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11 Jan 06

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman
Committee on Armed Forces
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your letter of 26 September to Secretary England concerning whether further investigation of the Israeli attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) is warranted. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

Admiral John S. McCain's endorsement of the Navy investigation found that USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) suffered an unprovoked attack by Israeli air and naval forces in international waters. The Secretary of State communicated to the Government of Israel, "the attack must be condemned as an act of military irresponsibility reflecting reckless disregard for human life." The Government of Israel formally communicated its sincere expression of deep regret and subsequently paid U. S. claims in full for the deaths, injuries and damages caused in the attack. In view of those facts, further investigation is not warranted.

We recognized and honored the sacrifice and uncommon bravery demonstrated by the officers and crew of the USS Liberty (AGTR 5) on that fateful day.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

H. H. DRONBERGER
CAPT, JAGC, U. S. Navy
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Civil Law)