PEARL HARBOUR II

by

JIM TAYLOR

The true story of the sneak attack by Israel on the U.S.S. "LIBERTY", June 8th, 1967.

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The true story of the sneak attack by Israel upon the U.S.S. *Liberty*, June 8, 1967

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IN APPRECIATION

I would like to thank government officials both in the United States and other countries—namely: Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Spain, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, France, England, West Germany and Israel. Without the use of intelligence reports, official documents, naval inquiry records and secret messages of these nations, this book could not have been published.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the permission given for the inclusion of previously unpublished extracts and quotations from secret and confidential intelligence reports and private papers of both European and Mid-Eastern countries.

I received full access to most files of every pertinent U.S. government agency with the exception of the Department of State.

I am extremely grateful to the many members of Congress who supplied me with invaluable information and advice. And I would especially like to thank most heartily both Missouri senators: Sen. Thomas Eagleton and Sen. John Danforth; as well as Kansas City Congressman Rep. Richard Bolling, for their vital assistance.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the many Jewish people against Zionism—writers, scholars, rabbis and other persons—who supplied me with background information, including documentary evidence of the contacts and collaboration between Zionism and Nazism from 1933 to 1941, which certainly paved the way later for such atrocious acts as the senseless attack upon the U.S.S. *Liberty*.

I have nothing but unlimited praise and appreciation for the assistance of Milton and Sonja Rosenberg, my Israeli research team. The same must be said for my chief Arab research expert, Mrs. Asia A. Hadi, a Palestinian refugee who now resides in Safat, Kuwait.

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THE AUTHOR.

BY THE AUTHOR

Before reading this exact and true account of what turned out to be the second most infamous day in American history, readers should become acquainted with the direct historical causes which led to this vicious attack by a foreign country upon this nation's traditional rights and freedom on the high seas.

To merely state as a fact that the unwarranted attack by Israel upon a U.S. Navy ship of the line on June 8, 1967 was almost as treacherous as the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, December 7, 1941, although true enough; is a gross understatement of the world importance of it and the repercussions it created outside the U.S. During the period of four years of my intensive investigation of this attack I interviewed high officials in European and South American countries concerning this atrocious act of war, perpetrated solely by a supposedly "friendly" nation. They were unanimous in viewing it as a basic attack on the prestige of the U.S. and upon the American way of life, not just as some isolated incident. What I mean to say is that in every country in the world, except the United States of America, the attack was viewed as an event of great importance in American history, ranking as a landmark turning point in the downhill skid of the U.S. as a world power. And although most recent U.S. history books either ignore it altogether or down play it as some sort of minor *faux pas* on the part of a "friendly" nation, the attack may well have played as great a role in American military history as Bunker Hill, the Battle of Gettysburg or the Alamo.

Although the true facts about the *Liberty* attack were carefully hidden from the American public for over ten years, such was not the case throughout the rest of the world . . . including the attacking nation, Israel.

Throughout Israel, a nation of highly literate readers and followers of world-wide news events, the average citizen knew full well that the attack was carefully planned and could not possibly have been a "mistake". And to my very great surprise when I interviewed knowledgeable Israeli citizens about the attack, little

or no remorse or even mild regret was shown. To the contrary, their eyes seemed to take on an appearance of a controlled but perverse delight when the *Liberty* was mentioned. They appeared to take a certain pride in the fact that a new and tiny country such as Israel could do this to the very nation which had allowed this Zionist state to be born in 1948—and get away with it so easily. The psychology for this type of a reaction is a simple one which is basic in all humanity . . . the more that is given a child or a budding nation such as Israel, the more the recipient tends to inwardly resent and even hate the benefactor. And certainly no nation in the history of world civilization has ever given so much of its life blood to another country as the U.S. has to Israel.

Even in places far removed from the Mid-East, such as North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Panama and Cuba; the facts concerning the attack upon the *Liberty* were duly noted, appraised and catalogued for future reference.

Foreign intelligence observers maintain that many affronts to the dignity of the United States as well as certain threats to this country would never have occurred at all if the U.S. had retaliated against Israel or even issued logical statements of warning immediately following the attack. And since President Johnson would not allow this to happen, the softness and cover-up tactics of the U.S. after the attack only served to confirm in the minds of our potential enemies and foreign leaders that the United States could never again avert crises with a show of power. The Monroe Doctrine and the Teddy Roosevelt ideas about maintaining the strength of this nation were gone for ever . . . and every third-rate nation in the world knew it, rejoiced about it and set out to put this newly-found weakness of the United States of America to good use for their own advantage.

The most noticeable early result of the *Liberty* attack occurred several months later when North Korea made the decision to capture the *Liberty*'s sister spy ship . . . the U.S.S. *Pueblo*. Now the *Pueblo*, or a similar ship, had been operating in international waters off the North Korean coast for more than ten years and the Communist government of North Korea never dared to consider doing anything about it. But it was certainly no coincidence that following the unpunished attack on the *Liberty* that North Korea suddenly rescinded the policy of ignoring the *Pueblo* and decided to risk an attack upon the American naval vessel. North Korean in-

telligence reports leaked to me through the People's Republic of China show clearly that the American weakness concerning the *Liberty* incident definitely provided the impetus for the capture of the *Pueblo*—the first American ship to be seized on the high seas since Revolutionary times.

Other anti-American acts, changes of attitude, blatant threats and propaganda manoeuvres designed strictly to embarrass the U.S., which can be directly attributed to the *Liberty* Conspiracy of Silence include: Cuba's expansion of that small nation's peripheral sphere of influence to Africa and elsewhere, Panama's increased demands concerning the Canal Zone, Cambodia's capture of the *Mayaguez* and even Vietnam UN Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi's refusal to leave this country when ordered out by the U.S. State Department for spying.

And the Conspiracy of Silence maintained all these years as the official position of the U.S. Government and the U.S. news media makes it all the more ominous and detrimental to the future of our nation.

As one U.S. senator told me, "It shows how easy it is to take advantage of the United States and how utterly callous our government can be when the lives of American servicemen are weighed against the mortal fear the U.S. has of offending Israel and the Jewish voting bloc in this country."

A well-known Pentagon general, who must remain nameless because he is still on active duty, told me, "This attack was much worse than Pearl Harbour morally because this time we were attacked by a 'friendly' nation while in 1941 we knew that the Japanese were not our friends. But there are a good many similarities. At the time of Pearl Harbour the Japanese ambassador in Washington was assuring President Roosevelt that there was no cause to worry about a Japanese military presence, let alone an attack. The Israelis were doing exactly the same thing in Washington by lying to the Johnson administration about the Six-Day War when the attack on the *Liberty* took place."

And the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was in session on the morning of the attack on the U.S.S. *Liberty*. Their anger to the news of the sneak attack was as bitter as that of the Pentagon. But it was slightly misdirected and spewed out against the wrong offenders. "It's the Russians," said Dean Rusk, Secretary of State. "They're back of it." Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Arkansas) was

more straightforward and truthful when he stated: "They've (Israel) escalated the war to direct confrontation." Of course, this statement and others later by Fulbright cost him any chance for re-election because the Jewish Lobby went after him and crucified him merely for being honest and truthful.

On June 9, 1967 on Capitol Hill, Sen. Jacob Javits, New York Republican, told a rally of New York Jewish groups that "as tragic as the attack was it would have been worse if it had been committed by Arab or Russian forces." I disagree one hundred per cent with this statement by Senator Javits. In my opinion, it is far worse to be attacked by a so-called "friend" than by suspected "enemies", as the simple and direct dying words of Caesar so eloquently expressed it to his adopted son: "Et tu, Brutus." And I fail to see that murder by Israelis is any different from murder by any other nationality. I had never been aware of any special dignity attached to rockets, bombs and torpedoes from Israel.

In April of 1976 when I was conducting an interview with Jordanian officials at King Hussein's royal palace (Basman) in Amman, what they wanted to have explained to them most was just why the U.S. had done nothing about the cruel attack on the *Liberty*. They mentioned that if any other nation in the world had attacked an American naval vessel on the high seas the hue and cry for retaliation would have been heard around the world as in the case of the capture of the *Mayaguez* in 1975 when Ford was President. "Just why is Israel so sacred?" I was asked over and over. I could only feebly inform them that obviously American lives are not as important to my government as Israel and the Jewish vote in the U.S. I was also asked this same question in Cairo, Damascus, Beirut and in several European countries.

This holy and sacred cow attitude about Israel goes back to before World War II. Since that time the world, and especially the U.S., has treated the Zionist cause as extremely sanctified mainly because of the vast amount of suffering which the Jews had to undergo at the hands of the Nazis. In the biased eyes of the United States, Israel could do no wrong.

As everyone knows, New York is the centre of the publishing industry. And many editors and publishers there have told me repeatedly that they are more or less bound by an unwritten law never to criticise Israel in any way. Now these same men and women will gladly publish anything which is uncomplimentary

about the United States, England, France or any other country in the world—except Israel. Absolutely nothing can be printed which even remotely puts Israel in a bad light. Some even claim that any newspaper, magazine or book publisher breaking this unwritten rule of conduct might risk being harassed out of business by the Jews of that city. The only story with any details about the *Liberty* affair published in the United States (which I was able to find) appeared in *Penthouse* magazine. Highlights of the attack were published in the 1976 May and June issues of *Penthouse*; written by Anthony Pearson, a very reliable British journalist and former war correspondent with impeccable credentials. To the best of my knowledge, *Penthouse* is still doing business. Pearson was met by a wall of silence during his investigation in Washington.

One well-known New York publisher, who doesn't want his name mentioned, said to me: "Anything uncomplimentary about Israel . . . no matter how true it may be . . . is an absolute No-No for us. We even have an acronym for it in publishing language. It's called a 'MEGO'."

"What the hell is a MEGO?" I inquired of him.

"It stands for 'My Eyes Glaze Over', meaning a topic to be avoided at all costs. Our eyelids grow heavy when confronted with words revealing that Israel is at fault in the Mid-East."

"That's like hypnotism."

"In a way it is. But we have to live with it."

"What about the so-called right of a free press in this country?"

"My friend, where Israel is concerned it just doesn't exist."

And that's how I learned first hand that blaming Israel for anything, no matter how slight, is the most stupefying MEGO of our times.

As I left this gentleman's office, I wasn't sure at all that he wasn't putting me on about the MEGO business. So I mentioned it at several other publishing houses. None claimed to have heard of such an acronym used in the book publishing business but one editor said that it was probably magazine lingo and wouldn't be used as much in the book world.

As for my own research, I met with the same stonewall tactics which confronted Pearson in Washington. I was called a trouble-maker by officials of the State Department and the Navy. To

strong and unyielding Israeli backers on the Hill, I was referred to as "that little sneak", and behind my back I am sure I was called many other less-endearing names than that.

"What do you want to go digging into that for?" was the most frequent greeting I received in Washington by those who were in a position to give me information. It wasn't easy to circumvent this Conspiracy of Silence concerning the *Liberty*. And it resulted in several anonymous phone calls telling me that if I dared to write the truth about the *Liberty* attack that my life might be in danger from some sort of mythical-sounding "health alteration unit". One caller mentioned the Jewish Defence League of New York, an organisation of inherent cowards who specialise in the brave pastime of frightening women such as the wives of Russian and Arab United Nations personnel in the supermarkets of New York. They also attempt to spread their particular brand of Zionist terror to all in the U.S. who do not happen to agree with their distorted viewpoints on Israel. Other threats I received ranged from the possibility of burning down my home to a "special audit by the IRS".

Another anonymous caller, who claimed to belong to a unit which specialises in "shortening normal life spans", even threatened the life of my mother, who happens to be eighty-seven years old.

Immediately after Andrew Young, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was fired because of his fateful meeting on July 26, 1979, with Zehdi Habib Terzi, P.L.O. representative at the UN, I received several phone calls from friends in Washington warning me about possible dire consequences of publishing this book revealing the truth about world-wide Zionism. MOSSAD, the infamous Israeli terrorist organisation which masquerades as an intelligence service using U.S. funds, had bugged the room where Young's conversation with Terzi took place. And that's how the State Department learned about it.

It was, in turn, clearly pointed out to me that if the Israelis and the American Jewish Lobby were powerful enough to get Young fired so quickly; then they were also powerful enough to cause me trouble.

The warning I respected most came from the aforementioned Fulbright, now a former Arkansas senator who has been harassed for over ten years by various Jewish organisations in this country. He stated: "If you say anything against Israel in this country,

you're dead, politically, in business or any other way." He should know!

Coleman Miller, president of the Evanston, Ill., branch of the NAACP, spoke with a bluntness that many black leaders at a higher level will never show publicly. He said: "Young didn't get fired when he criticised the Scandinavians and the English and even compared Florida justice with that of Iran. I guess it got down to the power of the Jewish folks. It's as simple as that."

In reference to the Young episode, Carl T. Rowan, Washington syndicated columnist and a fellow Tennessean, wrote on August 20, 1979: "Millions of Americans of all backgrounds are saying louder and oftener that Israel—which survives only because of U.S. backing—displays unmitigated gall in telling the U.S. whom it can and cannot talk to in efforts to achieve peace in an area where the U.S. has life-and-death interests. So, if a confrontation is coming, it will be not just between Jews and blacks, but between Jews and that far larger number of Americans who believe that Israel is pressing her luck and possibly making support of the Jewish state costlier than many millions of Americans will be willing to pay."

In 1974 I was completely discouraged by my lack of success and the lack of co-operation in Washington. The Conspiracy of Silence had shut me out completely. At this time, I was unable to secure enough facts about the *Liberty* attack to write about it.

But, unknown to me at this time, many people who wanted the truth to surface concerning the fate of the *Liberty* had also heard about my futile efforts to obtain information in Washington. On Monday morning, April 22 of 1974, I received a phone call from the office of a Washington law firm. A lawyer representing a group of prominent people both in and out of the government, asked me if I could come to Washington to discuss writing a book about the true story of what really happened to the *Liberty*. In view of my recent disappointing experience in Washington, I was highly sceptical. I thought it might be a trick by some agency of the government to learn whether or not I had obtained any information on the *Liberty* incident through possible leaks, etc. At this time I had not.

To check the authenticity of my surprise caller, I went to a phone booth and called the law firm in Washington collect. When I was immediately connected with the same voice, it partially

allayed my fears. And since I would only be working until noon on Friday, I agreed to fly to Washington for a conference on Friday afternoon. If necessary, I was prepared to spend a couple of days in Washington and take the Sunday afternoon flight back to Kansas City.

Two conservatively-dressed men in dark blue suits met my plane at Washington's International Airport on Friday, April 26. I was driven to the offices of a law firm where I engaged in a meeting with a federal judge, an admiral, two United States senators and several well-known Eastern business men. I was assured by these gentlemen that they could get me all the information I would need to write this book. They knew that I was not only a writer but also a retired reserve officer in the Navy . . . and more specifically they knew that I had been a communications officer and coding specialist on the staff of Rear Admiral Betram J. Rodgers, USN. In addition, they were aware that besides my wartime and peacetime naval service, I had been at times employed as a civilian cryptographic consultant in several European countries. They went on to explain to me that this was very important to the proposed book because of the fact that either mis-routed or intercepted naval messages had played an important role in the downfall of the *Liberty*.

It was only natural that I agreed to write the book and attempt to have it published.

Without mentioning any names of individuals or groups, I was warned that it was within the realm of possibility that writing this particular book might cost me my civilian job, despite civil rights laws prohibiting this.

This group of concerned individuals did not offer to pay me or pay my expenses during the intensive investigation which would be required in order to come by all the facts necessary for such a book. They did, however, assure me that if I didn't make a profit on the book then they would reimburse me for all my out-of-pocket expenses connected with writing it.

Four years later, after visiting fourteen countries during my investigation into the *Liberty* affair, I had spent over $36,000 of my own money in order to complete this book.

The most surprising thing about writing this book was that despite the official Conspiracy of Silence still maintained by the U.S. government, I received help from so many unexpected places both in this country and abroad. And although a great deal of in-

formation was given to me "off the record" and from sources not wanting to be identified in print, I couldn't have written this true story without the valuable help of six U.S. senators and seventeen members of the House. Rep. Richard Bolling, Missouri Democrat from Kansas City, headed my Congressional team. He personally secured battle photographs for me from Naval Intelligence and other formerly highly-classified information from various agencies of the government which he then turned over to me.

Senator John Danforth, Republican from Missouri, was able to obtain a large amount of essential information for me from the National Security Agency and other branches of the government heretofore closed to me.

And Senator Thomas Eagleton, Democrat from Missouri, did his utmost to gain substantial information for me including naval messages, despite the fact that certain members of his staff seemed to exhibit intensive outward resentment toward me personally as well as to the purpose of my investigation.

For instance, on November 16, 1977, Eagleton's press secretary, Mark E. Abels, sent a letter to the home office of the company which had employed me for twenty-one years in an attempt to cause me trouble. In addition to the unkind letter about me he shot off to my home office, he sent me the following curt remarks:

> We have referred your letter to the Navy Department, for whatever help they may be able to give you. As you can see, your threatening tactics didn't work too well here—perhaps they will work better with the Pentagon.
>
> All the best,
>
> Yours very truly
>
> Mark E. Abels
> Press Secretary to
> Senator Thomas E. Eagleton.

I issued no threats except the threat to tell the truth, if that can possibly be considered a threat to anyone. No more. No less.

Ten days later I received a phone call from another member of Eagleton's staff apologising for the rude behaviour of Abels. The next day I received a personal letter from Senator Eagleton, along with a great deal of valuable information and formerly highly-classified photographs taken during the *Liberty* attack.

I am extremely grateful to Senator Eagleton because he was able to secure for me so much vital information from the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, as well as the Naval Court of Inquiry information.

From the CIA I received not only detailed information about the *Liberty* attack but intelligence reports that CIA field agents had collected from Turkish and Arab sources. From studying various messages released to me by Gene F. Wilson, information and privacy co-ordinator at the CIA, upon orders from the director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN; I got the general idea that few people at the Agency really believed that the attack on the *Liberty* was a "mistake". The odd and perhaps disturbing thing about these CIA reports was that they tended to prove that the attack could not possibly have been a "mistake". Then at the very end was a statement which told me that it was the considered opinion of the Agency and its director that the attack was a "mistake".

Readers should bear in mind that the director's statement is not a fact but merely a requirement imposed by the Conspiracy of Silence. I have never met Admiral Turner. But since he has the reputation of being not only a truthful person but an excellent officer and a gentleman, I am positive that he does not really believe that the statement is true . . . not with overwhelming evidence which proves otherwise. But then he is restricted in what he can state publicly.

As might have been predicted, the least helpful of all agencies of the U.S. government was the Department of State, despite its voluminous files which I happen to know that this agency has concerning the *Liberty* incident. This was also the only office of the government where I was deliberately given the old "run-around" treatment. One of the department's up-and-coming bright boys was assigned to head me off in this investigation. I shall refrain from mentioning his name—he may be an ambassador some day. His task with me must have embarrassed him enough already without my causing him further loss of composure. Anyway, he sounded very interested over the phone in what he politely termed "my little project". He almost convinced me that he was trying to be helpful until he took me out for a drink. Then it became obvious that his task was to find out if I had already gotten hold of any secret or classified information about the *Liberty*. His close-mouthed superiors wanted to plug any possible leaks at State. But he was dealing with an old hand at such things.

"You'll read about it," was all he got out of me. And, in turn, a free drink was just about the sum total of what I got from the State Department. Later, I got a letter from Gerald O. Forcier, listed as Freedom of Information Staff, Bureau of Public Affairs of the State Department. All he did was enclose a rate schedule for search of records fees and ask me to confine my investigation to the Navy Department, thereby implying that I should stop bothering the State Department.

Except for the invaluable aid given me by key senators and other sympathetic Washington officials, I was given a much better reception during my investigation in foreign countries concerning the *Liberty* affair and the related events surrounding the Six-Day War. I studied intelligence reports in fourteen different countries. In many of them I was permitted full access to these files while in others I was forced to rely on other means of obtaining pertinent information. My best sources were in Turkey, Greece, Iran and Italy.

The Italian Army reports I studied showed the scope of Israeli espionage and propaganda workings in that country, which I was told were greatly resented by both the then-ruling Christian Democratic Party and the strong Communist Party.

Just before General Francisco Franco died, he gave orders that I be allowed to study everything in Spanish files about the Mid-East situation. I didn't learn much about the *Liberty* from these files despite the fact that the ship was revamped and provisioned for her final duty voyage at Rota, Spain. But there were other interesting aspects of the Mid-East dispute in general which were found here in great detail.

El Caudillo's Fascist leaders didn't have much use for Israel, and that's putting it mildly. Not being anti-Semitic myself, I wasn't interested in reading such biased reports on Jews in Spain, Israel, or elsewhere. So I skipped over these. However, I was extremely interested in learning that Spain violently resented the use of American bases in Spain as staging points for sending military aid to the Israelis both during the Six-Day War and later in 1973 during the October War (Yom Kippur). There were sworn statements showing that the U.S. had abused the privilege of her agreements for bases in Spain by depleting stockpiles of arms and oil in Spain and at NATO bases throughout Western Europe for the sake of saving Israel. It further stated that the unprincipled preoccupation of the

U.S. with supplying Israel at all costs had threatened the security of all Western European nations. So I could easily understand the bitterness of some of these reports. Franco also made it very clear to the U.S. that no more supplies for Israel could ever be sent from or via bases on Spanish soil. He also threatened in no uncertain terms to kick the American Navy and Air Force out of his country. It appeared that the U.S. wasn't able to fool the ageing Franco very much about what happened at U.S. bases in Spain.

Even the United Nations proved to be a better source of information than the State Department. Not only did I receive reports from various delegations but from committees and other UN-connected organisations. When word got around, I received enough printed matter from UN agencies I never knew existed to fill two large waste baskets. And a small amount of it proved quite valuable.

But perhaps readers will agree with me that the most unexpected source of all for information were certain religious governing bodies of the world. The Vatican was anxious to inform me of certain salient facts possessed only by the Holy See. Pope Paul VI was extremely displeased by Israel's seemingly intentional shelling of the Holiest of all churches, Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity during the Six-Day War. Israel answered his protest by claiming that the church was hit because of its close proximity to a police station. A Vatican spokesman told me of many other grievances against Israel's rule over the holy places, including the disrespect for the Church of the Nativity shown daily by Israeli police officers. The Vatican would prefer Jordanian or international rule for Jerusalem. And Israel's apparent lack of concern for the Palestinian refugees is another direct source of irritation to the Pope.

The Orthodox Eastern Church, less properly known as the Greek Orthodox Church, was also willing to help me with whatever information they might possess. The combined patriarchs were angry with Israel because of the arrest of several priests in Jerusalem on what they called trumped-up charges of espionage. Several of them were tried in secret Israeli courts and sentenced to long prison terms on charges never clearly revealed.

The many courageous non-Zionist Jews in the United States and abroad proved to be one of my very best sources of information. This book would not have been complete without valid references which could only be obtained from various rabbis, Jewish scholars

and the libraries of several synagogues. It is also quite understandable why most of these people did not wish their names to be used in direct quotes. They have good reason to fear harassment and possibly even death threats (as I have received) from the more militant Zionist renegades in New York and Chicago, such as the afore-mentioned Jewish Defence League.

Another even more unexpected wellspring of historical information about Zionism in its worst form came from Eastern European Jews. Yiddish is the language of these people who have experienced a great deal of suffering. Most of them perished in the Nazi holocaust, so the survivors were glad to reveal the unsavoury relationship between the Zionists and the Nazis. I am indebted to Martin Sanger, the son of a Polish rabbi, who translated several Yiddish documents into English for me. I was impressed with his respect for the Yiddish language and his people. He remarked that "In a figurative way, Yiddish is the wise and humble language of us all, the idiom of frightened and hopeful humanity." Strange as these words sounded, I have often toyed with the idea that when all the modern social theories collapse and wars and revolutions leave the world in utter gloom, the poetic thinkers may rise up and save us all.

I am certainly not anti-Jewish or even anti-Israel. But to many New York Jews, and liberals who fall in line with them, anyone who tells any uncomplimentary truths about Israel is anti-Semitic to the core. It is simply that I favour justice in the Mid-East and justice is very definitely on the side of the displaced Palestinians. If it had been the other way around in 1948 and the Jews had been driven from their land instead of the Palestinians then I would now be trying to help the dispossessed Jews regain their homes.

This Conspiracy of Silence which Pearson deplored in his articles did not start with the *Liberty* attack. It goes back much farther to 1948. Since that time the Jewish lobby and Jewish influence in the U.S. have done a pretty good job of blacking out everything favourable to the Arabs and brainwashed the American public into believing that Israel can do no wrong. Of course, everyone in the world knows full well that the United States has both directly and indirectly hampered the cause of the Palestinians since 1948 when Arab land where their Arab ancestors had lived for thousands of years was handed over to alien intruders. But the average American citizen played no active role in such unwarranted and perhaps

unsavoury actions. For many years the American public did not receive true information about what happened in 1948 due to an almost total news boycott of the true facts imposed both by agencies of the U.S. government and the U.S. news media in general, which was and is almost under total control of American Jews. It has been only in recent years that the average U.S. citizen has gotten to hear something about the Arab side of the Mid-East dispute. Public opinion polls of twenty years ago showed the effects of this brainwashing of Americans because at that time only eight per cent thought that the Palestinians had been mistreated. This was due to our daily diet of newspaper, radio and television propaganda reports hammering over and over about how just the Israeli cause was and how unjust the Arabs were. It was only natural in a nation where domestic problems seem much more important than international ones, that Americans would be brainwashed unthinkingly about everything in the Mid-East. However, in the past three years the situation has changed. Some present polls show that approximately seventy per cent of the American public believe that the Palestinians have been treated unfairly. The news blackout of everything which did not favour Israel has now been lifted to a limited extent.

All this does not mean, however, that simply because more people in the U.S. are at last aware of the great injustice of 1948 that things will change immediately for the better in such things as government policy and aid to Israel. It is a very sad but very true fact that what the majority of the people want is not what those who control the U.S. government want. The majority is powerless to change a policy based on the Jewish influence in the U.S., not on what is right and just.

We Americans have a tendency to lambast the Soviet Union and other Communist nations because of their thought-control programmes and the subjecting of government views upon the total population. But on the Mid-East situation has the U.S. been any different? I think not.

If all Americans were given the opportunity to vote on the amount of funds and arms for Israel then I am positive that the never-ending flow of the taxpayers' money would be cut back drastically or cease altogether. As it stands right now aid to Israel is of the highest priority. The taxpayers' hard-earned money flows continuously to Israel day and night, year after year like a flooded river which cannot be stemmed or even slowed down. In the eyes

of some senators these funds for Israel take priority over funds for roads, schools and even feeding the poor.

Many times American officials at home and abroad have declared unequivocally that the U.S. is neutral in the Mid-East conflict. Of course, this is just a rather cruel joke. It is also a complete distortion of the truth, if you prefer. Everyone is fully aware that the U.S. totally backs Israel in every way and that there is nothing at all neutral about the official government position. And every nation in the world knows that Israel controls U.S. policy in the Mid-East. Europeans seem to believe that the U.S. controls Israel. This is not true in an exact sense. It is more like the other way around. And if anyone is so naive as to believe that Israel does not totally control U.S. Mid-East policy let me offer proof of it. As long as Israel can control the President and Congress then it will be easy enough to control the rest of the country.

Israeli officials told me that they are not at all worried that the U.S. might reduce the burdensome financial and military aid to that Zionist state. As one Israeli put it: "We control about eighty of your 100 senators." And he is right! Israel does control the thought processes and therefore the voting records of a majority of the members of the U.S. Senate. Although no Israeli can vote for a senator, Israel does have absolute control over these senators. So Israel dictates exactly how they vote on Mid-East questions. In reality these senators do not vote for the wishes of the majority of the voters of their respective states on Mid-East problems, but only on what Israel wants. It is indeed ironical that no state of the U.S. could ever muster eighty senators to vote for any special legislation concerning any one particular state no matter how desperately it might be needed. But Israel does not experience this difficulty. If it ever came down to deciding whether to vote for funds for their own states or for Israel and they couldn't have both, then these senators would undoubtedly vote the funds for Israel and let their own states do without. It is the only place in the world where this could happen. As columnist William F. Buckley, Jr., wrote, only half in jest: "Israel should be made the 51st state so that they would have only two senators."

The most powerful enemy of the Arab people is not in Israel. He is in Washington, D.C. His name is Morris Amitay, a New York Jew who is a personal friend and associate of Israel's Yikzhak Rabin. But more importantly, he is director of the so-called Israel

Lobby in Washington which is composed of fourteen national Jewish organisations representing about four million American Jews. They are: The American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, Jewish War Veterans, National Jewish Welfare Board, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Community Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Institute for Jewish Policy Planning and Research, National Conference on Soviet Jewry, Zionist Organisation of America and B'nai B'rith Women.

Amitay has stated that any efforts of the U.S. to improve relations with the Arab countries must not be at the expense of Israel. I want to list one good example of how he operates. In 1975 when President Ford asked Congress to approve the sale of fourteen improved Hawk missile systems to Jordan, Amitay went to work against this legislation. This confidential notification was to be kept secret until the voting but Amitay was informed of it by aides of Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-New Jersey) and Rep. Jonathan B. Bingham (D-N.Y.). Case has long been noted as a stooge of Israel in the senate. Working through the weekend, Amitay and his staff sent a two-page memorandum lambasting the sale to all members of both houses of Congress. Covering messages were sent to alert Jewish groups in 197 larger cities and over 200 smaller ones across the country. Within twenty-four hours members of Congress were being deluged with phone calls, telegrams and mailgrams from Jewish constituents urging them and warning them that they had better oppose the sale to Jordan. Amitay bragged that he had never lost on a major issue. Soon the Administration backed off and decided to postpone the vote . . . a defeat.

King Hussein stated that he was shocked and insulted by the obstructions of the Israeli Lobby against his purchase of the defensive Hawk batteries.

Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) seems to be the strongest supporter of Israel as well as one of the greatest enemies of the Arabs in the senate. Richard Perle, Jackson's legislative assistant, works closely with Amitay. Amitay's lobby is the only "domestic" lobby working exclusively on foreign affairs.

Not all senators back Israel to the hilt. Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) as a Democratic dinner speaker in Denver in 1977 won a standing ovation after telling an audience that "the Israeli Lobby

wields extraordinary influence in Washington. I gave an oath to support the United States of America, but I am not willing to swear my allegiance to Israel or any other foreign government. The Palestinians should be entitled to a national entity in the Middle East similar to that of which they were deprived when they were driven out in 1948 to make room for the creation of Israel."

When Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) refused to sign a letter urging President Ford to go all out in supporting Israel and neglect the Arabs entirely, the extremely crude and very abrasive Mr. Amitay let it be known that he would "get Percy" by making an example of him so that no one else would ever dare to defy the Israel Lobby. Senator Percy then received over 20,000 pieces of critical hate mail almost all of it on orders from Amitay. So Amitay seems to detect Hitlerian tendencies in all who do not agree with him and follow his orders on how to vote on Israeli issues.

And Percy is not the only one in Washington to feel the heat of Amitay's wrath. Vice-President Spiro Agnew was a constant target. And when Gen. George S. Brown told a Duke University audience that the Jews had too much influence in this country, he received the usual factory-turned-out hate mail. Amitay is known as the most obnoxious and arrogant person in Washington. But he gets the job done. He also brags that his job is too easy because Israel has solid support in Congress without his help. And he is correct about this too.

In 1977, a bomb blast damaged the home of Amitay in Rockville, Maryland, but no one was injured, fortunately. Arab students in the U.S. were blamed for the bombing but no one was arrested.

To show readers just how much contempt Israeli officials have for the well-meaning citizens of the U.S., Abba Eban used to roar with laughter when he told friends, "We used the Cold War to extort aid from the United States."

I think it is indeed ironical that when I was gathering material for this book in the Arab countries such as Jordan, Syria and Egypt I was shown extreme courtesy. I encountered no anti-American demonstrations. This was quite unexpected. If I were an Arab and knew that U.S. military weapons had killed many of my fellow countrymen I doubt if I would have been so kindly disposed toward Americans.

On the other hand, by contrast, I found a great deal of anti-American sentiment in Israel. The usual attitude of the Israelis

ranged from indifference to downright hostility of anything connected with the U.S. And, get this, they were absolutely unanimous in their opinion that the U.S. was not doing enough for them.

"Israeli reprisals against the Palestinians in Lebanon have been pitiless and horrible," stated Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) in an address to the U.S. Senate on August 22, 1974. He was then chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Fulbright deplored the crass indifference of the American press (controlled or influenced by Jews) to the routine savagery of Israeli attacks upon civilians, mostly women and children in southern Lebanon. The Arkansas senator then recalled Gen. Moshe Dayan's blistering threat to make southern Lebanon "unlivable" for displaced Palestinians. "One suspects," continued Fulbright, "that these events would not have been treated quite so routinely by the two great journals of record (*The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*)—they surely would have been front-page news—if the attacks had been mounted against Israeli civilians by Palestinian guerrillas."

Fulbright further declared: "Israel must bear the final responsibility for the indiscriminate retaliation . . . never to be forgotten either is the American role, which amounts to complicity in Israel's attacks upon Lebanon. The war planes used by the Israelis are American planes, sold or given by the United States, and so are some, if not all, of the bombs. But so far the State Department has registered no more than feeble protests against Israel's campaign to make southern Lebanon 'unlivable'."

On June 21, 1974, Jim Hoagland reported, however, in the *Washington Post* that further Israeli raids that month revealed "sophisticated phosphorous bombs that have set extensive fires in Lebanese olive groves and wheat fields, seriously damaging the harvest in progress. Fragments of American-made anti-personnel bombs were also recovered."

On December 2, 1975—apparently in reprisal for a UN invitation to the P.L.O. to participate in a debate on the Middle East in the Security Council—Israeli jets attacked Palestinian refugee camps in northern and southern Lebanon, killing 200 more innocent people. These raids were so needless and so unnecessarily cruel that they were widely condemned within Israel itself. Most Israeli citizens deplored such atrocious tactics. But Israel has officially mounted scores of such attacks over the years, providing

substance to the charge that terrorism can be waged officially, by an established government, even more barbarously than at the hands of a few unlawful Arab desperadoes without the backing or even the consent of any Arab country.

What all this leads to is that Israel is rapidly becoming a sort of Nazi or Fascist type of state. Nick Thimmesch, *Los Angeles Times* syndicated columnist who is noted for honest and reliable reporting, said it best in his column of September 24, 1977: "Israel is tough, militaristic and so heavily armed that it is a veritable Little Prussia. The dangers in wars of the last 29 years created a siege mentality in Israel, but today Israel is not threatened by an immediate war. Still, Israel involves itself in the war in Lebanon, even to the point of sending its own troops and jet fighters into that tragic country. According to one recent news dispatch, Israeli troops, backed by artillery fire, raided two Lebanon villages, kidnapped 32 civilians and caused the death of 14 others."

Thimmesch points out that as far back as 1948, the *New York Times* published a letter signed by twenty-eight prominent Jews, including Dr. Albert Einstein, Sidney Hook, Hannah Arendt and Rabbi Jessurum Cardozo; warning of an Israeli political movement closely akin in its organisation, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist parties. Menachem Begin, now prime minister, was roundly condemned in the letter. One does not need to be a philosopher to come to the conclusion that a permanent garrison state like Israel in 1978, run now by an unscrupulous man like Begin, is not a healthy place for civil liberties.

It is certainly no mere coincidence that Zionism and Nazism have so much in common. It was planned that way and the Nazis greatly aided the Jews in Palestine during the thirties and during the early years of World War II. And despite the fact that most Israelis today try to hide these facts, I have absolute proof of it.

To begin with, Zionism and Nazism have so much in common that the two groups naturally gravitated toward each other. Some similar ideological assumptions are: both believe in unscientific racial theories, both meet on the same ground in their beliefs in such mystical generalisations as "national character" (Volkstum) and "race" and finally both are chauvinistic and inclined towards racial exclusiveness.

German Zionist official Gerhart Holdheim wrote in 1930 in an edition of the *Suddentsche Monatshefte*, dedicated to the Jewish

question (a publication in which, amongst others, leading anti-Semites aired their views): "The Zionist programme encompasses the conception of a homogeneous, indivisible Jewry on a national basis. The criterion for Jewry is hence not a confession of religion, but the all-embracing sense of belonging to a racial community that is bound together by ties of blood and history and which is determined to keep its national individuality."

Notice that this was the same language, even the exact same phraseology, as the Nazis used. No wonder that the German fascists welcomed the conceptions of the Zionists, with Alfred Rosenberg, the chief ideologue of the Nazi Party, writing: "Zionism must be vigorously supported so that a certain number of German Jews is transported annually to Palestine or at least leave the country (Germany)."

Another Nazi leader, Hans Lamm, wrote later: ". . . it is indisputable that during the first stages of the Jewish policy, the National Socialists thought it proper to adopt a pro-Zionist attitude."

Of all Jews in the world, only the Zionists saw some benefit in the turn of events during 1933 which placed Hitler in complete power with a programme of the Nazi Party which included a demand that all Jews be stripped of German citizenship.

British historian Christopher Sykes wrote: "Zionist leaders were determined at the very outset of the Nazi disaster to reap political advantage from the tragedy."

Berlin rabbi, Dr. Joachim Prinz, on January 30, 1933, described the Hitler takeover as "the beginning of the Jew's return to his Judaism." Prinz, a committed Zionist, wrote: "No hiding place hides us any longer. Instead of assimilation, we wish for the recognition of the Jewish nation and the Jewish race."

It became clear that the Zionists were adopting the same political line as the German fascists. Zionist policymakers even copied Hitler's words and phrases into their own declaration by using identical terms such as "ties of blood and faith" and postulating a "special soul" for Jews only.

A Zionist proclamation declared: "On the soil of the new state (i.e., Nazi Germany), which drew up the race principle, we want to arrange the whole structure of our community in such a way, that follows too, a fruitful application for the fatherland that can be made possible in the sphere allotted to us."

At this time, the Zionists even condemned the struggle against the Hitler régime of the anti-Nazi forces, which in the spring of 1933 had called for a boycott against Nazi Germany. "The boycott propaganda which they are making against Germany is in its very nature un-Zionist since Zionism does not want to fight, but to persuade and build." This Zionist statement was officially made long after the persecution of the Jews had already swung into high gear with a big pogrom on April 1, 1933 that encompassed all Germany.

At this time the Nazis issued the "Law for the Restoration of Character of Vocational Professions", a high-sounding title which simply meant getting Jews out of positions of authority. It included, among other things, the removal of over 2,000 Jewish scientists and scholars from German universities. Yet the Eighteenth Zionist Congress, which convened in the summer of 1933, failed to condemn such action. The Zionist leaders also successfully prevented the introduction of a resolution calling for a boycott on German goods while at the same time placing great emphasis upon the need to arrange for more emigration of German Jews to Palestine.

In return, the Nazis rewarded the Zionists for their "restraint" by allowing them to carry on their work unhindered. At the same time the Nazis placed all kinds of obstacles in the path of non-Zionist organisations, including the highly-respected "Reich League of Jewish Veterans". And despite all this persecution of Jews in Germany, the Zionist Union for Germany was able to obtain a leading position amongst German Jews for the first time. In fact, Zionism thrived under Nazi rule. In the autumn of 1933 the "Reich Deputation of German Jews" was founded. The leader of this organisation was Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, who was also president of the Zionist settlement fund called "Keren Hayesod" in Germany. The Reich Ministry of the Interior, otherwise known as the Gestapo, did not show any interest in the Zionists.

It was not until July 4, 1939 that the ordinance regarding the compulsory establishment of the Reich Union of Jews in Germany was issued, changing the organisation's name from Deputation to Union. This law made it obligatory for all Jews to become members of the Reich Union. Paragraph No. 2 of that ordinance also fulfilled Zionist aims by stating: "The Reich Union has as its goal the promotion of the emigration of all Jews."

The higher echelons of the Nazi Party allowed various kinds of political activity by the Zionists as the following official Bavarian political police report on July 9, 1935 clearly states: "The Zionist organisations have for some time been collecting donations from their members and sympathisers with the intention of promoting emigration, the buying of land in Palestine, and the gaining of support for settlement in Palestine. These collections do not require government permission as they are held in closed Jewish circles. Moreover, on the part of the state police there is no objection against these arranged meetings since they deal with such funds as are meant to promote the practical solution to the Jewish problem."

Even when all newspapers in Germany were placed directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Propaganda and those published by the Communists and the Social Democrats were banned, the Zionists were still permitted to continue their propaganda in the *Jüdische Rundschau*. Winfried Martini, then correspondent in Jerusalem for the *Deutsche Allgeine Zeitung*, wrote: "It is a paradoxical fact that of all papers it was the Zionist press in Germany that for years retained a certain amount of freedom which was completely withheld from the non-Jewish papers. In the *Jüdische Rundschau* there was frequently to be found a critical view of the Nazis without this in any way leading to the banning of that paper. Finally, these critical stories did lead to a ban on selling this paper to non-Jews. The Jews should, according to the wishes of the Nazis, be converts to Zionism, even if this were done with arguments directed against Nazism. In this fashion, the circulation of this Zionist paper, which had been small, underwent a rapid swing upwards."

I must also point out that this Zionist newspaper could congratulate itself on being in the good books of the Nazi leaders is completely understandable when the position of the paper *vis-à-vis* the boycott of Jews on April 1, 1933, is considered. Although this organised pogrom against Jewish citizens in Germany aroused indignation all around the world and anger and revulsion in all decent Germans, it was not condemned by the Zionist paper. It was evaluated, and twisted around as a confirmation of Zionist views: . . . "the fatal error of many Jews that one can represent Jewish interests under another cloak is removed," wrote the Zionist paper when referring to the pogrom. It stated further: "The first of April 1933 can be a day of Jewish awakening and Jewish renaissance."

The freedom of activity for the Zionists also included the publishing of books in addition to the newspaper. Until 1938, many publishing houses (among others, the Jüdische Verlag in Berlin-Charlottenburg and the Schochen-Verlag, Berlin) could publish Zionist literature unhindered. Thus there appeared with complete legality in fascist Germany works by Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion and Arthur Ruppin.

The early days of Nazi domination in Germany also brought about the beginning of economic collaboration between the new fascists and the Zionists. An outstanding example of this occurred in May of 1933 when the Zionist citrus-planting company "Hanotea" in Palestine applied to the Reich Ministry of Economy for permission to transfer capital from Germany, thereby paving the way for the well-known Haavara agreement which came later.

Here is how it worked. Hanotea bought German goods that it required, making payments from the German bank accounts of Jewish emigrants. The emigrants then left Germany and received the equivalent value of the payments in real estate. As these early transactions of the Hanotea agreement seemed successful to the Zionist leaders, negotiations were carried out in the summer of 1933 between the Zionists and the German Ministry of Economy, leading to the signing of the so-called Haavara agreement.

Of course, in 1979, Zionists do not like to recall such an agreement and some even deny it; despite the fact that I have personally examined this and have had it fully verified by knowledgeable Jews in Israel and in the U.S. This is just one of many official Zionist acts of history over which a veil has been drawn, since it constituted an instance of great co-operation with the Nazis at a time when anti-fascist forces were leading a boycott against the Third Reich.

I have the following statement from Nahum Goldmann, who then occupied a leading position in the Zionist movement. He tries to explain or justify breaking the boycott in his own words:

"However, many Jewish groups refused to participate (in the boycott), either because many Jewish firms happened to be the business agents of German enterprises, or because some Jewish organisations, namely those in the United States, took up the position that it was unpatriotic to organise a boycott against a country with whom one's country maintains normal trade relations."

This argument may be valid in some ways, but it veils the truth, nevertheless, for those who broke the boycott in the first place were the Zionists themselves.

Most of the early Nazi-Zionist negotiations were handled in Berlin by Chaim Arlosoroff, chief of the political department of the Jewish Agency. Finally, in 1935, the agreement was approved by the World Zionist Congress! These two statements were what the chairman of the Commission for Foreign and Security Affairs of the Israeli Knesset, Meir Argov, said in a parliamentary debate over the reparations agreement between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany (minutes of the Knesset on June 30, 1959). It is interesting to note that Arlosoroff was murdered in his flat on June 16, 1933 by two unidentified persons; most likely connected with his part in the negotiations with the Nazis. Arlosoroff's wife identified one of the murderers of her husband as Abraham Stavsky, who was an active member of the Revisionist Party led by Vladimir Jabotinsky; later known as the Irgun group. Records show that the police in Palestine arrested the men accused of the killing but released them soon afterward. Finally, on July 7, 1933, David Ben-Gurion accused Jabotinsky of collaborating with the Nazis—possibly to divert attention from his own collaboration with the German fascists.

As a result of the Haavara agreement reached in Berlin, two companies were established: the Haavara Company in Tel Aviv and a sister company in Berlin called Paltreu. The actual procedure was carried out in the following manner. A Jewish emigrant paid his money (the minimum sum was a thousand pounds sterling) into the German account of the Haavara (Paltreu) at the Wassermann Bank in Berlin or at the Warburg Bank in Hamburg. With this money, Jewish importers could purchase German goods for Palestine while paying the equivalent value in Palestinian pounds into the Haavara account at the Anglo-Palestine Bank in Palestine. When the emigrant arrived in Palestine, he received from this account the equivalent value of the sum he had paid in Germany after remitting the rather high expenses for the trip.

And when this Nazi-Zionist co-operation got into full swing, the Zionists established their own Palestine Shipping Company; which bought the German passenger ship *Hohenstein* and renamed her the *Tel Aviv*. This ship embarked on her first trip from the German port of Bremerhaven to Haifa early in 1935. On this particular maiden voyage of the *Tel Aviv*, passengers recalled to me the irony, or you might say, the total incongruity of the contradictions which resulted in a mixture that one settler described as "a combination of metaphysical absurdity". By explanation, the ship bore

on her stern the Hebrew letters of her name while from the mast fluttered the Nazi swastika flag. The ship's captain, a man named Leidig, was a registered member of the Nazi Party!

A fact which Zionists of today don't like to remember is that the Haavara agreement did far more than ferry German Jews to Palestine. It doomed the attempt to boycott the Nazi state to failure and assured the fascist economy an extensive and unbroken export market in a situation where world trade still suffered from traces of the economic crisis of 1929. This was emphasised in a memorandum by the Nazi State Secretary of the Reich Ministry of the Interior Stuckart, dated December 17, 1937. It stated: "The many advantages are that the influence of the Haavara group in Palestine has led to the unusual but hoped-for contingency wherein of all places, Palestine is the country in which German goods are not boycotted by the Jewish side . . . at the same time, the Haavara procedure made possible a broadening of the Jewish emigration movement from Germany to Palestine, leading to the strengthening of the Zionist position in Palestine."

Although both the Zionists and the Nazis prospered from this unholy alliance, the rest of the world did not. The Zionists helped to strengthen the German economy, which in turn later caused the Allied powers much more effort and loss of life in order to bring down the Third Reich.

The entire purpose of Zionist International was to have Jewish emigrants from Germany arrive in Palestine not as "have-nots" but as owners of capital that would help in building a new capitalistic Israel. It was, of course, very selective. Since a minimum of a thousand pounds per emigrant was required, only members of the Jewish bourgeoisie were able to avail themselves of its advantages while less fortunate Jewish workers were left to their sad fate. In other words, the solidarity principle that required Jews in Germany to unite against their persecutors was torn asunder by capitalist interests and the typical Zionist financial trait—*pecunia non olet*.

So there is no doubt that the Haavara procedure made the greatest contribution to the tremendously rapid building of Zionist colonies in Palestine. The procedure not only came up with large sums of money from Nazi Germany but it also provided the necessary machines and industrial equipment—from Germany.

The fears of some German officials of offending the Palestinian Arab population were finally brought before Hitler, as is seen in a

memorandum of the Political Trade Department of the Foreign Office, dated January 27, 1938. Hitler decided that the Haavara procedure should be continued. And this positive stand taken by Hitler *vis-à-vis* the strengthening of the Zionist colonisation of Palestine stayed unchanged even in the face of complaints emanating from both the Foreign Office and the Auslandorganisation of the Nazi Party.

Zionist leaders such as Leo Plaut maintained close contacts even with Gestapo officials. Even when Rudolf Diels became chief of the secret police he retained his connection with Plaut, who kept the secret telephone number of Diels so that he could call him at any time.

On March 26, 1933, a meeting was held between Zionist officials and then Prussian prime minister Hermann Goering (later sentenced to death by the Nuremberg International Tribunal as a war criminal). I hired a Jewish investigator in Israel to verify details of this meeting from Israeli sources. He learned the location of this paper—under lock and key at the Yad-Vashem Archives in Jerusalem—but was not allowed access to it. However, East German files in East Berlin did verify the meeting as did West German archives.

Among the ranking Zionists at the meeting was Kurt Blumenfeld, who very conveniently "forgot" to mention this fact in his memoirs.

One of the most detailed documents concerning Zionist-Nazi co-operation was written by Nazi official Dr. Franz Alfred Six, dated June 17, 1937 and bearing the high classification of "Secret Matter for the Command." This document is kept in the archives of the American Commission for the Study of War Documents in Alexandria, Virginia. It is also made available on request by microfilm to other archives (exact designation: Records of the Reich leader and SS and Chief of German Police, Washington, D.C., 1958). It is available on RFss film roll 411, frames 2936012 and 2936069.

Six was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment for war crimes by an American tribunal in April 1948. In January of 1951, this sentence was reduced to ten years and on September 30, 1952 he was released. The Israelis, who are always on the hunt for any convicted or released Nazi, have never shown the slightest interest in exposing Six. Of course, the reason for this is because Six was privy to the collaboration between Zionists and Nazis.

The main portion of this document contains complete details about a visit of the Zionist emissary Feivel Polkes to Berlin. Polkes was a member of the general staff of the Zionist underground army against the British, the Haganah, with the rank of commander.

As of 1976, Polkes was alive and living in Haifa, Israel. I was able to locate him but he refused to answer any questions. He has declared several times that his Berlin visit was "all a misunderstanding".

Tuvia Friedman, author of the book *Ich Jagte Eichmann* (*I Hunted Eichmann*) and director of the Institute for Documentation in Haifa, stated in a letter dated January 25, 1970 that the documents concerning Polkes' visit to Berlin have been known in Israel since 1947. Friedman also wrote that it was allegedly not possible to check this complicated matter further since only copies were available and not the original documents.

SS-Oberscharführer Herbert Hagen, director of the Judenreferat in 1937, stated in his papers that Polkes held the "leadership of the entire self-defence apparatus of the Palestine Jews".

In Palestine, Polkes was in close contact with the correspondent of the "German News Agency", a Dr. Reichert, who was in reality a member of the Palestine espionage network of the Nazis. This ring was directed by an agent named Otto von Bodelschwingh, who lived in Haifa and used the cover job of being a "salesman". It was Reichert who acquired an entry visa for Polkes to visit Germany. Records show that Polkes stayed in Berlin from February 26 until March 2, 1937. He held several meetings with officials of the Nazi régime. But here is the kicker. Two of those meetings were with SS-Hauptscharführer Adolf Eichmann . . . the same Eichmann who was later kidnapped in Argentina and hanged in Israel. It is no wonder that Polkes had a bad memory and did not wish to discuss this in present-day Israel. Polkes informed Eichmann that he was above all interested in "accelerating Jewish immigration to Palestine and for this express purpose he wanted to co-operate with Hitler's Germany". He also declared his readiness to provide Germany with his services in the form of information, so long as it did not conflict with his personal Zionist objectives. In other words, he offered to spy for Germany in return for more Jewish immigration.

The SS immediately awarded Polkes' co-operative intentions via instructions put forth by Six. To please him (Polkes) pressure was exerted on the Reich Deputation of the Jews in Germany in order

to more or less compel Jews emigrating from Germany to head only for Palestine and nowhere else. In the words of Six: "Such a measure lies entirely in the German interest and it is already being put into effect by the Gestapo."

In return, Polkes went out of his way to help in the development of co-operation between Zionism and the Nazis. He got to be such good buddies with Eichmann that he extended an invitation to this Nazi official to visit Palestine as an honoured guest of the Haganah. And a banquet was planned to honour this "distinguished" guest from Nazi Germany. A bit different, to say the least, from the next time Eichmann would set foot on this land in the Mid-East.

Eichmann accepted the invitation. The trip to Palestine was undertaken by Eichmann and a fellow officer, Herbert Hagen. The two left Berlin on September 26, 1937 in the guise of editors of the *Berliner Tageblatt*. They arrived at Haifa on October 2, 1937 on board the ship *Romania*. But the British also engaged in a wide range of intelligence activities during this period and they knew exactly who the two "editors" were and their mission to Palestine. The British refused to allow the two disguised SS emissaries to disembark. Eichmann and Hagen went on to Egypt. Polkes was so disappointed that he journeyed to Egypt and met the two Nazis. Their meetings took place on October 10 and 11, 1937 in Cairo's Café Groppi. Polkes laid out Zionist plans in complete frankness before the SS men. "The Zionist state must be established by all means and as soon as possible so that it attracts a stream of Jewish emigrants to Palestine. When this is done and in line with England's partial promises, then the borders of Israel must be continually pushed further outwards according to one's wishes," he told Eichmann and Hagen, as this unlikely trio drank a toast in the café. And, believe me, the result of this long-ago planned aggressive "pushing out of borders", as Polkes labelled it, is the direct cause of the present Mid-East crisis which is surely destined to throw the entire world into turmoil. Also, it is totally responsible for the attempt to sink the *Liberty*.

Polkes also praised the results of the anti-Semitic terror campaign in Germany which had already increased greatly the Jewish population of Palestine.

Eichmann's official report, filed in Berlin, emphasised that Polkes, at the Cairo rendezvous, made good on his promise to spy for the Nazis. The following words are taken directly from Eichmann's travel report:

"First intelligence item from Polkes: according to him the Pan-Islamic World Congress convening in Berlin is in direct contact with two pro-Soviet Arab leaders, namely Emir Shekib Arslan and Emir Adil Arslan.

"Second intelligence item from Polkes: the illegal Communist radio broadcasting station whose transmission to Germany is particularly strong, is, according to Polkes' statement, assembled on a lorry that drives along the Germany-Luxembourg border when transmission is on the air."

This intelligence information offers an interesting insight into where the Zionists saw their allies and their enemies. And as incredible as it may seem, the Zionist leaders did become Nazi spies. Whether or not the end they sought justified the means is a matter of conscience between them and their Maker. Space does not permit a full report on this collaboration but the meetings between Eichmann and Polkes were not isolated or accidental events. They fall into a longer-term framework of co-operation between Zionists and Nazis. Following the trip by Eichmann and Hagen, this spy ring was cemented by "Mossad Aliyah Beth", which had been created by the Haganah as an illegal immigration organisation after Britain had throttled Jewish immigration to Palestine as a result of the Peel Paper. At the end of 1937, i.e., a few months after Eichmann's trip, emissaries of the Mossad group moved into the house of Reichsvereinigung (Reich Union) at Meineckestrasse No. 10, Berlin-Charlottenburg with permission from the highest Nazi authorities in Berlin. Pina Ginsburg and Moshe Auerbach, emissaries of this group, came from Palestine to Berlin. Ginsburg worked directly with the Gestapo.

Although a minority faction of the Irgun did support Britain against Nazi Germany in World War II, the majority group was not only anti-British but made an offer to collaborate with Germany. This offer was extended by contacting the naval attaché at the German Embassy in Turkey—an official in charge of secret missions. This report, which is still kept in a locked archive in London, tells of contacts this attaché had with emissaries of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organisation), known mostly as NMO to British intelligence. A memorandum dated January 11, 1941 reports of "Fundamental Features of the Proposal" by Irgun. These Irgun activists offered their organisation as an ally of the Nazis, as the document clearly states:

1. Common interests could exist between the establishment of a new order in Europe in conformity with the German concept, and the true national aspirations of the Jewish people as they are embodied by the NMO.

2. Co-operation between the New Germany and a renewed Hebrew nation völpisch-nationalen-Hebräertum) would be possible.

3. The establishment of the historical Jewish state on a national and totalitarian basis and bound by a treaty with the German Reich would be in the interest of maintaining and strengthening the future German position of power in the Near East.

Certain Jewish scholars maintain that the Zionists just wanted help from the winning side and were not really anti-Allied powers at this stage of World War II. This may be true. But the results are what counts.

I include all this Zionist-Nazi co-operation, not as an interesting sidelight to the *Liberty* incident, but to show American readers that in reality the killing of U.S. Navy men on that ship was not the first time Americans died at sea because of Zionist treachery. In the early days of World War II, before America's official entry into that conflict, Zionist spies in London relayed information to the Nazis about schedules of U.S. aid convoys to Britain. And the Germans used this information to sink American ships bound for England, thereby causing the death of U.S. citizens plying the North Atlantic on merchant ships from 1939 to 1942.

Former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir, who made regular trips to the U.S. in order to bleed more funds from the American taxpayers, issued many statements more evil than anything from Hitler. On a visit to see President Carter in November of 1977 she was asked about the possibility of a homeland for the displaced Palestinians. Her answer might well have been attributed to Attila the Hun. "I think not," she replied. "It is not necessary for the Palestinians to have a homeland."

Israel continues to murder the Palestinians in Lebanon and does so apparently with President Carter's blessings, according to the Israeli interpretation of his remarks in November of 1977 after Israeli planes attacked unprotected Palestinian villages in Lebanon, killing 164 people—mostly civilians. The raid was in retaliation for the firing of rockets into Israel by Palestinians in the Tyre area.

One Israeli was killed. Carter refused to condemn Israel for this wholesale killing of innocent people. Ever mindful of the Jewish Lobby threats to his possible second term as President, he stated: "If the provocation was absent, the retaliatory action would not have been necessary."

Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.) has many times condemned massive air strikes by Israel on Palestinian camps in Lebanon which killed hundreds of people.

All of this brings us to a brief study of the Israeli intelligence forces because it is necessary for readers to have a clear understanding of the important role MOSSAD (as yet untold) played in the *Liberty* attack. It must also be recognised that terrorism and espionage are intertwined in Israel. Each supports the other.

Jews have specialised in the art of espionage since time immemorial. History tells us of the role played by Rehab who sneaked into Jericho and obtained information which helped bring about the downfall of the kingdom. Obviously this is not the place to go into the spying role of the Jews throughout history. But it is important that it be shown how it links up with the espionage of modern Jewish settlers in the British Mandate of Palestine where they eventually duplicated the entire police files even before the present state of Israel was created in 1948.

Herzl's memoirs and other Jewish publications relating to the first modern Jewish immigrants show that the basic role of these people was espionage. It was emphasised, at the time, by Jewish leaders that spying on the British and the Arabs was more important than earning a living. In other words, it was a means of survival. Zionist leaders seemed to believe that the family that spies together stays together. The purpose, even when they were a very small minority in Palestine, was to be aggressive and eventually push out all non-Jews or make virtual slaves of them in a never-ending assault which has not slowed down since it gained momentum right after World War I. And since the Arabs of the Mid-East would always outnumber the Jews regardless of the amount of immigration, it was thus incumbent to have accurate knowledge in advance just to be able to co-exist.

For several hundred years prior to World War I the Turks ruled Palestine. Under Turkish control any would-be Zionists wanting to start a revolution were beaten before they started because the Turks had harsh measures for dealing with any traitors in their

midst. But after the efforts of the British under General Allenby and the conquering Arab legions, influenced by Lawrence of Arabia, Britain got a mandate to control the Holy Land in 1918.

It was only after the Balfour Declaration that the Zionist terror groups began to make any progress against British rule. And espionage was a major factor in their limited success. When I was studying British records of Palestine in London, an English general told me that he thought it might have saved the world a great deal of trouble in the Mid-East today if the Turks had been able to hold on to the area, instead of the British gaining control of this disputed territory.

One of the many items of historical interest concerning the Mid-East which has never been mentioned in any American newspaper, as best I could determine, is a United Nations study on terrorism in the Mid-East. It was dated in August of 1973. Contrary to what brainwashed Americans may believe due to constant Israeli propaganda, this report clearly shows that approximately ninety per cent of all terrorism and senseless murders in the Mid-East have been committed by the Zionists—not against them by the Arabs, despite such highly publicised murders as the bold killing of the eleven unfortunate Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games.

You must bear in mind that no Arab nation condones or even permits terrorism. Israel does. Israel not only condones it but commits terroristic acts and sheer murder officially, under the disguise of "security measures". Any Arab terrorism in the Mid-East is always done by outlaw groups without the official or unofficial sanction of any established Arab nation.

King Hussein I of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, one of the most intelligent and courageous leaders of the Arab world, has arrested and punished more Arab terrorists than has Israel. But, on the other side of the border all Zionist terrorism is fully sanctioned by the government of Israel, with the quiet acquiesce of the good, ole U.S.A., whose taxpayers unwittingly pay for most of it. And the United States is constantly bringing up human rights violations or alleged violations around the world. It just doesn't make much sense, does it?

The *Congressional Record* is full of instances of U.S. legislators speaking out against the Arabs when a couple of Palestine terrorists cross the border and attempt to attack a legitimate military target. It is labelled "terrorism". The next day when Israel retaliates by

sending planes to slaughter people in an innocent Arab village and ground troops with flame-throwers to kill hundreds more, these same Congressmen call it "patriotism". Some patriotism!

To set the stage further for the unprecedented attack on the *Liberty*, I would like to acquaint readers with various sneak attacks and murders committed by Zionist terror groups during the past thirty years.

I gathered all this information in Israel from Israeli records and interviews with Israeli leaders. None of these reports came from non-Israeli sources.

Ironically, the Black September gang of Arab terrorists learned their methods and organisation from the Zionist terrorist gangs of the early 1940's such as the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern group.

Menachem Begin, who was elected prime minister of Israel in 1977, was the leader of the Irgun terrorists in British-ruled Palestine. Begin murdered British and Arabs alike, and anyone else who appeared to be a threat to his activities, in his unholy war centred in and around Jerusalem. His group planted bombs in crowded market places and public buildings. He specialised in assassinating British soldiers at lonely outposts.

"The Stern Gang and Begin's Irgun were fanatically committed to the use of terror," stated Dov Joseph, who was the Jewish military governor of Jerusalem and later a member of the Israeli cabinet.

At first, Begin's bloodthirsty cut-throats were often harshly opposed by the official Jewish body in Palestine, the Sakhneut, and its military arm, the Haganah (later to form the backbone of the Israeli army).

In 1944, the Stern Gang murdered Lord Moyne, the British administrator for the Middle East, in Cairo.

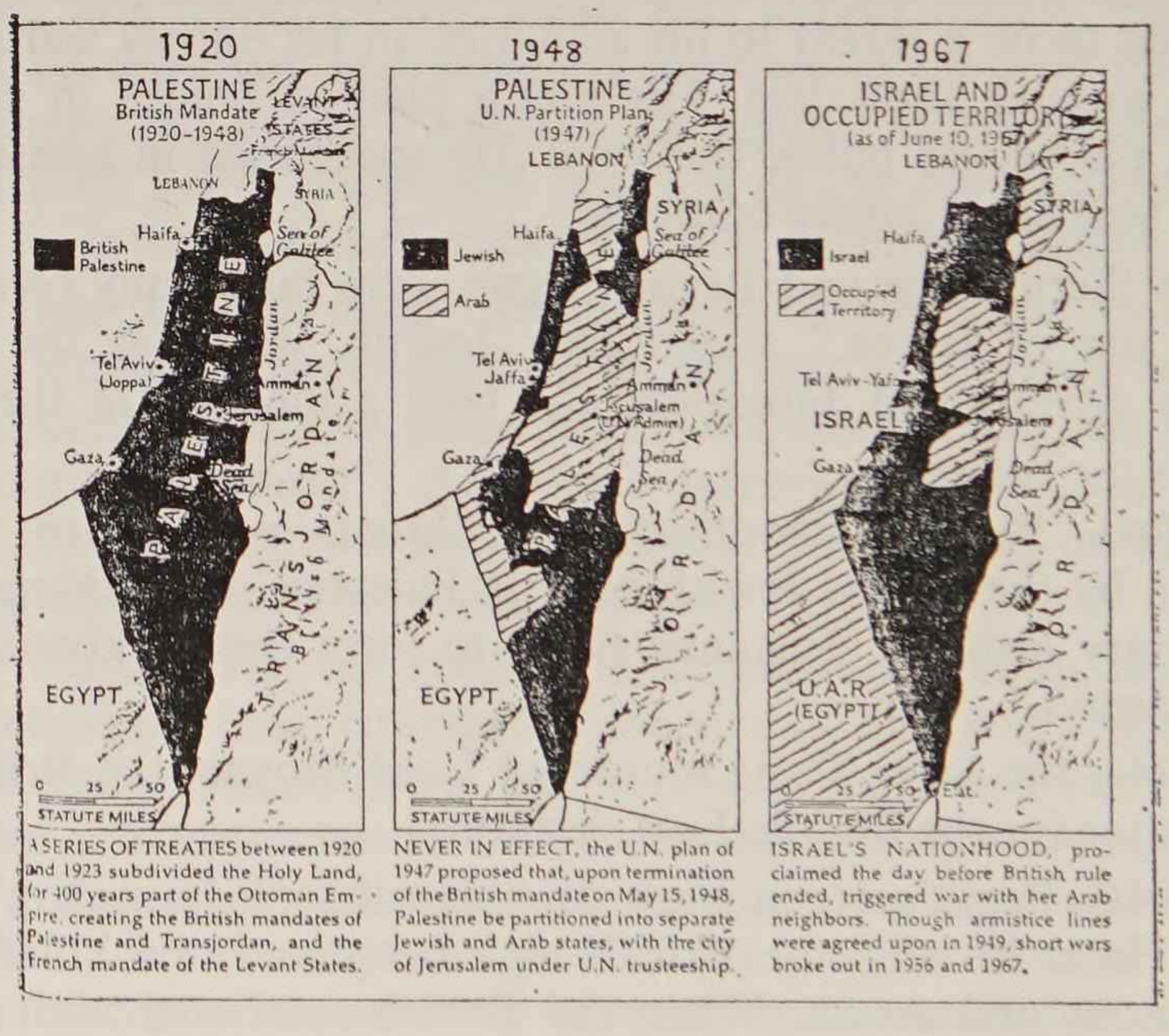
In 1946, Begin's Irgun blew up the wing of Jerusalem's King David Hotel housing the British high command and killed about 100 Britons and Arabs. When the British retaliated with arrests, Begin ordered hostages to be taken and hanged. Then he exported his own personal brand of Murder, Inc. to Europe by blowing up the British Embassy in Rome.

In 1948, Count Folke Bernadotte, the United Nations mediator, arrived in Palestine to make an investigation. After assessing the entire situation he released the following statement: "The right of

innocent people, uprooted from their homes by Zionist terrorists and the massacre of Arabs, to return unharmed to their homes should be affirmed and actualised with the assuring right of compensation for those who may not choose to return."

The Jewish answer to Bernadotte's condemnation of their criminal acts was swift in coming and just as inhumane as anything ever recorded in diplomatic history. The Stern Gang murdered him in Jerusalem on September 17, 1948.

According to official Israeli reports, Menachem Begin accepted full responsibility for the Zionist massacre of the Arab village of Deir Yassin on April 10, 1948 where 254 Arabs, mostly old men, women and children, died a horrible death equal to any atrocity ever staged by the Nazis during World War II. Thirty years later newsmen would refer to the massacre as the "Israeli My Lai".



A SERIES OF TREATIES between 1920 and 1923 subdivided the Holy Land, for 400 years part of the Ottoman Empire, creating the British mandates of Palestine and Transjordan, and the French mandate of the Levant States.

NEVER IN EFFECT, the U.N. plan of 1947 proposed that, upon termination of the British mandate on May 15, 1948, Palestine be partitioned into separate Jewish and Arab states, with the city of Jerusalem under U.N. trusteeship.

ISRAEL'S NATIONHOOD, proclaimed the day before British rule ended, triggered war with her Arab neighbors. Though armistice lines were agreed upon in 1949, short wars broke out in 1956 and 1967.

The centre map shows how the United Nations Partition Plan was supposed to work, with Palestine equally divided between the Arabs and the Zionists. The map at the right shows how Israel took all of Palestine, instead of being satisfied with her allotted half of the territory . . . thus making the Palestinian Arabs homeless and causing the problem which as yet remains unsolved. The shaded area of the map at the right shows additional Arab territory occupied during the Israeli aggression of 1967, *the so-called Six-Day War.* (*United Nations Maps.*)

When the United Nations voted to partition Palestine between Arabs and Jews, fighting broke out immediately. At the centre of the conflict was Jerusalem, isolated in the hilly interior and linked to the coast only by the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road. Deir Yassin was the focal point of Arab attempts to cut the road, although the actual villagers themselves, mostly stonecutters, were non-combatants.

The following report is taken verbatim from official Israeli documents without a word changed. It was compiled mostly from interviews with actual participants and observers including Baruch Nadel, driver of the loudspeaker truck; Mordechai Ra'anan, Irgun group commander, and Meir Pa'il, an observer who witnessed the attack. Pa'il later became a Far Left member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament).

The Official Report

"The two commando groups (Stern and Irgun) reached the perimeter of Deir Yassin at 4.15 a.m., April 9. Overheard by village guards, we kept under cover awaiting arrival of a loudspeaker with which to call the Arabs to surrender. The armoured car carrying the loudspeaker had been halted half a mile from the village by a barrier of sand and stone abutted by a ditch, its driver, Baruch Nadel, reported.

"As Israeli soldiers hurriedly tried to fill the ditch, Arab fire increased from the village. Then we decided that we had no choice but to broadcast the exhortation to surrender from where the sound truck stood. From this distance, the surrender plea went unheard or else it was ignored by the Arabs. We waited for more light.

"As day began to break over the Judean hills, a long blast from a Bren machine gun signalled the Jewish attack. At first, the fighting went poorly for us. This was not our kind of battle. We were used to lightning-fast commando raids on British military installations, the planting of bombs in Arab quarters and other guerrilla-terrorist tactics.

"By mid-morning we had broken through the first two rows of Arab homes, reaching the centre of the village. We were so low on ammunition, and we had suffered some casualties, that we considered retreating.

"The Arab houses, constructed of the finest blocks of Jerusalem stone, lay squat and flat, thus becoming gunfire-spitting pillboxes

that we knew would have to be taken one at a time. And the homes were interspersed with vines and olive trees, making it more difficult for us. We tried initially to penetrate the homes with grenades followed by break-ins with machine-guns blasting. This did not work well and was too time consuming.

"At 11 a.m. we turned to other methods. The inhabitants of the homes were warned in Arabic to surrender. If they refused, their stone houses would be dynamited on top of them.

"According to Ra'anan, a group of nine Arabs emerged with their hands raised. But one of our soldiers (name omitted), who had just seen the death of a comrade, took vindictive action without orders by letting loose a long spray of machine-gun fire which killed the entire group. Now the other villagers, having witnessed the killing of their neighbours who had surrendered, refused to give themselves up. Ra'anan said this left him little choice but to continue blowing up houses. By noon all resistance was abated."

Meir Pa'il stated that he then saw twenty-five Arab men dragged from their homes, loaded on to a truck, driven through Jewish neighbourhoods as in a "Roman triumph" and returned to Deir Yassin where they were promptly murdered in cold blood by Jewish terrorists trained not to take prisoners.

The official British report showed more details of the actual cruelty of the Zionist killers. It stated that several testimonies showed that sexual atrocities were committed against the women of Deir Yassin by the Jewish fighters. Butcher knives were then used to mutilate the bodies.

"An easterly breeze was blowing the smell of death into the heart of Jerusalem on the warm spring morning of April 10, 1948. Of the 254 Arabs killed at Deir Yassin, the majority were old men, women and children," stated Prof Yehoshual Arieli, who was sent to help bury the dead Arabs. Professor Arieli was a Jewish instructor of history at Hebrew University.

The Sakhneut, official Jewish ruling body at the time, issued a statement expressing its "horror and disgust at the barbarous manner" in which the Deir Yassin raid was carried out. A Haganah wallposter was put up reading: "The Irgun and Stern Gang have given themselves over to an orgy of slaughter with the deliberate attempt of committing murder. They also robbed and looted." The poster further asserted that the capture of Deir Yassin was without military benefit and that the two terrorist groups had been simply interested in building up their own personal prestige.

This poster, put up to allay American, British and European criticism of the raid, did not mention what a terrible thing it was to destroy an entire village and its people—to wipe them off the face of the earth—Nazi-style. The official Jewish statements condemning the raid dealt only with the bad reputation it brought to the Zionist terrorists. There was no official concern for the lives of the victims.

I also learned that these high-sounding pronouncements were covering up for the real reason of the raid and who ordered it. What the poster and the proclamations failed to mention, pointing to its self-serving nature, was that David Shaltiel, Jerusalem commander of Haganah, had a few days earlier put his O.K. on the plan for the two outlaw groups to wipe out the village. Then Shaltiel deceived the public by issuing statements about how tragic the raid was, despite the fact that he was the one who approved of the plan for Begin's unlawful forces to carry out the raid.

Both the Begin and Stern terrorist groups were at low ebb now. They were condemned not only by the British but also by all responsible Jewish organisations, including the Sakhneut. Even the hard-nosed Haganah dealt harshly with Begin's raiders despite the fact that Haganah had a hand in it because Haganah leaders had approved the plan for raiding Deir Yassin in advance of the massacre. Haganah, one of the milder Jewish organisations, became the Labour Party under David Ben-Gurion and ruled Israel from 1948 to 1977. Terrorist Begin became a leader in the opposing Likud party.

Naturally, the Arab states were not pleased when Begin and the Likud party won the 1977 election. On the following day, radio stations from Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia broadcast the slogan "The echo of Deir Yassin".

The clever Begin had a master purpose behind the slaughter of the village of Deir Yassin. It was his plan to prevent the UN from implementing the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. He wanted to instill fear in the civilian Arab population so they would move out rather than risk their lives by remaining in Palestine, where they would outnumber and out-vote the Jews in any fair election. It worked like a charm. And the surrounding Arab states unknowingly aided Begin in his plot to destroy any hope for a Palestinian state by broadcasting all the sanguine details of Deir Yassin throughout the Arab world. Several historians

from both sides in the Mid-East told me that these radio reports did more to drive out the Palestinians than all the Jewish terrorists. The broadcasts spurred the flight from Palestine and resulted in a refugee problem which still exists today.

The British put a price on Begin's head. He became the most wanted criminal in the land with a £10,000 reward (equal to $50,000 at the time) announced. Unfortunately, the British never were able to find him. He would certainly have been executed. But he evaded capture many times, living in disguise in Tel Aviv, where he continued to meet secretly with not only gang members but also gave out interviews with Jewish-dominated members of the foreign press. They attempted to play him up as a sort of combination Robin Hood and Napoleon in exile.

Then in 1977, after Begin was elected prime minister, the unbelievable of all unbelievables—the incredible of all incredibles—came true. On December 2, Begin visited England as an honoured head of state. In London he proclaimed that his purpose was to wipe the slate clean . . . to wipe the blood off his hands. But, as always, this devious man had an ulterior motive for his visit to Britain. His chief purpose was to rally support for Israel and to lessen the British sympathy for the Palestinians who were made homeless thirty years before by Begin's inhuman methods. News photos from London showed Begin smiling as he patted a small child with his blood-drenched hands upon his arrival there. Time will tell whether he will be able to bury history or re-write it.

Begin was questioned about how he likes to be called a criminal. He replied: "Was I a terrorist because I fought for the liberation of the Jewish people who had been massacred in Europe?" Which, of course, had nothing to do with murdering innocent Arab women and children.

But the very name of Deir Yassin still weighs heavily upon Israel today. When I visited Israel, I learned that Deir Yassin does not appear on Israeli maps. The village is now called Givat Shaul Bet by the Zionists. But it still appears as Deir Yassin on Arab maps. I had a difficult time locating what remains of the once peaceful and happy village of Arab stone-cutters. The words Deir Yassin are taboo in Israel . . . a sort of curse to haunt the memories of any of the remaining Jewish terrorists who participated in the massacre. Only a few stone houses remain. Weeds and an occasional gnarled olive tree outline the pale, ochre hills of Judea

where the village once prospered. Perhaps it is indeed ironical that overlooking these hills where once Arab children played there now stands an insane asylum. Could this be a final tribute to the mad man who ordered the attack so many years ago?

In all fairness, it must be pointed out that David Ben-Gurion sent a cable to King Abdullah of Jordan after the raid, expressing sorrow and apologising for the atrocities committed at Deir Yassin by Begin's outlaws.

It has always been difficult for the rest of the world, with the exception of Israel and the United States, to understand why the greatest criminal of them all in Israel was never punished. Instead he was protected, honoured and finally rewarded with the position of prime minister.

Bearing this in mind it is quite easy to see how a climate could develop in Israel that would make it quite easy and even reasonable for that country to attempt to sink an American ship and to try to kill everyone aboard it. All this despite the fact that Israel would not even exist were it not for the United States.

Most experts around the world in the field of espionage agree that Israel has one of the finest, if not the topmost, secret service. These professionals also agree (although never publicly) that the American CIA is one of the most inefficient spy agencies today. It is not meant to imply that the CIA is worthless and does not accomplish anything. It does. But there is so much wasted effort in the CIA and needless expense, that it is absolutely appalling to those in charge of foreign intelligence forces.

Perhaps this difference between MOSSAD and the CIA partly explains why Israel is always able to do anything she wants even though the U.S. may not approve of it and even condemn Israel for it. MOSSAD keeps Israel one jump ahead of the CIA in matters of the Mid-East. And this enables Israel to be forgiven like an errant child and restored to favour by Mother America no matter how bad the child has been or how many criminal acts have been committed under the disguise of "pertaining to Israel's security", a catch-all phrase used constantly in discussions with the U.S.

I would also like to point out that, thanks to the Israel Lobby and key legislative assistants on the staffs of senators who are totally committed to Israel such as Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), the Israelis always know in advance before Americans do just how Congress will vote on anything concerning the Mid-East.

In studying international espionage throughout the world I can find no better example of total deceit and treachery to a friendly nation than Israel's "Lavon Affair" in 1954 (except, of course, the *Liberty* attack). In the Lavon fiasco, Israeli agents sabotaged British and American property in Cairo; then made it appear that this had been done by Egyptians so as to discredit the Egyptian government and persuade Britain to keep its forces in Egypt. The climax of this operation was a grandiose scheme, hatched by Israel defence minister Pinhas Lavon, to blow up the American Embassy in Cairo thereby killing the U.S. ambassador and most of his staff. That the plan was to be carried out against Israel's greatest benefactor made no difference to Lavon. Fortunately, the Egyptians found out about this plot and arrested the conspirators. Two of these agents were executed, six were jailed and two of them committed suicide while in custody.

From all this one would logically assume that eventually the U.S. Department of State, the Justice Department, the CIA or perhaps the White House might wake up to the fact that Israel cannot be trusted as a full partner. But such has not been the case. Again the Israel Lobby is too strong . . . and public opinion is so weak and so easily misled. The Zionists and the threat of the Jewish vote can still override any minor reluctance on the part of U.S. officials to back Israel one hundred per cent despite such treachery.

The latest biography of David Ben-Gurion, former Israeli prime minister, reveals how he slyly defied President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike sent an ultimatum to the prime minister on January 3, 1961 demanding that U.S. experts be allowed to inspect the top-secret research reactor near Dimona in the Negev Desert. Ben-Gurion refused but later that year he did allow an American inspection of part of the project. Eisenhower wanted to know what was going to happen to the plutonium produced at the plant. He never found out. But French intelligence sources later reported that atomic weapons were produced at the plant in 1965, possibly from uranium Israel obtained illegally from a Pennsylvania factory (Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation at Apollo, Penna.).

Renato Ruggiero, European Common Market executive and top spokesman for the commission, announced in 1976 that the disappearance in 1968 of 200 tons of uranium from a West German ship had definitely been traced to this same Israeli plant in the

Negev Desert. According to his report, the West German freighter *Scheerbergs* left Antwerp. Belgium, bound for Genoa, Italy, with the uranium. The shipment, valued at over three million dollars at the time, never reached Italy. The cargo was hijacked by Israeli ships as the *Scheerbergs* plied the Mediterranean Sea. Several weeks later, after the uranium was unloaded in Israel, the West German ship reappeared with a new name, newly painted, new registry and a new crew. And no one aboard knew anything about any shipment of uranium.

Paul L. Leventhal, former counsel to the Senate Operations (now Government Affairs) Committee which handles the spread of nuclear weapons, confirmed that the Common Market version of the theft was correct. *The Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times* and ABC News reported basically the same story about the missing uranium, concluding that the entire supply probably went to Israel illegally. In Tel Aviv, the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission denied any Israeli involvement in the disappearance of the uranium.

Of course, everyone knows that Israel now has atomic weapons of the potency used at Hiroshima. Israel has never issued a clear denial of persistent foreign intelligence reports concerning nuclear weapons. Instead, government spokesmen consistently say only "Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Mid-East." Viewed in respect with the many past deceptions of Israel, anyone who believes such a statement should be writing for the Brothers Grimm.

Deceit has always been one of the chief weapons in espionage. And Israel didn't invent it. But the Israelis seem to carry it to an extreme which has resulted in this small but very aggressive nation now existing without friends anywhere except its midwife and sponsor—the good old dependable USA. And even this total devotion to Israel might vanish or, at least be greatly diminished, were it not for the sinister political threats and intimidation by the Israel Lobby and Jewish voters in the U.S.

In order for readers to fully understand how a friendless nation such as Israel is unafraid and has the audacity to attack an American ship and kill Americans in cold blood it is necessary to know who controls American policy. And the Israeli Lobby has a stranglehold on U.S. policy as it concerns anything in the Mid-East. It may seem incredible that such a small nation, totally

dependent upon the U.S., has such an antagonistic policy toward Americans. But several times Israel has threatened to shoot down U.S. planes which come anywhere near Israel's territorial waters. And Israeli gunboats have threatened and turned back American oil rigs in international waters.

When I was making a study of intelligence operations in Europe, it was pointed out to me many times by British, French and West German experts that Israel has one great advantage over every other nation in the world when it comes to intelligence work. That advantage is in having loyal Jews scattered around the globe in every land to assist Israel in any task no matter how illegal or how despicable it might be.

There are many Jews in every country, including the U.S., who put Israel first and their own countries second. And when some matter comes up which is good for Israel but bad for their own countries, these Israel-first Jews invariably choose to help Israel to the detriment of their own countries of citizenship. And breaking the laws of their own countries is no barrier so long as it helps Israel.

In the vague and shadowy world of secret intelligence these people are known as "firsters". In Israel, of course, they are termed "patriots". In their own countries the correct name for them is traitors, but that is beside the point.

A splendid example of a "firster" is the Jewish West German court official who found out where Adolf Eichmann was living in Argentina. By law he was supposed to bring Eichmann to trial in West Germany. But, since he realised that there was probably not enough evidence to convict Eichmann in a fair West German trial, he violated his oath of office and risked a jail sentence by withholding this information from German authorities and secretly passed it on to Israel. Thus, Israeli agents in 1960, under the disguise of being delegates at the 150th Anniversary celebration of Argentine independence, were able to kidnap Eichmann and take him to Israel for an illegal trial in violation of both Israeli and Argentine laws.

Another "firster" of some importance, this one behind the Iron Curtain, gave information which enabled Israeli agents to hijack Czech weapons off a ship headed for Syria. Israel also sank the ship which had carried these weapons—so when the Israelis so boldly attacked the *Liberty* it was not the first time they had reduced themselves to piracy of the high seas.

And when Israelis stole three patrol boats from a French harbour, they were aided by French-Jewish "firsters".

Allen Dulles, one-time head of the CIA, called Israel's secret service "among the world's best". High intelligence officials of several European countries told me the same thing, which is a very high compliment for such a small nation.

The Israeli intelligence service was established even before the state of Israel was born in 1948. British police files were duplicated before there was a Zionist state to make use of them.

The Israeli spy services report directly to the prime minister and to the minister of defence. MOSSAD, the largest and best known, is primarily responsible for intelligence and special operations abroad. AMAN is the department of military intelligence. Shin Bet is a domestic operation, organised mainly to combat subversion. This branch is the one which is so often accused of terrorist brutality to political prisoners. The Police Special Branch reinforces Shin Bet with its powers to make arrests, seizures and searches.

MOSSAD is prominent in Europe where they handle anti-terrorist activities and promote a bit of terror themselves. A secret committee receives reports from all the services and in turn reports to a parliamentary committee on foreign affairs and defence. Funds are carefully hidden in the defence budget.

Israel is a target country for serving various foreign intelligence systems belonging to both friendly and unfriendly nations. The Mid-East is a region full of surprises and always a source of dangerous concern for the entire world. It is also a theatre of war, a military region and a place for political intrigue *par excellence*. Hence Israel is a country for obtaining influence and power among nations. It is also an isolated state, making it a meeting point for many intelligence services. Thus, from observing this first hand, I have come to the conclusion that Jerusalem and Tel Aviv have in many ways replaced such conventional centres of espionage as Geneva, Vienna and Istanbul as contact points. The various intelligence agencies make use of satellites, spy ships (like the *Liberty*) and strong networks of undercover agents.

Throughout the past thirty years Israeli intelligence has come out on top most of the time. However, in the Yom Kipur War Arab intelligence emerged victorious more so than any other weapon in view of the surprise attacks for which the Israeli army was unprepared. This was the first war between the Arabs and the Israelis in

which large numbers of Israelis were taken prisoner, many of them in possession of secret military documents.

American-Israeli co-operation was reflected clearly in these captured documents of the 1973 war, some of which were shown to me by Arab officials. The Arabs, and especially the Syrians, do not refer to it as "American-Israeli" co-operation but rather as "Imperialist-Israeli" co-operation.

A Syrian official, who was sent to Washington in 1973, told me that he found so many Israelis there influencing policy and making policy that any Israeli visiting the city might think that he was still in Israel.

And American military teams are constantly visiting Israel, within the framework of units and missions to supplement the information available to the Pentagon regarding the Israeli army and the Israeli security system in general.

The co-ordination of American-Israeli collaboration is controlled through a joint action committee comprising officials of the Department of State, the CIA, the FBI and often times the U.S. ambassador in Beirut. On the Israeli side are representatives of MOSSAD, the special missions branch, military intelligence and an adviser on security matters from the prime minister's office. At times the committee meets in Athens and makes its headquarters there because of the large network of CIA agents in Greece who have unrestricted freedom to operate there. A special project of this group has been in recent years to infiltrate the many-splintered Palestinian commando organisations scattered throughout the Arab nations of the Middle East. CIA experts pour over Arab newspapers, especially those from Lebanon, so they can compile reports on the strength and movement of troops in the Arab countries.

But, despite such close co-operation, there often arises a difference of opinion as to methods or in the manner of collaboration. When James Angleton, who for twenty years was in charge of connections with Israeli intelligence, was forced to resign his CIA post there was a great deal of discussion about internal espionage in the U.S. Angleton, however, maintained that his troubles merely stemmed from a political line in the Mid-East.

After the victorious 1967 war, when Israel gained so much Arab territory, Moshe Dayan and the Israeli military clique grew overconfident. This is when Dayan made his famous statement that he would just prefer to keep the occupied territories rather than have

a peace agreement. Dayan's group came up with three NO's for future reference concerning the Arabs. They were: 1. That the Arabs would never attack. 2. That the Arabs would never unite. 3. That the Arabs would never use their oil resources to their advantage. In 1973 all three of these NO's were quickly disproven.

Throughout the short history of Israel the special position of that country and her limited capacity to absorb the punishment of a surprise attack have led the Israeli military staff to depend on easy and cheap victories. Israel must avoid the long periods of war such as bogged down the U.S. in Vietnam where losses remain steady but not much is accomplished. She cannot afford to lose the manpower of a whole generation every ten years or so. Hence, Israeli intelligence has to be the most important part of the country's first line of defence.

Israel has now become very concerned with what has been termed "the silent war" in which Israeli agents operate in many foreign countries to deal with those working against the interests of the only non-Arab nation in the immediate Mid-East. This has happened on a large scale in France, and in 1977 and 1978, in Italy. The idea is to silence all voices which are raised toward a fair and just settlement of the Palestinian question. This is accomplished by kidnapping and even murder, when it cannot be done by other means. Italy was targeted as an unfriendly nation when Libya bought major shares of stock in the Fiat Automobile Corporation. Israel feared too much Arab influence which might affect Italian government policy. Hence, Rome has become an important base for Israeli intelligence. Information made available to me by the Italian army command shows no less than 500 Israeli agents operating in Italy during the summer of 1977.

Jerusalem, where news of the carefully-planned attack on the *Liberty* first leaked out the day before the strike actually occurred, is still a divided city despite the fact that Israel controls the entire area. There is just no way this Holy City can belong entirely to any one religion or nationality, let alone to one small state.

I had this point brought home to me very graphically and with much clarity on the first day of my visit to Israel during May of 1976 to gather facts about the *Liberty* attack for this book.

One of the thousands of old Yemenite Jews who consider themselves the guardians of the city told me, "When once you have

stepped through the gates of Jerusalem, you are never quite the same person again." I became more certain that he is correct when I learned that these devout Hebrews never forsake Jerusalem for even one night throughout their entire lifetimes.

On the same winding street, I encountered Arabs of equal ardour and faith. Scores of blind Arabs also wander about the city; each with a metal plate around his neck which attests that the bearer has journeyed to Mecca, torn out his own eyes after beholding the Kaaba, Islam's sacred black stone, and is now a beggar in Jerusalem.

When I asked one of these blind Arabs why he wanted to be blind in Jerusalem, he replied, "One does not need eyes to behold the radiance of *El Kuds*, Jerusalem the Holy."

All medieval map makers called Jerusalem the "navel of the world" and for a thousand years placed the city at the very centre of their maps. The Holy City today is a centre for intrigue and espionage as well as for the three great religions of the world.

In a ten-minute walk up the steps of the Via Dolorosa you are hurled back twenty centuries when you gaze upon Veronica's small house where she wiped the brow of Christ as he stumbled past her under the weight of the cross. But as I paused in front of Veronica's humble abode of many centuries past, I was suddenly brought back into the twentieth century by a touch of my elbow. It was an Arab merchant hawking hand-tooled leather goods and ladies' purses made of camel hide. I then realised that there still is not only a spiritual Jerusalem but also an earthly one where people have to earn a living, marry, rear children and die just as they must in every other city of the entire world.

Even in the time of Christ, travellers here complained that "the Holy City is a golden basin filled with scorpions, and nowhere are the fees heavier". And I'd have to say that judging from the prices at the new Jerusalem Hilton Hotel, where I was staying, things haven't changed much in the way of "fees" or charges in twenty centuries. The biggest difference is that Mastercharge wasn't around when Jesus and his followers were here.

Today the street vendors are still present. Now they attempt to sell you everything from information about tourist places to a "splinter of the True Cross", wrapped quite inappropriately in a piece of Kleenex tissue.

Since Christians, Jews and Moslems all have legitimate historical claims in Jerusalem it will never be possible for any one of the three faiths to oust the other two as some Israelis seem bent on doing. Of course, most of the shrines and holy places throughout the city are Christian. But the Zionists do have the ancient Wailing Wall (or Place), which some claim has a few stones from Solomon's temple. It is a place for Jews to gather for prayer and lamentation. The picturesque Dome of the Rock, which people all over the world recognise from television as a symbol of the city much like the Statue of Liberty indicates New York and the Eiffel Tower indicates Paris, dominates the Moslem culture of Jerusalem. It covers the sacrificial stone from which Mohammed is said to have been assumed into Heaven while astride his horse.

Jews and Arabs alike believe that the ancient and "honourable" vocation of spying is the second oldest profession in the world. And, as I mentioned before, appropriately enough the first inkling of the Israeli plans to sink the *Liberty* came to surface in Jerusalem's Zion Square area where the world's second oldest profession mingles with the oldest one in the shops, cafés, brothels and hotels. This is outlined in the book in as much detail as it was possible for me to gather which could be double-checked and would not give away any national secrets which might be harmful in any way to the United States of America. But the Conspiracy of Silence covering the attack in both Israel and the U.S. made my task a difficult and even dangerous one. However, I did receive a great deal more co-operation from European and Arab countries having knowledge of this desperate attack.

Due to the extreme fear of Arab terrorists at all Israeli border points and airports, getting into that country is a lengthy and worrisome ordeal—made even more so when one arrives from an Arab nation, as I did. Until the Jordan-Israel border crossing station was opened via the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River, visitors to Israel from Arab nations had to fly to the nearby neutral island of Cyprus and thence to Israel. My entry appeared more troublesome, at least in my own mind, because I entered Israel from Jordan with notes I had taken in Jordan and Syria. I had not had time to mail them to myself as I usually do, via a London address I generally use for that purpose. I had been so busy in Jordan that I had not given much thought to just how strict the body search when entering Israel would be. And naturally, I did not want my notes to fall into Israeli hands any more than I would have wanted my records

of Israeli interviews to fall into Arab hands, had it been the other way around. It was only after I arrived at the bridge, via a limousine from Amman, that I learned for sure that a complete body search was absolutely mandatory for all persons without a diplomatic passport. In the waiting-room, there was a table which had on it some free Israeli newspapers and tourist brochures describing travel in the Zionist state. I placed my notes and secret documents inside an Israeli newspaper and put the paper on the top of my bag, remembering the old Mark Twain admonition about leaving something out in the open if you do not want it to be found. By this I mean I wanted to make that Israeli newspaper a very conspicuous part of my possessions in the hopes that it would not be opened by the Israeli inspector. It was a slim chance. But it was all I had, save for a couple of quick 'Hail Marys' I muttered under my breath as I stepped toward the examining room.

It was exactly 7 a.m. as I looked at my watch. I had been advised to get to the border early as it would be easier at that time. The place was hardly open for business yet but there were long lines of Arab trucks, bound for Israel, loaded with oranges and other produce. Two bus loads of tourists arrived just as I did—West Germans and Americans. I thought if I mingled with them I would be less conspicuous to the Israeli guards and inspectors. An Israeli army sergeant in green battle fatigues lined everyone up and gave pre-search instructions.

"Our cousins on the other side of the river don't like us very well," he intoned in a clipped British-type accent. "So unfortunately we must require a personal body search just in case you may be unknowingly carrying something like explosives which could have been planted in your luggage or clothing."

He had a very pretty female army sergeant beside him. Pointing at her, he concluded with, "I will examine the men and she will examine the women. Please don't ask me why it can't be the other way around."

I was one of the first to be examined. I followed this sergeant into a small, cubby-hole of a cubicle. It was a windowless room. I had the Israeli newspaper in one hand and my bag in the other. I handed the newspaper to him and placed my bag upon the table. He barely glanced at the newspaper before depositing it on the table. He was interested in the contents of my travelling bag, not my Israeli newspaper . . . thank goodness.

After a thorough search of my things and a personal body examination, he turned his attention to my camera. It was a tiny German-made Minox, the type you see on television when people are photographing pages in someone's office. He gave me the choice of either taking a photo of the ceiling while he held his ear close to my finger in order to hear the click when I snapped the picture; or opening the camera to show him the inside of it, thereby ruining the thirty-six exposure roll of film. He was afraid that there might be a tiny bomb in my camera. I quickly decided to waste one frame of the film rather than destroy some shots I had made of Roman ruins and the well of the Good Samaritan in Jordan. But I felt compelled to warn him that this type of camera did not click because it has a computerised, battery-operated button to push rather than the ordinary type of shutter release. It would be barely audible. He apparently believed if there were no click then it must be a bomb all ready to explode. I wondered if he were really stupid enough to believe that if the camera contained a bomb that I would actually stand here and blow us both up. Anyway, I pushed the button and he was satisfied that no bomb was in my camera. He heard the slight sound the button made. I didn't hear it . . . too nervous.

He helped me repack my bag and close it. As I started for the door to customs to have my passport stamped before getting on a bus to take me across the West Bank region to Jerusalem, I was thinking that I'd never make it as a full-time spy. I didn't have nerves of steel. As my hand reached for the knob on the door, he called to me. I turned. I wondered what was wrong now.

"Just a minute, sir," he said to me. "You forgot your newspaper." He then handed it to me and I thanked him. Mark Twain was right. Nevertheless, I had the same thought as before—that I'd never make it in the spy business. I had almost forgotten my important notes for this book.

As I waited for my bus, I looked at my watch. Then it dawned on me that I might not have gotten through so quickly had the sergeant-inspector looked more closely at my watch. It had been given to me by King Hussein of Jordan and it had the Jordanian royal crest on the dial and the words "Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic below it. I considered myself to be extremely fortunate.

And Lady Luck was again with me the very next day when I visited the Wailing Wall while I was waiting for my late afternoon

appointment to get information about the *Liberty* attack which had been promised me by my contacts in Jerusalem.

I walked from a government building to the Wall on the advice of an Israeli clerk. "Whatever you do, don't see the Old City from a car or a tourist bus. Jesus walked barefoot into this city. So did Abraham to stand on Mount Moriah with his knife poised over his son Isaac whom he was about to sacrifice to the Lord. And so did all the ancient kings and conquerors such as Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine; the great Caliph Omar; and even the British General Allenby, who took Jerusalem from the Turks during World War I. They all entered on foot. So should you!" he informed me.

The sun was brilliant, the sky cloudless as I walked through Jerusalem's gold-and-orange late-afternoon light. Above the Wailing Wall I could see stoic Israeli soldiers scanning everyone below, sub-machine guns at the ready, almost as if they were expecting a terrorist to bomb the place. As is the custom in the Hebrew religion, men and women are separated even at the Wall. A fence in the middle was the dividing line.

I headed towards the men's side which is on the left. I wanted to photograph the line of rabbis at the Wall who were nodding as they read biblical passages. With no disrespect intended, from a distance they reminded me of blackbirds eating corn because their heads would bob up and down constantly from the books in their hands to the Wall in front of them. But when I checked my camera, I noticed that I didn't have film in it. Not wishing to reload it in the bright sunlight I looked around for a shady spot before opening my camera. The only shade I could find was at the side of a parked car. As I bent down beside this car, I heard a loud and commanding voice behind me.

"Stand up slowly! What are you doing there? Easy now," growled an Israeli police sergeant in a blue-grey uniform, who had a very serious expression on his face. He had an over-sized moustache and was chewing tobacco. Somehow it seemed out of place for an Israeli policeman to be chewing tobacco. I don't know why.

"I'm just reloading my camera," I assured him. "I want to photograph the rabbis at the Wall."

"Oh!" he murmured. "You are an American? Allow me to see your passport, please."

"Yes," I answered, as I withdrew my passport from my coat pocket and handed it to him.

He glanced at my passport photo and back at my face, comparing the two. "Would you remove your sunglasses?" he asked.

"Certainly," I replied, as I put them in my pocket.

He smiled faintly, then said, "I thought you were doing something to the car there. It happens to belong to the chief rabbi of the Israeli army. We do have terrorists here, you know. They will blow up anything from cars to mailboxes. I'm sure that you are not carrying a weapon but I must search you to make sure of it."

"All right," I agreed. I didn't seem to have any choice.

He patted me down and felt my coat pockets. He found no large objects. He was satisfied. But had he known that the papers he had just patted in my pockets included not only my notes but a Syrian document which would identify me to a Syrian contact in Jerusalem who would tell me more about the plans for attacking the *Liberty*, then perhaps this brief encounter might have had a different ending—and this book would not even exist. For the second time Lady Luck was with me during a brush with Israeli authorities. Now all I had to do was to collect the additional information I sought and get safely past the airport security when I departed from the Tel Aviv Airport.

"You may photograph the rabbis if you like," the policeman informed me. "But sometimes they don't like to have their picture taken and they will probably scurry back through the archway when you approach them with your camera." He then wheeled about in military fashion and left me.

He was right about the rabbis though. I tried to sneak up on them but it was impossible. They seemed to sense my purpose. And when I raised my camera to eye level most of them had turned and hurried away to the left, like a flock of birds when disturbed. I did manage to photograph three of them who were not quite so alert as to my movements. They were young with long sideburns twisted into hanging curls, dangling down about eight inches in front of their ears. One had bright red hair. I never learned the significance of these sideburn curls. But every time I look at this photograph I am reminded of "the rabbis who got away".

I now went from the spiritual Jerusalem to the profane Jerusalem. My meeting was to take place in a rather ribald and coarse section of this ancient city, peopled by spies, thieves, dope sellers, the potvaliant and ladies of the street who get their exercise by walking up and down the same corner all night.

As I neared Old Zion Square, I thought that perhaps mankind hadn't really changed much basically since the prophet sat at the gates of this city and railed against the haughty daughters of Zion who walked by with outstretched necks. Now, among the mixed blessings of this newly-reunified city there was a boom in prostitution. Girls were walking these ancient streets now as I made my way past them to my destination. Both Israeli and Arab girls came here from Tel Aviv and Haifa to ply the oldest trade because of the influx of foreigners and wealthy American tourists with money to spend in Jerusalem.

I passed Jerusalem's most swinging discotheque, Mandy's Club. Discotheque is the more polite name for it. You'll understand this better when I tell you that the proprietress of the place is none other than Miss Mandy Rice-Davies, *femme fatale* of Britain's shocking Profumo scandal several years back. It has been said that she gives the place a certain European flavour—even perhaps adding a bit of cosmopolitan cachet.

As I turned another corner, I came upon what has remained with me until this day my favourite mental picture of Jerusalem's varied human mosaic. A majestic, bearded patriarch, dressed in a fur hat and a black khaftan down to his knees, sat astride a motorcycle waiting for the red light to change. His eyes seemed as fierce as the prophet Jeremiah, his righteous brow was like that of the Zealots who willingly went to the stake rather than renounce God. A plucked chicken was slung over his shoulder, and a cigarette dangled dangerously near his flowing beard. Here, I thought, was truly a man of all ages—determination . . . devoutness . . . faithfulness, undiminished down through the centuries. And this is what Jerusalem is all about.

After obtaining in Jerusalem the last information I needed to complete the missing link in my investigation of the *Liberty* affair, I returned to the U.S. to complete the task of writing this book. I experienced little difficulty at the Tel Aviv Airport where I took an Air France flight to Istanbul. My luggage was thoroughly searched for bombs, to be sure, and I was asked at least fifteen

times if "this was the way I packed my bag". But I got out of Israel with all my important papers intact and unnoticed. I was merely searched for weapons, not for incriminating papers in my possession. Nevertheless, I breathed easier once the flight was on its way.

I do not wish this preface to my book to seem like an indictment of Israel or of all Jewish citizens of any nation, but it does indict in no uncertain terms the bloodthirsty hawks who have ruled Israel since its inception in 1948—the very people who made it possible for Israel to make an attempt to destroy without a trace every man aboard a U.S. Navy ship. If their master plot had been successful then I would not be writing this book because no one would have ever known what happened to the U.S.S. *Liberty*, except, of course, the cruel masters who concocted the dastardly plan and made every attempt to see it through to its most disgraceful conclusion. Perhaps the Russians or the Egyptians would still be innocently blamed for it. That's why it is so necessary, for the good of all nations, that the truth be told. Finally, American citizens will know exactly what happened to their ship and the brave men who manned her . . . many of whom were killed in action. In other words, the positive side of it far outweighs any minor negative side which might occur with the publicising of the truth, such as strained relations with Israel or the wrath of the powerful Jewish Lobby in the U.S. . . . or perhaps losing my own job.

There are many fine Jewish people in both the United States and Israel who are not Zionists and who stand solidly against the racist régime and the Zionist ruling class now in power in Israel. These Jewish citizens of both countries deserve nothing but the highest praise for their outstanding efforts to bring down the racist rulers now running the Israeli government. Intelligent and far-sighted Jewish leaders could then make a just and lasting peace in the Mid-East.

Two of these high-minded Jewish leaders made their views known at a London conference on Peace and the Palestinians on November 9, 1977. Jewish journalist Marion Woolfson and Israeli anti-Zionist campaigner Akiva Orr both spoke out against the continued Israeli aggression and the murder of innocent people in the Mid-East.

Ms. Woolfson opened the programme with a detailed and highly-accurate study of the ideological roots of Zionist racism in which

she traced the fundamental racist approach to Zionist thinking throughout the past century.

In her own words: "The oppression and discrimination practised towards both the Palestinian Arabs and non-European Jews in Israel and the occupied territories are a direct, logical and inevitable outcome of Zionist ideology," she told the conference. "It is only too obvious that a state which proclaims to be Jewish must be based on a principle of discrimination towards non-Jews. Therefore, as Noam Chomsky has pointed out, there must be policies of expropriation, expulsion, establishment of purely Jewish settlements, exclusion of Arabs from state lands and the general repression of independent political activity which challenges the exclusivist ideology of the Zionist racism programme."

What needs to be pointed out to Americans is the fact that all this racism, murder and the actual genocide theory of doing away with the Palestinian Arabs which began in 1948 and continues to this day, is being paid for by—you guessed it—the good, old reliable and uncomplaining U.S. taxpayers. That's right! The American taxpayers are being ridden like a mule by the little parasitic state of Israel. When will this free ride come to an end and peace at last settle over the Judean Hills? Only when the U.S. decides to pull tight the purse strings on the Israelis, who have had their hands embedded deeply in the U.S. Treasury for over thirty years. And, unlike George Washington who was "first in the hearts of his countrymen", some American Jewish leaders believe in "being first in the pockets of their countrymen".

According to the dictates of President Carter's so-called "human rights" programme, American aid is supposed to be limited to countries which are not racist and meet our born-again President's lofty standards of conduct. But it seems that Carter's programme of foreign aid is, in reality, not based on human rights at all. It is based solely on selective "human rights". And, by a strange coincidence, these correspond directly to minority voting blocs in the U.S. The more powerful the voting strength, the louder Carter speaks out for their "human rights".

What all this means is that most of our free gifts go to Israel, the most racist country in the world. The following tape-recorded interview with an Israeli immigration official at the Tel Aviv Airport bears this out and supports the racist programme of the Zionists.

I inquired about the reasons for Israel's expulsion of black American Jews who attempted to settle there.

"With all the other problems we have here with a divergent population, the last thing we need is a bunch of trouble-making niggers," the Israeli official answered.

"But they were Jews seeking to live in this Jewish homeland," I reminded him.

"They're not really Jews and you know it. They just like to play around and pretend they are so as to be different. We have seen the problems involving blacks in the U.S. and in England. We don't want anything like that to occur here even on a small scale. We prefer to model our immigration policies after Australia, a country trying to exclude Asiatic and African people."

Another valid reason for cutting off all U.S. funds to Israel is the glaring fact that the use of this hard-earned money from the American taxpayers is entirely in the hands of Zionist criminals. Both Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, are mass murderers—just as much so as any Nazi war criminal during World War II. Of course, in the U.S. Senate they are referred to as "patriots". But, since they both admit to killing many innocent Arab women and children as well as British non-military personnel, the only correct term for them has to be that of mass murderers. Even the U.S. newspaper label of terrorists for Begin and Dayan seem to be a bit misleading to me. One of Dayan's close friends is Mantesh Sarfati, an organised crime leader in Israel who plans the many lavish parties at the foreign minister's home. Sarfati visits Dayan's home once each week for consultations. People who make up the inner circle in Israeli politics talk constantly about rumours of Dayan stealing antiquities and selling them outside Israel for huge profits.

As for Begin, Vice-President Walter Mondale, during his visit to Israel in July of 1978, startled the world by calling the Israeli Prime Minister a man of "genius". Genius of what?

As any American who has visited Israel can testify to, the so-called "special relationship" with Israel is very much a one-way affair. Our indulgences and affections are not returned. In fact, the U.S. has very little control and influence over the Jewish state.

And the U.S. gives more aid to Israel than to any other nation in the world. To put it even more bluntly, the U.S. gives more to Israel than any nation ever gave to another throughout the entire history of the recorded world.

As originally authorised by Congress foreign aid was meant to be only for poor and undeveloped countries. There is no possible way

that Israel could qualify for such aid under any known criteria based on this. Israel is not a poor country. It is not undeveloped. It has no unemployment problems. It has no illiteracy. On the positive side Israel has the best schools and the finest hospitals. And the Zionist state has the highest *per capita* income of any nation ever to receive foreign aid. The Israeli armed forces are better trained and far better equipped than current U.S. armed forces.

Yet Israel, with less than one-tenth of one per cent of the world's population, receives approximately seventy-five per cent of our non-returnable military and economic aid, educational funds, agricultural appropriations, loans, outright grants, gifts and donations. More than half of this aid is always "forgiven" each year by Congress behind closed doors. In other words Israel doesn't have to pay it back. And much of the rest is slipped quietly through or around Congress in a way which makes it appear that Israel is sending a small amount of the taxpayers' money back. In reality this never happens. As an example, a cheque was sent to Israel last year for five million dollars for an unspecified use. Then a small part of this money was returned to the U.S. Treasury in order to pave the way for another five-million dollar gift for "educational purposes". This is done to "prove" to sceptical members of Congress that "Israel does repay some loans".

NOTE: in 1979, *the amount of the U.S. taxpayers' money going to Israel was* $15 *million per day. And if that isn't enough to shock the American public, on September* 1, 1979, *the Israelis had the gall to demand* $20 *billion more in* 1980 *for a yearly total of* $70 *billion. And the U.S. agreed, although you won't be likely to read about it in your newspaper. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, you must understand that this is not a loan but an outright gift. You haven't a chance of getting it back. Israel now has an international debt of* $290 *billion, the highest debt on a* per capita *basis in the world. Now you know why there are no federal funds available for school construction in many areas of the U.S. The greedy little nation of Israel has first priority on YOUR money. Not to worry! The U.S. may lack federal funds for highway construction and repairs at home but Israel doesn't have any financial problems. As long as the U.S. taxpayers continue to play Santa Claus, Israel can spend, spend and spend. But, remember, it's your money!.*

It would certainly seem like Israel needs the U.S. But the Israelis don't act like it. Examples of outright Israeli defiance abound. Their most flagrant one is the continued settlement of the West Bank. In Lebanon during the 1978 invasion of that small nation, Israel agreed not to use the American cluster bombs in any way during the operation. At the very same moment when Israeli officials were assuring the U.S. that they would never use the cluster bombs in

Lebanon, the Israeli Army was dropping these very bombs on innocent Lebanese civilians. This shows exactly how little regard Israel really has for the U.S.—like a spoiled child who knows that his doting parents will always forgive any and all transgressions. And just as the Israelis had figured, U.S. officials said that it was all right to disobey this time but don't do it again. No sanctions were imposed. The U.S. does not dare to threaten Israel. To show how different this reaction was in comparison with another illegal use of U.S.-supplied weapons in violation of the terms of supply, one only has to remember when Turkey committed a similar breach in 1973 on the island of Cyprus. Congress immediately slapped an embargo on all arms deliveries that still persisted in 1979 even though the forces of this vital NATO member withers and Turkey is headed for Soviet control of the country.

Also, when the Israelis withdrew from Lebanon in 1978, instead of relinquishing their positions to the United Nations peacekeeping forces as called for by the U.N. and the U.S. agreement; they handed them over to the illegal Christian militiamen whom they had trained and armed with tanks and other U.S.-supplied equipment.

Israel continues to exploit the oil resources of occupied Egyptian territory although the U.S. insists that this is illegal and violates international law and impedes progress towards peace in the area. These large deposits supply 40 per cent of Israel's current oil needs and are being mined energetically. Israel says she intends to keep these stolen fields as part of any peace pact with Egypt. The last time such a situation arose was in 1975 when Israel agreed to return Egypt's Abu Rudeis fields. The high price of Israel's agreement—under the Sinai II agreement engineered by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger—was $450 million a year. And, again you guessed it, the good old U.S. taxpayers are paying it.

In sum, and in light of Israel's unsavoury actions and deliberate lies to the U.S., we should reconsider the worth of our huge and ongoing investment in Israel.

In 1978 Congress, alert to the spreading tax revolt, cut the overall foreign aid bill by a billion dollars . . . but not one single cent of it was cut from Israel's allocation. The record indicates that our generosity has only made Israel strong enough to resist us along with the Arabs and the rest of the world.

Bear in mind that Israel always receives the latest and most expensive U.S. weapons before U.S. servicemen get them.

The best thing the American people could do now would be to use a Howard Jarvis type of "Proposition 13" to shut down all U.S. aid to Israel. And I do mean all of it. After all, the published Zionist statement in 1948 made it very clear that the newly-formed state of Israel wanted to stand by herself and never be dependent on any other nation. Yet for thirty years the Israelis have whimpered, cried, begged and blackmailed the U.S. into total support.

America's all-out aid to Israel amounts to a national disgrace . . . even a national crime, because money is taken from badly-needed Federal projects just to keep Israel happy and in an Arab-murdering, aggressive mood. And most U.S. taxpayers fail to realise that much of their hard-earned money in taxes does not end up in the U.S. Treasury but in the coffers of Israel. What this really amounts to is that U.S. citizens are being taxed by Israel. So if it was so wrong for Americans in 1776 to pay tribute to King George III without representation, then what is so right about paying tax money to Israel where we have absolutely no control over how these funds are spent?

Throughout the years since 1948 there has grown in this country a sort of cult concerning Israel which is not only very unhealthy for this nation but is actually damaging to the security of Israel in the long run. Americans have been carefully trained to believe that everything about Israel is good and that everything about the Arab countries is bad. As far as Israel is concerned black is white and white is black. It is as if the general public is under mass hypnotism. They do not accept the truth about Israel but gladly believe that the fairy-tale myth built up about that small nation is going to lead them to glory on high.

Fuelled by over thirty years of hard-hitting but mostly false Israeli propaganda, many brainwashed Americans refuse to ever blame Israel no matter what international crimes the Israelis may commit, disguised under the clever cloak of "security measures". I talked with many people, including two United States senators, before writing this book. I was able to convince some of them of the falsity of their views. Others will never be convinced because they merely shut out all reason when it comes to Israel.

Many of these people of the latter category attempt to justify the wholesale killing of American Navy men on the *Liberty* "just because it was done by Israel". Never mind that it was premeditated! Never mind that it was carefully planned days in advance!

Never mind that the Israeli plan called for the slaughter of every man on that ship with no survivors! They somehow believe that Israeli bullets are so holy that death by them carries no stigma. As if Israeli bullets are sanctified in Heaven. Incredible as it may seem, they apparently think that Americans should be proud to die at the hands of Israel if it helps in some small way to maintain the existence of that tiny nation. This, unfortunately, also seems to be the "official" viewpoint of the U.S. government; judging from my talks with people in charge of giving out government information.

Well, I just don't happen to view it that way. I have a different viewpoint. I am willing to allow the readers to decide which view is correct to them. And I only deal in facts . . . not myths about Israel.

I simply do not believe that Israeli bullets are all that holy and sanctified. The brave defenders of the *Liberty* are just as dead no matter what bullets struck them down. To me, Israeli bullets are exactly the same as Russian, North Korean, Chinese, Cambodian or bullets from any other nation. The dead are not sanctified and given an honoured place in Heaven just because they died from Israeli shells, probably stamped "Made in USA".

It is my express purpose to give readers a preliminary introduction so necessary for understanding how this sort of thing could have happened. The unholy alliance at all costs between the U.S. and Israel set the stage for this massacre of innocent people. And if this attitude does not change as the balance of power in the world shifts steadily away from the United States, then both countries are doomed.

I must point out that some Israelis and American Jews with whom I have spoken deplore the incident and regret it as much as I do. "I'd have to say that the Israeli attack on the American ship was the worst act of violence since Hitler's SS men paraded their bestiality across the continent of Europe" an Israeli businessman told me in strict confidence.

"No one can build his happiness at the expense and misery of others," President Sadat of Egypt told Begin when the former paid his historical visit to Israel in November of 1977. This apt admonition applies just as much to Israel's cruelty today as it did to Hitler's ghastly orders during World War II.

And please bear in mind that Israel would not have the ability nor the opportunity to commit these atrocious acts were it not for

the United States, due to the military and economic aid to that country. As Sadat said, "The United States holds ninety-nine per cent of the cards in the Mid-East game." So, in reality, the U.S. must in a roundabout way shoulder some of the responsibility for the attack on our own Navy ship. And the great Conspiracy of Silence about the attack by the U.S. government today paves the way for possible future such acts on the part of Israel . . . either against the U.S. or some other innocent country.

A retired Stanford University professor, who is an expert on Mid-Eastern politics, told me that he attributes the *Liberty* attack and most other Israeli atrocities to what he calls a "Masada complex" in reverse among Jews the world over. Masada was a fortress where the Jewish garrison committed suicide *en masse* when under attack by the Romans. The professor went on to explain that this feeling was enhanced during World War II because so many Jews walked quietly to their deaths in the gas chambers. With the possible exception of the defence of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, most Jews failed to protest their impending doom with violent tactics. I personally don't believe they had any other choice and I believe that it was equally brave to face death quietly as it would have been fighting a losing battle against such great odds. The end result would have been the same.

Anyway, the professor's theory is that the Jews in Israel now over-react to anything and everything just to prove their manhood and to make certain they won't be pushed around any more, let alone face another holocaust. They now lash out at the slightest provocation. This is their answer to historians who have maintained that the reason the Jews did not have a legitimate homeland for 2,000 years is because they would not fight for one. Today's Jews in Israel rightfully want to disprove this theory and they will break any law, custom or treaty to do so.

Of course, this theory doesn't explain or justify the *Liberty* attack *per se* but it may shed some light on the typical Israel mentality of today.

Since the state of Israel at present does not have even one friendly nation in the world on its side, except the U.S., if I were an Israeli I would stop and ask myself why it is thus and it has been this way since the beginning of recorded time. Then I would attempt to change something—to improve relationships and not depend upon crafty greed and unwarranted aggression as the only

means of survival. In other words, I would ask myself "what have I been doing that is wrong?" as any good businessman would do when his business is about to fail.

On November 25, 1977, a typical vote in the United Nations was taken on an important Mid-East question which must be resolved in order to have peace in that part of the world. The General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution condemning Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories by a vote of 102 to four. Only the United States, Canada, El Salvador, and of course Israel, cast the negative votes. The important thing about it is not the large vote cast for the resolution, which is a very normal and just one; but rather the fact that the U.S. saw fit to align herself with the few nations approving Israeli aggression in the Mid-East. Can you imagine the United States, all wrapped up in President Carter's human rights programme for the world, yet this nation gave no thought at all to the rights of the Arab people who are virtual slaves under Israeli rule in their own homelands? I cannot. It simply means that President Carter's human rights talks are only for political motives and not for all people . . . just selective ones such as the Jewish plight in the Soviet Union, etc.

The Israelis believe that time is on their side. This is their most false assumption. Time is not on their side. With the U.S. growing weaker and the Soviets and the Third World growing stronger time is short for making a permanent peace. Like an ageing father in his last years, who has always carefully protected and fought for his only child, "Big Daddy" U.S.A. may not always be in a position to save Israel every time a war breaks out as we did in 1973 by depleting scarce NATO military supplies and oil by sending them to Israel just in the nick of time to save that nation from the Arabs' thrusts. Even the reliable old U.S. Cavalry of motion picture fame finally made its last rescue and came to an end. Nothing lasts forever.

If you sense bitterness in reading my words, it is only because the real-life tragedy and suffering of the mistreated Palestinian Arab population under Israeli rule is even more bitter.

And no one ever put it more eloquently than Major General Musbah Budairi, chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army, in an address on Mothers' Day (1978) at the P.L.A. Social Welfare Centre in Damascus, Syria. His ringing words: "This world, so much talking of justice, humanity and civilisation, stands against

our Palestinian people. This is largely due to continuous American-Israeli propaganda lies. If we try to reach out for our land, which was usurped and from which we were expelled most unjustly . . . if we try to battle the enemy that is determined to liquidate our very existence—the world cries out its condemnations of the "brutality" of the Palestinians for merely trying to restore our natural rights. This same civilised world turns a silent tongue and a deaf ear whenever Israel attacks our helpless refugee camps, kills our women, and burns and maims our old and young . . . eliminates our youth. Gentlemen, the civilised world does not lift a finger, but sells our people felonious words as lip service from equally felonious lips while Israel occupies our villages."

It was certainly not by accident, necessity or even compromise that the aggressive Zionists decided to murder, rob and drive most Arabs from their native Palestine—it was pure and unadulterated racism, prompted by a simple depravity of human nature called greed (disguised as a religious crusade). And it certainly is not necessary for readers to take my word for this or even the word of any other non-Jewish person. The following quote is from an excellent Jewish writer named Joseph Weitz, who makes the Zionist scheme for Palestine quite clear on page 181 of his book entitled *Diaries and Letters to the Children*, published in Tel Aviv in 1965. And remember that this book was written for young Zionists to follow as a guideline for their future in Israel.

"It should be clear that there is no room for both peoples to live in this country (Palestine). If the Arabs leave, it is a large and open country; if they stay, it is small and poor. Up to this point, Zionists have been content to "buy land", but this is no way to establish a country for the Jews. A nation is created in one move . . . and in that case, there is no alternative to moving the Arabs to the neighbouring countries, moving them all, except perhaps those living in Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Old City of Jerusalem. Not one Arab village, not one Arab tribe must remain. They must be driven to Iraq, Syria or even Transjordan."

With such an attitude as this prevailing among the ruling Zionists, it was inevitable that slave labour would be the legacy of most Arabs who remained in Israeli territory. But since the American press and the U.S. television networks have blatantly ignored such matters while at the same time heaping only the highest form of praise upon Israel, the U.S. public may find it hard to believe that such conditions exist. But these conditions certainly do exist in all

Israeli-controlled territories. How do I know this when it has been carefully kept from nearly all Americans? Because I have visited these places and seen the horrifying use of slave labour. By far the most shocking violations of human rights I encountered were in an area of north-western Sinai (on Egyptian land) called the Rafah Approaches in English and pithat Rafi'ah in Hebrew. Here I found a child labour force being exploited by Israel.

For this I can testify from the evidence of my own eyes, and as confirmed by many Israeli citizens and foreign investigators. Arab children of only seven or eight years of age are employed habitually by Jewish settlers who have become rich indeed in a short period of time through this form of human bondage. The official wage for an adult worker here, as was given to me by the Regional Settlements Council (Eohkol) in 1977 was 12.5 Israeli pounds (about $1.20) per hour for Jewish workers . . . if they could be found, and I didn't see many. For the same work, Arab adults were paid five Israeli pounds (about 50 cents) an hour. Of course, the Arab children were paid much less than Arab adults—about 20 cents an hour. But the children were nevertheless expected to do as much work as the adults. But, alas, these figures, as low as they are, were only on paper and in Israeli reports. My investigation revealed that these lowly, displaced Arabs actually were not even paid all the standard wages they had earned. The clever and quite unscrupulous Jewish overseers have devised another method of payment. It is officially called "payment in kind", an Israeli official informed me. He also stated that this method of payment was as old as time and that examples of such transactions could be found in the Holy Bible. I might add that it was extremely difficult for me to keep a straight face while he told me this.

Anyway, it wasn't until I actually visited the fields and orchards that I fully understood just exactly what "payment in kind" meant to the Israelis. For the Arab children-workers it turned out to be quite unkind, in my opinion, because it meant unloading on these undernourished wee ones the most rotten produce of the land instead of their tiny promised monetary recompense. And anyone who has seen the stark eyes of these disappointed children, as I have, would be shocked by such labour practices. And please bear in mind that the workers are Egyptian citizens who were expelled from these very places where they had lived for "security" reasons; but who nevertheless were allowed and indeed encouraged to work on their own land under conditions of bondage to the new Jewish

settlers. I never was convinced that these unfortunate people were any less a security risk working on this land than they would have been living there. I would certainly term this type of an arrangement as more than feudal and I believe that this is a rather mild judgment of it. Entire families, including all the children, are enslaved to a particular settler and are working under the most atrocious conditions I have ever seen anywhere in the world.

To properly understand this exploitation one must imagine working for twenty cents an hour or for some rotten fruit in lieu of payment in a supposedly civilised nation in the year of our Lord 1977. Try thinking about that!

And if you're wondering why our born-again President never includes these people in his so-called "human rights" messages along with some unfortunate Jews in Moscow, I can answer that question. There is no Arab voting bloc in the U.S. to even compare with the much-feared Jewish Lobby in Washington.

Naturally, when the Israeli authorities learned what I was actually doing in this area and that I was not there to study plant life as I had told them, my welcome wore out quickly and I was not allowed to remain there. My notes were confiscated. I had anticipated this. I didn't need any notes to remember. And they could not confiscate my mind. Besides, I had jotted down the notes and figures in a French and Latin code of my own, hoping they would not be able to decipher much of them.

As I have mentioned previously, it would be sheer folly to believe that all Jews, or even most Jews, favour Zionism at its very worst with all the extremely unsavoury provisions of this quasi-religious movement which threatens the entire world and may well cause it to be blown up . . . certain parts of it, at least. Many thousands of clear-thinking Jewish people in all parts of the globe, including the very heart and soul of Zionism—Israel, are engaging in a battle to prevent the Zionists from doing more harm to the world in general and the Mid-East in particular.

One of the most respected Jewish fighters against Zionism is Rabbi Elmer Berger, originally from Pontiac, Michigan. For over thirty years this leader has expressed his opposition, as a Jew, to the Zionist belief that Jews constitute a separate nation. He also opposes the policies of the state of Israel towards the Arabs and has soundly denounced the U.S. for her supporting role of Zionism

which many Jews equate with the most despicable aspects of Nazism. Rabbi Berger has served as executive director of the American Council for Judaism, and since 1969, has been president of American Jewish Alternates to Zionism. Among his many writings are two excellent books revealing the defects and lies being propagated around the world by Zionists. *Who Knows Better Must Say So* was published in 1955 and reprinted in 1970. *Judaism or Jewish Nationalism* was published in 1957.

Rabbi Berger has tried to convince members of the U.S. Senate that the functioning of the Zionist apparatus in the United States and our convictions about the anti-democratic ideology of the Zionist movement, now cannonised by specific legislation which the state of Israel has enacted, are wrong and are quite harmful to everyone concerned.

But Jews against the evils of Zionism is not new. It has been around since the birth of Zionism as a way of life. Orthodox Jews have opposed Zionism on religious grounds from the time of Zionism's nineteenth-century beginnings in the hostile and inflamed writings of Moses Hess, Leo Pinsker and the better-known founder, Theodor Herzl.

The spiritual leader of nineteenth-century Germany's Orthodox Jews at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, said: ". . . to actively promote Jewish emigration to Palestine is a sin." In 1898, Orthodox Rabbi Joseph Hayyim Sonnenfeld of Brisk wrote: "Dr. Herzl comes not from the Lord but from the side of pollution. Zionists are evil men and dangerous ruffians."

And today in Israel, the Neturei Karta (Guardians of the Wall) sect of Orthodox Jews, with large enclaves near Tel Aviv and in Old Jerusalem's Mea Sharim Quarter, exhibit fierce opposition to modern Zionism. To show his extreme militancy toward the evils of Zionism, Neturei Karta Rabbi Moshe LeLieb-Hirsch summarised his group's opposition in 1975 by stating: "We will never accept a Zionist state even if the Arabs do."

Even the P.L.O. distinguishes between Judaism and Zionism. The Palestinians have no quarrel whatsoever with Judaism. I must point out that Israel is a nation created on the basis of moral injustice at the expense of the totally innocent Arab population of Palestine. This Zionist state was established unlawfully on Arab soil. And in doing this the Jews have made themselves the chosen enemies of the only people on earth who for the past 2,000 years of

recorded history did not hate, debase or persecute them in any way . . . the Arabs. Until Zionist plans for killing or driving out the Arab Palestinians became known early in this century, there was not one single case in history of any Arab discrimination against Jews. This statement, unfortunately, cannot be made about any other group of people in the entire world, including, of course, the United States of America. So it is indeed ironical that the only people who never mistreated Jews must now suffer so much for so long a period of time. It is also just about the gravest form of injustice ever perpetrated by mankind against mankind.

While in Damascus during the spring of 1976 in the office of a Syrian official, I met and talked with Peter Jennings, ABC's highly-regarded European correspondent who worked for five years in the Mid-East. As an American on the scene of the conflict, I believe he analysed the situation in regard to the U.S. very well when he said, "I think there is definitely an anti-Arab bias in America, and I regret it. There is also some unfortunate stereotyping in the U.S. media. It is unfortunate, for example, to use simply the word 'Arab' to refer to Palestinians or Iraquis or Libyans or Saudis. But I think we're beginning to move away from that, although it is a slow process."

When asked why this Arab bias was so prevalent in the U.S., he answered, "Ignorance, ignorance. I think Americans for years have been largely ignorant of the Arab world. I don't think it's a deliberate bias, but still an ignorant one."

A few words about the ability of the U.S. to protect Israel in the future. This nation is no longer a world power and cannot protect her own shores let alone Israel, South Korea or any NATO countries. Except for the officers and a few well-trained Marines, this country's armed forces consist of illiterates, drug addicts, petty criminals, psychos, women and even a few queers who slipped by the recruiting checks and have not been weeded out yet. In a complete reversal of the situation in 1950, the Soviet Union is now so much stronger that we couldn't catch up even if we wanted to do so. Hence American prestige around the world has hit rock bottom. An American travelling outside his own borders is not only given no respect but is most likely to be harassed in many ways. For this reason, I am sometimes asked to travel on a British passport

through special arrangements because travelling as an American is such a handicap.

"Accommodation" is the new key word in Washington. Détente is out. Accommodation is in. You are going to hear this word a great deal in the coming decade. American foreign policy will be based upon it. Neville Chamberlain's accommodation (then called appeasement) of the Hitler régime is going to sound like aggression compared to what is going to happen in the U.S. during the 1980's. We are going to accommodate everybody—Hanoi, Panama, North Korea, Cuba, the Soviet Union and every other country that so much as yells "boo" at the United States of America. The new great seal for the U.S. should have a chicken to replace the eagle and perhaps crossed umbrellas below it. We may as well import Finns and pay them to teach us Finnlandisation.

In closing, I would like to remind readers all over the world (since plans for this book call for it to be published in five languages) that the tough but fair, patriotic U.S. policies of James Monroe, Andrew Jackson and Teddy Roosevelt do not exist today in the repertoire of modern presidents of either major political party. It's not "Walk softly and carry a big stick" anymore. The modern version out of Washington is "Walk softly and carry a lot of money." And money isn't going to be enough.

JIM TAYLOR.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SHIP AND HER ORDERS

Joint U.S.-Israeli Plans for War

The morning of June 8, 1967 dawned bright and clear in the eastern Mediterranean Sea where the U.S.S. *Liberty* was steaming along her carefully-prescribed triangular course off Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. It was the fourth day of the Six-Day War, which was the third Arab-Israeli war since the formation of the state of Israel in 1948. This time Israel had come into a war well prepared. Things couldn't have gone better. The Israeli military successes were like textbook lessons in how to annihilate the enemy.

There was hardly any wind in the blue sky. There were no other ships on the horizon and no aircraft of any nation were visible. Great pillars of smoke rose over Sinai to the east of the ship but there were no other signs of war now. The sounds of battle had died down the night before as the efficient Israeli armed forces destroyed the last remnants of the defending Sinai Egyptian Army. It was more or less a silent dawn for the crew of the *Liberty*.

At 8 a.m. this specially-equipped U.S. Navy ship was in international waters $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles off the Egyptian coast and approximately 60 miles from the nearest Israeli coastline. The ship was, at this time, about 48 miles from the nearest Israeli territory—the Negev Desert inland beyond Egypt's Gaza Strip. The closest Israeli settlement, Kerem Shalom in the Negev, was about 48 miles to the south-east of the *Liberty*. And the nearest Israeli town of any size (excluding Egyptian territory captured during the first three days of the war) was Be'er Sheva (Beersheba), about 80 miles due east.

As June 8th began, most of the enlisted men on the duty watch of the *Liberty* seemed in a light mood despite the fact that their ship was in international waters near a war zone. This does not mean to imply that they were in any way taking their new assignment lightly. These men were among the best trained and most efficient in the Navy. They would perform well today in the finest tradition of the U.S. Navy, despite the fact that approximately two-thirds of the nearly 300-man ship's company would be dead or wounded-in-action within the next six hours.

Crew members could still see the diminishing clouds of smoke above the Egyptian city of El Arîsh, otherwise known as Rhinocollura, which the better-equipped Israeli forces had wrested from the Arab defenders in a two-day battle.

One sailor remarked that if the Arabs and the Israelis had to fight another war, at least they had a nice day for it. But most of the talk among the younger enlisted men was much the same as it ever has been since men first put out to sea centuries ago—girls in the last port of call and speculation about where they might spend their next liberty time ashore. One man was writing a letter to a girl he had met recently when the ship was in Rota, Spain, for repairs and provisions. But neither the letter nor the seaman who wrote it would ever reach Spain. Both would be lost at sea this day during the battle.

Two of the officers on the eight to twelve watch were contemplating taking a sunbath on deck when they completed their duty stint.

The ship's captain, Commander William L. McGonagle, USN (494467/1100), was planning a general quarters drill. The number 494467 is his Navy officers' file number while the 1100 is a Navy designator. The 41-year-old commander, from Norfolk, Va., and formerly from Wichita, Kan., had not been satisfied with recent general quarters drills because of the time factor. He wanted to see it done with more speed and efficiency today.

The *Liberty* carried a crew of fifteen officers, 279 enlisted men and three highly-trained and carefully-selected civilian technicians from the Department of Defence. One of the civilians would be killed in the first strafing attack on the ship.

Although McGonagle had an outstanding record in the Navy and was hand-picked for the job of commanding this spy ship, he was only privy to exactly as much information about the ship's real

mission as he needed to know. He was responsible for the ship's course and movements, direct orders from the Sixth Fleet commander, liaison and combat procedures, but communications outside of regular naval channels on any ship of the line were not in his jurisdiction. Certain sections of the ship were off limits to the captain and the entire regular crew. These secret compartments for world-wide communications were situated below decks at the centre of the *Liberty's* waterline. Here were housed intricate computers, decoding devices and listening apparatus manned by linguistic experts and other personnel. The personnel could be changed, depending upon the type of mission. All this was under the control of one of the Pentagon technicians who had boarded the ship at Rota, Spain. Specialists in both Arabic and Hebrew transmissions were also aboard.

The mysterious man in charge was known only to the officers and crew as the "Major". No one knew for sure if he was really a Defence Department employee. Some thought he was furnished by the CIA for the special mission in the Mid-East. He was a quiet man, about forty-five years old, tall and dark with a receding hairline, and he spoke with either a New York City or north New Jersey accent. There was some speculation that he might be an Army officer. But he boarded the ship wearing civilian clothes. When out to sea, he wore khaki drill or fatigues which never carried any insignia of rank.

The *Liberty* (AGTR-5) was officially designated by the Navy as an electronics research ship. She was operating under the operational control of the commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, but her orders came directly from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. A JCS radio message numbered 011545Z, June 1967 ordered her to proceed to a position of 32 deg. North Latitude, 33 deg. East Longitude and to conduct operations south of 32-00N and between 33-00E and 34-00E staying always at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the UAR (United Arab Republic) and a minimum of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Israeli territory. Egypt claimed a 12-mile territorial limit and Israel had a 6-mile sea limit.

On the morning of June 8, the *Liberty* was operating under a condition of readiness three, modified, which consisted of the normal steaming watch with the exception that one man was stationed at each of the forward two 50-calibre machine guns, numbered 51 and 52. Lookouts on the bridge were designated to man machine guns 53 and 54 in the event of a surprise air or

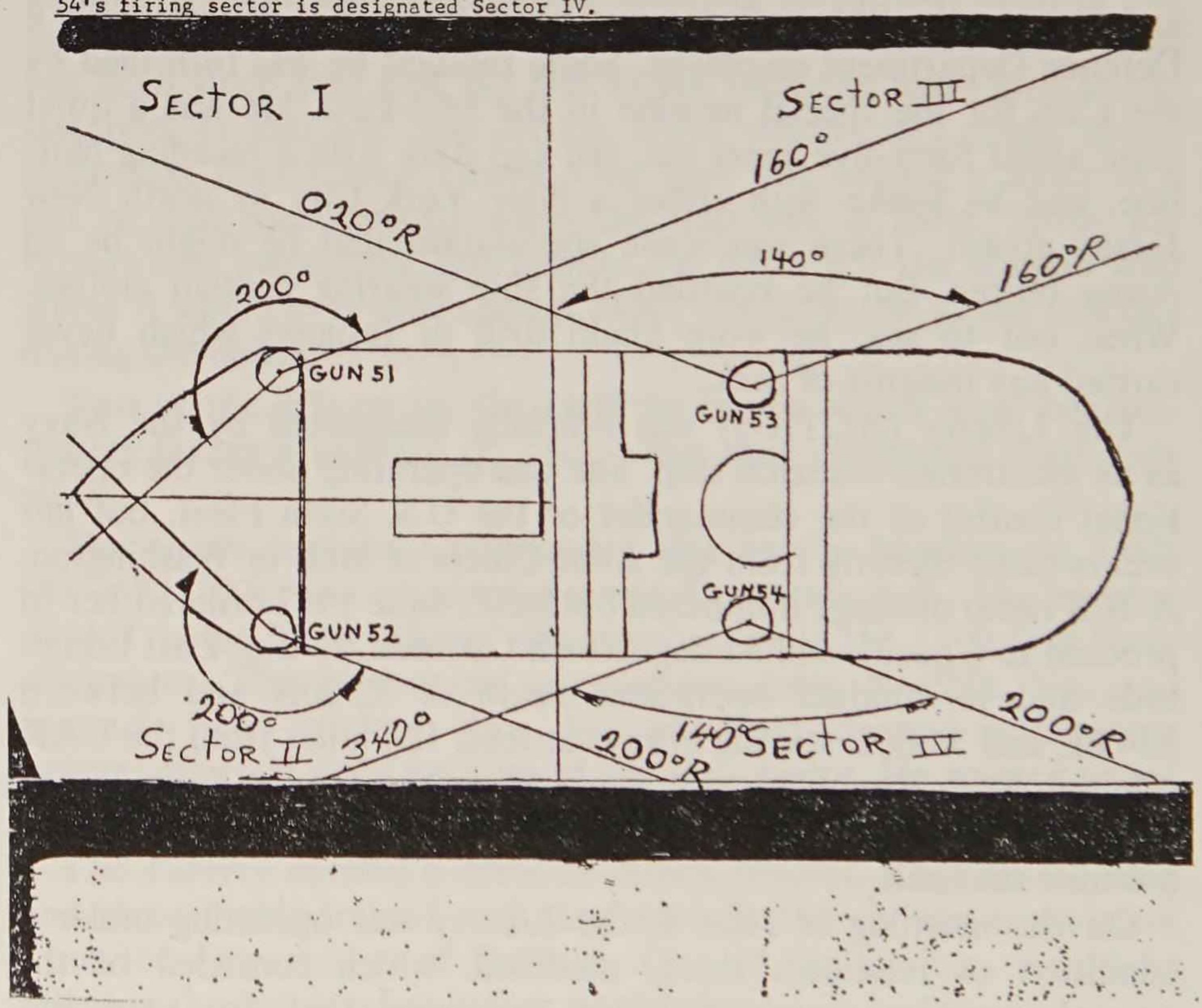
U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

FIRING SECTORS AND FIRING ARC.

The mount firing sectors are as follows: Mount 51 from 000° to 090°R; mount 52 from 270°R to 360°R; Mount 53 from 090°R to 160°R; Mount 54 from 200°R to 270°R. Any target in these arcs or sectors is the responsibility of the respective mount.

The mounts firing arcs are limited as follows: Mount 51 from 320°R to 160°R; Mount 52 from 200°R to 040°R; Mount 53 from 020°R to 160°R; Mount 54 from 200°R to 340°R.

Mount 51's firing sector is designate Sector I, Mount 52's firing sector is designated Sector II, Mount 53's firing sector is designated Sector III, Mount 54's firing sector is designated Sector IV.



surface attack. Each of the four machine guns had a box of ammunition attached to the gun with a round up to but not in the chamber of each mount. For clarification purposes, the 50-calibre Browning machine guns, M2 style, heavy barrel, with a rate of fire of 450 to 500 rounds per minute, are not anti-aircraft weapons. These machine guns on the *Liberty* were mounted on a pedestal and were air-cooled. Two men can effectively serve each gun with one as a gunner, who uses an open sight; the other man, the loader, keeps ammunition up to the chamber. These guns are manually controlled. There is no director means of controlling the fire. The limiting stops for the arc of fire of these weapons consists of piping; bent in a shape to prevent the gun barrel from being pointed in a direction which would harm the ship or any portion of its superstructure, and the outer edge of the gun tubs themselves do not have any splinter shields or protection. The guns are not considered as mounts in the normal Navy terminology of a gun mount. They should be considered more as pedestal-mounted machine guns. Two of these guns were located on the forecastle and the other two were on the deckhouse aft of the bridge.

The *Liberty*, according to my CIA sources, was the ex-*Simmons Victory*, commissioned by the Navy as the *Liberty* AGTR 5 (ex-AG 168) at Portland, Oregon on December 30, 1964, by the Willamette Iron and Steel Corporation for mobile-based research in communications and electro-magnetic radiation. In other words, she was a converted "Liberty" ship, a former civilian freighter, built in the late 1940's. But she was faster than most ships of her class with a top speed of eighteen knots. She was armed with the most complicated system of radio antennae ever installed on any ship. This included the so-called "Big Ear" sonar-radio listening device with a clear capability range of over five hundred miles. I include this information, which the Navy refused to give me, to show that she was no fighting ship and could never be mistaken for one. The four machine-guns mentioned earlier made up her entire defensive capabilities. Of course, she carried no offensive weapons at all such as rocket launchers, depth charges, etc. Several different naval officers who described the ship to me, unofficially of course, called her a "ferret" ship. She was variously termed a communications ship and a research ship, but when you get down to the bottom line she was simply a spy ship . . . nothing else. And she was a sister ship of the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, another spy ship which would be cap-

U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

05 June 1967.

MEMORANDUM.

From: Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
To: All OOD/JOOD/CIC Personnel

Subj: Modified Condition of Readiness Three and Unidentified Contacts

1. Effective immediately, two men will be stationed on the forecastle as additional lookouts/gun crews to establish and maintain a modified Condition of Readiness Three Watch on a twenty-four hour basis until further notice. All .50 caliber machine guns are to be kept on station with ammunition in mount tray. (Rounds to be next to but not in chamber). Lookouts and forecastle gun mount personnel are to man mounts on engaged side and defend the ship in the event of surprise air/surface attack while regular General Quarters teams are being assembled. Control of fire to be IAW LIBERTY Gunnery Doctrine.

2. Any unidentified surface contact approaching the ship on a collision or near collision course at a speed of 25 knots or more is to be considered acting in a hostile manner and condition of Readiness One is to be set immediately.

3. Any unidentified air contact(s) directly approaching the ship on an apparent straffing/bombing/torpedo attack attitude is (are) to be considered acting in a hostile manner and condition of Readiness One will be set immediately.

4. When any craft - surface/air/sub-surface is sighted and identified as enemy, condition of Readiness One will be set immediately to engage enemy and repel attack.

5. Maximum effort must be made to minimize personnel/material damage, safeguard the watertight integrity of the ship, and continue performance of primary mission. It is better to set general quarters in doubtful cases than to be taken by surprise and be unable to fight the ship. Take immediate action as may be required by the situation, then advise me of what steps have been taken.

Respectfully,
W. L. McGonagle
W. L. MCGONAGLE

Copy to:

JK.

Executive Officer
Gunnery Officer

25

Ex 28

EXHIBIT 28 TO LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY

tured by the North Koreans in 1968 because of the weakness of the Johnson administration.

In the early morning hours of that fateful day, the officers on the bridge of the *Liberty* could see the towering minaret of the mosque at El' Arîsh. It was used as a navigational aid. Bearings were taken on it to determine the ship's exact position with reference to charts of the area. This minaret was also identifiable by radar on the *Liberty*. Radar ranges were taken on the nearest land on the same bearing as the minaret.

Of course, the Navy always tried to pass the *Liberty* off as just another rather ordinary research-type ship and even went so far as to tell the *New York Times* and other publications that she was being moved to the Sinai region to protect American citizens and to possibly evacuate them.

The following message, in part, was actually sent by the commander of the Sixth Fleet:

> COMSIXTHFLT 121342Z QUOTE 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? UN-QUOTE. 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 AREA WHICH MASS EVACUATION OF AMERICAN NATIONALS MAY BE NEEDED. . . .

Most knowledgeable newsmen, including myself, thought this statement to be not only untrue, but laughable. And newsmen on the scene pointed out certain salient facts to support their beliefs: 1. It was quite difficult to see how the *Liberty* with only four small calibre machine guns could possibly protect herself let alone protect American nationals in a war zone. 2. Space aboard the crowded ship was at a premium with just the regular crew, leaving little room for evacuating American civilians. 3. No American civilians were known to be in the Sinai Desert area at this time with the possible exception of a few U.S. reporters with the Israeli forces.

Naturally, the CIA had a thorough knowledge of the movements of the *Liberty* at this time. And on orders from the director, the CIA gave me a slightly different but just as useless version as to the purpose of the *Liberty* in the area. In December of 1977 I received the following heavily-censored explanation.

8

CIA

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

The Israeli Attack on the USS Liberty

The Ship and Its Orders: The USS Liberty is/

CENSORED

an electronics research ship which had been diverted to the crisis area to act as a radio relay station for US embassies.

27

13 June 1967
SC No.01415/67

Content UNCLASSIFIED
per #058375
date 31 Aug 1977

SANITIZED COPY

Despite the Navy's insistence that the sole purpose of the *Liberty* off the Sinai coast was to "assist and protect American nationals", no orders to this effect were ever issued to the ship and no one aboard the *Liberty* from the captain on down ever heard of any such orders.

But to make sure that no such orders were ever issued, I read every message which was sent to the *Liberty* during this period and not one of them was about any protection for "American nationals" or "embassy communications". The following actual official message on the original blank is typical of those issued to the *Liberty*. You read the words "extended independent surveillance operations". And you can easily see that there is no mention of any "American nationals".

Also, it stands to reason that if the Navy were sending a ship to rescue American civilians, then most likely it wouldn't be the only ship in the entire Navy which has such sensitive and secret gear aboard. What all this proves is that the admirals were putting out a lot of malarky about "American civilians" in order to cover up the real purpose of the spy ship in the eastern Mediterranean.

In order to set the stage for what happened to the *Liberty* on June 8, 1967 it is necessary to go back in time to a day in May when the ship received orders to proceed to the Mediterranean for a new and top-secret duty assignment. It is also important to study the activities of the various foreign intelligence operations which were concerned with the movements of the *Liberty* from her duty station off the north-western coast of Africa. And it is especially significant to know about Israeli monitoring of the ship.

The following message was released to me in November of 1977 on orders from the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

FM: COMSERVRON EIGHT
TO: RUTPH/USS LIBERTY
0 240023Z MAY 1967
CONFIDENTIAL
MAKE IMMEDIATE PREPARATIONS TO GET UNDERWAY. WHEN RFS (Ready for sea) ASAP (As soon as possible) DEP (Depart) RT (Route) ABIDJAN AND PROCEED BEST POSS (Possible) SOA (Speed of arrival) TO ROTA, SPAIN TO LOAD TECH SUPPORT MATERIAL BLPE WHEN RFS PROCEED TO OP (Operating) AREA OFF PORT SAID. SPECIFIC AREAS WILL FOLLOW.

CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN) FILLED IN)

NAVAL MESSAGE

RELEASED BY: [signature]

DRAFTED BY: CDR. FULLINWIDER

PHONE EXT NO. 263

3 JUNE 1967 | T-1

PRECEDENCE	FLASH	IMMED	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	AIR MAIL
ACTION				XX	
INFO				XX	

FROM: CINCUSNAVEUR

TO: COMSIXTHFLT//COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT

INFO: USS LIBERTY

CONFIDENTIAL

USS LIBERTY OPS (U)

DECLASSIFIED
Classification (cancelled) (~~Changed to~~)
by authority of DEPNAVNAVOPS SECNAV 09032/B1
on 29 JUN 76 [signature] & 21 JUN 76
(Date) (Signature) JAG Sec Capt (Rank)
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

A. MY 311750Z MAY 67 PASEP (MOVORD)

B. MY 011305Z JUN 67 PASEP (MOVORD CH. ONE)

C. JCS 011545Z JUN 67 NOTAL (SKED)

D. USS LIBERTY 300608Z MAY

USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) WILL BE CONDUCTING EXTENDED INDEPENDENT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN MED IAW REFS A THRU C. ADDEES MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT OR OTHER ASSISTANCE DURING THESE OPERATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT LIBERTY WILL MAKE SHORT PORT VISITS IN THE EASTERN MED AT 3 TO 4 WEEK INTERVALS ALTHOUGH HER ENDURANCE EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THIS TIME.

FOR COMMUNICATION USE ONLY

TAPE CUTTER ____
PROOF READER ____
CCWPO ____
CWO ____

G

N31 63
USS LIBERTY

G

(PAGE 1 OF 2)

ORIGINATOR SECTION: N314

ACTION DEPARTMENT: N3

CINCUSNAVEUR

000 001 002 NI1 NI2 NI3 NI4 NI5 NI6 NI7 CITE SDO

001 002 003 003B 011 012 013 014 015 016 017 AI4 ADO NCU LONDON

CON | TOR | SSN 1046 | SGN

DTG 031016Z JUN 67

B

CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN FILLED IN)

DOC 91 EX VP - LIBERTY 470

The following page consists of the actual CONFIDENTIAL message sent by the U.S.S. *Liberty* just after leaving her position off the Ivory Coast of Africa on the 24th of May. This document was No. 109 as an exhibit numbered 48 (*Liberty*) in the Naval Inquiry in London in June of 1967.

Following is another exhibit from the Naval Inquiry:

Counsel for the Court: Request this be marked exhibit number 27 and request that it be introduced into evidence. Will you please now read exhibit number 27 to the Court?

A. Exhibit number 27 is COMDESRON TWELVE (Commander Destroyer Squadron 12) Secret Message 150016Z June 67 to CINCUSNAVEUR (Commander-in-Chief U.S. Navy, Europe).

FOR ADMIRAL MCCAIN FROM ADMIRAL KIDD. DELIVER AT ....., YOUR 141740Z NOT RCVD AS OF 142355Z; HOWEVER REQUESTED 8 JUNE CHRONOLOGY FOLLOWS:

A. APPROACHING LAND FROM THE WEST DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 8 JUNE, PROJECTED OPERATIONS OF LIBERTY FOR THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF THE DAY WAS TO PROCEED TO A POINT 13 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE COAST OF UAR (United Arab Republic) AT 31-27.2N, 34-00E (POINT ALPHA) THENCE TO 31-22.3N, 33-42E (POINT BRAVO) THENCE TO 31-31N, 33-00E (POINT CHARLIE) RETRACING THIS TRACK UNTIL NEW ORDERS RECEIVED, SHIP WOULD OPERATE NORTH OF THIS TRACK LINE AT ALL TIMES, IF FIXES COULD NOT BE ACCURATELY OBTAINED AS POINT CHARLIE WAS APPROACHED IT WAS INTENDED TO HEAD DUE NORTH UNTIL THE 100 FATHOM CURVE WAS CROSSED AND THE TRACK MOVED TO THE NORTH TO MORE OR LESS MOVE BACK AND FORTH ON THE GENERAL AVERAGE OF THE 100-FATHOM CURVE. NORMAL STEAMING SPEED WAS TO BE FIVE KNOTS. NORMAL STEAMING COLORS (Flags) WERE FLOWN AND NORMAL NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS LIGHTED AT NIGHT. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO STEAM AT DARKEN SHIP AT ANY TIME AND THE SHIP DID NOT EVEN EXERCISE AT DARKEN SHIP DRILL DURING THE DEPLOYMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN FILLED IN) NAVAL MESSEGE

NNNNCZCKDE590ZCYGC274
PP RUD
KD
DE RUCIJUA 30C.1456245
ZNY CCCCC
P 241732Z MAY 67
FM USS LIBERTY
TO RUEDSPA/COMSERVR
N EIGHT
INFO RUEDNKA/COMSERVLANT
RUEDNKA/CINCLANTFLT
RUENAAA/CNO
RUEPJS/JCS/JRC
RUEDNKA/CINCLANT/JRC
RUEPWS/DIRNSA
RUCIHSA/DIRNAVSECGRU
RUEDNKA/DIRNAVSECGRULANT
RUCIHSA/SSTDIRNAVSECGRU
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUTPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
RUDLKD/DIRNAVSECGRUEUR
RUTKC/COMNAVACTS ROTA
RUTKC/NAVSTA ROTA
ET
R-CONFIDENTIAL
A. YOUR 240020Z MAY 67
1. DEPARTED ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST 240530Z MAY. SOA 15 KTS. ETA ROTA 312000Z MAY. ANTICIPATE APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS WILL BE NECESSARY TO LOAD TECH SUPPORT MATERIAL/PERS AND REFUEL. THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSANDS GALLONS NSFO WILL BE REQUIRED. ETA OPAREA OFF PORT SAID 061400Z JUN 67. REF A PERTAINS
2. DO NOT HOLD ANY COMSIXTHFLT INSTRUCTIONS/OPLANS/OPORDERS/TAPV NOTES/ETC. IF ANY WILL BE REQUIRED REQUEST ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE TO HAVE THEM DELIVERED ON ARRIVAL ROTA.
3. UNODIR WILL INCLUDE FOLLOWING COMMANDS AS INFO ADDEES ON DAILY PIM REPORT AFTER ENTRY INTO MEDITERRANEAN: CINCUSNAVEUR/COMSIXTHFLT/ DIRNAVSECGRUEUR.
GP-4
BT

U.S.S. Liberty
NC/500

DECLASSIFIED
Declassified (cancelled) (changed to) by authority of OPNAVINST 5511.32/T31
on 29 Jun 76 ALSpain 921 Jun 76
(Date) JAG Section (Signature) (Rank)
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY

ORIGINATOR SECTION
ACTION DEPARTMENT
N3
NSGE

CINCUSNAVEUR	X	X		X	X	X					X				
	00	01	02	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N17	CITE	SDO			
	001	002	003	003B	011	012	013	014	015	016	017	AII4	ADO	NCU LONDON	
					X						X				

(PAGE 1 OF)

CON			
TOR	0352/25		
SSN			
SGN			

DTG 241732Z MAY 67

CONFIDENTIAL
(WHEN FILLED IN)

AVEUR NCU LON 2100/2 (REV 10–65)

Doc. 109 Ex-48 Liberty
(NAVAL INQUIRY EXHIBIT)

It should be noted that Israeli intelligence services had been working closely with the CIA for several years and especially during recent months as Israel prepared in 1967 for the June invasion of Arab territory. It is also important to bear in mind that Israeli intelligence agents, operating openly in Washington, D.C., at this time, had access to almost every secret in every agency of the United States government from the White House to the State Department to the CIA and even the Pentagon. Israeli agents in Washington and throughout the world not only knew in advance everything the CIA and other U.S. intelligence forces planned, but usually managed to stay one step ahead of the Americans all the way. The Israelis consistently used the bureaucratic CIA to their advantage without telling the Americans very much about their own plans. In other words, the Israelis were simply better trained and more efficient than the CIA. And it certainly wasn't the two-way street or reciprocal agreement it was meant to be.

The rational and *raison d'être* of the Six-Day War was decided in Washington several months before the initial hostilities on June 5. The Israelis and the Jewish Lobby in the U.S. were pressing the Johnson administration for help or permission to take Jerusalem from Jordan. It grated harshly upon Jews throughout the world that they had been denied access to their sacred Wailing Wall for the past twenty years.

President Johnson at this time was beset by not only the bogged-down and utterly hopeless war in Vietnam, which he inherited from the dashing Kennedy brothers; but by riots at home, campus protestors and by the fact that his own dwindling popularity in the polls was hurting his effectiveness.

The President had little time for the Mid-East adventure which the Israelis were planning. But the Jews were persistent—as they always are. They were a portent force. One that he could not ignore. One of Johnson's aides at the time told me later that the President had little actual knowledge of the Mid-East situation and that he didn't even know which Arab nations bordered Israel.

The end result was that the Johnson administration and the CIA agreed to support the Israelis in a limited war against the Arabs for the purpose of regaining Jerusalem. But a firm agreement was made by Israel that no other Arab lands would be taken by force. The actual words used by the administration to describe the up-coming action by Israel against the Arabs originated deep in the

depths of CIA jargon. Some of the less excessive technical language used by the CIA were "to allow Israel to fight a contracted or contractual war". The State Department preferred to call it a "contained war". But neither the CIA nor the State Department were going to actually fight the war. So Israel had her own words for it in secret and her plans contained no such restrictive language at all. It was to be all-out war, once and for all, to not only destroy the Arab armies but to gain control over most of the Arab lands surrounding Israel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

29 NOV 1977

DEC 6 4 45 PM '77

Senator Thomas F. Eagleton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Eagleton:

This is in reply to your inquiry of November 16, 1977 on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Jim Taylor of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Taylor requested information on the Israeli attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on June 8, 1967.

Enclosed is a copy of the summary of the proceedings of the U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry, convened to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the attack on USS LIBERTY, a list of the 34 men killed in the attack, and a set of photographs of USS LIBERTY.

In response to previous inquiries on USS LIBERTY, the Bureau of Naval Personnel is conducting a time-consuming research of records for the purpose of compiling a list of survivors of the attack whose addresses are releasable under the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974. When the project has been completed and the list finalized, this office will forward a copy to Mr. Taylor.

Captain William L. McGonagle, Commanding Officer of USS LIBERTY at the time of the attack, has retired from the U.S. Navy. Release of his current address is prohibited under the provisions of the Privacy Act.

The information contained herein also has been provided to Congressman Richard Bolling in response to his inquiry on behalf of Mr. Taylor.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. COONEY
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Information

But for the benefit of the Johnson administration, Israel quickly agreed to fight a limited war as per the agreement. The Israelis clearly promised not to take any other Arab territory. In this agreement Israel was strictly prohibited from taking the West Bank from Jordan. Both sides agreed that to make the war more palatable to the rest of the world, and especially to the Soviet Union; that Israel would provoke the Arabs and make it seem like the UAR or Jordan actually began the hostilities. This was merely for public consumption. A ruse to fool the world at large.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

20 DEC 1977

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Enclosed are copies of the six items listed below, concerning the attack on the USS Liberty:

1. Data Sheet, dated 1966, for modified "Victory" ships, Belmont and Liberty.
2. FBIS article, dated 14 June 1967.
3. 00-B-321/33404.
4. 00-B-321/20396.
5. TDCSDB-313/02297/67.
6. CIA Intelligence Memorandum; The Israeli Attack on the USS Liberty, dated 13 June 1967.

Please note that the first two items were released in their entirety. Deletions in the others were made under the exemption provisions of subsections (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act. Additional deletions in items 3 and 4 were made under provisions of subsection (b)(6).

We would like to explain that items 3, 4, and 5 are those reports which the Director of Central Intelligence characterized as raw intelligence data during a recent appearance on the "Good Morning America" television program. On the other hand, item 6 is the release to which he referred as an evaluated over-all document, and pages 4 and 5 thereof reflect the grounds on which he based his further comment:

> that it was this Agency's considered opinion that the Israeli Government had no knowledge at the time of the attack that the vessel was in fact the USS Liberty.

Sincerely,

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

To understand just how this underhanded deal was worked out to the advantage of Israel but to the complete disadvantage of the U.S. and the rest of the world; one must note that although the Israelis had complete access to all secrets in Washington whether it be the State Department or the White House, the U.S. was totally denied access to any actual Israeli battle plans—and for very good reasons.

Johnson had very poor relations with President Nasser of Egypt. Mutual respect between the two was at low ebb. Nasser knew that the policy of the Kennedy brothers in the early sixties of U.S.-Egyptian co-operation had been quickly nullified by Johnson as soon as he became President. This was done at the instigation of the powerful Jewish Lobby. It could easily sway a weak President like Johnson who feared the Jewish voting bloc. The Kennedy brothers ignored the Jewish Lobby because their grass-roots popularity made it unnecessary to have the complete backing of every Jew in the U.S. who favoured Israel to the detriment of the United States of America.

RICHARD BOLLING
5TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, JOINT ECONOMIC
RULES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

NANCY R. LOWE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

LARRY ROBINSON
SECRETARY

KANSAS CITY SERVICE OFFICE
811 GRAND AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106
842-4738

December 5, 1977

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This refers to our previous correspondence about the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty.

I am enclosing a letter from the Department of the Navy along with materials which may be helpful to you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Dick Bolling

After Johnson became President, the State Department was suffering in silence because of the increased Soviet presence in the Mid-East, especially in Egypt. And pressure was brought to bear on Johnson by the Jewish Lobby, and other diehard friends of Israel such as UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg and the Rostow brothers. Goldberg had a personal policy of Israel first, America second; and this was quite evident in all his pronouncements. Goldberg and the Rostows pressed for total support of Israel which the Kennedy brothers had denied them. Walt Rostow was the President's chief adviser. His brother, Eugene Rostow, had an influential State Department position. Walt Rostow had the most influence on Johnson . . . so much so that the President appointed him Special Adviser to the President on National Security. This turned out to be the most regretted appointment during Johnson's tenure of office. It also was the worst thing that could have happened for the good of the country. Walt wormed his way into Johnson's good graces by totally supporting the President's very unpopular policy of total American victory in Vietnam. In return for this he wanted Johnson to support his avowed policy in the Mid-East of total victory for Israel, and that would mean slavery for the Arab states. He exaggerated the amount of Soviet influence in the Mid-East to Johnson so that the President would be sucked into total support for Israel to counteract this development.

Nasser had been leaning more toward Moscow ever since the unwise attack on the Suez Canal in 1956. In Walt Rostow's opinion Nasser's personal popularity in the Arab world and his complete rule over the largest and most politically significant country in the Mid-East made him dangerous to the West.

The next most important event bearing upon the 1967 Mid-East situation was the exposure by Nasser in 1965 of an illegal American arms deal to Israel which Goldberg and the Rostows had pressured Johnson into signing. Following this, the James Angleton affair began. Angleton was a CIA agent who was completely dedicated to Israel and would do anything to help the Israelis even if it hurt the U.S. If he had been guilty of doing this for any other nation in the world, he would have been termed a double agent and executed. But due to the closeness of the two countries (Israel and the U.S.) he was merely let go from his position with no other penalty. But even this did not occur until the damage was already done.

Angleton was the most responsible for setting up close ties, although one-sided, between the CIA and Israel's MOSSAD intelligence service. He and others influenced Richard Helms, the CIA chief, to pursue a policy of allowing all intelligence operations inside Israel to be conducted through MOSSAD. There was not even any station chief of the CIA in Tel Aviv. And any agents working under cover out of the American Embassy there did so in full co-operation with agents of MOSSAD with each side "supposedly" having total access to the information of the other. Although this type of set-up might work between the U.S. and England or France, it is easy to see why it would not work well in Israel. And, remember, it was Angleton's plan.

Angleton had developed close ties with Israel intelligence in the late 1950's. Ted Szulc reported in *Penthouse* Magazine, August of 1975, that Angleton helped supply Israel with technical assistance for developing nuclear weapons. His closest partner in this venture was MOSSAD agent Ephraim (Eppy) Evron. Eppy must be remembered for his part in the 1954 operation in Cairo to blow up the American Embassy and blame it on Egyptian nationalists. This defused plan was entirely devised by MOSSAD. Nine agents of MOSSAD were captured while laying the charges and brought to trial by Egypt. Two were executed and the Israeli minister of defence, Pinhas Lavon, resigned in disgrace for his part in it. Evron hid out after this for several years and nothing was heard from him.

Eppy Evron re-surfaced in May of 1967 at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. And he was sent there for a good reason. Several newsmen and columnists on the Washington scene at the time noticed that Eppy was involved in a lot of activity with both the White House and the State Department. He seemed to have more influence than the official Israeli chief, Avraham Harman. His new position as spokesman to the administration and the CIA for Israeli intelligence put him in a great position to help overthrow his old enemy—Nasser—with or without the knowing aid of the U.S.

NOTE: As of 1979, *Eppy Evron was still in Washington. Only now he was the Israeli ambassador to the U.S. which in turn means that this man, with so much hatred and bitterness toward the United States that he once was involved in a plot to blow up the American Embassy in Cairo, is now controlling U.S. policy in the Mid-East. No one in the Carter White House, Congress, or the State Department would dare make any decision concerning the Mid-East without Eppy's approval. And any American citizen, who still believes that this is a free country and that Americans govern American policy, had better do some re-thinking.*

Both Angleton and Evron conducted secret meetings with MOSSAD officials on how to get rid of Nasser. One former CIA agent who was around at this time told me that it was hard to tell whether Angleton was working for MOSSAD or the CIA . . . again the apparent double agent, but it was done more or less openly and without any penalty from Washington at this time. And bear in mind that what all this hatred for Nasser led to was the contracted war and the attack on the *Liberty*. It will be clarified by what happened next.

MOSSAD decided, at the urging of Angleton and Evron, that because of his charismatic influence on the Arab world that Nasser must be undermined and destroyed. And this way of thinking was entirely in line with the new State Department plans for dumping the neutral policy in the Mid-East of the Kennedy administration for a reshaping of events to suit a new policy totally influenced by American Jews and Israeli officials.

Israel wanted to call Nasser's bluff by forcing him to confront the Israelis on the battlefield. At a series of very secret meetings in Washington and Tel Aviv between CIA officials, Israeli political leaders, the Israeli general staff and selected members of the Johnson administration it was decided to allow the previously-mentioned contracted sort of war between Israel and Egypt, a war that would not affect Jordan or Syria except for the re-taking of Jerusalem which has already been mentioned in detail. Israel promised not to invade Syria under any conditions.

Both the war and the destruction of the *Liberty*, if the ship interfered, were planned by a joint Israeli civilian and military group which included: Premier Levi Eshkol; Maj.-Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel's chief of staff; Brig. Mordkhai Hod, Israeli Air Force commander-in-chief; Maj.-Gen. Moshe Dayan, defence minister; Yigal Allon, later a labour minister; intelligence chief Meir Amit; Ezer Weizman, head of army operations; Aharon Yariv, chief of army intelligence; Shimon Peres, deputy minister of defence; and David Hacohen, head of the Knesset Committee for Foreign and Security Affairs.

The planners had great co-operation in Washington with three liaison officials to speed things up and also to cover things up from the Johnson administration. The three included two Americans and one Israeli. Naturally, Eppy Evron was in charge of the co-ordinating of efforts. His two able helpers were Angleton at the CIA and Eugene Rostow at the State Department.

These war-making "experts" agreed to take advantage of the increasing hard-line remarks of Nasser and the Soviet build-up in Egypt. The Israeli Army was placed on full alert to induce action by Cairo. The Knesset gave tacit approval for the staged war. And the Israelis again assured the Johnson administration that the war would be held strictly to the pre-designated American plan of containment.

CIA agents in Amman carefully briefed King Hussein of Jordan on the general Israeli-American joint plans for war, which they assured him would not affect his country. They neglected to tell him one important part of the overall operation—that Jerusalem would be taken from him and turned over to Israel on a permanent basis. The Americans left it up to Hussein as to how he would react. This turn of events placed the King in a dire predicament. He was very suspicious, and rightly so, of the American involvement. With a strong Syria on one side of him and Nasser gaining in strength on the other side of his country, he feared that his reign might be in jeopardy. He did not want to have the Hashimite rule in Jordan ended by some sort of coup. He recalled how the revolution in Iraq had brought an end to the Hashimite rule there.

Against his better judgment, King Hussein was more or less forced to go along with the decision which had already been made. The Department of State assured him that there would be no conquest of Jordanian territory by Israel if the King would help reshape Arab policy more favourably toward the West.

Now it didn't take very long for word to get around in the Arab world that Hussein was playing some kind of hanky-panky with the Americans. So the King had to fly to Cairo on May 30 for a meeting with Nasser in an attempt to redeem himself in the eyes of the Arabs. He was in such a bind at this time between the two sides that to re-establish himself with the other Arab leaders he formally agreed to a defence pact between Jordan and Egypt with the stipulation that if either nation was attacked by Israel the other would join the fray.

On the same day that the pact was signed by Hussein and Nasser, Robert Anderson, a special American envoy, arrived in Cairo for a talk with Nasser. He was not able to see the President until June 1. Anderson was able to persuade Nasser to consider an option of détente with the U.S. Nasser agreed to send his deputy, Zacharia Mohieddin, to Washington on June 5. Johnson wanted all

this kept secret from the Israelis. But within a few minutes after this highly secret message was transmitted to Washington the Israeli secret service knew every detail of it. One State Department employee told me that the Israelis had a copy of it before the ink was dry on the initialled receipt for it at the State Department. Again I must say that I have nothing but the utmost admiration for the efficiency and skill of the Israelis not only in Washington but throughout the world; despite the fact that agreements, treaties, word of honour, legalities, etc., mean so little to them.

Washington had been notified that the joint Israeli-CIA war would be launched during the second week of June. This gave the U.S. joint chiefs of staff and the National Security Agency ample time to send the *Liberty* to the Sinai coast to eavesdrop and make certain that Israel abided by her contracted agreement for war of a limited nature. The U.S. wanted to make sure that the Israelis did not overstep the objectives of the carefully prepared containment plan. And regardless of what the Navy said at the time or what the Navy may be forced to say now for the benefit of the general public . . . that was the only purpose for the *Liberty* being sent to her assigned position. The business about the *Liberty* being there to maintain embassy communications and evacuate non-existent American nationals from the Sinai Desert was just a smokescreen to cover the *Liberty's* real purpose. And this smokescreen was so outlandish that it would not have deceived a six-year-old student of geography and history, let alone experienced newsmen.

But the Israelis, with the aid of Eppy Evron and Angleton, knew all about the June 5 date for the secret talk in Washington between the President and the Egyptian special deputy. So Israel simply moved the opening date of the war, a pre-emptive strike at Jerusalem, up a week to June 5 without telling the Americans. In fact, just as the Japanese Ambassador was doing at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, Eppy Evron and the Israeli Ambassador were assuring Washington right up to the moment of the attack on June 5, 1967 that the mass movement of troops in Israel that day were merely a precautionary measure and that no attack was planned. And since the only American intelligence from Israel was through MOSSAD, Eppy knew that he could get by with telling the gullible Americans anything he wanted to. And, at this time, Eppy and the other Israeli officials did not believe that the *Liberty* was within range or could get there in time to spy on their war plans—which were in direct disagreement

with the arrangement with Johnson. And by making their initial attack on the very day the Egyptian envoy was to arrive in Washington, the Israelis knew they had destroyed any possibility of an American-Egyptian agreement. And their early-war plans had been kept absolutely secret to prevent any possible American interference.

So it was on this note that the war began ahead of schedule. It was to be a very short war. But as wars go it was one of the most decisive and it changed the world as much or more than any other war in history.

Although Israeli agents had been monitoring the movements of the *Liberty*, just as the Soviets had been doing, MOSSAD did not believe the spy ship was within range on June 5 to overhear any secret transmissions. The *Liberty* was as yet over forty-eight hours away from her assigned Alpha-Bravo-Charlie triangular course; but she was well within range to hear everything transmitted by both sides because of her powerful equipment which had no equal anywhere else in the world.

The *Liberty* had left Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on May 24 and arrived at Rota, Spain, on May 31. This type of duty was not new to the ship or its present crew. The ship had left Norfolk, Va. in November of 1966 on her fourth tour of duty as a listening post and floating intelligence centre. She had monitored events off the Nigerian coast which led to the conflict over the Biafran secession. The CIA was involved covertly in the Congo area and secretly supported the Biafran independence movement.

For the new assignment off the Sinai coast the *Liberty's* specially-trained African experts would have to be replaced with other specialists who were trained in Arab and Israeli affairs. A message pertaining to this was sent from the U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, on June 1. It follows:

SECRET ECJC/JRC 08686. JCS FOR JRC, USNAVEUR FOR N-31 AND 32.

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY (U)

REF: A. JCS 6714, 010309Z MAY 67

1. (S) PER REF A, REQUEST YOU TAKE ACTION TO HOLD USS LIBERTY AT ROTA PENDING ARRIVAL OF THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL BEING PROVIDED BY DIRNAVSECERU ACTION, AS OUTLINED REF. B.

2. (S) REQUEST YOU ADVISE THIS HQ WHEN PERSONNEL ARE ABOARD AND SHIP'S PLANNED DEPARTURE TIME GP-4.

Rota is on the south-eastern Atlantic coast of Spain, near the much larger city of Cádiz (twenty miles north) and about seventy-five miles north-east of Gibraltar. Two Spanish speaking MOSSAD agents, disguised as tourists and using false Argentine passports, flew from Tel Aviv to Paris, thence to Madrid and from there drove by rented car to Cádiz, a city of about 100,000 people. They were communications specialists assigned to bring back more information on the *Liberty's* capabilities for monitoring transmissions of military movements. They were able to take several photographs of the *Liberty* which would be used later by Israeli pilots to identify the vessel at sea. But they could not obtain in such a short period of time any more advanced knowledge of the secret compartments of the *Liberty*.

Soviet agents also monitored the ship while she was in port at Rota and Russian ships in the Mediterranean tracked her as she left Rota on June 2. The ship's final orders were to hasten at top speed to a Mid-East operational area which had already been charted as a triangular course off the Sinai coast.

Captain McGonagle sent the ship through continuous twenty-four-hour watches along the direct North African coastal route after navigating through the Straits of Gibraltar. The ship moved easily past Alexandria toward her assigned post and was within range of communications monitoring at the surprise start of the war on June 5, despite the fact that she wasn't scheduled to arrive off the Sinai until June 8.

CHAPTER TWO

ISRAEL PLOTS TO DECEIVE THE U.S.

Plans to Sink the *Liberty* Leak Out

The scene now shifts to Israel, more specifically to a secret war room hidden away in Tel Aviv, where under the auspices of Maj.-Gen. Moshe Dayan, the defence minister, plans for the carefully-concealed war were orchestrated and rehearsed to perfection. It also spelled out a tragic end for the *Liberty*. For many weeks, Israeli staff officers had worked out ground-war tactics right down to the most minute details. And it wouldn't be very difficult to carry out these orders because of the great advantage in sophisticated weapons possessed by Israel over the Arabs . . . thanks to the American taxpayers. General Electric, Rockwell and other American firms had transferred to Israel the technology to construct ever more cunning electronic weapons.

America had poured billions in arms for Israel, many of them outright gifts. It is questionable if Israel even needs hundreds of F-15 and F-16 aircraft, Hawk missiles, Lance missiles, heavy tanks and laser-guided "smart" bombs to maintain an effective lead over the Arabs. "Israel wants one thousand per cent security," said one Pentagon official, "and she's getting it. She can decisively defeat any combination of Arab armies at least through 1980."

"Egypt, Syria and Jordan together cannot match the force of Israel," said another U.S. Army spokesman in Washington. "They (the Arabs) don't know how to use their MiGs. And as for the Egyptian SCUDs, if they fire them at Tel Aviv, half of them would hit Beirut."

Several years later, Dr. Henry Kissinger, the brilliant ex-Harvard professor who happens to be of German-Jewish extraction himself, explained the Zionist mentality quirk of sheer deceitfulness and complete intransigence about anything concerning Israel better than anyone else. During his globe-trotting days of so-called "shuttle diplomacy" for the Nixon administration, he cited the following example: "When I asked Rabin to make concessions he said he could not because Israel is weak. So I gave him more arms, and he said he didn't need to make concessions now because Israel is strong." Kissinger then lamented his failure to extract concessions first from Israel. He stated: "The immense arms shipments to Israel was naive—my biggest mistake." He had originally argued that the increase in arms would encourage Israeli flexibility. How utterly wrong he was when he assumed that concessions would result once Israel was invincible. Kissinger had come full circle.

But despite the fact that it was the good ole reliable USA which made the Israelis invincible in a military way, the Israeli leaders at this time had absolutely no qualms about lying to the Johnson administration and secretly planning to eliminate from the seas one American electronics ship. And when any doves among the Israeli planners hinted at a reluctance to do this to America, Israel's only true friend; they were always reminded of how many Jews died in Hitler's gas chambers during World War II. As if this somehow made it all right to plot the death of Americans on the *Liberty*.

At this point in time the Israeli leaders developed a sort of "now or never" attitude. In debates, they expounded on the apparent weakness of the Johnson administration. They hadn't gotten the all-out assurances they sought during the Kennedy years. They had to take advantage of President Johnson and there was no better time than now because world opinion was being whipped up against the U.S. as a result of the Vietnam policy. The chances of Johnson being re-elected or even running again for the Presidency were slim. The Israelis could not afford to wait until a new President was elected because they could not predict what the new attitude toward Israel might be. It was the proper time to be aggressive. Now was the time to capture more Arab land in order to protect and expand the state of Israel. All the leaders agreed, with little dissension, that Israel would not honour her promise to the CIA and the Johnson administration concerning a restrained war without territorial gains.

The die was cast! Now all Israel had to do was figure out a way to get by with breaking her solemn promise to the U.S. Actually, it turned out to be much easier than any of them thought it would be. But the Israeli brain-trust planners still had to deceive the U.S. and the United Nations long enough to carry out this bold and daring operation . . . a totally clandestine war to be carried out under the noses of the watchdog Johnson administration. Could they pull it off?

The total plan called for not only capturing the Holy City of Jerusalem but half of Jordan, all of Egypt right down to the Suez Canal and the Golan Heights area of Syria. Lebanon was to be left alone at this time. A quick, slashing and very ruthless campaign had to be devised. Some of the Hawks wanted to include the capture of Damascus, Amman and Cairo in the overall plan. But this was voted down as not being practical due to the effect it might have on world opinion toward Israel, a small nation already without friends chiefly because the Zionists could not be trusted to keep a promise.

The very fact that the *Liberty* was being sent to spy on the upcoming war worried the Israelis. It was a little like the pot calling the kettle black but one high-ranking Israeli Army officer stated: "I don't think the U.S. trusts us." If it were not for the serious business of war and killing at stake right now, that statement might well go down in history as the all-time classic for tongue-in-cheek utterances.

Anyway, the Israeli high command feared that the *Liberty* might notify Washington that the U.S. had been tricked by Israel before the task was completed. Of course, Israel knew exactly where the *Liberty* was at all times and even plotted the course of the ship during her route of sea travel from the port of Rota, Spain. The only remaining question was what to do about it. And this time the Hawks won. If the *Liberty* came within listening range before the Israeli goals were completed then she would have to be destroyed with no survivors to tell the tale. That was it. No more debates.

Since the four small machine guns on the *Liberty* were regarded as toys or pop guns, it would not be difficult to sink the ship. It would be the mis-match of the century with jet planes and motor torpedo boats with rockets and cannon against the helpless former freighter, far away from the Sixth Fleet.

The battle plan . . . if you can term it a battle . . . was for the Mirage fighters to come in first in order to knock out the intricate communications centre amidships before any distress messages could be sent from the *Liberty*. At the same time all four machine guns were to be silenced so that the motor torpedo boats standing by could move in for the kill without any returning fire at them. The torpedoes were to be aimed for the centre of the ship so she would go down quickly. Then any possible survivors were to be shot in their lifeboats. Not one man aboard the *Liberty* was to live through this attack, or else there would be no sense in sinking the ship because it had to be blamed on either the Egyptians or the Russians.

Some thought was given to the idea of using unmarked planes or a captured Egyptian MiG fighter to sink the *Liberty*. But this idea was vetoed because it might connote "that we were doing something illegal, underhanded or against the rules of war". As if to say that the proposed sinking of a neutral ship was all right, otherwise.

Unlike Washington, where there are no secrets, the secret war room in Tel Aviv had few chances for leaks. Israel protects her secrets well. However, a Turkish military attaché in Tel Aviv did learn early in May that Israel was planning on sinking an American ship and blame the Russians or the Arabs for it. He did not learn the actual details but he notified his superiors in Turkey of his findings. The Turks decided not to pass this bit of intelligence information along to the U.S. Actually, it was not considered of any great importance to Turkish interests. So this report was relegated to the files and forgotten.

On June 1, in Tel Aviv, a Greek newspaperman picked up information that an American ship or U.S. planes which were in Israeli waters or territory would be attacked and destroyed. He informed an American newsman, who discounted it as unimportant because several statements had been previously made about the same matter. It wasn't news to the American and he didn't believe it.

> *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass . . .*
>
> *S. MATTHEW* 24: 5-6.

If Jesus of Nazareth had come to the Holy City of Jerusalem in the early days of June in the Year of Our Lord 1967, He might have found scant difference between the city of His day and ours. The long centuries had not purged this part of the Middle East of violence, bloodshed and the awkward sprawl of death in the streets.

Two thousand years ago the Son of Man was born into a world much like ours today—torn asunder. The Roman legions under Pompey had conquered Palestine and taken Jerusalem in 63 B.C. Ruthlessly Rome had suppressed an uprising twenty-six years later and Jewish people died on crosses. But the theocratic Jews never really accepted the yoke of the Caesars. They bore it with smouldering rebellion in their hearts.

Then as the Christian Era dawned, sedition flared on all sides. False messiahs and self-proclaimed prophets raised their standards everywhere. And many were brutally crushed. Fanatical rebels called Zealots spread terror with their short knives, killing not only Romans but any who collaborated with them.

Now, in early June of 1967, war had again flared violently. A fast, slashing campaign by the Israelis had gained them all of the Holy City. Jerusalem had survived the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks, Britons, Arabs again; and now, in turn, the Israelis would rule it. Time collapses in such a setting.

Reminders of the fierce fighting were everywhere. An Israeli tank, knocked out by Jordanian fire, was lying beside the leafy garden revered as Gethsemane, where Christ was betrayed. The victorious Israelis had placed a wreath on the shattered vehicle as a memorial to their comrades who fell in the first hours of the brief but bitter battle for the Old City. On the Via Dolorosa, where Christ carried His cross, hungry Arab children lined up for free milk and bread.

Roaring bulldozers were at work piling the rubble from destroyed Arab homes which the Israelis were removing from beside the ancient Wailing Wall. Jews were already at the Wall to worship and pray despite the clouds of choking dust. The light blue-and-white flag of Israel with its Star of David was flying proudly from the top of the Wall now, for the first time in modern history. Arab families with tear-stained eyes watched in horror as their homes, where they had lived for many generations, were ripped apart by the whirring Israeli bulldozers. Israeli authorities, bulging with newly-acquired power, had given all Arabs living in this quarter of

the city until 3 p.m. to leave their homes . . . for ever. An Arab shouted, "We are the modern Exodus . . . not the Jews!"

The American Consulate stood undamaged in the Old City next to the Jordanian YMCA. Four angry Israeli soldiers were in front of the Consulate cursing the Americans inside. "Those damn American sons-of-bitches," said one of the soldiers. "Two snipers took refuge in there and the Americans won't let us get at them. And four Jordanian officers are in there and the Americans won't hand them over either."

Amid this background, at about noon on June 7, one of the most proficient Syrian undercover agents hurried through these war-torn streets *en route* to an important meeting with his Tel Aviv contact who was bringing top-secret information about Israeli plans concerning a U.S. spy ship in the eastern Mediterranean. Using the code name of Saladin, after the conqueror of the Crusaders, the Syrian was trying to reach his destination before the new Israeli curfew, set for 3 p.m. in the Holy City.

Saladin was not a typical agent. He was a former college professor, thirty-seven years old and slightly built. His tired eyes were alert to everything around him. He was as wary as a desert hawk. His spirit at a time when things were not going well for the Arabs still mirrored the fervour that spurred Mohammed's first converts. Saladin had been pressed into the service of his country because of his excellent knowledge of both English and Hebrew.

He was to meet another agent who used the name of Abby Harris. Harris was a deeply-planted operative with contacts in the Israeli government. Although he was half Jewish, Abby had worked for various Arab intelligence agencies for ten years. His burning ambition was to acquire enough money to live in Switzerland where he had a girl friend.

When Saladin reached the second-floor room in a stone house, Harris was already there waiting for him.

"As-salaam alaykum," Harris greeted his friend and cohort. "Peace be upon you."

"Wa alaykum as-salaam wa rahmat Allah wa barakatu," answered Saladin. "On you peace, and the mercy of Allah and His blessings."

There was a trace of incense wafting through the room. Harris poured some strong coffee, spiced with cardamom, into thimble-sized cups. There was a dish of dates in a bowl on the table.

After Abby told his companion that the earlier information he had come up with about the Israeli plans to sink an American ship had been verified, the two of them tried to think of what they should do with this important intelligence report. They wanted it to reach the Americans. And the easiest way to do this would be through their contacts in Jordan because of the fact that the CIA operated in that country with King Hussein's permission. Jordanian intelligence could easily get it to the proper U.S. authorities. But Saladin didn't really trust the Jordanians not only because of their close ties with the Americans but for their sometimes divergent views on a Middle East settlement. He decided to ask his superiors to transmit the information to a trusted Egyptian intelligence agent in Cairo. This Egyptian would know how to see that word reached the proper U.S. people.

Al-Shaibi, the Egyptian agent, did not receive the coded message about the *Liberty* until 6 p.m. on June 7. He knew that it was imperative that he get this information to the Americans so that the U.S. would not blame his own troubled nation for the sinking of the *Liberty*.

American agents were not welcome in Egypt under Nasser at this time but Al-Shaibi knew a Briton who worked for the CIA in Cairo. The latter used the name of Londale or Lonedale. Al-Shaibi had nicknamed him "Al-Amin—the trustworthy".

The Englishman wanted to meet Al-Shaibi at one of the newer hotels such as the Hilton, but the Egyptian agent wasn't very anxious to be seen with Londale any place where they might be noticed because right now wasn't the best time to be friendly with CIA men. So Al-Shaibi selected the old Mena House Hotel on Cairo's western edge in the shadow of Cheops, the Pyramid of Gizeh, for the rendezvous.

As Londale rode in a taxi westward across one of the broad branches of the Nile, he wondered just what his friend Al-Shaibi had for him. The uncertainties of the war weighed heavily upon the populace of Cairo. There was much indecision because of the news that the Israelis were approaching the Suez Canal at this very moment. There was a lot of movement on the streets. Even tired old Arabs, with eyes on the next life, washed themselves at the nearest mosque. Cairo was chafing under the wartime austerity programmes. And there were sandbags around downtown buildings. Windows were taped or painted. The usual neon signs were

dark. But vendors on the streets still hawked sherbet, flags, pottery and *termus* (boiled beans sold in long paper cones). A jaunty young man dressed in a long galabia and white turban was carrying on his back a gurgling apparatus of chrome and glass with plastic tubing, from which he dispensed lemonade. He also served up Arab popular music at the same time from a transistor radio mounted on a frame above his head.

When the Britisher reached the hotel, his friend was already eating a meal of Nile fish, dried and salted, and spring onions. It was ten minutes past 8 p.m.

After hearing the information Al-Shaibi had so urgently called him about, Londale thanked the Egyptian and left quickly to take care of other dealings that night in this Arab capital. The news that Israel would actually sink an American ship under any conditions seemed utterly ludicrous to Londale. He didn't even bother to pass this warning on to anyone. So the Americans never received this vital information which might have saved the *Liberty*.

CHAPTER THREE

THE SIX-DAY WAR BEGINS

Israel Breaks into the *Liberty's* Coding Banks

It is necessary to summarise the events of the first three days of the war because herein lies the direct cause of the *Liberty* disaster.

The Israelis planned to have a war no matter what happened, but the actual prelude to the six-day struggle for supremacy in the Mid-East occurred on May 19, when the United Nations began to withdraw its peace-keeping troops from the Gaza Strip at the request of the Egyptian government.

Three days later, Egypt blockaded the Straits of Tiran. Israel considered this an act of war. Each side seemed committed to war now.

In Tel Aviv, the civilian population started to mobilise on a war-time basis. Go-go girls at a discotheque gave a party to encourage blood donations. Teenagers, too young for service at the war front, volunteered for civilian jobs left vacant by reserves who had been called to duty. High school girls replaced postmen. Storekeepers taped their windows to prevent shattering.

In Cairo, sandbags were placed around strategic buildings. The airports became military posts. All bridges across the branches of the Nile were guarded twenty-four hours a day to prevent sabotage. Trucks with military supplies filled the roads leading north to the war fronts. Secret military equipment was moved hastily to the southern bases, out of range of Israeli bombers.

On Sunday morning of June 4, gunfire erupted along the Jordan-Israel border near the sacred city of Bethlehem. It proved to be a false start. By 1 p.m. calm had returned. The Israeli plan called for attacking Egypt first, Jordan second and finally Syria after the forces of the first two mentioned Arab states were decimated and put out of action. And this time-table of events must be strictly adherred to. It resembled the German invasion plans for Poland, Belgium and Holland during the World War II era . . . because a blitzkrieg-type of thrust was envisioned. The Israelis had learned from the Nazis. Because of limited manpower, Israel could not afford a long and protracted war.

June 5: The Israeli high command could wait no longer. An attack was launched against Egypt in the Gaza Strip. At 8.15 a.m. air raid sirens screamed in Tel Aviv, but the city experienced no casualties. In lightning strikes which would have made the Nazis envious, Israeli fighter planes virtually wiped out all Arab air power in Egypt, Jordan and Syria. In the afternoon, Israeli columns moved into the Sinai region of Egypt. A second-front clash began in Jerusalem against Jordanian defences.

June 6: Heavy fighting developed in the Sinai. But with unchallenged air support the Israelis moved swiftly and continued westward toward their main Egyptian objective . . . the Suez Canal. The U.N. Security Council approved a cease-fire resolution. War correspondents were amazed at the efficient tactical and destructive power of Dayan's war machine. Two Israeli columns encircled Jordanian Jerusalem while others penetrated the West Bank area.

June 7: The last major stand by the Egyptian Army in the Sinai was made at Mitla Pass. Israeli forces neared the Suez Canal. Old Jerusalem fell to Israel. The Israelis took most of the West Bank. Jordan accepted a U.N. cease-fire agreement.

As the war progressed in this manner, the sensitive listening devices on board the *Liberty* were in full use. They were picking up all transmissions from both the Israelis and the Arabs long before the ship reached its assigned position. With radar monitoring on the *Liberty* backing up the listening apparatus, it was possible for the trained specialists on board to analyse and carefully map the movements and positions of all troops, armour and aircraft on both sides as had never been possible in any previous war. The highly-trained experts, under the direct orders of the highest U.S. command, had a ringside seat and watched every development of the war first-hand.

The exact progress of each battle was transcribed directly from the *Liberty* to the National Security Agency in Washington. Important parts were then passed on to the United Nations, now in special session in New York.

On the first day of the war the observers on the *Liberty* noted that the Arabs were unable to break the Israeli codes. However, the Israelis had the Egyptian and Jordanian codes cracked at the very start of the action. The Israelis understood every message sent by the Arab forces, which proved to be extremely helpful to them. This caused no alarm in Washington. It was merely attributed to a masterful intelligence job by Israel.

Then the *Liberty* research people noticed a very strange, almost phenomenal occurrence in radio transmissions. It concerned strategic messages sent between King Hussein of Jordan and President Nasser of Egypt. To the experts on the *Liberty* these messages were clear enough when sent. But, to their astonishment, when these same messages reached the Arabs they were distorted and misleading. It was obvious to the *Liberty* that an Israeli relay station high in the mountains of Sinai had been set up to block Arab transmissions, then change the meaning of these messages before passing them on. This was done so quickly and so cleverly by the Israelis that the Arabs failed to notice any unreasonable time break. In military intelligence wordage this is known as "boiling" or "cooking" of messages. Of course, the Israelis were not the first nation to do this because the British did it to the Germans during World War I. However, according to the *Liberty* specialists it had never been accomplished on such a large scale and so efficiently before in the history of military intelligence. It was a magnificent coup for the Israelis. It also cost Arab lives and saved Israeli troops from any possible traps.

The worst damage to the Arab cause occurred when Israel blocked messages from Cairo informing Jordan of the bad military situation on the Egyptian front. The Israelis reworded them so as to misinform Hussein that things were going well and that most of the Israeli Air Force planes had been destroyed near Cairo. The "boiled" messages also informed the King that the nearly 300 planes now on his radar screen were Egyptian bombers *en route* to hit targets in Israel. Actually, these planes were Israeli aircraft returning home after blasting airfields around Cairo. But the bootlegged false messages caused Hussein to discard his normal plan of a defensive war and to go on the offensive. And this was what

the Israelis wanted. They had a trap waiting for the Jordanians. The end result was the destruction of the well-trained Jordanian Arab Legion.

The Israelis "cooked" or "boiled" other messages which made both Egypt and Jordan think that the war was going favourably for the two Arab armies. The reason why this worked so well was because Hussein had broken off diplomatic ties with Syria a week before because of some allegations made against Jordan by the Syrian Secret Service. So Hussein, having no communications with Syria at this time, could not be warned by Syria as to what was happening.

The next major move the Israelis accomplished in this war of messages was to falsely inform Hussein that the Egyptians were counter-attacking in the Sinai and needed Jordan's help with a Jordanian attack in the Hebron region. To make this attack, Hussein had to withdraw his forces from a planned attack which would have cut Israel in two while Israeli forces were thinned out because of the heavy concentrations of troops in the Sinai push for the Suez area. The Israelis also informed Cairo that Jordan was winning at Hebron so the Egyptians ignored a UN cease-fire call and counter-attacked. This gave the Israelis added time to capture all of Jordan they needed and to move troops all the way to the east bank of the Suez—shutting down usage of the canal.

Of course, by now Johnson and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff knew that Israel had violated her agreement to fight a "contained" war. The President was fuming with anger and the military chiefs hit the ceiling. So on the evening of June 7, Israeli ambassador Avraham Harman was called to the State Department where Eugene Rostow was ordered to tell him that the President wanted all Israeli attacks on both Jordan and Egypt halted immediately. Johnson also accused Israel of the most vicious lies concerning agreements since the beginning of time—but not publicly, of course. Outwardly the world was not to know about the trick Israel had played on the U.S. Everything had to seem cosy between these two "friendly" nations when just the opposite was true. Thus far in the war, Israel had not made any move or fired a shot against Syria. But the President had been told by the CIA that this was a distinct possibility because Israel wanted to take Syria's Golan Heights area; so he, in turn, let the Israelis know that they were absolutely forbidden to attack Syria. A cease-fire was now being implemented by the United Nations.

The Israeli ambassador hemmed and hawed around about the excuse that Israel was only stopping "Arab aggression." But the State Department wouldn't buy that because the Israeli Army was practically at the gates of Cairo by now. After listening to more such nonsense from the Israeli ambassador, Rostow blurted out what Johnson had forbidden him to mention, that Washington knew all about the deliberate "cooking" of messages to deceive and destroy Hussein's army. Rostow did not mention the *Liberty* at all and the administration was of the opinion that Israel had not yet realised that this spy ship had been keeping Washington informed about every phase of the entire war. But Johnson had underestimated the Israelis. Rostow didn't need to mention the *Liberty* because Israel knew now that this ship had to be the sole source of information for the U.S. concerning the hostilities. Ambassador Harman was much too intelligent to believe that this secret information had come from either Egypt or Jordan. At this point some of the State Department officials began to wonder which side of the fence Rostow was on. Had he been leaking State Department secrets to Israel?

For what it's worth (nothing), the Israeli ambassador lied to the Americans again by stating emphatically that his country would not attack Syria and that absolutely no plans had ever been made to do so.

As soon as Harman got back to the Israeli Embassy, coded messages to and from Tel Aviv flew thick and fast. So four hours later in Tel Aviv, orders were issued simultaneously from the office of the minister of defence (Dayan) and from the commander of the Israeli Air Force (Hod) to undertake continuous surveillance of an American communications ship operating off the Sinai coast—the U.S.S. *Liberty*. It now appeared that the extreme capabilities of the *Liberty* had also been her downfall. By Tel Aviv time this was already the early morning hours of June 8.

Approximately four hours after the intensive surveillance of the *Liberty* began, at 1.30 p.m. Tel Aviv time, more orders were issued from the same two IDF officers—attack the ship with power enough to sink her and leave no survivors. Later, Israeli officials would state that no written orders or records were kept. And any previous documents which mentioned the *Liberty* were destroyed. The orders also provided for jamming the radio frequencies of the *Liberty* just prior to the attack so that no messages of distress

Plate 1a—*A broadside view of the U.S.S.* Liberty *as she receives help.*



Plate 1b—*AGTR5 Identification Photo—28 Dec.* 1964. *Bow view about 45° off centreline, STBD. Williamette Iron and Steel Company, Portland, Oregon.*



Plate 2a—*The U.S.S. Liberty (GTR-5) turns in an attempt to elude Israeli torpedoes during the vicious attack while approximately 15 miles off the Sinai coast in international waters.*

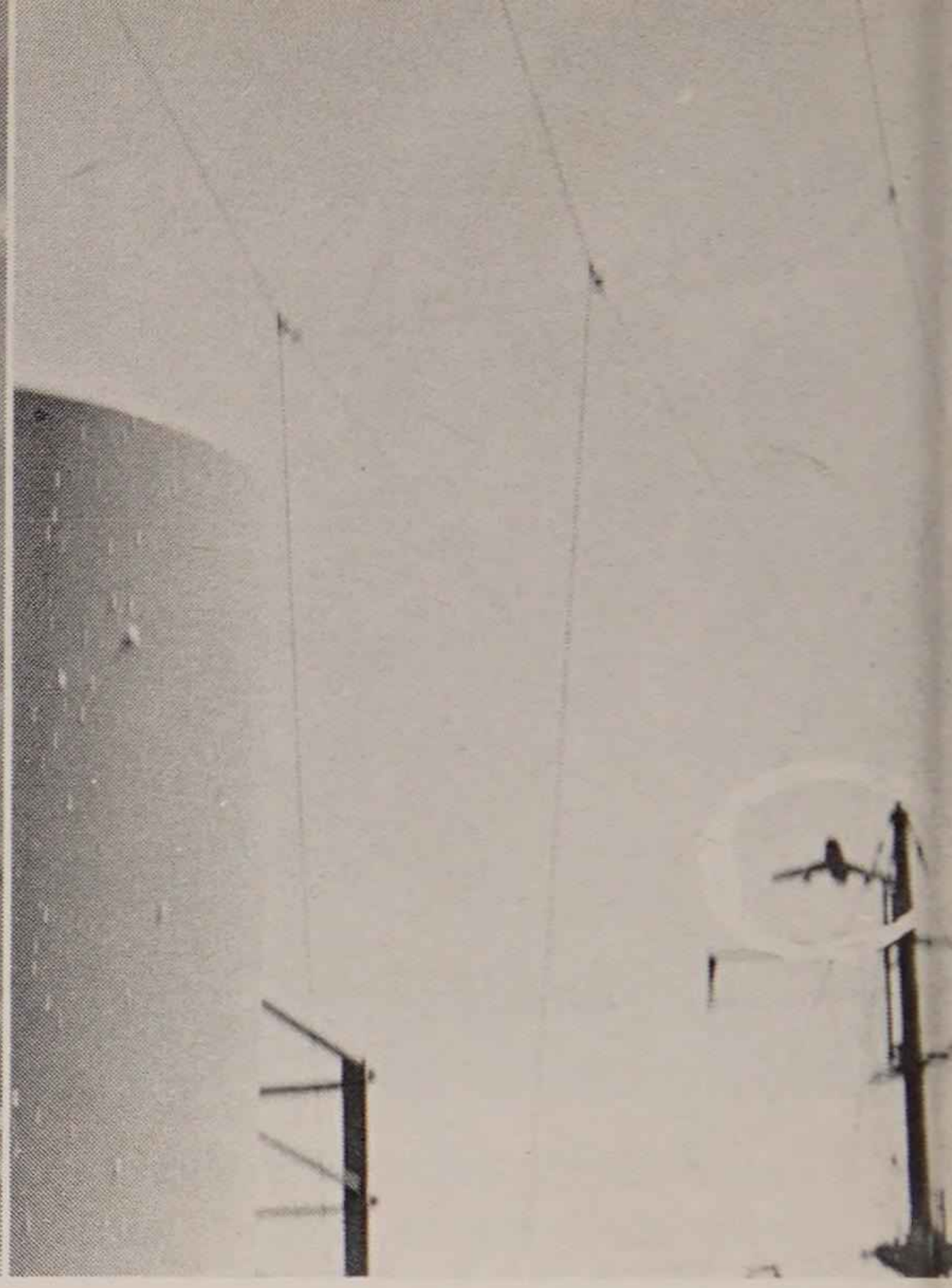


Plate 2b—*An Israeli jet fighter aircraft (circled) attacks the unarmed U.S.S. Liberty in international waters as part of a carefully planned act of war and piracy.*

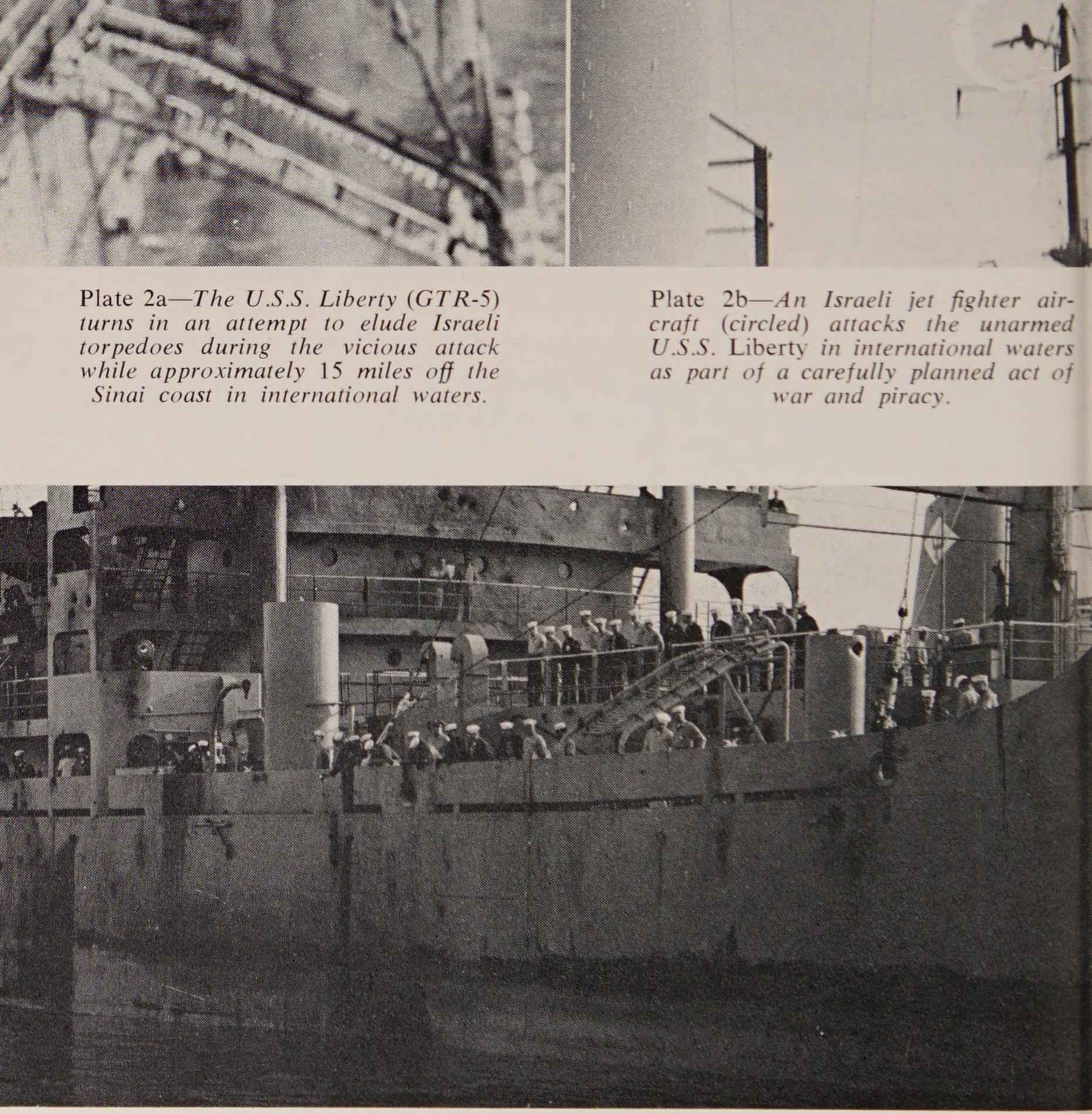


Plate 2c—*The battle-scarred but still proud U.S.S. Liberty is shown at Valletta, Malta. Thirty-four men were killed in the sneak attack and nearly 100 men were wounded.*

could be sent before the communications section of the ship was knocked out of working order.

These secret orders were transmitted by telephone to the motor torpedo boat base at Haifa. But a radio transmission was required to alert Israeli planes, now using the former Egyptian airfield at El' Arîsh, for the attack. And this message was overheard by the Arabs, who relayed it to Cairo where it was passed on to the Russians in that city and thence to a Soviet aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean.

The Israeli plans called for aircraft to knock out the *Liberty*'s powerful antennae and radio sending devices in the first strafing run on the ship so that no SOS or even a Mayday message could be sent to the Sixth Fleet. The next run on the ship would accomplish two things: knock out the ship's machine-guns and immobilise the ship's operating gear so she would become dead in the water with no power—a sitting duck for the waiting motor torpedo boats to finish off. It was emphasised that it was imperative to not only destroy the ship but all hands must be lost.

There were two very valid reasons for such drastic measures. First of all, Israel was still about three days away from achieving her war goals. She had not yet dealt with Syria at all. Israeli leaders feared the continued presence of the *Liberty* because the ship was informing both the U.S. and UN of Israel's half-completed plans for re-arranging the entire map of the Middle East. As one Israeli official admitted years later, "We had waited over 2,000 years to regain more of our natural homelands and we were not about to let a few Americans on the *Liberty* stop us." The second reason for doing away with the *Liberty* was so that the deed could be blamed on the Egyptians or the Russian fighters from a Soviet aircraft carrier known to be within flight range of the ship. The purpose of this farce, other than not letting the Americans learn that Israel had blasted the ship, was to get the Americans more involved totally on the side of Israel.

It was a daring plan. It was also one of the most ruthless plans ever devised in modern warfare. As one Israeli put it to me in 1976: "What's a few hundred American lives in comparison to the millions of Jews killed in World War II." With this sort of illogical justification predominating in Israeli minds, it's a good thing that the U.S. had seen fit to listen in on the war vîa the *Liberty*. And in reference to Israel's territorial gains, one Pentagon

official told me, only half in jest, that "if we don't watch the Israelis the next thing they might try to do is annex Miami Beach."

As far out as this bold plan may seem now to casual students of history, it was a well-conceived one which logically should have been completely successful. It had everything going for it. It was well planned, well co-ordinated and well executed. And everything seemed to be against the *Liberty* in this one-sided fray. She was practically unarmed, a slow vessel which could not turn quickly and she was isolated from the protection of the Sixth Fleet. The Israelis were also fortunate that no ships or planes of any other nation were in the vicinity to tell the tale. It was a perfect set-up. The only amazing thing about it was that it failed—just about the only failure for Israeli armed forces during the entire war. The Israelis did all the right things to sink the ship. But the tough old ex-liberty ship, built in the forties, just wouldn't go down. And the Stars and Stripes were still flying proudly on her when she limped away to Malta following the battle. Maybe she wasn't as glamorous or as well known as the U.S.S. *Constitution*, the *Midway*, or the battleship *Arizona*. And perhaps her name will never grace the pages of American history books for little boys to read and dream about; but all Americans should be very proud of the U.S.S. *Liberty* and her brave captain that fateful day in 1967 because they upheld the spirit and traditions of the U.S. Navy which date back to Revolutionary times.

But wait! There was yet another phase of operations that day which have never been published concerning the *Liberty* and the great Conspiracy of Silence still being maintained in Washington.

About one hour before the Israelis began their intensive day-light surveillance of the *Liberty* that morning; Naval Intelligence came up with a startling discovery—partly from reports from the "Major", who headed the Department of Defence spy team on the ship, and partly from other sources, never identified to me. It was now clear to the "Major" and, possibly, to naval communicators on the Navy carriers of the Sixth Fleet as well, that Israel's U.S.-trained and equipped monitors had finally succeeded in breaking into the *Liberty*'s coding banks thereby enabling the Israelis to decipher her codes as easily as they had broken the Egyptian and Jordanian codes. In other words, Israel had access to every word of every message sent to and from the *Liberty*. This evidence alone

should wipe out any doubters who might still maintain that the attack was a "mistake".

Israel's military intelligence forces had already informed the Israeli high command of the danger the *Liberty* posed to Israel's not-so-secret war plans. The *Liberty* reported that the Israelis were frantic at this news, and that there now was a distinct possibility that some action might be taken against the *Liberty*. This information was sent to Naval Intelligence and passed on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff immediately sent a message to the *Liberty* ordering her to withdraw to at least 100 miles from Israel and Egypt and to stay at least twenty-five miles from the island of Cyprus. This message was sent at the highest priority possible—which means it was rated a "pinnacle" message in Navy parlance. It was to be sent through a naval radio station in Asmara, Ethiopia. Although the *Liberty* usually transmitted messages to Washington vîa the naval base near Naples, the ship was constantly tuned to Asmara for receiving messages. This highest priority message with its pinnacle rating never reached the *Liberty*.

Some communications experts believe that the Israelis, using the same sophisticated equipment which messed up Jordanian-Egyptian messages earlier, intercepted and purposely mis-routed this message in order to give Israel time to sink the *Liberty*. Officially, the U.S. Navy will make no statement concerning this. However, it does seem most incredible that this particular message was first erroneously mis-routed to the Naval Communications Station in Philadelphia, then mis-sent to the Naval Communications Station in Morocco, and from there mis-routed to the naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines—finally ending up hours later back near Washington at the National Security Agency, located at Fort Meade, Maryland, where it was filed. An unlikely comedy of errors . . . unless it was done purposely!

When the *Liberty* failed to respond to the first message, a second one was sent out with a hot priority pinnacle rating which meant it was to be delivered ahead of all other messages of any kind. This one repeated the instructions in the first message. It was dispatched by the Sixth Fleet commandant, Admiral William Martin, who was aboard the *Little Rock* in the Mediterranean. It again advised Captain McGonagle of his ship's dangerous position and ordered him to withdraw immediately.

Believe it or not, this second message was also intercepted and mis-routed—again to the station in Morocco, which routed it to Asmara vîa San Pablo, Spain Defence Communication System, a United States Air Force relay point. Finally, this message was received by the U.S. Army Communications Centre at Asmara instead of the U.S. Naval Communications Station at Asmara. Instead of passing it on to the Asmara Naval Station a short distance away for delivery to the *Liberty*, the Army Centre at Asmara mis-routed the message to the Naval Communications Station in Greece. After a delay, Greece returned the message to the Army Centre in Asmara instead of sending it to the Naval Station in Asmara. Finally, the Army Centre correctly got the message to the Naval Station across town in Asmara. But even then the message didn't get routed to the *Liberty*. Somehow it managed to end up back at Fort Meade just as the first message had done, and by now the *Liberty* was already under a severe attack.

And to compound the felony, in a manner of speaking, a third naval message that day was "mis-routed". This one was FROM the *Liberty*, sent out at 2.10 p.m., to the Sixth Fleet Commandant just seconds before the main communications of the ship were knocked out, and it advised Admiral Martin of the extent of the damage from the attack now taking place. It never reached the Sixth Fleet but was re-directed to Subic Bay and finally arrived at Fort Meade several hours later just like the first two top priority messages that eventful day.

Of course, getting any kind of a message off from the *Liberty* during the attack was extremely difficult. To add to the confusion of the battle, the Israelis were constantly jamming every frequency known to be available to the ship. The first message from the *Liberty* which got through, past the Israeli monitors with no interference, was the quick, open-channel Mayday help communication sent right after the coded pinnacle one from the spy ship to the Sixth Fleet. The Mayday SOS transmission reached Sixth Fleet headquarters immediately on the *Little Rock*.

In all the European stories about the *Liberty* attack which I read, and in British war correspondent Anthony Pearson's *Penthouse* articles, it was stated that this Mayday transmission was the only one to get through that day. But this is not true. The *Liberty* continued to send messages during and after the attack. Some of them picked up by the U.S.S. *Saratoga* and relayed are listed. I

was given copies of the actual messages by the National Security Agency upon authorisation of the Judge Advocate-General of the United States Navy.

081237Z
FM CTU 60.2.9
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM USS LIBERTY
THREE UNIDENTIFIED GUNBOATS APPROACHING OUR POSITION NOW.

081245Z
FM USS SARATOGA
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ROCKSTAR (*Liberty*)
UNDER ATTACK AND HIT BADLY

081253Z JUN 67
FM USS SARATOGA
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ROCKSTAR
(Code name for *Liberty*)
I AM UNDER ATTACK MY POSIT 31 23N, 33 25E. I HAVE BEEN HIT. REQUEST IMMED. ASSISTANCE.

081254Z
FM USS SARATOGA
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM ROCKSTAR (*Liberty*)
HIT BY TORPEDO STARBOARD SIDE. LISTING BADLY. NEED ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY.

081428Z
FM NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
CONFIDENTIAL
RECEIVED OVER VOICE HICOM FROM USS LIBERTY. USS LIBERTY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ATTACKING AIR-CRAFT AND TORPEDO BOATS. AFTER ATTACK A HELO CIRCLED THE SHIP. BELIEVED TO BE ISRAELI, STAR OF DAVID MARKINGS.

Now note the similarity between the above voice transmission and the following English-language voice message which was picked up at the same time by the Soviet cruiser *Occa* 159 in the Mediterranean. The difference in wording could have resulted in the fact that this message was picked up aboard the Soviet ship in English and translated hastily into the Russian language for the Soviet officers to read, then later this same message was translated back into English for me by Soviet translators. How I was able to get this message and the translation will not be divulged in this book.

> 1429 JUNE 8—XXX1429 JUNE 8 SOVIET CRUISER OCCA USS LIBERTY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ATTACKING BOATS IOUSEEEEEEEEE BOATS AFTER ATTACK HELICOPTER CIRCLED THE SHIP XX BELIEVED TO BE ISRAELITE.

During the past eleven years since the attack the Navy has yet to come up with any really plausible answer as to what actually happened to the three high-priority messages. The rather flippant and vague explanation of "bad management" doesn't hold water. Neither does the official Navy-released weak public statement announcing that "mis-placed communications" was responsible for the mix-up.

One civilian employee of the Naval Intelligence, who shall remain nameless for obvious reasons, did tell me that "off the record" he believed that the Israelis had some help in Washington in delaying and mis-routing these important messages which could have saved the *Liberty*. He also told me, "There are plenty of people in Washington who would gladly trade American lives for an Israeli victory and more territory for that Zionist state."

I was not able to verify this information during my investigation, nor was I able to come up with any names of persons who might be involved. And this isn't difficult to understand when you realise how close-mouthed Washington officials are about everything concerning the *Liberty*. In many government offices the mere mention of the *Liberty* is enough to wear out one's welcome . . . terminate an interview . . . make an official suddenly remember a previous appointment . . . make employees develop a loss of memory which seems permanent . . . and even get your income tax returns audited by the IRS.

But whether or not the Israelis had help in high places in this country or elsewhere, the end result was the same—the messages just didn't get through. And believe me, as a former Naval Reserve communications officer myself, I can assure readers that things aren't this bad in the Navy. U.S. Navy communications are first-rate and mistakes of this nature could not occur during normal transmissions without some inside or outside interference. And the same large-scale mistakes three times in a row? Forget it! It couldn't happen. And if it ever did happen, a courtmartial would surely follow for someone down the line.

If day-by-day communications in the U.S. Navy were really as fouled up as it might seem by what happened to these three high-priority messages, then we would still be fighting World War II in the Pacific against the Japanese. The letters used at that time to designate such a situation, as all veterans will recall with a smile, were SNAFU (Situation Normal, All Fouled Up). Only at crucial times, another word beginning with F was substituted for "Fouled".

At this point I would like to correct a mistake by several writers, including Pearson in *Penthouse*, about the lack of a Navy investigation into the reasons for the mis-routing of these communications. Pearson wrote: "No known official naval inquiry into the communications incident ever took place."

The Navy did conduct an official investigation into the matter. It was the first item of investigation handled by the Naval Court of Inquiry which convened in London at the headquarters for U.S. Naval Forces in Europe on June 10, 1967. About fifty pages of testimony covered this phase of the inquiry. It is true, however, that no logical conclusions were reached as to why these important messages to and from the *Liberty* went haywire. The initial part of the testimony covers the report and examination of Captain Leonard Raish, assistant Chief of Staff for Communications, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe. The second part of the testimony concerning the messages consists of reports and depositions in answer to questions from the court which were put to the various naval communications stations involved by Captain Raish. These latter reports also failed to clear up the matter and were mostly about the increased traffic at the time and an attempt to lay the blame of failure upon some junior officers and others without long training in naval communications procedure.

In order for readers to form their own opinions about the intensity and completeness of the inquiry concerning the "missing

messages", herein is the official and verified transcription of Captain Raish's testimony:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Questions by Counsel for the Court:

Q. State your name, rank or rate, organisation and present duty station.

A. I am Captain Leonard Robert Raish, U.S. Navy. I am the assistant Chief of Staff for Communications, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe.

Q. Captain, this Court of Inquiry has been convened to inquire into the circumstances attendant with the armed Israeli attack on the LIBERTY on 8 June, 1967. Will you please state your whereabouts?

A. I was on duty in CINCUSNAVEUR Headquarters.

Q. Will you please state to the Court what, if any, knowledge you have concerning the deployment of the USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Mediterranean on 8 June 1967?

A. Yes, as Assistant Chief of Staff, I have the privilege of participating in the daily operations and intelligence briefings held in the Headquarters. An essential part of these briefings are the movements of ships in the NAVEUR command area. The LIBERTY passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, entered the Mediterranean, and took a generally easterly course, culminating in the position at which she was hit.

Q. What identification is relevant to the AGTR-5?

A. This ship is a commissioned ship of the United States Navy, designated USS LIBERTY. She is a technical research ship commanded by a line officer.

Q. Do you have in your custody as Assistant Chief of Staff for Communications, any official records from the files of CINCUSNAVEUR concerning the deployment of USS LIBERTY in the Mediterranean?

A. Affirmative, I do. I have with me tonight messages pertaining to communications problems and events prior to and following the time that she was hit.

At this time, Counsel for the Court will request the reporter to mark, as exhibits for the record, these messages which are offered

into evidence of the proceedings of this Court of Inquiry. These messages will be marked Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

There being no objection, the exhibits were received in evidence.

I now request Captain Raish to read these messages.

Captain Raish: Exhibit 1 is a Joint Chiefs of Staff Secret message 011545Z JUN 67 from JCS to USCINCEUR, info CNO, CINCLANTFLT, CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT, CTF 64, USS LIBERTY, DIRNSA MSAEUR, DIRNAVSECGRU, ADIRNAVSECGRU, DIRNAVSECGRULANT, DIRNAVSECGRUER, subject USS LIBERTY SKED, reference DIRNSA G/104/311906Z MAY (NOTAL-BOM). 1. When RFS request sail LIBERTY in accordance with the following schedule: A. 2 June depart Rota. B. 2-8 June ENROUTE VIA GIBRALTAR STRAIT CPA AS PERMITS. THEN VIA NORTHERN AFRICA COASTAL ROUTE TO POSIT 32-00N 33-00E. CAP MOROCCO MALTA 8 NM CLAIMED DIST 3 NM. CPA SPAIN TUNISIA SARDINIA SICILY CRETE 7 NM. CLAIMS EFBDIT 6 NM. CPA ALGERIA LIBYA UAR 13 NM CLAIMED DIST 12 NM. C. 9-30 June CONDUCT OPS SOUTH OF 32-00N AND BETWEEN 33-00E AND 34-00E.

Q. From the information in the exhibits, was USS LIBERTY at the time of the attack, at the position that she was ordered to proceed to?

A. Yes, however, she did not receive two key messages which in effect cancelled the orders under which she was operating.

Q. Which are the two key messages you are referring to?

A. JCS 080110Z and COMSIXTHFLT 080917Z.

Q. Will you please explain to the Court, in a narrative manner, the substance of these messages and the applicability of the messages to USS LIBERTY?

A. LIBERTY was operating pursuant to a JCS message, 011545Z June 67, which directed her to proceed to position 32° North, 33° East. These orders were later modified by JCS 072230Z, which specified that the operating area specified in JCS 011545Z was for guidance only and may be varied as local conditions dictate. This message also indicated "change the CPA to UAR to 20 NM and Israel 15 NM. The next message, JCS 080110Z, a Top Secret message directed USCINCEUR to change the operating area of

LIBERTY such that she remained at least 100 miles off the coast of Syria, Israel, and UAR, and at least 25 miles off the coast of Cyprus. This message was also info to several addees including CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT, and USS LIBERTY. Action on this message was directed to COMSIXTHFLT.

Q. Is there any information available that LIBERTY received the JCS message 080110Z?

A. The LIBERTY did not receive that message.

Q. On what basis do you form that opinion?

A. I form that opinion on the information received from COMSIXTHFLT, who had queried the Captain of the LIBERTY, COMSIXTHFLT 101205Z.

Q. In other words, it is clear and certain that USS LIBERTY did not receive the message directing it to stay outside of 100 miles of the coast?

A. Yes. Additionally, COMSIXTHFLT, by his 080917Z repeated the substance of the JCS 080110Z when he directed the LIBERTY to comply with the later message.

Q. What response is indicated from the LIBERTY?

A. The LIBERTY did not receive that message either.

Q. As a communications specialist, will you please advise the Court of your opinion predicated on the exhibits in evidence, why these two messages were not received by LIBERTY?

A. Yes. The analysis reveals that the JCS message, 080110Z, was erroneously routed by the communications centre serving the JCS to NAVCOMMSTAPHIL for delivery to USS LIBERTY. At 080449 NAVCOMMSTAPHIL took the correct action and re-routed JCS 080110Z to NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO for delivery to LIBERTY. Up to the current time this message has not arrived at NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO, and we are still attempting to trace the reason for non-delivery to NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO. COMSIXTHFLT's 080917Z which directed LIBERTY to comply with JCS 080110Z and essentially repeated its text as well, was sent from the LITTLE ROCK AT 081058. The elapsed time in getting this message off the ship was about one hour and 45 minutes. NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO routed COMSIXTHFLTs' message to Asmara vîa San Pablo Spain Defence Communication System—USAF major relay. At 081200, COMSIXTHFLT's mes-

sage was received by the U.S. Army Communications Centre at Asmara for further relay to NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA for placing on the broadcast to USS LIBERTY. At 081215Z the U.S. Army Communications Centre Asmara relayed the COMSIXTHFLT message erroneously to NAVCOMMSTA GREECE for relay to LIBERTY. At 081506, and there is some question about the preciseness of this time, NAVCOMMSTA GREECE returned the COMSIXTHFLT message back to the U.S. Army Communications Centre Asmara. At 081510 U.S. Army Communications Centre Asmara then relayed the COMSIXTHFLT message correctly to NAVCOMMSTA Asmara and it was placed on the broadcast at 081525. Clearly, LIBERTY had not received this message as she was hit at least three hours before.

Q. In recapitulation, the official records from CINCUSNAVEUR, which you have read into these proceedings, indicate that at the time USS LIBERTY was under attack, she had not received either of these two messages, COMSIXTHFLT 080817Z and JCS 080110Z?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Do any members of the Court have questions of the witness?

Captain LAUFF:

Q. Can you give an opinion, based on your experience, as to why these failures to deliver occur in our system?

A. Yes, in my opinion these errors in routing turned out to be human errors on the part of the persons doing the routing in the Communications Centre serving the JCS and in the Army Communications Centre at Asmara. I would like to further point out that at the time these mis-routes occurred we were several days in a critical situation in the Mid-East with a tremendous volume of high precedence traffic being handled and that the undoubtedly young kids who were doing this work were up against traffic volume and probably lack of experience. Communication systems like weapons systems these days are sophisticated but still perform as well as the people who operate them.

Q. Under the conditions such as you have just described, what do you estimate a normal delay time of the precedence of the JCS message 080110Z or the COMSIXTHFLT message 080917Z—what would be the delay time to the ship on average?

A. It would be unrealistic to give you an average because there are so many contingencies. The DCA has established standards

which we use for guidance, however, meeting these standards is difficult to achieve particularly under the circumstances that we have been involved over the past week.

Q. Had the errors connected with the routing of the messages in question not occurred, would the messages have been received by LIBERTY in a timely fashion?

A. The answer to that is yes.

Rear Admiral KIDD:

Do you gentlemen have any more questions?

No sir.

Captain, I have two or three questions I would like to ask.

Q. Are all of the terminals in the system related to delivery of the messages in question, to the best of your knowledge, now on-line crypto-equipped?

A. Affirmative.

Q. Has the introduction of the on-line system, in your experience, introduced a situation where we are perhaps becoming increasingly confident and dependent upon automation in general terms, beyond that which existed before the on-line systems were made a part of the communications network?

A. Yes sir. We are both confident and dependent, and in my opinion this is all to the good due to the increased capability of the system and increased speed of handling messages.

Q. Has the incidence rate of identifiable problems typified by these two messages increased, decreased, or remained about the same since the introduction of on-line crypto?

A. I have no way of comparing that sir, this is like saying were there more automobile accidents in the 1947 model automobiles compared to the 1967 automobiles.

Q. I think, captain, you have really answered the question indirectly in the affirmative, that there is an increased incidence rate because with the increased capability, has not the volume increased also?

A. It wasn't my intention to give you that impression, sir. Yes, there has been quantum increase in volume, ergo, the chances for errors would be greater, I grant you that. But on a percentage basis, I doubt it. On the old system, you were dependent on human

beings all along the line. Under the new system, of course, you are still dependent on human beings, but in fewer places.

Q. Are the human beings on whom we are depending now of the same or different qualification and experience levels?

A. Depending on the point you make the comparison, but prior to on-line systems we used to have officer coding boards usually made up of junior officers. Now coding boards are generally a thing of the past and enlisted men operating on-line equipment do this work. I would say, quality of personnel in some respects is down, particularly in the communications field, because re-enlistments for hard driving communicators is not the best. In my opinion, the Navy is accomplishing with youngsters, that is with strikers and third class petty officers, that which commercial communication companies wouldn't attempt to do unless they had personnel with considerably more experience. Efficiency of personnel is a relative thing as I see it, associated with experience. We are operating a sophisticated communications system with a substantial percentage of first term personnel. On the officer side, we are doing the job with essentially a hard corps of LDO's and the rest are young reserve officers, the great majority of whom are short timers.

Q. When a message of the precedence of the two in question is received in a communications terminal, what if any alarms or other signals are used to alert the individuals at the receiving point that a particularly important message has arrived?

A. The communicators are governed by precedences. They do not have the time nor are they expected to analyse texts of messages in addition to determining importance. Flash messages are associated by either alarm bells or a warning light of some kind. As I recall, neither of these were flashed. Operational immediate messages and the practice in communications centres to shout out "op immediate coming through" or something similar so that personnel concerned have their attention drawn to the fact that an op immediate is being processed.

Q. Now, when you have hundreds of op immediate messages arriving in the same centre, then I would imagine that this system collapses of its own weight?

A. I wouldn't say it collapses, but human beings might tend to lose respect for the precedence because of its obviously excessive

use. However, wherever I have been, they say "op immediate coming through". Sometimes several times a minute—they still say it—they try.

Q. The point I am seeking, Captain, relates to the order in which these messages could expect attention by the individual who would first address himself to it after it left the mechanical and electrical machines in order to first identify, in this case, an error in routing indicator.

A. The basic rule of communicators is "first in, first out by precedence". Thus, if there were twenty op immediates in process and the 21st came in, it would wait its turn and then move along.

Q. Does my recollection serve me correctly, Captain, that during the period of time under consideration, the days preceding, and immediately following, the LIBERTY's attack, the circuits were relatively well choked; or perhaps that is an over-statement with FBIS intercepts and similar traffic transmitted at a very high precedence?

A. We were very busy with traffic of that nature, particularly with FBIS intercepts. All of which were at least op immediate. However, these conditions had little, if anything to do in directly causing the mis-routes.

Q. My point, Captain, is that a mis-routed message arriving—it seems to me would have to wait its turn to find the mis-route and identify it, is that correct?

A. You are correct, sir, it would wait its turn under the first in first out by precedence rule.

Q. My next question, Captain, relates to possible safeguards in the communications system wherein a message originated with a particular precedence and which experienced inordinate delay, what safeguards, if any, are available for intermediate stations to raise the precedence where delays have been experienced up to the time of receipt where the delay is identified?

A. Here is where experience counts. An experienced communicator will notice this and do something about it. This is something you can't legislate, sir. A mechanical safeguard is not feasible, but an experienced person can do something about it.

Q. Have you, in your career, had occasion to personally observe instances where precedences have been raised under such circumstances?

A. The assignment of a precedence is the responsibility of the originator, thus the communicators would not raise the precedence *per se*, however, depending on their experience, they could handle it in a manner as though it had a higher precedence; and this I have seen done often. For example, sir, in many cases there are either direct circuits or the NAVCOMOPNET available and messages can be sent over such circuits and taken out of competition with all other general traffic.

Q. Did Asmara, or does Asmara have such a NAVCOM-OPNET?

A. Affirmative.

Q. I would gather then that the two critical messages in question did not enjoy this type of service, is that correct?

A. Certainly, the one message from COMSIXTHFLT was not routed over that circuit, it went over DCS circuits.

Q. Would the situation that we have just been discussing, Captain, come under the heading which you mentioned earlier, of lack of experience being a key to identifying a message that had been delayed, in this particular incident?

A. Possibly, sir, in the case of the COMSIXTHFLT message. This message was mis-routed by the Army's comm centre in Asmara and sent to NAVCOMMSTA GREECE. The soldier who did the mis-route may have been inexperienced, or what have you, but then NAVCOMMSTA GREECE apparently was a little slow in getting this message back to Asmara and here experience might have been a factor. On the other hand, we know NAVCOMMSTA GREECE had been handling a lot of FBIS type messages and the delay could have been under the first in first out rule. Also, the NAV-COMMSTA GREECE personnel could have returned this message direct to NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA had the experience factor been present. Mind you, this business is surmised because I do not know the rate and enlistment time of the traffic handlers involved.

Let the record show at this point that Captain Raish had been asked to develop a set of questions for submission to communication officers.

CHAPTER FOUR

ISRAEL DELIBERATELY ATTACKS THE *LIBERTY*

On the evening of June 7, the *Liberty* had still not quite reached her assigned chart co-ordinates off the Sinai coast. The reason for this delay goes back to minor engineering difficulties while *en route* to Rota from her original position off the African coast. And the aforementioned communications delays and mis-routing errors, which caused several non-deliveries, combined with slow follow-up actions on operational instructions received, contributed to the ship being totally unaware of plans and decisions made for her re-positioning farther from the Egyptian and Israeli coastlines.

As the *Liberty* proceeded eastward toward her assigned points she filed three separate message reports of her position and intent which clearly advised superiors of her exact plans and of the estimated time of arrival on station.

At 7.45 a.m. on June 8, the *Liberty* was steaming on course 130 degrees true, speed 10 knots. The sky was entirely clear with visibility unlimited.

At 8.49 a.m. the ship passed through Point Alpha, then changed her course to 253 degrees true.

At 8.50 a.m. a single jet aircraft (unidentified by the *Liberty*) crossed astern of the ship to check her name which was painted large and clear on the stern in block letters. The small reconnaissance plane was a Magistar of the Israeli Air Force. The pilot then circled the ship from starboard to port. He noted not only the name USS LIBERTY painted on the stern but the American flag (standard size, five by eight feet) flying from the masthead on the ensign staff and the designation on each side of the bow of AGRT-5

Plate 3a—*This close-up view of the bridge of the U.S.S.* Liberty *shows heavy damage by Israeli shell fire during the attack, which was actually planned months in advance and certainly was not a mistake.*

Plate 3b—*In port at Valletta, Malta, Captain William McGonagle of the U.S.S.* Liberty *points out damage to his ship by Israeli armed forces during the sneak attack in the Mediterranean Sea. (U.S. Naval Intelligence Photo.)*



Plate 4a—*Pocked by Israeli gunfire, the U.S.S.* Liberty *arrives safely at Valletta, Malta, following the attack which was personally ordered by General Dayan. Thirty-four crewmen were deliberately murdered, including the ship's executive officer. (U.S. Naval Intelligence Photo.)*

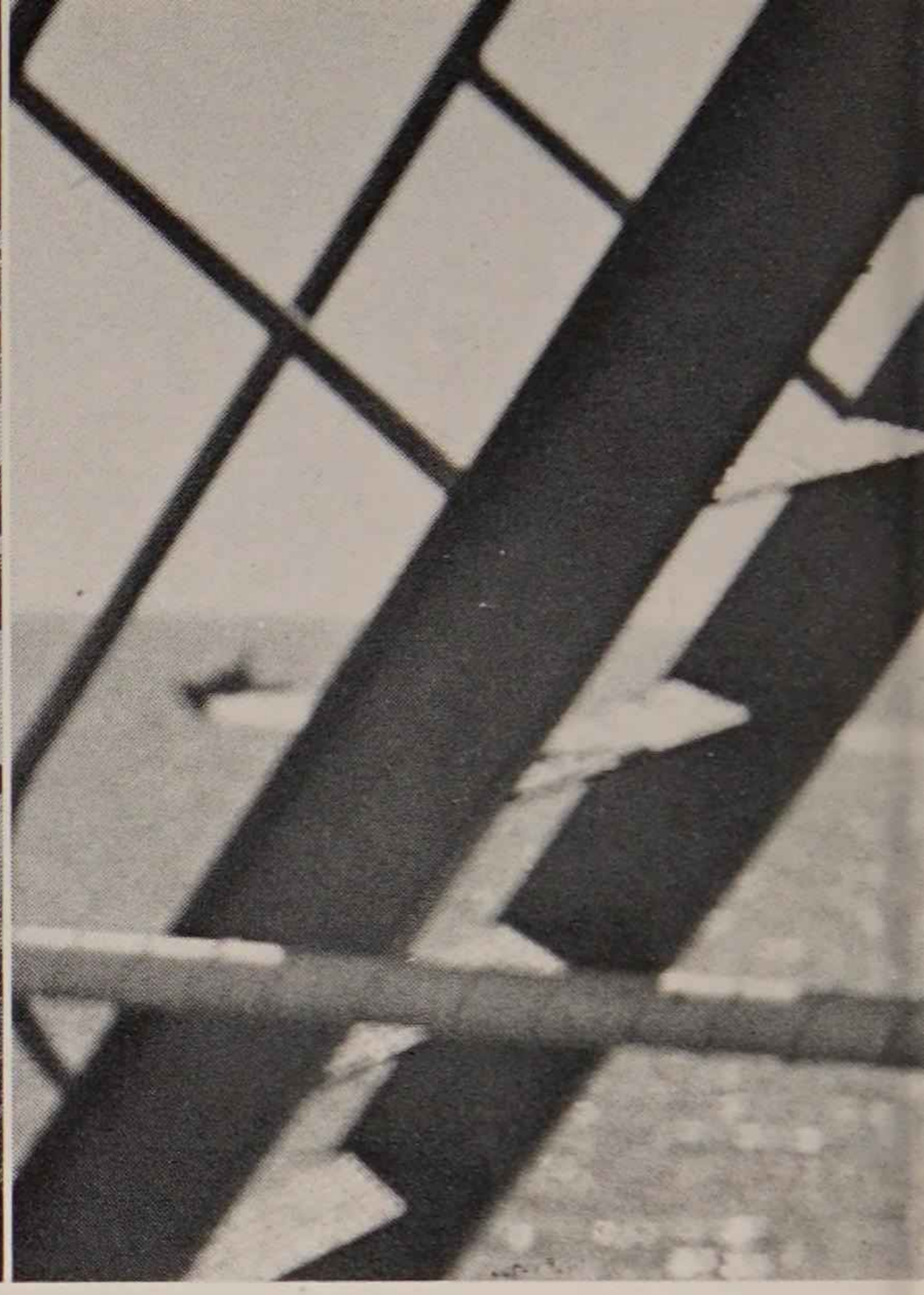


Plate 4b—*An Israeli torpedo boat* (centre) *circles the U.S.S.* Liberty *and prepares to fire torpedoes during the unprovoked attack upon the American ship in international waters on June* 8, 1967. *(U.S. Naval Intelligence Photo.)*

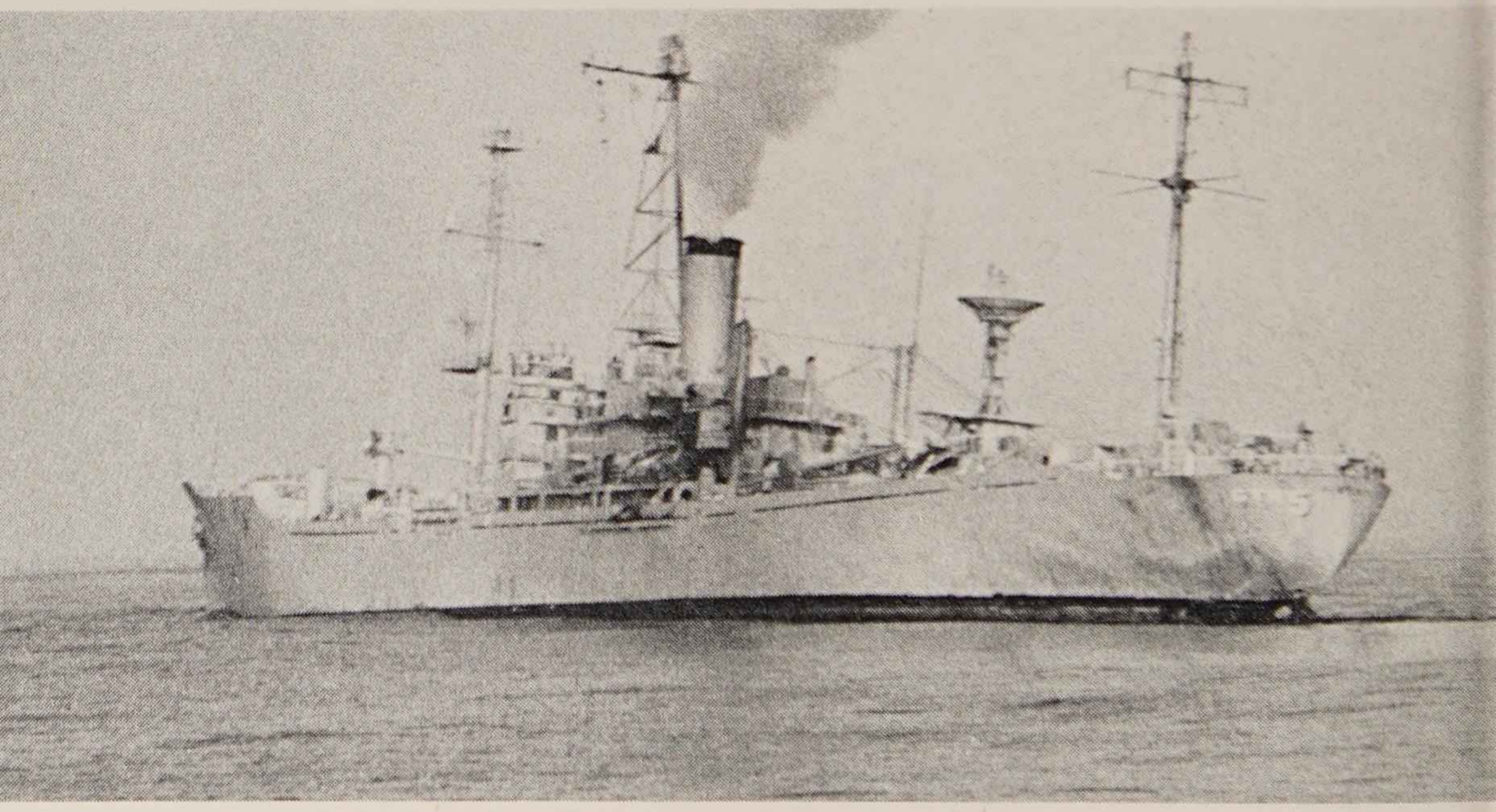


Plate 4c—*The heavily damaged U.S.S.* Liberty *is shown in the Mediterranean Sea approximately* 14 *hours after she was deliberately attacked by air and surface units of Israel. (U.S. Naval Intelligence Photo.)*

(over three feet high). He radioed his findings back to the new Israeli base at El' Arîsh, then departed in the general direction of the UAR mainland. It must be pointed out that this positive identification of the *Liberty* was made five hours and thirteen minutes before the first attack.

From this moment on, the Israelis at the nearby base and in Tel Aviv followed the movements of the *Liberty* by radar and other means as she plodded slowly along on her assigned course that morning towards her destiny with death and destruction.

The *Liberty* did not send or receive any signal from the reconnaissance plane. Of course, the ship's officers had seen the plane through binoculars. Several remarks were made about their inability to identify the plane's insignia. But it wasn't at all unusual for planes of a combatant to check on neutral ships near a war zone. Some sailors on deck had waved at the pilot in a friendly gesture. But both the captain and the "Major" knew that the ship wasn't really neutral and both realised that some risk must be involved in their assigned task. The captain feared Egyptian MiG's might attack the ship, if any were left by now. McGonagle warned the ship's lookouts to be on the alert for possible Egyptian or Russian planes, then went below for coffee.

The "Major" insisted on the ship's speed being reduced to five knots to facilitate the close and careful monitoring operations and radar fixes. So at 9.05 a.m. the ship reduced speed from eight to five knots, a rate of speed even slower than any civilian freighters on the high seas. And it must be pointed out that this was an extremely slow speed for a "neutral" non-combatant naval vessel near a war zone.

The ship's crew went about routine procedures. The Captain saw no reason to place the men at general quarters at this time.

McGonagle sat in the wardroom with Lieutenant Richard F. Kiepfer of Brooklyn, New York, the ship's medical officer. As they sipped their coffee, neither man could possibly know that today would shortly become the most unusual and terrifying experience of their entire naval careers. It goes without saying that, at this time, the captain had no hint of an Israeli attack on his ship. And even the possibility of an Egyptian attack was considered only as a remote one . . . just one of a myriad of endless contingencies a ship's commanding officer must contend with daily. Only the "Major" down below, the analyst and intelligence expert, knew

what the odds might be as he watched the developments on this fourth day of the Mid-East war. He had mentioned to the captain in a vague and undisclosing manner that the previous day had caused him some concern. But he wasn't allowed to go into detail about it, not even when speaking confidentially with the captain of the ship.

As the captain gave the aerial reconnaissance of his ship more concentrated thought he became more puzzled. And he rightly assumed that the aircraft had been an Israeli plane. He wondered what it might mean both in Tel Aviv and Washington. His thoughts were on a level of international politics rather than concerning the safety of the ship and her crew at this moment. The possibility that two-thirds of the men aboard, including himself, would be either dead or wounded within a few hours was not what worried him. He was puzzled even more now by the cover the "Major" had devised with him if any Israeli planes or ships challenged them. The captain was to state flatly that his ship was monitoring Russian radar systems being used by the Egyptian Army nearby.

McGonagle had been expecting more orders from the Sixth Fleet but none had been received. Unknown to him at this time, such messages had been sent to the *Liberty* but all of them had been successfully blocked out, "mis-routed", delayed or whatever terms you wish to apply to them. Anyway none got through.

At 10.56 a.m. a second Israeli jet reconnaissance plane scouted the ship, accompanied this time by a slow propeller-driven aircraft which took photographs of the *Liberty* in preparations for the planned attack. It was a perfect day weatherwise, a cloudless sky which was ideal for both visual and photographic reconnaissance. And it was now three hours and seven minutes before the attack. It was the unanimous viewpoint of the ship's crew that it would be absolutely impossible for these planes scouting the ship not to know by now that the *Liberty* was an American naval vessel. The planes took their time in examining the ship. They flew in close and could easily see the name of the ship, the U.S. flag and other identifying features. Bear in mind that the hull markings on the *Liberty* had just been repainted so as to be especially clear and visible on this particular mission, which the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington thought to be of the utmost importance. There was just no way that these planes could possibly fail to identify this ship. And if, by some miracle, these Israeli pilots were in need of glasses or the sun got in their eyes, then all they needed to do was com-

municate with the ship and verify its nationality and status. This would have been easy to do because the *Liberty* was ready to respond by blinker lights, semaphore or radio. And remember that this was still a long time before the initial attack took place. Plenty of time for standard international recognition signals to be exchanged or even a boarding party.

But, of course, there was a reason for the Israelis not to signal this ship for identification. Israeli officers in Tel Aviv and at the nearby El' Arîsh base knew full well that this was the *Liberty*. They should have because they had monitored her progress ever since she had departed from the African coast in May. These morning reconnaissance flights were simply a re-check on the *Liberty*'s position . . . just good military tactics. After all, they didn't want to sink the wrong ship.

But for the benefit of any latent doubters among readers, I offer the record of radio voice transmissions during this second Israeli reconnaissance mission of the day.

The following transmissions from the Israeli planes were picked up by both the Arab radio stations ashore and by two Soviet ships at 10.57 a.m.

THE STAR IS ON THE HORIZON
LODESTAR IS OUTSIDE OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS
REPEAT SHIP NOW OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS

Since Rockstar was the radio code name for the *Liberty*, there can be little doubt that the words "STAR" and "LODESTAR" meant the U.S.S. *Liberty*.

And if verified foreign sources are not sufficient proof then I offer the following secret U.S. message which was given to me, probably inadvertently, by the National Security Agency. It was sent on June 15, 1967 from U.S. forces in Tel Aviv to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe.

151603Z JUN 67
FM: USDAO, TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO: CINCUSNAVEUR
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SURROUNDING USS LIBERTY INCIDENT AS OBSERVED AND RECORDED BY ALUSNA (American Liaison, United States Naval Attaché) TEL AVIV CDR. E. C. CASTLE, USNR: ALUSNA CALLED TO ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCE FOREIGN LIAISON

OFFICE (IDFLFLO) AT APPROX. 081400Z. MET THERE BY LT. COL. MICHAEL BLOCH, ASSISTANT IDF SPOKESMAN ..... AT APPROX. 100930Z USDAO SOURCE REPORTED SECONDARY SOURCE GAVE DEFINITE INFO GATHERED BY OVERHEARING IDF AF AIR-TO-GROUND VOICE CONTROL FREQUENCIES. INFO SUGGESTS THAT IDF AIRCRAFT MADE 2 OR 3 POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION PASSES OVER A US SHIP SOMETIME PRIOR TO ATTACK ON LIBERTY. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT REPORTED SHIP HAD US FLAG AND NAME NO PERSONNEL ON DECK INFO THIS PARA FORWARDED TO LIMITED ADDRESSEES INCLUDING CNO AND DIA IN USDAO 0854 JUN 67.

At 11.26 a.m. Israeli Magistars made their third reconnaissance flight over the *Liberty*. Again no exchange of signals. It was now two hours and thirty-seven minutes before the first scheduled attack on the ship.

At 11.32 a.m. the *Liberty* passed through Point Bravo and changed her course to 283 degrees true with the same slow speed of five knots an hour.

At 1.10 p.m. Captain McGonagle put the ship's company through a general quarters drill.

At 1.48 p.m. the general quarters drill was concluded.

At 1.51 p.m. radar reported three small surface contacts held on radar at 32,000 yards distance, bearing 082 degrees true—reported to bridge as three high-speed surface craft.

At 1.58 p.m. aircraft sighted approaching ship from 135 degrees relative, at five to six miles distance, altitude approximately 7,000 feet.

At 1.59 p.m. aircraft passed down track of the ship in attack formation.

This time the Israeli planes were not the reconnaissance Magistars but Mirages, the Dassault-built, French fighter jets that had destroyed the Arab MiG's.

At 2.03 p.m. the merciless attack began as a single jet fighter hit the ship with rockets just abaft of the bridge on the port side. There was a violent explosion near the communications room. The lengthy surveillance and studying done by the Israeli pilots of the deck plans of the *Liberty* had paid off. The electronics equipment and computers gave off shocks and some lost power.

In the crew's quarters, Seaman Fred Kerner of Scranton, New Jersey, was thrown off his feet. "The boiler room's gone!" someone yelled.

The captain bounded up from the wardroom to discover his men, who only seconds before had been working, talking and laughing; were now either lying still on the deck or were crawling around bleeding profusely. Then from right above the ship's superstructure came the whirring of the jets as the Israeli pilots splintered the deck with heavy-calibre bullets. More explosions from rockets occurred as the superstructure tumbled down on the deck below.

Seaman Dick Weaver saw another plane coming in for a strafing run so he headed for the protection of a bulkhead. He didn't make it. Shrapnel tore through his stomach. As he staggered and fell, his shipmates helped him down to the sick bay below.

As the determined Israeli fighters whined in on pre-set patterns the open decks were an array of confused crew members, blood-stained wrecked platforms, mutilated bodies, smoke and debris. Still the rockets swished by, causing major damage. As one man said later "There was no safe place and the 450-foot ship seemed very small now." The battle-trained Israeli pilots did their job with great precision. They made at least five attack runs of two planes at a time from carefully-planned angles. It was crystal clear that this was no mistaken attack or even a hastily-conceived one. It had the mark of careful planning, according to the officers of the *Liberty*. Finally, the cruellest blow of all came as the Israeli pilots finished their part in the attack with incendiary bombs which were dropped upon the wounded sailors who were attempting to drag themselves to relative safety below decks.

When the captain reached the bridge he yelled to Lieutenant Stephen Toth, U.S.N., to get to the forward lookout post and identify the attacking planes. At this time, McGonagle still didn't have positive identification that the aircraft were Israeli, which he needed before sending a message of distress back to the Sixth Fleet. Toth, twenty-three years old and a graduate of the Naval Academy, was the son of a retired Navy captain. His listed home town or address of next-of-kin was Sao Paulo, Brazil, where his parents resided at the time. Just as Toth reached the look-out position, a rocket wrecked it. He was killed instantly.

Then the captain noticed a fire raging near where fifty drums of gasoline were stored. He ordered Lieutenant Commander Philip

Armstrong III of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to see that these cans were jettisoned over the side of the ship. Armstrong told Lieutenant Jim O'Connor to help him. As they attempted to carry out their orders another explosion hit the bridge. All three officers were knocked on to the deck. Armstrong was killed and O'Connor was severely wounded. The captain, also wounded in the leg, courageously staggered to his feet and gave an order for maximum speed.

McGonagle, truly a commander cut in the image of the Navy's illustrious, such as John Paul Jones, Stephen Decatur and Colin Kelley of World War II fame, proved that he too was made of the stuff from which legends are produced by maintaining command of the ship despite his shrapnel wounds. He told Lieutenant Maurice Bennett, of Pittsburgh, who was later wounded himself, to report to the Chief of Naval Operations that the *Liberty* was under severe attack and needed immediate assistance. It was now 2.10 p.m. McGonagle also ordered an immediate Mayday distress call to be broadcast over the open-channel circuit. Of course, the Israelis on shore at this time were jamming the *Liberty's* frequencies to prevent any messages from leaving the ship. They seemed to have thought of everything. The message to the CNO was blocked by the Israelis but the Mayday call was immediately picked up by the U.S. Naval Communications Station in Greece, the U.S.S. *Little Rock* and the U.S. carrier *Saratoga*, as well as by the two Russian ships which had been monitoring the *Liberty*.

The captain was uncertain of the remaining communications capabilities of the ship. He thought that he might have waited too long before ordering messages sent. But he was attempting to make positive ID of his attackers before notifying his superiors. As mentioned before, the attack was so precise and carefully-planned in Tel Aviv that it was designed to quickly destroy all of the ship's complex communications ability in the first few minutes.

The Israeli planes continued to hammer away at their hapless victim for about five or six more minutes before apparently running out of ammunition, forcing them to withdraw to their base some sixteen miles away at El' Arîsh.

But this wasn't the end of the terrifying attack by any means. Down in the com room the remaining men who were not killed or seriously wounded scanned the one radar screen still in operation. It had picked up three fast-moving boats coming in on the crippled

Liberty at top speed to finish her off. Word of them was quickly passed to the bridge and the captain, who was still hanging on at the railing trying not to lose consciousness.

Three of the Israeli Navy's best-trained and most efficient motor torpedo boats had been lying just out of range waiting for their chance. They had been ordered here from their base at Haifa, especially for this mission. Now to understand just how eager these hand-picked Israeli Navy men were for action, it must be noted that heretofore in this war and in previous ones against the Arabs, the army and air force had garnered all the glory while the proud and well-equipped Israeli Navy had been relegated to uninteresting and routine patrol duty and had seen little real action. Tired of seeing the other branches of the armed forces collect all the medals and publicity, these men were starved for action. As a sailor on one of these boats later remarked: "We were so hyped up that we would gladly have taken on the entire United States Navy." And even years later, this young man was completely without remorse, let alone guilt.

It was now 2.24 p.m. as the captain read the message from the radar room about the MTB's approaching. At this moment another explosion nearby knocked him off his feet. He was wounded a second time, this time on the arm and legs.

"I was just knocked off my feet," the captain said later under oath at the Court of Inquiry. "I was only shaken up and it made me dance around a little, but my injuries did not appear to be of any consequence. I noticed slight burns on my left starboard forearm and blood oozing on my right trouser leg. Since I could still manage to walk and there was no apparent pain, I gave no further consideration to these minor injuries."

The captain, bleeding but determined to continue, then heard the starboard lookout warn that they had sighted three MTB's approaching at high speed from the north-east. They were in a typical triangular battle formation at about thirty knots. One of the forward machine-guns on the *Liberty* had not yet been knocked out so the captain ordered this one to open fire on the boats when they came within range. Then he issued the order which navy men fear the most, "Stand by for torpedo attack!"

As the attacking surface craft came nearer, McGonagle had to quickly devise a course of action for his ship, despite the fact that he was now undergoing considerable pain from his wounds. If he

turned the ship to port it would be nearer land. If he turned to starboard the ship would most likely present a broadside target. He made a decision to hold fast. The ship had been making turns at flank speed for the past nine minutes with an estimated speed of between fifteen and seventeen knots. When the captain noticed that the ensign had been shot down he ordered a holiday flag flown from the starboard yard-arm. This was the ensign used for ceremonial purposes—the largest one aboard (seven by thirteen feet). This flag was flying for at least five minutes before the boats began their attack. It would have been absolutely impossible for the Israeli MTB's at close range now not to have seen it prior to the attack. But then, they had their orders and this wasn't an identification run.

All that the few crew members who were not dead or wounded could do now was watch the attacking MTB's as they closed in for the kill run less than one mile away—and pray.

Twenty minutes after the cessation of the fierce air attack, the MTB's closed in on the ship to a position of less than 2,000 yards. At this time the brave gunner on the starboard machine-gun opened fire on the boats. But he got off only three short bursts before being hit by returning, heavier calibre fire from the MTB's. The gunner was killed instantly but then an unearthly action followed . . . flames engulfed the dead gunner's body and the mount, igniting the gun belt which caused the weapon to continue firing by itself in a ghostly fashion until the shells feeding into it were spent. It seemed symbolic for the last gasp at trying to protect the ship to come in such an eerie manner, because the entire plans for sinking this particular ship had been laid with intrigue and deception in both Washington and Tel Aviv.

Peering through smoke and flames, the captain saw what he believed to be an Israeli flag on the MTB's. The *Liberty*'s signal light had been disabled so McGonagle grabbed a substitute hand-held Aldis lamp, hoping that it might be seen through the battle haze. He signalled: "U.S. Navy ship, U.S. Navy ship." The signal light probably couldn't be seen by the attacking Israelis through all the smoke and dust. But it wouldn't have made any difference whatsoever if they had seen it. The captain was wasting his time. The Israelis had known it was a U.S. ship since they began tracking the *Liberty*'s progress back in May when the spy ship had been ordered to monitor the upcoming Mid-East war.

There were already three large fires on deck. At least eight men had already been killed during the air attack and approximately seventy-five wounded seriously, including the commanding officer.

As the MTB's closed in on the helpless *Liberty*, the ship was hit by strafing fire from one end to the other. The ship's public address system had been destroyed so messengers were used as the only way for the bridge to communicate with other parts of the ship.

The helmsman had been seriously wounded during the air attack by a bomb hit on the starboard side of the ship. He had been replaced by Francis Brown, a quartermaster, third class, from Troy, New York. At 2.33 p.m. Brown was killed at his newly-assigned post by the strafing fire of the MTB's. At this same moment the captain saw a torpedo miss the ship by about twenty-five yards as it passed astern. Then at 2.35 p.m. another torpedo did not miss. It found its mark, striking the starboard side immediately forward of the bridge, a few feet below the waterline. The battered ship shuddered under the impact of the torpedo explosion but she did not sink. A hole was torn in the starboard side extending from just above the waterline down to the turn of the bilge. This hole was measured later at Malta and it was thirty-nine feet across. It seemed amazing to the tormented crew members as they struggled to their feet that the vessel was still afloat.

The second torpedo hit the main communications room almost dead centre. It was responsible for the deaths of twenty-five more men, including the "Major". Of course, the Navy has never even admitted that the "Major" was ever aboard the ship, let alone that he died in the attack. The Conspiracy of Silence still holds sway on many details such as this despite the new Freedom of Information Act and other legislation which can be used to pry information from close-mouthed government agencies.

But, although the Navy and the CIA claim never to have heard of the "Major", surviving crew members of the *Liberty* were not so reluctant to talk about him. The sudden loss of memory by high Navy and Department of Defence officials at the mention of the "Major" does not extend down to the lower echelons where the "Major" is remembered extremely well—and all of the latter group maintain that he died in the torpedo blast with most of his men.

So, all I had to do to learn the identity of the "Major" was to refer to the official casualty list from Naval Intelligence because only one civilian was killed during the attack. So it had to be him.

The "Major's" name finally came to light in death. His name, according to the list of dead, was Allen M. Blue, of Spokane, Washington; listed as a Department of Defence civilian employee with a job description of "communications specialist", which is something of an understatement. He had a rating of GS-7 and was identified by the number 531-42-3327, which I learned was his Social Security number. Now, of course, this may not have been his real name. But, whomever he was, the "Major" played an extremely important role in the *Liberty*'s clandestine operations during the early days of June in 1967.

Another civilian employee of the Department of Defence, Donald L. Ballock, was wounded in the same explosion which killed Blue, alias the "Major".

Power and steering were lost after the torpedo hit and the ship took a nine-degree list to starboard. This proud but old Navy vessel, which had so far refused to go down before the extensive Israeli attack, was now dead in the water at 2.36 p.m. Both the ship and her crew, including her gallant captain, now seemed more or less resigned to their fate—waiting for the final blow. The *Liberty* had no more defensive measures left. Her four pop-gun type machine-gun mounts were destroyed, communications were impossible and now the captain could no longer try to manoeuvre the ship in an attempt to avoid the torpedoes. According to her officers, no ship of the Navy was ever in a worse position battle-wise than the U.S.S. *Liberty* at this moment in time and history. Some of the crew members put on life-jackets, expecting to be in the water soon or killed in the next phase of this absolutely relentless Israeli attack. The brave men of the *Liberty* expected no quarter nor did they ask for any. No white flag appeared on the *Liberty*. No ignoble gestures were forthcoming. True to the tradition and training of the United States Navy, the *Liberty*'s crew was prepared to go the limit until the bitter end, which seemed only minutes or even perhaps seconds away. Through tired eyes the crew members could only peer through the haze of battle toward their conquerors on the Israeli torpedo boats. No attempt was made now to communicate with the attackers. Everyone on both sides knew that this was a battle to the death—that is a battle to the death of the ship and its crew. The MTB crew members were perfectly safe from all harm in this one-sided sea battle. The men of the *Liberty* could only curse the Israelis, knowing full well that the MTB's knew this was an American ship and that they had orders

to sink it. At this final stage of the attack there could no longer be any doubt about the intent and purpose of the emotionally-charged-up Israelis, battling for their Zionist homeland against the ship of a major naval power. No one on either side thought that there could be any turning back or any let up of hostilities at this moment. And, everyone on both sides knew that it was no "mistake" too.

Then a very strange thing happened. As the *Liberty* stopped so did the MTB's. The MTB's just waited silently, doing nothing . . . like a cat toying with a badly-bruised mouse. The torpedo boats were less than half a mile astern of the ship. The captain watched them through glasses. He thought they were merely re-grouping for the final expected full-scale assault, or perhaps just waiting to see if the spy ship would sink without another torpedo attack.

What the captain and crew of the *Liberty* did not know was that their distress messages had reached the Sixth Fleet. Help was on the way. Of course, the Israeli high command in Tel Aviv knew it because they had not only overheard the distress calls; but more importantly to them, they had also overheard the message ordering two flights of four jet fighters each from two U.S. carriers, the *Americana* and the *Saratoga*, to rescue the *Liberty*. When the Israelis had monitored the Mayday transmissions they still thought they had plenty of time to complete the sinking of the *Liberty* with the loss of all hands long before help could arrive from the Sixth Fleet, some 600 miles away. And Tel Aviv was quick and cunning enough to notice that although the Sixth Fleet knew of the attack on the *Liberty*, there was no mention of the fact that it was Israel trying to sink the spy ship—just unidentified attackers. The Israelis, even at this late hour, still hoped to blame the sinking of the *Liberty* on the Egyptians. But when Tel Aviv heard that U.S. fighter planes were already dispatched to the scene they finally realised that it was now too late to do anything except to halt the vicious attack, back off and make the only excuse possible under the circumstances—that it was all one big unintentional "mistake". And let's be friends again!

The following message from the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, was the one which was intercepted by Tel Aviv, causing the Israelis to stop the attack. It prevented the total destruction of the ship.

FM: CINCUSNAVEUR
TO: JCS//CNO//USCINCEUR
USS AMERICANA (CVA-66) HAS LAUNCHED FOUR ARMED A-4'S AND USS SARATOGA (CVA-60) HAS LAUNCHED FOUR ARMED A-1'S WITH FIGHTER COVER TO DEFEND LIBERTY. PILOTS DIRECTED TO REMAIN CLEAR OF LAND. ETA (Estimated time of arrival) FIRST AIRCRAFT ON SCENE 1515Z (3.15 P.M.).

At exactly 2.39 p.m. Tel Aviv gave up and issued orders for all attacks on the *Liberty* to cease at once—thus causing the MTB's to silently mill around astern of the riddled spy ship trying to figure out some way to save face with the American public on whom the entire future of the state of Israel totally depends.

It was quite ironic that a few minutes later one of these same boats, which had just been trying to sink the *Liberty*, signalled by flashing blinker light the following message: "Do you need assistance?"

Since the *Liberty* had no means left to communicate with the boats, the captain ordered the signal flags lima india hoisted. This is an international signal for "not under control". This was intended to convey that the ship was having difficulty in manoeuvring and that all other ships should stand clear of her. The MTB's made no answer to this signal. Nor did they leave the area. All three of the MTB's stayed about 500 yards away, watching the *Liberty* through field glasses.

The captain made an assessment of the present situation. He determined that the ship was in no danger of sinking so he did not order any further destruction of classified material and made no preparations to abandon ship. "It was my intention to ground the ship on the shoal areas to the port side of the ship's track to prevent her sinking, if necessary. I believed that, if the ship was in a sinking condition we would not be able to reach sufficiently deep water to avoid recovery of classified materials on board," the captain said later to the Court of Inquiry.

Reports from damage control central indicated the location of the torpedo hit and that flooding boundaries had been established so that generally speaking the flooding was under control.

The mess decks were designated as a casualty collection station and the wounded were taken there by repair party personnel and other available crew members.

One of the MTB's had a hull number of 204-17. Photographs were taken of both the attacking aircraft and the MTB's prior to and during the attack. These are included in this book for reference.

At 3.15 p.m. two Israeli helicopters approached the stricken ship and continued to circle around her at a distance of less than 100 yards. The insignia of the Star of David was clearly visible on them. The ship's crew members thought the two aircraft were preparing to straf the ship. However, they did not seem to be approaching in a hostile manner, but kept pointing parallel to the ship as they continued to circle her without making a direct final approach. Also, at this time, the MTB's left the vicinity of the ship.

On one of the helicopters, someone shouted through a loudspeaker that they carried medical orderlies and a military attaché from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

"Go to hell!" shouted Captain McGonagle, as he grimly limped out on to the open part of the bridge where he was in full view of the helicopters.

Aboard the helicopter, the voice said something in reply.

"I told you to go to hell!" McGonagle shouted back. "You're not coming on my ship. Go to hell, you bastard."

Then the helicopters turned away and left the ship at 3.17 p.m. Anger quickly boiled up inside one of the *Liberty*'s crew members, a Jewish boatswain's mate from Brooklyn, when he got a close-up view of the light blue-and-white Star of David Israeli markings. He then ripped off his own Star of David from his neck chain and threw it into the sea, while shouting "The dirty murdering bastards."

At 3.37 p.m. the MTB's, which had gone to a range about five miles from the ship, again headed toward the ship in battle formation at high speed. Their intentions were unknown. At this same time two Israeli Mirage fighters returned and approached the starboard side of the ship in a fashion identical to that which had preceded the initial attack. All hands were once again alerted to the possibility of a repeated attack. But neither the MTB's nor the jets attacked this time. Then all of them left the area.

According to former CIA agent Patrick McGarvey, who at this time during the *Liberty* attack was co-ordinating intelligence reports for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an order was issued for a U.S. air strike against the Israeli torpedo boat base at Haifa, which had

launched the MTB's against the *Liberty*. This Israeli base was ordered to be completely destroyed by U.S. Navy planes in partial retaliation for the attack on the *Liberty*.

But before this strike could take place, President Johnson, in his role as commander-in-chief of all U.S. armed forces, countermanded the orders. The honour of the United States Navy meant absolutely nothing to the pragmatic Johnson, who was once the holder of a temporary reserve commission in the Navy for a short period of time during World War II. What Johnson was worried about was the expected repercussions from such a strike on the Jewish Lobby and the Jewish voting bloc. He already had enough trouble contending with the ever-increasing demands of American Jews concerning Israel. He didn't relish the thought of having to force the U.S. taxpayers to pay for rebuilding the Israeli torpedo boat base after the U.S. Navy had blown it up.

The President also had earlier called back the two groups of jet fighters from the carriers *Americana* and *Saratoga* just before these planes were scheduled to reach the area of the *Liberty*. This prevented the Sixth Fleet from engaging in battle with any possible fleeing Israeli MTB's or Israeli fighter planes still near the spy ship.

If the Israelis had known that Johnson was going to provide them with all this protection, they could easily have finished off the *Liberty* and only feeble American protests would have ensued. But the Israelis had no way of knowing that Johnson was this frightened of the power of American Jews.

But before the President had received word that the attack on the *Liberty* had ceased and while the carrier planes were still flying toward the spy ship, he called Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, on the White House-to-the-Kremlin hot line. Johnson wanted to explain why the planes were headed toward the war area. This direct communications system was installed in 1963 and this marked the first time it had ever been used in an actual crisis.

Back aboard the *Liberty*, to further assist in identification of the crippled ship, the captain ordered the ship's international call sign hoisted.

At 3.55 p.m. communications were restored and at 4 p.m. a message was sent providing additional information concerning the attack and the present condition of the ship. The captain, much weaker now from loss of blood and unable to stand, nevertheless, refused to leave the bridge and continued to run the ship. He dic-

tated the message to Lieutenant Bennett while lying on his back on the port side of the bridge. A tourniquet had been applied to his right leg at the thigh. In his own words the captain related, "A few moments prior to this I felt myself nearly blacking out from loss of blood, and called for assistance from CT 1 Carpenter to apply a tourniquet. I had assumed the con immediately upon the initial air attack and retained the con until the rendezvous was effected with the destroyers at about 6.30 a.m. on June 9, 1967, leaving the bridge only three times during the night hours to make brief head calls on the 02 level."

At this time, the ship was attempting to make good a course of 340 degrees magnetic at a speed of eight knots. Emergency manual steering was being used. The amount of rudder needed was given to the after steering compartment over emergency-rigged sound-powered telephones. When the ship had come to the approximate magnetic heading, the rudder would be shifted to attempt to maintain that heading. Thus it was possible for the disabled ship to maintain within plus or minus thirty degrees of the ship's heading most of the time. However, the exact position of the ship was unknown at this time.

At 4.53 p.m. an attempt was made to steer and make good a course of 000 degrees magnetic. It was not known what effect the nearby explosions might have had on the pilot house magnetic compass. The gyro compass was out. It was also not known what the azimuth of the setting sun was, but this was used as a rough guide and it appeared that the magnetic compass had not been unduly affected.

The ship's fathometer in combat was still working after the attack. At 4.56 p.m. the fathometer sounding reported approximately twenty-six fathoms (156 feet) under the keel. Since the captain realised that the ship might be a bit south of its track and could be approaching the shoal areas, he ordered Mr. Lucas to round up as many able-bodied personnel as possible and proceed to the forecastle to standby to anchor. His intentions were to anchor until nightfall so that he could visually sight the North Star, then he would know in which direction the ship was actually heading.

But the port anchor was jammed and could not be let go. Then, in order to reach deeper water, the captain was forced to commence backing the ship at 5.04 p.m. until 5.22 p.m., at which time the fathometer reading was 148 fathoms (888 feet) under the keel.

At 5.50 p.m. the *Liberty* received a message from the Sixth Fleet that surface escorts were on their way at maximum destroyer speed. The *Liberty* was to proceed on a course of 340 degrees magnetic until 100 miles from present position, then change to 270 magnetic.

At 6.41 p.m., another Israeli helicopter approached very close and hovered at bridge level approximately thirty feet from the ship. They made several attempts to indicate that they wished to land a man on board. The captain considered their request, but because of the unstable condition of the ship he decided against it and waved them off. Lettering on the tail of the helicopter was SA32K. On the fuselage were the numerals 06 or D6.

At 6.57 p.m. this helicopter dropped a message cylinder on the forecastle. The brief message was on the back of a calling card, identified as belonging to Commander Ernest Carl Castle, Naval Attaché for Air, Embassy, U.S.A., Tel Aviv.

The message: "Have you casualties?"

Although an attempt was made to signal an affirmative answer with a small Aldis lamp, neither the captain nor anyone else seriously tried to reply to such a stupid question. Since there were at least three mutilated dead bodies still lying on deck in full view of any observers a few feet away in the helicopter and blood all over the top decks, the captain deemed the question a completely unnecessary one requiring no answer. Also, the helicopter crew could easily see over 800 holes shot in the *Liberty*, so how could they not realise that someone must have been hit during all the shell explosions. The ship now had the appearance of one of the bombed-out wrecks at Dunkirk. It was amazing that she was still afloat and some pompous ass from the American Embassy with an engraved calling card used primarily for social functions was asking if anyone had been injured. It was a little too much for the captain, so he then just gestured for the helicopter to leave. The aircraft turned away just as the sun was setting at 7 p.m. and headed back toward land. This was the last Israeli ship or aircraft to approach the *Liberty* that day which had been fraught with destiny ever since the initial close inspection of the spy ship had begun by Israel nearly twelve hours earlier.

Three musters were taken during the night to attempt to identify the dead, the missing and the most seriously wounded. It was now believed that the bodies of those thought earlier to be missing at sea during the torpedo burst amidships were actually entrapped

in compartments as the result of the explosion and resultant flooding.

Lieutenant Richard F. Kiepfer, M.C., U.S.N., of Brooklyn, the ship's medical officer who had been drinking coffee with the captain when it all began, finally asked the captain to go down to sick bay for treatment but he didn't insist on it because of the latter's strong determination to remain in charge of the ship under such critical conditions.

Kiepfer said later: "The commanding officer was like a rock upon which the rest of the men supported themselves. To know that he was seriously wounded, yet having to con and helm the ship not only during the battle for survival but later through the night, calling every change of course, was the thing that reassured the crew, 'that we're going to live.' When I went to the bridge and saw this, I should say that I knew I could only insult this man by insisting that he be taken below for the treatment of his wounds."

Ensign David L. Lucas, himself wounded, exclaimed, "It would have taken ten men the doctor's size to even begin to get him (the captain) off the bridge. He was in great pain," Lucas later testified at the hearing. "There were several times when he was still walking around, but it was obvious that he was in great pain. He had lost a considerable amount of blood. At several times he felt dizzy. He would not leave, but if he started to get dizzy he would turn to me, or to Mr. Bennett or Mr. Painter, if they were around, and he would say this is what course we're on, what speed to make. He would give instructions."

When the courageous and very much undaunted captain felt faint he would just lie on the deck with his injured leg propped up and continue to give orders from flat on his back . . . sometimes by watching the ship's wake in the darkness. In this manner he continued to guide the badly-listing ship through the night toward a rendezvous with Sixth Fleet rescue ships.

Meanwhile below, the ship's doctor and his two hospital corpsmen had to bear the weight of the unusual and unexpected medical responsibility resulting from one of the most vicious and unprovoked attacks in the history of naval warfare. For twenty-eight hours without relief they treated an overflowing tide of seriously-injured men. Even in the heat of battle, the wounded were treated for shock, lung wounds were cleaned to ease breathing and continuous blood transfusions were administered. Kiepfer performed one major operation and many minor ones.

"Anytime we needed one volunteer, we'd get ten," the doctor later testified. "If anything had to be done there were hands everywhere to help. When we asked for a pint of blood for transfusion, we had people on the adjoining tables saying: 'If you need some, I have this type.'" And these volunteers were men who were already wounded themselves.

Whatever the unrelenting and bloodthirsty Israeli forces may have accomplished during this sneak attack on the *Liberty*, they failed to break the spirit of her crew. It was miraculous that the ship was bombed, burned, and broken, but still had her engines turning as she slowly but surely plodded along towards greater safety.

In the early morning hours of June 9, the limping, but still proud ship, rendezvoused with the Commander of Destroyer Squadron Twelve of the Sixth Fleet. It was the first time since the horrible ordeal began twenty-four hours before that the *Liberty* crew members had sighted a friendly ship or aircraft. And a gigantic roar went up, Navy style, from the men on deck of the destroyer U.S.S. *Davis* in honour of their heroic shipmates on the battered but still unbowed *Liberty*. When the sailors of the other ships saw the torn American flag still flying proudly from the *Liberty*, spontaneous cheers broke out. Although Washington would never welcome these battered and brave survivors home as heroes and the United States government would officially sweep the entire matter under the rug in the most disrespectful and disgraceful performance in the history of our nation, all Navy men knew that these courageous men of the *Liberty* deserved an honoured place in U.S. naval history. But what is even more ironical and even more disgraceful, the U.S. news media, with few exceptions, would also ignore the vicious attack on the U.S.S. *Liberty*.

Personnel from the *Davis* boarded the *Liberty* to render assistance with treatment of the wounded and damage control aid. The most seriously wounded were transferred to the aircraft carrier *Americana*, which had a more extensive sick bay (clinic).

On June 11, two bodies of persons previously reported missing in action were accounted for. One body was located by removing rubble covering it on the *Liberty* while the other one was recovered by the U.S.S. *Papago*, the fleet tug assigned to follow the *Liberty* into port.

This tugboat had two main duties as it steamed along in the *Liberty*'s wake. One was to pick up any material which might float

out of the many holes in the riddled ship ahead. The other duty was to keep the two Russian ships, which were now following the *Liberty*, from getting any closer.

At 6 a.m. on June 14, the *Liberty* and her escort ships arrived safely at the Malta shipyards. The venerable *Liberty* had completed her mission. And unknown to anyone aboard her at this time it was destined to be her final mission. The United States government, ever fearful of offending Jews in the U.S. and Israel, would see that the *Liberty*'s name did not go down in history. In fact, Washington, more than Israel, wanted to forget not only the *Liberty*'s name but that the ship ever existed. Word would be passed around to all agencies of the government to maintain strict silence about the *Liberty* attack.

But the men who had served on the *Liberty* knew that they had completed their difficult task as best they could, and with great honour.

In Tel Aviv, the Israelis continued to play out their devilishly clever charade of deception by officially announcing that the attack was a "mistake". Never mind the fact that it was the most carefully-planned "mistake" in military history. They even issued a half-hearted sort of arrogant apology.

Naturally, no self-respecting newsman accepted the "mistake" theory and some demanded proof in the way of interviews with some of the Israeli participants, especially with the officers in command of the attack. Of course, this request was not honoured by Israel. But, after much pressure, they finally brought forth a man, purportedly to be an English-speaking reserve crewman from one of the MTB's involved. He was produced in Tel Aviv so that he could be interviewed by foreign journalists. But he would only say his parroted version of what happened and would not answer any questions. Micha Limor, this part-time sailor in the Israeli Navy, graphically described how his craft had attempted to sink a ship with high masts and weird antennae. He was sure that it was an Egyptian ship, despite the fact that it was clearly flying an American flag (those Egyptians are tricky) until in the final moments of the attack when he noticed a yellow rubber liferaft with the words "U.S. Navy" in large letters on it. Then the helicopters notified them that it was a U.S. ship.

"It was crystal clear that we had hit 'friends'," Limor told newsmen. "We then tried to approach the *Liberty* to offer our assist-

ance. An officer on the bridge screamed at us 'Go to Hell!' Realising they would not accept aid from us, we left." And that was the extent of the "interview".

When I was in Israel, I attempted to verify that Micha Limor was actually a reserve in the Israeli Navy in 1967. I was informed by Israeli naval personnel that no reserve by that name could be found in the records for that year. Then when I mentioned the U.S.S. *Liberty*, all avenues of communications were immediately closed off and I was politely but firmly asked to leave.

The Israelis made a weak attempt to support their "mistaken identity" theory by declaring to the news media that they had erroneously thought that the *Liberty* was an Egyptian naval supply ship named *El Quseir*. It was a poor argument for many reasons, but mainly because the *El Quseir* happens to be less than half as large as the *Liberty*. Secondly, the *El Quseir* has none of the elaborate type of antennae carried by the *Liberty*. In fact, no other ship in the world has the type of antennae on the *Liberty* so this fact alone should have prevented mis-identification, not aided in false identification of the ship as the *El Quseir*. Thirdly, the Egyptian ship has none of the distinctive hull markings of the *Liberty* and the *El Quseir* carried her name in Arabic lettering. Fourthly, the location of the superstructure island of the two ships differs widely giving them completely opposite type silhouettes.

By this absurd Israeli criteria as a justification for attack, any ship on the high seas faintly resembling the *El Quseir* would be in jeopardy from Israel. The U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry found that the Israelis could have attacked any merchant ship according to their invalid rules of identification of ships at sea. The Court also refused to accept this highly illogical Israeli explanation.

The Navy wanted to repair the *Liberty* and send her back to sea duty but higher U.S. authorities overruled this as a concession to the Jewish Lobby, which asked key Israeli-controlled Congressmen to see that the *Liberty* never be used again and that no mention of this valiant ship ever be made officially by the United States government. In other words, the Conspiracy of Silence had to be enforced so as not to further embarrass Israel and the American Jews.

Now it may seem incredible to readers that the Israeli influence in Washington is this great. But what next happened to the *Liberty* not only bears this out but foretells much more damage yet to come to U.S. prestige throughout the world.

The *Liberty* was patched up enough at Malta for her to return to the U.S. In July of 1967, she steamed back to her home port of Norfolk, Virginia, for the last time. She was laid up in the yards there until high orders from Washington ordered the old ship decommissioned from the Navy and turned over to the Department of Commerce. She was then junked with other derelict ships and finally broken up and sold for scrap metal.

This inglorious end to a rather glorious ship pleased not only the American Jewish Lobby and Israel, but also many people in high places in Washington. Voices in Congress had to be quickly silenced. A secret investigation of the *Liberty* affair in Congress was quietly ordered dismissed. And the White House, shaking in fear of offending Israel, clamped a muzzle on all American military officers who knew the truth about the attack. Several admirals told me "off the record" that they had been threatened with everything from forced resignations, loss of retirement pay and an IRS audit if they dared reveal the truth about the *Liberty*.

So a gallant ship, which wouldn't go down, will never be able to take her rightful place alongside other heroic ships of the United States Navy but was relegated to a hidden and ignoble end as pieces of scrap to satisfy the questionable and already highly-tarnished honour of Israel.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE RESULTS

Although Israel could no longer carry out her pre-determined plans to sink the *Liberty* and blame Egypt for it, the end results were exactly the same as if Israel had been able to trick the world, and especially the United States, into believing that the Egyptians had been guilty of the *Liberty* attack. By this, I mean that with the elimination of the *Liberty*'s ability to listen in on Israel's violations of her firm promise not to attack Syria, the Zionists' all-out hawks could now be as aggressive as they wanted to be in acquiring more Arab territory. They need no longer fear that the U.S. would learn of these violations until it was too late for either the U.S. or the U.N. to intervene.

Despite the fact that the spy ship wasn't sunk, the attack on her did work just as planned for Israel. With the *Liberty* out of the way, the Israelis were able to achieve their objectives unmolested.

The unprovoked attack by Israel upon Syria shocked the entire world even more than the world in general might have been stunned by the start of the war. And without the *Liberty* to warn the U.S. that Israel was preparing to attack Syria, the Zionists ran amok with no restraints whatsoever upon them. Messages from the *Liberty*, had she not been disabled and out of commission, exposing Israel's evil plans to reshape the map of the Mid-East in her favour could have been exposed and Syria could have been saved. So there you have the answer as to why Israel had to get rid of the *Liberty* in the first place. But, of course, the attack on the *Liberty* stopped all threats of exposure and the Israelis had their way.

The *Liberty* was the lone obstacle standing in the way of Israel's master plan to increase her land area by threefold in the Mid-East in her own self-interest by pushing more Arabs out of their ancestral homelands, spreading terror by murdering many innocent Arab women and children, and by forcing more territorial concessions. To achieve these aims Israel was glad to lie to the U.S., then push aside the restraining hand of her American ally in this war with exactly the same hatred and contempt as the Zionists feel for the Arabs.

To understand why Israel was quite willing to completely dishonour herself in the eyes of the world in this manner, one must know the Israeli mentality. The words such as honour, truth and justice do not mean the same thing to an Israeli or even to an American Zionist as to the rest of the world. To these religious zealots, the only thing which counts is the final result—not how you play the game. It is true that any other nation except Israel would feel great shame at such underhanded tactics of lying, cheating and committing murder on a broad scale. But, in Israel, I found absolutely no regret, no sorrow, no shame or even embarrassment of what the little nation had done. To a true Zionist (are there any other kind?) it does not matter that Israel went back on her word of honour. It does not matter that Israel murdered Americans on the *Liberty*. In fact, the Zionists are even proud of these things and are glad that they happened because without them Israel would never have been able to achieve her clandestine goals. The only thing that matters is that Israel gained more land for expansion . . . that she destroyed the armies of three Arab nations, etc. Those things are meaningful. They are visible. They are tangible evidence of achievement to an end. How this was accomplished does not count. To an Israeli, and I interviewed many of them, it is not important that innocent Americans had to die. There is no shame or remorse over this—not at all. It is Israel's glorious victory that matters. They say "We have suffered much as a people . . . so you suffer a little, and you think you have a right to complain, you Americans. What about the millions of us who died in World War II?"

The Israelis have an emotional, religious fervour propelled by the venom of a boiling hatred that inspires them to trust no ally, to keep no promise, to obey no United Nations agreements but to push ahead for Zion at all costs. Israel wants and needs American money, support and arms; as well as American protection. They

do not want American advice on how to spend the money or whom to kill with American weapons. But as far as genuine friendship with Americans goes, forget it. They actually have just about as much animosity towards Americans as towards the P.L.O. It is merely channelled in a slightly different direction, carefully disguised as something akin to the Israeli version of a one-sided "friendship". Friendship with a strong and powerful nation such as the U.S. means only one thing to Israel—merely something to be used to help instill fear of the conquerors in the pitiful and helpless Arab refugees so that the Zionists can easily drive more Arabs from their national homelands.

The biggest joke of the year in Washington, where jokes hurt the most, occurred on June 5 as the war began. Robert J. McCloskey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, declared: "The U.S. position is neutral in thought, word and deed." This overblown statement was roundly criticised as being totally unrealistic by both pro-Israel and other members of Congress. They pointed out that the U.S. could not be classified as neutral because of existing close ties with Israel; and that such ties did not exist between the U.S. and any Arab nation.

Then McCloskey was forced to modify and re-word his statement. He assured the general public that what he had said "was not a declaration of neutrality".

After this, Dean Rusk attempted to smooth things out with the Jewish voters by stating "that the term 'neutral' only meant that the U.S. was not at this time a belligerent and it was not meant to be interpreted as an expression of indifference towards Israel."

On June 7, one day before the *Liberty* attack, the Security Council of the United Nations unanimously adopted a Soviet-sponsored resolution calling for an immediate cessation of all military activities in the area of conflict.

In presenting the resolution Soviet Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko, who charged that "the forces of the aggressor (Israel) continue to engage in military operations, pay no heed to the June 6th resolution of the Security Council concerning an immediate ceasefire"; then stated: "The Soviet Union decisively and categorically condemns the completely unjustified aggression of Israel against the Arab states."

On June 8, U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg referred to the Israeli attack on a U.S. ship in the Mediterranean, expressing dis-

may over the incident and called for vigorous steps to assure that it would not be repeated. Goldberg was careful not to put Israel in too harsh a light concerning the matter.

On the same day Ambassador Fedorenko declared that there was not "the shadow of a doubt that Israel had planned in advance and carried out the treacherous attack against the U.A.R. and other Arab states."

Also, on June 8 at a news conference, King Hussein of Jordan stated: "Our losses were tremendous . . . the battle was waged against us almost exclusively from the air with overwhelming strength. . . ." The King also complained that Jordan had been "left to suffer alone by our many friends all over the world." Only Iraq aided Jordan.

The Jordanian Ambassador El Farra joined Fedorenko and Bulgarian Ambassador Milko Tarabanov in branding Israel as the lone aggressor. Jordan also charged that the Israeli aggression had been made possible only by over-generous U.S. help in the form of money and arms, and by aerial cover during the fighting.

On June 9, American observers in Washington joined the rest of the world in stating that the evidence clearly indicated that Israel had launched the initial attacks.

On June 9, the day after getting rid of the *Liberty* menace to their plans, the Israelis did exactly what they promised the Johnson administration they would never do—attack Syria. Israel was now free to turn her attention to Syria, moving columns towards the hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

June 10: Israel continued her war against Syria, begun the night before. Israeli troops took the Golan Heights and captured Quneitra, where undisciplined Zionist troops committed unbelievable atrocities against the civilian population—even to robbing graves and desecrating the dead. It ended with a ceasefire only after Israel got within forty miles of Damascus.

Of course, the Israelis never really expected the U.S. to believe such an outrageous lie that the *Liberty* attack had been a "mistake". But they knew that the powerful members of the U.S. Senate, pledged by an unbreakable oath completely to Israel and the Jewish Lobby in Washington, would combine efforts and force the United States to profess publicly that the government believed it no matter what was said privately or how distasteful this might

be to some government officials and the Pentagon. As one former Israeli officer told me in 1976, "we were surprised that the U.S. swallowed her pride so quickly concerning the *Liberty* episode and we knew that some U.S. officials would not believe such an outright lie, but nevertheless we were very pleased that so few Americans spoke out against us. We also knew time would heal all such differences between Israel and the U.S."

But although Washington officially bowed down and sank to a new low to please Israel even to the detriment of the good of this nation by perpetuating the myth about the "mistake", there was a considerable amount of resistance to this. First of all, Assistant Defence Secretary Phil Goulding refused to accept this "official" explanation. He issued the following statement: "We cannot accept an attack on a clearly-marked non-combatant U.S. Navy ship in international waters as 'plausible' under any circumstances." This was a pretty strong statement. But in the end it was overruled and Goulding was told in no uncertain terms to lay off that kind of truthful and patriotic utterances. He had to conform to the myth. There could be no exceptions among public officials. It would not be tolerated.

An admiral in Naval Communications, who was privy to all the facts concerning the attack, was so angry that he termed it "another Pearl Harbour", thus providing me with a fitting title to this book. All I had to do was add a "II" to it, after the words "Pearl Harbour". He, too, was told to calm down, to avoid the truth or face a harsh reprimand. So, as one of the admiral's aides volunteered off the record: "Israel has so much power and control of the inner workings of the United States government that even when we are right, we are still wrong if Israel says so." Amazing but true!

Cries of outrage bellowed forth from many members of Congress, including Representative Craig Hosmer, Republican from California; who called the attack "high piracy". Hosmer also demanded that Israel pay all reparations to both the U.S. and individually to the families of the dead and wounded. He also stated that action should be taken against Dayan and others in high places in Tel Aviv who concocted this whole affair. Despite his good intentions, all Hosmer got for his troubles were some nasty letters from the Jewish Lobby.

Representative Thomas Albernathy, Democrat from Mississippi, was highly critical of the entire cover-up. He also said Americans

are taking it too lightly. But most Americans never even heard about it because of the joint mass media and Washington Conspiracy of Silence.

The U.S. plan was simple. Cover it up and never mention it. And come down hard on any person in public or private life who dares to bring out the truth. Could our Founding Fathers ever have envisioned that the United States of America would ever sweep under the rug a cruel and murderous attack on one of her own ships? I think not. And certainly Teddy Roosevelt would not have. But that is exactly what happened as the U.S. began to take an even stronger stand in favour of Israel and against the men of the *Liberty*. It then became readily apparent that the U.S. officially, at least, had little regard for the men who gave their lives on the *Liberty* if it interfered in any way with relations with Israel. Fear of the Jewish Lobby prevailed at all times over everything else such as reason, truth and even national honour.

Washington columnist Jack Anderson, usually noted for his deep probes into anything he considers unfair, stated that the attack was no accident but then dropped the entire matter.

The three major television networks, fearful of American Jewish influence, agreed never to mention it in any way after the initial very brief and incomplete announcement of the "mistake". And you never saw any television documentaries made of the *Liberty* affair, which was important to the U.S., such as you saw after Israel went to the rescue of citizens held by Big Daddy Amin in Uganda's airport. As soon as the latter event took place, the three networks worked night and day to produce their versions of what had happened. But I guarantee that you will never see a documentary about the brave Americans on the *Liberty*. And remember that no American citizens were involved at all in the Israeli rescue of people held in Uganda.

Of course, almost no newspaper in the land would ever mention the attack. I checked major newspaper files for clippings on the *Liberty* attack and seven of the 16 papers didn't have a word in their morgues about it. And three city editors of major newspapers told me they never even knew that the ship was attacked. One of the very few exceptions was a piece in the *Zarephath*, New Jersey newspaper, which called it "The Rape of the U.S.S. *Liberty*". It gave some details of the attack and blamed General Moshe Dayan for masterminding the entire incident. In co-opera-

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FM CINCUSNAVEUR
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INFO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
RUDTCR/AMEMB VALLETTA, MALTA
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SECRET

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FILED 17 JUNE FROM MALTA BY COLIN FROST STATES QUOTE-SENIOR CREWMEN OF THE U.S. NAVY SHIP LIBERTY ARE CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL'S AIR AND TORPEDO ATTACK ON THEIR SHIP, WHICH COST 34 AMERICAN LIVES, WAS DELIBERATE. A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE SAID FRIDAY IN VALLETTA. THEY HAVE TESTIFIED TO THIS EFFECT TO THE NAVY INQUIRY COURT NOW IN SECRET SESSION ABOARD THE SHIP. THEIR BELIEF WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD ENOUGH TIME TO IDENTIFY THE SHIP AND ON THE INTENSITY OF THE ATTACK-UNQUOTE.

SECRET

PAGE 2 RUDLKD 1023
2. STORY LATER STATES QUOTE-OFFICIALLY, LIBERTY'S TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE WAR TORN MIDEAST THAT WERE PLANNING AN EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THEIR AREAS. BUT ALL MILITARY MEN IN THIS FORTRESS ISLAND LONG VERSED IN THE WAYS OF WAR TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE LIBERTY WAS ALSO UNDER ORDERS TO INTERCEPT AND EVALUATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS OF FIGHTING ISRAELI AND ARAB FORCES. FOR FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE ATTACK THE SHIP HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE FROM ISRAELI PLANES CIRCLING OVERHEAD. INNER QUOTE WE WERE FLYING OLD GLORY WMD IT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY SHOULDN'T KNOW WHO WE WERE, END INNER QUOTE ONE SURVIVOR SAID UNQUOTE.
3. WHILE SOME OTHER MATERIAL IN STORY WAS RELEASED BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN, THE ABOVE QUOTES APPEAR TO BE BASED EITHER ON AUTHROIZED INTERVIEWS OR THE REPORTER'S CONJECTURE. SINCE HE EXPRESSED A STRONG BELIEF THAT THE ATTACK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL TO THE TF 100 PAO BEFORE LIBERTY ARRIVED AT MALTA,

PAGE 3 RUDLKD 1023
THE LATTER POSSIBILITY IS NOT UNLIKELY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE HE ATTEMPTED TO CONVERSE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH LIBERTY CREWMEN ASHORE. BECAUSE OTHER REPORTERS MAY ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP, YOU MAY FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO REPEAT PREVIOUS ADMONITION TO YOUR FINE CREW TO REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING ABOUT MATTERS UNDER INVESTIGATION UNTIL FINDINGS OF COURT OF INQUIRY HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.
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SECRET

tion with MOSSAD, Dayan was the guilty party because he was the senior military officer in on the planning. Dayan, who had experienced great difficulty trying to clear his name for his part in co-ordinating the 1954 Lavon plan to blow up the American Embassy in Cairo, now was accused of being one of the main planners of the *Liberty* downfall. And remember that Dayan had also been in on the joint American-Israeli planning of the war.

Although Washington had little trouble in shutting up the officers of the *Liberty*, including the captain, it was a different story with the enlisted personnel of the ill-fated ship. Naval officers can easily be intimidated when threats to their careers and retirement benefits are implied. And they were forced to conform to the "mistake" theory, although all of them knew it was a lie. But it seems to me that when you have naval officers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA, the State Department, the National Security Agency, the White House, Congress, and the news media all agreeing for varying and diverse reasons to perpetuate a lie then you pretty much have a nation of liars. So how can any other nation trust the U.S. in any future situation after such a myth?

The secret message (opposite) was released to me by the Central Security Service of the office of the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland. It is an admonition from the Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, to the *Liberty* in order to put a lid on the truth as expressed by enlisted men to Colin Frost of the Associated Press. Frost's name is mentioned by the admiral in the second line of the message.

Officials in every country, except Israel, that I visited during my investigation, told me that they were absolutely positive that Israel planned the attack on the *Liberty*.

I've never had much faith in polls, Presidential or otherwise, but for what it's worth I believe readers may find my United Nations poll interesting. I sent questionnaires to 91 members. For obvious reasons, none were sent to Israel, the U.S. or the Arab countries. I received 57 replies out of the 91 sent.

The Results

Question: Do you believe that the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. *Liberty*, on June 8, 1967, was deliberate, a mistake or have no opinion?

Deliberate	*Mistake*	*No Opinion*
52	0	5

The following three messages which the CIA released to me pretty well typify the conclusions of the experts in the field of intelligence. The first one is a final analysis by the Turkish General Staff. The Turks claim the attack was deliberate.

The other two messages are from CIA sources inside Israel. "This is pure murder," said one Israeli general, when Dayan ordered the *Liberty* destroyed. Several other Israeli generals and admirals expressed similar reactions. But as the messages bear out, the overly-ambitious Dayan overruled them.

CIA

1967

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

PAGE 1 OF PAGES

EXD

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

IDC DS-315/02251-67

DIST 23 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY ISRAEL/TURKEY/USA

JUNE 1967

SUBJECT TURKISH GENERAL STAFF OPINION REGARDING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY

(22 JUNE 1967) REQ NO.

1. THE TURKISH MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV RECENTLY RETURNED TO TURKEY AND BRIEFED THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF(TGS) CONCERNING THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR.

2. THE STAFF IS CONVINCED THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY ON 8 JUNE 1967 WAS DELIBERATE. IT WAS DONE BECAUSE THE LIBERTY'S COMMO ACTIVITY WAS HAVING THE EFFECT OF JUDGING ISRAELI MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS.

(FIELD COMMENT: THE TGS DID NOT SPECIFY THAT THE MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 7 June 1977
BT TO: JIM TAYLOR

1967

CIA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

PAGE 1 OF PAGES

EXD

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

COUNTRY: ISRAEL DATE: 31 JUL '67
SUBJECT: ISRAEL KNEW IDENTIFY OF USS LIBERTY

/ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY BY ISRAELI AIRPLANES AND TORPEDO BOATS. HE SAID THAT YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT IN THIS CAMPAIGN THERE IS NEITHER TIME NOR ROOM FOR MISTAKES,WHICH WAS INTENDED AS AN OBTUSE REFERENCE THAT ISRAEL'S FORCES KNEW EXACTLY WHAT FLAG THE LIBERTY WAS FLYING AND EXACTLY WHAT THE VESSEL WAS DOING OFF THE COAST OF SINAI. HE IMPLIED THAT THE SHIP'S IDENTITY WAS KNOWN AT LEAST SIX HOURS BEFORE THE ATTACK BUT THAT AT ISRAEL'S HEADQUATERS IT WAS NOT SURE AS TO HOW MANY PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION THE LIBERTY WAS INTERCEPTING ISRAEL'S MESSAGES. HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY OF CONTROL AS TO WHERE THE INTERCEPTED INFORMATION WAS GOING AND AGAIN REITERATED THAT ISRAELI FORCES DID NOT WANT ANY INTERFERENCE IN THEIR CAMPAIGN. HE WAS EMPHATIC IN STATING TO ME THAT THEY KNEW WHAT KIND OF A SHIP THE USS LIBERTY WAS AND WHAT IT WAS DOING OFF SHORE.

END

1967

CIA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

PAGE 1 OF PAGES

EXD

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

COUNTRY: ISRAEL /33-05-67

DATE: 5 Nov 67

No. PAGES: 1

SUBJECT: /ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY ORDERED BY DAYAN

1. CENSORED

2. COMMENTED ON THE SINKING OF THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS SHIP,LIBERTY. THEY SAID THAT DAYAN HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED THE ATTACK ON THE SHIP AND THAT ONE OF HIS GENERALS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED THE ACTION AND SAID QUOTE "THIS IS PURE MURDER" UNQUOTE. ONE OF THE ISRAELI ADMIRALS WHO WAS PRESENT ALSO DISAPPROVED THE ACTION, AND IT WAS HE WHO ORDERED IT STOPPED AND NOT DAYAN. BELIEVE THAT THE ATTACK AGAINST THE US VESSEL IS NOT INCIDENTAL TO ANY POLITICAL AMBITIONS DAYAN MAY HAVE.

My investigation shows clearly that every intelligence agency in the world with which I could make contact pointed out that it was impossible for Israel to make such a "mistake". But what sealed the verdict on it, as far as I am concerned, is the fact that two Israeli officers who had knowledge of the orders to sink the *Liberty* admitted to me that the attack was deliberate. Neither wanted me to print his name, for obvious reasons. But when even the Israelis say Dayan personally ordered the *Liberty* sunk, there cannot be any remaining doubts at all.

The Israeli officer, selected by Dayan to try to mollify the angry American officers after the attack, was Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Bloch from the Israeli Defence Force Foreign Liaison Office. Bloch, a lawyer in civilian life, was the official Israeli spokesman ordered to get Dayan off the hook in the talks with the Americans. It was his unenviable task to attempt to convince the Americans that the attack really was one fantastic error on Israel's part. His opposite number on the American side was Commander Ernest C. Castle, a Naval Reserve officer and the same American Embassy attaché who had tried to board the crippled *Liberty* from an Israeli helicopter immediately after the cessation of hostilities that eventful day in the Mediterranean. It was his calling card which was dropped on the deck of the *Liberty* and which was later submitted as an exhibit at the official Naval Court of Inquiry.

Bloch communicated his excuses and efforts to justify the attack through Castle, who because of the latter's close ties with Israeli officers, was considered as far from unbiased by some higher ranking U.S. Naval officers.

Under pressure from Israeli senior officers to straighten out this mess with the nosey Americans, Bloch, immediately after the attack, put out a lot of erroneous and patently false information which not only irritated the American side but made them not believe anything much which they heard from Bloch, as relayed by Castle.

Bloch issued apologies from his government and said that Israeli rescue operations vîa helicopters had taken wounded Americans to hospitals for emergency treatment. None of this information was true except for the apologies.

Although the Americans wanted Bloch to give them information about the casualties on board the *Liberty*, he spent most of his time trying to justify the attack. Finally, he came up with a list

of seven points to back up his contention that Israel had every right to attack the *Liberty*. These seven points will be analysed, along with the point-by-point American rebuttal to them in Chapter Seven covering the actual Naval Court of Inquiry.

Another Israeli officer who wrote a report completely antagonistic to the U.S. and full of false conclusions was Colonel Ram Ron, former Israeli military attaché in Washington. Following is part of a top secret message sent directly to the White House from U.S. forces in Tel Aviv. It was written by Colonel Ron and translated by another officer.

P 181030Z JUN 67
FM: USDOA, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL
TO: RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE

(1)SHIP (*Liberty*) WAS COVERED WITH THICK SMOKE. (2) WHEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY HERSELF, THE SHIP DID NOT DO SO AND BEHAVED SUSPICIOUSLY. (3) IT APPEARED TO THE DIVCOM THAT THERE WAS A LARGE CANNON ON THE FORECASTLE (the *Liberty* has no such guns) OF THE SHIP AND THAT THIS GUN WAS FIRING AT THE MTB'S. THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE WAR DIARY AT THE TIME OF ACTION.

IF WE ADD TO THESE FACTORS THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE SHIP WAS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SMOKE THERE WAS, IN FACT, A GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN IT AND EL QUSEIR. TWO OFFICERS, A CDR. AND A LT. ON TWO DIFFERENT MTB'S WHO HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEM BOTH IDENTIFIED THE SHIP AT THE SAME TIME AS THE EL QUSEIR. THE IDF CNO DECIDED THAT ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS ON HAND THAT THIS IDENTIFICATION WAS FEASIBLE. THEREFORE I (AGAIN COL. RON) HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO CRIMINAL OR SERIOUS NEGLIGENCE IN THIS CASE BY ISRAEL. FINALLY, I (COL. RON) HAVE TO ADD THAT A GRAVE ADDITIONAL MISTAKE NOT LESS DECISIVE THAN THE THREE ABOVE MISTAKES MADE BY IDF WAS ACTUALLY MADE BY THE LIBERTY HERSELF. ON THIS QUESTION, I (COL. RON) HAVE THE EVIDENCE

OF THE IDF CNO AND JAG WHICH COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND FROM WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP ACTED WITH TOTAL LACK OF CARE BY ENDANGERING HERSELF TO A GRAVE EXTENT BY APPROACHING EXCESSIVELY CLOSE TO THE SHORE IN AN AREA WHICH WAS A SCENE OF WAR AND THIS AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT THIS AREA IS NOT ONE WHERE SHIPS GENERALLY PASS, THIS WITHOUT ADVISING THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF ITS PRESENCE AND WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HERSELF ELABORATELY. FURTHERMORE IT APPEARS THAT THE SHIP MADE AN EFFORT TO HIDE HER IDENTITY FIRST BY FLYING A SMALL FLAG WHICH WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY FROM A DISTANCE; SECONDLY BY BEGINNING TO ESCAPE WHEN DISCOVERED BY OUR FORCES AND WHEN IT WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED. THIRDLY, BY FAILING TO IDENTIFY HERSELF IMMEDIATELY BY HER OWN INITIATIVE BY FLASHING LIGHT AND BY REFUSING TO DO SO EVEN WHEN ASKED BY THE MTB'S. FROM ALL THIS, I (COL. RON) CONCLUDE THAT THE SHIP LIBERTY TRIED TO HIDE HER PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND HER IDENTITY BOTH BEFORE SHE WAS DISCOVERED AND EVEN AFTER HAVING BEEN ATTACKED BY THE AIR FORCE AND LATER BY OUR NAVY AND THUS CONTRIBUTED A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD HER IDENTIFICATION AS AN ENEMY SHIP. END QUOTE.

COMMENTS: 1. ALL ABOVE IS AS DICTATED BY LT. COL. EFRAT WHO WAS TRANSLATING FROM A DOCUMENT WRITTEN IN HEBREW.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCE NAVY STANDING ORDERS, AN ENEMY SHIP IN ANY WATERS WHICH IS ATTACKING ISRAELI SHIPS OR SHELLING THE ISRAELI SHORE MAY BE ATTACKED WITHOUT WARNING. IF THERE IS INFO OF ENEMY SHIPS IN THE AREA, ANY SHIP OR SHIPS DISCOVERED BY RADAR WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO BE CRUISING AT A SPEED OF ABOVE 20 KNOTS MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ENEMY AND BE ATTACKED. SINCE THE SPEED OF THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP WAS FIXED AT 28

TO 30 KNOTS, THEREFORE THE IDF NAVY WAS ENTITLED TO ATTACK THE LIBERTY WITHOUT FURTHER IDENTIFICATION IN VIEW OF THE BACKGROUND OF INFO ON THE SHELLING OF EL' ARISH. IDF NAVAL OPS SECTION HAD ORDERED THE MTB'S WHO REPORTED LIBERTY'S SPEED WAS 30 KNOTS TO RECHECK AND ONLY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THAT SPEED WAS THE INFO CONSIDERED RELIABLE AND AIRCRAFT WERE SENT TO ATTACK. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEGLIGENCE IN ESTABLISHING THE SPEED AT 20 TO 30 KNOTS WHEN IN FACT THE LIBERTY'S MAXIMUM SPEED IS ONLY 18 KNOTS IS DISCOUNTED BY THE IDF CNO WHO TESTIFIED: QUOTE THAT SUCH ESTIMATIONS REQUIRE EXPERTISE. IN AN MTB THERE MAY BE GREAT DISCREPANCIES IN FIXING THE SPEED OF A VESSEL MOVING IN FRONT OF IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE ESTIMATE WAS MADE OVER ONLY A SHORT INTERVAL OF TIME. IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SUCH A MISTAKE EVEN IF YOU MEASURE IT TWICE OR MORE. UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT MAYBE THE STANDING ORDER SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED BUT ABSOLUTELY NO CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE IS FOUND IN THE MTB'S FIXING OF THE LIBERTY'S SPEED.

THIRD MISTAKE CAUSED EXECUTION OF THE SECOND STAGE OF ATTACK ON LIBERTY, THIS TIME WITH TORPEDOES FROM MTB'S. THIS WAS THE MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION OF LIBERTY AS THE EGYPTIAN SUPPLY SHIP EL QUSEIR. HERE I (THAT IS, THE OFFICER CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY WHO LT. COL. EFRAT IDENTIFIED PARENTHETICALLY AS COL. RAM RON, FORMER ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHÉ TO WASHINGTON, D.C.) MUST STATE MY DOUBTS WHETHER THE IDENTIFICATION WAS NOT DONE WITH A CERTAIN OVER-EAGERNESS AS THIS HAPPENED WHEN SERIOUS DOUBTS WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO ARISE AS TO THE IDENTIFICATION AS AN EGYPTIAN SHIP. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE C.O. OF MTB DIV THAT THE DOUBTS WHICH HAD BEGUN TO ARISE IN THE PILOTS

AS TO THEIR ACCURACY OF IDENTIFICATION DID NOT GET TO THE C.O. OF THE MTB DIV AT THAT TIME, BUT HE ALREADY KNEW THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT A DESTROYER BUT A SUPPLY OR MERCHANT SHIP AND THIS SHOULD HAVE CAUSED EXTRA CARE-FULNESS IN IDENTIFICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I (AGAIN COL. RON) MUST STATE THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIFFICULTIES OF IDENTIFICA-TION UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS.

LT. COL. EFRAT PAUSED AT ONE PONT IN HIS READ-ING TO POINT OUT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAD RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM THE US SAYING THAT THE LIBERTY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A US SHIP SIX HOURS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK RATHER THAN ONE HOUR AS STATED IN AN EARLIER US COM-MUNICATION.

On June 13, Colonel Bloch told the Americans that he was shocked greatly upon hearing malicious stories about the *Liberty* incident relating that Israel was in some way at fault. He mentioned a story in *Newsweek* and other U.S. publications. Commander Castle reminded Bloch that several months prior to the attack when U.S. Navy planes inadvertently entered Israeli territorial waters during exercises that the Chief of the Israeli Air Force had arrogantly suggested that the next time this happened that the American planes would be shot down.

"That officer talks a lot of nonsense and I hope you don't think other Israeli Defence Force officers are like that," answered Bloch.

"I want to make it clear that I only want to hear official comments on the subject of the *Liberty* incident," replied Castle.

"General Rabin has appointed an official Court of Inquiry in the incident involving the U.S.S. *Liberty*," Bloch then informed Castle.

On June 14, Commander Castle was asked to meet with Israeli Defence Force Navy Commander-in-Chief Commodore Erell at the Foreign Liaison Office in Tel Aviv in the early evening for a talk concerning the *Liberty* affair. Commodore Erell presented first his apologies for the drastic "mistake" by the Israeli Navy. Then he informed the American officer that he did not want to comment further on the *Liberty* affair until after the official Court

of Inquiry had reached its findings. The commodore then stated that he presumed that the findings would be transmitted to the U.S. government.

Another Israeli officer, Lt.-Colonel Efrat, who had translated messages to the Americans about the *Liberty*, met with Commander Castle and read off a summary of findings which were designed to bolster Israel's present claim that the entire incident was provoked entirely by the suspicious acts on the part of the *Liberty*. Efrat also told Castle that he was very displeased that a message he had just received from the U.S. stated that the *Liberty* had been identified by Israel at least six hours before the first attack rather than one hour as had been stated previously. Noting Castle's surprise and expression of incredulity at some of the Israeli points of justification, Efrat asked the American off the record what he thought of the Israeli findings. Castle pretended not to hear the question and did not answer it.

Sitting there listening to all the falsehoods and hastily-contrived excuses for the attack on the *Liberty*, Castle seemed to have a heavy burden of maintaining diplomacy during this trying and unparalleled period in American history. Efrat went on to tell him brazenly that Israel had a policy of attacking any ship anywhere which was travelling at twenty knots or more.

Castle's pertinent evaluations were:

A. The Israel Defence Force Navy standing orders to attack without warning any ship on the high seas moving at more than twenty knots is incomprehensible.

B. Two of the Israeli justifications for their action against the *Liberty* are mutually contradictory. First they say that since the speed of the unidentified ship was more than thirty knots, at least ten more than Israel allows any ship of any nation to use on the open seas, they could not have assumed it to be the *Liberty* because her top listed speed is only eighteen knots. Then they say that they identified the ship as the *El Quseir*. But how is this possible when the *El Quseir* has a listed top speed of only fourteen knots, four less than the *Liberty*? If the ship couldn't have been the *Liberty* because it was travelling too fast, then by that same reasoning it couldn't possibly have been the slower *El Quseir* either. But then when you promulgate as many lies as Israel has concerning the *Liberty* then it becomes impossible to keep up with them all, let alone cover them all up.

Later, while these two officers were walking to their cars, Efrat told Castle, "General Rabin has never been so angry as when he read the current *Newsweek* Magazine comment on the *Liberty* incident stating that the attack was carefully planned."

"I take no notice of news media reporting on this incident," Castle remarked.

The *Newsweek* article in question appeared in the issue of June 19, 1967. And I quote from it . . . "Israeli military authorities, aware of the *Liberty*'s ability to monitor military communications, had ordered the ship sunk because of fears that it had intercepted messages showing Israel had started the war against the Arab states."

As these talks between American and Israeli officials progressed, the two sides became twisted around. Knowing full well America's plight of not being able to do anything to even slightly offend Israel, the Zionists took full advantage of this fact. So instead of the U.S. accusing Israel of the attack, the Israelis began accusing the Americans of mistreating poor little Israel. It became readily apparent, despite certain half truths and half-hearted apologies on the part of Israel that the Zionists were not only refusing to take the blame for the *Liberty* attack but were forcing the Americans to be defensive about it. This has long been a common trait of the Israelis in the United Nations and elsewhere . . . to place their antagonists on the defensive. It worked pretty well, as it usually does. The discussions accomplished little and ended up with the Americans practically apologising for "having forced the Israelis to murder American sailors".

After Israel had defied the world and grabbed off all the Arab territory she wanted, an angry President Johnson, who had been completely deceived by the Israeli promises to him, issued a statement of his own which down through the years has amounted to at least the biggest joke of the century around Washington. He said: "The victorious Israeli troops must be withdrawn immediately from all Arab lands." And any newsman at this time, who believed that Israel would do this, should have been in the pay of the Brothers Grimm or writing for the *Easter Bunny*.

The total end result of the Six-Day War was that by abrupt and drastic actions the trigger-happy Israelis, with a "shoot-first, ask questions later" mentality instilled into them by a Zionist régime filled with an irrational and all-consuming bitterness towards the

rest of the world; had succeeded in reshaping the entire map of the Mid-East. And to hell with the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Nations or anyone else who tries to interfere—as the *Liberty* did. As one gloating Israeli official in Washington put it, "and it's going to stay that way for a long time to come".

Of course the U.S. State Department, with the exception of a few "Israel first, last and always" diehard employees; was not happy with the results of this war. "They (the Israelis) have completely sabotaged every State Department plan for re-establishing a worthwhile dialogue with any Arab nation," said one Mid-East expert. So not everyone in the U.S. rejoiced with reckless abandon over the Israeli "victory" as did the American press, which likened it to a David-killing-Goliath episode.

It wasn't just a moral victory, as they say about football games, for Israel. For the Israeli conquerors the victory amounted to far more than the complete destruction of Arab armies and air defences, or the capturing of Old Jerusalem. What counted most of all was the geographical difference. Before the war, Israel occupied a land area in the Mid-East of only 8,000 square miles. She now completely controlled over 26,000 square miles of Arab lands in addition to her own territory—meaning that the aggressive Zionists had in just six short days increased their land space by more than three times that of their normal borders. Quite an achievement! Hitler would have been proud of this mighty blitzkrieg, accomplished with such small losses. But for Israel to make slaves out of the proud but totally defeated people in 26,000 square miles of Arab countries only indicated to most of the world a dark and very sinister future in the Mid-East. And few people inhabiting the earth in 1967 may live to see the end of it.

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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EXDIS

REF: CONF. 0825

ATTACK BY ISRAELI NAVAL AND AIR UNITS ON AN ALLEGED US FLAG VESSEL REPORTED BY REFTEL.

INVESTIGATION NOW UNDER WAY TO OBTAIN MORE INFO ABOUT VESSEL. ISRAELIS DO NOT INTEND GIVE ANY PUBLICITY TO INCIDENT.

deny

GP-3. BARBOUR
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O 6/8/67 1:35 PM

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 6/8/67 1:50 PM

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

RS/R FILES
Attention Mrs Miller
Keep this study together.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

10411

SECRET Attachments

June 15, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Attached herewith is a chronology and collection of documents pertaining to "Diplomatic Activity Resulting from the Attack on the U.S.S. Liberty".

This report is submitted at the request of Mr. Coyne for Mr. Clifford.

John P. Walsh

Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

Chronology
Collection of Documents

MICROFILMED BY RS/R

SECRET Attachments

MICROFILMED
BY S/S: CMS

S/S:JPWalsh:bv 6/15/67

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Diplomatic Activity in Connection with S.S. Liberty Incident

June 8 - A Foreign Liaison Officer of the Israel Defense Forces called in our Navy Attache (ALUSNA) to inform him of the "accidental" Israeli attack on the Liberty and offer what ALUSNA reported as "abject apologies". Embassy Tel Aviv counseled avoidance of publicity.

June 8 - Secretary Rusk called in Israeli Ambassador Harman to state he had just spoken with the President and was instructed to express in very strong terms U.S. dismay at the incident, and amazement that it had occurred. The Secretary also expressed appreciation for Israel's speed in notifying us, which may have avoided very serious consequences in many respects.

June 8 - In a letter to the President, Foreign Minister Eban said he was "deeply mortified and grieved" by the incident.

June 9 - Prime Minister Eshkol asked Embassy Tel Aviv to inform us that GOI is willing to make retribution and asked that a message be transmitted to the President conveying his "deep condolences."

June 10 - A diplomatic note from the Israeli Embassy in Washington renewed the Israeli Government's "sincere expression of deep regret", expressed condolences and sympathy for the bereaved families, and stated that the Israeli Government is prepared to make amends for the "tragic loss of life and material damage".

June 10 - Under Secretary Katzenbach informed Ambassador Harman of great U.S. concern over the incident for which we can find no satisfactory explanation.

June 10 - Under Secretary Rostow handed Ambassador Harman a strong note of protest, describing the attack as "quite literally incomprehensible", "an act of military recklessness reflecting wanton disregard for human life." It conveyed our official expectation that the Government of Israel will provide compensation and take appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with international law. It stated the Department of State will, in the near future, present the Government of Israel a full monetary statement of its claim.

June 11 CENSORED

Material denied, Jan. 17, 1978

Denying official: Arthur R. Day, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Authority: Article 5 USC 552 b(1) Freedom of Information Act. National Security information by Executive Order 11652.

S/S:JPWalsh:bv 6/15/67

SECRET

June 12 - Ambassador Harman handed Under Secretary Rostow a note strongly rejecting the charges set forth in our note of June 10 and renewing the GOI offer to make amends.

June 13 - The Assistant Spokesman of the Israel Defense Forces called ALUSNA in Tel Aviv to report that Chief of Staff Rabin has appointed an official Court of Inquiry to investigate the incident.

June 14 - The Department of Defense announced that a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry has been convened in Valletta, Malta. It is expected to be in session for approximately one week and to make a comprehensive statement public when its report is completed.

(Reference documents attached.)

SECRET

S/S:JFWelsh:bv 6/15/67

57

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* ACTION COPY

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Info

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S E C R E T CAIRO 8705

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WE HAD BETTER GET OUR STORY ON TORPEDOING OF USS LIBERTY OUT FAST AND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOD. NOLTE

BT NOTE: HANDLE AS EXDIS PER S/S-O.
NOTE: PASSED S/S-O AT 12:19 PM 6/8/67
PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 12:50 PM 6/8/67

Cairo 8705 to State 6/8/67 27 Authority NND 968112 By NARA Date 12-28-95

(8)

SECRET

-21-

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(10)

DECLASSIFIED
S/S # 10040

CATEGORY "A"
Completely de-sensitized
Transferred to O/FADRC
by S/S-I date 2/22/74

June 8
1967

Dear Mr. Secretary,

May I convey to you this expression of condolences and grief on the tragedy which occurred to the USS Liberty, and my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were killed.

Both officially and personally it is the source of the deepest sorrow to me that my countrymen were responsible for this tragic accident which has cost so many lives of men serving under a flag which is for us the symbol of honor and friendship. I pray that the wounded may speedily recover.

Sincerely yours,

Avraham Harman

Avraham Harman
Ambassador

(2)

The Honorable
Dean Rusk,
Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

This document released to public per FOI- 620039

MICROFILMED
BY S/S CMS

(HANDLE AS EXDIS)
ALSO FILMED FOR RELOCATION SITES 1 & 2

Embassy of Israel to State Dept. 27 Cable - ISR KR DEF 13 US

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POL 27 ARAB-ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

1967 JUN 9 AM 12 29

Kuala Lumpur 4697 6-9-67

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4697

REF: KL 4694

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST

1. UNLESS DEPT HAS OBJECTION, I PROPOSE SEND FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANATORY NOTE TO PRIME MINISTER. REQUEST CONCURRENCE URGENTLY.

"'DEAR TUNKU,

DURING OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I TOLD YOU THAT AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FROM THE AREA OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOME ARAB STATES. THE PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS AN ATTACK ON A UNITED STATES NAVY RESEARCH VESSEL 15 MILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SINAI PENINSULA. THIS VESSEL THE U.S.S. LIBERTY, IS A CONVERTED CARGO SHIP AND HAS NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IT WAS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO ASSURE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO ASSIST IN RELAYING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST."

2. SUGGEST SIMILAR STATEMENT BY DEPT SPOKESMAN, IF NOT ALREADY MADE, WOULD BE USEFUL.

GP-3. BELL
BT

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/7/76
PER Burg OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 620037

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

POL 27 ARAB-ISR
209626
DEF 12 US
XR

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

(11) (13)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED
Classification

JUN 9 1 01 PM '67

Origin
Info

ACTION: Amembassy KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

~~STATE~~ 209626

REF: Kuala Lumpur 4697 — POL 27 ARAB-ISR
DEF 12 US

Subject: Middle East Crisis
PS 7-6 US-NEAR E

1. Dept concurs transmittal note proposed reftel. Suggest you say Liberty has no QUOTE combat capability UNQUOTE rather than QUOTE offensive capability UNQUOTE. At your discretion, you may issue similar statement to press.

2. USG public statements have already been made concerning attack on U.S.S. Liberty.

GP - 3

END

209626

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/2/76
PER Surg OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 62 0039

RUSK

(3)

Drafted by: EA/MS:MDBe[illegible]:sm 6/9/67 | Tel. Ext. 2770 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: EA - William P. Bundy

Clearances:
EA/P - Mr. Killion (subs)
NEA/IAI - Mr. Matter (subs)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED
Classification

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

8-1 Action NEA Info SS GPM SP SC SAH L H EUR IO P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA ACDA GDP TRSY RSR RSC

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RR RUEHC RUEKDA RUQMVL
DE RUDTCR 556 1671930
ZNY CCCCC
R 161815Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
RUDLKD/CINCUSNAVEUR
RUFHRO/USDOCOSOUTH
RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 556

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/7/76
PER Burg OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 62037

USDOCOSOUTH FOR FRESHMAN

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY

1. LIBERTY REACHED MALTA 0630 JUNE 14 UNDER OWN POWER. TO MINIMIZE IMMEDIATE SCRUTINY IN VIEW PUBLIC INTEREST SHIP INITIALLY BERTHED ROYAL NAVAL BASE WHILE DIVERS EXAMINED UNDERWATER DAMAGE. SHIP MOVED TO DRYDOCK 1450 AND PUMPED DRY BY 1915. SEARCH FOR AND RECOVERY OF MISSING BODIES BEGAN IMMEDIATELY. MEDICAL TEAM REMOVED AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED BODIES ON SPOT AND BAGGED THEM FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT NAPLES. WORK COMPLETE ABOUT 0300 JUNE 15 WITH TOTAL TWENTY

BODIES DISCOVERED. FIVE MISSING AND PRESUMED LOST AT SEA. MISCELLANEOUS AS YET UNIDENTIFIABLE REMAINS MAY ELIMINATE DOUBTS. MASSIVE CLEANUP AND REPAIR WORK NOW UNDERWAY. LOWER RESEARCH COMPARTMENTS HAVE EQUIPMENT MIXED WITH MASS OF TWISTED WRECKAGE MAKING RECOVERY CLASSIFIED MATTER SLOW PROCESS. REMOTE POSSIBILITY FINAL CLEARANCE OF DEBRIS MAY UNCOVER ADDITIONAL HUMAN REMAINS. MAJOR DAMAGE TO SHIP IS (1) 24 BY 39 FOOT TEARDROP HOLE IN STARBOARD SIDE FROM TORPEDO EXPLOSION (2) 821 SHELL AND FRAGMENT HOLES IN HULL OF WHICH ABOUT 250 CAUSED BY AIRCRAFT CANNON. REPAIR TIME ESTIMATED THREE WEEKS.

2. COMMENT: GOM INITIAL REACTION LIBERTY RESTRAINED. GOM GRANTED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS WHILE DOCKYARD AND NAVY MADE OWN DIRECT ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY REQUESTED GOM MINIMIZE PUBLICITY FOR SAKE FAMILIES OF DEAD AND

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-VALLETTA 556 JUNE 16, 1967

WOUNDED. NO MENTION SECURITY ASPECT. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST GOM ALLOWED WHOLE MATTER OF SEARCH, RECOVERY AND REMOVAL OF BODIES AND EQUIPMENT TO BE HANDLED AS INTRA-NAVY AFFAIR.

3. TWO NAVY PAO'S HANDLED NEWSMEN. LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL

PAGE 3 RUDTCR 556 C O N F I D E N T I A L
PRESS INTEREST STRONG. PRESS COOPERATIVE AND FACTUAL. ONLY ATTEMPT DISTORTION WAS ON PART PAUL CARACHI (MLP) FORMER EDITOR MALTA NEWS. CARACHI CALLED ME TO SUGGEST ONLY REASON LIBERTY IN MALTA WAS NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD HAVE HER. I STRONGLY DENIED STATEMENT AND ASSERTED SHIP CAME AT US GOVERNMENT REQUEST ON ACCOUNT CAPABILITY DRYDOCKS AND FACT GOOD BUSINESS FOR MALTA. PAPER CARRIED MY STATEMENT JUNE 15.

4. NBC, CBS AND AP REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN HERE FOR ARRIVAL. INITIAL PHOTOGRAPHS ALLOWED ONLY FROM DISTANCE UNTIL VESSEL DRYDOCKED AND CLEARED OF BODIES. TO PREVENT LENDING CREDENCE TO HORTON (AP) "SPY SHIP" STORY, NAVY PAO ARRANGED TOUR OF SHIP JUNE 15. NEWSMEN ALLOWED SEE DAMAGED AREAS AND PHOTOGRAPH FREELY. RESTRICTION ON INTERVIEWS SINCE COURT OF INQUIRY IN SESSION. FORUNATELY VISIT PERMITTED BEFORE NEWSWEEK "PERISCOPE" STORY ON LIBERTY SPY-MISSION REACHED MALTA. SO FAR ONLY MALTA NEWS HAS PICKED UP AND PUBLISHED UNDER HEADLINE "ATTACK ON LIBERTY WAS NO MISTAKE". HOWEVER, NO INQUIRIES RECEIVED HERE ABOUT LIBERTY'S MISSION.
FELDMAN
ET

CONFIDENTIAL

37

PUL 21 HKHP-JOK

211695

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Origin

Info:

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV XXXSHX IMMEDIATE

JUN 16 12 51 PM '67 FOR OCT USE ONLY

34

STATE 211695

211695

1. Washington Post June 16 carried following story from XXXXXXXXXX correspondent based in Washington: Israeli sources said that when fighting broke out in Middle East June 5, Israeli Govt queried US Naval Attache in Tel Aviv as to whether there were any American ships operating in Mediterranean off Sinai Peninsula. According story Israelis QTE got no response UNQTE.

2. As far we aware, first Israeli query along these lines made to American official was that reported in DAO 0825 June 8 which was after attack on USS Liberty.

3. Request urgent confirmation above and any other comments.

GP-3

End

RUSK

MICROFILMED BY RS/R

Drafted by: NEA:IAI:MSterner:fah:6/16/67 | Tel. Ext. 4523 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA/IAI - Alfred L. Atherton, Jr

Clearances:

(2)

DOD/ISA - Commander Cone (for info)
NEA/P - Mr. Brown (for info)

FORM DS-322 8-55

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

POL 27 ARAB-ISR
DEF 12 US

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

87
Action

CONFIDENTIAL

NEA
Info

NNNNVZCZCGMA059ECVLA217
OO RUEHC
DE RUQMVL 4178 1672005
ZNY CCCCC
SS O 162000Z JUN 67
GPM FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SP TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SC STATE GRNC
SAH BT
L C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4178
H
AF REF: STATE 211695
EUR
IO NO REQUEST FOR INFO ON U.S. SHIPS OPERATING OFF SINAI WAS MADE UNTIL AFTER LIBERTY INCIDENT. HAD ISRAELIS MADE SUCH AN INQUIRY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND OTHER HIGH NAVAL COMMANDS AND REPEATED TO DEPT.
P
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TRSY GP-3. BARBOUR
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RSR
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ADVANCE COPY PASSED TO S/S-O, 6/16/67, 4:45 P.M.
NOTE: PASSED TO WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, COMAC, CINCSTRIKE, USUN, 6/16/67, 4:45 P.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

POL 27 ARAB-ISR
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CONFIDENTIAL

8
Action
NEA-7

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1967 JUN 21 AM 5 5

DEFENSE DEPT. 6-21-67

Info
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INR-7
RSR-1
RSC-1
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OO RUEHC RUEHCR RUEHDT
DE RUGMVL 0948 1720914
ZNY CCCCC
O P 210910Z JUN 67
FM USDAO TEL AVIV ISRAEL
TO RUEPWW/WHITE HOUSE
RUEPJS/OSD
RUENAAA/CNO
RUEHC/DEPT STATE
RUQKCF/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEDPSA/CINCSTRIKE
RUDLMD/CINCNAVEUR
RUEKDA/JCS
INFO RUEPJS/DIA
RUEHDT/USUN
RUFPEK/CINCEUR-USEUCOM
RUTPRN/CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
RUFPEW/USAFE
RUFPAC/CINCUSAREUR
RUTXRE/CTG SIX ZERO
RUDLKD/USDAO LONDON
RUFNCR/USDAO PARIS
RUEHCR/USDAO MOSCOW
BT

PAGE 2 RUGMVL 0948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
C O N F I D E N T I A L 0948 JUN 67..
SUBJECT: COURT OF INQUIRY IN USS LIBERTY INCIDENT.
REF: USDAO CONFIDENTIAL 0923 JUN 67.

1. ALUSNA CALLED TO FLO LATE EVENING 20 JUN. LT. COL. BLOCH PRESENTED FOLLOWING OFFICIAL STATEMENT WHICH IS BEING RELEASED TO ISRAELI PUBLIC. QUOTE THE COURT OF INQUIRY NOMINATED BY THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT WITH THE USS LIBERTY HAS PRESENTED ITS REPORT WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE MILITARY ADVOCATE GENERAL. AFTER EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE, THE LATTER HAS DECIDED ON THE HOLDING OF A PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY BY A MILITARY OFFICER, LEGALLY QUALIFIED, WHO IS EMPOWERED BY LAW TO DECIDE ON THE COMMITTAL FOR TRIAL OF ANY PERSON. THE PRESIDENT OF THE APPEAL COURT MARTIAL (SIC) HAS NOMINATED LT. COL. ISAIAH JERUSHALMI, ONE OF THE LEGALLY QUALIFIED JUDGES OF THE APPEAL COURT MARTIAL TO HOLD THE INQUIRY UNQUOTE.

(2)

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-2- USDAO TEL AVIV 0948, 210910Z JUN 67

2. LT. COL. BLOCH AND LT. COL. LEWIN (SENIOR FLO) MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: THE COS HAS RECEIVED THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY (COL. RON) APPOINTED BY HIM COS FORWARDED THE FINDINGS TO JAG COL SHIMGAR. AFTER EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE JAG RECOMMENDED THAT A PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY BE HELD. AS A

PAGE 3 RUQMVL 0948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RESULT THE PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHEST IDF MILITARY COURT, THAT IS, THE APPEAL COURT-MARTIAL APPOINTED AS THE PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INQUIRY, A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE APPEAL COURT-MARTIAL, LT. COL. ISAIAH HERUSHALMI WHO IS A QUALIFIED LAWYER AND FORMER JAG OF THE NAVY AND OF THE AIR FORCE. THIS INQUIRY WILL DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST WHOM ANY CHARGES COULD BE BROUGHT.

3. LT. COL. BLOCH FURTHER STATED THAT THE IDF AGREES (SIC) TO HEAR ANY TESTIMONY OR WITNESS THE USN OR USG IS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING IN THIS CASE.

4. COMMENT: LT. COL. BLOCH SAID THAT GEN. GEVA, THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE TO WASHDC, WILL PRESENT THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARA 1 TO THE USG. GP-3.
BT

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 6/21/67, 6:10 A.M.

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CHAPTER SIX

THE MERCENARIES

Did Two American Pilots Attack the *Liberty*?

Mercenary soldiers, better known in recent years by the more glamorous-sounding title of "Soldiers of Fortune", have existed since the beginning of recorded history. Without German, French and Polish mercenaries, especially in the officer ranks, General George Washington might not have been able to bring the American Revolution to a satisfactory conclusion.

But, not since the U.S. Civil War pitted brother against brother and father against son, has anything so portentious come to light in American history as the ingloriously sinister reports by reliable sources about the Six-Day War concerning Americans killing other Americans in the *Liberty* attack.

During my investigation, I discovered in intelligence files of four countries evidence of the fact that two of the pilots of the Israeli jets which tried to sink the *Liberty* were Americans. I was even more surprised when I was informed by "off the record" Washington sources, including one Congressman, about these two pilots who volunteered to sink a ship of their own country.

Two French editors showed me an Underground publication called *La Mat*, which deals with mercenaries all over the world in such places as Angola and Rhodesia. A story of the two Americans flying for Israel stated that both were former U.S. Navy pilots and that both were native-born Americans of Jewish descent.

In Anthony Pearson's 1976 *Penthouse* Magazine story about the *Liberty* the following sentence is quoted verbatim: "According to one of the few small leaks that oozed out of the secret Congressional hearings on the *Liberty*, this information was that two of the pilots involved in the attack had been Americans—ex-Navy fliers."

I attempted without too much success to verify the story about the two U.S. fliers by trying to locate and interview other American mercenaries. But since U.S. laws now prohibit Americans from serving in the armed forces of foreign countries, they were understandably reluctant to divulge very much about their nether world of military service. Prior to World War II Americans were not prohibited from serving in the military forces of other nations. Many U.S. citizens served in the French Foreign Legion, both sides in the Spanish Civil War and in the British and Canadian armed forces during World War II without losing their citizenship. Now it is different.

But despite any laws regarding such loss of citizenship passed after World War II, many young American Jews have served Israel in all her wars against the Arabs. Of course the Justice Department and the State Department have chosen to ignore these violations because in some Washington circles Israel is considered a part of the United States or vice versa. Also, a few non-Jewish American war veterans have served Israel too, but for money—not religious convictions. I talked with one former U.S. helicopter pilot in Vietnam who claimed that Israel offered him $50,000, tax free, to train pilots and fly gunships. He later signed on to fight in South-west Africa and then went into Angola with South African forces in 1976 during that brief and limited war.

During the Six-Day War, the Syrians captured one Israeli pilot who was an American. Later, after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Syria exhibited captured Israeli pilots, including two Americans using false Israeli papers.

Although I was easily able to prove that Israel does hire mercenaries, especially in such technical categories as missiles systems, etc., I was never able to fully verify that two American fliers actually attacked the *Liberty* despite the certainty some intelligence sources attach to this report.

But from an interview conducted by the Arabs of a captured Israeli pilot who was an American, I was able to find out just exactly the feelings which prompted so many young American

Jews to fight for Israel. This particular pilot, using a meaningless assumed name of Rossman, stated: "Israel is more than a country to me. It is a feeling of belonging there where my ancestors must have lived. I would give my life for Israel before I would for the United States, because, to me, the U.S. is only a nation where I happened to be born—an accident of birth, you might say. I could have been born any place such as Turkey, England or Argentina, and I would still be a Jew first and a native of some country second. That may sound a bit on the harsh side to hard-right conservatives in the U.S. but that is how I feel. The feverish emotion is indescribable to those not one of us. If my country declared war on Israel, I would not fight for the U.S. but for Israel against my own country of birth."

The above statement from a highly-intelligent and well-educated young American Jew says it all. He is very honest about his emotional involvement with Israel. I believe this gives us the reasons why it is not unlikely that American Jewish pilots were involved in the attempt to destroy the *Liberty*.

CHAPTER SEVEN

COURT OF INQUIRY

Officially the Naval Court of Inquiry was convened at U.S. Naval Headquarters in Europe (London) and then aboard the U.S.S. *Liberty* at Valletta, Malta, to inquire into circumstances surrounding the Israeli attack on the *Liberty* which occurred on June 8, 1967.

Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., USN, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, appointed the three-member court consisting of Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Jr., USN, president of the Court; Captain Bert M. Atkinson, Jr., USN, and Captain Bernard J. Lauff, USN. Captain Ward Boston, Jr., USN, a lawyer qualified in the sense of article 27(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; was designated as chief counsel for the Court. Lieutenant Commander Allen Feingersch, USN, was assigned to the Court as assistant counsel.

Even before the Court was convened, the White House and the State Department had passed the word down through channels to both Admiral McCain and Rear Admiral Kidd that it would not conform with the usual court rules as outlined by laws provided in the Uniform Code of Military Justice which governs the actions of all U.S. armed forces. It was to be a subdued investigation into the attack. It was to be done away from the U.S., as quickly and as quietly as possible—and with an absolute minimum of publicity. In other words, officially the U.S. government didn't want any Court of Inquiry at all but since U.S. law made one mandatory in such serious matters as an attack of a U.S. Naval vessel on the high seas, there was just no way to legally prevent an inquiry of some kind. But, to avoid embarrassing Israel, the Court had to

operate in a very restrictive manner. Before the first session of the Court, it was agreed that Israel would not be blamed. In short, this kangaroo court was handed its directed verdict before the first witness was called. The Court was given a direct order to find Israel not guilty by reason of "mistaken identity". And the same U.S. officials who ordered this are the same people who ridicule the courts of the Soviet Union. Is there any difference?

Admiral Kidd set the tone of the hearing when he told the *Liberty*'s surviving officers in a joking manner that the task of the Court "was not to find out what went wrong or to blame anyone but to note what had gone right and to find out just how Captain McGonagle and his brave crew had pulled themselves from the jaws of death". So the Court got right off to an evasive beginning.

One of the most important and the most solemn one possible of the forty-nine exhibits at the Inquiry was the list of men killed or wounded in action because it shows how extensive and how devastating the attack was against a ship which was totally incapable of defending herself. There were less than 300 men on board that incredible day when the fierce attack took place. Since thirty-four were killed and 164 others were seriously wounded in action, it means that approximately two-thirds of the ship's crew were casualties during this one-sided sea battle.

The names of all these men are recorded in this book in order to try to make up for the total insensitivity towards them of the U.S. government, which not only refused to honour these gallant Navy men properly but even tried to sweep the entire affair under the rug vîa a previously unheard of Conspiracy of Silence. Officially, the U.S. thinks it is far more important to not embarrass Israel than to pay respects to American fighting men whose red blood was spilled into the blue Mediterranean that shameful day by the treacherous American-backed Zionist war machine.

Including the entire list will mark the first time that the names of these brave Navy men have ever been published anywhere in the United States of America. And remember that it has been over eleven years since the sneak attack on the *Liberty* was carried out by a cold and calculating nation which masquerades as a friend solely for the purpose of extorting more arms and money from this already over-generous nation.

THE HONOURED DEAD

(Listed in alphabetical order are the 34 officers and men, including one civilian, who were killed in action during the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. *Liberty* on June 8, 1967)

Name and rate or rank	*File or service number*	*Home town or address of next-of-kin as of June 8, 1967*
*CT3 William B. Allenbaugh, USN	684 49 96	Lothian, Maryland
Lt.-Cdr. Phillip M. Armstrong III, USN	569825/1100	Virginia Beach, Virginia
SN Gary Ray Blanchard, USN	771 77 22	Wichita, Kansas
SN Francis (n) Brown, USN	778 76 70	Troy, New York
*CT2 Ronnie J. Campbell, USN	586 13 23	Sevierville, Tennessee
*CT3 Jerry L. Converse, USN		Boone, Iowa
*CT2 Robert B. Eisenberg, USN	776 09 35	St. Paul, Minnesota
*CT3 Jerry L. Goss, USNR		North Vernon, Indiana
*CT1 Curtis A. Graves, USN	519 58 24	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
*CTSN Lawrence P. Hayden, USN	770 51 70	Houston, Texas
*CT1 Warren E. Hersey, USN	403 67 11	Stoneham, Massachusetts
CTSN Alan (n) Higgins, USN	788 62 97	Dover, Delaware
SN Carl L. Hoar, USN	774 46 48	Mount Vernon, Ohio
*CT2 Richard W. Keene, Jr., USN	778 82 75	Poughkeepsie, New York
*CTSN James L. Lenau, USN	997 56 58	Union, Missouri
*CTC Raymond E. Linn, USN	571 13 74	South Zanesville, Ohio
*CT1 James M. Lupton, USN	511 31 28	Yalova, Turkey

Name and rate or rank	*File or service number*	*Home town or address of next-of-kin as of June 8, 1967*
*CT3 Duane R. Margraf, USN	773 96 50	Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
*CTSN David W. Marlborough, USN	316 04 80	Springfield, Massachusetts
CT2 Anthony P. Mendle, USN	777 62 87	Glendale, Arizona
*CTSN Carl C. Nygren, USN	788 37 16	North Bablyon, New York
*Lt. James C. Pierce, USN	649815/6461	Virginia Beach, Virginia
ICFN David (n) Skolak, USN	B50 17 83	Gary, Indiana
*CT1 John C. Smith, Jr., USN	237 77 94	Ithaca, New York
*CTC Melvin D. Smith, USN	497 95 96	Warrington, Florida
PC2 John C. Spicher, USN	473 41 77	Norfolk, Virginia
GMG3 Alexander N. Thompson, USN	770 47 21	Warwick, Rhode Island
CT3 Thomas R. Thornton, USN	997 97 91	Springfield, Ohio
Lt. Stephen S. Toth, USN	669613/1100	Sao Paulo, Brazil
CT1 Frederick J. Walton, USN	236 31 86	Niagara Falls, New York
*CT3 Philippe C. Tiedtke, USN	914 32 84	Modesto, California
*Sgt. Jack L. Raper, USMC		Jacksonville, Florida
*Cpl. Edward E. Rehmeyer, USMC	212 59 19	Railroad, Pennsylvania
*Mr. Allen M. Blue, DOD Civilian, GS-7 (alias "The Major")	531-42-3327	Spokane, Washington

DOD: Department of Defence.

* Indicates bodies never recovered.

WOUNDED IN ACTION

Wounded Persons still on board as of June 1967.

ENS. TAYLOR, R. P.	
ENS. LUCAS, David L.	710515/1105
CDR. McGONAGLE, W. L.	494467/1100
LT. BENNETT, M.	625125/1610
LT. (MC) KIEFER, R. F.	
CTC THOMPSON, H. J.	471 37 37
HM1 VAN CLEAVE, T. L.	298 39 72
HM3 SCHULMAN, S. L.	353 96 33
FN BOSTIC, C.	
LT. (jg) PAINTER, L. C.	692274/1105
CTC LAMKIN, C. F.	518 69 45
SH3 DURZEWSKI, H.	546 83 16
SN QUINTERA, T. A.	796 43 22
BT3 STOUDT, J. D.	B70 41 42
BT2 OWENS, E.	549 85 64
FN ASHWORTH, J. W.	699 53 81
BT3 NEWELL, J. P.	776 08 93
MR3 THORN, L. B.	
SN HEANEY, W. D.	918 44 65
CS3 PATTEN, D. A.	904 30 77
FN BOTCHER, D. R.	779 52 59
MMFN CORNISH, G. R.	998 07 12
LaTORRE, L. J.	
CS3 CARNAHAN, D. N.	B10 42 33
SA KISIEL, D. J.	998 70 04
FN BISHER, G. R.	B10 22 23
FN BYRD, D. R.	290 54 86
FN TRIPLETT, J. L.	354 81 55
FA ANDERSON, R. E.	B51 81 36
FN SIMPSON, M. R.	917 52 08
CS3 BOCCELLA, S.	796 37 68
FN HRANKOWSKI, J. M.	B10 43 15
CTSN McINTURFF, F.	B61 44 71
FN MARAIO, J. A.	916 29 05
CTSN DALLEY, R. L.	B20 04 91
FN LOSASSO, G. F.	796 18 83

SK2 VALDEZ, D.	370 92 58
MM3 BOOTH, J. E.	998 19 47
SK3 PERKINS, E. G.	776 42 83
RD3 GILSON, R. D.	794 71 33
CS2 WEDIG, G. J.	428 92 84
CT1 KUKAL, R. G.	539 00 34
CT2 BOWEN, L. L.	796 85 28
CT3 SWEET, R. B.	775 06 25
CT3 McFARLIN, T. L.	795 25 54
CT2 BLOXHAM, G. L.	774 27 59
CTSN SMITH, J. D.	777 19 71
CT2 EIKLEBERRY, D. M.	914 81 10
CT1 PLEASANTS, C. L.	535 78 10
CT2 DODD, M. F.	599 79 51
CT3 BUCK, R. D.	918 25 70
CTSN PEETOOM, H. C.	797 04 78
CT2 SNAIDER, D. C.	776 28 26
CT2 POPLIELSKI, J. G.	778 80 00

GENERAL SERVICE WOUNDED LIST

ENGINEERING DEPT.

EM2 LEMAY, William M.	773 35 21
IC1 RANDALL, John R.	517 81 45

DECK DEPT.

SN CASPER, William E.	796 40 74
SN CONCEPCION, Rodney C.	674 38 09
SN COOK, Eddie L.	997 59 71
SN FOLLIN, Donald F., Jr.	917 66 74
GMG3 HAZEN, David C.	696 84 98
SN JACKSON, Thomas F.	689 15 99
SN PAYAN, Salvado (n)	796 66 15
SN PIERSON, Gerald A.	794 07 20
SA REILLY, Thomas J., Jr.	913 50 66
SN SLAVENS, Larry T.	916 92 00
SN SOPER, Larry L.	698 89 98
BMSM WARD, Jerry W.	775 76 67
SN WEAVER, Richard L.	999 88 63
SN WILSON, George W.	529 34 49

OPS. DEPT.

YN3 BROWNFIELD, Virgil L.	794 23 49
SM2 DAVID, Russel O.	683 33 65
SN LAMAR, John D.	779 56 36
SMSN MEADORS, Joseph L.	B71 04 56
QM3 POLLARD, Floyd H.	353 55 47

SUPPLY DEPT.

SH2 HEROLD, Donald (n)	609 22 48
SN LEMOND, Thomas W.	917 49 31
TN MARFIL, Sofronio P.	776 90 09
SN MATHEWS, Jimmy L.	998 21 92

Exhibit 22(b) to *Liberty* Court of Inquiry.

RESEARCH WOUNDED

The following is a list of the wounded Research Department personnel. Personnel are listed in alphabetical order according to name, and contains the rate and service number of each.

OFFICERS

LT. ENNES, James M.	653840/1615
LT. CDR. LEWIS, David E.	584572/1610
LT. O'CONNOR, James G.	671765/1615

ENLISTED

CT1 ADDINGTON, Reginald N.	349 53 80
CT3 ANDERSON, Joe D.	771 76 77
CT1 BAKER, Richard K.	486 80 12
CTSN BENEDICT, Nathan D.	139 55 74
CTSN BENNETT, Lee R.	998 13 79
CT3 BRONG, James V.	913 41 23
CT1 CARLSON, Richard C.	444 13 05
CT1 CARPENTER, Jefferie R.	535 14 05
CT2 DAVIDSON, James R.	699 64 72
CTSN EAKINS, Kenneth B.	794 04 69
CTSN ECKER, Kenneth P.	B51 36 48
CT3 HAWKINS, David W.	118 73 49
CT2 HENDRICKS, Charles R.	685 56 42
CT2 JOHNS, Fredrick K.	794 91 14
CT3 JOHNSON, Melvin P.	997 32 29

ENLISTED—continued

	CTSN KAVANAUGH, James P.	918	51 32
	CTSN KIRK, Eugene H.	918	81 30
	CT3 KREUN, Loren W.	538	49 74
	CT1 LENTINI, Joseph C.	594	81 55
†	S.SGT. LOCKWOOD, Bryce F.	185	98 56
	CT2 McFAGGEN, David L.	774	71 98
	CT2 MEYER, Stephen E.	771	42 03
	CT1 ROWLEY, Charles L.	458	48 03
	CT3 SHAFER, Maurice B.	695	94 36
	CTSN SHAW, David A.	904	39 56
	CT3 SIX, Harold E.	777	58 53
*	CTC THOMPSON, Harold J.	471	37 37
	ET3 TIMMERMAN, Barry R.	770	11 63

CIVILIAN

BALLOCK, Donald L. (Department of Defence)

* Denotes Personnel retained on board.
† Denotes United States Marine Corps.

Exhibit 22(a) to *Liberty* Court of Inquiry.

The Court held its initial session in London by convening at 11.14 p.m. on June 10 with Captain L. R. Raish, USN, as the first witness. Raish, assistant chief of staff for communications, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, was questioned about the missing messages which were never received, directing the *Liberty* to safer waters.

After hearing the testimony of Captain Raish, the Court adjourned and proceeded to Souda Bay, Greece, where they boarded the *Liberty* as the ship was *en route* to the repair yards at Malta. The Court president and counsel reconvened the Court briefly on the ship at 6.30 a.m., June 12, but immediately adjourned until the Liberty reached Valletta, Malta, where the full Court was reconvened at 7.55 a.m. on June 13.

Ensign David G. Lucas, USNR, was the first witness. The record shows that he was called out of order so that after testifying he could be evacuated to a shore hospital for immediate medical treatment for shrapnel wounds on his face, which were bothering him at the time.

Ensign Lucas had been the first lieutenant and gunnery officer of the *Liberty*. He recounted in narrative form what concerned him during the attack.

Lucas was also questioned about his identification of the attacking gunboats as being Israeli from having seen similar boats pictured and described on page 138 of *Jane's Fighting Ships**. He testified that one of the attacking boats had a hull number of 206-17.

Captain McGonagle was the next witness and he testified as to his actions and observations during the battle, much of which has already been covered in earlier chapters.

Of the Captain's testimony perhaps the most dramatic and pertinent part concerned the intensity of the Israeli attack.

Counsel for the Court: Captain, do you have with you information as to the number of bullet marks on the U.S.S. *Liberty* as a result of the attack on June 8, 1967?

A. Yes sir, I had a topside inspection made and have recorded the number of projectile hits in various areas of the ship.

President of the Court: What was the total number of hits you took, Captain?

A. We took a total of 821, plus one torpedo hit.

Counsel for the Court: That does not include shrapnel marks?

A. No sir, that does not include shrapnel marks which are innumerable.

One of the most unusual revelations to come out of the Court testimony was the damage estimate to the "research equipment". The cost estimated value of the destroyed "research equipment" alone was six to eight million dollars as compared with only two million dollars for structural and all other repairs for the ship. The estimated time to repair "research equipment" was listed as twelve months minimum. All other repairs to the entire ship could be done in three to four months, which gives some indication as to how important this secret equipment was to the U.S. government.

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* NOTE: "Jane's Fighting Ships" is a British publication used internationally for identifying ships, planes, tanks and other military hardware of every nation in the world. Later this reference manual's name was changed to "Jane's Weapons Systems". In 1978 Ronald T. Pretty was editor and British Royal Navy Captain Roger Villar was the naval weapons expert.

The jamming of radio transmissions during the attack by the Israelis to prevent messages for help from leaving the ship was brought to light three times during the testimony.

On page 93 of the uncensored version of the hearing (which was secured for me by Senator John Danforth, Missouri Republican), Chief Petty Officer Carl Francis Lamkin, USN, testified as follows:

Counsel for the Court: Did you hear any report of possible jamming of the transmitters?

A. Yes sir, I did. I heard this later from radioman Chief Smith. He said that definitely he had noticed that the jamming was so loud that he first thought it was our transmitters which were malfunctioning but then he noticed that, regardless of frequency, this loud jamming noise continued.

And on page 96, the testimony of Chief Wayne L. Smith, USN, confirmed the steady jamming as follows:

Assistant Counsel for the Court: Did you note any radio jamming on the hicom circuit?

A. Yes sir. We did have jamming in my estimation. I was unable to determine this exactly, but every time it seems when an attack was made on us, or a strafing run, it was preceded by anywhere from twenty-five to thirty seconds, carrier (jamming) on our hicom circuit, and I had ascertained to check this by calling the transmitter room and they said they had not keyed the transmitter. This jamming prevailed during the attacks and quite a bit after them, intermittently.

And, finally, in the findings on page 177, the following statement: "The *Liberty* experienced a phenomenon of electronic jamming of her voice radio just prior to and during air attacks. This jamming was described as a steady carrier without modulation."

Much testimony was taken concerning the rudeness, general insensitivity and lack of co-operation from the chief spokesman for Israel, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bloch. His answers were vague and his evasiveness about discussing the reasons for the attack appalled U.S. officers and the U.S. Embassy personnel in Tel Aviv. As an explanation for the Israeli attack, Bloch merely listed seven points which he maintained caused the incident:

1. Ship was sighted and recognised as a naval ship thirteen miles from coast.

2. The ship's presence in a fighting area is against international custom.
3. The area is not a common passage for ships.
4. Egypt had declared the area closed to neutrals.
5. *Liberty* resembles the Egyptian supply ship *El Quseir*.
6. Ship was not flying any flag when sighted. She moved at a high speed westward towards enemy coast.
7. Israeli Defence Force, Navy had earlier reports of bombardment of El' Arîsh from sea.

Following is the official American answer to these seven points. It can best be understood without changing the Navy style or abbreviations so this testimony is offered verbatim.

Comments on the seven points provided by IDF FLO, L.COL. MICHAEL BLOCH, as "Further Information on Yesterday's Incident with the American Ship".

Point 1—Ship was sighted and recognised as a naval ship 13 miles from coast.

Comment—From 0849 on 8 June LIBERTY was steaming in international waters on a track generally parallel to the coast of the UAR. At one point the ship was, in fact, 13.6 miles from the coast.

Point 2—The presence (of a neutral-nation naval ship) in a fighting area is against international custom.

Comment—The duties of a neutral under international law do not include a duty to ensure that its ships or personnel leave or refrain from entering an area of hostilities or an area adjacent to an area of hostilities. Nationals of a neutral country who may happen to be in belligerent territory nevertheless retain their right to protection by their neutral home state; and a belligerent must grant to neutral diplomatic envoys—including those accredited to the enemy—the right to quit the territory unmolested. A neutral nation, in this respect alone, thus has a legitimate reason and a legal right to dispatch a ship into international waters adjacent to an area of hostilities, in fulfilment of its obligation to protect its nationals and to evacuate those who desire evacuation. It was in fulfilment of such a mission that U.S.S. LIBERTY was engaged. Far from being contrary to international custom, the presence of neutral ships on just such missions as LIBERTY's is a common, if

not a universal, incident of situations involving the outbreak of hostilities. So long as such a neutral ship maintains the impartial attitude of neutrality, each belligerent has a duty to refrain from attacking her. Action by such a neutral ship to repulse an unlawful belligerent attack by force, where the neutral has not first attacked the belligerent, does not constitute "hostilities" against the belligerent and does not constitute an abandonment or a violation of neutrality.

Point 3—The Area (Where LIBERTY was steaming when attacked) is not a common passage for ships.

Comment—Given the conceded proposition that a ship of a neutral is steaming in international waters, the question of whether or not such waters are a "common passage" is totally irrelevant to its right to be there.

Point 4—Egypt (An opposing Belligerent) had declared the area (where LIBERTY was steaming when attacked) closed to neutrals.

Comment — Closing certain adjacent waters including those otherwise considered to be high seas, has some precedent in history as a belligerent practice, notably in World Wars I and II when most of the belligerents, including the United States, declared "war zones", "Military areas", and "defensive sea areas" and either attempted to close such areas completely and to severely circumscribe passage through them as a neutral, the consistent position of the United States has been to reserve generally all of its rights in the premises, including the right not only to question the validity of such "war zones" but to present demands and claims in relation to any American interests which may be unlawfully affected, directly or indirectly, by virtue of their enforcement. As a general proposition, closing or attempting to restrict any portion of the high seas has not been recognised in international law as a belligerent right.

Point 5—LIBERTY resembles the Egyptian supply ship EL QUSEIR.

Comment—While EL QUSEIR bears a highly superficial resemblance to LIBERTY, she more closely resembles the majority of older tramp steamers operating in ocean shipping. EL QUSEIR is less than half the size and lacks the elaborate antenna array and distinctive hull markings of LIBERTY. The location of the superstructure island, a primary recognition feature of merchant type

ships, is widely different. By this criteria and a justification for attack, any ship resembling EL QUSEIR was in jeopardy.

Point 6—Ship was not flying flag when sighted. She moved at high speed westward towards enemy coast.

Comment—LIBERTY flew a size 9 (approx. 5 feet by 8 feet) U.S. ensign from her foremast throughout the morning of 8 June and until it was shot down by the Israeli air attack. At least 5 minutes prior to the torpedo attack a size 7 ensign (approx. 7 feet by 13 feet) was hoisted at the main yardarm. At 0849 LIBERTY changed course from 130°T to 253°T. At 0905 LIBERTY reduced speed to 5 knots and continued to steam at that speed until after the initial air attack. At 1132 LIBERTY altered course to 283°T and continued on this course until after the ship was attacked.

Point 7—IDF Navy had earlier reports of bombardment of El Arîsh from sea.

Comment—It is inconceivable that either the IDF Navy or Air Force would associate LIBERTY, with her four 50-calibre machine-guns, or EL QUSEIR, armed with two 3-pounders, with a shore bombardment.

Some of the most impressive exhibits from the Court of Inquiry are presented in this book so that readers may have authentic source material for study. Perhaps the most unusual and most striking are the photographs, some of which were taken during the actual attack by Captain McGonagle, who was already wounded by this time. Under these conditions, when life and death are so interchangeable, it is easy to understand why the photos are not quite up to professional standards. But they do show Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats during the actual attack, which is no small accomplishment.

Two maps, one furnished me by the CIA and the other from United Nations' sources, show the relative position of the *Liberty* at the time of the attack and her departing track, clearly at all times in international waters.

Other exhibits include the original orders for the Court, a chart made by the officers of the *Liberty* showing the ship's actual position was clearly in international waters when she was attacked, the ship's radio logs during the attack, the position log (latitude and longitude) of the ship on the morning and early afternoon of June 8, a list of witnesses and a complete list of the exhibits before the Court.

The official findings of the Court attempt to straddle the fence. The Court was bound by the edict of higher authorities to bring in a directed conclusion of "not guilty" where Israel was concerned. They held to this. But, in addition, the Court managed to restore just enough Navy prestige and dignity to enable it to hedge a little on this pre-determined finding. This will be evident in reading the summary which follows. At great risk, the Court didn't exactly leave Israel totally blameless; despite the fact that official Washington still holds every aspect concerning Israel to be absolutely sacred, meaning that she is not capable of doing anything wrong.

OFFICIAL SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
(as released by U.S. Naval Intelligence)

A Navy Court of Inquiry has determined that the U.S.S. *Liberty* was in international waters, properly marked as to her identity and nationality, and in calm, clear weather with unlimited visibility when she suffered an unprovoked attack by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats on June 8, 1967, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

From the time of the first air attack onward, the attackers were well co-ordinated, accurate and determined. Criss-crossing rocket and machine-gun runs from bows, both beams and quarters effectively chewed up the entire topside including ship control and internal communications (sound powered) networks. Well directed and carefully planned initial air attacks wiped out the ability of the four 50-calibre machine-guns (on the *Liberty*) to be fired.

The Court produced evidence that the Israeli armed forces had ample opportunity to identify the *Liberty* correctly. The Court had insufficient information before it to pass judgement on the reasons for the decision by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats to attack the *Liberty*.

The *Liberty* fired her 50-calibre machine-guns at the aircraft and torpedo boats, but only after she had been attacked and hit.

The Court convened by Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., USN, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, conducted classified hearings in London and aboard the *Liberty* docked at Malta, June 11-17. Rear-Admiral I. C. Kidd, USN, was president

of the Court, which consisted of himself and Captains Bernard J. Lauff and Bert M. Atkinson, both attached to Admiral McCain's headquarters.

A Court of Inquiry is a formal fact-finding body which takes testimony under oath. It is not a disciplinary court. Convening of such an inquiry is a normal procedure commonly employed after any serious accident or incident resulting in a substantial loss of life or damage to a ship. The fact of its convening does not, of itself, indicate an assumption by the Navy that anyone within the Navy is at fault.

The Court's findings were presented to Admiral McCain and were approved by him on June 18, and forwarded to the Navy Department for further review.

It was not the responsibility of the Court to rule on the culpability or guilt of the attackers, and no evidence was heard from the attacking nation. The Court heard witnesses testify, however, to significant and careful surveillance of the *Liberty* by Israeli forces on three separate occasions from air and surface craft prior to the initial attack—five hours, thirteen minutes before the attack; three hours, seven minutes before the attack; and two hours, thirty-seven minutes before the attack.

Finally, the Court affirmed the *Liberty*'s absolute right to be where she was. A neutral nation, the Court stated, has a legal right to dispatch a ship into international waters adjacent to an area of hostilities. So long as such a neutral ship maintains an impartial attitude of neutrality, the Court pointed out, each belligerent nation has a duty to refrain from attacking her.

Signatures

Isaac C. KIDD, Jr.,
Rear-Admiral, U.S. Navy,
President.

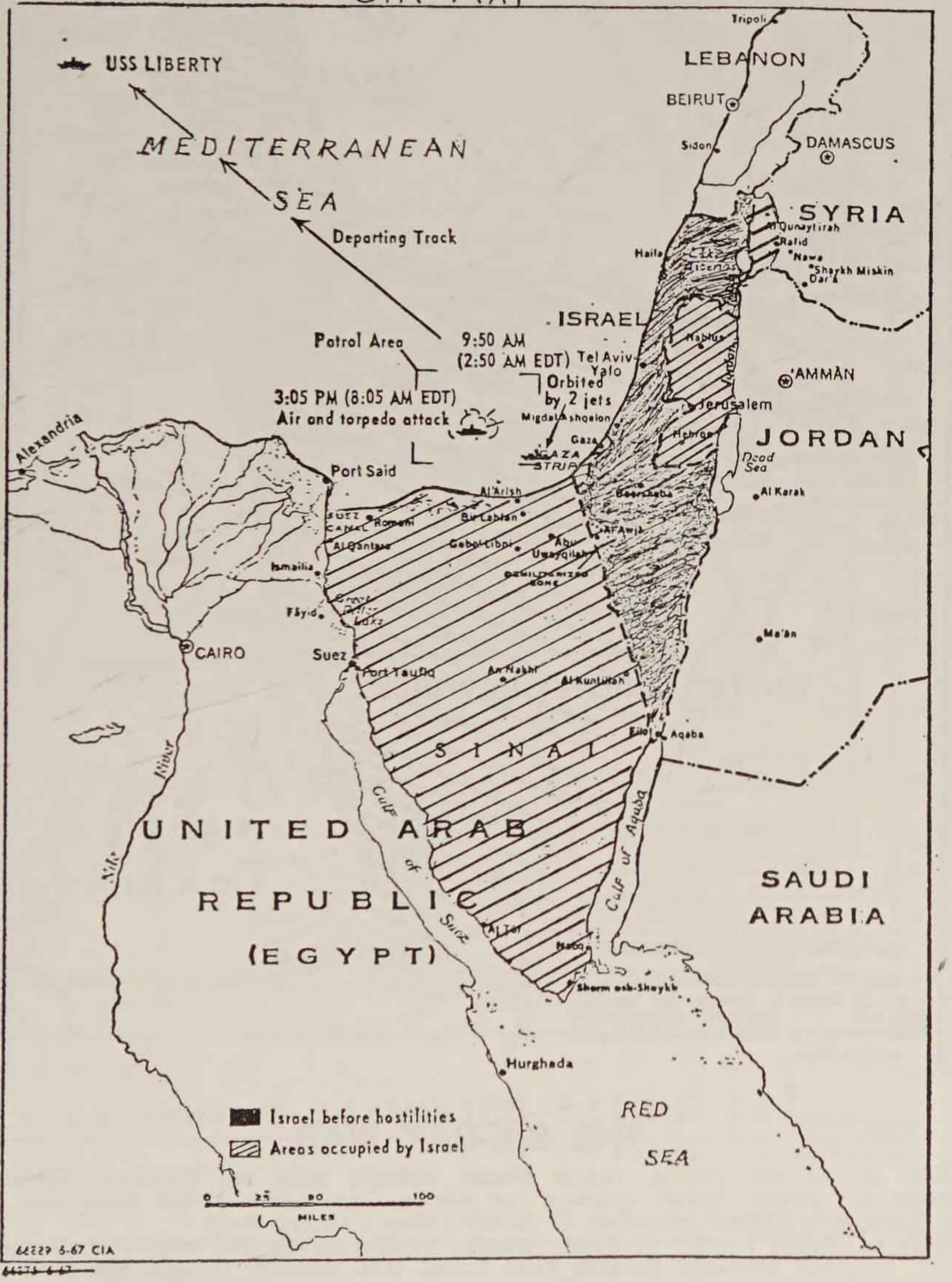
Bernard J. LAUFF,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Member.

Ward BOSTON, Jr.,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Counsel for the Court.

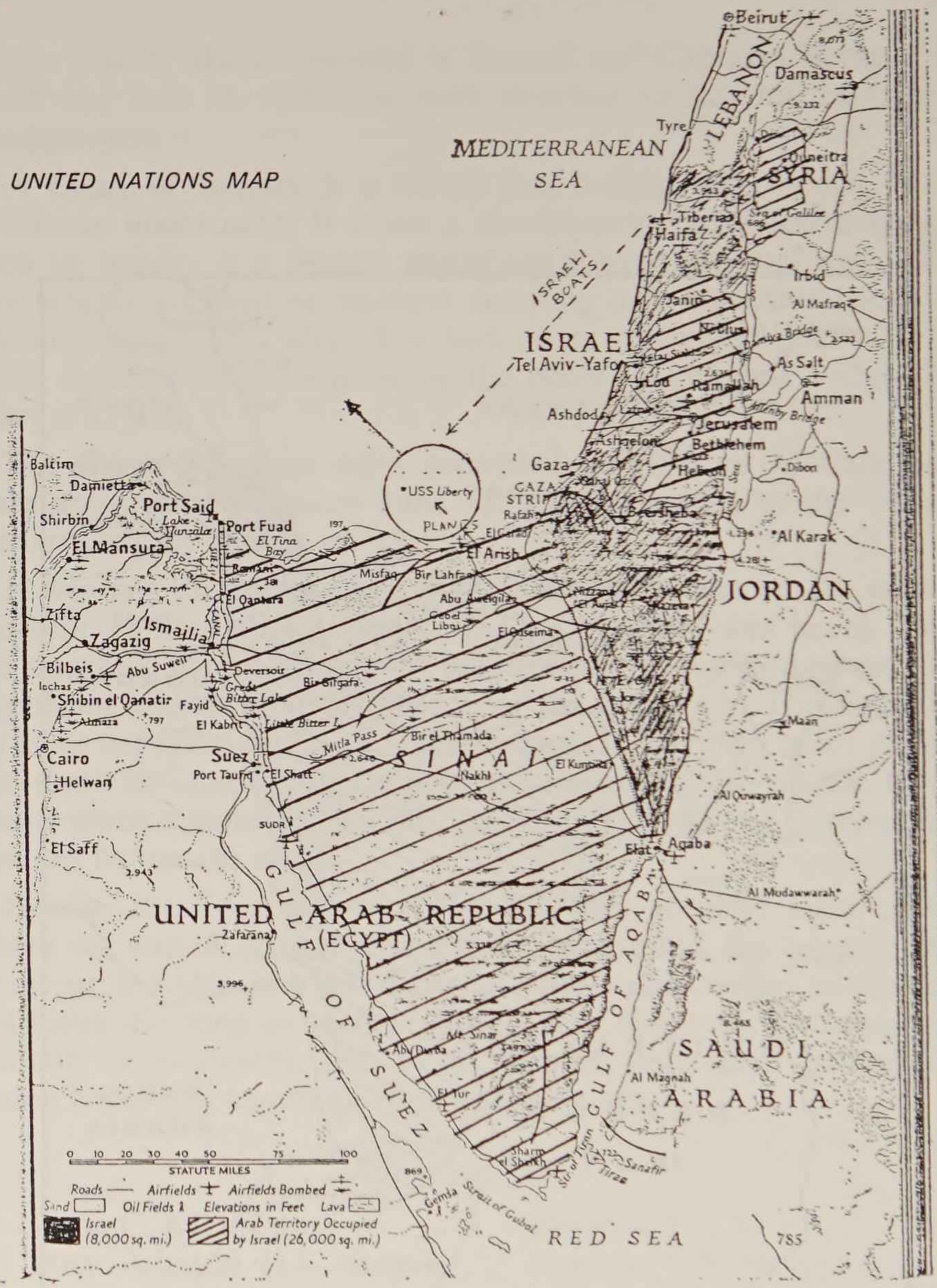
Bert N. ATKINSON, Jr.,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Member.

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CIA MAP

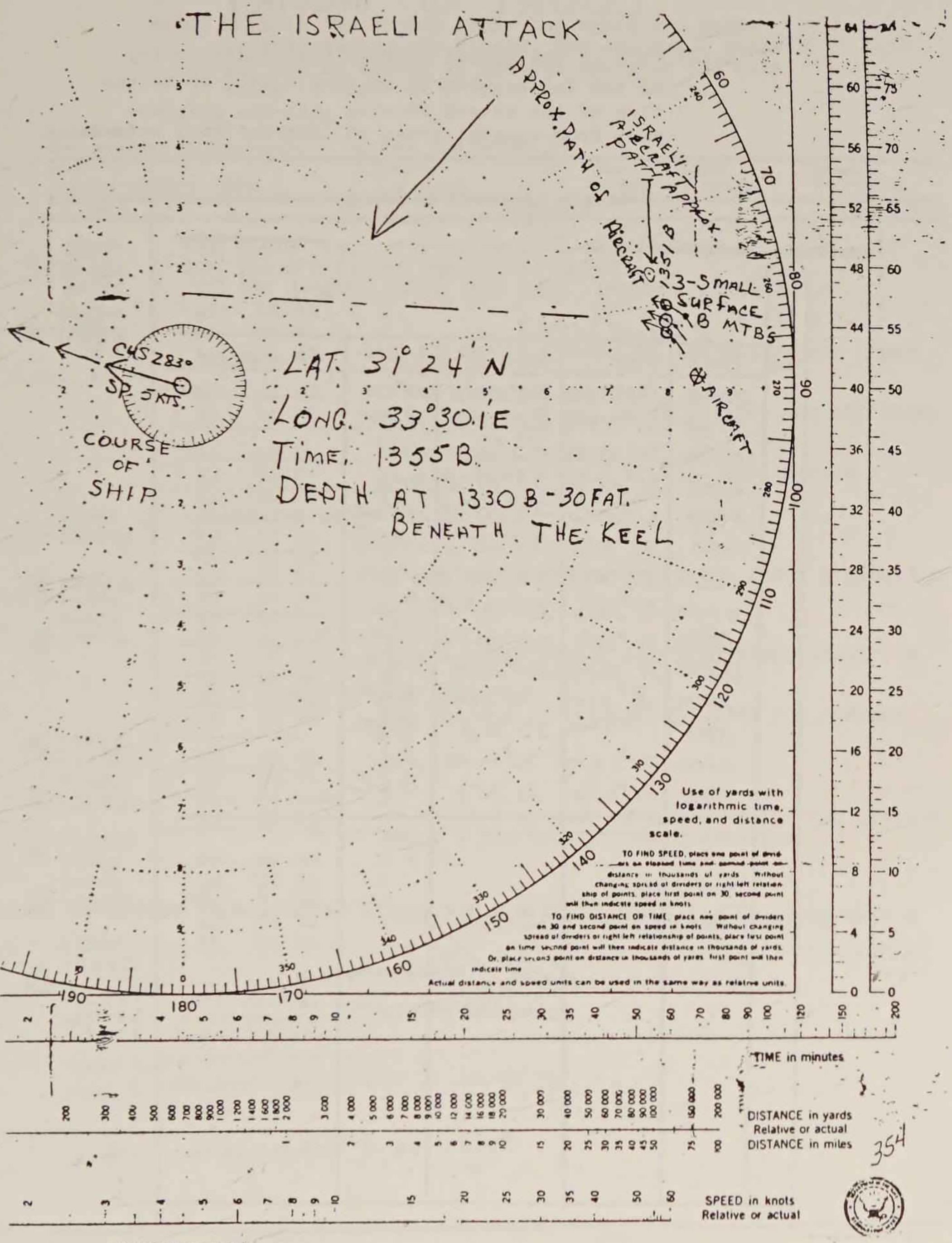

USS LIBERTY
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Departing Track
Patrol Area
9:50 AM (2:50 AM EDT)
Orbited by 2 jets
3:05 PM (8:05 AM EDT)
Air and torpedo attack
LEBANON
BEIRUT
Sidon
Tripoli
DAMASCUS
SYRIA
ISRAEL
'AMMAN
Jerusalem
JORDAN
Dead Sea
Al Karak
Ma'an
Alexandria
Port Said
Al'Arish
Beersheba
Suez Canal
Ismailia
Fayid
CAIRO
Suez
Port Taufiq
An Nakhl
Al Kuntilla
Eilat
Aqaba
SINAI
Gulf of Suez
Gulf of Aqaba
Nile River
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (EGYPT)
SAUDI ARABIA
Hurghada
RED SEA
Sharm esh-Sheykh
Israel before hostilities
Areas occupied by Israel
0 25 50 100
MILES
66229 5-67 CIA

UNITED NATIONS MAP



THE SIX-DAY WAR

- **June 5:** As war begins, Israeli planes virtually wipe out Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian air power. Israeli columns cut across Gaza while others move into Sinai. Combat erupts in divided Jerusalem as Jordan opens a second front.
- **June 6:** Heavy fighting in Sinai. Israelis, moving swiftly and with unchallenged air support, continue westward towards Suez Canal. U.N. Security Council approves cease-fire resolution. Israeli columns encircle Jordanian Jerusalem while others penetrate west bank area of Jordan.
- **June 7:** Last major Egyptian stand at Mitla Pass. Israelis converge on Suez Canal Blockade of Gulf of Aqaba ends as Israelis occupy Sharm el Sheikh. Old Jerusalem falls to Israel. Jordan accepts U.N. cease-fire.
- **June 8:** Israeli troops reach east bank of Suez Canal. Egypt accepts U.N. cease-fire. Occupation of Jordan's west bank area completed. Israel attacks U.S.S. "Liberty".
- **June 9:** Israel turns its attention to Syria, moving columns toward hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee.
- **June 10:** War continues on Syrian front. Israeli troops scale the heights and capture Quneitra. War ends as Syria and Israel agree to a cease-fire.



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5TH ED., JULY 1961 H.O. 2665-10

U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
FPO, NEW YORK 09501

COURT OF INQUIRY

Note: This is the actual hand-written position log of the U.S.S. Liberty on June 8,1967 up to the time of the attack, showing that the ship was away from coastal areas in international waters.

U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
FPO. NEW YORK 09501

8 JUNE 1967

AREA	TIME	LAT.°	LONG.°	INT.	REMARKS
	0000	31°59'N	32°24'E	AFK	
	0100	31°59'N	32°35'E	AFK	
	0200	31°58.5'N	32°47.8E	AFK	
	0300	31°58'N	33°01'E	AFK	
	0400	31°57'N	33°10'E	FDX	
	0500	31°47'N	33°20'E	RDX	
	0600	31°41'N	33°30'E	RDX	
	0700	31°38.5'N	33°35'E	Cge	
	0800	31°34'N	33°50.8E	Cge	
	0900	31°27'N	33°54'E	Cge	
	1000	31°27'N	33°51'E	Cge	
	1100	31°24'N	33°41'E	Cge	
	1200	31°22.2'N	33°41.1E	AJA	
	1300	31°23'N	33°35'E	Cge	

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) DRT LOG

D.L. BURSON
COMMANDING OFFICER

EXHIBIT 19 to LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY EX 19

COURT OF INQUIRY

Note: This is the actual Radio Log, typed and hand-written during the attack. The corrected times are due to clocks in various parts of the ship being in error as a result of the battle.

RADIO LOG
POPNAV FORM 2810-1 (Rev. 11-58) Recorder fm ... Log. "I" Stock 0107 708 1000

ACTIVITY	OPERATOR	CREW	CIRCUIT	FREQUENCY
USS LIBERTY AGTR-5	VAROUS	VAR.	BICOM	~~5[illegible]~~ 11256 5Kc

TIME	TRANSMISSION
ØØØØZ	NEW RADIO DAY....FREESE RM3..
Ø43ØZ	SEC TWO OFF TO SEC ONE....FREESE RM3..Z.
Ø43ØZ	SEC ONE ASSUMED GUARD THIS FREQ / HARMAN RM2
~~1107Z~~	AS DE RS K
~~1108Z~~ 1108Z	AS DE RS Z K
	AS DE RS WE ARE UNDER ATTACK, BE ADVISED WE ARE UNDER ATTACK K
	RS DE SM U ARE GARBLED, SAY AGAIN K
	SM DE RS I SAY AGAIN WE ARE UNDER ATTACK , WE ARE UNDER ATTACK INT QRK K
	RS DE SM U ARE STILL GARBLED SAY AGAIN K
	SM DE RS WE ARE UNDER ATTACK WE ARE UNDER ATTACK K
	AS DE RS WE ARE UNDER ATTACK DO U READ ME K
~~1136Z~~	SWITCHING XMTRS BUT NO LUCK,
1204Z	AS DE RS K
	RS DE SM K
1208Z	SM DE RS WE ARE UNDER ATTACK (REPEATED ABOUT 3 TIMES) K
~~1140Z~~	RS DE SM R R AR
~~1141Z~~	SM DE RS K
1209Z	RS DE SM K
	SM DE RS WE ARE UNDER ATTACK AND NEED IMMED ASSIST. K.
	RS DE SM R INT ZNB (ETC..) K.
	SM DE RS ZNB (ETC.) K
	RS DE SM ZNB CORRECT AS I AM STANDING BY FOR FURTHER TRF K.
1214Z	
~~1146Z~~	SM DE RS R R AR
~~1150Z~~	SM DE RS K
1219Z	RS DE SM K
	SM DE RS BE ADVISED WE HAVE BEEN HIT BY TORPEDO LISTING ABOUT 9 DEG REQUEST IMMED ASSIST K
1220Z	
~~1152Z~~	RS DE SM R R AR
~~1154Z~~	SM DE RS K
1224Z	RS DE SM K
	SM DE RS THREE UNDENTIFIED A/C APPROACHING THE SHIP K
~~1157Z~~	RS DE SM R AR
1227Z	
1233Z	DESTRUCTION BILL IN EFFECT
1323Z	LOST POWER
1355Z	Comm BACK UP
1433Z	C.C TO 340° SPD 8 KTS.
1445Z	FM CSF -- ASSISTANCE IS ON THE WAY
1540Z	LOST ALL POWER IN RDO CENT

DATE	PAGE NO.
08 June 67.	I 221

EX 23

EXHIBIT 23 to LIBERTY COURT OF INQUIRY (OVER)

COURT OF INQUIRY

RADIO LOG

OPNAV FORM 2810-1 (Rev. 11-58) Recorder from FPSU Cog. "I" Stock 0107 708 1000

ACTIVITY	OPERATOR	CREW	CIRCUIT	FREQUENCY
USS LIBERTY AGTR-5	VARIOUS	VAR	6721 KCS	

TIME	TRANSMISSION	
1923Z	T.....O.....L.....E./JH/	
1939Z	RS DE BC	RDO CK K
	BC DE RS	R K
1940Z	RS DE BC	R AR
1941Z	RS DE BC	K
	BC DE RS	K
	RS DE BC	R REQUEST U CONFIRM NR OF MEN SERIOUSLY WONDED AND NR JUST WOUNDED K
1943Z	BC DE RS	R AS AR
1945Z	BC DE RS	K
	RS DE BC	K
	BC DE RS	REF UR LAST 10 DEAD, NR SERIOULY INJURED 15 - 25 AND NR JUST JNJURIED 100 K
	RS DE BC	R I READ BACK FOR POSS CORR (REPEATED)
	BC DE RS	R AR K
1950Z	RS DE BC	R AR
1951Z	RS DE DTG	K
	RS DE SM	BQ ADVISED DTG CALLING U K
	DTG DE SM RS	REQ U SAY AGAIN K
	RS DE DTG	(GARBLED) K
	DTG DE RS	AS AR
	SM DE RW	REQ U ACK AS RELAY FOR ME K
1953Z	RS DE SM	R AR
1954Z	JTG DE RS	R UR LAST K
2015Z	RS DE SM	K
	SM DE RS	U ARE WEAK AND BARELY READABLE K
	BC DE RS	K
	RS DE BC	R K
	BC DE BC	REQ U AST AS RELAY BETWEEN SM AND ME K
	RS DE BC	R AR
	RS DE BC	SM NEG TRF K
2019Z	BC DE RS	R AR
2023Z	RS DE FC	K
	FC DE RS	K
	RS DE FC	(GARBLED) K
	FC DE RS	BE ADVISED U ARE WEAK AND BEARELY READABLE AS AR
	BC DE RS	REQ U RELAY FOR SM FC K
	RS DE BC	I PASS FROM FC FM FC TO RS STEEL JAW 702 WILL BE AIRBORNE 2100Z TO ASSIST RS IN NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION BT K
2030Z	BC DE RS	R AR
2031Z	RS DE BC	K
	BC DE RS	K
	BC DE BC	
	RS DE BC	INT SERIOULY WOUNDED 15 -25 INCLUEDED IN NR WOUUDED 100 K

DATE: 08 JUNE 1961

PAGE NO. A-232

(over)

xxxx 09510
FF1-3
5830
Ser 1550/1S
10 JUNE 1967

ORDERS TO COURT

From: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe
To: Rear-Admiral Isaac C. KIDD, Jr., USN, 111645/1100
Subj: Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on 8 June 1967
Ref: (a) JAG Manual

1. In accordance with section 0402 of reference (a), a Court of Inquiry is hereby appointed to inquire into the circumstances surrounding an armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) which occurred at approximately 1230Z, 8 June 1967, while steaming in the vicinity of 31° 23′ North Latitude, 33° 25′ East Longitude. The Court will convene at Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, London, England, at 2000 on 10 June 1967, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

2. The Court shall consist of you as president, and Captain Bernard J. LAUFF, USN, 097651/1100, and Captain Bert M. ATKINSON, Jr., USN, 447053/1100, as members. Captain Ward BOSTON, Jr., USN, 418063/1520, a lawyer qualified in the sense of article 27(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, is hereby designated counsel for the Court, and Lieutenant Commander Allen FEINGERSCH, USN, 512119/1100, is hereby designated assistant counsel for the Court.

3. The Court is directed to inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack; damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to naval personnel. After deliberation, the Court shall submit its findings of fact.

4. The duty of the Court to designate individuals as parties to the inquiry during the proceedings, when appropriate, is set forth in section 0302 of reference (a).

5. The Court is directed to take the testimony of witnesses under oath and to submit a verbatim record of the proceedings. Military

witnesses will be warned of their rights in accordance with article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice prior to the taking of their testimony.

6. The Court will conduct its proceedings in closed session.

7. Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, will furnish the necessary reporters and other clerical assistance to the Court for the purpose of recording the proceedings and preparing the record of this Court of Inquiry.

JOHN S. McCAIN, Jr.

Copy to:
CNO
CINCLANTFLT
COMSIXTHFLT
CAPT Bernard J. LAUFF, USN
CAPT Bert M. ATKINSON, Jr., USN
CAPT Ward BOSTON, USN
LCDR Allen FEINGERSCH, USN

COURT OF INQUIRY

INDEX*

WITNESSES

Captain L. R. RAISH, USN, Assistant Chief of Staff, CINCUSNAVEUR.
Ensign D. G. LUCAS, USNR, First Lieutenant and Gunnery Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Cdr. W. L. McGONAGLE, USN, Commanding Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Lt.(jg) L. C. PAINTER, USNR, Officer of the Deck, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Ensign J. D. SCOTT, USNR, Damage Control Assistant, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Lt. G. H. GOLDEN, USN, Engineering Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Ensign M. P. O'MALLEY, USN, Assistant Operations Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Lt.(jg) M. N. WATSON, USNR, Main Propulsion Assistant, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Lt. R. F. PFEIFFER, USNR (MC), Medical Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5)

CTC H. J. THOMPSON, USN, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
CTC C. F. LAMKIN, USN, Repair Party Three, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
RMC W. L. SMITH, USN, Radio Central, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Cdr. E. A. PLATZEK, USN, Staff, Director of the Naval Security Group.
Capt. R. L. ARTHUR, USN, Fleet Material Officer, Service Force, COMSIXTHFLT.
CT2 J. P. CARPENTER, USN, Communications Division, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Lt. M. H. BENNETT, USN, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
CT2 T. L. LONG, USN, Communications Division, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
CWO J. E. WICKAM, USN, Assistant Salvage and Diving Officer, Staff, Commander Service Squadron Eight.
Cdr. W. L. McGONAGLE, USN, Commanding Officer, USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5).
Capt. L. R. RAISH, USN, Assistant Chief of Staff, Communications, CINCUSNAVEUR.
Cdr. C. G. JORGENSEN, USN, Command Centre Duty Officer, CINCUSNAVEUR.

* All witnesses called by the Court.

EXHIBITS

A. APPOINTING ORDER
1. JCS Secret Msg 011545Z June 1967.
2. JCS Conf Msg 072330Z June 1967.
3. JCS Top Secret Msg 080110Z June 1967.
4. COMSIXTHFLT Secret Msg 080917Z June 1967.
5. COMSIXTHFLT Secret Msg 101205Z June 1967
6. Quartermaster's Note Book.
7. Pictures of Recovered Ordnance.
8. Calling Card of Alusna Tel Aviv.
9. Photographs of Attacking Aircraft and PT Boats.
10. Msg from USDAO Tel Aviv to White House.
11. Chart (Photo).
12. Chart (Photo).
13. Radar Bearing Log.

14. CIC Log.
15. Engineering Log.
16. Bell Book.
17. Gyro Log.
18. Radar Bearing Book.
19. DRT Log.
20. Known Deceased *Liberty* Personnel Whose Bodies Were Recovered on Day of Incident.
21. Missing *Liberty* Personnel Who Died in Flooded Compartment where Torpedo Struck.
22. Injured *Liberty* Personnel.
23. Original Rough Radio Log.
24. Smooth Radio Log.
25. Statement of Sixth Fleet Maintenance Officer re: Repairs.
26. Gyro Compass Check Log.
27. Chronological List of Events re: *Liberty*.
28. *Liberty* Readiness Condition.
29. *Liberty* Gunnery DOC Fire.
30. Chart Depicting Track and Prohibited Areas.
31. Manoeuvring Board.
32. Manoeuvring Board.
33. List of Shell Hits on *Liberty*.
34. CINCUSNAVEUR Msg 141631Z June Query.
35. NAVCOMSTA PHIL Msg 150346Z Reply.
36. CINCUSNAVEUR Msg 141629Z Query.
37. NAVCOMSTA Greece Msg 150731Z Reply.
38. CINCUSNAVEUR Msg 141628Z June Reply.
39. NAVCOMSTA Morocco 142255Z June Reply.
40. CINCUSNAVEUR Msg 141627Z June Query.
41. USATRACOM Asmara Msg 150520Z June Reply.
42. CINCUSNAVEUR Msg 141626Z June Query.
43. NAVCOMSTA Asmara Msg 141956Z Reply.
44. Memo for Adm. Kidd from Capt. Raish.
45. Army Com Facility Asmara Msg 150520.
46. Official Definitions of Msg Procedure.
47. Chronological List of *Liberty* Incident CINCUSNAVEUR.
48. Collateral Info from Files of CINCUSNAVEUR.
49. Interior and Exterior Photos of *Liberty* Showing Damage.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE AFTERMATH

The official orders for the Court of Inquiry (see Chapter 7) contained a tip-off as to what to expect later because there was no mention at all in them of Israel. The orders had originally stated that the Court would investigate the Israeli attack on the *Liberty*, but the words "armed attack" were then substituted for "Israeli attack". This was done at the request of Israel, of course. In fact, Israel, through her ambassador in Washington, asked that there be no investigation at all of the attack. But this request was denied.

The next request by the Israelis in Washington, in a desperate effort to shut off any more publicity about the attack, was that the U.S. not award any medals to the crew of the *Liberty* or the ship. This request was also disregarded. Captain McGonagle, the rock upon whom the rest of the men built their hopes for survival, was awarded the nation's highest recognition — the Congressional Medal of Honour, heretofore mostly reserved for heroes of declared wars. Also, other members of the crew received appropriate decorations. As is the usual Navy practice in such incidents, the ship received a blanket-type unit citation.

But wait! Believe it or not, Israel was not yet through with complaining about the way the U.S. was handling the *Liberty* affair. And military historians at the Pentagon informed me that they could find absolutely no precedent whatsoever in military annals for what next occurred between Israel and the United States fighting forces. The preposterous Israelis, exhibiting more chutzpah and more brass than a warehouse of doorknobs, demanded that they be allowed to censor and re-word to suit themselves all U.S. government citations to the *Liberty*'s crew. And you know what?

Despite violent objections from the U.S. Navy and to the surprise of everyone at the Pentagon, the Johnson Administration agreed to this outrageous debasement.

"Now you know who runs this country," was the angry retort of an admiral of my acquaintance, whose name I won't mention.

According to the minutes of the official record of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that summer, all *Liberty* commendations were then hastily sent over to the Israeli Embassy for censoring out anything which might tend to embarrass that little upstart nation. Of course, Israel cut out all mention of the nationality of the attackers. This shameful agreement amounted to practically the same thing as if we had allowed the Nazis to censor all World War II commendations to Americans.

So, with the word Israel deleted, the captain's Medal of Honour commendation merely read "Jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats". And the ship's citation also referred only to "Foreign jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats". No nationality of the attackers was mentioned.

But even after these deletions, which rendered the awards almost meaningless in military significance, the determined Israeli Embassy officials weren't finished. The Israelis called on their American shock troops, otherwise known as the Jewish Lobby, to put pressure on key members of Congress in order to prevent McGonagle from ever actually receiving his Medal of Honour. They begged, threatened and cajoled high Washington officials to hush up this awards business lest the general public might learn the truth about the whole *Liberty* incident.

So, as a direct result of this clamour on the part of the Israelis, the captain's award ceremony was delayed and postponed for over a year until finally on June 11, 1968, McGonagle did receive the highest honour of the land, although watered down word-wise, at a formal ceremony which took place at the Washington Navy Yard. Never giving up, diehard Israeli backers picketed the ceremony.

As is customary in this country, the President, as commander-in-chief of all U.S. armed forces,was supposed to present the Congressional Medal of Honour to the *Liberty*'s heroic captain. In an attempt to avoid any possible adverse publicity for Israel, both the Israelis and the American Jewish Lobby ordered Johnson not to even attend the ceremony let alone participate in the presentation.

And "ordered" is the correct word for the benefit of any readers who might not know where American Presidents get their orders. They did not ask him not to go. They informed him that he would not be doing so, or they would see that he was impeached. By this time both Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders regarded Johnson not only as an ignoramus but also as a corn-fed country bumpkin to be used as a tool for achieving their selfish aims. The President weighed in his own mind his patriotic duty and oath of office against the wrath of the Jewish Lobby. The result? Patriotism and duty lost! Self-salvation won! He refused to attend the ceremony. But Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, was there and he presented the delayed medal to the *Liberty*'s brave leader.

After this presentation, White House orders were sent to the Navy, the Pentagon and the State Department telling them never to publicly mention the *Liberty* affair again.

Now the U.S. government would try to forget that the *Liberty* ever existed and the Conspiracy of Silence went into effect. But it was not possible. There was still the matter of compensation to be dealt with.

Families of the *Liberty*'s killed or wounded, knowing full well that the U.S. would never be likely to help them gain compensation from Israel, made plans to take their cases directly to the World Court at The Hague, Netherlands.

It had been relatively easy to shut up government officials but it was not so easy to force non-government civilians to forget about such a profoundly emotional issue as the killing and maiming of their innocent loved ones.

SA Thomas J. Reilly, Jr., twenty years old, still had shrapnel lodged in his brain from the attack. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Reilly, Sr., of Linden, New Jersey, and other relatives of victims founded an organisation dedicated to obtaining compensation from Israel.

The Reillys filed a fifty-million-dollar suit in the World Court against Israel for the wilful murdering and maiming of innocent persons. Naturally, Israel refused to accept this and complained to the U.S. State Department, which in turn, began to exert severe pressure on the Reilly family for withdrawal of the complaint.

But the angry Reillys refused to back down even when a State Department representative assured them that the U.S. government

was representing families of all the victims. So then the State Department tried another method to save Israel a lawsuit by pressuring the World Court until that weak-willed international legal body refused to process the Reilly case.

The State Department did try to work out a settlement of reparations with Israel. But all they got for their trouble were stalling tactics from the Israeli side until the U.S. officials hinted that the continuous flow of American money and arms to that nation might be slowed down a bit. Then Israel assured the U.S. that investigations were continuing and that court-martial proceedings would follow for the guilty parties involved.

At first, Israel arrogantly stated that she would pay no claims at all because of the fact that the *Liberty*'s presence in a war zone was an aggressive act of war against Israel on the part of the United States. The Israelis, with time on their side, now claimed that Israel was merely defending herself from an expected attack by a United States naval fighting ship (the *Liberty*). They never bothered to explain just how the *Liberty*, with only light machine-guns, could be considered an attack craft which would present a danger to any nation. If the U.S. Navy wished to attack any other nation, the last ship which would be used for such a mission would be one like the *Liberty*, an old converted civilian vessel with no armament and no aircraft. It didn't make sense. But then neither did the attack upon the *Liberty* until one is acquainted with the reasons behind such a move.

I have read several publications which stated that Israel never paid a cent in reparations. This is untrue. After much haggling and procrastination on the part of Israel, she finally made two relatively small payments of compensation to the victims. But this came about only after dire threats in Congress to cut back aid to Israel. The chief impetus was what happened in Congress on November 16, 1967. One of the constant flow of Bills to send the U.S. taxpayers' money to Israel was an Act before Congress that included a five-million dollar provision for "educational" programmes in Israel. Rep. Harold Gross, of Iowa, entered into the Congressional Record a statement asking why the U.S. was still handing out grants to Israel so freely when no compensation had ever been forthcoming from Israel for the *Liberty*'s victims. He then introduced an amendment to this Bill stating that no more such unnecessary funds would be paid to Israel until the *Liberty* victims received their

compensation from the Israelis. Of course, the Jewish Lobby swung into high gear and issued threats to key Congressmen if the amendment was not deleted. Naturally this amendment was soundly defeated, proving once again that Israel is far more important to most Congressmen than American lives. But it did accomplish one thing. It got the message across to Israel that some sort of reparation must be forthcoming in order for these Israeli backers in Congress to continue to vote funds for Israel above everything else. If word ever got back to the voters that Israel was getting all the handouts constantly but was still too cheap to pay any compensation to the innocent victims then some members of Congress might not get sent back to Washington after the 1968 elections.

So as a result of this and a few other pressures, Israel finally came through with a payment of 3.3 million dollars in May of 1968. This went only to family members of those killed in action. It required another year to prod an additional 3.5 million from Israel for the 164 men who were wounded. Israel flatly refused to pay a seven-million-dollar claim by the U.S. government for damage to the ship.

Some members of Congress maintain that the money used by Israel to pay these reparations came from a special appropriation by the U.S. to Israel explicitly for this purpose. So in reality, it was the U.S. taxpayers who in the end had to foot the bill. It was also pointed out to me in Washington that the Japanese paid ten million dollars in 1938 after the attack on the American gunboat *Panay*, at a time when the dollar was much more valuable.

My extensive investigation in Israel of the proposed court-martial hearings and the promised investigation into the attack by that country showed that neither ever took place, not even on a small scale. But this was to be expected. The reasons were threefold. Israel, understandably, didn't favour any type of an investigation. And the U.S. couldn't afford a thorough examination of the facts because then the disclosure of the betrayal by Israel would also expose the U.S. part in the pre-war agreement for a "contained" war. If the Israeli pilots were forced to testify, it would also come out that two of them were Americans which would cause double embarrassment to both nations. Then, too, the U.S. feared that Jordan might learn that the American government had agreed in advance of the Six-Day War that Israel should steal Old Jerusalem from King Hussein, who was supposed to be the best friend of

the U.S. in the entire Arab world. If this bit of double-dealing with Jordanian territory behind King Hussein's back were revealed, the U.S. might well lose her only dependable friend in the Arab part of the Mid-East.

It was in Israel that I learned in 1976 of a startling development arranged by the conniving Israelis in 1968. Up until this time, I was convinced that Israel did not wish it to become public knowledge that two American pilots had attacked the *Liberty*. But then I uncovered the fact that Israel actually threatened to release that American pilots had bombed the *Liberty* if the U.S. didn't back off and stop insisting that the Israelis discipline the people responsible for the attack. It was a surprising turnabout. It was implied by the Israelis that such a disclosure would embarrass the U.S. far more than it would Israel. And they were correct.

The State Department did try to have insurance investigators handle claims from the families of the survivors. The parents of Lieutenant Stephen Toth, who was unmarried, were aghast when they learned from a State Department representative that claims for their son's death, and other *Liberty* claims, were being assessed against a train wreck that had occurred in Ohio during 1959. A standard type of insurance release form was shoved under the noses of Mr. and Mrs. Toth and a figure of $9,000 was mentioned to them. Toth, a retired Navy captain with some knowledge of government agencies, was not only quite angry but appalled by such brazen tactics. Captain Toth flatly refused to sign a release voucher for that amount.

Toth was told in no uncertain terms by the State Department and other agencies of the government "not to make trouble" by public statements or demands which might arouse public sympathy for the victims. "Go to hell" was the captain's direct and to the point reply.

The issue was a sensitive one for the Toths, who were then living in Virginia Beach, Virginia. And despite a serious heart condition, he decided to put up a fight for justice and truth by bringing a lawsuit against the State Department. He went to a law firm in Washington, D.C., and hired John McWater.

Next the State Department branded Captain Toth an instant trouble maker who might influence other *Liberty* claimants not to settle for peanuts and tough State Department threats.

A-3

AIRGRAM

RMR	REP	AF	ARA
EUR	FE	NEA	CU
INR	E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID	
AGR	COM	FRB	INT
LAB	TAR	TR	XMB
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
USIA	NSA	CIA	

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FILE DESIGNATION

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV

63

FROM : Department of State

DATE: JUN.19 5:41 PM '68

SUBJECT : U.S.S. Liberty Claim

REF : Department's A-209, December 19, 1967;
Tel Aviv's 1972 and A-685 of March 18, 1968

There is transmitted herewith a suggested text of a self-explanatory draft note espousing the claim of the Government of the United States against the Government of Israel for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the vessel "U.S.S. Liberty" when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

Unless strong objection is perceived the Embassy is requested to present the note to the Government of Israel without delay, inform the Department of the date of presentation, and furnish the Department with a copy of the note.

At the time of delivery of the note the Embassy is requested to inform the Government of Israel that the Government of the United States is prepared to furnish, upon request, documentary evidence in support of the dollar amount expended and detailed estimates prepared by expert appraisers regarding the dollar amount needed to restore the vessel and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack and/or to appoint appropriate naval experts to discuss fully the physical damages sustained.

RUSK

Enclosure: Draft note

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POST ROUTING

TO:	Action	Info.	Initials
AMB/DO			
DCM			
POL			
ECON			
CONS			
ADM			
AID			
USIS			
FILE			

Action Taken:

Date:

Initials:

FORM DS-323 10-64

Drafted by: L:L/C:FAKwiatek:slb | Drafting Office: 6/19/68 | Phone: 3674 | Cleared in draft with: L - Carl F. Salans

References:

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambrakis. E - Mr. Leddy F - Mr. Bartch
U.S. Navy (JAG) - Mr. C

ORIGIN/ACTION

RM/R1 1	NEA	AF
AMA	EUR	FE
NEA 7	CU	INR 5
E	P 2	IO
L	FBO	AID
IT 1	SCA 2	SCS 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA 20	NAVY 5
OSD 34	USIA 10	NSA 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

PS 8-4 US-ISR

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A-981
NO.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
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PRIORITY
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED
JUN 27 7 34 AM 1968

FROM : AmEmbassy TEL AVIV

DATE: June 25, 1968

SUBJECT: USS Liberty Claim

REF : Department A-437

We have been devoting considerable thought as to what tactics could be most advantageously used with the Israelis in making further claims relating to the USS Liberty now that they have paid the full amount claimed for loss of life. We should think that from our own standpoint the United States Government should next focus on claims involving individuals who were injured rather than on those for damage to the ship itself. In this connection, it was stated in the Department's wire number 136943 of March 29 that it was not possible to estimate the total figure for personal injury claims since the extent of permanent impairment was not yet determined in some serious cases. Now that three months have passed, we suggest that the Department look into the status of the personal injuries claims again before proceeding further with claims for damage to the ship to see whether it would be feasible to put in these claims first.

BARBOUR

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ GROUP-3 - downgraded at 12-year intervals; not automatically declassified.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-323 4-62

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
☑ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: DCM:WNDale:caf/6/25/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:WNDale

Clearances: JDL POL:JLeonard

DECLASSIFIED

DRAFT NOTE

Encl. No. 1
A-437 to Tel Aviv

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Israel and refers to the Embassy's note No. 26 of December 27, 1967, concerning the U.S.S. Liberty. The Embassy has the honor to present in accordance with accepted principles of international law a claim for $7,644,146 on behalf of the Government of the United States for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the U.S.S. Liberty when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

The amount claimed is based upon the amount already expended and estimates of the amount required to restore the U.S.S. Liberty and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack on June 8, 1967.

The Embassy of the United States confidently anticipates on the basis of assurances previously given by the Government of Israel that the Government of Israel will promptly compensate the Government of the United States for the amount claimed.

DECLASSIFIED

37

PS 8-4 US-ISK

Department of State

TELEGRAM

29

CONFIDENTIAL 259

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04798 061228Z

46
ACTION SS-70

INFO CIAE-00,/070 W

R 061125Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4386

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4798

LIBERTY REPARATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV A-1009, JULY 6, 1968

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE RE LIBERTY REPARATIONS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 5:

QUOTE: THE ISRAELI MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 74 DATED 1 JULY 1968, CONCERNING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY.
QUOTE IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF 8 JULY (SIC) 1967, WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN VARIOUS INQUIRIES CARRIED OUT BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN THE UNITED STATES, THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE DAMAGE CLAIMED IN THE NOTE MENTIONED ABOVE.
QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD, OF COURSE, STUDY CAREFULLY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND MATERIAL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.
QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECALLS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS ALREADY PAID THE FULL AMOUNT (THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS), CLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING LOSS AS A RESULT OF DEATHS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. LIBERTY. IN MAKING THIS FULL PAYMENT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP SUFFERED BY THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED.

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MICROFILMED BY NSA

Tel Aviv 4798 8-6-68

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 TEL: AV 04798 061228Z

QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN ITS NOTE OF 27 MAY 1968, STRESSED THAT THAT SETTLEMENT WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MIGHT TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER CATEGORIES OF CLAIMS MENTIONED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26. UNQUOTE.
GP-3 BARBOUR

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/S-O.

CONFIDENTIAL

PS 8-4 US-ISK

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 258

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04799 061253Z

54.
ACTION SS 70

INFO CIAE 00,/070 W

R 061130Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4387

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4799

LIBERTY REPARATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 4798 - PS 8-4 US Isr

1. GOI NOTE (TEXT SENT REFTEL) IS DISAPPOINTING IN NEGATIVENESS AND OBDURACY, BEARING OUT APPREHENSIONS WHICH PROMPTED OUR TACTICAL SUGGESTIONS IN A-981, JUNE 25.

2. NOTE STATES GOI WOULD, OF COURSE, STUDY CAREFULLY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND MATERIAL US MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT TO OVERCOME ISRAELI CONCLUSION THAT GOI IS NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGE CLAIMED IN OUR NOTE OF JULY 1. ONLY GROUNDS STATED FOR THIS CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, ARE QUOTE VARIOUS INQUIRIES CARRIED OUT BOTH IN ISRAEL AND THE US UNQUOTE. POSSIBLY AMONG THESE ARE DISCLOSURE IN US THAT COMMUNICATIONS ERROR PREVENTED ORDERS TO CHANGE POSITION FROM REACHING LIBERTY EXPEDITIOUSLY AND INFO CURRENT HERE THAT SHIP WILL NOT BE REPAIRED COMPLETELY BUT WILL BE MOTHBALLED.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT GOI DENIAL OF LIABILITY CAN BE ALLOWED TO STAND, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF COMMITMENT IN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S NOTE OF JUNE 12, 1967 IN WHICH GOI ASSURED US IT WAS PREPARED TO QUOTE MAKE AMENDS FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AND MATERIAL DAMAGE UNQUOTE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE MENTIONED THIRD PARA DEPT A-437, JUNE 19 BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO GOI UNDER COVER OF NOTE REJECTING ISRAELI CONTENTION OF NON-LIABILITY.

4. GOI NOTE ALSO SAYS THAT PAYMENT FOR DEATH CLAIMS ALREADY MADE WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. GOI

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE • UNITED STATES OF AMERICA •

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04799 061253Z

NOTE OF MAY 27, WHICH TRANSMITTED CHECK, STATED THAT PAYMENT DID NOT CONSTITUTE AGREEMENT WITH PRINCIPLES US USED TO CALCULATE CLAIMS AND WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO LEGAL POSITION OF GOI. NEW NOTE CLAIMING PAYMENT WAS MADE ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS SEEMS PART OF EFFORT TO MOVE GOI FROM POSITION OF LEGAL LIABILITY TO ONE OF EX GRATIA, HUMANITARIANISM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS POINT ALSO SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND AND SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN OUR NEXT NOTE BY REFERRING AGAIN TO GOI COMMITMENT TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MATERIAL DAMAGE AS WELL AS LOSS OF LIFE.

5. TO REINFORCE OUR OVERALL POSITION, BELIEVE CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

GP-3. BARBOUR

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/SO.

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PS 8-4 US-USSR 21953

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

59

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

12 AUG 68 22 50

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

Info

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV

STATE:

SUBJECT: Liberty claims

REF: Tel Aviv 4798, 4799

A. Department requests Ambassador see senior official Fonoff and orally make following points:

(1) USG finds GOI note of August 5 totally unacceptable. We have not made either fact of receipt or contents known to public or to Congress.

(2) If necessary, we will to respond formally in a few days of GOI note.

(3) USG surprised at position taken by GOI in August 5 note and cannot believe it is final position of GOI. In its notes of June 1967 GOI expressed without qualification its readiness to make amends for damage, including material damage, suffered in attack.

MICROFILMED BY RS/R

(1)

Drafted by: L:LCMeeker:SLGibson:ams 8/8/68 | Tel. Ext. 4714 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Lucius D. Battle

Clearances:
NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton
* The Secretary of Defense (subs)
* L/U - Mr. Katzenbach (subs)
L:L/C - Mr. Kerley
NEA - Mr. Rockwell
S/S - RLBrown

* Cleared in substance in conversation with Mr. Katzenbach. LDB.

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

FORM DS-322 8-65

* Cleared in substance in conversation with Mr. Katzenbach.

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

(4) GOI note implies that death payments were ex gratia. This is new argument and inconsistent with GOI note of June 12 in which GOI recognized its responsibility for error in attacking LIBERTY and expressed its readiness to make amends.

(5) USG cannot accept implication of August 5 note that GOI not legally liable for death and material damage resulting from attack. USG believes GOI liable under accepted principles of international law for damage to property as well as for personal injury and death caused by attack.

(6) USG fails to see that any circumstances concerning attack on LIBERTY disclosed by inquiries or in any other way remove responsibility of GOI for attack or its obligation to make amends for resulting death material and ~~destruction~~ damage.

(7) USG view regarding liability of GOI remains unchanged and we continue to expect that GOI will compensate USG for amount claimed. ~~We would be glad to return August 5 note and proceed as if note had never been delivered.~~ We stand ready to make full presentation of details of this claim whenever GOI ready to receive it.

B. Department agrees desirability prompt presentation personal injury claims and has been expediting preparation these claims. However, delay arises from inconclusiveness of medical information in some serious cases because therapy still in process.

RUSK

GP-3

END

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

FORM 8-63 DS-322A
CONTINUATION SHEET

37

PS 8_4 US_USR
223893

OUTGOING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

63

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

Origin

Info:

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV PRIORITY 20 AUG 68 16 05Z

FOR OCI/T USE ONLY

223893

STATE

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY Claims
Reference: Tel Aviv's 4949

1. In view Elizur reference to token payment reported para 5 reftel, Embassy requested make MFA aware USG position re ship claim before rpt before transmission official reply referred to by Meron para 3 reftel:

a. Claim for damage to ship presented by USG based on international law standards and in light unequivocal Israeli assurances June 1967. We expect GOI live up to pledge **fully to** make amends for losses sustained.

b. Amount of compensation claimed based on thorough analysis of damages to ship and attendant costs paid by USG.

c. USG prepared to join in technical discussions and review of documentation supporting claim to establish that compensation claimed accurately expresses loss to USG.

GP-3 END

RUSK

MICROFILMED BY BS/R

Drafted by:	Tel. Ext.	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:
L/C - EKerley:cr:8/19/68		M - Eugene V. Rostow

(1)

NEA - Mr. Battle
NEA/IAI - Mr. Bahti
L - Mr. Malans (aloft)
DOD - Mr. Schwartz
S/S - Mr. Brown

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

FORM 8-65 DS-322

37

PS.8-4 US-USSR

Department of State

79

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 508

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03456 081502Z

45
ACTION NEA 15

INFO OCT 01, SS 20, JPM 04, NSC 10, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, DODE 00,
RSR 01, L 03, /062 W

R 081415Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3456

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 138790

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ELIZUR, DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN ISRAELI AFFAIRS, MFA SEPT 3, CHARGE NOTED THAT USG AWAITS RESPONSE FROM GOI TO OUR CLAIM MADE IN JULY 1968 FOR DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY. INDICATED WE DID NOT INSIST ON WRITTEN REPLY IN FIRST INSTANCE, BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE ORAL COMMENTS FROM GOI.

2. ELIZUR SAID GOI HAD HOPED, IN VIEW OF RAPID AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL OTHER LIBERTY CLAIMS, THAT USG WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING REDUCTION OF CLAIM FOR VESSEL DAMAGE. CHARGE SAID USG WAS NOT TAKING SUCH INITIATIVE, BUT FELT SOME RESPONSE FROM GOI WAS NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS.

3. ELIZUR NOTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL BITAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WITH MRS. MEIR LATER THIS MONTH, AND THAT HE MIGHT DESIRE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME. GP-3.
ZURHELLEN

Tillman 3456 9-8-69

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-630 NO.

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HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED 1969 DEC 6 PM 12 43

TO : Department of State

INFO: BEIRUT, CAIRO, USUN

RS-Simon-1

FROM : AmEmbassy TEL AVIV

DATE: December 3, 1969

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY Claim

REF : CA 5749

Mr. Elizur having returned to Israel, Embassy has raised again with him LIBERTY claim in accordance last para reference CA. Information last sentence thereof also given him. Mr. Elizur was told US Government continues to expect reply from GOI to our Note of July 1968 presenting claim for damage to ship. He promised to take matter up within Ministry and communicate with Embassy later.

BARBOUR

Note: As of 1978, 12 years after the unprovoked attack on the Liberty, Israel has still not paid one cent on the U.S. claim of $7,644,146 for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the ship by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

GROUP 3 - Downgraded at 12-yr intervals; not automatically declassified.

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FORM A-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: DCM:JOZurhellen, Jr:caf/12/2/69

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

Toth wasn't entirely alone. Admiral McCain was a personal friend. He also knew Admiral Kidd, who had conducted the naval investigation into the attack.

Toth was so furious at the double talk, delays and insipid answers from the State Department that he demanded to know just why the Israelis didn't try and punish the guilty parties responsible for the unprovoked attack.The State Department, the Israelis and the Jewish Lobby banded together against Toth because he had dared to speak out and break the Conspiracy of Silence. According to Toth's lawyer they made it very difficult for Toth with continuous harassment. It was a bitter struggle. Toth's law firm in turn threatened the State Department with open court writs for non-payment of compensation.

Some of the more evil geniuses lurking in the hidden labyrinths of the State Department even accused Captain Toth of damaging U.S. national security. Next they sent IRS men to pressure the captain and Mrs. Toth. All this proved too much for Toth, who had a weak heart. After a few months of this type of harassment from several branches of the same government to which he had given a lifetime of service in the Navy, he was dead.

"First they killed my son. Then they killed my husband," Mrs. Toth said. She told newsmen that she had nothing else to lose. She finally did receive $40,000; but according to her estimate, it cost more than half this amount to obtain it.

Other families of victims kept silent. Unlike Mrs. Toth, none of them would speak out to me for fear of more government harassment and the threatened loss of veterans' benefits. It was more like life in a totalitarian state rather than a republic based on freedom of the individual to speak out. But when Israel is involved it seems that even the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States of America go out the window. And still Congressmen make speeches about the Jews in Moscow not being able to speak out. Is this any different?

Toth had also filed claims on behalf of two other families of dead *Liberty* officers. They also received small amounts of compensation, not nearly what they deserved.

During all his harassment of the Toths and other *Liberty* families, not one newspaper had the intestinal fortitude to print a few words on behalf of justice and truth. The Conspiracy of Silence worked well. Most of the families, frightened by the police state tactics of

the Department of State, were afraid to talk about compensation. They also admitted that the State Department ordered them not to talk. Is it 1984 already? They were bullied into signing release forms which gave them little more than normal benefits for the families of war veterans.

But the truth dies hard. As late as 1972, one courageous and dedicated member of the House of Representatives was bold enough to speak out in Congress. On September 12, John Rarick, Louisiana Democrat, demanded to know why the still-unexplained attack on the *Liberty* had been choked off and also why the families of the victims had never been adequately compensated. He was wasting his time. And when he claimed that Israel had never paid anything at all because a special U.S. Bill of Israeli aid had been added to cover this amount, he was harassed by the State Department and branded as a trouble maker by the Jewish Lobby. Naturally, the State Department didn't relish the thought of newspapers learning that the U.S., not Israel, had actually paid the tab for the sinking of one of our own ships in the most merciless and unprovoked attack in naval history. But there was really no need to worry about the news media revealing anything about the *Liberty*. They now had Watergate and the Vietnam War to distort into outrageous proportions.

To the Zionists any war or even any small argument concerning expanding the borders and power of Israel are sacred matters. Any minor challenge or mere détente is fought with all the ardour usually reserved for a holy crusade. The insecurity of the Jews throughout the world may be attributed to many causes, but this, in turn, makes them reluctant to give up anything at any time. Non-Jews need to understand this sense of Jewish insecurity, which has its roots in early Christian persecution of them. Love for Israel is an indivisible element of both folk and faith dimensions of Jewish history. Perhaps this partly explains how an American ship could be ordered sunk with the planned loss of all hands. Perhaps this same religious zealotry enables the men who ordered the destruction of the *Liberty* to sleep at night without a guilty conscience—and while they may sleep . . . and while they may even be able to dream . . . they also must always remember.

Non-Jews may have difficulty in perceiving the modern Jew as a direct lineal descendant of such Biblical figures as Abraham, Moses and Ezra. The very words "Old Testament" may suggest to non-Jews a discontinuity between the Biblical Israel and the Jew

of today. Jews know these sacred scriptures as TA-NA-CH, an acronym for the Torah. And the Bible marks the earliest stage of a continuous 3,000-year-old devoutly religious civilisation whose most vital features are built on evolution, development and adaptation.

For these reasons, when dealing with the Jews of modern Israel on an international level, straight diplomatic approaches which work well with all other nations cannot be employed. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt learned this the hard way in 1978 when his peace talks with Israel broke down. And the idea of these talks originated with Israel, not Egypt, as it might seem in the news reports. Sadat was used by both President Carter and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel to halt the upcoming Geneva peace talks and to split the solidarity of the Arab world.

"Israel wants land, not peace, which makes the negotiations useless," Sadat concluded in his final analysis of the situation.

The Zionists view politics and religion as one and the same. This sort of holy vision which rules all Israeli agreements amounts to an ersatz religious philosophy . . . both as a reason for success and an excuse for failure. It's about like a man who constantly shifts the blame to others for a disappointing life. What the national philosophy of Israel really amounts to in reality is that anything which helps Israel is good . . . including lies, deceitful tactics and murder. And conversely, anything which harms Israel is bad . . . regardless of what good it might otherwise encompass.

According to Israeli propaganda, the Six-Day War ushered in a catastrophic era for Israel. The Zionists were now intoxicated with their new power of ruling Arab territory over three times the size of their own tiny nation. Hitler couldn't have done better. Israelis would have the world believe that this newly-acquired power is sustained by the God-given rights of ties by faith and blood to dominate the alien and profane Arabs.

While in Israel, I posed a hypothetical question to an Israeli journalist who had worked in the U.S. I asked him if he thought that if it had been an Israeli ship which had been attacked under the same circumstances as the *Liberty*, would there have been a Conspiracy of Silence as now exists concerning the *Liberty* attack.

"Certainly not, under no circumstances. Hell, the three American television networks would have it all over the tube in no time. Didn't you see what they did about our raid on the airport at Entebbe?" was his quick answer.

"And would compensation have to be paid?" I asked him.

"You better believe it. We'd make them pay for every hangnail or they'd never hear the end of it."

I believe this explains it far better than I could.

But, in reality, the hushed-up truth about the *Liberty* hurts the United States of America more than it helps Israel. This official cover-up process is directly against the principles upon which our nation was founded.

Now I fully realise that the wisdom, compassion and morality of one generation cannot always be easily bequeathed to another. However, if there is a special providence in the fall of a single sparrow to the earth as poets and philosophers alike would have us believe, then there must also be a very special place for the innocent victims who were killed or wounded on the *Liberty* in the service of our nation. But until now there has never been any public encomiums for the brave men of the *Liberty*. The cries of the damned have not been heard throughout the land. And many, like Thomas Reilly, Jr., with shrapnel implanted in his brain, are still paying the price for the unchecked naked aggression of Israel in June of 1967.

A "mistake?" Well, if you believe that the Nazi attack on the Warsaw Jewish ghetto in World War II was a mistake, then you might possess the type of mind capable of believing that the *Liberty* attack was also a mistake.

Both Israel and Jews everywhere have much to be proud of in their history and heritage. The enlightened Jewish civilisation down through the centuries has experienced many shining hours. But the afternoon of June 8, 1967 was not one of them.

In closing, I believe that the following editorial comment from Captain McGonagle's home town, which appeared in the *Wichita Eagle* on August 2, 1967 pretty well sums up America's reaction to the attack:

> "Heroism on combat ships in wartime is the order of the day. Heroism on a wallowing communications ship, taken by surprise in peacetime, catches at a nation's heart. McGonagle survives, and something great survives as well in the spirit of *Liberty* off Sinai, 1967."

So June 8, 1967 has to be recorded in American history as a second "day of infamy" . . . right after the first such day, declared by President Roosevelt on December 7, 1941.

Shalom . . . . . Salaam . . . . . Peace.

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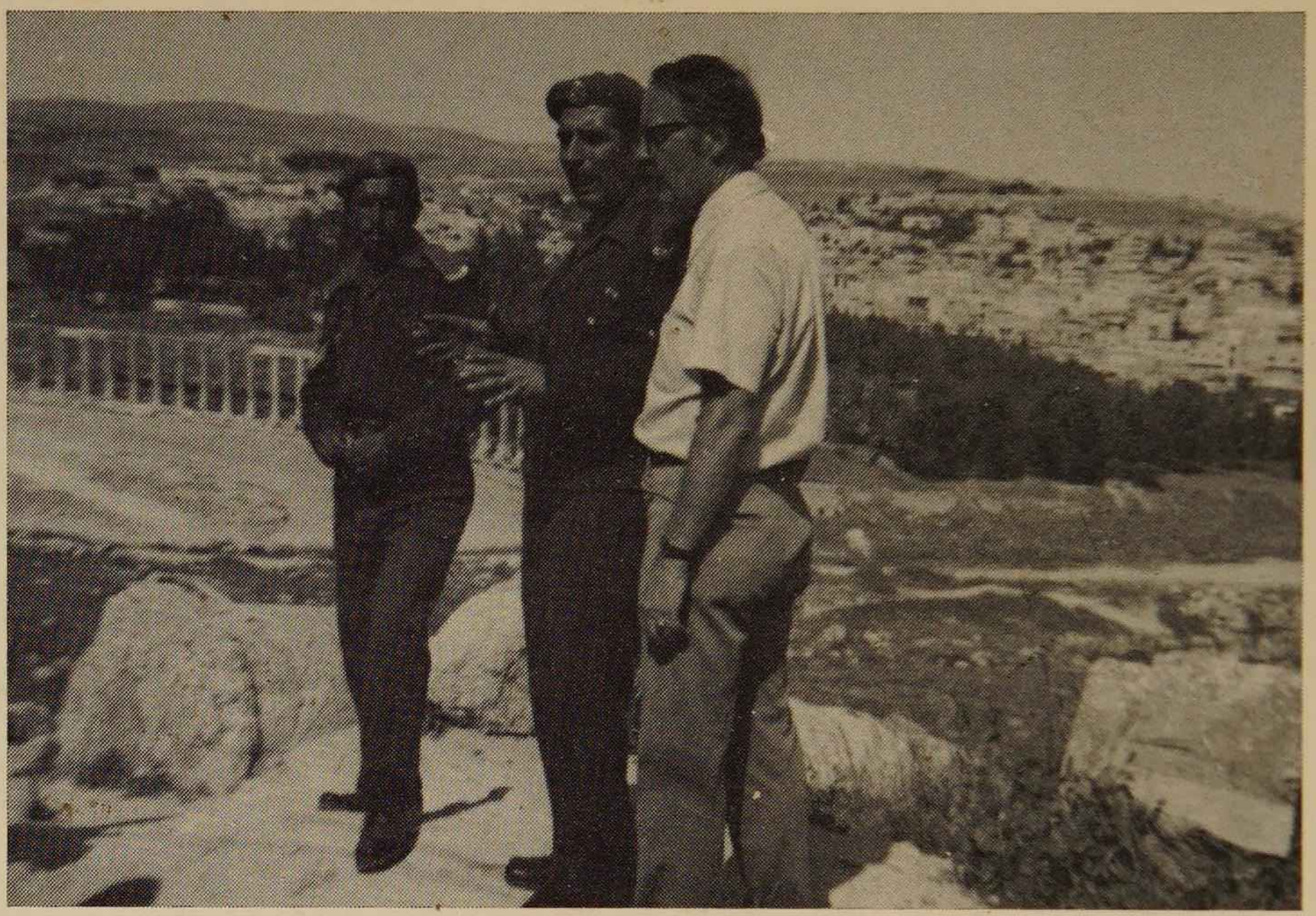
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Jim Taylor is shown in the above photo with Jordanian officials in the East Bank area of the Jordan River, looking towards the controversial West Bank which was stolen by Israel from Jordan in 1967.

As a prizewinning Kansas City novelist, Taylor has earned an international reputation because of his iconoclastic passion for unmasking unfair or deceptive practices. He has written 21 books about military life, government service, the jet set, gourmet dining and life in some of the few remaining outposts for adventure left in the world. And he has actually lived through a number of experiences which tend to rival his books in excitement, suspense, intrigue and danger.

Taylor is extremely well qualified to write about the intelligence activities which are described in this true story because, at various stages of his unusual career he has been hired to do such work by several European countries and private international organisations. In fact, Interpol still keeps an up-to-date file on his movements abroad; as do most Communist countries, Israel and some Arab states.

The author is a reserve officer in the U.S. Navy and served with the Philippine Underground, Chinese Nationalist forces and on temporary assignments with the British, Canadian and Argentine navies. He was originally trained as a Navy coding expert and served on the staff of Rear Admiral B. J. Rodgers (USN).

He is a regular contributor of political feature stories to magazines published in Paris, Cairo and Damascus.

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Taylor was born in Nashville, Tenn., and was educated at the University of Kentucky and Notre Dame.

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