

JUN 9 00 02 '67

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NMCC CWO

HND327WQP
 OO RUEKDA
 DE RUQMVL 0834 1592107
 ZNY CCCCC
 O 082100Z JUN 67
 FM USDAR TEL AVIV ISRAEL
 TO RUEPJS/DIA
 RUEHC/DEPT STATE
 RUEPJS /OSD
 RUSNKG/USDAO AMMAN
 RUEHDT/USUN
 INFO RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
 RUQNRJ/AMCONGEN JERUSALEM
 RUFPEK/USCINCEUR-USEUCOM
 RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
 RUIPRN/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
 RUFPRW/CINCUSAFE
 RUFPAQ/CINCUSAREUR
 RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
 RUEKDA/JCS
 RUDLKD/USDAO LONDON
 RUTKRE/CTG SIX ZERO
 RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 BT

US DEFENSE ATTACHE, TEL AVIV REPORT ON ATTACK OF USS LIBERTY

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

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- CONFIDENTIAL 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-3348E) 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 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 DAB 0825.
 3. DAO 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.
 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,

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- 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 NOTICE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. GP-3.

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