AP NEWS COPY

1. AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY DATE LINE "ABoard the Carrier America, June 9 by 303 Horton says in part:
"The official explanation for this noncombat ship being so near the front of Israeli-Egyptian fighting was that the Liberty was to (quote) hepl protect American nationals as the possible need to evacuate became apparent (unquote).
The Liberty was only 15 miles off the Sinai coast."
"But an officer said: (quote) to put it bluntly, she was in there to spy for us. Russia does the same thing. We move our closed monitor the communication of both Egypt and Israel. We have to. We must be informed of what's going on in matter of minutes. (unquote)."
"The Liberty, this officer said, was loaded with electronic equipment capable of rapidly acquiring data and transmitting intelligence reports to posts throughout the Middle East."

2. THE ALLEGED OFFICER'S STATEMENT QUOTED BY MR. HORTON IS NOT BASED ON ANY CONTACT WITH AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN, NOR IS IT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANY KNOWN OFFICER IN AMERICA. SECURITY AT THE SOURCE HAS BEEN STRESSED. DISCRETE INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

3. MR. HORTON'S COPY WAS NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW FOR SECURITY OR ACCURACY AND IT WAS NOT TRANSMITTED BY NAVY COMMUNICATIONS. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SENT ABOARD IN A SEALED ENVELOPE PLACED TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEDIA MATERIAL ON A COD AIRCRAFT WHICH DEPARTED AMERICA FOR ATHENS AT ABOUT 091030Z.

GPARO

ST

Declassified and approved for release by NSA and the U.S. Navy on 01-12-2007 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended. ST 51667