~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

18 1105Z

VV CWY426
PP RUEPJS
DE RUENAAA
ZNY CCCCC ZOV
T ASD PA
PFTC JAW RUCIYHG0348 1691316-CCCC--RUENAAA.
DE RUDLKD 1023 1691105

ZNY CCCCC
P 181105Z JUN 67
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
TO RUTPRG/USS LIBERTY
INFO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR
RUDTCR/AMEMB VELLETTA MALTA
RUENAAA/ASD PA
RUTPRC/COMSIXTHFLT
BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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.

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2. STORY LATER STATES QUOTE OFFICIALLY, LIBERTY'S TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE WAR TORN MEDEAST 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 XDWERE 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,

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THE LATTER POSSIBILITY IS NOT UNLIKELY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS RDXSON 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.

GP-4
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Declassified and approved for release by NSA and the U.S. Navy on 01-16-2007 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended ST 51667