

NAVAL MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRIORITY
P 142258Z JUN 67
FM JCS

TO COMSIXTHFLT

INFO USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

17551
DOCUMENTATION
NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED
OUTSIDE OF NAVY
PRIOR TO CLEARANCE

Jill

295936

~~SECRET~~ JCS7964 DJS SENDS.

COMSIXTHFLT PASS TO MAJOR GENERAL J R RUSS, USA.
SUBJ: FACT-FINDING TEAM

FOLLOWING IS QUOTED TEXT OF MEMORANDUM, SUBJ AS ABOVE,
APPROVED AT THE JCS MEETING AND FORWARDED TO YOUR OFFICE
14 JUNE 1967, QUOTE

1. ~~(S)~~ YOU ARE HEREWITH DESIGNATED SENIOR MEMBER
OF A NAD HOC FACT-FINDING TEAM TO EXAMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE AND TRANSMISSION OF OPERATIONAL
DIRECTIVES TO THE USS LIBERTY ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS
DURING THE PERIOD 1 JUNE TO 8 JUNE 1967 WHICH CULMINATED IN THE A
ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY (GTR 5) ON 081210Z JUNE 1967

2. (U) THE TEAM SHALL COMPRISE THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS WHOSE SECURITY CLEARANCES ARE AS INDICATED:
MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH R RUSS, USA, 019860, TS/SI
REAR ADMIRAL FRANCIS J FITZPATRICK, USN, 002418, TS/SI
COLONEL WILLIAM A GARRETT, USAF, FR 10858, TS/SI
CAPTAIN WILLIAM D OWEN, USN, 107068, TS/SI
MAJOR HARLAN E PRIDDLE, USAF, FR 47157, TS/SI

YOU ARE ALSO TO REQUEST THE MILITARY SERVICES TO DESIGNATE
A POINT OF CONTACT TO FACILITATE YOUR OBTAINING SUCH ASSISTANCE
FROM THE SERVICES AS YOU MAY REQUIRE

3. ~~(S)~~ YOUR FACT-FINDING STUDY SHALL INCLUDE:
A. THE MEANS UTILIZED TO ISSUE AND TRANSMIT OPERATIONAL
DIRECTIVES OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO THE USS LIBERTY.
B. THE SPECIFIC ORDERS:
(1) ISSUED TO THE USS LIBERTY BETWEEN 1 JUNE AND 8 JUNE 1967.
(2) TO WHICH USS LIBERTY RESPONDED DURING THOSE SAME PERIODS.
C. CIRCUMSTANCES AT ENDING ANY CONFLICTING DIRECTIVES,
INFORDINATE DELAYS IN THE RECEIPT OF MESSAGES OR OTHER
PROPER ORDERS, OR THEIR NONRECEIPT

Declassified and approved for
release by NSA and Navy on
02-27-2007 pursuant to E.O.
12958, as amended; ST case
51648

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M/R: THIS MSG WR

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4. (U) YOU WILL INCORPORATE IN YOUR REPORT ANY OFFICIAL US PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH BEAR ON YOUR FINDINGS.

5. (U) YOU ARE DIRECTED TO REPORT YOUR FINDINGS TOGETHER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE COURT OF INQUIRY CONVENED BY CINCUSNAVEUR TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO AND CONNECTED WITH THE ARMED ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY WILL INQUIRE INTO ADMINISTRATIVE, DISCIPLINARY, AND INTERNAL MATTERS WITHIN THAT COMMAND WHICH ARE NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION BY THE FACT-FINDING TEAM. THIS FACT-FINDING TEAM WILL NOT INFRINGE UPON THE PREROGATIVES OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY. UNQUOTE GP-4.

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