

NAVAL MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

NAVY DEPARTMENT

FLASH IMMEDIATE
Z 01091815Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL

067 JUN 11 13 38

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TO: WHITE HOUSE
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650-651-652-660-PLAS

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 12-11-2006 pursuant to E.O. 12859, as amended. ST case 51652.

~~SECRET~~ 0849 JUN 67

REF: TELCON RADM MOORE NMCC AND ALUSNA, TEL AVIV AND JCS UTPD J-3, NOTAL REGARDING USS LIBERTY INCIDENT. 1. AT 091630Z IDF ARMY ASSISTANT ARMY SPOKESMAN, LT COL MICHAEL BLOCH, TELEPHONED FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TO ALUSNA: A. FOLLOWING ATTACK THREE ISRAELI MTB APPROACHED LIBERTY AND AT 1227Z ASKED BY LIGHT QUOTE DO YOU NEED HELP UNQUOTE. LIBERTY REPLIED QUOTE NO THANK YOU. WE DO NOT NEED HELP UNQUOTE. MTBS REMAINED IN AREA UNTIL 1504Z SEARCHING TWO TO THREE MILES AROUND ATTACK POSITION. THEY SAW NO PERSON IN SEA BUT RECOVERED TWO RUBBER LIFE BOATS, ONE SURVIVAL KIT AND ONE PAMPHLET ON TRANSISTORS. MTB PERSONNEL NOW STATE POSITIVELY THEY SAW NO CREWMEMBERS JUMP INTO SEA AND NONE IN SEA. B. TWO IDF HELICOPTERS WERE OVER LIBERTY 1309Z TO 1321Z AND WERE WAVED OFF BY SHIP. MTBS TOLD HELICOPTERS SHIP DID NO DESIRE HELP. HELOS CONDUCTED SEARCH OVER 5 KILOMETER RADIUS UNTIL 1504Z. C. LT COL BLOCH HAS INTERVIEWED ALL PILOTS OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT EXCEPT ONE WHO IS NOW ON AIR MISSION. ALL STATE THEY SAW NO CREWMEMBER ENTER SEA AND NONE IN SEA. D. IDF INSTITUTED LIGHT PLANE SEARCH UPON RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL

READING FOLDER DISTRIBUTION

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CONTINUE UNTIL DARKNESS. STATED THEY WOULD HAVE DONE SO YESTERDAY IF THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF MISSING PERSONNEL BUT UNDERSTOOD SHIP NEEDED NO HELP. E. IDF NAVY STATES UNDER STANDARD WIND AND CURRENT CONDITIONS SURVIVORS OR DEBRIS WOULD BE CARRIED TO COASTLINE APPROX OPPOSITE CITY OF RAFAH (3118N 3415E) IN GAZA STRIP. 2. IF CERTAIN THAT LIBERTY STATED SHE NEEDED NO HELP AND BECAUSE OF POSITIVE STATEMENTS OF IDF FORCES AT SCENE THAT NO PERSONS ENTERED OR WERE IN WATER CONSIDER SEARCH EFFORT ADEQUATE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW UNACCOUNTED CREWMEMBERS BELIEVE NO EFFORT TOO GREAT. IDF AGREES CONDUCT SEARCH ATTACK AREA AND WATERS TO GAZA COAST LINE BEGINNING FIRST LIGHT 10 JUNE AND WILL COMPLY ANY OTHER REQUEST.

3. AS ABOVE BEING DRAFTED COLONEL BLOCH REPORTED LAST PILOT INTERVIEWED. PILOT STATES HE THINKS HE SAW SIX TO TEN YELLOW BOATS WITH PEOPLE IN

WA3 9: S#80. BLOCH DOES NOT CREDIT REPORT IN VIEW OTHER WITNESSES. HAS LIBERTY PROVIDED INFO WHICH COULD CONFIRM OR DENY THIS POSSIBILITY.

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