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FLEET PAO SENDS

- 1. FOLLOWING IS COPY FORWARDED FOR YOUR ACTION.
- 2. QUOTE FOR URGENT COLLECT TRANSMISSION TO NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK

PARA
PROFOREIGN DESK FOURTH ADD PW LEAD SHEEHAN'S HARASSMENT PARA
THE SPOKESMEN, KOMMANDENADAVID COONEY, SAJJ-THAT EACH OF THE DESTROY-
ERS CARRIED A DOCTOR AND TWO CORPSMEN TO TREAT THE 53 WOUNDED MEN RE-
PORTED ABOARD THE LIBERTY.
FOUR MEN WERE ALSO KILLED AMONG HER CREW OF 16 OFFICERS, 27 MEN AND
THREE CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS PARA
THE SHIP APPARENTLY CARRIED NO SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL FACILITIES IT-
SELF, HE SAID. SPARA
THE LIBERTY, A CONVERT VICTORY SHIP NORMALLY CAPABLE OF DOING
20 KNOTS AT TOP SPEED, BUT WAS REPORTED STEAMING NORTH AT A

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SPEED OF ABOUT EIGHT KNOTS IN HER DAMAGED CONDITION PARA
THE DESTROYERS ARE SPEEDING TOWARDS HER AT A FULL 30 KNOTS. THE
USS DAVIS IS COMMANDED BY COMMANDER W.S. LEWIS, WHILE THE CAPTAIN
OF THE MASSEY IS COMMANDER R.P. HILTON PARA. D
THE AMERICA, WHICH WAS JOINED BY THE SARATOGA THIS AFTERNOON, WAS
ALSO STEAMING EAST TONIGHT, SAJJ COMMANDER COONEY WOULD NOT SAY WHET-
HER THE CARRIER INTENDED TO LATER RENDEZVOUS WITH THE DESTROYERS
AND THE LIBERTY PARA. D
HE SAJJ, HOWEVER THAT SOME OF THE WOUNDED MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO
HOSPITAL FACILITIES ABOARD THE TWO CARRIERS PARA.
AT THE TIME SHE WAS STRUCK BY AN ISRAELI TORPEDO THIS AFTERNOON,
COMMANDER COONEY SAJJ THE LIBERTY WAS STEAMING ABOUT 10 MILES NORTH
OF THE SINAI COAST AT THIRTYONE DEGREES TWENTY THREE MINUTES NORTH
AND THIRTY THREE DEGREES TWENTYFIVE MINUTES EAST PARA MORE SHEEHAN
THE LIBERTY IS OFFICIALLY LISTED AS AN ELECTRONICS RESEARCH SHIP AND
COMMANDER COONEY SAJJ SHE WAS IN THE AREA QUOTE TO HELP PROTECT
ISRAELI NATIONALS AS THE POSSIBLE NEED OR SUCH PROTECTION BECAME
APPARENT UNQUOTE PARA
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE HOW THE LIBERTY COULD EFFECTIVELY PROT-
ECT AMERICAN CIVILIANS WITH HER FOUR FIFTY CALIBER MACHINE GUNS. HER

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FACILITIES FOR EVACUATING CIVILIANS ARE ALSO VERY LIMITED. THERE ARE
LIKEWISE FEW IF ANY AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN THE AREA WHERE THE LIBERTY
WAS ATTACKED PARA
THE LIBERTY'S POSITION WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE PUT HER NORTHWEST OF THE
FORMER EGYPTIAN STRONGHOLD OF EL ARISH AND OFF AN AREA OF THE SINAI
WHERE FIGHTING IS REPORTEDLY STILL UNDERWAY BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND IS-
RAELI FORCES PARA
WITH HER COMPLICATED ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT THE LIBERTY WOULD HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO MONITOR THE COMMUNICATIONS OF BOTH FORCES PARA
THE COMMANDER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON TWELVE, CAPTAIN E.G. LEAHY, WAS
ALSO ABOARD THE DAVIS TONIGHT AS IT AND THE MASSEY HEADED FOR THE
LIBERTY PARA
END LEAD, PICKUP WHERE APPROPRIATE SHEEHAN'S HARASSMENT PARA FUNI
SHEEHAN UNQUOTE
BT

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