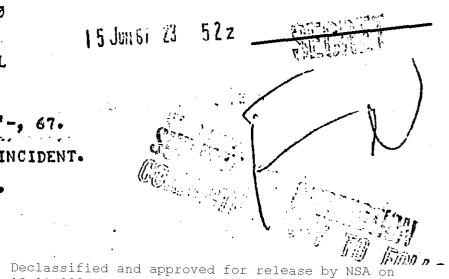
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ET
S-E-G-R-E-T-NOFORN 0900'-, 67.
SECTION 1 OF 2
SUBJ: (U) USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
REFERENCES:



1

A. YOUR 141250Z JUN 67.

B. USDAO 0825 JUN 67.

C. USDAO 0827 JUN 67.

D. USDAO 0834 JUN 67.

E. USDAO 0845 JUN 67. F. USDAO 0849 JUN 67. G. USDAO 0852 JUN 67.

G. USDAO Ø852 JUN 67.

12-11-2006 pursuant to E.O. 12859, as amended. ST
USDAO Ø858 JUN 67.

51652.

I. USDAO Ø884 JUN 67. J. USDAO Ø886 JUN 67./ USDAO Ø892 JUN 67.

FOR RADM KIDD, PRESIDENT OF COURT OF INQUIRY. FOLLOWING IS

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PAGE 2 RUGMVL Ø9ØØ/1-S E.G.R E.T. NOFORM
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SURROUNDING USS LIBERTY INCIDENT AS OBSERVED AND RECORDED BY ALUSNA TEL AVIV CDR E.C. CASTLE, USN:
1. (C) ALUSNA CALLED TO ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE FOREIGN LIAISON OFICE (IDF/FLO) AT APPROX Ø814ØØZ. MET THERE BY LT COL MICHAEL BLOCH, ASSISTANT IDF SPOKESMAN WHO SAID ISRAEL AIRCRAFT AND MTB'S HAD ERRONEOUSLY ATTACKED AN UNIDENTIFIED U.S. SHIP AT Ø812ØØZ
PSIT 3129N 3333E. SAID MAYBE SHIP WAS U.S. NAVY. SAID HELIØTERS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS. HAD NO OTHER INFO. MADE APOLOGIES AND REQUESTED INFO OF OTHER U./. SHIPS NEAR WAR ZONE COASTS. USDAO SENT FLASH MESSAGE, REF B.
2. (C) ALUSNA REPORTED INCIDENT TO.U.S. AMBASSADOR WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT FROM ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY (FONMIN). AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED ALUSNA COULD BE FLOWN TO SITE OF INCIDENT TO ATTEMPT INTIFY SHIP AND REQUESTED HELO FLIGHT FROM DIRECTOR OF UNITED SATES DEPARTMENT OF ISRAEL FOMMIN.
3. (C) AT APPROX Ø8153ØZ DEPUTY RWYECTOR OF U.S. DEPT ISRAEL FOMMIN CALLED ALUSNA AND SAID IDF HELOS HAD PUT U.S. SURVIVORS ADAPD ISRAELI NAVY SHIPS AND THAT ALUSNA COULD BE FLOWN TO MEET THEIR ARRIVAL IN PORT. BEFORE DEPUTY DIRECTOR COMPLETED HIS STATEMENT LT COL BLOCH CAME ON SAME PHONE AND SAID THE REPORT OF

PAGE-3 RUGMVL-6900/1 S E G R E T NOFORN

PEKING UP SURVIVORS WAS COMPLETELY INACCURATE AND THAT NO SUCH

AGTEOREMABHTRKEHDPLACE. BLOCH THEN SCSNNG

BEEN IDENTIFIED 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 FLASH MESSAGE, REF C.

4. (U) AT APPROX Ø81540Z, FLO CALLED ALUSNA AND SAID TO PROCEED
TO FLO TO PICK UP ESCORT FOR HELO FLIGHT. ASTALUSNA ACCOMPANIED
AUSNA.

5. (C) AT Ø81610Z (TIME RECORDED BY ASTALUSNA), HELO WAS AIRBORNE
FROM DOV HOSS AIRFIELD ON NORTHERN EDGE OF TEL AVIV. HELO PROCEEDED
CNDIRECT INTERCEPT TO SHIP. AT Ø81625Z, HELO PASSED OVER THREE IDF
MTB RUNNING NORTH. AT Ø81635T, HELO WAS OVER USS LIBERTY BUT HAD
NEITHER ELECTRIC MEGAPHONE OR HAND HELD SIGNAL LIGHT. ALUSNA HAD
PENNED TO BE LOWERED ABOACD LIBERTY FOR BRIEF CONFERENCE WITH
C.O. ALUSNA IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND NOT ABLE TO CONVEY HIS
IENTITY TO BRIDGE OF LIBERTY. LIBERTY MADE PREPARATIONS TO
REEIVE 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
TRNSFER ATTEMPT. ALUSNA WROTE NOTE INQUIRING AS TO CASUALTIES

PAGE 4 RUOMUL Ø 900/1 S.E.C.R.E.T. NOFORN
ON CALLING CARD AND DROPPED IT ABOARD LIBERTY IN IMPROMTU PACKAGE.
ALUSNA UNDERSTOOD SHIP TO SIGNAL AFFIRMATIVE CASUALTIES AND THOUGHT
THE NUMBER SENT WASFOUR OR FORTY BUT IS UNCERTAIN OF TRANSMISSION
FRM FAND HELD LIGHT. HELO HAD TO DEPART BECAUSE OF FALL OF
DARKNESS. OFFICER ON BRIDGE GAVE A THUMBS UP SIGN. ENTIRE HELO TRIP WAS FRUSTRATION AND ESSENTIALLY NON-PRODUCTIVE EXCEPT ALUSNA WE ABLE TO OBSERVE LIBERTY UNDERWAY ON OWN POWER AND TO NOTE LET AND SOME TOPSIDE DAMEGE. HELO DEPARTED LIBERTY AT Ø81700Z AND TOUCHED DOWN TEL AVIV Ø81725Z.
6. (C) WHILE ALUSNA ON FLIGHT, DATT RECEIVED TELEPHONE REPORT FROM IDF ARMY SPOKESMAN OF DF. PRESS NOTICE ON INCIDENT WHICH WA. FOR RELEASE AT \$81930Z. INTERIM COL TAYLOR OF DIA HELD PHONE CONV WITH DATT. DATT UNDERSTOOD FROM PHONECON THAT LIBERTY NOT SEEKING IDF ASSISTANCE AND THAT SHIP HAD SATISFACTORY RADIO COMM WITH U.S. NAVY. INFO THIS PARA AND OTTER AMLLIFYING REMARKE WITH U.S. NAVY. COTAINED IN USDAO. IMMEDIATE MSG. REF. D. 7. (C)M ON RETURN EMBASSY, ALUSNA INFORMED THAT GENL GETTY OF NEC REQUESTED PHONE REPORT WHICH WAS MADE AT APPROX Ø82100Z. SBSTANCE OF PHONE CON SAME AS PARA 5 ABOVE.
8./ (C) AT APPROX Ø91200, ARME RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM

PAGE 5 RUGHVL Ø900/1 S E C.R E T NOFORN ... CENL CASSIBRY OF NMCC ASKING USDAO TEL AVIV TO DETERMINE IF IDF PLANES OR SHIPS HAD SIGHTED ANY BODIES OR PICKED UP ANY SURVIVORS. GENL SAID 22 MEN WERE MISSING BUT WERE POSSIBLY AL IN HOLD OFLIBERTY. GE EWAEETED PHONE RELLEGEEER AFIRMAT 27846 58ED)997, - 0-3\$ 3 9 (S) AT 091300Z, LT COL BLOCTCALLED ALUSNA. ALUSNA WAS EXBEREY TO INQU RYO EE RVLMEN9

353-\$ 7)9: 43-\$ 911

)8 91 3;3,)9 949-589, 19,1549117455348 ,4)873456 8,18\$3,59 553SE WERE: MARBBUTP AGASMSIESTEDA FROM COAST.

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things will also particul and SENTEN I OLI PECS NE MORNE IS 4-1 NO.

PRESENCE IN A FIGHTING AREA IS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM.
THE AREA IS NOT A COMMON PASSAGE FOR SHIPS.
EGYPT HAD DECLARED THE AREA CLOSED TO NEUTRALS.
LIBERTY RESEMBLES THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL QUSEIR.

SHIP WAS NOT FLYING FLAG WHEN SIGHTED. SH SPEED UNQUOTE WESTWARD TOWARD ENEMY COAST. SHE MOVED AT QUOTE HCH

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

ALUSNA PRESSED BLOCH FORALABELFOR THE STATEOFEJING IF

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HEFTS EUN61 ENEAT 21 LU-MVL 0900/2 1661745 53555 51615Z JUN 67 ZFG U.AO TEL AVIN ISRAEL RUDUK D/C'INCUSNAVEUR FO RUEPJS/DIA SECTION OF TWO 3 T SECTION OF TWO

INDEPENDENT LOOP BLOCK

COULD NOT SUPPLY A PREAMBLE ON HIS OWN AND ALUSNA REQUESTED HE

CONSULT WITH SOME AUTHORITY WHO COULD BLOCK CALLED BACK AND

GAVE ABOVE NON_COMMITAL HEADING USDAO SENT IMMEDIATE MSG REF

LESCRIBING ABOVE EXCHANGE AND COMMENTING ON UNLIKELYHOOD OF

PROF ESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS CONFUSING LIBERTY AND EL QUSEIR

AND EALUATING NAVY, S ERRONEOUS ATTACK AS RESULT OF EAGERNESS

TOT NAVY TO GLEAN SOME PORTION OF CREAT DICTORY BEING HOW OF IDF NAVY TO GLEAN SOME PORTION OF GREAT VICTORY BEING WON BY IDF ARMY AND AIR FORCE PADM MOORE AT NMCC REGARDING TYPE AND EXTENT OF SEARCHES FOR SURVIVORS MADE BY IDF NAVY RADM MOORE PUT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BUT PHONE CONNECTIOOTBUDLUERY POOR ALUSNA STATED HE UNDERSTOOD PAGE RUGMVL 900/2-S-E-C-R-E-T-NTFORN
TENOR OF QUESTIONS AND WOULD ACT ON THAT BUT REQUESTED MSG
BACKUP WITH DETAILED QUESTIONS ON QUERY ALUSNA TOLD RADM MOORE
THAT IN VIEW GENERAL RECENT NOW COOPERATION OF FLO REGARDING USDAO
REQUESTS FOR INFO ON HOSTILITIES SLOWNESS OF REPLY TO QUERY
REGARDING POSSIBLE SURVIVORS AND THE JUST RECEIVED QUOTE SEVEN
POINTS UNQUOTE THAT U.S. REQUESTS FOR ISRAELI SEARCH ACTION
WOULD PROBABLY GET BETTER RESPONSE AT LEVEL HIGHER TAN USDAO
TO FLO REQUESTS FOR INFO AND RENEWED SEARCH WERE PASSED TO F LO IMMEDIATELY 11. (S) AT 091830Z, LCOL BLOCH TELEPHONE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS A FOLLOWING ATTACK, 31 84-3)8 .57 .S OFF ERED HELP TO LIBERTY BUT WERE REFUSED BIN.S CONTIOPF BLEARCH IN ATTACK AREA UNTIL BIM.S CONTIOPF BLEARCH IN ATTACK AREA UNTIL 881504Z WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS EXCEPT FOR RECOVERY OF RUBBER LIFE BOATS AND 0 OTHER EQUIPME T MTB PERSONNEL STATE TEY SAW NO ONE JUMP INTO THE SEA OR 3 IN SEA D IDF HELICOPTORS WERE OVER LIBERTY 081305Z TO 08131-Z AND WERE WAVED OFF HELOS CONDUCTED SEARCH UNTIL 081504Z. 0 PAGE 3 RUQHVL a900/25 K C R E T NOFORN ာ TCOL BLOCH HAD INTERVIEWED ALL PILOTS OF ATTACK ING AIRCRAFT EXCEPT ONE ALL STATED THEY HAD SEEN NO ONE ENTERING WATER ALL STATED THEY HAD SEEN NO ONE IN OR Э F WM IDF HAD INSTITUTED LIGHT PLANE SEARCH UPON RECEIPT OF GUESTIONS REGARDING SEARCHES AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL DARK ... 0 JUNE NAT MESS NAVI ESTIMATED STANDARD WIND AND CURRENT CONDITIONS WOULD CARRY SURVIVORS OR DEBRIS TO POINT ON GAZA STIP COAST OPPOSITE CITY OF RAF AH H IDF AGREED TO CONDUCT SEARCH ATTACK AREA AND WATERS TO \odot IDF AGREED TO CONDUCT SEARCH ATTACK AREA AND WATERS TO GAZA COAST LINE BEGINNING FIRST LIGHT 10 JUNE

1 AS ABOVE BEING DRAFTED AS USDAO FLASH MSG. REF F. LTGOL

BLOCH TELEPHONED INFO THAT LAST PILOT HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED. THAT PILOT THOUGHT HE SAW SIX TO TEN YELLOW BOATS WITH PEOPLE IN WAKE OF LIBERTY BLOCH DISCREDITED THIS REPORT.

10. (S,1-51007302, LTGOL BLOCH REPORTED AIR SEARCH WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. BEGAN AT 1003002 AND THAT SURFACE SEARCH WOULD BEGIN IN ASTERNOON. ALUSNA RECOMMENDED TO US AUTHORITIES THAT OF NO RESULTS DEVELOPED BY NIGHTFALL TERMINATION OF SEARCH BE AUTHORIZED.) J

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HESO THIS PARA SENT AS USDAO FLASH MSG, REF G.

Links Lept. 12

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SOURCE GAVE INFO GATHERED BY OVERHEARING IIF AF AIR TO SECOND CONTROL FREUUENCIES INFO SUGGESTED THAT IDE AIRCRAFT MADE CONTROL FREUUENCIES INFO SUGGESTED THAT IDE AIRCRAFT MADE TWO OR THREE IDENTIFICATION PASSES OVER A SHIP SOMETIME PRIOR TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY AIRCRAFT REPORTED SHIP HAD US FLAG OUT NO PERSONNEL ON DECK INFO THIS PARA FORWARDED TO LIMITED ADDRESSES INCLUDING CNO AND DIA IN USDAO 0854 JUN 14. (S) AT APPROX 101915Z, IDF SPOK ESMAN 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. (S/NFD) ON CUERY FROM DIA USDAO TEL VIV IMMED MSG, SEF H. 25. (S/NFD) ON CUERY FROM DIA USDAO TEL VIV IMMED MSG, SOURCE CITED PARA 13 ABOVEWM HOWEVER USDAO WAS ABLE PROVIDE IN REF I INFO ON MTB ATTACK RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OFFICER FROM IDF NAVAL OFFICER WHO SAID HE ZAS ABOARD MTB. SAID MTB S LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO IPZDO LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT LIBERTY WHEN THEY SAW HER UNDER ATTACK BY AIRCRAFT MTB CREW SAW U 1. FLAG AFTER TO APZDO LAUNCH SAID FLAG HAD BEEN OBSCURED BY SMOKEUM IN SAME REF ALUSNA OFF ERED PROBABLY BUT NOT CERTAIN SERIES OF EVENTS AS FOLLOWS.

Children Branch State

PAGE 5 RUUMVL 0900/2 S E G R E T NOFORN

A. IDF AIRCRAFT REPORTED AND IDENTIFIED LIBERTY AS U.S.

B. IDF AF HQ MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BROADCAST INFO TO ALL UNITS BUT PROBABLY UNINFORMED AIRCRAFT RETURNING FROM STRIKE IN EGYPT HAD ATTACKED LIBERTY
C. MTB,S SAW AIRCRAFT ATTACKING LIBERTY AND PRESUMED HER TO C. MTB,S SAW AIR BE EGYPTIAN SHIP THEY EAGERLY RACED INTO ACTION WITHOUT WAITING TO IDENTIFY OUR SHIP WAITING TO IDENTIFY OUR SHIP

16. (S) AT APPROX 312022 WHEN ALUSNA VISITED FLO ON OTHER

BUSINESS, LTCOL BLOCH OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WAS

HEARING MALICIOUS UNTRUE STORIES ABOUT INCIDENT FROM U.S.

PRESUMABLY NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE ITEM, ALUSNA SAID ATED IN QUOTE MALICIOUSI AREMINDED BLOCH THAT SOME MONTHS EARLIER WHEN USN AIRCRAFT

HAD ACCIDENTALLY PENETRATED THE ISRAELI AIR CONTROL ZONES, THE

1DF AF CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE HAD ARROGANTLY ALTHOUGH

FACETIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT NEXT TIME HE MIGHT HAVE TO ATTACK

THE PLANES OR SHIP BLOCH SAID THAT THAT OFFICER TALKS QUOTE

A LOT OF NONSENSE ON UOTE AND THAT HE HOPED ALUSNA DIDN, T

THINK OTHER IDF OFFICERS WERE LIKE THAT ALUSNA REPLIED HE JUST

WANTED IT TO BE CLEAR THAT HE WANTED TO HEAR NOTHING BUT

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PAGE WY RUGMYL 900/25 E G R E T NOFORN
CFF ICIAL COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LIBERTY INCIDENT
17. (5) AT 1312552, LTGOL BLOCH CALLED ALUSNA TO REPORT IDF
COSS GENL RABIN-HAD APPOINTED AN OFF ICIAL COURT OF INCUIRY
IN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING USS LIBERTY THIS INTO SENT AS USDAO IN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING USS LIBERTY THIS INTO SENT AS USDAO IMMEDIATE MSG REF J
18. (CWL ON 4 JUNE, ALUSNA WAS ASKED TO MEET IDF NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF COMMODORE ERELL AT FLO IN EARLY EVENING COMMODORE ERELL PRESENTED APOLOGIES TO U S NAVY ON BEHALF OF IDF NAVY.

ERELL STATED HE DID NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON ELEMENTS OF THE MISTAKE UNTIL AFTER COURT OF INQUIRY REACHED ITS FINDINGS.

ON QUERY ERELL SAID HE PRESUMED FINDINGS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO USG THIS INFO AND AMPLIFYING DETAILS SENT IN USDAO PRIORITY MSG REF K
19. COMMENT: A ABOVE DOES NOT INCLUDE EXCHANGES BETWEEN GS STATE DEPARTMENT AND GOI OF WHICH US MILITARY ATTACHES HERE WERE AWARE BUT IN WHICH THEY TOOK NO PART S STATE DEPARTMENT AND GOI OF WHICH US MILITARY ATTACHES LEVE WERE AWARE BUT IN WHICH THEY TOOK NO PART

B DESPITE THE LENGTH AND DETAIL OF ABOVE IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IT DOES NOT ADD SIGNIF ICANTLY TO REFERENCED MESSAGE REPORTS FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO USDAO TEL AVIV IT CAN BE PRESUMED THAT ONLY THE IDF KNOWS WITH CERTAINTY THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT LED TO THE TRAGIC INCIDENT.

COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY GP_3. COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY