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FROM: CINCLANT

TO: CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO: COMSIXTHFLT

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA, the U.S. Navy, and DoD on 01-19-2007 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended. ST case 51650.

80 DIVISION
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SECURITY VIOLATION

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE STORY, A013, SIXTHFLEET-MIDEAST 380, ON USS LIBERTY WRITTEN BY BOB HORTON FROM ABOARD THE CARRIER

AMERICA STATES, QUOTE: THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR THIS NON-COMBAT SHIP BEING SO NEAR THE FRONT OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN FIGHTING

WAS THAT THE LIBERTY WAS TO "HELP PROTECT AMERICAN NATIONALS AS THE POSSIBLE NEED TO EVACUATE BECAME APPARENT." THE LIBERTY

WAS ONLY 15 MILES OFF THE SINAI COAST. BUT AN OFFICER SAID: "TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, SHE WAS THERE TO SPY FOR US. RUSSIA DOES THE

SAME THING. WE MOVED IN CLOSE TO MONITOR THE COMMUNICATIONS OF BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL. WE HAVE TO. WE MUST BE INFORMED OF

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MATTER OF MINUTES." THE LIBERTY, THIS OFFICER SAID, WAS LOADED WITH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF RAPIDLY

ACQUIRING DATA AND TRANSMITTING INTELLIGENCE REPORTS TO POSTS THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. UNQUOTE.

2. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT SECURITY VIOLATION IN VIEW OF IMPACT OF SEVERE LOSS OF LIFE SUSTAINED IN LIBERTY. CONSIDER IMMEDIATE

AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGED STATEMENT IS WARRANTED WITHOUT DELAY.

3. ENTIRE TEXT OF AP STORY PARA ONE BEING SENT BY PRIORITY MESSAGE. GP-4.

WU: 01YN/4-2

ORIG: 09/CAPT BRETT/6295

REL: 01

INFO: 00 01 02 3 2 5 8 019 IBC CRWO BRIEF

5ND GEN 2100/3 (Rev. 5/66)
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