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S E C R E T
FOR ADM MCCAIN, GENERAL BURCHINAL, ADM MCDONALD
FROM VADM MARTIN
PRESS BRIEFING COVERING DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY AND HEROIC ACTION OF CREW
1. AFTER RETURNING FROM ONE HOUR ABOARD LIBERTY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I VISITED WITH THE EIGHT INJURED LIBERTY CREWMEN IN LITTLE ROCK SICK BAY. A STORY OF TRULY HEROIC ACTION BY LIBERTY CREW WAS REVEALED. LATE LAST EVENING CAPTAIN RUSSEL ARTHUR, SIXTH FLEET MAINTENANCE OFFICER CAME ABOARD FLAGSHIP HAVING JUST LEFT LIBERTY AFTER MAKING DETAILED ESTIMATES OF DAMAGE. CAPTAIN

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ARTHUR WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND HIS CREW THAT THE SHIP WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE.
2. THIS MORNING ABOARD USS AMERICA, CAPTAIN ARTHUR AND I TALKED TO THE MEDIA REPS AS LONG AS THEY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT DAXAGE TO THE SHIP AND THE ENSUING ACTIONS OF THE CREW.
3. WHILE I WAS TALKING WITH COMMANDERNWILLIAM L. MCGONAGLE, SKIPPER OF LIBERTY, MY FLAG LIEUTENANT, LIEUTENAKNT ROBERT SCHEINER, TOOK NOTES. DURING THE PRESS BRIEFING, LIEUTENANT SCHEINER WAS ABLE TO GIVE THE NEWSMEN AN INTERESTING ACCTNT OF THE ACTIONS ABOARD SHIP AFTER LIBERTY WAS ATTACKED.
4. I WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY BY THE PRESS, QUOT "IS THE LIBERTY AN ASTB SHIP, WAS SHE IN THOSE WATERS COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE UNQUOTE. I REPLIED, QUOTIA"EMPHATICALLY NO. LIBERTY WAS UNDER MY OPERATIONAL CONTROL OPERATING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE EASTERN MED TO ENSURE RELIABLE COMMNICATIONS RELAY FROM THREATENED U. S. POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM WHICH MASS EVACUATION OF U.S. NATIONALS MIGHT BECOME URGENT." UNQUOTE. I EXPLAINED ALSO THAT LIBERTY WAS WHERE SHE WAS BECAUSE THAT WAS JUST THE BEST POUSIBLE POSITION TO CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION BECAUSE, QUOTE AFTER AN EMBASSY

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OR CONSULATE IS ATTACKED THEIR ONLY MEANS OF REQUESTING EVACUATION MIGHT BE VERY LOW POWERED RADIO SETS.
MANY SUCH SMALL TRANSCOTTERS HAVE ONLY LINE OF SIGHT CAPABILITY UNQUOTE. I SAID THAT LIBERTY POSSESSED EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AND PROVED IT BY BEING ABLE TO RIG A VOICE TRANSMITTER TO CALL FOR HELP AFTER THE ATTACKS HAD WIPED OUT ALL HER ANTENNAE. AS TO LIBERTYJS CAPABILITIES OUTSIDE OF BEING A VERY CAPABLE RADIO GUARD FOR EVACUATION OPERATIONS, I TOLD THEM THE SHIP WORKS ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS, SUCH AS MAGNETIC WAVE PROPAGATION/B WHICH ARE OF A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NATURE ABOUT WHICH I HAD NO INFORMATION.
5. IN GENERAL QUESTIONING, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAD ORDERED AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE QUOTE TO PROTECT, AND ONLY TO PROTECT QJS LIBERTY AS SOON AS I WAS CONVINCED THAT A U.S. SHIP WAS REALLY UNDER ATTACK, AND CALLED BACK THE AIRCRAFT WHEN I BECAME AWARE THAT THEY WERE NOT REQUIRED UNQUOTE. THE PRESS WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT SENIOR COMMANDERS HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF MY ACTIONS AND RECEIVED COPIES OF ALL MY MESSAGES.
6. THUS WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE THE NEWSMEN A GREAT DEAL OF GENERAL INFORMATION AND THEIR APPRECIATION WAS UNMILTAKABLE.