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Navy on 03-08-2007 pursuant to
E.O. 12958, as amended. ST
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FM CINCUSNAVEUR

TO RUEB NWF/COMSERVLANT

BT FR C/COMSIXTHFLT

RUEFR/COMFAIRMED

BT FR E/COMSERVFOR SEXT HFLT

ME N/D IP NAV SE CGF UE UR

RUCCK/PLT PP/USS LIBERTY

RUDT GR/AMEMB MALTA

RUTK/COMNAVSTA ROTA

INFO RUEFBK/USCINCEUR

43288

INFO: G6-1
G-1
KI-1
ADP-1
ADN-1
DOR-1
ADIM-1
P21-1
DIIR-5
M5-1
D324

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RUEPP/CTG SIX ZERO PT FIVE

RUEWRE/CTF SIX ZERO

RUE NAAA/CNO

RUCI HSA/DIRNAVSECORU

RUE PWS/DIRNSA

RUFFPBK/HQ NSA EUR

RUE FM/NAVCOMSTA (CAMS) MOROCCO

RUE PJS/JCS

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RUE PJS/SECDEF

BT

SECRET

SECTION ONE OF TWO

SECDEF FOR (ASD (PA))

CO NAVSTA ROTA NOT AN ADDRESSEE. DELIVER TO RADM RENKEN AS HE PASSES

THROUGH ROTA.

SUBJECT: (U) ANNEX DELTA TO CINCUSNAVEUR OPOD 15-67 (PUBLIC

AFFAIRS)

A. CINCUSNAVEUR 111031Z JUN 67 (CINCUSNAVEUR OPOD 15-67)

100.3 PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP; CAPT E.L.

CASTILLO, USN; LCDR B. SIMS, USN; 2 NAVY COMMAND MGRU

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1. (C) SITUATION. USS LIBERTY HAS BEEN SEEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY NEWSMEN FROM USS AMERICA AND FROM AIRCRAFT. HER EXTERNAL

CONFIGURATION IS UNCLASSIFIED. BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO HER HULL, CLASSIFIED SPACES AND EQUIPMENT MAY BE VISIBLE FROM BOATS

ALONGSIDE DURING ENTRY TO PORT AND, UNLESS MASKED, BE VISIBLE

AS THE DRYDOCK IS PUMPED OUT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT NEWSMEN, I NOTTM MOTION PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHERS, WILL BE IN MALTA

SPECIFICALLY TO COVER THE ARRIVAL AND DOCKING OF LIBERTY. THEY

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WILL WANT TO PHOTOGRAPH THE SHIP AND CREWMEN, AND INTERVIEW CREWMEN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. (C) MISSION: TO CONDUCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR TF 100 AND ALSO THE

COURT OF INQUIRY CONVENED BY CINCSNAVEUR IN ORDER TO SATISFY

LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF NEWSMEN WITHOUT COMPROMISE OF CLASSIFIED

INFORMATION, UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE WITH OPERATIONS, OR INVASION

OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF PRIVACY.

3. (S) EXECUTION:

APPENDIX ONE TO THIS ANNEX CONTAINS THE STATEMENT AND POLICY

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GUIDANCE ISSUED BY USCINCEUR IN HIS MESSAGE ECAP 09099/081650Z

JUNE. THIS GUIDANCE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES. NOTHING WILL BE

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B. APPENDIX TWO OF THIS ANNEX CONTAINS QUOTATIONS FROM AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FILED BY A CORRESPONDANT WHO WAS ABOARD USS AMERICA ON 9 JUNE, AND COMMENTS IN REBUTTAL BY COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET TO NEWSMEN ON 10 JUNE. PERSONNEL OF TF 100 QUERIED WILL REPLY THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO PREVIOUS OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. ALL PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE AIM OF MAINTAINING CREDIBILITY OF THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE MISSION OF USS LIBERTY.

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C. BEFORE ENTERING PORT, CTG 100.7 WILL TAKE ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS REQUIRED TO OBSCURE PUBLIC VIEW OF CLASSIFIED SPACES CAUSED HULL DAMAGE. CTF 100 WILL ASSIST WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF FACILITIES AT MALTA AS PRACTICABLE.

D. NORMAL RESTRICTIONS ON UNOFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE LOCAL DOCKYARD WILL APPLY. IN ADDITION, LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL BE REQUESTED TO PROHIBIT NEWSMEN FROM THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE DOCKYARD:

- (1) WHILE THE SHIP IS ENTERING THE DOCK, UNLESS CTF 100 IS SATISFIED THAT THE TORPEDO HOLE IN THE HULL IS ADEQUATELY COVERED.
- (2) WHILE THE DRYDOCK IS BEING PUMPED OUT, REGARDLESS OF COVERING.

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(3) AFTER THE DOCK IS PUMPED OUT, UNTIL ALL REMAINS HAVE

BEEN REMOVED AND CLASSIFIED MATTER SAFEGUARDED.

E. IF QUERIED BY NEWSMEN, RATIONALE FOR RESTRICTIONS ABOVE

WILL BE:

(1) PRIMARILY OUT OF CONSIDERATION OF FAMILIES OF MISSING

PERSONNEL, SINCE REMAINS MAY BE IN THE EXPOSED COMPARTMENT AND

VISIBLE TO PHOTOGRAPHERS.

(2) COMMUNICATIONS SPACES NORMALLY CONTAIN CLASSIFIED

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EQUIPMENT AND ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. WE HAVE NO IMMEDIATE

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE WITHIN THIS COMPARTMENT AND MUST ASSUME SOME

CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT IS EXPOSED.

F. UNCLASSIFIED PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SHIP IN DRY DOCK MAY BE

PERMITTED AFTER THE TORPEDO HOLE HAS BEEN COVERED, OR AFTER ALL

REMAINS AND CLASSIFIED MATTER HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AT DISCRETION

OF CTF 100.

G. NEWSMEN WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ABOARD THE SHIP WITHOUT

PERMISSION OF CTF 100 AND CONCURRENCE OF CTG 100.7.

5 OFFICERS AND CREWMEN OF USS LIBERTY WILL NOT RPT NOT GRANT

INTERVIEWS UNTIL AUTHORIZED BY CINCPACNAVFOR AFTER COMPLETION OF

THE COURT OF INQUIRY. IF QUERIED AS TO THE REASON FOR THIS POLICY,

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CTG 100.4 WILL REPLY THAT ALL COMRADES ARE POTENTIAL WITNESSES

BEFORE THE COURT OF INQUIRY. IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE CONVENING AUTHORITY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT THAT RECOLLECTIONS OF WITNESSES REMAIN AS FRESH AS POSSIBLE AND NOT BE INFLUENCED IN ANY WAY BY OUTSIDE DISCUSSIONS.

I. CTG 100.3 WILL CONDUCT PRESS RELATIONS FOR CTG 100 AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE FOR CTG 100 AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT TO MEET NEWSMEN (SEPARATELY

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OR JOINTLY ON THE DAY OF ARRIVAL. CTG 100 WILL CONFINE HIS REMARKS TO UNCLASSIFIED ASPECTS OF SALVAGE AND REPAIR, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT TO THE PRESENT, UNCLASSIFIED INSTRUCTIONS FROM CONVENING AUTHORITY, AND PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE COURT.

J. THE INFORMATION IN APPENDIX THREE CONCERNING THE COURT OF INQUIRY WILL BE RELEASED BY CINCUSNAVEUR OR HIGHER AUTHORITY, EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR IN ANSWER TO INQUIRY. PRIOR TO RELEASE BY CINCUSNAVEUR, AS MUCH OF THIS MATERIAL AS IS REQUIRED MAY BE

USED BY CTG 100, CTG 100.3 OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT, IN ANSWER TO INQUIRY.

has been released in London by CINCUSNAVEUR 12/16/57

K. COMBAT CAMOU PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSIGNED BY COMSIXTHFLT WILL

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REQUIRED. UNCLASSIFIED PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE CAREFULLY SEGREGATED FROM RECORD PHOTOGRAPHY AND FORWARDED SEPARATELY.

F. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) CTG 102.3 WILL ESTABLISH LIAISON WITH THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER OF AMEMB VALLETTA. FINAL AUTHORITY IN UNITED STATES PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATTERS WITHIN A FOREIGN COUNTRY RESTS WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

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(2) SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF CTF 100, DIRECT LIAISON BETWEEN CTG 102.3 AND CINCUSNAVEUR, THE PAO OF THE STAFF OF USGINCEUR, AND IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES DIRECTLY WITH OASD (PA) MAY BE NECESSARY.

(3) THE DOCTRINE OF SECURITY AT THE SOURCE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO CENSORSHIP OF NEWSMEN'S MATERIAL.

(4) PRESS COPY AND COMMERCIAL FILM WILL BE MOVED BY COMMERCIAL MEANS.

4. **5** ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:

(1) AMEMB VALETTA IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION WITHIN

MALTA FOR OFFICIAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PURPOSES AS PRACTICAL.

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(2) BECAUSE CTF 100.3 IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN YALTA AFTER

DISSOLUTION OF TF 100, HE WILL SUBMIT A REPORT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MATTERS DIRECT TO CINUSNAVEUR WITH COPY TO CTF 100 ON COMPLETION
OF MISSION, RATHER THAN VIA CTF 100.

APPENDICES.

1. (U) USCINCEUR MSG ECAP 09665/091744Z HAS BEEN SEPARATELY
READDRESSED TO ADDRESSEES WHO REQUIRE IT.
2. (S) USS AMERICA 092225Z HAS BEEN SEPARATELY READDRESSED TO

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FM CINUSNAVEUR

TO R UED NWF/COMSERVLANT

R UFR C/COMSIXTHFLT

R UFR F/COMFAIRMED

R UFR E/COMSIXTHFLT

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ZFN/DIR NAV SE CGR UE UR

R UQKC/R UT PP/USS LIBERTY

R UDT CR/AMEMB MALTA

R UTKC/COMNAVSTA ROTA

INFO R UFPBK/USCINCEUR

R IED MW/CINCLANTFLT

R UTPP/CTG SIX ZERO PT FIVE

R UTKRE/CTF SIX ZERO

R IENAAA/CNO

R IICISA/D IR NAV SE CGR U

R IEPWS/D IR NSA

R UFPBK/HQ NSAEUR

R UTPM/NAVCOMMSTA (GAMS) MOROCCO

R IEPJS/JCS

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R UEPJS/SECDEF

SECRET FINAL SECTION OF TWO

SEDEF FOR (ASD (PA))

CO NAVSTA ROTA NOT AN ADDEE. DELIVER TO RADM REMKEN AS HE PASSES

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THROUGH ROTA.

ADDRESSEES WHO REQUIRE IT. COMSIXTHFLT 101345Z IS QUOTED IN PART

AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE I WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY BY THE PRESS, QUOTE

IS THE LIBERTY A SPY SHIP? WAS SHE IN THOSE WATERS COLLECTING

INTELLIGENCE? UNQUOTE. I REPLIED, QUOTE EMPHATICALLY NO. LIBERTY

WAS UNDER MY OPERATIONAL CONTROL, OPERATING IN INTERNATIONAL

WATERS OF THE EASTERN MED TO ENSURE RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS RELAY

FROM THREATENED U.S. POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM WHICH MASS

EVACUATION OF U.S. NATIONALS MIGHT BECOME URGENT. UNQUOTE. I

EXPLAINED ALSO THAT LIBERTY WAS WHERE SHE WAS BECAUSE THAT WAS

JUST THE BEST POSSIBLE POSITION TO CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION

BECAUSE, QUOTE AFTER AN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE IS ATTACKED THEIR

ONLY MEANS OF REQUESTING EVACUATION MIGHT BE VERY LOW POWERED

RADIO SETS. MANY SUCH SMALL TRANSMITTERS HAVE ONLY LINE OF SIGHT

CAPABILITY. UNQUOTE. I SAID THAT LIBERTY POSSESSED EXCELLENT

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COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AND PROVED IT BY BEING ABLE TO RIG A

VOICE TRANSMITTER TO CALL FOR HELP AFTER THE ATTACK HAD WIPED

OUT ALL HER ANTENNAS. AS TO LIBERTY'S CAPABILITIES OUTSIDE OF

BEING A VERY CAPABLE RADIO GUARD FOR EVACUATION OPERATIONS, I

TOLD THEM THE SHIP WORKS ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS, SUCH AS

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NATURE ABOUT WHICH I HAD NO INFORMATION. IN GENERAL QUESTIONING,

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAD ORDERED AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE QUOTE TO PRO-

TECT AND ONLY TO PROTECT USS LIBERTY AS SOON AS I WAS CONVINCED

THAT A U.S. SHIP WAS REALLY UNDER ATTACK, AND CALLED BACK THE

AIRCRAFT WHEN I BECAME AWARE THAT THEY WERE NOT REQUIRED. UNQUOTE.

THE PRESS WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT SENIOR COMMANDERS HAD BEEN KEPT

FULLY INFORMED OF MY ACTIONS AND RECEIVED COPIES OF ALL MY

MESSAGES. UNQUOTE.

3. (D) PRESS RELEASE OR ANSWER TO INQUIRIES ON COURT OF INQUIRY:

a. ADMIRAL JOHN S. MCCAIN, JR., COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U.S. NAVAL

FORCES, EUROPE HAS CONVENED A COURT OF INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY IN THE EASTERN

MEDITERRANEAN JUNE 8. THE COURT OF WHICH REAR ADMIRAL ISAAC C.

KIDD, JR., IS PRESIDENT, MET BRIEFLY AT HEADQUARTERS, COMMANDER

PAGE 4 R10L KD 2217 ~~SECRET~~

IN CHIEF, U.S. NAVAL FORCES EUROPE SATURDAY NIGHT AND DEPARTED

SUNDAY. IT IS EXPECTED TO BOARD LIBERTY AT SEA AND WILL CONTINUE

ITS INQUIRY AT MALTA LATER THIS WEEK. USS LIBERTY IS EXPECTED TO

ARRIVE AT MALTA AT APPROXIMATELY NOON TUESDAY JUNE 13. A COURT OF

INQUIRY IS A FORMAL FACT-FINDING BODY WHICH TAKES TESTIMONY

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UNDER OATH. THE COURT WILL PRESENT ITS FINDINGS OF FACT TO ADMIRAL

MCCAIN, THE CONVENING AUTHORITY. IT IS NOT A DISCIPLINARY BODY.

CONVENING OF SUCH AN INQUIRY IS A NORMAL PROCEDURE, COMMONLY EMPLOYED AFTER SERIOUS ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF LIFE OR MAJOR DAMAGE TO A SHIP. ITS CONVENING DOES

NOT, OF ITSELF, INDICATE AN ASSUMPTION THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL IS AT

FAULT. ADMIRAL KIDD IS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS

ON THE STAFF OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ALLIED FORCES SOUTHERN

EUROPE, AT NAPLES. HE HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF THIS ASSIGNMENT

TEMPORARILY IN ORDER TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE COURT. OTHER

MEMBERS OF THE COURT ARE CAPTAIN BERNARD J. LAUFF, USN PROSPECTIVE

COMMANDING OFFICER FLEET OPERATIONAL CONTROL CENTER NAVAL

FORCES EUROPE, AD CAPTAIN BERT M. ATKINSON, JR., USN, STAFF

CINCUSNAVEUR. CAPTAIN WARD BOSTON, JR., LEGAL OFFICER ON THE STAFF

OF COMMANDER FLEET AIR, MEDITERRANEAN, AT NAPLES, IS COUNSEL FOR

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THE COURT, AND LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ALLEN FEINGERSCH, USN, STAFF

CINCUSNAVEUR, IS ASSISTANT COUNSEL FOR TECHNICAL MATTERS.

5 ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES:

(1) WILL COURT SESSIONS BE OPEN TO PUBLIC? NO.

(2) WHY NOT? USS LIBERTY WAS OPERATING IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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THE COURT HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK? YES, IF THEY WISH TO BE.

(8) WHAT ARE THE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE COURT MEMBERS? CAPTAIN

ATKINSON IS THE SURFACE OPERATIONS OFFICER, AND LCDR FEINGERSCH

IS A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER ON THE STAFF O CINCUSNAVEUR.

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