67
1. (S) IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE JCS PORTION OF THE JCS REPORT RE USS LIBERTY INCIDENT REQUEST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFO:
TIME OF RECEIPT:
(1) REFS A, B, C, AND D BY USS LIBERTY
(2) REFS A, B, AND C BY COMSIXTHFLT
(3) REF C BY CINCUSNAVEUR
TIME OF TRANSMISSION FROM LAST RELAY STATION INCLUDING NAME OF RELAY STATION:
(1) REF B TO COMSIXTHFLT, USS LIBERTY
(2) REF C TO CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT, AND USS LIBERTY
(3) REF D TO USS LIBERTY.
2. (U) REQUEST RETRANSMIT REF B INFO TO JCS(JRC) AND CNO.
GP-4

(from declassified Court of Inquiry Report, page 303)

(xerox copy filed as part of exhibit 9)

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TOOK 10 JUNE 67 // PG

INFO CINCLANTFLT

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092-12E

NAVAL MESSAGE

I DO NOT HAVE ANY FIRM INFORMATION ON THE 12 WHO ARE MISSING. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE LIBERTY HAS ADVISED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT SOME OF THE MISSING ARE IN FLOODED COMPARTMENTS IN THE FORWARD PART OF THE SHIP.

NEXT OF KIN ARE BEING NOTIFIED AS PAINFULLY AS POSSIBLE. NAMES WILL BE RELEASED ONLY AFTER NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

WE HAVE BEEN ASKED WHETHER OFFICIALS OF THE U.S.S. LIBERTY HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE USS LIBERTY WAS TAKING STATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

NO COUNTRIES WERE INFORMED OF THE USS LIBERTY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THE SHIP WAS IN INTERNATIONAL WATER AT ALL TIMES. IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT SOPHISTICATED MERCHANT VESSEL WITH FOUR 50 CALIBURE MACHINE GUNS.

THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT PREVIOUSLY TO NOTIFY OTHER NATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF ANY AUTHORIZED NONCOMBATANT SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

IT WAS STATED THAT TWO OFFICERS AND [illegible] MEN WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE CARRIER SARATOGA TO THE LIBERTY TO HELP SUPPLEMENT THE CREW

BT

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IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5
TO COMSIXTHFLT/CTF 60
INFO CNO CINCPAC CINCUSNAVEUR USCINCEUR CTF 63
CTG 60.2 USS PAPAGO USS MASSEY

CONFIDENTIAL

SITREP TEN

RE 1. 240086 DR POSIT 030-22E7 73-28N6 SOA ABOUT MIDNIGHT WILL PROVIDE BEST EST ETA SUDA AFTER NIGHT STEAM.

2. TOTAL DAVIS PERSONNEL ONLIBERTY TWO OFFICERS 15 KEY ENLISTED. ACTING XO LCDR PETTYJOHN, COMMUNICATION TWELVE'S CHIEF STAFF OFFICER

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMBINED CREWS TODAY INCLUDE:
A. INSPECTION AND SURVEY OF ENG AND DAMAGE CONTROL
B. REPAIR OF SEVERAL ELECTRICAL WIRING SYSTEMS.
C. REROUTE OF ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS IN DIMMER BOARD.
D. PLACED DIESEL GENERATOR IN COMMISSION
E. PLACED EMER SWITCHBOARD BACK IN COMMISSION.
F. REGAINED POWER TO ADDITIONAL RADIO EQUIPMENT.
REPAIRED AND PUT GYRO BACK ON THE LINE.
H. RESTORED POWER TO ICS SWITCHBOARD.
I. RESTORED IMC SYSTEM TO WORKING ON ALARM CIRCUITS.
J. REPAIRED ELECTRICAL FIRE PUMP.
K. TOOK ABOARD AND STORED IN SUITABLE AREAS FOAM, BLOWERS, GASOLINE, HOSE AND OTHER REPLACEMENT DAMAGE CONTROL EQUIPMENT.
L. REPAIRED RUNNING LIGHTS
M. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE IN MEDEVAC.
4. LAT REDUCED TO THREE DEGREES.
5. MY 0021198 JUN 67 MOTAL SUMMARIES WAVE RECOVERY OPS.

[illegible] DTG 0972308

073230

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092332

100200z
IMMEDIATE

FM CTG 60.5
to COMSIXTHFLT/CTF 60
INFO CNO CINCPAC CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLANT CTF 61 CTG 60.2 PARIS
MASSET

UNCLAS EFTO
SITREP ELEVEN
1. 060004 GR POSIT 33-46.8N 29-44.0E

100200Z

IMMEDIATE [redacted] 100550z

FM CTG 60.5
TO COMSIXTHFLT CTF 60
INFO CNO CNINFO CINCUSNAVEUR USCINCEUR CTF 61
CTG 60.2 USS TIDEWATER

UNCLAS
SITREP TWELVE
A. MY 1005482 (notal)
1B. 0600Z/8 POSIT 34-05N2 AND 28-56E1. 80% [illegible]. ETA 11100Z/3.
2. LIBERTYU RIDING HIGHER IN WATER. [illegible] HOLE OUT OF WATER AND LIST ALMOST CORRECTED. OIL NEGLIGIBLE. NO [illegible] MATERIAL IN THE WAKE.

3. NO POSTAL CLERK ON LIBERTY. RECOMMEND TIDEWATER PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO POST OFFICE ON ARRIVAL.

4. RECOVERY OF MATERIAL IAW REF A.

1005502

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POL 27 ARAB-ISR

XR OFF 12 US

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SECRET

9402

1967 JUN 10 AM 7:30

DEFENSE DEPT. 6-10-67

[redacted]

PAGE 2 [redacted] SECRET

1. AT [redacted] ATCOL BLOCH REPORTED IDF PEGAN AIR SEARCH AT [redacted]. NAVAL OBSERVER ABOARD AIRCRAFT. SEARCHED AREA OF ATTACK AND WATERS SEAWARD FROM EL ARISH TO RAFAH. SEPTS ARE PROCEEDING TO AREA TO MAKE SURFACE SEARCH THIS AFTERNOON ALONG WITH CONTINUED AIR SEARCH. NEGATIVE RESULTS SO FAR. IDF WILL CONTINUE SEARCH AS LONG AS WEATHER PERMITS.

2. IF NEGATIVE RESULTS BY NIGHTFALL SUGGEST TERMINATION OF SEARCH BE AUTHORIZED.

CP-3

BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, AT 7:35 A.M. 6/10/67

SECRET

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1008452

C D P ONE TWO

ISTS
ONE PLOT

ALWAYS AT SCENE
NO DITTO MATT

LARGE SPACE
IN SPACE
EARTH OFF
LED STD FORMS

1008452

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101036

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DE RUFPDX [illegible]
ZNY SSSSS
P 101045Z JUN 67 ZFF 346
FM USCINCEUR
TO RUEPJS/JCS
INFO RUDLKD/USNAVEUR
UT

S E C R E T EYES ONLY SUBJECT IS LIBERTY

1. (S) HAVE REVIEWED AVAILABLE DATA WITH RESPECT TO LIBERTY WITH CINCUSNAVEUR IN GENERAL FRAM OF CHRONOLOGY BEFORE ACCIDENTAL ATTACK, DURING ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENT THERETO. WE BOTH HAVE MANY VERY PERTINENT AND AS YET UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AS WE APPRECIATE WASHINGTON HAS. AT SAME TIME, MUST BE RECOGNIZED CREW MEMBERS OF LIBERTY FROM WHOM ANSWERS MUST BE GOTTEN ARE AT POINT OF EXHAUSTION, SUFFERING FROM WOUNDS AND SHOCK, DEAD OR MISSING. IT SIMPLY DOES NOT MAKE SENSE, LEGALLY OR OTHERWISE, TO INITIATE BARRAGE OF UNCORRELATED QUESTIONING VIA LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS AT THIS TIME. OBVIOUSLY FACTS MUST BE DEVELOPED INVOLVING ACTIONS AND JUDGEMENTS OF CREW, LIBERTY COMMAND AND CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND ALSO LEGAL BASE MUST BE ESTABLISHED FOR POSSIBLE CLAIMS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. THEREFORE, I STRONGLY ENDORSE ESTABLISHMENT OF COURT OF INQUIRY BY CINCUSNAVEUR AS PROPER PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH

PAGE 2 RUFPDX 038 S E C R E T

WHAT HAPPENED AS BASIS FOR ANY APPROPRIATE SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE SOMEWHAT TIME-CONSUMING AND CREATE IMPATIENCE AMONG THOSE WHO DESIRE MORE RAPID ANSWERS.

2. (S) WHILE I BELIEVE WE ARE ASKING FULL RANGE OF PERTINENT QUESTIONS, SUGGEST WASHINGTON AGENCIES COMPILE AND FORWARD ALL QUESTIONS INTO WHICH THEY WANT SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO INSURE COURT OF INQUIRY DOES FULLY RESPONSIVE JOB. MEANWHILE WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN HOLDING OFF STREAM OF QUESTIONS TO SATISFY PRESS OR OTHER INTERESTS UNTIL FACTS CAN BE PROPERLY AND FORMALLY ESTABLISHED. INFORMATION FOR NOTIFICATION NEXT OF KIN AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DATA WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE BE FURNISHED ASAP.

3. (S) WE FORESEE A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO COURT OF INQUIRY. IN VIEW OF ASSIGNED MISSION IT MUST BE A CLOSED COURT. ANTICIPATE PRESSURES FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH SURVIVORS, OPEN COURT AND PUBLIC SPECTACLE VIA ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURT APPOINTMENT. SUGGEST WE GO AHEAD AND ANNOUNCE THAT A COURT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO INQUIRE INTO ALL ASPECTS OF LIBERTY AFFAIR, THUS IMMUNIZING ALL MEMBERS OF LIBERTY FROM FURTHER PRESS CONTACT, AND IF PRESSED FOR OPEN COURT OR PREMATURE PRESS INTERVIEWS, SHOULD ANSWER THAT LIBERTY, IN SUPPORTING U. S. COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS IN EASTERN MED WAS PART OF

PAGE 3 RUFPDX 038 S E C R E T

OVERALL OPERATIONS COMMAND AND CONTROL AND THEREFORE PART OF OPERATIONS WHICH ROUTINELY CLASSIFIED. AS IN VIETNAM, WE DO NOT MAKE PUBLIC OPERATIONAL INFORMATION OF A CLASSIFIED NATURE.

4. (U) REQUEST GUIDANCE.

5-6.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

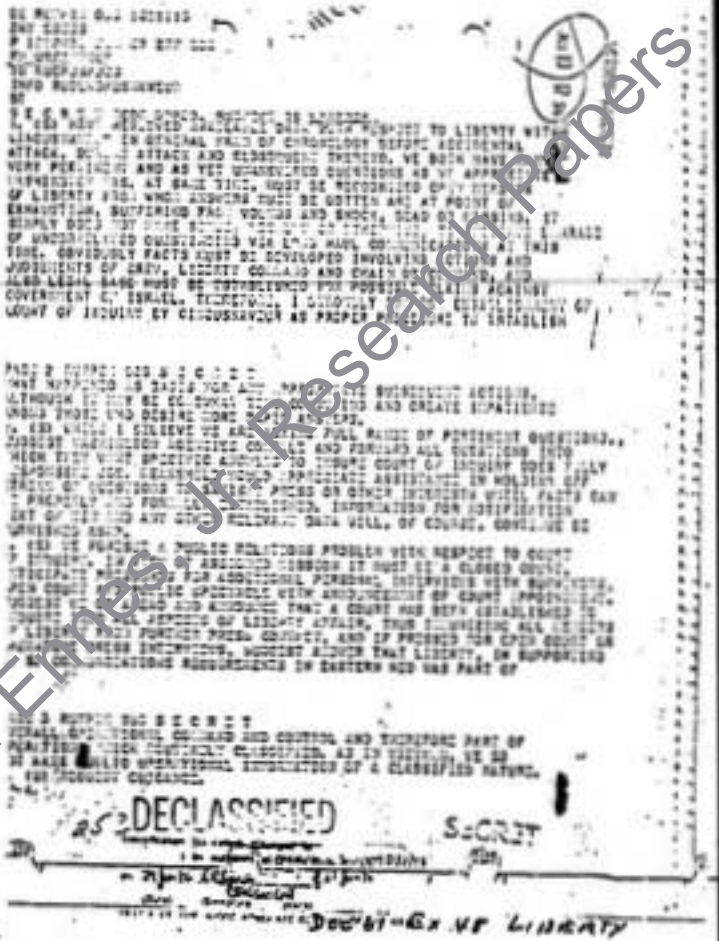
(Date) (Signature) (Title)

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

DOD Ltr 4 Dec 67 Ex #8 LIBERTY (450)

ACTION TAKEN:

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IMGED[illegible]DATE 101100Z

FM CTG 60.5
TO COMSIXTHFLT CTF 60
INFO CNO CNMPO CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLANT CTF 63 CTG 60.2 AMERICA TIDEWATER

CONF
SITREP THIRTEEN
1. MY \200B3 POSIT
   34-17 N/5
   28-06 E/6
2. FUEL STATUS
   DAVIS 60 papago 47 LIBERTY 79
3. DAVIS ARRANGING TO OBTAIN LIBERTY PAY RECORDS AND WILL PAY PRIOR ENTRY PORT.
4. DAVIS MEDICAL STORES AND DAMAGE CONTROL CONSUMABLES AND EQUIPMENT SERIOUSLY REDUCED BY SEPARATE ACTION PRIORITY REQUIRING SUBMITTED. MOST ITEMS SHOULD BE AVAIL. TIDWATER.
5. NO FURTHER MATERIAL LOSS OVERBOARD OIL REDUCED TO SEEPAGE LEAVING THIN FILM IN WAKE. NO BLACK OIL.
6. LIST NOW NEGLIGABLE DUE FUEL TRANSFER.
7. SUBJECT FIRST PRIORITY TO PROVIDE ESCORT AND ALL OTHER SERVICES TO LIBERTY REC BRIEF STOP SUDA FOR DAVIS [illegible] TO:
   A. EXAMINE/REPAIR BOILER, DAVIS [illegible] NOTAL REFERS.
   B. REPL MEDICAL AND DMAAGE CONTROL. PARA 4 ABOVE REFERS
   C. PICK UP TORPEDO MK 44 ASSIGNED BY CTF 60.6
IF LIBERTY DESTINATION OTHER THAN SUDA BRIEF STOP COULD BE MADE BY P DIVERT AT INCREASED SOA LEAVING PAPAGO AS ESCORT UNTIL REJOIN. DAVIS CAN DIVERT TO EXAMINE EAST CRETE ANCHORAGE BY GOING NO MORE THAN TWENTY FIVE MILES FROM LIBERTY. WILL NOT DO SO UNLESS DIRECTED.

*DRAFTED AND RELEASED IN THE ROUGH BY COMDESRON 12

10 1100Z

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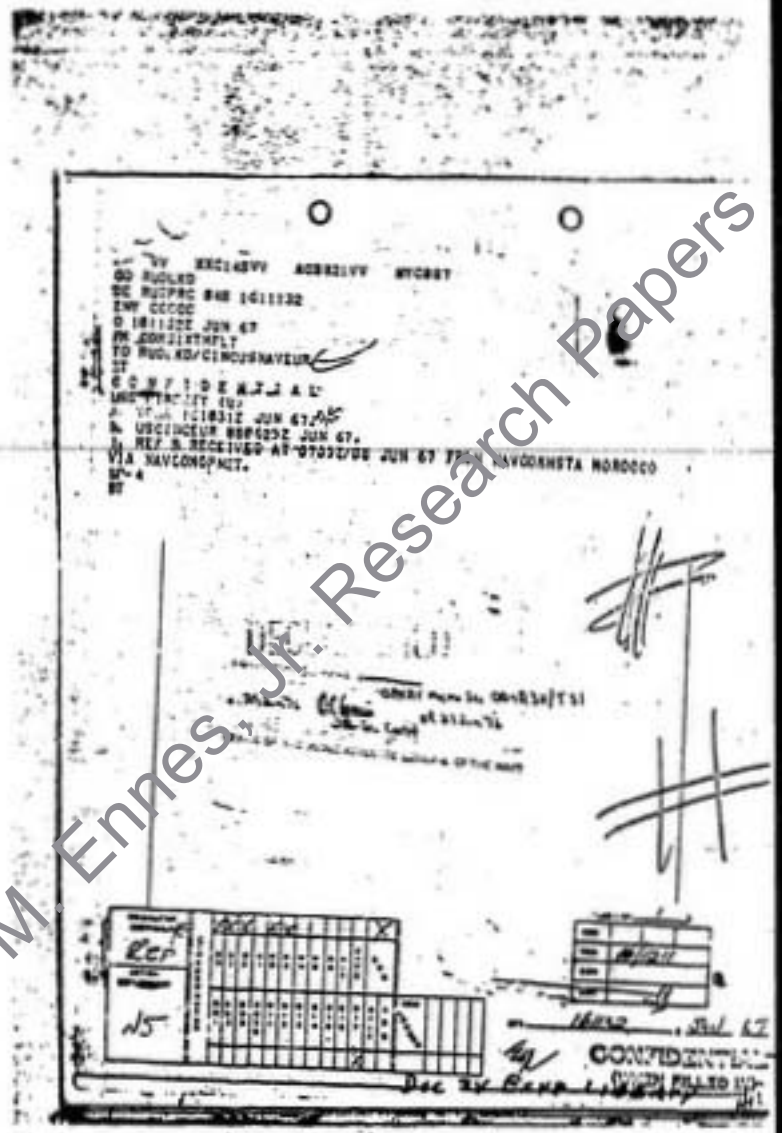
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Doc. 60 Re VF-Liberty

490

101160Z

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101132Z

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1012052

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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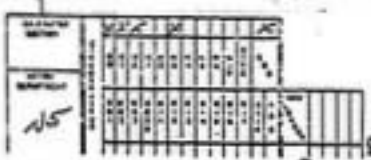
TOR 10/1205Z

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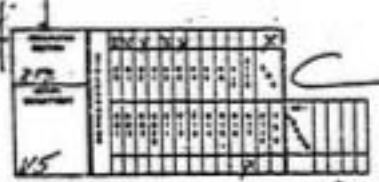


1012562

CONFIDENTIAL

FM COMSIXTH TWELVE
TO RUSKRG/CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUTPRG/COMSIXTHFLT
BT
CONFIDENTIAL
R 030830Z JUN 67
PASSED SIP A TO LIBERTY AT 13452. NO ONE ON BOARD HAS KNOWLEDGE OF PREREQSIPS INFO CONTAINED THERIN.
GP-4
BT

UNCLASSIFIED



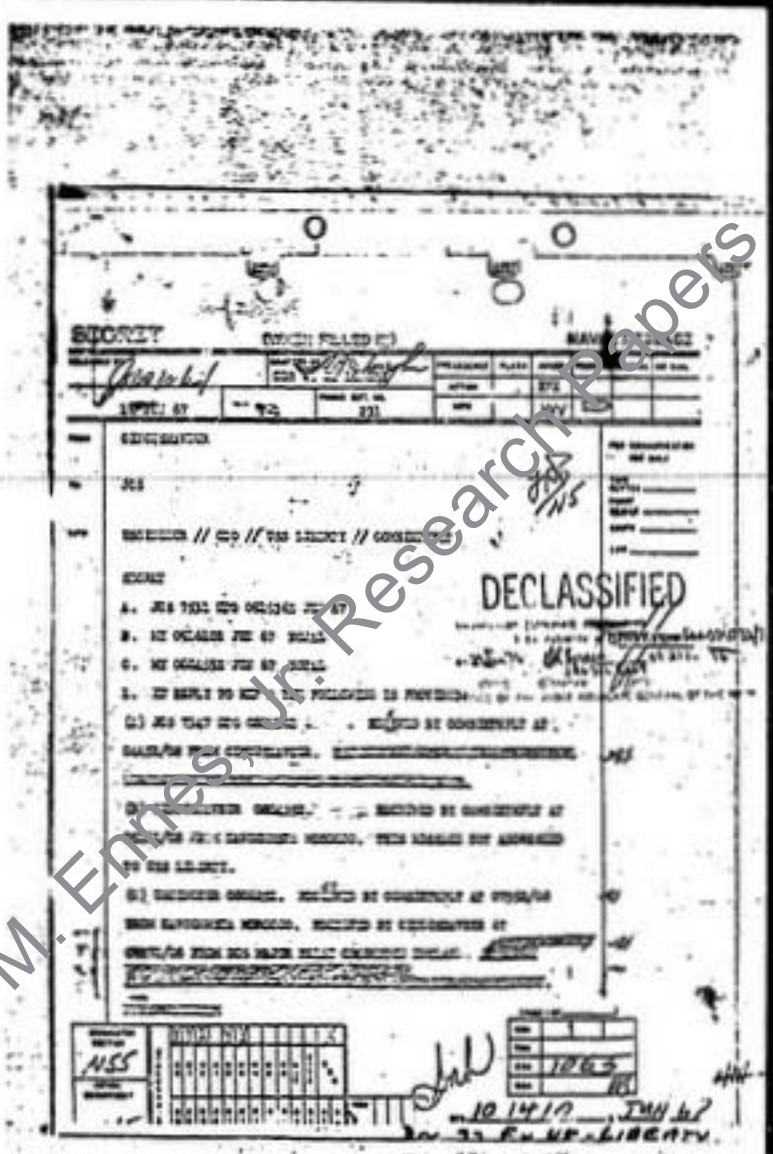
CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

Doc 36-E; VP-LIBERTY

1013302

416

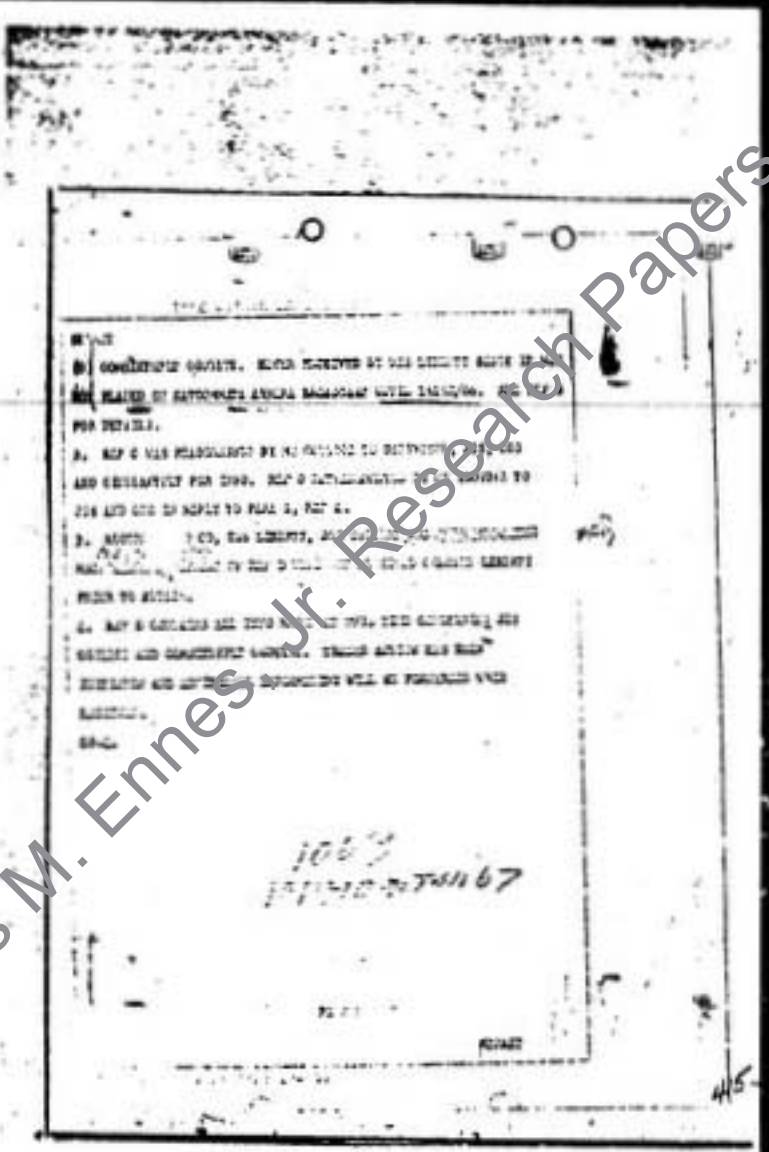
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101455Z

FM CTG 60.5

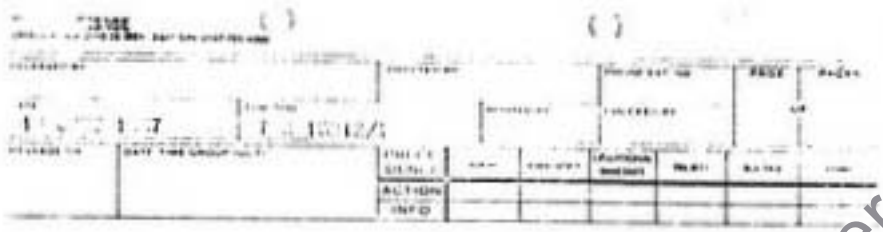
TO CTF 60 comlanthflt

INFO CNO CNEMFO CINCUSNAVEUR USCINCEUR CTF 61 CTF 62 AMERICA

UNCLAS EFTO
SITREP THIRTEEN
1600B. POSIT 34-31N1 027-50E4 NO SIG EVENTS

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1014552



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IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL
101750Z

fm CTG 60.5
TO COMSIXTHFLT CTF 60
INFO CNO CINCUSNAVEUR USCINCEUR CTF 61 CTG 61.8

CONFIDENTIAL
SITREP FOURTEEN
1. 050001Z POSIT 36-29N 27-11E1. COURSE 270 FOR MALTA
SPEED ABOUT [redacted].10.5 KNOTS.
2. LIBERTY ANCHOR WINDLASS TESTS SAT.
3. CO STILL TURNED IN BUT RESTING COMFORTABLY. SAMUEL
REMOVED TODAY.
4. CALCULATIONS SHOW SHIP STABLE EVEN WITH FIRE SURFACE.
WATER LEVEL IN THIRD DECK SPACE APPROX. FIVE FEET BELOW OVERHEAD.
SEVERAL BODIES IN SIGHT BUT HEAVY OIL, FUMES AND DEBRIS MAKE
RECOVERY HAZARDOUS AND WILL NOT ATTEMPT. MOST MISSING BODIES ARE
IN SPACE ACCESSABLE ONLY WHEN DEWATERED. IF SHIP DRYDOCKED PRIOR
TO PATCHING SOME SORT OF MESH SHOULD BE PUT OVER HOLE OR CONTENTS
WILL DRAIN INTO DOCK AND THENCE TO DISCHARGE.
5. COMMT ALL GUARD LISTS AND COVERED EQUIP OUT OF REACH. DAVIS
MAINTAINING ALL GUARDS AND PASSING TO LIBERTY.
6. FOOD, FUEL, WATER AND STORES ADEQUATE TO MALTA.
7. REQ HELO PICKUP LIBERTY OUTGOING U.S. MAIL ASAP FOR
DEPENDENT MORALE PURPOSES. AT SAME TIME DELIVER ANY U.S. MAIL AVAIL
FOR [redacted] SHIPS IN COMPANY.

101750Z

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Classification

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO: USUN

STATE 210137

Following is text note received today from Israeli Embassy:

QUOTE: The Ambassador of Israel presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of State and has the honor to inform him that he has been requested by the Government of Israel to renew its sincere expression of deep regret for the tragic accident in which, at the height of hostilities in the area, the USS Liberty was hit by Israeli fire. The Government of Israel deeply regrets this tragic accident.

The Ambassador of Israel has been instructed to inform the Honorable the Secretary of State that the Government of Israel is prepared to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage.

The Ambassador of Israel expresses once again in the name of the Government of Israel its deep condolences to the Government of the United States and its sympathy to all the

Drafted by:	Ext.	Telephone Extension and Room Number	Authorized Classifier
NEA:IAI:ALAtherton,Jr:fah: 6/10/67	2942		NEA:IAI - Alfred L. Atherton,Jr.

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FORM DS 322

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bereaved families.

The Ambassador of Israel avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Honorable the Secretary of State the expression of his highest consideration. UNQUOTE

Exempt [redacted]

End

RUSK

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NAVAL MESSAGE

11 JUNE 1 7 1532/11

PRECE DENCE

ACTION

INFO

OT

FM: USS SYLVANIA

TO: USS LIBERTY

UNCLAS

FOR C.O. FROM C.O. ALL [illegible] SYLVANIA WERE SHOCKED AND SADDENED OVER YOUR IRREPLACEABLE LOSS. WHILE NO WORDS CAN ASSUAGE THESE LOSSES, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR GALLANT CREW. CAPTAIN BARTLETT.

...BT.....

00 01 23

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OT

YOR H/0858E

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BATTLE MESSAGE

PRECE DENCE						
ACTION						
INFO						

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UNCLASSIFIED

GOLD

1104086 34

16322

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UNCLAS FFTG PRIORITY
P 110610Z JUN 67
FM CTG 60.5
TO COMSIXTHFLT CTF 60
INFO CINCUSNAVEUR CTG 60.2 ctf 63 USS BOLD

UNCLAS EFTO
SITCEP SIXTEEN
1. REFUELED PAPAGO AND COMPLETED DAVIS REPLENISHMENT FROM SYLVANIA. DAVIS NOW REFUELING.
2. MY 110900Z [redacted]BO POSIT 34-36N5 024-42E2. Course 270/9 SPEED 10.5/6

[redacted]

1106102

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PRIORITY
110900Z JUNE 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO COMSERVLANT
INFO COMSERVLANT/COMSERVRON EIGHT/NMSY/DIRNAVSECGRU/CINCLANTFLT/CINCLANT/
COMSIXTHFLT/NAVSHIPSYSCOM/CNO/JCS/DIRNAVSECGRUALNT/USCINCEUR/CINCUSNAVEUR

BT
CONFIDENTIAL
BATTLE DAMAGE REPAIRS (U)
1. COMSIXTHFLT 091954Z (NODAL)
1. ASSUMING THAT LIBERTY TO BE SAILED TO CONUS FOR REPAIRS, REQUEST
NMSY SEND ELECTRONICS, HULL AND ELECTRICAL REPS TO ASSIST SHIP IN
PREPARING WORK REQUESTS FOR REPAIR OF DAMAGE. PERSONNEL TO REPORT
TAD TO LIBERTY ON OR ABOUT 15 JUNE AT MALTA FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT ONE
MONTH. PERSONNEL TO RETURN TO CONUS ABOARD LIBERTY IF THEY ARE UNABLE
TO COMPLETE WORK REQUESTS DURING THE APPROXIMATE TWO WEEKS REQUIRED.
TO AFFECT TEMPORARY REPAIRS TO RESTORE SHIP TO SEA WORTHINESS REF A
PERTAINS.
2. COMMANDING OFFICER PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE IS THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE
MONTHS YARD AVAILABILITY WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPAIR AND/OR REPLACE
DAMAGE EQUIPMENT, CABLE RUNS AND HULL DAMAGE ON A NO OVERTIME
BASIS. TWO POINT FIVE TO THREE MILLION DOLLARS MAY BE REQUIRED.
3. IF PLANS TO CONVERT AGTR TYPES STILL BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED
RECOMMEND LIBERTY CONVERTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH REPAIR OF CURRENT
DAMAGE. FINAL DECISION SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON ABOVE ESTIMATES ALONE,
BUT SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL MORE AUTHORITATIVE AND COMPLETE
CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.
GP-4
BT

DRAFTED BY: W. L. McGONAGLE, CDR, USN
RELEASED BY: W. L. McGONAGLE, CDR, USN
11 JUNE 1967

11/0900Z

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34-43AA 23-39E7
095387

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AGI
65-43

IMMEDIATE

111u30Z

FROM: CTG 60.5

TO: CTF 60

INFO: CNO / CHINFO / C[INCUSNAVEUR / US[INCEUR / COMSIXTHFLT
CTF 63 / CTG 60.2 / USS F. T. BERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

SITREP EIGHTEEN

1. 170088 POSIT 34-44N5 23-20E7.
2. LIBERTY DIW FROM 131580 until 161587 TO / [OM CAPAGO DIVERS TO EXAMINE HOLE AND RIG COVERING NET. DIVERS ESTIMATE HOLE TO BE THIRTY-NINE FEET WIDE AT BOTTOM BY TWENTY-FOUR FEET HIGH. NET RIGGED TO COVER AFTER TWO THIRDS HOLE. UNFORTUNATELY, NET CARRIED AWAY AFTER TEN MINUTES UNDERWAY. BACK TO FOLLOWING IN WAKE, USING SEARCHLIGHT AT NIGHT. DURING PERIOD HOVE TO OIL LEAK WAS NEGLIGIBLE. RESULTS USUAL DIVER INSP WILL BE SEPT SEPARATE MESSAGE HIGHER CLASS. AGI 65-43 JOINED FORCES 163080 AND IS TRAILING. PARALLELING COURSE AND SPEED ON QUARTER, NOT IN WAKE. WILL WATCH CAREFULLY FOR F. T. BERRY. DEW 240086 DR POSIT 34-56N8 21-51E9. WIND IS INCREASING. BE PREPARED HIGH LINE TRANSFER. YOUR STBD SIDE. YOU PROVIDE.

111600Z JUN 67

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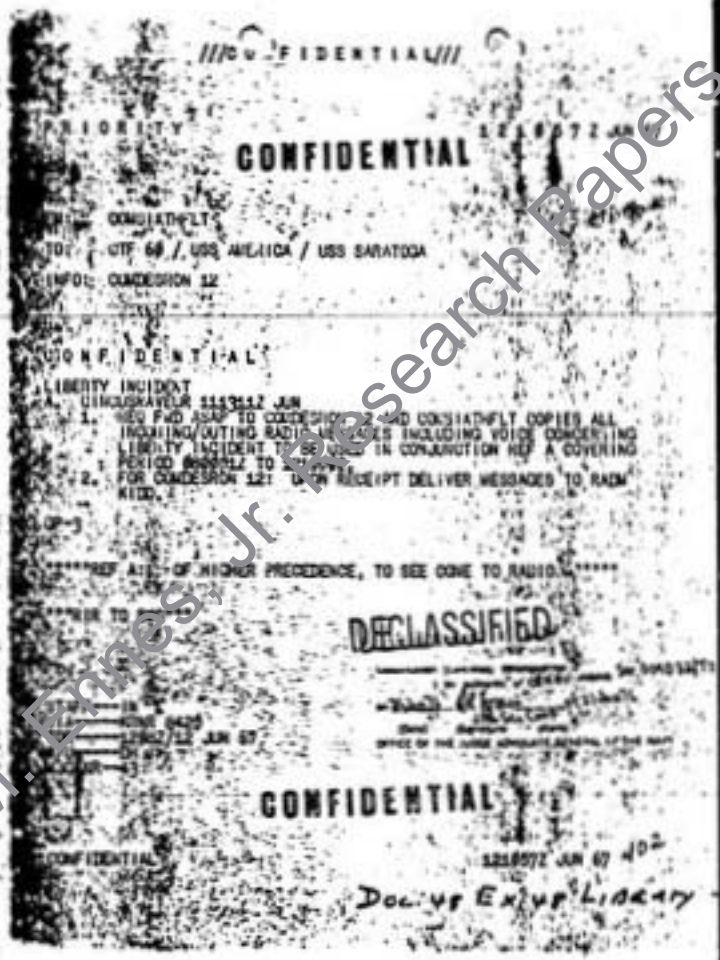
NAVAL MESSAGE

111647Z

UNCLASSIFIED

111607Z

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CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM: COMSIXTHFLT

TO: CTF 60 / USS AMERICA / USS SARATOGA

INFO: COMDESDIV 32

CONFIDENTIAL

LIBERTY INCIDENT

A. CINCUSNAVEUR 1113Z12 JUN

1. REQ FWD ASAP TO COMDESDIV 32 AND COMSIXTHFLT COPIES ALL INCOMING/OUTGOING RADIO MESSAGES INCLUDING VOICE CONCERNING LIBERTY INCIDENT TAPE USED IN CONJUNCTION REF A COVERING PERIOD 8000Z TO 1200Z

2. FOR COMDESDIV 121 UPON RECEIPT DELIVER MESSAGES TO RADM KIDD.

OP-5

*****REF A IS OF HIGHER PRECEDENCE, TO SEE DONE TO RADIO.*****

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1216Z72 JUN 67

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RELEASED BY [redacted] DRAFTED BY [redacted]

[redacted] JUNE 67
FROM: [redacted]
TO: [redacted]
INFO: [redacted]
ST
UNCLAS
A. [redacted] JUNE 67 (NOTAL)
1. LEAVE PETITIONS AND ALL DAVIS PERSONNEL WILL BE RETURNED ON ARRIVAL DELTA.
2. THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, HIGH LEVEL HOURS OF WORK AND UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE OF EVERYONE AND ESPECIALLY PERSONNEL OF YOUR COMMAND IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL SUCCESS THAT DAVIS ENJOYED TO DO, BUT JUSTLY ENTITLED WORK, NOT ITEMS THAT CAN ONLY BE [redacted] BY LIBERTY [redacted] IT IS HOPED IN THE LIBERTY CANNOT BE MET IT THROUGH THE [redacted] WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF DAVIS EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE IF ANY WHILE IN LIBERTY.
3. WITH THE [redacted] IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE WHY DAVIS IS FIRST TEAM IN EACH OF BOTH FLEETS.
4. DAVIS WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE HEARTS OF LIBERTY PERSONNEL AND THE MORNING OF 9 JUNE AND SHE CAME STEAMING INTO VIEW TO OUR ASSISTANCE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. MY SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO ALL.

ST

00 01

03 01 02

/220000Z

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IMMEDIATE
1220152 JUN 67
FM SEC DEF
TO USCINCEUR
INFO CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF 60
CTF 63
NAVSUPPACT NAPLES
USNATREPH FMED MALTA
USS TIDEWATER
USS LIBERTY
AMEMB VALETTA
AMEMB ATHENS
CINCAG ATHENS
STATE DEPT
CNO
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L DEF 7707 NATO CONFIDENTIAL DO NATO ADDS FROM
OASD(PAL SIGNED GOULDING USEUCOM FOR PAO.
SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE, USS LIBERTY
REFERENCE: COMSIXTHFLT MSG 1022352 JUN 67 ON SUBJECT
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE FOR USS LIBERTY (NOTAL)
PARA TWO OF REFERENCE INDICATED THAT MISSION OF USS
LIBERTY SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AS QUOTE TO CONDUCT TECHNICAL
RESEARCH OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF US NAVY ELECTRONIC RESEARCH
PROJECTS WHICH INCLUDE ELECTROMAGNETIC PROPAGATION STUDIES
AND ADVANCED COMMUNICATION AND SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS
UNQUOTE. OFFICIALS RELEASING THIS INFORMATION
SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK THE LIBERTY
WAS ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS QUOTE TO ASSURE COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN US GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO ASSIST
IN RELAYING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN
DEPENDENTS AND OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE
MIDDLE EAST UNQUOTE THIS LANGUAGE WAS USED IN DOD NEWS RELEASE
MADE IN WASHINGTON ON 8 JUNE.
GP-4
BT

REC BY COURIER
TOR 13 JUN 67/1[illegible]

1220152Z

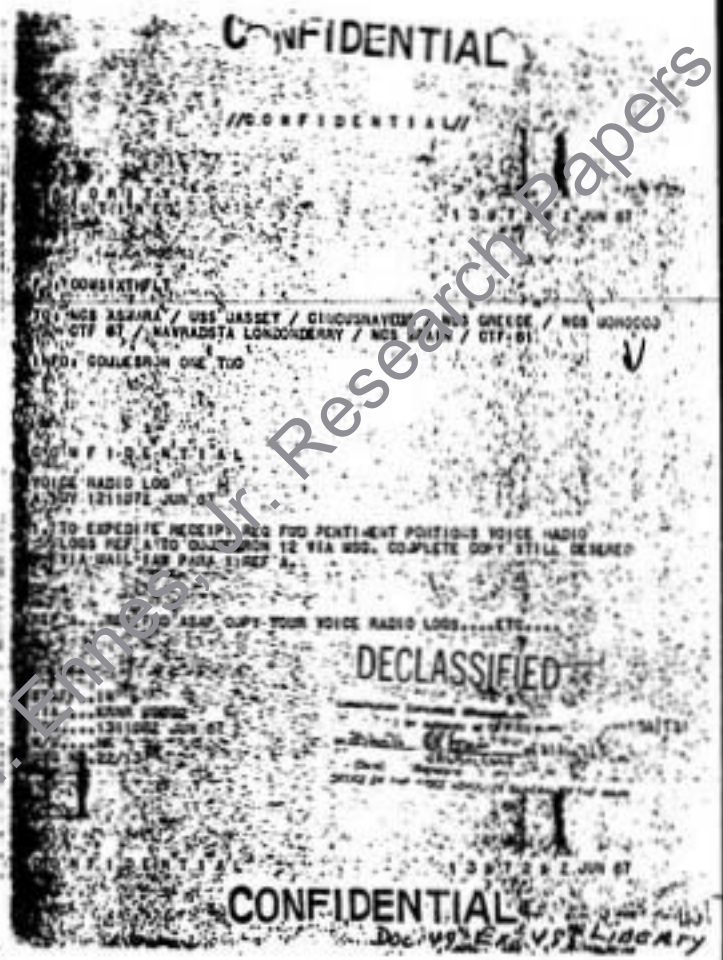
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ROUTINE
1221097 JUN 67
FM DIRNAVSECGRU
TO USS LIBERTY
INFO DIRNAVSECGRUEUR
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
USS LIBERTY TRAGEDY (U)
1. HEADQUARTERS STAFF AND ALL NAVSECGRU PERSONNEL JOIN ME IN SENDING SINCERE SYMPATHY ON TRAGIC LOSSES RESULTING FROM INCIDENT. WE ALL WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR THOSE HOSPITALIZED.
2. THIS IS PERHAPS THE WORST TRAGEDY EVER TO STRIKE THE JOINT COMMUNITY. THE PROMPT AND VIGOROUS ACTIONS OF YOU AND YOUR MEN TO AVOID FURTHER DISASTER AND TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING HAVE BEEN NOTED WITH WARM APPRECIATION.
CAPTAIN COOK SENDS.
GP-3
BT

REC BY COURIER
TOR 13 JUNE 67

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/22/092



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130720E

401

TOR / 1945Z / JUN 67
IN VIA HAND

P 1312117Z
FM USS AMERICA
TO BUPERS
INFO BUMED / CINCLANTFLT / COMSERVRON EIGHT / COMSERVLANT / COMNAVAIRLANT
COMCARDIV FOUR / USS LIBERTY / COMDESRON ONE TWO / STAHOSP NAPLES

UNCLAS E F T O
STATUS REPORT USS LIBERTY CASUALTIES
A. MV 1021 9Z JUN 67
B. MV 0921432 JUN 67
1. SH2 DONALD HEROLD 609 22 48 REMOVED FROM CRITICAL LIST, PLACED ON SERIOUS LIST. PATIENT BEGAN ORAL INTAKE 12 JUN. PULMONARY PICTURE IMPROVING. MORALE EXCELLENT. NONE REMAIN ON CRITICAL LIST.
2. FOL PERS REMAIN ON SERIOUS LIST:
A. SH2 DONALD HEROLD, 609 22 48
B. EM3 WILLIAM MICHAEL LEMAY, 773 35 21 ADD DIAGNOSES COMPOUND FRACTURE LEFT PUTELLAGN DEBRIDED, REDUCED AND SPLINTED, RT PNEUMOTHORAX THIRTY PERCENT, RESOLVING BY ASPIRATION. LEFT LUNG FULLY EXPANDED AND STABLE. EARLY SIGNS OF RETURN OF BOWEL FUNCTION. HAS SHOWN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT.
3. FOL PERS REMOVED FROM SERIOUS LIST:
A. CTSN LEE ROY BENNETT, 998 1379 PATIENT GRADUALLY IMPROVING. PROGNOSIS GOOD.
B. QM3 DAVID CARL HAZEN, 696 8498 ANTICIPATE CHEST TUBE REMOVAL 13 JUN. CONTINUES TO IMPROVE. PROGNOSIS GOOD.
C. CT1 JOSEPH CHARLES LENTINI, 594 81 55 COMPOUND FRACTURE DEBRIDED AND CAST APPLIED. CHEST TUBE REMOVED. ASYMPTOMATIC RT FRONTO-TEMPORAL SKULL FRACTURE BENEATH RT TEMPORAL WOUND, ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED LEFT TEMPORAL. NO EVIDENCE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT. GENERAL CONDITION EXCELLENT.
D. LT JAMES GEORGE O'CONNOR 671765 INTEND REPEAT IVP HBT 17 JUN. NO EVIDENCE FURTHER BLEEDING. CONDITION SATISFACTORY.
E. BM3 JERRY WAYNE HARD, 773 [illegible]8 78 CHEST TUBE REMOVED, LUNG EXPANDED. ON ORAL INTAKE. ADD DIAGNOSIS FRACTURES, COMPOUND COMMINUTED, DISTAL LEFT FIBULA AND LEFT SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH METATARSAL, DEBRIDED AND SPLINTED.
F. SN RICHARD LEE WEAVER 999 80 63 PATIENTS COLOSTONY FUNCTIONING WELL. ON ORAL INTAKE. PROGRESS SATISFACTORY.

4. FOL PERS MARA TWO DELTA REF B TRANSFERRED 12 JUN NAVHOSP NAPLES FOR TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION. LT JAMES MARQUIS ENNES, 653840 ETR3 BARRY ROBERT TIMMERMAN, 770 76 60.
...BT.

00 01 011 032

131211Z

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POL 27 AKAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XG DEF 12 US

SECRET

52
Action

010975

VCZCGMA287VV VLA902
GG RUEHC RUEHDT
DE RUQMVL 0886 1641340
ZNY SSSSS
O P 131335Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV
TO RUEPVW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNAA/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLXD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPEM/CINCEUR/USEUCOM
RUFPNW/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPBW/USAFE
RUFPAG/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
BT
S E C R E T 0886 JUN 67.
LCOL BLOCH ASSISTANT IDF SPOKESMAN CALLED ALUSNA AT 131255Z TO REPORT THAT IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL RABIN HAS APPOINTED AN OFFICIAL COURT OF INQUIRY IN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE USS LIBERTY. GP-3.

PASSED S/S--O 6/13/67; 10:26 AM.

RECEIVED BY NAVY

1967 JUN 13 AM 10 10

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-13-67

SECRET

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VOICE RADIO LOGS

A. COMUSMACTHAILAND 1207212 JUN 67

B. VOICE RADIO LOGS ON CIRCUIT [redacted] WERE NOT MAINTAINED DURING SUBJECT PERIOD.

C. INTERROGATION OF RADIO OPERATOR PERSONNEL REVEALS THAT LIBERTY WAS HEARD ON CIRCUIT AND THAT ONE INFORMAL MESSAGE WITH NO DATE TIME GROUP CORRELATED LIBERTY'S INABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH COMUSMACTHAILAND AS RELATED BY CTF 76 TO NSA

D. [redacted] RADIO LOGS TO BE FWD TO CCG-12

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0314002 JUN 67

CONFIDENTIAL

Doc. 58 Ex 48 Liberty

/31400Z

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PRIORITY 1314227 JUN 67

FM: USS JASON

TO: CO DESRON ONE TWO

CONFIDENTIAL

A. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY JUN 67
B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY JUN 67
C. VOICE RADIO LOG OF [illegible] DURING PERIOD 0-9 JUN 67. ALL TIMES G
TIME TO FROM TEXT
8 JUNE 1967

4250 DEPUTY (CARGILES)

PROVIDE TO (ROUTON) (KIDDYAP) (KP) AT 24 KNOTS TO RETIRE VICINITY OF TINATINA. INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW. REQUEST YOU ADVISE WE WHEN STEEL JAW 18 AIRBORN. WILL YOU SEND LIST OF CASUALTIES THIS CIRCUIT

2312 DRAGON [illegible] RANGER

2342 ROCKSTAR GLUE CAP

2323 BLUE CAP ROCKSTAR

2335 CACTUS PETE DERAIL

BE ADVISED I WILL SEND LIST OF CASUALTIES THIS CIRCUIT ACCORDING TO ROUTING OF JOINT/CINCPAC STAFF DEFAULTS BE DO NOT DELETE SUGGEST MESSAGE HELD BY ROCKSTAR.

FAST CHANGES ROCKSTAR
[illegible] LOG SENT 13 JUNE JUN 67

(ROCKSTAR [illegible] JUN 67)

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STAFF---IR
VIA---NR NT 9433
R---131302Z JUN 67

CONFIDENTIAL

131[illegible]Z JUN 67

Doc ID: [illegible]

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399

/36202

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN [illegible] FROM TASK FORCE
SIXTY, FROM COMMANDER DESTROYER [illegible] EMBARKED IN THE
USS DAVIS, ONE OF UNS LIBERTY [illegible]

QUOTE

DUE TO THE OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL [illegible] DISCIPLINE,
SPIRIT OF HER VALIANT COMMANDING [illegible] OFFICERS, AND CREW, AND
STILL CARRYING MANY WHO GAVE [illegible] THEIR LIVES, THEIR COUNTRY,
USS LIBERTY SAFELY REACHED [illegible] ONE THOUSAND MILES
WITH CRITICAL DAMAGE THAT WOULD HAVE [illegible] OF HER TYPE
TO THE BOTTOM. UNQUOTE

14 JUNE

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

O 140412Z JUN 67

FM: CTG 60.5

TO: USS LIBERTY

BT

CLEAR

1. CINCUSNAVEUR ASK FOLLOWING

A. ARE ORIGINAL COLORS SHOT DOWN AND REPLACED OR DID ORIGINAL FLY THROUGHOUT?

B. DID LIBERTY AT ANY TIME USE ANY SIGNALS SUCH AS LIGHT, FLAG HOIST, ETC TO IDENTIFY HERSELF TO ISRAEL ATTACKERS?

BT

DTG 140412Z
"U-EF
REC-COUNTER
F/L

140412Z

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

2

0 140143Z

FM: USS LIBERTY

TO: CTU 60.5

BT

CLEAR

YOUR 140041Z

1. NORMAL SIZE COLORS FLYING BEFORE INITIAL STRAFFING ATTACK. THESE COLORS SHOT DOWN AT SOME TIME DURING AIRCRAFT ATT CK.

2. HOLIDAY SIZE COLORS WHICH ARE LARGER THAN NORMAL SIZE COLORS HOISTED ON PORT YARDARM PRIOR TO TORPEDO ATTACK LAUNCHED.

3. DID NOT ATTEMP TO SIGNAL PLANES WITH FLASHING LIGHTS OR ANY OTHER MEANS AT ANY TIME. POWER WAS AVAILABLE AFTER AIR ATTACK AND PRIOR TO TORPEDO ATT CK. PRIOR TORPEDO ATTACK HOISTED INTERRUPTION L CALL SIGN AND CODE LIMA INDIA TO BEST OF RECOLLECTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

4. CO LIBERTY SENDS. IF MSG INTENDED FOR ADM KIDD DISREGARD AND ADVISE

BT

DF #1

DTG
MU-EF
SEND (FAX)

140143Z

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3

DCA ZUR DE DCA PEA AND I GOT A WIRE[illegible] PER U ALL THERE AND CAN
I GO AHEAD AND SEND IT YOU PLSE ADVISE

PP 141111E
FM ZURLO3 DET 119 [illegible] TURKEY
TO DCA EUROPE VAIHINGEN GERMANY.
BT
UNCLAS E F T O 119/84PM/239
SUBJECT OV [illegible]ULT ADS
A. CONFIRM [illegible] JUNE RESPONSE TO:
1. ZWDC3 VIE INQUIRY TO DCS STATION ADRANA REGARDING REFERENCE
A. DELAY SENT TO NAVCOMSTA GREECE RATHER THAN NAVCOMSTA
ADRANA WAS THAT MESSAGE ELEMENT TO NAVCOMSTA GREECE DUE TO
OPERATOR ERROR. ADRANA RECEIVED RELAY[illegible] ON NCSS AND DISSECT IT
OV 4798. IT WAS RETURNED TO THEM OV CABLE AND THEN SENT TO
NAVCOMSTA ADRANA OV CABLE (NO COPY).

Dec. 40 Ex VP Library

411

141111E

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4

CNE TRACER
TO ACS ASMAN

E7 42, P 36 7

14162 Ca

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5

CNE 1416272 TO BSM-0

—

TTP NCE 9

—

E1 V6 P 364

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6

CNE TO NCS MOROCCO

TRACER

EXDIS P 362

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

14162RE

7

RNE TO MS GREECE

TRACE 9

CH 36, P 158

14/6292

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8

CNE TO NY PHIL

EXH 34, P 356

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

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141740Z JUN 67
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO COMDESRON 12

(This message is a reference in COMDESRON 12 150016Z JUN from Kidd to McCain. No copy is held.)

(It is apparently McCain's request for chronology of incident.)

141740Z

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(3)

POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

XR DEF 12 US

UNCLASSIFIED

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-14-67

ZNR UUUUU
O 1417472 JUN 67 ZFF-1
FM SECDEF
TO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUCLBEA/COMSIXTHFLT
RUCIJUA/CTF SIX ZERO
RUCIJUA/CTF SIX ZERO
RUCIJUA/CTF SIX THREE
CTF ONE ZEROZERO
RBTIC/AMEMB VALLETTA
RUQMAT/AMEMB ATHENS
RUQKE/CHMAAG ATHENS
RUCIJUA/USS TIDEWATER
RUCIJUA/USS LIBERTY
RUENC/STATE DEPT
RUEDNKA/CINCLANT
RUENAAA/CNO
BT

0133[illegible]

1967 JUN 16 AM 3 37

56

UNCLAS DEF 7898 FROM OASD(PA)
SUBJECT: DOD STATEMENT ON COURT OF INQUIRY, USS LIBERTY
FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED BYDOD ON MORNING OF

PAGE 2 RUEPJS 849A UNCLAS
14 JUNE: QUOTE A U.S. NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY IS IN SESSION AT VALLETTA, MALTA, WHERE THE USS LIBERTY HAS ARRIVED. THE COURT, UNDER REAR ADMIRAL [illegible] C. KIDD, USN, IS INQUIRING INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ATTACK. THE COURT IS EXPECTED TO BE IN SESSION APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC WHEN THE COMPLETED REPORT IS READY. PARA MANY RUMORS AND REPORTS ABOUT THE ATTACK HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SOME OF THESE RUMORS AND REPORTS. OTHERS APPEAR TO BE BASED ON PARTIAL EVIDENCE. SOME APPEAR TO BE ACCURATE ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT INFORMATION HERE, WHICH IS INCOMPLETE. UNTIL THE COURT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE FULL FACTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT. UNQUOTE
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 4:29 A.M. JUNE 16.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

10 JUN 67

REC - 1607[illegible]Z JUN 67

PRECEDENCE
ACTION
INFO

O 1607[illegible]Z JUN 67
FM SECDEF
TO CINCEUR
CTF 60
CTF 124
AMCONSUL VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
CINCUSNAVEUR ATHENS
USS TIDESTATER
USS LIBERTY
STATE
BT
UNCLAS SVC VJL ZDK RUEPJS 0[illegible]1417472 JUN 67. MT ZDF1 [illegible] PT 60 ADM
COSIN
DE RUEPJS 040A 1601747Z
ZNR UUUUU
O 1417472 JUN 67 ZFF-1
FM SECDEC
TO USCINCEUR / CINCUSNAVEUR / CTFSIXTYFLT / CTF SIX ZERO / CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX THREE / CTF [illegible] ZERO ZERO / AMCONSUL VALLETTA / AMEMB ATHENS /
CINCUSNAVEUR ATHENS / USS TIDESTATER / USS LIBERTY / SITE DELTA / CINCLANT
CMD
BT
UNCLAS DEF [illegible] FROM OASD)PA)
SUBJECT: DOD STATEMENT ON COURT OF INQUIRY, USS LIBERTY FOLLOWING
WAS RELEASED BY DOD ON MORNING OF 14 JUNE. COURT A U.S. NAVY COURT OF
INQUIRY IS IN SESSION AT VALLETTA, MALTA, WHERE THE USS LIBERTY HAS
ARRIVED. THE COURT, UNDER REAR ADMIRAL ISAAC C. KIDD, USN, IS INVESTIGATING
TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ATTACK. THE C[illegible]RT IS EXPECTED TO BE IN SESSION
APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC
WHEN ITS COMPLETED REPORT IS READY. [illegible] AND STATEMENTS ABOUT
THE ATTACK HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS NO
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SOME OF THESE REPORTS AND BELIEVES CERTAIN APPEAR
TO BE ACCURATE ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT INFORMATION HERE., WHICH IS
INCOMPLETE. UNTIL THE COURT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE
FULL FACTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT.
UNQUOTE
BT

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X X X A

FOLDER 7

UNCLASSIFIED [illegible]Z JUN 67

1417472

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141747Z JUN 67

[redacted] OF COURT OF [redacted] LIBERTY
[redacted] RELEASED BY [redacted] OF [redacted] 67

[redacted] THE USS LIBERTY [redacted] ARRIVED. THE COURT,
[redacted] C. [redacted] USN, [redacted] HOLDINGS INTO A/L
[redacted] THE COURT [redacted] TO BE IN SUBJECT
[redacted] [redacted] STATEMENT WILL BE MADE
[redacted] [redacted] PARA BELOW RUNNING
[redacted] TAKE [redacted] CLOSED CIRCULATION. THE DEPART-
[redacted] [redacted] TO SUPPLY SOME OF THESE RUMORS
[redacted] BASED ON PARTIAL EVIDENCE. SOME
[redacted] OF PUBLICITY IMPLICATION HERE.
[redacted] THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL HAVE TO

[redacted]

141747Z JUN 67

17

14

NCS AS NAVY
REPLY TO TELEGRAM 1416268

E 13, P368

1419568 JW

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NAVAL MESSAGE

O 1[illegible]Z JUL 67

FM: [illegible]

TO: [illegible]

INFO: [illegible]

UNCLAS E F T O

[illegible]

1. [illegible] TRANSCRIPTS OF [illegible] LIBERTY INCIDENT OF [illegible].

2. ALSO REQUEST [illegible] INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED AMONG PERSONNEL TO LIBERTY INCIDENT.

BT

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NCS MOSCOW

REPLY TO TRACER 1416282

EX 39, P 363

1422558

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CDR12 1500168

EXHIBIT #

PAGE 344, 345

KIDD MSG TO MCCAIN

WITH CHRONOLOGY

1500168

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NCS PHIL

REPLY TO TRACER

EX 35, P357

150376E

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ASMARA REPLY TO
TRACER 141G32
(EX 45, P 166)
EX 45, P 375

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150520E

20

NCS GREECE

RECPT TO THACHER 1416292

EX 17, P 260

150731E

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8/

POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XR DEF 12 US

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-15-67

CONFIDENTIAL

81 Action
NEA-7 Info
SS-35
SPM-3
L-1
INR-8
IO-3
AF-6
ARA-2
INR-7
RSR-1
64

.NVZCZCOMA641
P RUEHC RUEHDT
DE RUQMVL 0892 1661140
ZNY CCCCC
P 151138Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPNAA/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQMCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPBK/CINCEUR/USEUCOM
RUTPHN/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPBW/USAFE
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
BT

1967 JUN 15 AM 8:13

81267

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0892 JUN 67.
REF DAO TEL AVIV 0886 JUN 67. SUBJECT LIBERTY INCIDENT.

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0892 C O N F I D E N T I A L
1. COMMODORE SHALOM O EREL, COMMANDER IN CHIEF IDF NAVY, ASKED ALUSNA TO CALL UPON HIM EARLY EVENING 14 JUNE. COMMODORE PRESENTED APOLOGIES AND EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET IN REGARD LIBERTY INCIDENT TO THE U.S. NAVY ON BEHALF OF ISRAELI NAVY AND SAID HE WAS PREPARING LETTER TO CNO USN. HE SAID INCIDENT WAS GREAT MISTAKE; THAT IDF NAVY PERSONNEL INVOLVED FELT QUOTE TERRIBLE UNQUOTE AND THAT THE INCIDENT IN FACT SPOILED ALL FEELING OF VICTORY FOR IDF NAVY IN RECENT HOSTILITIES.
2. EREL STATED HE DID NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON ELEMENTS OF INCIDENT UNTIL THE ISRAELI COURT OF ENQUIRY HAD RENDERED FINDINGS. WHEN ASKED IF THOSE FINDINGS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES THE COMMODORE SAID HE PRESUMED THEY WOULD BE.
3. AS IN EVERY CASE WHEN ISRAELI OFFICERS MENTIONS THE INCIDENT COMMODORE EREL REMARKED ON HOW CLOSE LIBERTY WAS TO SHORE LINE. ALUSNA REPLIED THAT LIBERTY WAS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
4. COMMENT A. COMMODORE EREL WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY DISCOMFORTED BY NEED FOR AND FACT OF MEETING WITH ALUSNA WHICH MIGHT BE PART OF EXPLANATION WHY THERE WAS SO LONG A DELAY BETWEEN EVENT AND FIRST OFFICIAL IDF NAVY PRESENTATION OF APOLOGIES.
B. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED IN OTHER CHANNELS

(2)

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PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0892 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THAT ISRAEL COURT OF ENQUIRY WILL PROBABLY COMPLETE ITS ACTIONS ON 16 JUNE.
5. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3.

PASSED S/S-O 6/15/67; 8:27 AM

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SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEF JUN 23 PM 11.47

SECRET

6 17 10 33

NOFORN

VZCZCDAG239
PPPPPP PPPPPP 000 001
DE RUQHVL A245 1671910
ZNY SSSSS
R
S E C R E T NOFORN ZUI RUEPJS 1058 1670946 H/W ZDK
FM RUDLKR/FINCUSNAVEUR
TO RUDLKR/FINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
BT
S E C R E T NOFORN 0000 JUN 67.
SECTION 1 OF 2
SUBJ: (U) USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
REFERENCES:
A. YOUR 1412502Z JUN 67.
B. USDAO TEL AVIV 0855 JUN 67.
C. USDAO [illegible] JUN 67.
D. USDAO 0834 JUN 67.
E. USDAO 0845 JUN 67.
F. USDAO 0849 JUN 67.
G. USDAO 0852 JUN 67.
H. USDAO 0856 JUN 67.
I. USDAO 0858 JUN 67.
J. USDAO 0886 JUN 67.
K. USDAO 0892 JUN 67.
1. FOR RADM KIDD, PRESIDENT OF COURT OF INQUIRY. FOLLOWING IS CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SURROUNDING USS LIBERTY INCIDENT AS OBSERVED AND RECORDED BY ALUSNA TEL AVIV CDR F.C. CASTLE, USN:
A. (C) ALUSNA CALLED TO ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE (IDF/F [illegible] GET THERE BY LT COL MICHAEL [illegible] 01 AT APPROX 0814002. [illegible] BY ISRAEL AIRCRAFT AND MTO'S BLOCH, ASSISTANT IDF SPOKESMAN WHO SAID ISRAEL AIRCRAFT AND MTB'S HAD ERRONEOUSLY ATTACKED AN UNIDENTIFIED U.S. SHIP AT 0812002Z JANIT 3129N 3333E. SAID NAVAL SHIP WAS U.S. NAVY. [illegible]

INFO: CJCS-1 DJS-3 SJCS-1 J3-0,U-2 SACSA-3 NMCC-1 D/OCE-7
ASD/ISA-9 ASD/PA-1 W/H-4 [illegible]-1 DIA-15 CSA-1 CIA-4 CNO-2
CSAF-1 CMC-6 SSDSG-1 FILE-1(74)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

COPTERS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS. HAD NO OTHER INFO. MADE APOLOGIES AND REQUESTED INFO OF OTHER U.S. SHIPS NEAR WAR ZONE COASTS. GSC SENT FLASH MESSAGE. REF G.

2. (C) ALUSNA REPORTED INCIDENT TO U.S. AMBASSADOR WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY (FONMIN). AMBASSAD SUGGESTED ALUSNA COULD BE FLOWN TO SITE OF INCIDENT TO ASSIST IDENTIFY SHIP AND REQUESTED HELO FLIGHT FROM DIRECTOR OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ISRAELI FONMIN.

3. (C) AT APPROX 0815302Z DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF U.S. DEPT ISRAELI FONMIN CALLED ALUSNA AND SAID IDF HELOS HAD PUT U.S. SURVIVORS ABOARD ISRAELI NAVY SHIPS AND THAT ALUSNA COULD BE FLOWN TO MEET THEIR ARRIVAL IN PORT. BEFORE DEPUTY DIRECTOR COMPLETED HIS STATEMENT LT. COL. BLOCK CAME ON SAME PHONE AND SAID THE REPORT OF PICKING UP SURVIVORS WAS CONCEPTLY INACCURATE AND THAT NO SUCH ACTION HAD TAKEN PLACE. BLOCK THEN SAID THE ATTACKED SHIP HAD BEEN PLENTIFIED AS USS LIBERTY AND THAT FLO WAS ARRANGING HELO FLIGHT FOR ALUSNA TO FLY TO SHIP AND COMMUNICATE WITH ELECTRIC MEGAPHONE WITH C.O. OF LIBERTY. USDAO SENT FLIS MESSAGE, REF C.

4. (U) AT APPROX 0815402Z, FLO CALLED ALUSNA AND SAID TO PROCEED TO FLO TO PICK UP ESCORT FOR HELO FLIGHT. ASTALUSNA ACCOMPANIED ALUSNA.

5. (C) AT 0816IAZ (TIME RECORDED BY ASTALUSNA), HELO WAS AIRBORN FROM IDF HOSS AIRFIELD ON NORTHERN EDGE OF TEL AVIV. HELO PROCE ON DIRECT INTERCEPT TO SHIP. AT 0816392, HELO PASSED OVER THREE TG RUNNING NORTH. AT 0816332, HELO WAS OVER USS LIBERTY BUT WA NEITHER ELECTRIC MEGAPHONE OR HAND HELD SIGNAL LIGHT. ALUSNA WA PLANNED TO BE LOWERED ABOARD LIBERTY FOR BRIEF CONFERENCE WITH C.O. ALUSNA IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND NOT ABLE TO CONVEY HIS IDENTITY TO BRIDGE OF LIBERTY. LIBERTY MADE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE ALUSNA ABOARD ON FORECASTLE. SPEED OF SHIP (WHICH IT IS ASSUMED COULD NOT BE REDUCED FOR DAMAGE CONTROL REASONS) CAUSED HELO PILOT TO SAY HE COULD NOT MAKE TRANSFER. SHIP THEN WAVED OFF TRANSFER ATTEMPT. ALUSNA WROTE NOTE INQUIRING AS TO CASUALTIES ON CALLING CARD AND DROPPED IT ABOARD LIBERTY IN IMPROMTU PACKAG ALUSNA UNDERSTOOD SHIP TO SIGNAL AFFIRMATIVE CASUALTIES AND THOU THE NUMBER SENT WAS FOUR OR FORTY BUT IS UNCERTAIN OF TRANSMISSI FROM HAND HELD LIGHT. HELO HAD TO DEPART BECAUSE OF FALL OF

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DARKNESS. OFFICER ON BRIDGE GAVE A THUMBS UP SIGN. REMAINDER OF TRIP WAS FRUSTRATION AND ESSENTIALLY NON-PRODUCTIVE EXCEPT ALUSNA WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE LIBERTY UNDERWAY ON OWN POWER AND TO ASSESS LIST AND SOME TOPSIDE DAMAGE. NGLO DEPARTED LIE AREA AT 0812002 AND TOUCHED DOWN TEL AVIV 0817252.

6. (C) WHILE ALUSNA ON FLIGHT, DATT RECEIVED TELEPHONE REPL FROM IDF ARMY SPOKESMAN RE IDF PRESS NOTICE ON LIBERT SHIP WAS FOR RELEASE AT 0810302. LATER M CAL TELEPHONED DIA HELD FURTH CONV WITH DATT. DATT UNDERSTOOD FROM PHONE CALL THAT LIBERTY SHIP SEEKING IDF ASSISTANCE AND THAT SHIP HAD SATISFACTORY RADIO CONTACT WITH U.S. NAVY. INFO THIS PARAGRAPH BEING SIMPLIFYIED REMARKS CONTAINED IN ISRAD INTELLIGENCE MSG REF C.

7. (C) UPON RETURN EMBASSY, ALUSNA LEARNED THAT GENL ARMY OF NMCC REQUESTED PHONE REPORT WHICH WAS MADE AT APPROX 0815002. SUBSTANCE OF PHONE CALL SAME AS PARA 6 ABOVE.

8. (C) AT APPROX 0913002, ALUSNA RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM GENL CASSIDAY OF NMCC ASKING ALUSNA TEL AVIV TO DETERMINE IF IDF PLANES OR SHIPS HAD SIGHTED ANY BODIES OR PICKED UP ANY SURVIVORS. GENL SAID 22 MEN ARE MISSING BUT WERE POSSIBLY ALL IN HOLD OF LIBERTY. GENL REQUESTED PHONE REPLY IF ANSWER AFFIRMATIVE. ALUSNA PASSED ENQUIRY TO FLO.

9. (S) AT 0913002, LT COL BLOCH CALLED ALUSNA. ALUSNA WAS EXPECTING REPLY TO ENQUIRY ON MISSING MEN. INSTEAD BLOCH READ OFF LIST OF SEVEN POINTS OF FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING LIBERTY INCIDENT.

THESE WERE:

A. SHIP WAS CLAIMED AND RECOGNIZED AS A NAVAL SHIP 13 MILES FROM COAST.

B. PRESENCE IN A FIGHTING AREA IS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM.

C. THE AREA CANNOT A COMMON PASSAGE FOR SHIPS.

D. EGYPT HAD DECLARED THE AREA CLOSED TO NEUTRALS.

E. SHIP CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL QUSEIR.

F. SHIP WAS NOT FLYING FLAG WHEN SIGHTED. SHIP MOVED AT QUOTE HIGH SPEED UNQUOTE WESTWARD TOWARD ENEMY COAST.

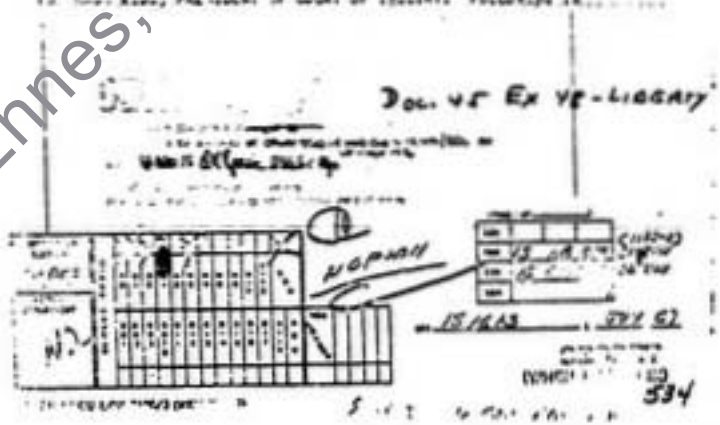
G. IDF NAVY HAD EARLIER REPORTS OF BOMBARDMENT OF EL-ARISH FROM SEA.

ALUSNA PRESSED BLOCH FOR LABEL FOR THE STATEMENT ASKING IF AT

HMM

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151615E JWN

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PAGE 3 RUOTPL 0410Z S E C R E T NOFORN

B. [illegible] AND INTERROGATED ALL PILOTS OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT EXCEPT DOC. ALL STATED THEY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED FOR ENTERING HARBOR.

F. IDF HAD INSTITUTED LIGHT PLANE SEARCH UPON RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS REGARDING SEARCHES AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL DAYLIGHT 9 JUNE

G. IDF HAS ESTIMATED STRIKING WIND AND CURRENT CONDITIONS WOULD CARRY SURVIVORS OR DEBRIS TO POINT [illegible] STRIP COAST OPPOSITE CITY OF RAFAH

H. IDF AGREED TO CONDUCT SEARCH AFTER [illegible] AND NATURE TO [illegible]

I. AS ABOVE BEING DRAFTED AS [illegible] REF F, LTCOL BLOCH TELEPHONED INFO THAT LAST PLANE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED, THAT PILOT INSISTENT HE SAW SIX TO EIGHT YELLOW RAFTS WITH PEOPLE IN VARIOUS STATES OF DISTRESS. BASED ON REPORTED THIS REPORT, [illegible] AT [illegible], LTCOL BLOCH REQUESTED AIR SEARCH WITH [illegible] TEAMS TODAY AT DAWN AND THAT SURFACE SEARCH COULD BEGIN IN AFTERNOON. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO BE AUTHORITIES THAT IF NO [illegible] IS DEVELOPED BY [illegible], TERMINATION OF SEARCH BE AUTHORIZED. INFO THIS PARA SENT ADDRESSEES FLASH MSG, REF G.

PAGE 5 [illegible] JUNE67

PAGE 4 RUOTPL [illegible] S E C R E T NOFORN

J. [illegible] AIR/SURFACE DAMAGE. USDAO ADVISE REPORTED SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS [illegible] AT [illegible] IDF AT [illegible] FREQUENCIES. INFO SUGGESTED THAT IDF AIRCRAFT MADE 3RD OR 4TH PASS FOR IDENTIFICATION PASSED OVER A SHIP SOMETIME PRIOR TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. AIRCRAFT [illegible] SHIP HAD U.S. FLAG BUT [illegible] ON DECK. INFO THIS PARA FORWARDED TO [illegible] ADDRESSEES INCLUDING CNO AND JCS IN USDAO DTGS [illegible] AT APPROX 10:30Z. IDF SPOKESMAN REPORTED NEGATIVE [illegible] FROM DAY LONG AIR AND SURFACE SEARCH BUT SAID IDF [illegible] WILL OPERATING IN AREA AND WOULD CONTINUE ALERT WATCH FOR SURVIVORS. THIS INFO THAT IS USDAO IMMEDIATE MSG, REF H.

K. [illegible] IN SUBMY FROM GUA, USDAO TEL NOV ENTIRE MSG, REF I, REPORTED INABILITY TO RECONCILE STORY OF SECONDARY SOURCE CITED PARA 10 ABOVE. ADVISED USDAO WAS ABLE PROVIDE IN REF I INFO ON MTB ATTACK RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OFFICER FROM IDF NAVAL OFFICER WHO SAID HE WAS ABOARD MTB. SAID MTB'S LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT. MTB CREW SAW U.S. FLAG AFTER TORPEDO EXPLOSION, SAID FLAG HAD BEEN OBSCURED BY SMOKE. IN SAME REF ISRAEL OFFERED PROBABLY BUT NOT CERTAIN SERIES OF EVENTS AS FOLLOWS:

[illegible]

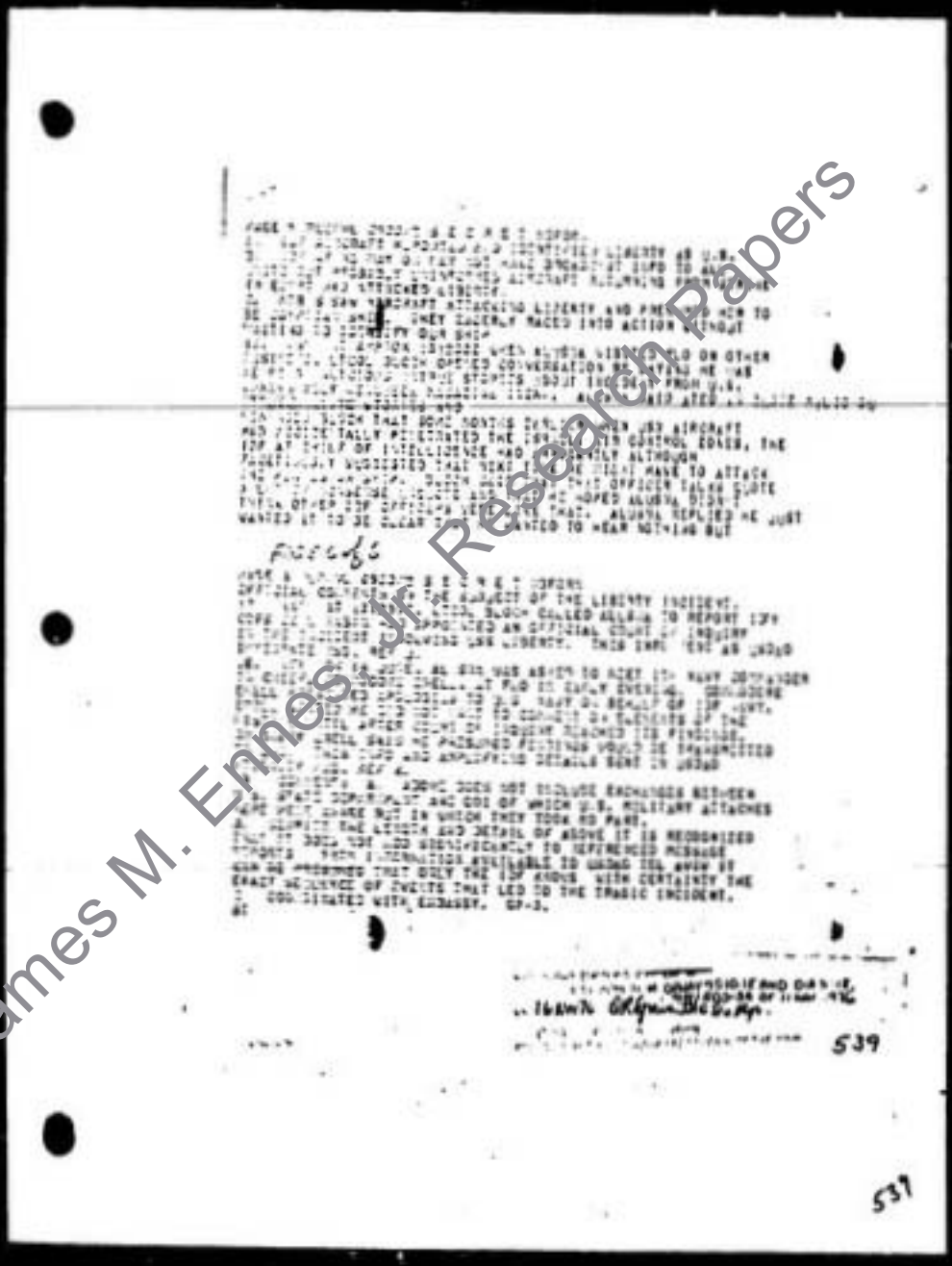
[illegible]

[illegible]

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NAVAL MESSAGE

16 JUN 67

REC - 1521CZ JUN 67

P 1521CZ JUN 67
FM CINCPACFLT
TO USS LIBERTY
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCLANTFLT
COMSIXTHFLT
COMSECOND FLT
COMSEVENTH FLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
BT
UNCLAS
THE SORROW THAT MUST BE YOURS AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC DEATHS AND INJURIES OF YOUR GALLANT SHIPMATES CANNOT BE ASSUAGED BY ANY ACTIONS TAKEN NOW. YOU CAN, HOWEVER, FIND STRENGTH IN THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FINEST PERFORMANCES OF A SHIP IN REACTION TO AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK. S VI U TOUR SHIP ABLE TO SAIL UNDER HER OWN POWER SAFELY TO PORT IS IN ITSELF A FINE TRIBUTE TO YOU AND YOUR SPLENDID CREW. A PROUD NAVY S LUTES Y. GALLANT SHIP FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE.
BT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

10.11

June 15, 1967

SECRET Attachments

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Attached herewith is a chronology and collection of documents pertaining to "Diplomatic Activity Resulting from the Attack on the U.S.S. Liberty".

This report is submitted at the request of Mr. Coyne for Mr. Clifford.

Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

Chronology
Collection of
Documents

(3)

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SECRET Attachments

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Diplomatic Activity in Connection with U.S. Liberty Incident

June 8 - A Foreign Liaison Officer of the Israel Defense Forces called in our Navy Attache (USNA) to inform him of the accidental Israeli attack on the Liberty and offer what USNA reported as "abject apologies". Embassy Tel Aviv counseled avoidance of publicity.

June 8 - Secretary Rusk called in Israeli Ambassador Harman and told he had just spoken with the President and was instructed to express in very strong terms U.S. dismay at the incident, and astonishment that it had occurred. The Secretary also expressed appreciation for Israel's speed in notifying us, which might have avoided very serious consequences in many respects.

June 8 - In a letter to the President, Foreign Minister Eban said he was "deeply mortified and grieved" by the incident.

June 9 - Prime Minister Eshkol asked Embassy Tel Aviv to inform us that GOI is willing to make retribution and asked that a message be transmitted to the President conveying his "deep condolences."

June 10 - A diplomatic note from the Israeli Embassy in Washington received the Israeli Government's "sincere expression of deep regret", expressed condolences and sympathy for the bereaved families, and stated that the Israeli Government is prepared to make amends for the "tragic loss of life and material damage".

June 10 - Under Secretary Katzenbach informed Ambassador Harman of great U.S. concern over the incident for which we can find no satisfactory explanation.

June 10 - Under Secretary Rostow handed Ambassador Harman a strong note of protest, describing the attack as "quite literally incomprehensible", "an act of military recklessness reflecting wanton disregard for human life." It conveyed our official expectation that the Government of Israel will provide compensation and take appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with international law. It stated the Department of State will, in the near future, present the Government of Israel a full monetary statement of its claim.

June 10

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

SECRET

June 12 - Ambassador Harman handed Under Secretary Rostow a note strongly rejecting the charges set forth in our note of June 10 and renewing the COI offer to make amends.

June 13 - The Assistant Spokesman of the Israel Defense Forces called ALUSNA in Tel Aviv to report that Chief of Staff Rabin has appointed an officer Court of Inquiry to investigate the incident.

June 14 - The Department of Defense announced that a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry has been convened in Valletta, Malta. It is expected to be in session for approximately one week and to make a comprehensive statement public when its report is completed.

(Reference documents attached.)

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READ BY SECDEF ON
SECDER 141742

1600002

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[illegible] 12 052

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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DATE: 16 JUN 67	TIME FILED		ROUTED BY	RELEASED BY		OF
MESSAGE NO.	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT): 161033Z	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	IMMEDIATE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	OPTIONAL
		ACTION				ROUTINE	
		INFO					

FM: CINCUSNAVEUR

TO: USS LIBERTY /

INFO: USCINCEUR / CNO / CINCLANTFLT / COMSECONDFLEET

BT

UNCLAS E F TO

TO COMMANDER W.L. MCGONAGLE, USN, COMMANDING

1. THE TRAGEDY IS BEYOND RECALL. WHAT SOLACE THERE MAY BE, HOWEVER SMALL, LIES IN THE MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF LIBERTY IN AN ACTION OF HISTORIC STATURE IN THE FACE OF AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK. UNDER MOST DIFFICULT AND TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES NOT ONLY DID THE SHIP DEFEND HYSELF VALIANTY, BUT THROUGH SUPERB SEAMANSHIP ON THE PART OF ALL HANDS, THE SHIP WAS BROUGHT SAFELY INTO PORT.

2. YOU, YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY WITH UNQUESTIONED VALOUR. THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL HANDS STANDS OUT AS AN EXAMPLE IN HISTORY OF THAT TYPE OF COURAGE WHICH MARKS AMERICAN MANHOOD AS THE FINEST IN THE WORLD.

3. I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU.

ADMIRAL JOHN S. MC CAIN, USN

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1967 JUN 16 PM 5 55

Action NEA

Info DI SS GPM SP SC SAH L H EUR IO P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA ACDA DDP IRSY RSR RSC

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RR RUEHC RUEKDA RUQMVL
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R 161815Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUFHRO/USDOCOSOUTH
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
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DI
C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 556

USDOCOSOUTH FOR PRESHMAN

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY

1. LIBERTY REACHED MALTA 0900 JUNE 14 UNDER OWN POWER. TO MINIMIZE IMMEDIATE SCRUTINY IN VIEW PUBLIC INTEREST SHIP INITIALLY BERTHED ROYAL NAVAL BASE WHILE DIVERS EXAMINED UNDERWATER DAMAGE. SHIP MOVED TO DRYDOCK 1400 AND PUMPED DRY BY 1915. SEARCH FOR AND RECOVERY OF MISSING BODIES BEGAN IMMEDIATELY. MEDICAL TEAM REMOVED AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED BODIES ON SCOT AND BAGGED THEM FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT NAPLES. WORK COMPLETE ABOUT 0300 JUNE 15 WITH TOTAL TWENTY

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 556 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BODIES DISCOVERED. FIVE MISSING AND PRESUMED LOST AT SEA. MISCELLANEOUS AS YET UNIDENTIFIABLE REMAINS MAY ELIMINATE DOUBTS. MASSIVE CLEANUP AND REPAIR WORK NOW UNDERWAY. LOWER RESEARCH COMPARTMENTS HAVE EQUIPMENT MIXED WITH MASS OF TWISTED WRECKAGE MAKING RECOVERY CLASSIFIED MATTER SLOW PROCESS. REMOTE POSSIBILITY FINAL CLEARANCE OF DEBRIS MAY UNCOVER ADDITIONAL HUMAN REMAINS. MAJOR DAMAGE TO SHIP IS (1) 24 BY 39 FOOT TEARDROP HULL IN STARBOARD SIDE FROM TORPEDO EXPLOSION (2) 821 SHELL AND FRAGMENT HOLES IN HULL OF WHICH ABOUT 250 CAUSED BY AIRCRAFT CANNON. REPAIR TIME ESTIMATED THREE WEEKS.

2. COMMENT: GOM INITIAL REACTION LIBERTY RESTRAINED. GOM GRANTED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS WHILE DOCKYARD AND NAVY MADE OWN DIRECT ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY REQUESTED GOM MINIMIZE PUBLICITY FOR SAKE FAMILIES OF DEAD AND

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WOUNDED. NO MENTION SECURITY ASPECT. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST, GOM ALLOWED WHOLE MATTER OF SEARCH, RECOVERY AND REMOVAL OF BODIES AND EQUIPMENT TO BE HANDLED AS INTRA-NAVY AFFAIR.

3. TWO NAVY PAO'S HANDLED NEWSMEN. LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL

PAGE 3 RUDCR 556 C O N F I D E N T I A L
PRESS INTEREST STRONG. PRESS COOPERATIVE AND FACTUAL. ONLY ATTEMPT DISTORTION WAS ON PART PAUL CARACHI (MLP) FORMER EDITOR MALTA NEWS. CARACHI CALLED ME TO SUGGEST ONLY REASON LIBERTY IN MALTA WAS NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD HAVE HER. I STRONGLY DENIED STATEMENT AND ASSERTED SHIP CAME AT US GOVERNMENT REQUEST ON ACCOUNT CAPABILITY DRYDOCKS AND FACT GOOD BUSINESS FOR MALTA. PAPER CARRIED MY STATEMENT JUNE 15.

4. NBC, CBS AND AP REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN HERE FOR ARRIVAL. INITIAL PHOTOGRAPHS ALLOWED ONLY FROM DISTANCE UNTIL VESSEL DRYDOCKED AND CLEARED OF BODIES. TO PREVENT LEADING CREDENCE TO PORTION (AP) "SPY SHIP" STORY, NAVY PAO ARRANGED TOUR OF SHIP JUNE 15. NEWSMEN ALLOWED SEE DAMAGED AREAS AND PHOTOGRAPH FREELY. RESTRICTION ON INTERVIEWS SINCE COURT OF INQUIRY IN SESSION. FORTUNATELY VISIT PERMITTED BEFORE NEWSWEEK "PERISCOPE" STORY ON LIBERTY SPY-MISSION REACHED MALTA. SO FAR ONLY MALTA NEWS HAS PICKED UP AND PUBLISHED UNDER HEADLINE "ATTACK ON LIBERTY WAS NO MISTAKE". HOWEVER, NO INQUIRIES RECEIVED HERE ABOUT LIBERTY'S MISSION.
FELDMAN
BT

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O 161945Z JUN 67
FROM USDA TEL AVIV
TO CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA

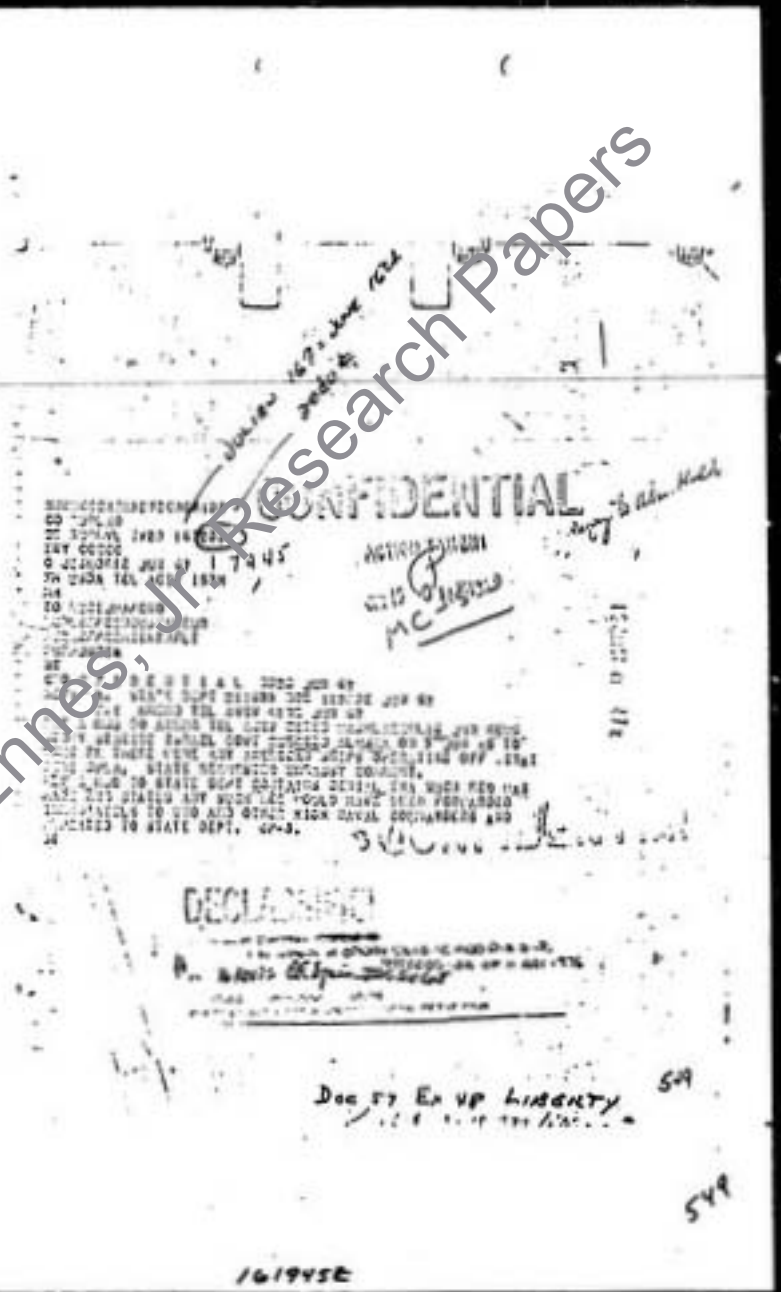
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0920 16 JUN 67
REF: A. STATE DEPT 211695 DTG 111800Z JUN 67
B. AMEMB TEL AVIV 4004 16 JUN 67
REF A MSG TO AMEMB TEL AVIV CITED WASHLAQKNL16 JUN NEWS STORY STATING ISRAELI GOVT QUERIED ALUSNA ON 5 JUN AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY AMERICAN SHIPS OPERATING OFF SINAI PENINSULA. STATE REQUESTED EMBASSY COMMENT.
REF B MSG TO STATE DEPT CONTAINS DENIAL THAT SUCH REQ WAS MADE AND STATES ANY SUCH REQ WOULD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY TO CNO AND OTHER HIGH NAVAL COMMANDERS AND REPEATED TO STATE DEPT.
GP-3.

(from declassified court of inquiry report)

(xerox copy filed exhibit ten)

(this was censored from original version, but was included, apparently in error, on last page of report, page 707, exhibit 48, document 57)

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Classification

Jun 16

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV XXXXXX IMMEDIATE

STATE 211695

1. Washington Post June 16 carried following story from XXXXXXXXX correspondent based in Washington. Israeli sources said that when fighting broke out in Middle East June 5, Israeli Govt queried US Naval Attache in Tel Aviv as to whether there were any American ships operating in Mediterranean off Sinai Peninsula. According story Israelis QTE got no response UNQTE.

2. As far we aware, first Israeli query along these lines made to American official was that reported in DAO 0825 June 8 which was after attack on USS Liberty.

3. Request urgent confirmation above and any other comments.

GP-3

End

RUSK

NEA:IAI:MSterner:fah:6/16/67 | 4523 | NEA/IAI - Alfred L. Atherton, Jr

DOD/ISA - Commander Cone (for info)
NEA/P - Mr. Brown (for info)

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NEA
Info

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
STATE GRNC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4178

DTG 4127

1967 JUN 16 PM 4.26

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REF: STATE 211695

NO REQUEST FOR INFO ON U.S. SHIPS OPERATING OFF SINAI WAS MADE UNTIL AFTER LIBERTY INCIDENT. HAD ISRAELIS MADE SUCH AN INQUIRY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND OTHER HIGH NAVAL COMMANDS AND REPEATED TO DEPT.

GP-3, BARBOUR
BT

ADVANCE COPY PASSED TO S/S-O, 6/16/67, 4:45 P.M.
NOTE: PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, CNAC, CINCSTRIKE, USUN, 6/16/67, 4:45 P.M.

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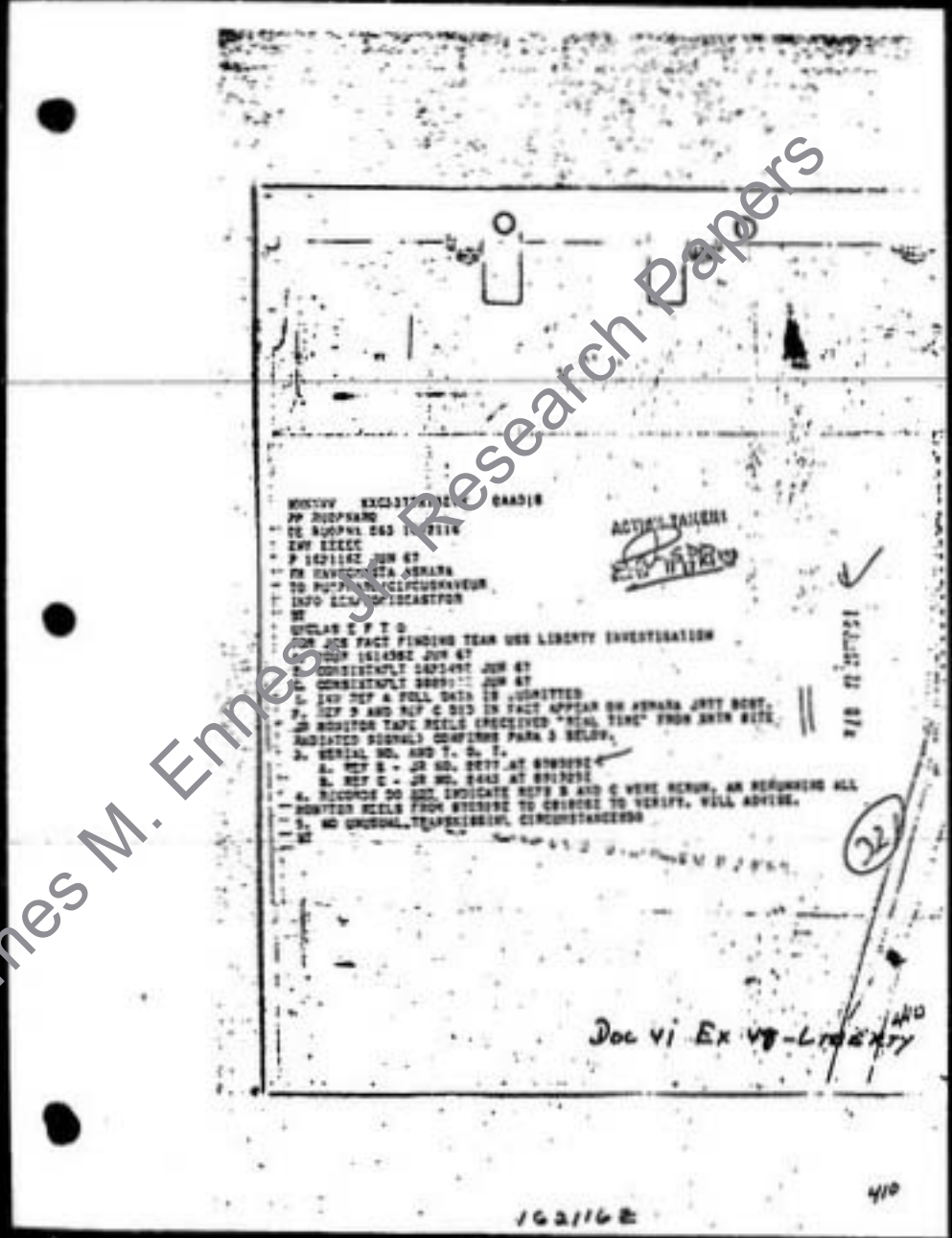
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EUR NO REQUEST FOR INFO ON U.S. SHIPS OPERATING OFF
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P HAD ISRAELIS MADE SUCH AN INQUIRY IT WOULD HAVE
NSC BEEN FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE CHIEF OF
INR NAVAL OPERATIONS AND OTHER HIGH NAVAL COMMANDS
TRSY AND REPEATED TO USUN.
GP-3, BARBOUR
SS
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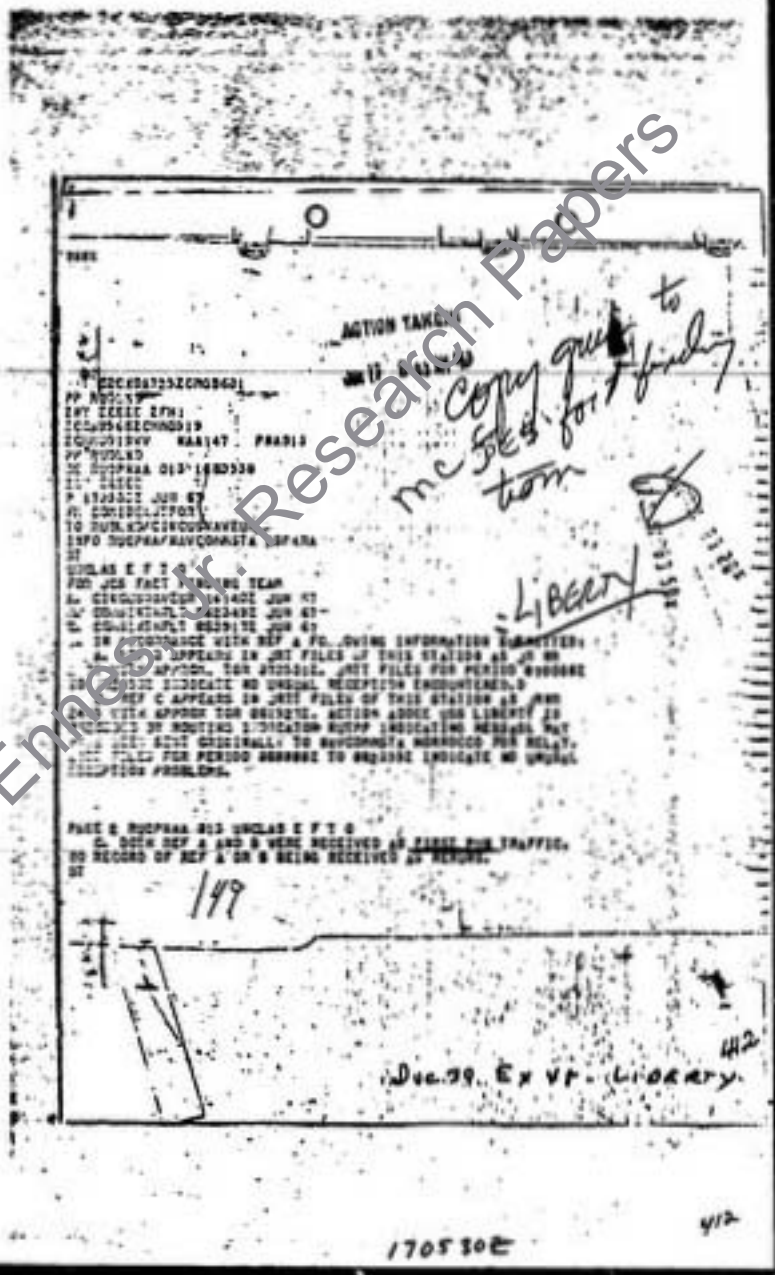
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SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY INVESTIGATION

DOC VI EX VB - LIBERTY

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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MESSAGE NR	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	IMMEDIATE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	DEFERRED
		ACTION						
		INFO						

KR NR 82666

IN CIA HAND
TOR/1143Z 18 JUN / DMB

A 1713Z72
FM: CHINFO
TO: CINCUSN VEUR /
INFO: USCINCEUR / COMSIXTHFLT / COMSERVLANT / USS LIBERTY /CTF 186 /
CTG 186.7 / CTG 186.3 / AMEMB V LUCCA / COMOMI

UNCLAS
LIBERTY INTERVIEW REQUEST
A. CINCUSNAVEUR 121900Z (S) (NOFORN)
1. IAW P/R 367 REF A, MR. EDWARD ROTH OF THE BOSTON GLOBE
REQUESTS TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH CO AND MEMBERS OF THE
CREW FROM THE BOSTON AREA AT EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME
PENDING THE COMPLETION OF COURT'S WORK.
2. REQUEST ADVISE CHINFO PROPOSED TIME AND DATE FOR
INTERVIEW, SHIP'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THE CONDUCT OF SUCH INTERVIEWS.
3. THE NEED FOR RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS WHILE THE BOARD CONDUCTS
ITS INVESTIGATIONS UNDERSTOOD. HOWEVER, MR. WOODRUTH HAS
CONDUCTED TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH KRAFFT GRISKANY CO. AFTER [illegible]
FIRE, WHICH RESULTED IN GOOD N VY EXPOSURE. IT IS BELIEVED TH T
PROPERLY PLANNED INTERVIEW WOULD DO MUCH TO TELL THE STORY OF
SHIP AND MEN WHICH PREFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY UNDER TRAGIC
CONDITIONS.

...BT...

* UNDERLINED PORTION AS RECIEVED, WILL SERVICE UPON RE QUEST.

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171947Z JUN

NAVAL MESSAGE

10 JUN 67

REC 172-542 JUN 67

FM COMSIXTHFLT
TO SIXTHFLT
BT
UNCLAS E F T O
1. IN RESPONSE TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, THE SIXTHFLT HAS BEEN KEPT AT A HIGH STATE OF READINESS FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS. YOU HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ANY [illegible], EITHER IN SUPPORT OF COMBAT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT MIGHT ASK US TO PERFORM. READINESS AND RESPONSE HAS BEEN MOST GRATIFYING.
2. WHEN THE LIBERTY WAS SO GRIEVOUSLY ATTACKED, OUR AIRCRAFTED WERE LAUNCHED IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, FULLY ARMED AND PREPARED TO DEFEND HER. YOUR GUN CREWS HAVE STOOD MANY LONG WATCHES AND IT HAS BEEN REASSURING TO KNOW THAT AT ALL TIMES THEY WERE READY TO DEFEND THIS FLEET. YOUR DESTROYER COMMANDING OFFICERS HAVE SHOWN COURAGE, SKILL AND GOOD JUDGEMENT IN KEEPING THE NUMEROUS HOSTILE INTRUDERS FROM PENETRATING OUR FORMATIONS. A GOOD DEAL OF YOUR TIME HAS BEEN SPENT AT HIGH SPEEDS AND I AM AWARE OF THE EXTRA HOURS THE ENGINEERS HAVE PUT IN KEEPING THEIR PLANTS RUNNING. YOUR COMMUNICATIONS, BOTH VISUAL AND RADIO, HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY ALERT, AND YOUR BRIDGE WATCHES HAVE BEEN SMART IN EXECUTING SIGNALS, IN SHORT, ALL ELEMENTS WERE READY, WILLING AND ABLE.
3. I HAVE GREATEST PRAISE FOR THE SIXTHFLT AND I AM VERY PROUD OF EVERY MAN IN IT FOR THEIR PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE DURING THESE PAST THREE WEEKS. WELL DONE. PAUL MARTIN.
BT

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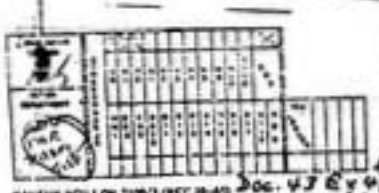
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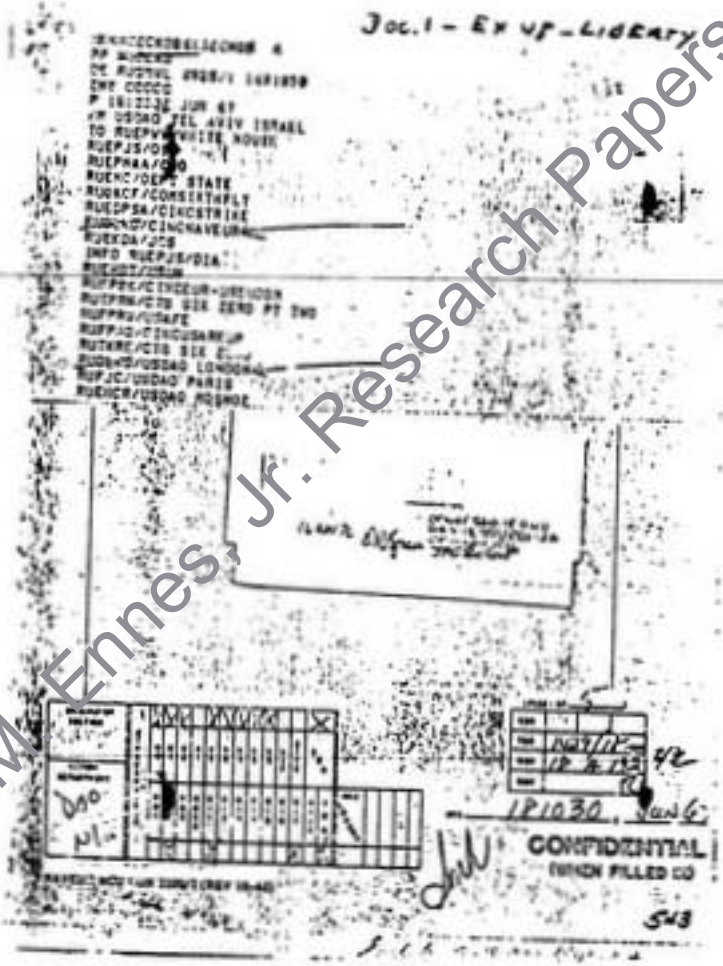
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PAGE 2 AUGMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0928-1 JUN 67

SECTION 1 OF 11.
SUBJECT: ISRAELI COURT OF INQUIRY ON USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
1. ALUSNA CALLED TO FLO EVENING 17 JUNE. LTC EFRAT, AIDE
GENERAL RABIN, IDF COC STATED FOLLOWINGS:
A. GENL RABIN EXTENDS HIS PERSONAL REGRETS TO THE USG AND USN FOR
THE SAD MISTAKE OF THE USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
B. GEN RABIN DECIDED TO PROVIDE VIA ALUSNA A SYNOPSIS OF THE MAJOR
FINDINGS OF IDF COURT OF INQUIRY ALTHOUGH THOSE FINDINGS HAVE NOT AS
YET RECEIVED FINAL REVIEW FROM COL SHINCAR, THE IDF JAG.
C. AFTER REVIEW AND TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH, FULL TRANSCRIPT
OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO
THE USG EITHER THROUGH AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV OR DIRECTLY EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
2. THE SYNOPSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY AS TAKEN
DOWN VERBATIM BY ALUSNA FROM COL EFRATS OFFICIAL PRESENTATION IS AS
FOLLOWS: QUOTE
"A. IT IS CONCLUDED CLEARLY AND UNEQUIVOCABLY FROM THE EVIDENCE
AND FROM COMPARISON OF WAR DIARIES THAT THE ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY
WAS NOT IN MALICE; THERE WAS NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE ATTACK
WAS MADE BY INNOCENT MISTAKE.

Page 2 of 5 13 Pages JUN 67

PAGE 3 AUGMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
B. ATTACK ROSE OUT OF A CHAIN OF THREE MISTAKES, EACH OF WHICH
BY ITSELF IS UNDERSTANDABLE. FIRST MISTAKE WAS DECISIVE. NAVY AND
AF HQ HAD RECEIVED A USSR MSG OF WRONG REPORTS STATING EL-ARISH WAS
BEING SHELLED FROM THE SEA. THIS WRONG INFORMATION FORMED THE
BACKGROUND AND MAIN FACTOR LEADING TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. IDF CHO
AND ASSISTANTS WERE CONVINCED THAT SHELLING WAS BEING DONE BY
UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS WHICH WERE DISCOVERED AT THE TIME NEAR
THE SHORE OFF EL ARISH. EVEN THE OFFICERS WHO KNEW OF THE
IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY EARLY THE SAME MORNING DID NOT CONNECT
LIBERTY WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS SAID TO BE SHELLING EL ARISH.
THE IDF COURT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT OF SHELLING
AND THE REASONS FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF
THIS COURT'S AT HAND. THE NAVY AND AF HAD TOOK THE REPORT AT
FACE VALUE.
SECOND MISTAKE, WHICH WHEN ADDED TO FIRST RESULTED IN AIRCRAFT
ATTACK ON LIBERTY, WAS A MISTAKEN REPORT THAT LIBERTY WAS STEAMING
AT 30 KNOTS. THIS MISTAKE HAS TWO SIGNIFICANCES. A. WHEN LIBERTY
WAS IDENTIFIED IN MORNING, HER MAX SPEED WAS DETERMINED FROM JANES
FIGHTING SHIPS TO BE 28 KNOTS. THEREFORE, EVEN IF THE
UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WERE THOUGHT TO BE LIBERTY, THE FACT THAT SHE
WAS REPORTED TO BE MAKING 30 KNOTS WOULD HAVE DENIED THE IDENTIFICATION.

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PAGE 5 RUGMVL 0008/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

...B. IN ACCORDANCE WI... IDF NAVY STANDING ORDERS, AN ENEMY SHIP IN ANY WATERS WHICH IS ATTACKING ISRAELI SHIPS OR SHELLING...THE ISRAELI SHORE MAY BE ATTACKED. IF THERE IS INFO OF ENEMY SHIPS IN THE AREA, ANY SHIP OR SHIPS DISCOVERED BY RADAR WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO BE CRUISING AT A SPEED ABOVE 20 KNOTS MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ENEMY. SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WAS FIXED AT 30 TO 32 KNOTS, THE ISF NAVY WAS ENTITLED TO ATTACK WITHOUT FURTHER IDENTIFICATION IN VIEW OF THE BACK-GROUND OF INFO ON THE ...OF EL ARISH. THE NAVAL OPS SECTION HAD ORDERED THE MTB'S TO REPORTED LIBERTYS SPEED AS 30 KNOTS TO RECHECK AND ONLY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THAT SPEED WAS THE INFO CONSIDERED REliABLE AND AIRCRAFT WERE SENT TO ATTACK. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEGLIGENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE SPEED AT 28-30 KNOTS WHEN IN FACT LIBERTY'S MAX SPEED IS 18 KNOTS IS DISCOUNTED BY THE IDF CMD WHO TESTIFIED QUOTE THAT SUCH ESTIMATIONS REQUIRE EXPERIENCE. IN AN MTB THERE MAY BE GREAT DISCREPANCIES IN FIXING THE SPEED OF A VESSEL MOVING IN FRONT OF IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE ESTIMATE WAS MADE ONLY OVER A SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME. IT IS ALSO FEASIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SUCH A MISTAKE EVEN IF YOU MEASURE IT TWICE OR MORE UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT THE STAN... DING ORDER

Pg 3 of 5 Jun 67

PAGE 5 RUGMVL 0008/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED BUT NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE IS FOUND IN THE MTB'S FIXING OF LIBERTY'S SPEED.

THIRD MISTAKE CAUSED EXECUTION OF THE SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK ON LIBERTY, THIS TIME WITH...ICOPTERS FROM MTB'S. THIS WAS THE MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY AS THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL HUSEIN. HERE I (CMDR...), THE OFFICER CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY WHO LIC EFRAT (IDENTIFIED PARENTHETICALLY AS CDL RAM ROM, FORMER ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.) MUST STATE MY DOUBTS WHETHER THE IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT DONE WITH A CERTAIN OVERAGGRESSIVENESS AS THIS HAPPENED WHEN SERIOUS DOUBTS WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO ARISE AS TO THE IDENTIFICATION AS AN EGYPTIAN SHIP. IT WAS BEEN ESTAB... BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE CMD. OF MTB DIV THAT THE DOUBTS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO ARISE IN THE PILOTS AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OF IDENTIFICATION DID NOT GET TO THE C. O. OF THE MTB DIV AT THAT TIME. HE ALREADY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT A DESTROYER BUT A SUPPLY OR MERCHANT SHIP AND THIS SHOULD HAVE CAUSED EXTRA CAREFULNESS IN IDENTIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AGAIN DEL MUST POINT OUT THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFICATION UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

BE

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...E Authority OAGMarine 1965 Ltr

(Date) (Signature) (Rank)

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

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FINAL SECTION OF II.

(1) SHIP WAS COVERED WITH THICK SMOKE. (2) WHEN ASKED FOR ITS IDENTITY ITSELF, THE SHIP DID NOT DO SO AND BEHAVED SUSPICIOUSLY. (3) IT APPEARED TO THE DIVCOM THAT THERE WAS A GUN ON THE FORECASTLE OF THE SHIP AND THAT THE SHIP WAS FIRING TOWARD THE NTB'S. THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE WAR DIARY OF THE FIRE OF ACTION.

IF WE ADD TO THESE FACTORS THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE SHIP WAS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SMOKE THERE WAS, IN FACT, APPARENTLY A GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN IT AND EL QUSEIR. TWO OFFICERS, A COR AND A LT ON TWO DIFFERENT NTB'S WHO HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEM BOTH IDENTIFIED THE SHIP AT THE SAME TIME AS EL QUSEIR, ONE IDF CMD DECIDED THAT ON THE BASIS OF FACTS ON HAND THAT THIS IDENTIFICATION WAS FEASIBLE. THEREFORE, I AGAIN COL RONI HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO CRITICAL OR SERIOUS NEGLIGENCE IN THIS CASE. FINALLY, I COL RONI HAVE TO ADD THAT A GRAVE ADDITIONAL MISTAKE NOT LESS DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE THREE ABOVE MISTAKES MADE BY IDF WAS MADE BY LIBERTY ITSELF. ON THIS QUESTION, I COL RONI HAVE THE EVIDENCE OF THE IDF CMD AND JAG

Pos 4/5 1310302 544167

PAGE 3 RUOMVL 0026 C O N F I D E N T I A L

WHICH COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND FROM WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP ACTED WITH LACK OF CARE BY ENDANGERING ITSELF TO A GRAVE EXTENT BY APPROACHING EXCESSIVELY CLOSE TO THE SHORE IN AN AREA WHICH WAS A SCENE OF WAR AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT THIS AREA IS NOT ONE WHERE SHIPS GENERALLY PASS, THIS WITHOUT ADVISING THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF ITS PRESENCE AND WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ITSELF ELABORATELY. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARS THAT THE SHIP MADE EFFORT TO HIDE ITS IDENTITY FIRST BY FLYING A SMALLE FLAG WHICH WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY FROM A DISTANCE;

SECONDLY BY BEGINNING TO ESCAPE WHEN DISCOVERED BY OUR FORCES AND WHEN IT WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, THIRDLY BY FAILING TO IDENTIFY ITSELF IMMEDIATELY OF ITS OWN INITIATIVE BY FLASHING LIGHT AND BY REFUSING TO DO SO EVEN WHEN ASKED BY THE NTB'S. FROM ALL THIS I COL RONI CONCLUDE THAT THE SHIP LIBERTY TRIED TO HIDE ITS PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND ITS IDENTITY BOTH BEFORE IT WAS DISCOVERED AND EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN ATTACKED BY THE AF AND LATER BY THE NAVY AND THUS CONTRIBUTED A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD MISIDENTIFICATION AS AN ENEMY SHIP." END QUOTE.

COMMENTS: 1. "ALL ABOVE IS AS DICTATED BY LTC [redacted] TRANSLATING FROM A DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN HEBREW.

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PAGE 4 PQUMVL 0928/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

3. LTC EFRAT PAUSED AT [illegible] POINT IN HIS READING TO POINT OUT THE [illegible] RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM USS LIBERTY THAT EL ISR HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED [illegible] HOURS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK RATHER THAN ONE HOUR AS STATED IN AN EARLIER USS COMMUNICATION.

3. LTC EFRAT PROBABLY NOTED ALUSHA'S APPEARANCE OF SURPRISE AND INCREDULITY AS HE READ OFF SOME OF THE ABOVE POINTS. WHEN HE FINISHED HIS READING HE ASKED WHAT ALUSHA THOUGHT OF THE ATTACK? QUOTE OFF THE RECORD UNQUOTE. ALUSHA PRETENDED HE HAD NOT HEARD THE QUESTION AND THANKED THE COLONEL FOR HIS TIME. THE BURDEN OF DIPLOMACY BORE HEAVILY ON ALUSHA WHOSE EVALUATIONS ARE:

A. THE IDF NAVY STANDING ORDER TO ATTACK ANY SHIP MOVING AT MORE THAN 30 KNOTS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

B. TWO OF THE IDF JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR ACTION ARE MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY. FIRST THEY SAY THAT SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED WAS AS HIGH AS 30 KNOTS THEY COULD NOT MAKE THE [illegible] IT WAS LIBERTY. THEN THEY SAY THE SHIP WAS PROBABLY IDENTIFIED AS EL QUSEIR. EL QUSEIR HAS A MAX SPEED OF 14 KNOTS, FOUR LESS THAN LIBERTY. IF THE QUOTE 30 KNOT SHIP COULDN'T HAVE BEEN LIBERTY UNQUOTE IT FOLLOWS IT ALSO COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EL QUSEIR.

Pg 5 of 5 pages 1020 Jun67

PAGE 5 PQUMVL 0928/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

C. THAT A PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICER OF THE RANK OF COMMANDER COULD LOOK AT LIBERTY AND THINK IT WAS A 30 KNOT SHIP IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

D. THE SMOKE WHICH COVERED LIBERTY WAS MADE HER DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY WAS PROBABLY A RESULT OF THE IDF AF ATTACKS.

4. WHILE WALKING TO THEIR CARS, LTC EFRAT MENTIONED THAT DEN HARKEN HAS NEVER BEEN SO HURT AS WHEN HE READ THE CURRENT NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE COMMENT ON THE LIBERTY INCIDENT. ALUSHA REMARKED THAT HE TOOK NO NOTICE OF NEWS MEDIA REPORTING ON THE INCIDENT.

5. ALUSHA WAS CALLED TO FLO EARLIER IN THE DAY TO RECEIVE A COPY OF IDF CHO LETTER OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE TO CNO USN. ALUSHA WAS INFORMED THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL DELIVER THE ORIGINAL TO ADM MCDONALD.

6. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3

BT

DECLASSIFIED

[illegible]

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

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546

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POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XR DEF 12 US

CONFIDENTIAL

ZNY CCCUC
P 101103Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/ OSD
RUEPAA/ CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQMCV/ CINCSTRIKE
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUCLKD/CINCNAVEUR
RUEKDA/ JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHOT/USUN
RUFPPK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUHMNV/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPDA/ USAFE
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUDLKA/USDAO LONDON
RUFJC/USDAO PARIS
RUEHMR/ USDAO MOSCOW

0119Z 1967 JUN 10 AM 9:24 DEFENSE DEPT. 6-18-67

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0102V I C O N F I D E N T I A L
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L 101103Z JUN 67
SECTION 1 OF II.
SUBJECT: ISRAELI COURT OF INQUIRY IN USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
1. ALUSNA CALLED TO FLO EVENING 17 JUNE. LTC EPPAT, ACOF TO GENERAL RABIN, IDF/CGS STATED FOLLOWING:
A. GEN RABIN EXTENDS HIS PERSONAL REGRETS TO THE CNO USN FOR THE SAD MISTAKE OF THE USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
B. GEN RABIN DECIDED TO PROVIDE VIA ALUSNA A SYNOPSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF IDF COURT OF INQUIRY ALTHOUGH THOSE FINDINGS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FINAL REVIEW FROM CG, SHIMOAH, THE IDF JAG.
C. AFTER REVIEW AND TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH, A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE USG EITHER THROUGH AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV OR ISRAELI EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C.
2. THE SYNOPSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY AS TAKEN DOWN VERBATIM BY ALUSNA FROM COL EPPATS ORAL PRESENTATION IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE
"A. IT IS CONCLUDED CLEARLY AND UNIMPEACHABLY FROM THE EVIDENCE AND FROM COMPARISON OF WAR DIARIES THAT THE ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY WAS NOT IN MALICE; THERE WAS NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY INNOCENT MISTAKE.

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-2-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928 1810302 JUNE 67 SECTION 1 OF 11

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 3928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
B. ATTACK ROSE OUT OF A CHAIN OF THREE MISTAKES, EACH OF WHICH BY ITSELF IS UNDERSTANDABLE: FIRST MISTAKE WAS DECISIVE. NAVY AND AF HQ HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF WRONG REPORTS STATING EL-ARISH WAS BEING SHELLED FROM THE SEA. THIS WRONG INFORMATION FURNED THE BACKGROUND AND MAIN FACTOR LEADING TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. IDF [illegible] AND ASSISTANTS WERE CONVINCED THAT SHELLING WAS BEING DONE BY UNIDENTIFIED SHIP OR SHIPS WHICH WERE DISCOVERED AT THE TIME NEAR THE SHORE OFF EL ARISH. EVEN THE OFFICERS WHO KNEW OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY EARLY THE SAME MORNING DID NOT CONNECT LIBERTY WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS SAID TO BE SHELLING EL ARISH. THE IDF NAVY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT OF SHELLING AND THE REASONS FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY AT HAND. THE NAVY AND AF HAD TO TAKE REPORTS AT FACE VALUE.

SECOND MISTAKE, WHICH WHEN ADDED TO FIRST RESULTED IN AIRCRAFT ATTACK ON LIBERTY, WAS A MISTAKEN REPORT THAT LIBERTY WAS STEAMING AT 30 KNOTS. THIS MISTAKE HAD TWO SIGNIFICANCES. A. WHEN LIBERTY WAS IDENTIFIED IN MORNING, HER MAX SPEED WAS DETERMINED FROM JANES FIGHTING SHIPS TO BE 35 KNOTS. THEREFORE, EVEN IF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WERE THOUGHT TO BE LIBERTY, THE FACT THAT SHE WAS REPORTED TO BE MAKING 30 KNOTS WOULD HAVE DENIED THE IDENTIFICATION.

PAGE 4 RUQMVL 3928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH IDF NAVY STANDING ORDERS, AN ENEMY SHIP IN ANY WATERS WHICH IS ATTACKING ISRAELI SHIPS OR SHELLING THE ISRAELI SHORE MAY BE ATTACKED. IF THERE IS INFO OF ENEMY SHIPS IN THE AREA, ANY SHIP OR SHIPS DISCOVERED BY RADAR WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO BE CRUISING AT A SPEED ABOVE 20 KNOTS MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ENEMY. SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WAS PUT AT 28 TO 30 KNOTS, THE IDF NAVY WAS ENTITLED TO ATTACK WITHOUT FURTHER IDENTIFICATION IN VIEW OF THE BACK-GROUND OF INFO ON THE SHELLING OF EL ARISH. NAVAL OPS SECTION HAD ORDERED THE PT'S WHO REPORTED LIBERTY'S SPEED AS 30 KNOTS TO RECHECK AND ONLY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THAT SPEED WAS THE INFO CONSIDERED RELIABLE AND AIRCRAFT WERE SENT TO ATTACK. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEGLIGENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE SPEED AT 28-30 KNOTS WHEN IN FACT LIBERTY'S MAX SPEED IS IN KNOTS IS DISCOUNTED BY THE IDF CMD WHO TESTIFIED QUOTE THAT SUCH ESTIMATIONS REQUIRE EXPERTISE. IN AN ENGAGEMENT THERE MAY BE GREAT DISCREPANCIES IN FIXING THE SPEED OF A VESSEL MOVING IN FRONT OF IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE ESTIMATE WAS MADE ONLY OVER A SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME. IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SUCH A MISTAKE EVEN IF YOU MEASURE IT TWICE OR MORE UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT MAYBE THE STANDING ORDER

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-3-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928, 181030Z JUNE 67 SECTION 1 OF 11

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED BUT NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE IS FOUND IN THE MTB'S FIXING OF LIBERTY'S SPEED.
THIRD MISTAKE CAUSED EXECUTION OF THE SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK O. LIBERTY, THIS TIME WIT. TORPEDOS FROM MTB'S. THIS WAS THE MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY AS THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL QUSEIR. HERE I (THAT IS, THE OFFICER CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY WHO LTC ERNAT IDENTIFIED PARENTHETICALLY AS COL RAM ROM, FORMER ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.) MUST RAISE KEY POINTS WHETHER THE IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT DONE WITH A CERTAIN CARELESSNESS AS THIS HAPPENED WHEN SERIOUS DOUBTS WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO ARISE AS TO THE IDENTIFICATION AS AN EGYPTIAN [illegible]. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE C.O. OF THE MTB DIV THAT THE DOUBTS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO ARISE IN THE PILOTS AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OF IDENTIFICATION DID NOT GET TO THE C.O. OF THE MTB DIV AT THAT TIME, BUT HE ALREADY KNEW THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT A DESTROYER BUT A SUPPLY OR MERCHANT SHIP AND THIS SHOULD HAVE CAUSED EXTRA CAREFULNESS IN IDENTIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I (AGAIN COL RON) MUST STATE THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFICATION UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:
RT

C.O. of MTB knew ship was not destroyer but freighter

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 9:07 A.M. 6/18/67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

POL 27 ARAB-ISR

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1967 JUN 18 AM 9 15

47
Action
NEA-7
Info
55-2
GPM-2
L-1
H-1
IO-3
EUR-2
INR-1
55
SS-1
ALE-1

FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPVW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/ OSD
/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUHKCR/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEPPSW/USMISSION
RUDLSJ/COMNAVSO
RUEKDA/NCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPRH/CINCLANT-USNIKON
RUTPNV/CTG SIX ZERO FF TWO
RUFHEM/SACEUR
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKHE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUFLRH/USDAO LONDON
RUFJC/USDAO PARIS
RUEHOR/USDAO MOSCOW

PAGE 2 RUQMVL [illegible] CONFIDENTIAL
FINAL SECTION OF [illegible]
(1) SHIP WAS COVERED WITH THICK SMOKE. (2) WHEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY ITSELF THE SHIP DID NOT DO SO AND BEHAVED SUSPICIOUSLY. (3) IT APPEARED TO THE DIVCON THAT THERE WAS A GUN ON THE FORE-J CASTLE OF THE SHIP AND THAT THE SHIP WAS FIRING TOWARD THE MTB'S. THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE WAR DIARY AT THE TIME OF ACTION.

IN ADDITION TO THESE FACTORS THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE SHIP WAS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SMOKE THERE WAS, IN FACT, APPARENTLY A GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN IT AND EL QUSEIR. TWO OFFICERS, A CDR AND A LT ON TWO DIFFERENT MTB'S WHO HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEM BOTH IDENTIFIED THE SHIP AT THE SAME TIME AS EL QUSEIR. THE IDF CNO DECIDED THAT ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS OF MANY THAT THIS IDENTIFICATION WAS FEASIBLE. THEREFORE I (ADMIN CNO RON) HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO CRIMINAL OR SERIOUS NEGLIGENCE IN THIS CASE. FINALLY I (COL RON) HAVE TO ADD THAT A GRAVE ADDITIONAL MISTAKE NOT LESS DECISIVE THAN THE THREE ABOVE MISTAKES MADE BY IDF WAS MADE BY THE LIBERTY ITSELF. ON THIS QUESTION, I (COL RON) HAVE THE EVIDENCE OF THE IDF CNO AND JAG

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PAGE 3 RUFRVL [illegible] C O N F I D E N T I A L
WHICH COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND FROM WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP ACTED WITH LACK OF CARE BY ENDANGERING ITSELF TO A GRAVE EXTENT BY APPROACHING EXCESSIVELY CLOSE TO THE SHORE IN AN AREA WHICH WAS A SCENE OF WAR AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT THIS AREA IS NOT ONE WHERE SHIPS GENERALLY PASS, THUS WITHOUT ADVISING THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF ITS PRESENCE AND WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ITSELF ELABORATELY. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARS THAT THE SHIP MADE AN EFFORT TO HIDE ITS IDENTITY FIRST BY FLYING A SMALL FLAG WHICH WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY FROM A DISTANCE AND SECONDLY BY ITS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE WHEN DISCOVERED BY OUR FORCES AND BY FAILING TO IDENTIFY ITSELF IMMEDIATELY BY ITS OWN INITIATIVE BY FLASHING LIGHT AND BY REFUSING TO DO SO EVEN WHEN ASKED BY THE PT'S. FROM ALL THIS I (KOL ROD) CONCLUDE THAT THE SHIP LIBERTY TRIED TO HIDE ITS PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND ITS IDENTITY WHEN BEFORE IT WAS DISCOVERED AND EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN ATTACKED BY THE AF AND LATER BY THE NAVY AND THUS CONTRIBUTED A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD [illegible] IDENTIFICATION AS AN ENEMY SHIP." END QUOTE.

COMMENTS: 1. ALL ABOVE IS AS DICTATED BY LTC ERRAT WHO WAS TRANSLATING FROM A DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN HEBREW.

PAGE 4 RUFRVL [illegible] C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. LTC ERRAT PAUSED AT ONE POINT IN HIS READING TO POINT OUT THE GOI HAD RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM USG SAYING THAT LIBERTY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED SIX HOURS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK RATHER THAN ONE HOUR AS STATED IN EARLIER USG COMMUNICATION.
3. LTC ERRAT PROMPTLY NOTED ALUSNA'S APPEARANCE OF SURPRISE AND INCREDULITY AS HE READ OFF SOME OF THE ABOVE POINTS. WHEN HE FINISHED HIS READING HE ASKED WHAT ALUSNA THOUGHT OF THE FINDINGS QUOTE OFF THE RECORD UNQUOTE. ALUSNA PRETENDED HE HAD NOT HEARD THE QUESTION AND THANKED THE COLONEL FOR HIS TIME. THE BURDEN OF DIPLOMACY BORE HEAVILY ON ALUSNA WHOSE EVALUATIONS ARE:
A. IDF NAVY STANDING ORDER TO ATTACK ANY SHIP MOVING AT MORE THAN 20 KNOTS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.
B. TWO OF THE IDF JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR ACTION ARE MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY. FIRST THEY SAY THAT SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED WAS AS HIGH AS 30 KNOTS THEY COULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS LIBERTY. THEN THEY SAY THE SHIP WAS READILY IDENTIFIED AS EL QUSEIR." END QUOTE. EL QUSEIR HAS A MAX SPEED OF 14 KNOTS, FOUR LESS THAN LIBERTY. IF THE QUOTE 30 KNOT SHIP COULDN'T HAVE BEEN LIBERTY UNQUOTE IT FOLLOWS IT ALSO COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EL QUSEIR.

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3-USDO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928, 181000Z JUNE 67 SECTION II OF II

PAGE 5 RUQMVL 0928/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

C. THAT A PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICER OF THE RANK OF COMMANDER COULD LOOK AT LIBERTY AND THINK HER A 30 KNOT SHIP IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

D. THE SMOKE WHICH COVERED LIBERTY AND MADE HER DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY WAS PROBABLY A RESULT OF THE IDF AIR ATTACKS.

4. WHILE WALKING TO THEIR CARS, LTC HARAI MENTIONED THAT GEN RABIN HAS NEVER BEEN SO ANGRY AS WHEN HE READ THE CURRENT NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE COMMENT ON THE LIBERTY INCIDENT. ALUSNA REMARKED THAT HE TOOK NOTICE OF NEWS MEDIA REPORTING ON THE INCIDENT.

5. ALUSNA WAS CALLED TO FLO EARLIER IN THE DAY TO RECEIVE A COPY OF IDF CNO LETTER OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE TO CNO USN. ALUSNA WAS INFORMED THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL DELIVER THE ORIGINAL TO ADM MCDONALD.

6. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3

BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 9:31 A.M. 6/18/67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

XR DEF 12 US

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1967 JUN 10 AM 8 22

DEFENSE DEPT.

6-18-67

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUEPAA/CNO
RUENC/DEPT STATE
RUAKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSN/CINCSTRIKE
RUELIO/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUEIDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUENDT/USUN
RUFPEK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTMNW/CINCSIXTHFLT
RUEPPN/USAFE
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUDLKO/USDAO LONDON
RUFJC/USDAO PARIS
RUEMOR/USDAO MOSCOW

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0928 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0928Z JUN 67
SECTION 1 OF II.
SUBJECT: ISRAELI COURT OF INQUIRY IN USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.

1. ALUSNA CALLED THIS EVENING 17 JUNE. LTC EPPAT, AIDE TO GENERAL RABIN, IDF COS STATED FOLLOWING:

A. GEN RABIN EXTENDS HIS PERSONAL REGRETS TO THE CNO USN FOR THE SAD MISTAKE OF THE USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.

B. GEN RABIN DECIDED TO PROVIDE VIA ALUSNA A SYNOPSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF IDF COURT OF INQUIRY ALTHOUGH THOSE FINDINGS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FINAL REVIEW FROM COL SHIMGAR, THE IDF JAG.

C. AFTER REVIEW AND TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH, A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE USN EITHER THROUGH AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV OR ISRAELI EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SYNOPSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE IDF COURT OF INQUIRY AS TAKEN VERBATIM BY ALUSNA FROM COL EPPATS ORAL PRESENTATION IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE

"A. IT IS CONCLUDED CLEARLY AND UNIMPEACHABLY FROM THE EVIDENCE AND FROM COMPARISON OF WAR DIARIES THAT THE ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY WAS NOT IN MALICE; THERE WAS NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY INNOCENT MISTAKE.

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-2-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 92E 1810302 JUNE 67 SECTION I OF II

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

B. ATTACK RUSE OUT OF A CHAIN OF THREE MISTAKES, EACH OF WHICH BY ITSELF IS UNDERSTANDABLE: FIRST MISTAKE WAS DECISIVE. NAVY AND AF HQ HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF WRONG REPORTS STATING EL-ARISH WAS BEING SHELLED FROM THE SEA. THIS WRONG INFORMATION FORMED THE BACKGROUND AND MAIN FACTOR LEADING TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. [illegible] AND ASSISTANTS WERE CONVINCED THAT SHELLING WAS BEING DONE BY UNIDENTIFIED SHIP OR SHIPS WHICH WERE DISCOVERED AT THE TIME NEAR THE SHORE OFF EL ARISH. EVEN THE OFFICERS WHO KNEW OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY EARLY THE SAME MORNING DID NOT CONNECT LIBERTY WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS SAID TO BE SHELLING EL ARISH. THE IDF NAVY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT OF SHELLING AND THE REASONS FOR THE MISTAKEN REPORT ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY AT HAND. THE NAVY AND AF HAS TOOK [illegible] REPORTS AT FACE VALUE.

SECOND MISTAKE, WHICH WHEN ADDED TO FIRST RESULTED IN AIRCRAFT ATTACK ON LIBERTY, WAS A MISTAKEN REPORT THAT LIBERTY WAS STEAMING AT 30 KNOTS. THIS MISTAKE HAS TWO SIGNIFICANCES. A. WHEN LIBERTY WAS IDENTIFIED IN MORNING, HER MAX SPEED AS DETERMINED FROM JANES FIGHTING SHIPS TO BE 18 KNOTS. THEREFORE, EVEN IF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WERE THOUGHT TO BE LIBERTY, THE FACT THAT SHE WAS REPORTED TO BE MAKING 30 KNOTS WOULD HAVE DENIED THE IDENTIFICATION.

PAGE 4 RUQMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH IDF NAVY STANDING ORDERS, AN ENEMY SHIP IN ANY WATERS WHICH IS ATTACKING ISRAELI SHIPS OR SHELLING THE ISRAELI SHORE MAY BE ATTACKED. IF THERE IS INFO OF ENEMY SHIPS IN THE AREA, ANY SHIP OR SHIPS DISCOVERED BY RADAR WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO BE CRUISING AT A SPEED ABOVE 25 KNOTS MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ENEMY. SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WAS FIXED AT 28 TO 30 KNOTS, THE IDF NAVY WAS ENTITLED TO ATTACK WITHOUT FURTHER IDENTIFICATION. IN VIEW OF THE BACKGROUND INFO ON THE SHELLING OF EL ARISH, THE NAVAL OPS SECTION HAD ORDERED THE PILOTS WHO REPORTED LIBERTYS SPEED AS 30 KNOTS TO RECHECK AND ONLY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THAT SPEED WAS THE INFO CONSIDERED RELIABLE AND AIRCRAFT WERE SENT TO ATTACK. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEGLIGENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE SPEED AT 28-30 KNOTS WHEN IN FACT LIBERTY'S MAX SPEED IS 18 KNOTS IS DISCOUNTED BY THE IDF CNO WHO TESTIFIED QUOTE THAT SUCH ESTIMATIONS REQUIRE EXPERTISE. IN AN UNQUOTE THERE MAY BE GREAT DISCREPANCIES IN FIXING THE SPEED OF A VESSEL MOVING IN FRONT OF IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE ESTIMATE WAS MADE ONLY OVER A SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME. IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SUCH A MISTAKE EVEN IF YOU MEASURE IT TWICE OR MORE UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT MAYBE THE STANDING ORDER

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-3-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928, 1810302 JUNE 67 SECTION 1 OF 11

PAGE 5 RUQMVL 0928/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED BUT NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE IS FOUND IN THE MTB'S FIRING OF LIBERTY'S SPEED.

THIRD MISTAKE CAUSED EXECUTION OF THE SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK ON LIBERTY, THIS TIME WITH TORPEDOS FROM MTB'S. THIS WAS THE MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY AS THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL QUSEIR. HERE I (THAT IS, THE OFFICER CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY WHO LTC EPHAT IDENTIFIED PARENTHETICALLY AS COL HARMON, FORMER ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.) MUST [illegible] MY DOUBTS WHETHER THE IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT DONE WITH A CERTAIN OVEREAGERNESS AS THIS HAPPENED WHEN SERIOUS DOUBTS WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO ARISE AS TO THE IDENTIFICATION AS AN EGYPTIAN SHIP. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE C. [illegible] THAT THE DOUBTS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO ARISE IN THE PILOT AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OF IDENTIFICATION DID NOT GET TO THE C. [illegible] OF THE MTB DIV AT THAT TIME, BUT HE ALREADY KNEW THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT A DESTROYER BUT A SUPPLY OR MERCHANT SHIP AND THIS SHOULD HAVE CAUSED EXTRA CAREFULNESS IN IDENTIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I (AGAIN COL HON) MUST STATE THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFICATION UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:
ET

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 9:07 A.M. 6/18/67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

POL 27 ARAB-ISR

CONFIDENTIAL

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1967 JUN 18 AM 9 15

FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/ OSD
/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUDKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/UNCSTRIKE
RUDLKU/INCHAVEIN
RUEKDA/NCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHOT/USUN
RUFPRN/AMCONSUL GENEVA
RUTPRN/CTG SIX ZERO MT TWO
RUFPDM/SAFE
RUEPAN/CINCUSAREUR
RUTKPE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUDLKU/USDAO LONDON
RUFJC/USDAO PARIS
RUEHOR/USDAO MOSCOW

PAGE 2 RUPRVL 0126 SECRET

FINAL SECTION OF UI.

(1) SHIP WAS COVERED WITH THICK SMOKE. (2) WHEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY ITSELF, THE SHIP DID NOT DO SO AND BEHAVED SUSPICIOUSLY. (3) IT APPEARED TO THE DIVCOM THAT THERE WAS A GUN ON THE FORE-CASTLE OF THE SHIP AND THAT THE SHIP WAS FIRING TOWARD THE MTB'S. THESE OVSERVATIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE WAR DIARY AT THE TIME OF ACTION.

IF WE ADD TO THESE FACTORS THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE SHIP WAS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SMOKE THERE WAS, IN FACT, APPARENTLY A GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN IT AND EL QUSEIR, TWO OFFICERS, A COL AND A LT CO TWO DIFFERENT MTB'S WHO HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEM BOTH IDENTIFIED THE SHIP AT THE SAME TIME AS EL QUSEIR. THE IDF CNO DECIDED THAT ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS ON HAND THAT THIS IDENTIFICATION WAS FEASIBLE. THEREFORE I (AGAIN COL ROM) HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO CRIMINAL OR SERIOUS NEGLIGENCE IN THIS CASE. FINALLY I (COL ROM) HAVE TO ADD THAT A GRAVE ADDITIONAL MISTAKE NOT LESS DECISIVE THAN THE THREE ABOVE MISTAKES MADE BY IDF WAS MADE BY THE LIBERTY ITSELF. ON THIS QUESTION, I (COL ROM) HAVE THE EVIDENCE OF THE IDF CNO AND JAD

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-2-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928, 1810302 JUNE 67 SECTION II OF II

PAGE 3 RUFMVL 3998/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WHICH COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND FROM WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP ACTED WITH LACK OF CARE BY ENDANGERING ITSELF TO A GRAVE EXTENT BY APPROACHING EXCESSIVELY CLOSE TO THE SHORE IN AN AREA WHICH WAS A SCENE OF WAR AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT THIS AREA IS NOT ONE WHERE SHIPS GENERALLY PASS, AND WITHOUT ADVISING THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF ITS PRESENCE AND/OR IDENTIFYING ITSELF ELABORATELY. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARS THAT THE SHIP MADE AN EFFORT TO HIDE ITS IDENTITY FIRST BY FLYING A SMALL FLAG WHICH WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY FROM A DISTANCE[illegible] SECONDLY BY BEGINNING TO ESCAPE WHEN DISCOVERED BY OUR FORCES AND WHEN IT WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, THIRDLY BY FAILING TO IDENTIFY ITSELF IMMEDIATELY BY ITS OWN INITIATIVE BY FLASHING LIGHT AND BY REFUSING TO DO SO EVEN WHEN ASKED BY THE MTB'S. FROM ALL THIS I (COL ROY) CONCLUDE THAT THE SHIP LIBERTY TRIED TO HIDE ITS PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND ITS IDENTITY BOTH BEFORE IT WAS DISCOVERED AND EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN ATTACKED BY THE AF AND LATER BY THE NAVY AND THUS CONTRIBUTED A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ITS IDENTIFICATION AS AN ENEMY SHIP." END QUOTE.

COMMENTS: 1. ALL ABOVE IS AS DICTATED BY LTC EFRAT WHO WAS TRANSLATING FROM A DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN HEBREW.

PAGE 4 RUFMVL 3998/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. LTC EFRAT PAUSED AT ONE POINT IN HIS READING TO POINT OUT THE IDF HAD RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM USG SAYING THAT LIBERTY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED SIX HOURS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK RATHER THAN ONE HOUR AS STATED IN AN EARLIER USG COMMUNICATION.

3. LTC EFRAT PROBABLY NOTED ALUSNA'S APPEARANCE OF SURPRISE AND INCREDULITY AS HE READ OFF SOME OF THE ABOVE POINTS. WHEN HE FINISHED HIS READING HE ASKED WHAT ALUSNA THOUGHT OF THE FINDINGS QUOTE OFF THE RECORD UNQUOTE. ALUSNA PRETENDED HE HAD NOT HEARD THE QUESTION AND THANKED THE COLONEL FOR HIS TIME. THE BURDEN OF DIPLOMACY BORE HEAVILY ON ALUSNA WHOSE EVALUATIONS ARE:

A. THE IDF NAVY STANDING ORDER TO ATTACK ANY SHIP MOVING AT MORE THAN 28 KNOTS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

B. TWO OF THE IDF JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR ACTION ARE MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY. FIRST THEY SAY THAT SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED WAS AS HIGH AS 30 KNOTS THEY COULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS LIBERTY. THEN THEY SAY THE SHIP WAS READILY IDENTIFIED AS EL QUSEIR. AND QUSEIR HAS A MAX SPEED OF 14 KNOTS, FOUR LESS THAN LIBERTY. IF THE QUOTE 30 KNOT SHIP COULDN'T HAVE BEEN LIBERTY UNQUOTE IT FOLLOWS IT ALSO COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EL QUSEIR.

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-USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL 928, 181030Z JUNE 67 SECTION II OF II

PAGE 3 RUEHVL 092H/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

C. THAT A PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICER OF THE RANK OF COMMANDER COULD LOOK AT LIBERTY AND THINK HER A 30 KNOT SHIP IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

D. THE SMOKE WHICH COVERED LIBERTY AND MADE HER DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY WAS PROBABLY A RESULT OF THE IDF AF ATTACKS.

4. WHILE WALKING TO THEIR CARS, LTC EFRAT MENTIONED THAT GEN RABIN HAS NEVER BEEN SO ANGRY AS WHEN HE READ THE CURRENT NEWSWEEK* MAGAZINE COMMENT ON THE LIBERTY INCIDENT. ALUSNA REMARKED THAT HE TOOK NO NOTICE OF NEWS MEDIA REPORTING ON THE INCIDENT.

5. ALUSNA WAS CALLED TO [illegible] EARLIER IN THE DAY TO RECEIVE A COPY OF IDF CNO LETTER OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE TO CNO USN. ALUSNA WAS INFORMED THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL DELIVER THE ORIGINAL TO ADM MCDONALD.

6. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3

BT

*NEWSWEEK, JUNE 19, 1967 PERISCOPE COLUMN, SAID IN PART:

"...HIGH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS BELIEVE ISRAELIS KNEW LIBERTY'S CAPABILITIES AND THAT THE ATTACK MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL. ONE RUMOR-LADEN THEORY HOLDS THAT SOMEONE IN THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES ORDERED THE LIBERTY SUNK BECAUSE IT HAD INTERCEPTED MESSAGES WHICH REVEALED ISRAEL HAD STARTED THE FIGHTING..."

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 9:31 A.M. 6/18/67

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PRIORITY
181105Z
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO USS LIBERTY
INFO USCINCEUR/AMEMB VALLETTA MALTA/ASD PA/COMSIXTHFLT

IN VIA HAND
TOR/1530Z18JUN/DWB
KR NR 12876

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FILED 17 JUNE FROM MALTA BY COLIN FROST STATES QUOTE SENIOR CREWMEN OF THE U.S. NAVY SHIP LIBERTY ARE CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL'S AIR AND TORPEDO ATTACK ON THEIR SHIP, WHICH COST 34 AMERICAN LIVES, WAS DELIBERATE, A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE SAID FRIDAY IN VALLETTA. THEY HAVE TESTIFIED TO THIS EFFECT TO THE NAVAL INQUIRY COURT NOW IN SECRET SESSION ABOARD THE SHIP. THEIR BELIEF WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD ENOUGH TIME TO IDENTIFY THE SHIP AND ON THE INTENSITY OF THE ATTACK UNQUOTE.
2. STORY LATER STATES QUOTE OFFICIALLY, LIBERTY'S TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE WAR TORN MIDEAST THAT WERE PLANNING AN EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THEIR AREAS. BUT ALL MILITARY MEN IN THIS FORTRESS ISLAND LONG VERSED IN THE WAYS OF WAR TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE LIBERTY WAS ALSO UNDER ORDERS TO INTERCEPT AND EVALUATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS OF FIGHTING ISRAELI AND ARAB FORCES. FOR FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE ATTACK THE SHIP HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE FROM ISRAELI PLANES CIRCLING OVERHEARD, INNER QUOTE WE WERE FLYING OLD GLORY AND IT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY SHOULDN'T KNOW WHO WE WERE, END INNER QUOTE, ONE SURVIVOR SAID UNQUOTE.
3. WHILE SOME OTHER MATERIAL IN STORY WAS RELEASED BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN, THE ABOVE QUOTES APPEAR TO BE BASED EITHER ON AUTHORIZED INTERVIEWS OR THE REPORTER'S CONJECTURE, SINCE HE EXPRESSED A STRONG BELIEF THAT THE ATTACK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL TO THE TF 100 PAO BEFORE LIBERTY ARRIVED IN MALTA, THE LATER POSSIBILITY IS NOT UNLIKELY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE HE ATTEMPTED TO CONVERSE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH LIBERTY CREWMEN ASHORE. BECAUSE OTHER REPORTERS MAY ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP, YOU MAY FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO REPEAT PREVIOUS ADMONITION TO YOUR FINE CREW TO REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING ABOUT MATTERS UNDER INVESTIGATION UNTIL FINDINGS OF COURT OF INQUIRY HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

BT

181105Z

James M. Ennes III Research Papers

NAVAL MESSAGE

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MESSAGE NO	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	EMERGENCY	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	DEFERRED
		ACTION						
		INFO						

TOR: 19 22[illegible] JUN 67
, DLVD 0[illegible] HAND PAPADO

R 19[illegible]5Z JUN 67

FROM: AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO: USS LIBERTY

BT

UNCLAS LUANDA 662

BD

Today + Relieu to AF

WE WERE VERY SORRY TO LEARN OF THE TRAGIC MISHAPP WHICH BEFELL THE LIBERT
THE STAFF OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE LIBERTY'S MANY FRIENDS IN
ANGOLA JOIN ME IN SENDING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND
WISHES FOR A SPEEDY AND COMPLEATE RECOVERY TO THOSE INJURED.

BT

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

190705Z

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NAVAL MESSAGE

PRECEDENCE	
ACTION	
INFO	

KR HR 140.2 2415252

FM: CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO: CTF 60 / COMSIXTHFLT / [redacted] / AMEMB VALLETTA

O 241043Z
FM: CINCUSNAVEUR
TO: CNO / SECDEF V / NSC/INCELR

R 191223Z
FM: USDAO ROME
TO: CINCUSNAVEUR

// UNCLAS //

ARTICLE FROM ROME DAILY AMERICA EDITION SUNDAY 18 JUNE HEADLINED QUOTE LIBERTY CREWMEN SPY AT ACRE AS DELI CRATE EXPLODE DATELINED VALLETTA MALTA AND CARRIED BY FOLLOWING EXCEPTS FROM VALLETTA, MALTA (AP) ---

SENIOR ONE MEMBER OF THE STRICKEN U.S. NAVY SHIP LIBERTY SAID CONVINCED THAT ISRAELI'S AIR AND TORPEDO ATTACK WHICH COST 24 AMERICAN LIVES WAS DELIBERATE, A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE SAID IN VALLETTA SATURDAY. THEY HAVE TESTIFIED TO THIS EFFECT BEFORE A NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY SECRET SESSION ABOARD THE SHIP AS SHE UNDERGOES EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT MALTA DRYDOCK. THEIR BELIEF IS BASED ON THE FACT THE THE ISRAELIS HAD AMPLE TIME TO IDENTIFY HER AND ON THE INTENSITY OF THE ATTACK. LIBERTY WAS STRUCK JUNE 8 AS SHE LAY 15 MILES OFF THE ISRAELI COAST. SHE IS A FORMER FREIGHTER CONVERTED THREE YEARS AGO TO A NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE SHIP. EXCEPT FOR HER ARRAY OF ANTENNAS SHE HAS THE CONTOURS OF A MERCHANT SHIP AND SHE CARRIED 4.0 CALIBER GUNS AS HER ONLY ARMAMENT.

SHE SAILED FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET HOME PORT AT NORFOLK, VA. IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF JUNE AND HAD BEEN IN POSITION OFF THE ISRAELI COAST OVER 24 HOURS WHEN THE ATTACK CAME.

OFFICIALLY, HER TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE FAR EAST WHICH AT THEN PLANNING AN EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. BUT ALL MILITARY MEN IN THIS FORTRESS ISLAND LONG VERSED IN WAYS OF WAR TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT SHE HAS ALSO BEEN ORDERED TO INTERCEPT AND EVALUATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE FIGHTING ISRAELI AND ARAB FORCES.

FOR FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE ATTACK THE SHIP HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE FROM ISRAELI PLANES CIRCLING OVERHEAD.

191022Z

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( ) ( )

13004	101CI Z JUN 07					

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO CNO
USS LIBERTY
STATE GMIC
UT
UNCLAS VALLETTA 07
USS LIBERTY INTERNET REQUEST
REF A. 1713Z 72 JUN 07
IF INTERNET APPROVED BY CINCUSNAVEUR, EMBASSY VALLETTA WILL
COORDINATE RELEASE WITH USS LIBERTY. PLEASE ADVISE. FELDMAN
UT

REF A. 1713Z 72 UNCLAS LIBERTY INTERNET REQUEST...ETC....

CT CR CG

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101CI Z JUN 07

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20 JUNE 1967							
	1918Z	PRECE DENCE					
		ACTION				2222	
		INFO					

FROM: USS LIBERTY

TO: [illegible]

ST

UNCLAS E F T O

LIBERTY INTERVIEW REQUEST

A. ONINFO 171347Z JUN 67

1. INTERVIEW WITH CO COULD BE ARRANGED [illegible] LOCAL 21 JUNE AT AMEMB VALETTA. TELEPHONE 36411 THRU 36415

2. THERE ARE NO CREW MEMBERS FROM BOSTON AREA CURRENTLY ON BOARD LIBERTY. COULD HAVE DCA ENS. SCOTT, USNR AND VAN CLEAVE, HM1 USN AT EMEMB VALETTA FOR INTERVIEW. WOULD DESIRE COPY TRANSCRIPT OF ENTIRE INTERVIEW BE PROVIDED ALSO.

ST

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1918Z

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action
NEA-7

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DEFENSE DEPT. 6-21-67

CZCORA731
Info OO RUEHC RUEHOR RUEHDT
IS-25 DE RUQMVL 0948 1720914
Cys-3 ZNY CCCCC
O P 2109182 JUN 67
L-1 FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
H-1 TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
GVA-8 RUEPJS/OSD
IO-3 RUENAAA/CNO
INR-7 RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RSC-1 RUDLKD/CINCNAVEUR
RUEKDA/JCS
57 INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPEK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPRW/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPEM/USAFE
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTXRE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUDLKD/USDAO LONDON
RUFNCR/USDAO PARIS
RUEHCR/USDAO MOSCOW
BT

PAGE 2 RUQMVL 0948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0948 JUN 67.
SUBJECT: COURT OF INQUIRY IN USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
REF: USDAO CONFIDENTIAL 0928 JUN 67.

1. ALUSNA CALLED TO FLO LATE EVENING 20 JUN. LT COL BLOCK PRESENTED FOLLOWING OFFICIAL STATEMENT WHICH IS BEING RELEASED TO ISRAELI PUBLIC. QUOTE THE COURT OF INQUIRY NOMINATED BY THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT WITH THE USS LIBERTY HAS PRESENTED ITS REPORT WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE MILITARY ADVOCATE GENERAL. AFTER EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE, THE LATTER HAS DECIDED ON THE HOLDING OF A PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY BY A MILITARY OFFICER, LEGALLY QUALIFIED, WHO IS EMPOWERED BY LAW TO DECIDE ON THE COMMITTAL FOR TRIAL OF ANY PERSON. THE PRESIDENT OF THE APPEAL COURT MARTIAL (SIC) HAS NOMINATED LT COL ISAIAH ZERUSHALMI, ONE OF THE LEGALLY QUALIFIED JUDGES OF THE APPEAL COURT MARTIAL TO HOLD THE INQUIRY UNQUOTE.

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-2- 'SDAO TEL AVIV 0948, 210910Z JUN 67

2. LT COL BLOCH AND LT COL LEWIN (SENIOR FLO) MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: THE COS HAS RECEIVED THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY (COL RON) APPOINTED BY HDR. COS FORWARDED THE FINDINGS TO JAG COL SHIMOAH. AFTER EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE JAG RECOMMENDED THAT A PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY BE HELD. AS A

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RESULT THE PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHEST IDF MILITARY COURT, THAT IS, THE APPEAL COURT-MARTIAL APPOINTED AS THE PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY, A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE APPEAL COURT-MARTIAL, LT COL ISAIAH HERUSHALMI WHO IS A QUALIFIED LAWYER AND FORMER JAG OF THE NAVY AND OF THE AIR FORCE. THIS INQUIRY WILL DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST WHOM SO CHARGES COULD BE BROUGHT.

3. LT COL BLOCH FURTHER STATED THAT THE IDF AGREES (SIC) TO HEAR ANY TESTIMONY OR WITNESS THE USN OR USG IS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING IN THIS CASE.

4. COMMENT: LT COL BLOCH SAID THAT GEN. GEVA, THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE TO WASHDC, WILL PRESENT THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARA 1 TO THE USG. GP-3.
BT

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 6/21/67, 8:10 A.M.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

22 JUL 67						
10270	2121?Z JUL 67	PRIOR. SERVICE				
		ACTION			EEI	
		INFO				

FM CDRUSF
TO USNMCCOM
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CDR 1ST FLT
COMSEVENTHFLT
CTF LIBERTY
CTF 1
CTG 1.4.7
CTG 1.4.8
CTU WILLETTA
ZEN/UNCLAS
ZT
UNCLAS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE(DOD) MSG NO.
SUBJ: RESCUE OF USS LIBERTY CASUALTIES.
REFS: A. USNMCCOM RECD FM CTF 1 2121Z JUL 67.
B. CINCPAC 1715 72 JUL 67.
AS RESCUE OF LIBERTY WOUNDED INTO MEDICAL FACILITIES AND
USS LIBERTY WITH RETURN OF [illegible] HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.
REMAINING DEAD HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.
REFD SD ADVISED. RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS [illegible] BUT TO AVOID INTERNATIONAL
FRICTION TO RELEASE OF [illegible] BUT TO AVOID LOSS OF TACTICAL REQUEST
FOR PLATINUM PURPOSES. ALL PARTIES ARE REQUESTED CHANGE.
ZT

CLASSIFICATION
Copy One Only
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DATE TIME GROUP (GCT)
2121Z JUL 67

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NAVAL MESSAGE

						PAGE	PAGES
DATE 20 JUN 87	TIME FILED T 2					1	1

REFERENCE NR	DATE TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRIORITY DEFENCE						
180551	200912Z	ACTION						
		INFO						

FM: [illegible]
TO20: DCS LIGHTY

O 27[illegible]Z JUN 87
FM: [illegible]
TO: USCINCEUR / CINCUSNAVEUR / CINCUSAFEUR

[illegible] (U)
[illegible] SEE NEXT MESSAGE FOR [illegible] OF SECRET PORTION. IN FILE
[illegible] FOR YOUR PERUSAL AND [illegible]. THIS [illegible]
[illegible] ITEM, ALL CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS [illegible] HERE. COPY
OF THE QUESTIONS [illegible] WILL BE PROVIDED TO [illegible] S NEXTDLY
AS POSSIBLE, TO REPORT TO [illegible] THE
QUESTION SHOULD BE [illegible] ANYONE OTHER [illegible] ASD (PA)

...LT...

* UNDERLINE GARBLED, WILL SYCOPHON REQUEST.

[illegible] 01 [illegible] 04

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT) 200147Z

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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SECRET MESSAGE

PRIORITY

FM FILE
140

INFO: SECNAV/ SECSTATE/ CINCUSNAVEUR/ CINCLANT/ CINCLANTFLT/ COMSIXTHFLT/
USS LA SALLE/ USS PARACA/ AMEMB VALLETTA/ USDOCOS SOUTH VALLEY

UNCLAS E F T O REF D TO FROM ASD(PA) DOD COULDN'T
USDOC
COUTH FOR RAUL KISH

SUBJECT CLN MEMO RELEASE OF LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY

1. BY DOF DTED 8/22/82 CLASSIFIED.

2. NARRATIVE AND UNCLASSIFIED TESTIMONY SENT TO USDOCDOM, CINCUSNAVEUR, AND COMSIXTHFLT HAS TO BE RELEASED TO PRESS.

IF RECORD OF CTE IS NECESSARY TO GIVE INTERVIEW S AND RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE ATTACK ITSELF THEY ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE QUERIES ABOUT ATTACK WILL BE HANDLED BY OASD(PA).

NARRATIVE AND TESTIMONY REFERRED TO ABOVE ARE ONLY PORTIONS OF COURT OF INQUIRY THAT HAVE BEEN DECLASSIFIED. NORMAL SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE OTHERWISE APPLICABLE.

BT

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CINCUSNAVEUR 301306Z JUNE

Message recommends McGonagle for Medal of Honor.

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301306Z

NAVAL MESSAGE

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RELEASER NO	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	EMERGENCY	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE
25735	301401Z	ACTION					
		INFO					

FM: CINCUSNAVEUR

TO: USS LIBERTY

INFO: USAINCEUR / COMSIXTHFLT / USA NAPLES / SECDEF / SECSTATE / AMERICAN EMBASSEY MALTA / CNINFO / CINCLANTFLT / CINCLANT / COMSERVLANT / COMSERVRON EIGHT / USDOSOUTH / CNAVAIRMED /

BT
UNCLAS E F T O

SECDEF FOR OASD PA. USDOCOSOUTH FOR RADM KIDD, USS LIBERTY PRESS QUERIES/INTERVIEWS

A. USS LIBERTY 291805Z JUN 67 PASEP

B. SECDEF [illegible] DTG 282205Z JUN 67 (NOTAL)

1. COMMANDING OFFICER AND ANY MEMBER OF LIBERTY CREW WHO SO DESIRES ARE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO QUERIES AND GIVE INTERVIEWS AT MALTA AT TIME CONVIENT TO CO. NARRATIVE TESTIMONY REFFERED TO IN REF B ARE ONLY PORTIONS OF COURT OF INQUIRY THAT HAVE BEEN DECLASSIFIED. NORMAL SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE OTHERWISE APPLICABLE. CREW MEMBERS ARE LIMITED TO RESPOND TO INQUIRE ABOUT ATTACK ONLY WITHIN GIVEN LINE SET FORTH IN PRESS RELEASE DISCUSSED IN REF B. ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUERIES CONCERNING ATTACK OR ANY OTHER PHASE OF LIBERTY INCIDENT MUST BE REFERRED TO OASD PA, FOR RESOLUTION, AS DIRECTED PARA [illegible] REF B.

2. COPIES OF AFOREMENTIONED PRESS RELEASE ARE BEING HAND DELIVERED THIS DATE TO CO USS LIBERTY AND AMERICAN EMBASSEY MALTA.

3. IRVING R. LEVINE, NBC NEWS, HAS REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH LIBERTY CO AND PARA [illegible]. INTERVIEW WITH RADM KIDD PLANNED PM 30 JUNE. A COPY OF PRESS RELEASE WILL BE GIVEN TO LEVINE TODAY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF HE WILL STILL BE INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWS WITH LIBERTY CO AFTER SEEING THE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ATTACK ON LIBERTY WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS. ALL CONCERNED WILL BE ADVISED OF RESULTS OF THIS DISCUSSION.

4. IF PRESS INTERVIEW IS REQUIRED, CDR GLOVEY COMSIXTHFLT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER WILL ASSIST AS NECESSARY.

REF A: USS LIBERTY PRESS CONFERENCE—USDOCOSOUTH FOR RADM KIDD

REF B: 2105ZOCT CLN NEWS RELEASE USS LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT) 301401Z

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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MESSAGE NO	DATE TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	TIME	ENCRYPT	OPERATIONAL PRIORITY	PRIORITY	VOICE	SIGNAL
12431	2 JULY 87	ACTION						
		INFO						

FM: CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
TO: CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
INFO: USS LIBERTY / COMSIXTHFLT / SECDEF / SECSTATE / ASD C3I / JCS / CINCPAC / CINCPACFLT / CINCUSNAVEUR / COMSIXTHFLT / COMSECONDFLT / COMFAIRMED / USCINCEUR / USDOCOMSOUTH /

READDOWNGRADE

O-211224Z
FM: NAVSUPPACT NAPLES
TO: CINCUSNAVEUR / USS LIBERTY / COMSIXTHFLT / SECNAV / SECSTATE / ASD C3I / DELTA / CINCPAC / CINCLANTFLT / CINCPACFLT / COMSECONDFLT / COMFAIRMED / EIGHT / USCINCEUR / USDOCOMSOUTH
BT
UNCLAS C F T O
SECDEF FOR GARD PA USDOCOMSOUTH FOR READ ADMIRAL KIDD.
USS LIBERTY INTERVIEWS

A. CINCUSNAVEUR 020414Z JUL 87
1. INTERVIEW OF ABOUT ONE HOUR DURATION OF [illegible] CONDUCTED BY RAVEN A. LEVINE OF NSC IA [illegible] A. INTERVIEW REQUESTED BY NSC. QUESTIONS ASKED AND GIVEN (ENCLOSURE) _____ OUT OF THE LIBERTY ARE A RELEVANCE, OR STATE [illegible] APPROVED.
2. AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW AND WHILE TAPE WAS TURNED OFF, LEVINE STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED INTERVIEW [illegible] AND THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT OFFICE IN T CIC [illegible] TO CONDUCT FURTHER INTERVIEWS. CINCLANTFLT C.O. NSC WAS TOLD C... AVAILABLE, AND DID DO SO SEVERAL TIMES.
3. AT [illegible] DAY TO DATE REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS ARE PENDING.
4. RECORDED TAPE RECORDING OF TOTAL INTERVIEW AND ALL CONVERSATION ASSOCIATED THEREWITH FORWARDED TO CINCUSNAVEUR AND CNO BY CERTIFIED AIR [illegible]
5. CDR COOLEY SENDS.
BT

REF A: A. USS LIBERTY QUERIES/INTERVIEWS

DECL: OADR

NNN 01 02 04 23

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3/10/87

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

DATE	TOR/TOD					PAGE	PAGES
16 JUL 67	T[illegible]12Z					1	1
MR NR	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECE DENCE					
28517	151512Z JUL 67	ACTION					
		INFO					

FM: COMSECOND
INFO: USS LIBERTY / COMSIXTH
P R 151432Z JUL 67
FM: C[illegible] VE 67
INFO: C[illegible] CINCLANT
R 151507Z JUL 67
FM: CINCUSNAVEUR
TO: NAVOCEANO
INFO: CINCLANT
BT
U N C L A S S I F I E D
[illegible] OPERATIONAL SITUATION OF USS LIBERTY
A. SECDEF [illegible] DTG 272[illegible]Z JUN 67 PASEP
B. CINCUSNAVEUR [illegible]Z JUL 67 PASEP
C. CINCUSNAVEUR [illegible]Z JUL 67 PASEP
D. SECDEF [illegible] DTG [illegible] 67 PASEP
E. SECDEF [illegible] DTG 201512Z JUN 67 PASEP
F. CINCUSNAVEUR [illegible]Z JUL 67
G. CNO 2011[illegible]Z JUN 67
H. USS LIBERTY 2010[illegible] JUN 67
I. CINCUSNAVEUR 3[illegible]Z JUN 67
J. NAVSUPPACT NAPLES 3[illegible]Z JUN 67
K. DOD RELEASE OF 08 JUL 67 ON FINDINGS OF A WAR COURT OF INQUIRY (PASEP)
L. COMSIXTH [illegible]Z JUL 67 (PASEP)
1. IN VIEW [illegible] SAILING OF USS LIBERTY TO CROSS REF A T ROUTE D PASSED AS MATTER OF I [illegible] FUTURE CONSIDERATION. REFS A [illegible] PROVIDE INFORMATION ARE BEING OR SUPPLIED BY IN THAT CONTEXT ED REF E THROUGH J. REF K [illegible] THIS DATE.
2. REF L REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING DECISION OF FACTS THAT AL. BOSTON AREA CONSIDERED NEED FOR TRANSFERRING OFF SHIP AND THAT MR. COMSIXTH BE IN LOCATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT HERE OF REF K. MR. COMSIXTH MAY STILL DESIRE TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW WITH CO USS LIBERTY.

...BT...
REF A: [illegible] HELD IN CONFID
B: NOT HELD IN CONFID
C: [illegible] HIGHER CLASSIFICATION

151543Z JULY

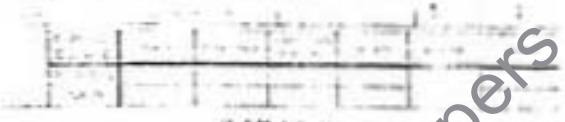
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NAVAL MESSAGE

	PRECEDENCE				
	ACTION/INFO				

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POS 9-4 US-IGR

Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files

FILE DESIGNATION

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A-209

TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

FROM : Department of State

DATE: Dec 13 - 9 [illegible]

SUBJECT : U.S.S. Liberty claims

REF

Enclosed herewith are the following notes for transmission to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs:

1. A draft note stating the legal basis of the claims which the United States Government will present against the Government of Israel in connection with the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967, and indicating the categories of claims which will be presented (Enclosure No. 1).

2. Thirty-four notes, constituting individual claims in each of the death cases (Enclosure No. 2). Because of the volume of material, these have been typed in final in the Department. They require numbering and dating by the Embassy; numbering should begin immediately following the note transmitted as Enclosure No. 1. The notes have been transmitted to the Embassy in alphabetical order, based on the name of the deceased, and should be numbered in that order.

The Embassy is requested to transmit all notes to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs simultaneously, informing the Department telegraphically when they have been transmitted.

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L:L/C:ELKerley:ams 11/22/67 | 5896 | L:Carl F. Salans

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambrakis

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The Embassy should indicate to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the Department will inform interested members of Congress that the death claims have been filed, and will indicate to them the total amount of compensation claimed but not the amounts of compensation in individual claims. The Department does not plan to issue a press release but will, in reply to inquiries, indicate that the claims have been presented and the total amount of compensation claimed.

Enclosure:

Draft Note (with attachments)

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UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFT NOTE

Enclosure No. 1
Department's A-____
to Tel Aviv

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel and has the honor to refer to the note of the Ambassador of Israel to the Secretary of State, dated June 10, 1967, the note of the Secretary of State to the Ambassador of Israel, dated June 10, 1967, and the note of the Ambassador of Israel to the Secretary of State, dated June 12, 1967, concerning the attack by Israeli air and naval units against the U.S.S. Liberty on June 8, 1967. In his note of June 10, 1967 to the Secretary of State, the Ambassador of Israel, after expressing the regret of his Government, stated, on instruction, "that the Government of Israel is prepared to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage." In his note of the same date to the Ambassador of Israel, the Secretary of State, in reply, after reviewing the circumstances of the attack, stated the expectation of "the United States Government ... that the Government of Israel will provide compensation in

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accordance with international law." In his reply note, dated June 12, 1967, the Ambassador of Israel recalled that as soon as the Government of Israel became aware of the attack it informed the Government of the United States what had taken place, and that "the Government of Israel immediately assumed responsibility for this error." The Ambassador further recalled that the Government of Israel had taken the initiative "to offer to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage" and stated further that "the Government of Israel renews its readiness to make amends."

The United States Government has proceeded to compile the information necessary to present to the Government of Israel claims for compensation as a result of the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty to the extent recognized by international law. The claims that the Government of the United States will present fall into the following categories:

1. Claims on behalf of those suffering loss as a result of the deaths of thirty-four members of the crew of the vessel.

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2. Claims on behalf of the approximately one hundred sixty-two members of the crew who suffered personal injuries.

3. The claim of the Government of the United States for physical damage to the U.S.S. Liberty.

4. The claim of the Government of the United States for reimbursement of amounts expended for medical treatment of the injured personnel.

5. The claim of the Government of the United States for the value of lost services of injured personnel.

6. The claim of the Government of the United States for amounts expended in reimbursing the crew for personal property lost or destroyed.

Claims on behalf of those suffering loss as a result of the deaths of thirty-four members of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty are being submitted today

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to the Government of Israel in a series of separate notes. In view of the substantial economic hardship suffered by these claimants, the United States Government trusts that the Government of Israel will expeditiously process and pay these claims.

The remaining claims will be presented periodically as the evidence establishing the amount of damage in accordance with principles of international law becomes available. Delay may occur in presenting some of the claims, particularly those involving serious personal injuries, since the extent of injury may not be ascertainable until a later date.

Enclosures:

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Department of State

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02736 [illegible]

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ACTION L-01

INFO [illegible]

4 AMEMBASSY NAR 66
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2736

BUDGETS USA LIBERTY CLAIMS

REFS STATE 183384 - PS § 4(b)(3) - 50 U.S.C. 3024(i)

IN ANSWER TO VERY NEWSLETTER QUESTION ENTAG AMERICAN DEPARTMENT, FOREIGN TOLD US THAT FAILURE IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE CONCERNING OUR LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS WAS DUE TO ADVERSE FINANCIAL SITUATION AND RECEIVED FRIDAY FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSURED US THAT WE COULD EXPECT REPLY LATER THIS WEEK. EXCEPT

BARBOUR

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02796 0709Z

ACTION L-03

INFO NEA-13 OPR-02 ODDE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /025R

R 070844Z MAR 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2796

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 2736

ELITZUR (US DEPT) CALLED THURSDAY AM TO SAY FOREIGN OFFICE SENDING EMBASSY NOTE ON SUBJECT. ACCORDING ELITZUR OPERATIVE SENTENCE OF NOTE WAS TO EFFECT FOLLOWING INITIAL EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS BY GOI, INSTRUCTIONS WERE BEING SENT TO ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO OPEN TALKS ON THIS MATTER. THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE ALREADY ON WAY, ELITZUR SAID.

--- EXEMPT. BARBOUR

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02412 151304Z

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ACTION L 03

INFO USIA [illegible]

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2926

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2926

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REFS: TEL AVIV 2936

1. EMBASSY TODAY RECEIVED NOTE VERBALE NO. 2 FROM MINFOR AFFAIRS REPLYING TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF DECEMBER 27, 1967 CONCERNING USS LIBERTY CLAIMS. HEREWITH PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS:

QUOTE THE MINISTRY IS PLEASED TO ADVISE THE E[illegible] THAT, FOLLOWING THE INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE CLAIMS CONTAINED IN THE SERIES OF NOTES FORWARDED SIMULTANEOUSLY

PAGE 2 RUFNVL 2926 [illegible] LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED NOTE, AND WHILST RESERVING FULLY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S LEGAL POSITION, THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON IS NOW BEING INSTRUCTED TO OPEN TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE COMPETENT UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES. THE EXAMINATION OF THE CLAIMS SO FAR ENTAILED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES WHICH WERE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED WAS NOT ENTIRELY COMPLETE. THUS, IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE ONLY ONE CATEGORY OF CLAIMS HAS SUBMITTED. UNQUOTE

3. NOTE ITSELF FOLLOWS UNDER LOVE OF AIRGRAM.

HARMON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

A-685 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

TO : DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

MAR 21 8 10 AM 1968

FROM : Amembassy TEL AVIV DATE: March 18, 1968

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS: Transmittal of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note of March 7

REF : Tel Aviv 2912

Enclosed herewith is the original copy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Note dated March 7, 1968 relative to the USS Liberty claims.

BARBOUR

Enclosure: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note of March 7

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Drafted by: POL:JOLeonard/do 3/15/68

Classification Approved by: POL:HHStackhouse

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CHRON

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to refer to the Embassy's Note No. 26 dated 27 December 1967, concerning the U.S.S. Liberty.

The Ministry is pleased to advise the Embassy that, following the initial examination of the claims contained in the series of Notes forwarded simultaneously with the above-mentioned Note, and whilst reserving fully the Government of Israel's legal position, the Embassy of Israel in Washington is now being instructed to open talks on the subject with the competent United States authorities. The examination of the claims so far entailed considerable difficulties which were due to the fact that the information supplied was not entirely complete and, in particular, because only one category of claims was submitted.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Jerusalem, 7 March 1969

Embassy of the United States of America
in Israel.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03397 181543Z

47
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13,SS 02,NSC 10,OPM 03,CIAE 00,INR 07,NSAE 00,NSC 01,DODE

R 02/0837 W

R 181445Z APR 88
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3692

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3397

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE'S 148286

1. EMBOFF SAID WE CONCERNED WE HAD NOT HEARD IN ALMOST THREE WEEKS FROM GOI ON SUBJECT. WE HAD HAD REASON TO BELIEVE FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT GOI DISPOSITION WAS TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH MATTER.

2. ELIZUR SAID OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS CORRECT; GOI WANTED SETTLE MATTER QUOTE QUICKLY AND SMOOTHLY UNQUOTE. WORKING PARTY COMPRISING REPS MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN GOI AND WAS AWAITING CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM ISRAELI ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON WHICH THEY EXPECTED WOULD ARRIVE APRIL 20. ELIZUR SAID WORKING PARTY WOULD MEET EARLY NEXT WEEK AND HE HOPED RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY AFTER THAT.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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27 Mar 68 15 21 Z

ACTION Ambassy TEL AVIV

STATE

LIBERTY 2

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY Claims

1. During call March 25, Ambassador Rabin and Embassy lawyers informed Under Secretary [redacted] that GOI concedes validity of $1.5 million portion death claims which relate to loss of financial support. However, GOI inquiring how remaining portion ($1.78 million) attributable to emotional anguish was calculated. Also concerned lest agreeing to these payments set precedent for similar payments involved in injury claims still to come. Asked to be given indication of general size future claims for property and injuries even if these claims not entirely ready for submission yet.

2. Under Secretary, assisted by Department legal officers, agreed to provide basis of calculation emotional anguish and what information presently available as to general direction property and personal injury claims. Working level meeting with lawyers set for March 27. Under Secretary pointed out some degree of arbitrariness inevitable in such calculations and juries in such cases similarly arbitrary. Also remarked that payment of death claims would not set exact precedent for injury claims since latter claims do not involve emotional anguish of relatives but quite different factor of pain and

NEA/IAI:GBLambrakis:cr:3/26/68	4067	The Under Secretary	

Mr. Karlow

NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton
NEA - Mr. Handley
L - Mr. Salans
S/S - Mr. Meehan
M - Miss Volger

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FORM DS-322

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Classification

suffering victim. He noted financial hardship being suffered by some claimants, as well as strong Congressional interest, and urged death claims be paid promptly.

3. In closing, Under Secretary threw out thought that immediate payment of $1.5 million portion death claims to families most in need because of lost financial support might be helpful. Israelis agreed this would be good idea.

4. Following meeting, Rabin told Deptoff he intended recommend payment $1.5 million as first tranche while rest being worked out. Seemed unimpressed by political risks involved. Department unable predict with certainty what effect such payment would have, but there is good chance at least some of claimants (either among the minority who would thus receive partial payment or among the majority who would receive no payment at this time) would redouble efforts through Congressional and other channels to insure their claim not being sidetracked. This could seriously agitate issue of LIBERTY attack at time when it has generally subsided. Partial payment might also relieve pressure on GOI to make other payments and reduce our bargaining leverage. We hope that by explaining to lawyers here basis for remaining portion death claims, GOI will be prepared quickly to resolve entire death claim before full presentation property and injuries claims. If Embassy is consulted by Foreign Ministry on subject, it should therefore take position that, while advance payment $1.5 million might be useful humanitarian gesture, would also be risky in political terms -- particularly if not followed almost immediately by payment of remainder. Safest and surest course for GOI remains payment of entire amount of death claim right now, while other claims being worked out.

END

GP-3

RUSK

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(5)

MAY 3, 1968

Mr. Arthur W. Farmer
Chief Benefits Director
Department of Veterans Benefits
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20420

Dear Mr. Farmer:

The Department of State is now in the process of computing the amounts of compensation to be claimed from the Government of Israel on behalf of the crew members of the U.S.S. Liberty who suffered personal injuries in the Israeli attack on that ship on June 8, 1967. On the basis of information now available to us, which in some cases is incomplete because medical treatment has not yet been concluded, it appears that a limited number of cases - at least six but probably not as many as thirty - involve permanent impairment of earning capacity. The purpose of this letter is to solicit the advice of the Veterans Administration as to the percentage of permanent impairment which we should use in our legal formula for computing loss of earnings in this limited number of cases.

Use of the Veterans Administration schedule for rating disabilities in computing the compensation to be claimed from the Government of Israel would have obvious advantages. In view of the authoritative nature of the schedule, its use would result in the most accurate possible evaluation of the losses incurred by the claimants. Moreover, its use would avoid the feelings on the part of the claimants that they had been unfairly treated, which would arise if the Department were to rate the claimants' disabilities at a significantly different percentage than that used by the Veterans Administration in connection with present or future benefits.

(2)

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NK POL 27 ARAB-ISR

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Informal discussions between Dr. Mutlenberg, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. Macomber of the Veterans Administration and members of the Department's Legal Adviser's Office suggest that an informal procedure for consultation on this matter might well be feasible. I hope you would be agreeable to such a procedure.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard C. Meeker
The Legal Adviser

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03559 031232Z

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ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13 SS 22 NSC 10 OPR 04 CIAE 00 INR 07 NSAE 00 PSC 01 JUDE 00
H 02 NSA 01 /043 W

O 031100Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3772

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3559

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 3397 AND STATE 168286

1. I RAISED THE MATTER OF USS LIBERTY CLAIMS WITH FONMIN EBAN MAY 2. HE APPEARED UNINFORMED OF STATUS OF MATTER AND I ACCORDINGLY EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD SUBMITTED CLAIMS IN RELATION TO THE DEATHS SOME TIME AGO. ISRAELI REACTION WAS THAT THEY WOULD GIVE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO PROBLEM BUT SO FAR NOTHING HAS TRANSPIRED. ISRAELI LAWYERS CONSULTED THE DEPARTMENT AND SEEMED SATISFIED THAT CLAIMS WERE NOT EXORBITANT.

PAGE 2 PUCVL 3559 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
I URGED THAT THE CLAIMS BE SETTLED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AS CLAIMANTS WERE IN SOME CASES HARD UP AND IN ANY EVENT A NUMBER WERE APPEALING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH CONGRESS AND OTHERWISE FOR SOME ACTION.

2. BITAN WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, CONFIRMED MY SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION, ADDING THAT THE ISRAELI LAWYERS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN JERUSALEM RECOMMEND PAYMENT BUT THERE HAD BEEN SOME FEELING THAT THE GOI SHOULD HAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CALCULATIONS OF COMPENSATION FOR MENTAL ANGUISH ARE IN LINE WITH SOME ACCEPTED AMERICAN SCALE AND DEPARTMENT HAD SO FAR BEEN UNABLE GIVE SUCH ASSURANCE. I ARGUED THAT IT MIGHT BE THAT SUCH ASSURANCE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03559 P312322Z

SINCE MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IN ANY CASE AMERICANS COULD UPSET SUCH A TABLE BY SUCCESSFUL ACTION IN THE COURT OF CLAIMS. I REITERATED THAT IN ANY EVENT I FOUND THE ARGUMENT FOR RAPID PAYMENT OF THE CLAIMS AS PRESENTED ON HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL GROUNDS OVER-RIDING.

3. EBAN AGREED WITH ME THAT IT IS A POLITICAL AND

PAGE 3 RUGMVL 3559 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM AND SAID HE WOULD SPEAK PERSONALLY TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE THIS MORNING BEFORE LEAVING FOR EUROPE.

EXEMPT. BARBOUR

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03731 161035Z

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ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13,SS 22,NSC 10,OPM 04,CIAE 02,INR 07,NSAE 00,RSC 01,DODE 00,
H 02,HSR 01,/061 W

O 160815Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3853

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3731

LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 3559

1. FOLLOWING NOTE GIVEN US BY FONMIN MAY 15. BOTH ELIZUR (NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS) AND RAVIV (POLITICAL SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTER) HAVE ASSURED US GOI WANTS SETTLE MATTER AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO STATE THE FOLLOWING:
A. ON 7 MARCH 1968 THE MINISTRY ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT THE INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING LOSS AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH OF THIRTY-FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. LIBERTY HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON WAS BEING INSTRUCTED TO OPEN TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE COMPETENT U.S. AUTHORITIES. INITIAL CONTACTS WERE SINCE MADE IN WASHINGTON.
B. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HOLDS THAT COMPENSATION RELATING TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLAIMS SHOULD BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS PAYABLE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED SERVICE MEN WHO ARE KILLED IN COMBAT OR OTHERWISE WHILE IN ACTIVE SERVICE. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL PROPOSES THEREFORE TO INDEMNIFY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A. FOR THE CAPITALIZED SUM OF SUCH BENIFITS AND

(1)

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03731 1310352

OTHER PAYMENTS.
C. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL PROPOSES TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WITH THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THE EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS UNDER DISCUSSION. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE EMBASSY COULD SUGGEST A DATE ON WHICH IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO COMMENCE SUCH TALKS.
D. IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP OF THE CLAIMANTS PENDING A SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO CREDIT FORTHWITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A. WITH AN IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF 1 M. (SIC, PRESUMABLY ONE MILLION) U.S. DOLLARS, TO BE MADE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.
THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION UNQUOTE.

3. NOTE DATED MAY 15.

4. RE PARA 2 D ABOVE, MINISTRY HAS ASKED EMBASSY HOW IT WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER OF FUNDS EFFECTED. PLEASE INSTRUCT WHETHER PROPOSAL TO DEPOSIT FUNDS OUR ACCOUNT IS ACCEPTABLE. EXEMPT.
BARBOUR

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SECRET/EXDIS 842

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03[illegible] SECRET

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO NEA:[illegible] S/S-O EUR/RPM CIA/OIAE DOE/IAN OTA/NSAE NSA/NSC DIA/DOE NSC

NSC [illegible]

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MARR, IS
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ASST SECY NITZE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3743

LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AV V/N 3731 — PS 1.4 (b) (1)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ASST SECY NITZE MORNING MAY 16 I EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE AT ISRAELI RESPONSE AND SAID THAT WHILE I NOT EXPECT SUCH MATTERS IT STRUCK ME THAT RELATION CLAIMS TO USS PRACTICES IN [illegible] FOR COMBAT DEATHS NOT PERTINENT: OUR SHIP WAS ON HIGH SEAS AND VICTIM OF KNOWN WIZARD OF WAR IN NO WAY WE NOT PARTICIPANT.

2. NITZE INDICATED HOPED NEW FACE NOTE NOT MORE FORTHCOMING MEETER 3. IN THE TALKING POINTS SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD FOCUS [illegible] NOTE ON PROMPT, GOI SEAM REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON. KINSTINGER CLARIFIED THIS ESSENTIAL POINT OF NOTE AND MOST IMPORTANT PART.

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USS Liberty 38811 5-22-68

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 3811 221127Z

12
ACTION L-03

INFO NEA-13 OPR-04 NSC-10 SP-02 SS-20 NSC-01 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PSR-01 /063 W

P 221105Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3894

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3811

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 168191 AND 167[illegible] TEL AVIV [illegible]

1. LAST EVENING PRIOR TO RECEIPT STATE 168191 I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH DEPUTY MIN FINANCE DINSTEIN QUESTION LIBERTY CLAIMS. STATING THAT I FOUND ISRAELI POSITION AS PROPOSED IN NOTE CONTAINED TEL AVIV 3731 (S) HUMANITARIAN, POLITICAL CHARACTER TO URGE THAT ISRAELIS BE MORE FORTHCOMING.

2. DINSTEIN TOOK LINE THAT GOI PREPARED TO PAY BUT CONCERNED AT SOME OF THE FACTORS, ESPECIALLY "EMOTIONAL ANGUISH" USED BY DEPARTMENT (S) POSITION ON SUCH POINTS NOT SPECIFICALLY CLARIFIED, PRECEDENT OF ISRAELI ACQUIESCENCE IN LEGAL PRINCIPLES MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED WHICH COULD CAUSE TROUBLE WHEN SUBSEQUENT CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY TO ONE HUNDRED SIXTY INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED. FOR THESE REASONS GOI HAD SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVE PROCEED WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS MATTER AND REACH SOLUTION.

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PAGE #2 TEL AV 03811 2711272

3. HOWEVER, IF PROCEDURE UNACCEPTABLE TO US DINSTEIN PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE OF ISRAELIS PAYING FULL AMOUNT $3,400,000.00 NOW, ACCOMPANIED BY STATEMENT TO EFFECT SUCH PAYMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH US CALCULATED THIS SUM INSOFAR AS FUTURE CLAIMS CONCERNED.

4. DINSTEIN SAID HE WOULD OBTAIN APPROVAL THIS PROPOSITION AND INFORM ME THIS MORNING.

5. HE HAS NOW CALLED TO SAY THAT AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR RABIN, WHO ARRIVED LAST NIGHT, FOREGOING PROPOSAL NOT BUT NOT AGREED AND INSTEAD GOI HAS FOLLOWING OFFER. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH DEATH CLAIMS ARE ONLY ONES WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FORMALLY AMBASSADOR RABIN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH OF ROUGH OUTLINE OF AMOUNTS TO BE CLAIMED IN OTHER SIX CATEGORIES. ISRAELIS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IF THEY PAY FOR "EMOTIONAL ANGUISH" IN REGARD TO THE DEATH CLAIMS ANY RESERVATION THEY MIGHT MAKE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO AVOID SIMILAR ITEM IN CONNECTION WITH CLAIMS FOR INJURIES CATEGORY TWO. THEY THUS BELIEVE THAT THEY MUST COME TO AGREEMENT ON PROBLEM OF EMOTIONAL ANGUISH. THE PROPOSAL IS THAT THEY NOW PAY THE SUM OF $500,000.00 "ON ACCOUNT" OF BOTH CLAIMS CATEGORY ONE AND CATEGORY TWO AND THAT A REPRESENTATIVE BE DISPATCHED TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY TO RESOLVE THE EMOTIONAL ANGUISH ASPECT.

6. I TOLD DINSTEIN THAT THIS STILL WOULD NOT ENABLE THE USG TO SAY THAT THE DEATH CLAIMS HAD BEEN PAID, WOULD KEEP THE MATTER OPEN AND SEEMED HARDLY AN ANSWER TO OUR CONCERNS. I NOTED I HAD IN THE MEANTIME RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 168101) TO REJECT ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AND I MADE NUMBER OF POINTS CONTAINED THEREIN. DINSTEIN ADAMANT, HOWEVER, THAT GOI COULD PREPARE PAY ON ACCOUNT PENDING RESOLUTION THIS PROBLEM. AFTER LONG DISCUSSION I AGREED TO REPORT DEPARTMENT GOI POSITION AND SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. INCIDENTALLY, GOI PREPARED WITHDRAW NOTE CONTAINED TEL AVIV 3731 IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES.

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PAGE P3 TEL AV 3611 221127Z

NOTE: (R) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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PAGE 01 TEL AV A3629 231104Z

12
ACTION L 03

INFO NLA ISRAEL DAVDUB WDGHM DAM [illegible]

HSC [illegible]

P 231152Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3203

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3629

SUBJECT: USG LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS

REF: STATE 166649

1. ACCORDANCE AUTHORIZATION CONTAINED [illegible] I INFORMED DISTAIN FULPHIN BIRANCH) THAT USG WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY CLAIM FOR "EMOTIONAL ANGUISH IN PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS" LATTER ACCEPTED THIS ASSURANCE AND REQUESTED FOLLOW-LATTER. [illegible] HAS JUST CALLED AND ACTING AT REITERATION THIS PRINCIPLE HAS GIVEN THE OFFICIAL USE AGREEMENT TO PAY DEATH CLAIMS IN FULL.

2. BITAN ASKED WHERE WE STAND ON THE MONEY QUESTION.

3. INCIDENTALLY/CONFIDENTIAL FIGURE WHICH ISRAELIS PAYING IS SOMETHING IN EXCESS OF $3,400,000.00. ESTIMATE $1,000,000 CLAIMS WHICH NOT YET FILED TO GOI. GOLT REQUESTS AT DEPARTMENT'S VERIFICATION CORRECT FIGURE WILL BE APPRECIATED.

4. NO REPEAT NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AS TO PUBLIC PUBLICITY. PRESUMABLY DEPARTMENT WILL WISH MAKE THIS ACTION PU LIC IN SOME MANNER. IF SO, STRONGLY URGE ANY RELEASE OR OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT BE COORDINATED WITH AOI IN ADVANCE.

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37

IS S-4 US JSK

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Release

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03846 241716Z

21
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13,CIAE 02,DODE 00,CPM 04,H 02,INR 07,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,

NSC 01,SP 02,SS 23,USIA 12,TASY 00,HSP 01,SAH 03,/058 W

P 241610Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3889

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3846

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS

REF: STATE 169874

1. WITH WEEKEND COMING UP FOR OFF (ISRAELI DESIRES CONCLUDE FORMALITIES, I.E. EXCHANGE OF NOTES, CHECK, ETC. ON MONDAY, MAY 27, AND REQUESTS THAT PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT BE HELD FOR CONSIDERATION AT THAT TIME. HARBOUR

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4-24-68

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66

P S 8-4 US-ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Tel Aviv 3877 5-24-67

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 596

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03877 271542Z

AC
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13,SAH 03,TRSY 08,RSR 01,SSO 02,NSCE 02,USIE 00,CIAE 00
UODE 06,DPM 04,H 02,INR 27,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,
NS 04,CCU 00,/078 W

O 271808Z MAY 67
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3921

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3877

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 172558; 169872

1. WE COMPLETED EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH GOI TODAY FOR FULL PAYMENT OF DEATH CLAIMS RESULTING FROM IDF FIRING ON USS LIBERTY. ORIGINAL OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND GOI CHECK MADE OUT TO TREASURER OF US FOR $3,323,500 ARE BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRPOUCH.

2. TEXT OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26 OF 27 DECEMBER 1967, CONCERNING THE USS LIBERTY, AND TO NOTES NO. 27 THROUGH NO. 64 OF EVEN DATE, DETAILING INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS. FOLLOWING VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE PLEASURE TO TRANSMIT HEREWITH A CHEQUE IN THE SUM OF THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED U S DOLLARS, IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF UNITED STATES CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING LOSS AS A RESULT OF THE DEATHS OF THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE USS LIBERTY. THESE CLAIMS COVERING THE FIRST CATEGORY OF CLAIMS AS SET OUT IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26 REFERRED TO ABOVE.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03877 2715422

THIS SETTLEMENT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO EXPRESS THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE GUIDED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE CALCULATION OF THE CLAIMS, AND IS MADE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

THE ABOVE SETTLEMENT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE THE POSITION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MAY TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER CATEGORIES OF CLAIMS MENTIONED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26.

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

JERUSALEM, 27 MAY 1968. UNQUOTE.

2. QUOTE. NO. 71. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL AND HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE MINISTRY'S UNNUMBERED NOTE OF MAY 27, 1968, TOGETHER WITH A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,323,520.00 WHICH IS IN FULL SETTLEMENT OF THE THIRTY-FOUR USS LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS PRESENTED IN EMBASSY NOTES NUMBERS TWENTY-SEVEN THROUGH SIXTY OF DECEMBER 29, 1967.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TEL AVIV, MAY 27, 1968. UNQUOTE

EXEMPT. BARBOUR

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03878 2715372

AC
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13,S50 00,NSCE 00,USIE 00,CIAE 00,DODE 00,OPM 00,H 00,INR 07,
NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,NSC 01,SP 02,SS 28,SAM 03,[illegible] 00,NSA 01,
CLU 00,/030 W

O 271510Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3922

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3878

USG LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS: PRESS STATEMENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 3877

GOI IS SATISFIED WITH DEPARTMENT DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT CONTAINED STATE 169872, BUT THEY SUGGEST SINCE GOI HAS NOW PAID IN FULL FOR DEATH CLAIMS THAT TENSE OF VERBS RELATING TO LATTER ACTION BE CHANGED TO PAST.

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AIRGRAM

A-898 | LIMITED OFFICIAL USE | PRIORITY

TO: Department of State, WASH DC

Encl. with Department ltr 5-31-68

FROM: Amembassy Tel Aviv | DATE: May 28, 1968

SUBJECT: U.S.S. Liberty Death Claims: Transmittal of Notes Exchanged and GOI Check.

REF: Tel Aviv's 3377

For the Attention of the Assistant Legal Adviser for International Claims:

There are enclosed: (a) The original of Ministry for Foreign Affairs unnumbered Note of May 27, 1968, transmitting Treasury of the State of Israel check for $3,323,500 in settlement of the U.S.S. Liberty death claims. (b) The aforementioned check. (c) A copy of the Embassy's response to the Foreign Ministry Note.

BARBOUR

DECON: May 1970

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POL:HHStackhouse:emp 5/28/68

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No. 71

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Ministry's unnumbered Note of May 27, 1968, together with a check in the amount of $[illegible]3,323,500.00, which is in full settlement of the thirty-four USS LIBERTY death claims presented in Embassy Notes numbers twenty-seven through sixty of December 29, 1967.

Embassy of the United States of America,
Tel Aviv, May 27, 1968

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PS 8-4 US ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 845

ACTION

INFO

R&C

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: A. AVIV 3677 B. D 3478

1. THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES SETTLING USS LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS NEGOTIATED TEL AVIV PART WAS CONCLUDED PARIS ONLY AFTER LAST MINUTE ATTEMPTS BY EMBOFF LEGAL COUNSEL HERON TO OBTAIN COMMITMENT NEGOTIATING TO CONSIDER INJURY CLAIMS WHEN LATER PRESENTED.

2. ON MAY 28 I HAND-CARRIED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL ROSTOW, MFAIC IN ACCORDANCE HIS REQUEST CONFIRMING ASSURANCES GIVEN HIM ORALLY ISTAFF LETTER THAT WE WILL NOT PRESS FOR NEGOTIATION AWARD ON ADDITIONAL INJURY CLAIMS, BY WHICH WE MEAN NO PUBLICITY.

3. QUOTE CLAIMS AND PICAS:

A. QUOTE THIS WILL CONCLUDE OUR CONSIDERATION TODAY IN REGARD TO THE CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE USS LIBERTY. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO YOUR INQUIRY STATED THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CLAIM FOR PERPETUAL INDEMNITY THE PENDING INJURY CLAIMS, WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED.

B. UNQUOTE IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THIS ASSURANCE THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO INFORM ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO PAY IN FULL THE DEATH

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible] TEL AV 03800 282033Z

[illegible] CLAIMS ALREADY SUBMITTED TO IT.

3. QUOTE SINCERELY YOURS, NAHUM GOLDMANN UNQUOTE.

4. HERE'S REQUESTED SUBSTITUTION OF "SEVERITY OF INJURY" FOR "PHYSICAL PAIN AND SUFFERING" FOR PHRASE "EMOTIONAL AND [illegible]". AS I REFUSED TO DO. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE [illegible] PAYMENTS SUBMITTED BY LETTER WHICH FACTUAL IN THAT THEY DO NOT [illegible] THE "EMOTIONAL ANGUISH" IN PERSONAL INJURY, IT MAY NOT BE [illegible] TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT IN REGARD TO PENDING INJURY CASES. I ASKED THAT AS FOR "SEVERITY OF INJURY" VS. "PHYSICAL PAIN" CAN IT BE MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS PRECISELY ONE OF THE BASES FOR WHICH COMPENSATION WILL BE CLAIMED IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES IN CASES OF INJURY, ETC. THE US POSITION SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO GOI, BUT FORMULATION REQUESTED FOR THE RECORD IN CASE ISRAELIS ENDEAVOR TO RAISE QUESTION AGAIN.

[illegible] GOLDMANN

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03975 0510062

IO
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13 CIAE 00 UDDE 00 [illegible] 07 NSAE 00 [illegible]

[illegible]

P 050915Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3969

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3975

USS LIBERTY DEATH CLAIMS

REF: STATE 168884

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS [illegible] SAYS IT WANTS TO WITHDRAW ITS NOTE OF MAY 10 [illegible] IN TEXT OF WHICH SUMITTED IN TEL AVIV 3731 [illegible] UNLESS DEPARTMENT

HAS OBJECTIONS WE WILL RETURN IT TO THEM JUNE 6.

BARBOUR

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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Classification

ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

REF: Tel Aviv 3975

SUBJ: U.S.S. Liberty Claims

No RPT no objection return of note.

RUSK

L:L/C:ELKerley:jlb 6/5 | 5896 | L:L/C:ELKerley

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambrakis (phone)

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FORM DS-322 6-65

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A-3

AIRGRAM

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TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

FROM : Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT : U.S.S. Liberty Claim

REF : Department's A-[illegible]; Embassy TEL AVIV's 1973 and A-[illegible]

There is transmitted herewith a suggested [illegible] self-explanatory draft note expressing claims of the Government of the United States against the Government of Israel for [illegible] result of physical damage inflicted upon the vessel "U.S.S. Liberty" [illegible] air and naval units of Israel.

Unless strong objection is perceived [illegible] requested to present the note to the Government of Israel without delay, inform the Department of the date of presentation, and furnish the Department with a copy of the note.

At the time of delivery of the note the Embassy is requested to inform the Government of Israel that the Government of the United States is prepared to furnish, upon request, documentary evidence in support of the dollar amount expended and detailed estimates prepared by expert appraisers [illegible] the dollar amount needed to restore the vessel and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack and/or to appoint representative naval experts to discuss fully the physical damages sustained.

RUSK

Enclosure: Draft note

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NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambertsen M - Mr. Leddy
U.S. Navy (JAG) - LCDR

James M. Ennes, Jr. - Research Papers

Encl. No. 1
to Tel Aviv

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Israel and refers to the Embassy's note No. 26 of December 27, 1967, concerning the U.S.S. Liberty. The Embassy has the honor to present in accordance with accepted principles of international law a claim for $3,644,146 on behalf of the Government of the United States for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the U.S.S. Liberty when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

The amount claimed is based upon the amount already expended and estimates of the amount required to restore the U.S.S. Liberty and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack on June 8 1967.

The Embassy of the United States confidently anticipates on the basis of assurances previously given by the Government of Israel that the Government of Israel will promptly compensate the Government of the United States for the amount claimed.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 8-4 US-Isr

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Department of State

FROM: AmEmbassy TEL AVIV DATE: June 27, 1968

SUBJECT: USS Liberty Claim

REF: Department A-437

1. We have been devoting considerable thought as to what tactics could be most advantageously used with the Israelis in making further claims relating to the USS Liberty now that they have paid the full amount claimed for loss of life. We should think that from our own standpoint the United States Government should next focus on claims involving individuals who were injured rather than on those for damage to the ship itself. In this connection, it was stated in the Department's wire number 136943 of March 29 that it was not possible to estimate the total figure for personal injury claims since the extent of permanent impairment was not yet determined in some serious cases. Now that three months have passed, we suggest that the Department look into the status of the personal injuries claims again before proceeding further with claims for damage to the ship to see whether it would be feasible to put in these claims first.

BARBOUR

GROUP-3- downgraded at 12-year intervals; not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

DCM:WNDale:caf/6/25/68

DCM:WNDale

POL:JLeonard

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-1660 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

TO : Department of State

INFO :

FROM : Amembassy TEL AVIV DATE: July 6, 1968

SUBJECT: U.S.S. Liberty Claim

REF: Department's A-437, June 19, 1968; Tel Aviv's A-1645, June 25, 1968; and State 193834

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Embassy's note to the GOI espousing the claim for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted on the U.S.S. "Liberty" by the IDF. The note was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs July 3, 1968.

BARBOUR

Enclosure: Copy of Embassy note No. 74, July 1, 1968.

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FORM DS-323

DRAFTED BY: POL:JOLeonard/do 7/5/68

CLEARANCES:

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Enclosure 1, Page 1 of 1
Telegram A-1009

No. 74

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Israel and refers to the Embassy's Note No. 25 of December 7, 1967, concerning the U.S.S. Liberty. The Embassy has the honor to present in accordance with accepted principles of international law a claim for $7,644,146 on behalf of the Government of the United States for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the U.S.S. Liberty when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

The amount claimed is based upon the amount already expended and estimates of the amount required to restore the U.S.S. Liberty and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack on June 8, 1967.

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the Embassy of the United States confidently anticipates on the basis of assurances previously given by the Government of Israel that the Government of Israel will promptly compensate the Government of the United States for the amount claimed.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Tel Aviv, July 1, 1968

DCM:WmNDalelio

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Amembassy TEL AVIV

U.S.S. Liberty Claim

Embassy A-1809, July

1. As enclosure a translation of [illegible] entitled "Israel Hopes U.S. Will Reconsider Matter of Liberty Claim" which appeared on the front page of Tel Aviv daily Ha'aretz [illegible] in substance the article claims that Israeli Government circles expect the U.S. may take into account, in submitting claims for compensation for those wounded and for damage to the U.S.S. Liberty, [illegible] errors recorded in Congressional testimony which resulted in the ships not receiving orders to leave the war zone. The article mentions Israel's already having paid approximately $3.25 million in compensation for loss of life in connection with the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty. There is, however, no mention of the fact that the writer was aware of the Embassy's note of July [illegible] presenting a claim for $7,000,000 for damage to the Liberty (see airgram under reference).

2. We would not object to any press [illegible] on the foregoing or other similar stories. If the matter is raised [illegible] with us by Israeli Government officials we would of course point out that whatever communications errors [illegible] been on the U.S. side in no way affect the Israeli Government's responsibility deriving from the fact that the ship was in international waters when attacked. I made

GROUP 3 - downgraded at [illegible] automatically [illegible]

Classification

[illegible]

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this point generally in accordance with [illegible] Israeli Minister in Washington Eytan who was present on Air Force Day, valedictory to the visitors.

[illegible]

HAREOVEN

Enclosure: as

Article from Haaretz, July 23

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UNCLASS

Translation of Article from Haaretz, July 24, 1968, by [redacted] Correspondent of Haaretz

Israeli Government circles expect that the U.S. will [redacted] further compensation for the casualties inflicted [redacted] "Liberty" ship during the war last year, in the light of [redacted] U.S. Congress of the errors in the transmission of orders to that [redacted] "Liberty" was hit opposite the El Arish coast by units of [redacted] after she failed to identify herself to the satisfaction of the Israeli commanders who thought that she was an Egyptian ship. Israel apologized for the [redacted] paid about $ 3,75 million compensation for the more than [redacted] incident. The U.S. announced at the time that in [redacted] her claim for compensation for the wounded casualties and [redacted] to property. The ship - whose purpose was electronic [redacted] here for repairs in the U.S., but was not put back [redacted]

In testimonies given to the Commission of Inquiry [redacted] the U.S. Congress, the contents of which were published a few days [redacted] reported that instructions had been sent to the ship to get away [redacted] area. However, due to an error in the [redacted] did not reach the ship. Therefore she had remained in the region where she was later hit.

It is believed in Jerusalem that the U.S. is likely to [redacted] whom she submits further claims - Israel. It has become [redacted] Naval Command realized that a ship that is virtually in the middle of a battle zone endangers herself and therefore the order was given to the ship to get away. The Israeli assault on her was (due to) an error, but that was [redacted] by a mistake on the part of the Americans themselves [redacted] order (to get away) and not reach the ship.

[redacted]

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PS 8-4 US. ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 259

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04798 0612282

46
ACTION SS 70

INFO CIAE 00-/070 W

R 0611252 AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4386

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4798

LIBERTY REPARATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV A-1089, JULY 6, 1968

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE RE LIBERTY REPARATIONS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 5:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 74 DATED 1 JULY 1968, CONCERNING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY. QUOTE IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF 8 JULY (SIC) 1967 WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN VARIOUS INQUIRIES CARRIED OUT BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN THE UNITED STATES, THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE DAMAGE CLAIMED IN THE NOTE MENTIONED ABOVE. QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD, OF COURSE, STUDY CAREFULLY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND MATERIAL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.
QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECALLS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS ALREADY PAID THE FULL AMOUNT (THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS), CLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING LOSS AS A RESULT OF DEATHS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. LIBERTY. IN MAKING THIS FULL PAYMENT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP SUFFERED BY THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED.

CONFIDENTIAL

Tulsa Univ 4798 8-2-68

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04798 061228Z

QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN ITS NOTE OF 27 MAY 1968, STRESSED THAT THAT SETTLEMENT WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MIGHT TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER CATEGORIES OF CLAIMS MENTIONED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26. UNQUOTE.
GP-3 BARBOUR

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/S-O.

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CONFIDENTIAL

PS 8-4 US-ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 258

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04799 0612532

34
ACTION SS 78

INFO CIAE 00/070 W

R 0611302 AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4387

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4799

LIBERTY REPARATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 4758 (NOTAL 8-4 US-ISR)

1. GOI NOTE (TEXT SENT REFTEL) IS DISAPPOINTING IN NEGATIVENESS AND OBDURACY, BEARING OUT APPREHENSIONS WHICH PROMPTED OUR TACTICAL SUGGESTIONS IN A-581, JUNE 25.

2. NOTE STATES GOI WOULD, OF COURSE, STUDY CAREFULLY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND MATERIAL US MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT TO OVERCOME ISRAELI CONCLUSION THAT GOI IS NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGE CLAIMED IN OUR NOTE OF JULY 1. ONLY GROUNDS STATED FOR THIS CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, ARE QUOTE VARIOUS INQUIRIES CARRIED OUT BOTH IN ISRAEL AND BY US UNQUOTE. POSSIBLY AMONG THESE ARE DISCLOSURE IN US THAT COMMUNICATIONS ERROR PREVENTED ORDERS TO CHANGE POSITION FROM REACHING LIBERTY EXPEDITIOUSLY AND INFO CURRENT HERE THAT SHIP WILL NOT BE REPAIRED COMPLETELY BUT WILL BE NOT SALLED.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT GOI DENIAL OF LIABILITY CAN BE ALLOWED TO STAND, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF COMMITMENT IN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S NOTE OF JUNE 18, 1967 IN WHICH GOI ASSURED USG IT WAS PREPARED TO QUOTE MAKE AMENDS FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AND MATERIAL DAMAGE UNQUOTE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE MENTIONED THIRD PARA DEPTEL 4437, JUNE 19 BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO GOI UNDER COVER OF NOTE REJECTING ISRAELI CONTENTION OF NON-LIABILITY.

4. GOI NOTE ALSO SAYS THAT PAYMENT FOR DEATH CLAIMS ALREADY MADE WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. GOI

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04797 0612532Z

NOTE OF MAY 27, WHICH TRANSMITTED CHECK, STATED THAT PAYMENT DID NOT CONSTITUTE AGREEMENT WITH PRINCIPLES US USED TO CALCULATE CLAIMS AND WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO LEGAL POSITION OF GOI. NEW NOTE CLAIMING PAYMENT WAS MADE ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS SEEMS PART OF EFFORT TO MOVE GOI FROM POSITION OF LEGAL LIABILITY TO ONE OF EX GRATIA HUMANITARIANISM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS POINT ALSO SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND AND SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN OUR NEXT NOTE BY REFERRING AGAIN TO GOI COMMITMENT TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MATERIAL DAMAGE AS WELL AS LOSS OF LIFE.

5. TO REINFORCE OUR OVERALL POSITION, BELIEVE CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

GP-3. BARBOUR

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/SD.

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PS 8-4 US 2195210

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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Classification

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12 Aug 68 22 50Z

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

SUBJECT: Liberty claims

REF: Tel Aviv 4798, 4799

A. Department requests Ambassador see/~~Khan~~ senior official Fonofe and orally make following points:

(1) USG finds GOI note of August 5 totally unacceptable. We ~~prepared how it~~ ~~if GOI wishes withdraw~~. We have not made either fact of receipt or content known to public or to Congress.

(2) If ~~GOI does not~~ necessary, we will ~~have~~ to respond formally ~~and inform Congress of contents~~ in a few days at GOI note ~~and reply. Congress likely~~ ~~react strongly to GOI action~~.

(3) USG surprised at position taken by GOI in August 5 note and cannot believe it is final position of GOI. In its notes of June 19~~67~~ GOI expressed without qualification its readiness to make amends for damage, including material damage, suffered in attack.

(1)

L:LCMercer:SLGibson:ams 8/8/68 4714

NEA - Lucius D. Battle

NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton

The Secretary of Defense (subs)

DDC - Mr. Katzenbach (subs)

L:L/C - Mr. Berley

NEA - Mr. Rockwell

S/S - Mr. Kilbrook

* Cleared in substance in conversation with Mr. Katzenbach, DOD.

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FORM DS-322 8-65

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Classification

(4) GOI note implies that death payments were ex gratia. This is new argument and inconsistent with GOI note of June 12 in which GOI recognized its responsibility for error in attacking LIBERTY and expressed its readiness to make amends.

(5) USG cannot accept implication of August 5 note that GOI not legally liable for death and material damage resulting from attack. USG believes GOI liable under accepted principles of international law for damage to property as well as for personal injury and death caused by attack.

(6) USG fails to see that any circumstances concerning attack on LIBERTY disclosed by inquiries or in any other way remove responsibility of GOI for attack or its obligation to make amends for resulting death and material damage.

(7) USG view regarding liability of GOI remains unchanged and we continue to expect that GOI will compensate USG for amount claimed. We stand ready to make full presentation of details of this claim whenever GOI ready to receive it.

B. Department agrees desirability prompt presentation personal injury claims and has been expediting preparation these claims. However, delay arises from inconclusiveness of medical information in some serious cases because therapy still in process.

RUSK

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END

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FORM DS-322A
CONTINUATION SHEET

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F: S-4 US-USSR
XR JDEF 12-4 US
XR DEF 18-6

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE [illegible]

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XR DEF 18-6

17 Aug 68 20 45z

ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

INFO.: Amembassy BEIRUT
Amembassy AMMAN
[redacted]
Amembassy LONDON

STATE

SUBJECT: Liberty Claim

1. Following summary August 17 UPI item which has not yet appeared in press:

(a) Israel has refused to pay $7 million claim for repairs USS LIBERTY. Israel has offered pay $2 million. USG standing pat on grounds GOI assumed full responsibility for June 1967 attack. Article notes $3.3 million paid for death claims.

(b) Notes this dispute complicates USG-GOI relations at time GOI pressing for decision on Phantoms.

(c) AX Notes USG unhappy over GOI failure sign NPT.

(d) Adds personal injury claims not yet submitted and some U.S. officials now worried about full compensation for wounded.

(e) Remainder article reviews facts attack on USS LIBERTY and subsequent Israeli apology, admission responsibility, and promise compensation.

Drafted by: NEA/IAI:[illegible]:lah 8/17/68 | Tel. No. 4422 | [illegible] NEA - William J. Handley

[illegible] - Mr. Farley (substance)

EUR - Mr. Rostow (press guidance
S/S - Mr. O'Donohue)

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Department

2. If queried/intends respond as follows:

(a) Some time ago Israel accepted responsibility for the attack and for payment of compensation for lives lost, for injuries, and for damage to vessel.

(b) Israel has paid the full compensation of $3.3 million to the families of the men killed.

(c) The question of compensation for damage and for injuries is still under discussion. There is some difference of views but we expect a satisfactory outcome. We cannot, of course, go into detail about the current discussions.

END

EXEMPT

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FORM DS-322A
CONTINUATION SHEET

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P.S. 8-4 US-ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 349

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04975 191119Z

17
ACTION NEA 15

INFO NSA 02,EUR 15,AF 09,CIAE 00,DODE 00,OPM 04,H 02,INR 07, [illegible]
NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 08,USIA 12,ACDA 16,IO 11,SSR 01,
/136 W

P 191108Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4485

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4975

LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 223183

1. ELIZUR (US AFFAIRS) CALLED DCM SUNDAY MORNING TO SAY THAT UPI REPORTS (ATTRIBUTED IN PRESS HERE TO STATE DEPT OFFICIALS' BACKGROUNDER) HAD QUOTE RAISED EYEBROWS UNQUOTE IN THE FONMIN ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF OUR COMMENT (STATE 219537, PARA A. 1.) THAT WE HAD NOT MADE EITHER FACT OF RECEIPT OF ISRAELI NOTE OF AUGUST 5 OR ITS CONTENTS KNOWN TO PUBLIC OR TO CONGRESS.

2. ON RECEIPT REFTEL DCM INFORMED ELIZUR OF WHAT DEPT'S RESPONSE WOULD BE IF ASKED ABOUT STORY.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OUR NEGOTIATING POSTURE ON LIBERTY CLAIMS MUST BE STRONG IN ORDER ACHIEVE MAXIMUM SATISFACTION OF UFG CLAIMS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT HOWEVER THAT THE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE LIBERTY CLAIMS CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE US-ISRAELI RELATIONS, NOT DETRACT FROM THEM. THE KIND OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION INDUSED HERE BY THIS PRESS REPORT (WHICH WE WILL REPORT IN SEPTEL) IS UNHELPFUL IN ACHIEVING EITHER OBJECTIVE.

GP-3. HARMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

Tel Aviv #4975 8-19-68

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PS 8_4 US JSK
223311

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State** DEF 12-5 US

INDICATE CHANGE TO

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ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

19 Aug 68 17 55z

INFO: Amembassy AMMAN
Amembassy BEIRUT
Amembassy LONDON

SUBJECT: LIBERTY CLAIM

REF: STATE 223183

1. According August 17 UPI item Israel has offered pay about dol two million for repairs USS LIBERTY, not dol 2 million as erroneously transmitted para A reftel. FYI: Do not know source of alleged dol two million figure. It was not Department. END FYI

2. August 18 Evening Star carried [illegible]

EXEMPT

END

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(5)

NEA/IAI:JLeonard:er:8/19.68 4967 NEA/IAI - William J. Handley

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PS 8-4 US-USR

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV PRIORITY

20 Aug 68 16 05Z

STATE

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY Claims
References: Tel Aviv's 4949

1. In view Elitzur reference to token payment reported [illegible] reftel, Embassy requested make MFA aware USG position re ship claim before rpt before transmission official re [illegible] referred to by Heron para 3 reftel:

a. Claim for damage to ship presented by USG based on international law standards and in light unequivocal Israeli assurances June 1967. We expect GOI live up to pledge fully [illegible] make amends for losses sustained.

b. Amount of compensation claimed based on thorough analysis of damages to ship and attendant costs paid by USG.

c. USG prepared to join in technical discussions and review of documentation supporting claim to establish that compensation claimed accurately expresses loss to USG.

GP-3

END

RUSK

L/C Embassy:cr:8/19/68

M - Eugene V. Rostow

NEA - Mr. Battle
NEA/IAI - Mr. Bahti
L - Mr. Solans (draft)

DOD - Mr. Schwartz
S/S - Mr. Brown

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Classification

FORM 6-61 (6-67)

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05869 2609Z22

17
ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13 SS 25 OPM 04 NSC 10 H 02 INR 07 CIAE 22 [illegible] 08 DODE 00

RSR 01 OSC 01 /066 W

O 260970Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5269

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY

REF: STATE 223893

ELIZUR INFORMED PER REFTEL AUG 22.

GP-3. BARBOUR

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230204

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: U.S.S. Liberty Claims

REFERENCE: State 219537 & 223893; Tel Aviv 4949

1. Unless objection perceived Embassy requested transmit following note:

Embassy refers to MFA note dated August [illegible] in reply to Embassy's Note No. 74, dated July 1. Ministry's note states that MFA considers that, in light of circumstances of attack on U.S.S. Liberty which have come to light in various inquiries carried out in Israel and US, Israel is not liable for damages claimed in Embassy's note.

Damages referred to in the Embassy's note occurred as direct result of unprovoked attack on U.S.S. Liberty by Israeli naval and air units on June 8, 1967. GOI formally assured USG that it recognized its responsibility for its tragic error in attacking U.S.S. Liberty, and that it was prepared to make amends for damage, including material damage, suffered in attack.

EA/IAI:JDLeonard	4967		
L:L/C:EKreyzams 8/26/68	5896	NEA - Mr. Battle	

L - Mr. Salans
NEA/IAI - Mr. [illegible]
NEA - Mr. Davies

D.O.D. - Mr. [illegible]
NAVY OP-61 - Rear Admiral O'Grady
S/S - Mr. [illegible]

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Classification

These assurances were stated in notes of Israeli Ambassador to US dated June 10 and June 12, 1967, and were quoted in Embassy's Note No. 26 to MFA, dated December 29, 1967, by which Embassy informed MFA of categories of claims, including a claim for damage to vessel, which would be presented.

Position stated in MFA note of August 5 is in contravention of express assurances of GOI regarding its responsibility for material and other damage caused by attack. USG not aware of alleged circumstances that have come to light in inquiries carried out since at which would relieve Israel from its admitted responsibility.

In light of established facts regarding circumstances under which Liberty was attacked and of express assurances previously given by GOI, USG must reject as totally unacceptable position stated in MFA note of August 5 and reiterates expectation that the GOI will promptly compensate the USG for amount claimed.

GP-3

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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CONFIDENTIAL 110

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05147 3015572

DI
ACTION SS-25

INFO CINC USAFE 0000

R 301457Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6970

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5147

LIMDIS

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 093284

1. BEFORE FORWARDING NOTE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ONE POINT. IN FIRST PARA, DEPARTMENT'S NOTE ATTRIBUTES TO MINISTRY'S NOTE STATEMENT QUOTE ISRAEL IS NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGES NPT DAMAGES UNQUOTE. IN FACT ISRAELI NOTE REFERRED TO QUOTE DAMAGE UNQUOTE IN SINGULAR. THIS POINT IS ONE WE AWAITING FURTHER ORAL EXPLANATION FROM ISRAELIS (PARA 3, TEL AVIV 4949).

2. IT OUR IMPRESSION AS WELL AS MFA'S THAT WE WOULD AWAIT ALSO ORAL RESPONSE TO POINTS STATE'S 223693 BEFORE TRANSMITTING OUR NOTE. ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN DILATORY BUT WE HAVE INDICATION FROM ELIZUR THEY WILL BE READY BY SEPTEMBER 3. WE PROPOSE THAT WE HOLD TRANSMITTAL OF NOTE, AND BE READY REVISE IT IF NEED BE IN LIGHT THESE RESPONSES.

UP-3. BARBOUR

CONFIDENTIAL

Tel Aviv 5147
8-30-68

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CONFIDENTIAL 931

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05171 0311552

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ACTION S> /0

INFO CIAE 22/078 +

R 0311302 SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4990

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5171

LIMDIS

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 5147

1. ASSISTANT DIRGEN FONMIN BITAN CALLED AMBASSADOR SEPT 3 AND CONFIRMED STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY GIVEN FCM BY ELIZUR THAT (A) ISRAELI NOTE OF AUG 5 DID NOT CONSTITUTE DEPARTURE FROM POSITION ADOPTED BY GOI IN ITS NOTE OF JUNE 10, 1967 AND (B) AUG [illegible] NOTE DID NOT CONSTITUTE STATEMENT BY GOI THAT ITS SETTLEMENT OF DEATH CLAIMS HAD BE EX GRATIA.

2. BITAN SAID HE WOULD LIKE MAKE PERSONAL PROPOSAL WHICH HE FELT, IF AGREEABLE TO US, WOULD BE APPROVED BY GOI. UNDER HIS PROPOSAL, HE WOULD RETURN GOI NOTE OF AUG 5 WHICH WOULD THEN BE REPLACED BY NEW NOTE WHICH WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OUR NOTE OF JULY 1 AND STATE THAT CONSIDERATION OF CLAIM MADE THEREIN WOULD TAKE PLACE AT SAME TIME AS CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS EXPECTED TO BE MADE FOR PERSONAL INJURIES.

3. IT [illegible] CLEAR GOI MOST RELUCTANT TAKE ANY STEPS TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT ON SUM TO BE PAID OF ROAMAGES TO SHIP UNTIL IT HAS OPPORTUNITY KNOW AND CONSIDER HOW MUCH PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS WILL BE. EMB BELIEVES PARAMOUNT AMERICAN INTEREST SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN FULL PAYMENT PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS. WHILE WE DO NOT NECESSARILY PROPOSE SCALING DOWN CLAIMS FOR SHIP, WE BELIEVE IT MOST IMPORTANT NOT TO HAVE OUR DESIRE

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05171 231155Z

FOR FULL PAYMENT OF SHIP CLAIMS RESULT IN SITUATION WHICH WOULD DETRACT FROM OUR ABILITY TO GET FULL AND PROMPT PAYMENT FOR PERSONAL INJURIES WHEN THOSE CLAIMS ARE MADE.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY FEELS PROPOSAL SUGGESTED BY BITAN SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. THIS WILL REMOVE FROM RECORD ANY INDICATION GOI DISAVOWAL OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES AND HINT OF EX GRATIA BASIS GEWNH CLAIMS CONTAINED THEIR AUG 5 NOTE. ACTION ON VESSEL DAMAGE CLAIMS WOULD THEN REMAIN IN ABEYANCE UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO SUBMIT PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS AND GOI THEN ABLE TO SEE TOTAL MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WE ARE ASKING.

5. REQUEST AUTHORIZE AGREE TO BITAN SUGGESTION.
GP-3 BARBOUR

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P 8-4 US USSR

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

2348 13

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

REFERENCE: Tel Aviv 5171; State 219537; State 230284

1. Embassy authorized agree Bitan proposal reported para 2 first reftel.

2. As indicated para B second reftel Dept is expediting preparation personal injury claims.

3. Note sent Embassy by third reftel should not NPT not be sent GOI. Dept will consider reply per oral note after study text.

GP-3

RUSK

(1)

L:L/C:Cleverley:ams 9/4/68 | 5896 | NEA - Mr. Battle

L - Mr. Salans CFS | NEA/IAI - Mr. Bahti

NEA - Rodger P. Davies | DOD - Mr. Warnke (draft)

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Classification

FORM DS-322

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

SECRET

Classification

237736

ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE

During call on Battle September eleven Rabin raised Liberty case, asking if USG would forget GOI note of August five and proceed on basis status quo ante. Battle said this request had already been made by GOI to Embassy Tel Aviv. We had authorized Embassy to return August five note but would not deliver note we had prepared in reply.

GP-3

END

NEA/[illegible]Atherton:mob 9/12/68 2942

NEA - Lucius D. Battle

L/C - Mr. Kerley (info)

SECRET

Classification

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TELEGRAM

SECRET 487

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05345 160951Z

ACTION

INFO LOG-00 /070 W

R 160905Z SEP 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4681

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5345

LIMDIS

SUBJ: LIBERTY CLAIMS

REFS: STATE 037736

1. DEPT. WILL RECALL BITAN'S PROPOSAL WAS AD REFERENDUM. ON RECEIPT STATE 034813 EMB. INFORMED FONMIN BITAN PROPOSAL AWAITED REPLY US AND FONMIN REPLIED THEY WOULD NOW PROCEED TO HAVE PROPOSAL CLEARED AS OFFICIAL AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US.

2. ON RECEIPT REFTEL EMB. RAISED FONMIN WHEITHER PROPOSAL WOULD NOW BE MADE OFFICIALLY. NOTED AMB. RABIN HAD RAISED SAME PROPOSAL IN WASHINGTON SEPT. 11, APPARENTLY IN IGNORANCE WHAT HAD GONE ON HERE. FONMIN REPLIED PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY ADOPTED. ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INFORMED AND HAS BEEN PROPOSED TEXT OF NEW ISRAELI NOTE IN ORDER TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT TEXT IS AGREEABLE TO DEPT. BEFORE IT IS OFFICIALLY GIVEN EMB.

3. SINCE MATTER OF NOTES HAS BEEN HANDLED HERE RATHER THAN IN WASHINGTON, EMB. UNAWARE ANY REASON WHY FONMIN SHOULD HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE TEXT DIRECT WITH DEPT. RATHER THAN THROUGH US, AND IN FACT DID NOT TELL US UNTIL WE INQUIRED. IF DEPT. HAS RECEIVED TEXT BUT HAS NOT YET COMMENTED, SUGGEST COMMENTS BE MADE THROUGH US RATHER THAN IN WASHINGTON.

BARBOUR. ZURHELLEN

SECRET

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05539 011242Z

53 5
ACTION I 03

INFO NEA 13,OPM 04,NSC 10,SP 02,55 25,RSC 01,RSR 01,NSA 02,CIA [illegible]

INR 07,DODE 00,/068 W

035212

R 011144Z OCT 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4759

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5539

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE'S 239732 AND TEL AVIV'S 5345

1. ACCORDING TO DITAN ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON TOO BUSY WITH OTHER MATTERS LAST TWO WEEKS TO CHECK TEXT NOTE WITH DEPT. DECISION THEREFORE MADE TO TRANSMIT NOTE HERE AND THIS DONE TODAY. WE WILL RETURN ORIGINAL AUGUST 5 NOTE TO FONMIN THURSDAY.

2. TEXT NEW NOTE FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 74 DATED 1 JULY 1968, RELATING TO A CLAIM FOR PHYSICAL DAMAGE INFLICTED UPON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY.

AS AGREED IN INFORMAL CONTACTS, AND WHILST RESERVING THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, THE MINISTRY SUGGESTS THAT, TO FACILITATE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT, THE DISCUSSION OF THIS CLAIM, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF OTHERS NOT YET SUBMITTED, BE HELD WHEN ALL REMAINING UNITED STATES CLAIMS RELATING TO THE U.S.S. LIBERTY ARE READY.

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. JERUSALEM, 30 SEPTEMBER 1968. UNQUOTE. ZURHELLEN

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 8-4 ISRAEL-ITR

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A- 1391 UNCLASSIFIED

TO : Department of State

Release

Hold

Dec 25

FROM : Amembassy TEL AVIV DATE: December 24, 1968

SUBJECT: Eban's Remarks on Liberty Claims

REF

On December 17, Foreign Minister Abba EBAN replied in Knesset interpellation to queries from several Members of the Knesset on the subject of the USS Liberty claims and with regard to allegations that the damage to the US vessel on June 8, 1967, had been due to American negligence. Eban's reply, as reported in the official Knesset minutes, was as follows:

"So far, the Government of Israel has paid the US Government an amount of $3,323,500 as compensation for the families of men killed on the American Navy ship 'Liberty' in connection with its being mistakenly damaged by the IAF on June 8, 1967. Israel paid the damages within a few months of the receipt of the claim.

"Israel undertook at the time (of the incident) to indemnify the US for the loss of life and property caused by the disaster.

"Israel paid the damages within a few months after the claim was presented in order to spare the bereaved families financial difficulties. The discussion of the further claim, for damage to the ship, was postponed by agreement between the parties until the US Government would have completed the preparation and presentation of all its claims of all kinds.

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Drafted by: POL:JPFerro:do 12/23/68

Cleared and Classification Approved by: POL:HHStackhouse

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"The presentation of the claim for damages is held up by the need to clarify medical particulars. The Government of Israel does not intend to raise in any way the possibility of demanding that the amount which has already been paid should be refunded. What has been said on the subject in the (U S) House of Representatives does not affect Israel's moral commitment.

"We know of no version about someone accusing the ship's officers of negligence. Even if there was such a claim, it does not affect the Government of Israel. The total amount to be paid by Israel will be established after further negotiations. [illegible]. The Government has no intention of withdr[illegible]ng from its promise to indemnify the US for the damage to the [illegible]. As for the amount of the pending or still to be discussed claims, all questions concerning this will be clarified in the course in negotiations which will be conducted as agreed. I regard the painstaking fulfillment of promises and undertakings as a central principle of Israel's foreign policy.

BARBOUR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 8-4 US-ISR

FILE DESIGNATION

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A-56

TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

Negotiated #3001

Deleted attachment 1 pg B-6 memos

MAR 18 3 58 PM '69

FROM : Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT : U.S.S. Liberty - personal injury claims

REF : Department's A-209, December 19, 1967

Enclosed herewith are 164 notes, comprising the individual claims on behalf of the members of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty who were injured in the attack on that vessel by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967. The total amount of compensation claimed is $3,752,275. A list of the claimants and the compensation claimed on their behalf is attached.

The Embassy is requested to number and date the notes, and to transmit all the notes to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs simultaneously, informing the Department telegraphically when they have been transmitted.

The Embassy should indicate to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the Department will inform interested members of Congress that the personal injury claims have been filed, and will indicate to them the total amount of compensation claimed but not the amount of compensation in individual claims. The Department does not plan to issue a press release but will, in reply to inquiries, indicate that the claims have been presented and the total amount of compensation claimed.

ROGERS

Enclosures:
1. List of claimants.
2. Notes in individual claims.

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Drafted by: [illegible] : 3/12/69 : 5896

Approved by: - Murray J. Belman

NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton H - Mr. Leahy P/CN - Mr. [illegible]

S/S - Mr. Brown

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

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IS 8.4 US-ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01478 2210182

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ACTION L 03

INFO NEA 13 SS 28 NSC 10 ISA 01 JPM 04 CIAE 00 DODE 00 INR 07 NSAE 00

P 04 RSC 01 USIA 12 TRSY 11 E 15 /101 W

884074

R 221000Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5997

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1478

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV 1187

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY APRIL 21 HANDED EMBASSY NOTE READING AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND REFERS TO EMBASSY NOTES NOS. 172 AND 173 OF 28 MARCH 1969 CONCERNING MEDICAL TREATMENT TO PERSONNEL OF THE USS LIBERTY AND DESTRUCTION OF THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY, AS WELL AS TO THE 184 NOTES OF THE SAME DATE RELATING TO CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO WERE INJURED WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE USS LIBERTY.

2. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, AND WITHOUT EXPRESSING HEREBY THE ASSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE GUIDED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE CALCULATION OF THE CLAIMS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FORWARD TO THE UNITED STATES TREASURY THE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN US DOLLARS IN FULL AND FINAL PAYMENT OF THE AFORE-MENTIONED CLAIMS.

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TEL AVIV 1478 4-22-69

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01478 221010Z

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE

2. MINISTRY STATED GOI MINISTRY OF FINANCE DESIRES TO MAKE TRANSFER OF FUNDS ON DIRECT BANK-TO-BANK BASIS AND DESIRES TO KNOW WHICH BANK TREASURY DESIRES TO EFFECT OF FUNDS. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
SP-4 CASHDOR

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PS 8-4 US-ISR

069564

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

INDICATE Classified

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5 Mar 69 14 17

ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

SUBJECT: U.S.S. Liberty claims

1. Dept prepared issue following press statement after receipt of payment. Embassy requested invite comment from GOI.

QT On (date) USG received $3,566,457 from GOI in settlement certain claims arising out of attack on USS Liberty by Israeli naval and air units June 8, 1967. Amount received represents payment in full of following US claims:

(a) 164 claims totalling $3,452,275 on behalf members of crew of USS Liberty who were injured in attack;

(b) Claim for $92,437 for expenses incurred by USG in providing medical treatment to injured men;

(c) Claim for $21,745 for expenses incurred by USG in reimbursing members of crew of USS Liberty for personal property damaged or destroyed in attack.

Distribution to injured men of funds received in settlement their claims now in process, and be completed in few weeks.

L:L/C:ELKerley:ams 4/24/69 | 5696 | L:L/C:ELKerley

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lissfelt P - Mr. McClosky

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rush 5-7-69

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GOI paid claims totalling $3,323,500 on behalf of families of 34 men killed in attack on May 31, 1968.

Only unsettled claim arising out of the attack on USS Liberty is claim _____ for damage to ship, which presented July 3, 1968. UNQTE.

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158-4 U.S.-USSR

124612

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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26 Jun 69 17 46Z

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

Copy to: Navy Dept - Cmdr H.E. Smith

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REFERENCE: Tel Aviv 2159

1. We appreciate your thoughtful comments contained reftel which have been carefully considered here. We continue believe, however, that we should stand on position that GOI has obligation to pay ship damage claim as we submitted it. This position appears to Department also to reflect opinion held in res USG and generally in Congress and public which continue evince interest in this matter.

2. We recognize GOI probably not presently disposed to make prompt and full payment of ship claim in same manner as it responded to personal injury claims, and that extended negotiations may be involved. As you know, we contemplate that those negotiations would involve discussions between naval construction experts of both countries to establish validity of amount claimed.

124612

L:L/C:ELKerby:NEA/IAI:MLissfelt 4961 — NEA - Joseph D. Sisco
NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton — L - Mr. Salans
P - Mr. Leahy — Dept of Navy - Cmdr. R. C. Smith (PHONE)

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3. While argumentation described para 2 reftel will probably be raised by GOI, Dept does not believe it applicable to question of liability. Suggest it be countered as follows:

(a) Claim is for damage actually incurred by USG in attack. GOI has acknowledged responsibility and undertaken to make payment for QT material damage UNQT.

(b) Failure of USS Liberty to receive order to move further from shore is not causally related to attack or damage incurred. GOI forces sought out and attacked USS Liberty because it erroneously identified as hostile vessel. Attack could therefore have occurred any place within operational range Israeli air and naval units. Unreceived orders would have moved USS Liberty eighty rpt eighty miles off coast, which well within attack range.

(c) USS Liberty presently mothballed because funds lacking for reconstruction. Funds for reconstruction were unsuccessfully sought in 1970 Dept Defense budget and present plans are to seek funds for reconstruction in 1971 budget. No intent scrap vessel.

4. While Dept recognizes death claims paid in full, and gratified by promptness of full payment personal injury claims, it believes GOI should understand USG expects GOI fully to satisfy its responsibilities for damages caused.

RICHARDSON

5. Embassy comments invited.

DS-323A
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PS 8-4 US-USR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Release

CONFIDENTIAL 017

PAGE P1 TEL AV 03895 130912Z

11
ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01,CIAE 00,DODE 00,JPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 00

P 04,RVC 01,PRS 01,SS 00,USIA 12,ACSM 01A,OPI 00

275346

R 130900Z AUG 69
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6829

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3894

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 146128

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LEGALITIES OF SITUATION AS OUTLINED REFTEL. ALTHOUGH MIGHT NOTE PARENTHETICALLY RE PARA 3B REFTEL THAT IF SHIP HAD BEEN EIGHTY MILES OFF COAST IT NOT LIKELY TO BE IDENTIFIED AS HOSTILE ON BASIS IT APPARENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORT--LATER PROVED FALSE--OF NAVAL SHELLING EL ARISH, ETC.. PRINCIPAL CONCERN REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT FINAL SETTLEMENT OF LIBERTY INCIDENT CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL US OBJECTIVES RE ISRAEL WHILE PROTECTING US LEGAL POSITION AS PRECEDENT. COMPENSATION HAVING BEEN REQUESTED IN FULL TO SATISFY INSOFAR AS MONEY CAN, HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF CALAMITY DOES NOT SEEM CONSISTENT WITH TOTAL AMERICAN POLICY TO PRESS COUNTRY TO WHICH US HAS EXTENDED SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL AID TO REPAIR DAMAGES TO VESSEL.

2. WITH ABOVE CONSIDERATION IN MIND, SUGGEST NEXT LOGICAL STEP WOULD BE FOR EMBASSY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI ON BASIS THAT WE AWAIT REPLY TO OUR NOTE TRANSMITTING CLAIM AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US SOON. BELIEVE APPROACH SHOULD BE ORAL AND FURTHER STEPS CONSIDERED AFTER WE RECEIVE FORMAL ISRAELI COMMENTS. BARBOUR

NOTE: WAS RECEIVED.

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Tel Aviv 3895 8-13-69

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TELEGRAM

PS 8-4 US-ISR

18 Aug 69 20z

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ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: Tel Aviv 3095

Department concurs in course of action outlined para 2 reftel. Please inform us when oral approach made.

GP-3

END

ROGERS

DRAFTED BY	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY
NEA/IAI:MGolsefelt:hml	8/15/69	22294	NEA - Rodger P. Davies

CLEARANCES:

L/C - Mr. Kerley

NEA/IAI - Mr. Wahl

H - Miss Folger

Navy - Cdr. R. C. Smith (subs)

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P S 8-4 US-USSR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 588

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03456 08 5022

AS
ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01 SS 28 JPM 04 NSC 10 CIAE 00 INR 07 NSAE 00 RSC 01

RSR 01 L 03 /062 W

R 0814152 SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3456

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 138799

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ELIZUR, DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MFA SEPT 3, CHARGE NOTED THAT USG AWAITS RESPONSE FROM GOI TO OUR CLAIM MADE IN JULY 1968 FOR DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY. INDICATED WE DID NOT INSIST ON WRITTEN REPLY IN FIRST INSTANCE, BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE ORAL COMMENTS FROM GOI.

2. ELIZUR SAID GOI HAD HOPED, IN VIEW OF RAPID AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL OTHER LIBERTY CLAIMS, THAT USG WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING REDUCTION OF CLAIM FOR VESSEL DAMAGE. CHARGE SAID USG WAS NOT TAKING SUCH INITIATIVE, BUT FELT SOME RESPONSE FROM GOI WAS NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS.

3. ELIZUR NOTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL BITAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WITH MRS. MEIR LATER THIS MONTH, AND THAT HE MIGHT DESIRE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME. GP-3.
ZURHELLEN

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NEA-10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS8-4 US-ISR

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FILE DESIGNATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CA-5749

TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
USUN NEW YORK

FROM : Department of State

DATE: Oct 22 1968

SUBJECT : USS LIBERTY Claim

REF : Tel Aviv 3456

NEA Deputy Assistant Secretary Davies raised the remaining USS LIBERTY claim for damage to the ship with Michael Elizur, Director of the North American Department, Israel Foreign Ministry, during the latter's call at the Department October 10. Mr. Davies indicated that since all other USS LIBERTY claims have been settled, we believe that Israel should now respond to our note presenting the claim for damage to the ship, which dates from July 1968. We had understood that the matter would be discussed during Assistant Director General Moshe Bitan's visit to the United States, but a suitable opportunity did not arise.

Mr. Elizur said it was his government's impression that the two governments had arrived at a tacit understanding that the claim for damage to the ship would be held in abeyance indefinitely. Mr. Davies replied that, on the contrary, United States agencies were still awaiting a reply from the Government of Israel. This expectation remains unchanged even though the USS LIBERTY class ships are being decommissioned by the Navy.

Mr. Elizur suggested that Embassy Tel Aviv pursue the matter directly with Mr. Bitan, since he (Mr. Elizur) will not return to Israel until early November. Mr. Davies replied that early November would be soon enough, and indicated his hope that Mr. Elizur would raise the question in the Foreign Ministry upon his return to Israel.

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Drafted by: L/C:HLKerley
NEA/IAI:AMahl

Drafting Date: 10/15/68

Phone No.:

Cleared and Classification Approved by:
NEA/IAI:ALAtherton, Jr.
Navy:Cdr. R. C. Saith (subs)
Mr. Davies

James M. Ennes, Jr. Research Papers

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Embassy should follow up the Department's approach by raising the claim with Bitan and Elizur after Elizur returns, in order to elicit a reply from the Government of Israel. In keeping with our policy of making all information relevant to the USS LIBERTY claims available to the Government of Israel, the Embassy should indicate that this class of ship is being decommissioned but that no decision has been made regarding scrapping of the vessels.

ROGERS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

A-430

TO : Department of State

INFO: BEIRUT, CAIRO, USUN

FROM : AmEmbassy TEL AVIV

DATE: December 3, 1969

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY Claim

REF : CA 5749

Mr. Elixur having returned to Israel, Embassy has raised again with him LIBERTY claim in accordance last para reference CA. Information last sentence thereof also given him. Mr. Elixur was told US Government continues to expect reply from GOI about Note of July 1968 presenting claim for damage to ship. He promised to take matter up within Ministry and communicate with Embassy later.

BARBOUR

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DRAFTED BY: DCM:JOZurhellen:jrical/12/2/69

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 6-4 US-ESR

Original to be Filed in _____ Decentralized Files

FILE DESIGNATION

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HANDLING INDICATOR

A-100

TO: Amembassy TEL AVIV

APR 17 5 36 PM '70

FROM: Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT: USS Liberty claim

REF: Tel Aviv A-41, Feb 7, 1970
Dept A-18[illegible] Jan 24, 1970
Tel Aviv A-[illegible], Dec 3, 1969
Dept CA-5741, Oct 22, 1969
Tel Aviv 3456, Sep 8, 1969
Dept 138790, Aug 18, 1969
Tel Aviv 3095, Aug 13, 1969

In view of the failure of the Government of Israel to respond to our note of July 3, 1969 presenting claim for damage to ship despite repeated approaches by Embassy discussed in references, the Embassy is requested to remind the GOI that the USG still is awaiting a reply to our note, and ask when the GOI expects to respond. We believe it is important that our dialogue on this subject be maintained.

ROGERS

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Out

Drafted by: L:L/C:EKerley:ADS
NEA/IAI:MCLissfelt

4/17/70

21356/
22274

Clearances and Classification Approved by: NEA/IAI - Mr. Stackhouse

Copy to: Navy JAG, [illegible], R.C. Smith

NPA-10

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PS 8-4 U.S.-Israel
075536

Department of State

TELEGRAM

16 Mar 10 21 29 z

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ACTION Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE

SUBJ: USS Liberty Claim

REF: A-100, April 17

Would be helpful to receive latest from GOI on pending claim prior Eban visit May 20.

GP-3

ENC

[ROGERS]

DRAFTED BY	DRAFTING DATE	TEL NBR	APPROVED BY
NEA/IAI:CLisefelt:hml	5/18/70	22294	NEA - Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.

CLEARANCES:

NEA/IAI:HHStackhouse

L/C:~~HNKrimyx~~ FKwiatek (subs)

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PS 8-4 US_ISR

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 558

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02555 191129Z

12
ACTION NEA-19

INFO OCT-01 L-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PODE-01
SS-20 PM-05 NSC-10 ASR-01 /064 W

R 191100Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8608

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2555

REF: STATE 075536

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY CLAIM

PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE WITH EBAN, ELIZUR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOI RESPONSE ON LIBERTY WAS BEING CLEARED WITHIN GOI. CP-3.
BARBOUR

Tel Aviv 2555
5-19-70

(1)

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NEA-10

AIRGRAM

P5 8-4 US-ISR

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FILE DESIGNATION

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A-18

TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

FROM : Department of State DATE:

SUBJECT : USS LIBERTY Claim

REF : Tel Aviv 2555

1 Deputy Assistant Secretary Atherton raised the remaining LIBERTY ship damage claim with Israeli Embassy Minister Argov January 20, in the course of a general conversation on a variety of subjects.

Atherton reiterated the USG's appreciation for prompt processing and payment by Israel of the death and injury claims. He reminded Argov that the last word the U.S. had from the GOI on the remaining claim was last May when Mr. Elizur told Ambassador Barbour that Israel's response to the U.S. diplomatic note concerning the ship damage claim was being cleared within the Israel Government. We were therefore still carrying an outstanding claim against the Israeli Government on our books and thought there had been more than ample time for a reply.

Argov said he would query the Foreign Ministry about the present status of the Israeli response to the U.S. claim.

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DS-323

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NEA/IAI:MCLissfelt:hml	1/27/71	22294	NEA-A, Mr. Atherton, Jr.

NEA/IAI:HHStackhouse S/C:EKarley

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

PS 8-4 118-15R

CONFIDENTIAL 606

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03945 261306Z

ACTION L-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-06
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 S5-20 USIA-12 NSR-01
/066 W

P 261447Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1644

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3945

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY CLAIM

DURING CALLS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY JULY 5 BY DEPARTMENT'S
ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR BOYD AND EMBOFF DIRECTOR
NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT ELIZUR SAID GOI STANDS
BY ITS PREVIOUS COMMITMENT REGARDING ITS LIABILITY IN
LIBERTY CASE. ELIZUR SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HOPES
VERY SOON, POSSIBLY AT [illegible] TO COME FORWARD
WITH AN APPROACH TO [illegible] WILL BRING ABOUT A
MUTUALLY SATISFA[illegible] SETTLEMENT [illegible] USG'S CLAIM IN REGARD TO
DAMAGE DONE TO VI[illegible] WHICH SEEMED TO BE HINTING THAT AMOUNT
GOI WOULD PROPOS[illegible] LESS THAN THAT SOUGHT BY
USG BUT QUITE ABS[illegible] CRITICALLY ABOUT THIS BY EMBOFF
ELIZUR SAID HE [illegible] PREFER NOT TO SAY ANYTHING MORE UNTIL
FOREIGN GOI HAS [illegible] IS READY. ADDED THAT HE HOPED
LIBERTY CLAIM [illegible] WILL "SOON ALL BE BEHIND US." GP-3.
BARBOUR

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SUMMARY OF HANDLING OF FIVE KEY MESSAGES

PRIORITY JCS 072330Z (08/0030b local) to CINCEUR, INFO LIB., ETC.

(tells CINCEUR to move ship 15 & 20 miles from coasts vice 6.5 & 12.5 miles)

07/2324Z msg given to Army comm center
08/1255Z CINCEUR copy leaves pentagon
08/1315Z info addee copies leave pentagon, [redacted]
[redacted] NAVCOMMSTA [redacted] Philligines
08/2135Z NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA places message on fleet broadcast for LIBERTY

IMMEDIATE JCS 080110Z (08/0310b local) to CINCEUR INFO LIB/CINCUSNAVEUR/c6F/CTF 64, etc.

(cancels 072330Z, orders ship 100 miles from coast)

08/0311Z CINCEUR copy leaves pentagon
08/0312Z CINCEUR receives msg [redacted]
08/0312Z CINCUSNAVEUR receives msg / receipts in reply to IFF3
08/0338Z CINCEUR telecon to CINCUSNAVEUR directs use of 080110Z for action
08/0350Z LIBERTY copy misrouted to Phillipines
08/0440Z LIBERTY copy leaves Phillipines, [redacted] correctly rerouted to MOROCCO via [redacted]
-------- Army COMM STA, Pentagon, misroutes LIBERTY copy to NSA
-------- NSA files LIBERTY copy without action.
08/0630Z NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO delivers message to c6F
08/0625Z USCINCEUR 080625Z to CINCUSNAVEUR confirms 08/0325 telecon

---

JCS TELECON 07/2350Z (08/0150b local) to CINCUSNAVEUR duty officer orders CINCUSNAVEUR to recall ship to 100 miles from coast, promises that confirming message will follow.
Duty officer drafts recall message but holds for receipt of confirming msg.

(of STATE Com)

USCINCEUR 080615Z to CINCUSNAVEUR, INFO c6F/LIBERTY/etc. (preceded by 0325Z telecon)

(confirms 08/0325Z telecon and directs CINCUSNAVEUR to take JCS 080110Z for action)

08/0711Z USCINCEUR comm center releases msg by two routes to ensure delivery
[redacted] msg lost by Pirmasens, Germany, Army DCS relay (first alternate route)
08/0715Z msg received by CINCUSNAVEUR and c6F
08/1159Z garbled version placed on fleet broadcast for LIBERTY
08/1446Z ungarbled version placed on Asmara broadcast for LIBERTY

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CINCUSNAVEUR 080455Z to C6F (preceded by 0445 [redacted])

(directs C6F to take JCS 080110Z for action

08/0445Z C6F acknowledges receipt of telephone order
08/0455Z CINCUSNAVEUR MSG 0804557 sent to confirm telephone order
08/0518Z C6F receives CINCUSNAVEUR 080455Z

COMSIXTHFLT 080917Z to LIBERTY

[redacted]

(directs LIBERTY to comply with JCS [redacted] 100 [redacted] limit)

08/0917Z msg released to C6F comm center
08/1035Z msg transmitted by C6F comm center
08/1058Z msg received by NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
08/1104Z MOROCCO routes to ASMARA via San Pablo [redacted] USAF Major Relay
08/1108Z CINCUSNAVEUR receives copy
08/1200Z ASMARA Army DCS receives LIBERTY's copy
08/1215Z ASMARA Army DCS sends LIBERTY's copy to NAVCOMMSTA GREECE (vice ASMARA NAVY)
08/1504Z NAVCOMMSTA GREECE returns LIBERTY's copy to ASMARA ARMY
08/1510Z LIBERTY copy arrives NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA
08/1525Z LIBERTY copy placed on fleet broadcast

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FOLLOWING ARE
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MESSAGES FREE
EXHIBIT #18

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PRESS

Time of Receipt _____ B

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...OYERS, CLOSING WITH A FEW HUNDRED YARDS OF THE
... THE SHIPS.
... TO PROTECT THE DESTROYER FROM
...ILL.

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