NAVAL MESSAGE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRIORITY
091633Z JUN 67
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO USCINCEUR

INFO CNO
CINCLANTFLT
COMSIXTHFLT
JCS

Declassified and approved for release by NSA and the U.S. Navy on 01-12-2007 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended ST 51667

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ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY (C)

1. NCN INTEND SHORTLY TO CONVENE A COURT OF INQUIRY TO INQUIRE INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECENT ISRAELI ATTACK ON AND SUBSEQUENT DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY.

2. I AM NOW COMPLETING ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE A FLAG OFFICER, NOT IN THE OPERATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND AND NOT UNDER MY COMMAND, MADE AVAILABLE TO SERVE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT. I SHALL ALSO APPOINT AT LEAST TWO CAPTAINS, ONE FAMILIAR WITH COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS AND ONE ON THE COURT.

3. PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT THE COURT WILL BE COMPOSED OF REAR ADMIRAL I. C. KIDD, USN, NOW SERVING UNDER NATO CINCSOUTH; CAPTAIN J. A. SKINNER, USN, NOW SERVING AS DIRNAVSECGRUEUR; AND CAPTAIN B. J. LAUFF, USN, ONLY RECENTLY ARRIVED AND WHO WILL BE THE NEXT COMMANDING OFFICER, FLEET OPERATIONAL CONTROL CENTER, NAVAL FORCES EUROPE.

4. I SHALL CONFIRM OR AMEND PARA THREE ABOVE WHEN THE APPOINTING ORDER OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY IS SIGNED.
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