

- D1 file  
21 JUNE 1967

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~~TOP SECRET~~

MESSAGE FOR PASSING TO GENERAL CARTER THROUGH NSAREP NORAD  
D1 SENDS

1. MIDDLE EAST TASK TEAM REPORTS:

A. 1. GENERAL KELLER INTERVIEWED BY THE JCS TEAM 14 JUNE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY TEAM TO J-3 EUCOM (M/GEN MCCAFFNEY). POINTS COVERED WERE:

(A) EXPLANATION OF MECHANICS INVOLVED FOR TASKING IN SATISFACTION OF BOTH NATIONAL AND THEATER CONSUMER INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS.

(B) TECHNICAL REPORTS ISSUED BY THE LIBERTY. TEAM WAS PROVIDED A COPY OF LIBERTY REPORTS FROM 2 THROUGH 8 JUNE.

(C) ADEQUACY OF CRITICOM SERVICE TO EUCOM IN HANDLING OF MID-EAST CRISIS. NO UNUSUAL DELAYS WERE EXPERIENCED. PERTINENT SIGINT PRODUCT WAS RECEIVED BY J-2 EUCOM ON A TIMELY BASIS.

2. BOTH JCS TEAM AND J-3 EUCOM APPEARED SATISFIED WITH GENERAL KELLER'S EXPLANATIONS.

B. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ABOARD LIBERTY HAVE BEEN SATISFIED. ALL REMAINING CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL HAS BEEN STOWED. CRYPTO EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTED FOR. MANY REGISTERED PUBS NOT RPT NOT ACCOUNTED FOR. MUCH MATERIAL MUTILATED. TUG PAPAGO ACCOMPANIED LIBERTY WITHDRAWAL TWO HOURS AFTER INCIDENT AND ATTEMPTED TO RECOVER DRIFTING MATERIAL. "PRACTICALLY ALL" CLASSIFIED MATERIAL EITHER RECOVERED OR SHREDDED IN TUG'S SCREWS. SOVIET TRAWLER DID NOT FOLLOW IN WAKE OF LIBERTY OR RECOVER ANY MATERIAL TO BEST KNOWLEDGE.

C. 1. DAO TELAVIV HAS REVEALED RATIONALE FOR ATTACK AS RESULT OF ISRAELI COURT OF INQUIRY. ISRAELI LOGIC FILLED WITH HOLES:

(A) IDF HAD REPORTS OF SHELLING OF ELARISH FROM SHIPS.

(B) IDF HAD REPORT OF UNIDENT SHIP TRAVELING AT 30 KNOTS. ANY SHIP TRAVELING IN EXCESS OF 20 KNOTS CONSIDERED TO BE ENEMY BY IDF.

(C) IDF OFFICERS ABOARD TORPEDO BOATS CONFIRMED SHIP DOING 30 KNOTS.

(D) LIBERTY RESEMBLED UAR SHIP EL QUSEIR (WHICH HAS MAX SPEED OF 14 KNOTS, 4 LESS THAN LIBERTY).

(E) ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY U.S. OF LIBERTY PRESENCE.

(F) IDF SAYS SHIP BEHAVED "SUSPICIOUSLY".

(G) SMALL VICE LARGE FLAG FLYING BUT NOT DISCOVERED AT OUTSET.

2. IDF CONSIDERED "EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES" EXISTED AND CONSEQUENTLY "THERE WAS NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY INNOCENT MISTAKE". ADM McDONALD WILL RECEIVE IDF CNO LETTER OF CONDOLENCE. (IN OUR VIEW, IT LOOKS LIKE A COMBINATION OF BAD JUDGMENT, POOR INTELLIGENCE AND TRIGGER-HAPPY FORCES AT THIS STAGE.)

3. [REDACTED] ARABS PLAN TO BRING UP THE LIBERTY, INCIDENT AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

D. 1. RADM FITZPATRICK RETURNED FROM EUROPE WITH THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT "NSA DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE 6 ISRAELI

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LINGUISTS ON BOARD THE "LIBERTY" (ACCORDING TO NSA REP AT JRC).  
OUR ME TASK TEAM PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO GEN MORRISON  
(WHO PASSED TO JRC) TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT FOR THE JCS TEAM:

(B) FIVE ARABIC LINGUISTS WERE ABOARD PLUS ONE SPECIAL  
ARABIC (HEBREW). HOWEVER, LATTER WAS NAVY CT WITH ONLY 24 WEEKS  
OF HEBREW TEN YEARS AGO AT NSA. HIS PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS SPANISH.  
THE MISUNDERSTANDING IS WITH ARABIC/SPECIAL ARABIC. NO ISRAELI VHF/  
UHF COVERAGE WAS ASSIGNED. ONLY MINOR HF SHIPPING FREQS PROVIDED  
COLLECTION GUIDANCE WITH NO CAPABILITY TO EXPLOIT.

2. WE FEEL THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE IS RESOLVED,  
BUT KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON COURSE OF EVENTS:

E. MR. COYNE CALLED DEELEY THIS MORNING. HE HAD HEARD THAT  
ADDITIONAL INTERCEPT ON 8 JUNE FROM THE LIBERTY HAD BEEN UNCOVERED.  
IT WAS RECEIVED THIS MORNING AT NSA. INITIAL SCAN HAS NOT REVEALED  
ANYTHING, BUT DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION IS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY. PLAN  
TO HAVE KOCZAK VISIT COYNE TOMORROW AND PROVIDE ALL AVAILABLE  
INFORMATION. HE ALSO WILL, IF POSSIBLE, ARRANGE A MEETING TOMORROW  
WITH ADM FITZPATRICK AND SUPPLY ANSWERS TO OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS  
POSED BY THE JCS TEAM.

F. AT MR. MICHAELS REQUEST DR. TORDELLA BRIEFED HIM ON THE  
LIBERTY INCIDENT. MR. MAHON ATTENDED. M/R PREPARED.  
II. DSSCS: HAVE JUST RECD DRAFT DOD DIRECTIVE ON SUBJECT, UNDER  
ASD (A) COVER MEMO DTD 14 JUN REQUESTING COMMENTS BY 19 JULY.  
DIRECTIVE DOES NOT RPT NOT REFLECT THE AMENDMENT WHICH YOU HAD PRO-  
POSED TO DIRDCA IN YOUR MEMO OF 2 JUN AND WHICH WOULD SPECIFY DIRNSA  
(AND DIRDIA) RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE SYSTEM.  
T1 ADVISES THAT A CHECK WITH DCA HAS NOT RPT NOT REVEALED HOW THE  
DIRECTIVE HAS REACHED ITS PRESENT STATE - I.E., CIRCULATION BY  
ASD (A) FOR COORDINATION AND COMMENT. FEELING HERE, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT  
IS PROBABLY GOOD SINCE IT PROVIDES US A NEW (AND POSSIBLY MORE OB-  
JECTIVE) DOD FORUM FOR AIRING OUR VIEWS. T1 IS PREPARING COMMENT  
(TO BE READY FOR YOUR REVIEW WHEN YOU RETURN) WHICH WILL PROVIDE  
RATIONALE BEHIND OUR DESIRE TO HAVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POINT MADE  
EXPLICIT IN TEXT OF DIRECTIVE.

III. CRYPTOLOGIC SUPPORT: AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE AT THIS  
TIME, THINGS SHOULD BE QUIET UNTIL 10 JULY. ARMY REQUESTED EX-  
TENSION TO THAT DATE, AND DIA APPROVED REQUEST.

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