AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 8 JUNE 1967

1. GENERAL

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITY IS BASED ON ISRAELI PLAIN LANGUAGE VHF/UHF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTED ON 8 JUNE 1967 BETWEEN 1229Z AND 1329Z. THIS ACTIVITY DEALS SOLELY WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE ATTACK BY ISRAELI JET AIRCRAFT AND TORPEDO BOATS ON THE USS LIBERTY (CGT-5). THERE ARE NO COMINT REFLECTIONS OF THE ACTUAL ATTACK ITSELF.

2. SUMMARY

AT 1229Z, TWO ISRAELI HELICOPTERS 810 AND 815, WERE DISPATCHED BY HATSOR TO THE AREA OF THE INCIDENT TO CHECK FOR SURVIVORS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED "WARSHIP." APPROXIMATELY AT 1234Z, THE AIR CONTROLLER AT HATSOR CLARIFIED THE IDENTITY OF THE SHIP TO THE TWO ISRAELI HELICOPTERS BY INFORMING THEM THAT IT HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS EGYPTIAN. AT 1253Z, HATSOR TOLD THE HELICOPTERS THAT IT WAS AN EGYPTIAN CARGO SHIP.

AT 1307Z, HATSOR TOLD HELICOPTER 815 TO TAKE ANY SURVIVORS THAT SPOKE EGYPTIAN TO AL "ARISH ((31-58N 34-54E)), BUT IF THEY SPOKE ENGLISH TO TAKE THEM TO LIOO ((31-58N 34-54E)).

AT 1312Z, THE ISRAELI HELICOPTER 845 APPARENTLY INFORMED HATSOR ON A DIFFERENT FREQUENCY THAT IT HAD SIGHTED AN AMERICAN FLAG ON THE SHIP. HATSOR THEN ASKED THE HELICOPTER TO MAKE ANOTHER PASS TO CHECK "IF THIS IS REALLY AN AMERICAN FLAG."

THE HELICOPTERS AND THE HTBS WERE COMMUNICATING ON A UHF FREQUENCY WHEREAS THE HELICOPTERS AND THE AIR CONTROLLER AT HATSOR WERE USING VHF THROUGHOUT.

AT 1329Z, HELICOPTER 845 INFORMED THE HTBS USING CALLSIGN "TAGADA" THAT THE SHIP WAS NOT IN DANGER. THE SAME HELICOPTER THEN REPORTED THAT G.T.R.-5 WAS WRITTEN ON THE SHIP AND INQUIRED IF THIS MEANT ANYTHING. THE HTBS REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE.

THROUGHOUT THIS INTERCEPT, THE USS LIBERTY IS REFERRED TO AS THE "BIG ONE" WHILE THE THREE ISRAELI MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS ARE REFERRED TO AS THE "SMALL ONES." THE HELICOPTERS USED CALLSIGNS 810 AND 815. THE AIR CONTROLLER AT HATSOR MADE USE CALL

NSA
WORLD "TRIBUNE". THE MTBS USED CALLWORDS "THORN," "PAGODA," AND "CRISIS." THE CALLWORD "JEWEL" IS NOT IDENTIFIED, BUT MAY BE HAIFA.

3. DETAILS

TEXT

I UNDERSTAND THE COURSE FROM ASHDOD ((815-35N 34-39E)) IS 215.
NEGATIVE ((THE COURSE IS)) 250.

GOTER.

TO WHAT ALTITUDE ARE YOU CLIMBING?
I'M NOW AT 560 FEET.

FIVE BY.

PAY ATTENTION: THERE WAS A WARSHIP THERE WHICH WE ATTACKED ((1 WD G)); THE MEN JUMPED FROM IT ((THE SHIP)) INTO THE WATER. YOU WILL TRY TO RESCUE THEM.

ROGER. I UNDERSTAND IT WAS HIT AND UNABLE TO FIRE.
NO FIRE WAS SEEN FROM HER AND THOSE ON BOARD DID NOT FIRE; HEAVY SMOKE IS RISING FROM HER.

ROGER.

CROSSING THE COAST NOW AT A COURSE OF 250.

ROGER. OVER. WHAT LOCATION ((ARE YOU)) OVER ASHDOD.

ROGER. WHAT IS YOUR ALTITUDE?
SECRET SAVIN. SECTION TWO 2/04/67
SIGNIT READINESS BRAVO "CRAYON" REPORT NR. 2 A49

AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 6 JUNE 1967

TRIBUNE 12322
TRIBUNE 12352
TRIBUNE 12362

Are you able to climb to an altitude of 10,000 feet?
Roger, I'm climbing.

Altitude 1 (10,000), course 250.
Roger.

Are you at sea now? About 3 or 4 miles.
Roger.

Visual (radar) contact with you.
Roger.

(Calling). (Repeats), same. At the moment she (the ship) is straight ahead at a distance of about 50 miles.
Roger.

Five by, 8L5 is calling you.
(Calling).

Five by, pay attention! The ship is now identified as Egyptian, you can return home now.
Roger.

Establish communications with you also.
Did you receive?
Affirmative, receive, I'm returning.
Roger.

(Affirmative, I'm returning.)
Roger.

An I to return also?
I'll let you know shortly.
Roger.

(Calling).
(Tribune) (Tribune) (Tribune)
(SL 0) (SL 0) (SL 0)
(SL 0) (SL 0) (SL 0)
(DID YOU RECEIVE)
WHAT DID RS 5 REQUEST?
WHAT'S YOUR ALTITUDE?
ALTITUDE 500 FEET NEAR ASHDOD.
ROGER, WE'RE AT ALTITUDE 1,200 FEET
OVER ASHDOD.
ROGER.

(Tribune)
(SL 0) (SL 0)
(SL 5) (SL 5)
(Tribune) (Tribune)
(Tribune)

PAY ATTENTION! YOU WILL CONTINUE
MEANWHILE ON A COURSE OF 250 FROM
ASHDOD. THE BOTH OF YOU (1-2 WD 01)
WILL HEAD TOWARD THE SHIP.

(Tribune) (Tribune)
(SL 5) (SL 5)
(SL 0) (SL 0)

ROGER, YOU WILL CONTINUE (AT A COURSE) OF 250 FROM ASHDOD. THE
BOTH OF YOU WILL HEAD FOR THE SHIP,
FOR THE TIME BEING THE BOTH OF YOU
WILL BE AT ALTITUDE 1,200 FEET.

(Tribune) (Tribune) (Tribune)
(SL 0) (SL 0) (SL 0)

DO YOU SEE US?

WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
SECRET SAVIN

SECTION THREE 2/04 RM 67

SIGNING READINESS BRAVO. "CRAYON" REPORT NR. 249

AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 6 JUNE 1967

(tribune) (S1 G) ASHDOD, ALTITUDE 1 (A 020).

(tribune) (S1 G) DID YOU RECEIVE;

(tribune) (S1 G) FIVE BY;

(tribune) (S1 G) ALTITUDE IS 1 (A 020), AT ASHDOD.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER.

(tribune) (S1 G) GOING TO COURSE 290 TOGETHER WITH;

(tribune) (S1 G) ARE THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER;

(tribune) (S1 G) AFFIRMATIVE, WE'RE TOGETHER.

(tribune) (S1 G) PAY ATTENTION: YOU (S1) NONETH;

(tribune) (S1 G) ARE HEADING FOR THE SHIP;

(tribune) (S1 G) YOU WILL TRY TO TAKE THE MEN FROM;

(tribune) (S1 G) THE WATER.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER, OKAY;

(tribune) (S1 G) FOR YOUR INFORMATION: THE SHIP IS;

(tribune) (S1 G) APPARENTLY BURNING.

(tribune) (S1 G) (A WD G) IT IS AN EGYPTIAN CARGO;

(tribune) (S1 G) SHIP.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER.

(tribune) (S1 G) VISUAL (RADAR) CONTACT WITH BOTH;

(tribune) (S1 G) OF YOU.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER.

124272

(tribune) (S1 G) I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU (S1 WD G);

(tribune) (S1 G) BOTH OF YOU;

(tribune) (S1 G) AFFIRMATIVE.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER.

12422

(tribune) (S1 G) (CALLING)

(tribune) (S1 G) FIVE BY;

(tribune) (S1 G) TAKE THE MEN TO EL-ARISH.

(tribune) (S1 G) ROGER, OKAY;

(tribune) (S1 G) BUT YOU BEHIND;

(tribune) (S1 G)
I received, affirmative.

How much fuel do you have?

Two and a half tanks. I have 4,788 liters.

This isn't good.

(1 WD 6) to El Arish.

Roger.

The ship is located now straight ahead at a range of 50 miles.

Roger.

Are you first in line?

Affirmative.

Roger.

(2 WD 6) from the coast of El Arish.

Roger.

About how many men are there?

Calling.

How many men are there?

Repeat.

Turn right to course 260.

They want to know how many men are there.

At the present time, it still isn't known. The distance to you is now 33 miles.

What is the distance from it (The Liberty) to El Arish?

The distance is approximately 30 miles.

Roger.

It's noteworthy that it (1 WD 6).

Roger.

Five by.

What is the distance?

The distance is now 23 miles.

Roger.
SECRET SAVIN
SIGNAL READINESS BRAVO "GRAYSON" REPORT NO. 2149

AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 8 JUNE 1967

815 (TRIBUNE) PAY ATTENTION: CALL ON 86 OR ON 186 PAGODA.

(TE-NOTE: 186 AND 86 REFER TO A UHF FREQUENCY)

TRIBUNE (815) ROGER.

TRIBUNE (615) I'M GOING OVER TO 186.

TRIBUNE (615) ROGER.

TRIBUNE (615) I'M ALSO (GOING OVER TO 186).

TRIBUNE (815) IS SOMEONE CALLING (ME) TRIBUNE?

TRIBUNE (615) AFFIRMATIVE, I DON'T HAVE CONTACT WITH PAGODA.

TRIBUNE (815) ROGER, CLEAR, THE SHIP IS NOW AT A DISTANCE OF 19 MILES.

TRIBUNE (815) ROGER, IS PAGODA LOCATED NEAR (THE LIBERTY)?

TRIBUNE (815) APPARENTLY IT'S LOCATED NEAR IT (THE SHIP).

TRIBUNE (615) ROGER.

82572 815 (TRIBUNE) IF YOU ARE ABLE, TRY TO CALL HER (PAGODA) ON 86.

TRIBUNE (815) I TRIED;

TRIBUNE (815) I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING.

(TE-NOTE: MAKE CONTACT).

TRIBUNE (615) CALLING).

815 (TRIBUNE) DO YOU HAVE VISUAL CONTACT, STRAIGHT AHEAD, A DISTANCE OF 18 MILES?

TRIBUNE 815 I HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH (1 W.D.G).

815 (TRIBUNE) SMOKE OR IT COULD BE (1-2 W.D.G).

815 (TRIBUNE) ROGER, IS THERE MUCH SMOKE RISING FROM IT.
TRIBUNE 815
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TRIBUNE 815

ROGER.
I DON'T HAVE CONTACT WITH PAGODA.
ROGER.

DO YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH PAGODA?
NEGATIVE.

ROGER, I DON'T EITHER.

WHEN YOU BEGIN BRINGING UP THE MEN,
CLARIFY BY THE FIRST MAN THAT YOU
BRING UP, WHAT NATIONALITY HE IS.

AND REPORT TO ME IMMEDIATELY, IT'S
IMPORTANT TO KNOW.

WHAT IS YOUR ALTITUDE NOW?
ALTITUDE IS 1 ((1000 FEET)).

I HAVE A VISUAL CONTACT WITH A
VEssel STRAIGHT AHEAD ((AT A DISTANCE
OF)) 12 ((MILES)) A LITTLE FROM THE
RIGHT, SMOKE ISN'T RISING; ON THE
NORTH IT ISN'T SMOKING.
The distance is now 13 miles.

DO YOU SEE THE SHIP?
I SEE THE SHIP, A LITTLE TO THE
RIGHT OF THE SMOKE, THE SMOKE
THAT SMOKE ISN'T RISING.

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT ((THE
SMOKE)) IS FROM ONE OF OURS.

IT'S WORTH CLARIFYING.

Roger, what I see____ (now) is
ours, this is clean.

Roger.

10 MILES IS THE DISTANCE NOW.
Roger, I understand at 12 O'CLOCK
((11 WD 5)).

(b) (1) 777
(b) (3) 50 USC 492
(b) (3) 18 USC 799
(b) (3) P.L. 86-36

SECRET SAVIN

RNH
AFIRMATIVE, A LITTLE ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

THE DISTANCE IS NOW 9 MILES.

I'M GOING OVER TO 86.

ROGER, I REQUEST TO RECEIVE A REPORT, TELL ME THE NATIONALITY.

((CALLING)).

GO AHEAD.

ROGER, THERE IS A LARGE SHIP, SMOKE ISN'T RISING. AT THE PRESENT TIME SMOKE IS A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT ON ITS LEFT SIDE ((AS)) I SEE A SMALL VESSEL, THREE SMALL VESSELS.

ARE YOU CALLING ME?

FIVE BY.

DID YOU CALL ME?

AFFIRMATIVE.

ROGER, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THERE IS A LARGE VESSEL, NEAR IT ARE 3 SMALL VESSELS, COULD THIS BE IT, AT A DISTANCE OF A MILE FROM ME?

ROGER, CLEAR.

ROGER, APPARENTLY THE SMALL VESSELS ARE OURS.

((CALLING)).

FIVE BY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DON'T YOU SEE IT YET?

I'M BEHIND YOU, I STILL DON'T SEE THE SHIP ((AS WE O))) ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF US.

ROGER, EXACTLY IN FRONT OF ME, THERE ARE THE SMALL VESSELS.

WHAT'S WITH THEM, WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT APPEARS THAT THEY ARE OURS.

ON OUR RIGHT SIDE?

YES.

ALL 3 OF THEM ARE OURS.

ROGER, THE SMALL ONES, RIGHT?

AFFIRMATIVE.

ROGER, I'M READING FOR THE BIG
13872 13872

13872 13872

TRIBUTE, AS YOU GOING FOR THE BIG ONE?

TRIBUTE, AFFIRMATIVE.

THORN, ROGER, WAIT.

ROGER, FIVE BY.

THORN, TRANSMIT.

YES.

WITH YOU.

LAST 4 TRANSMISSIONS ARE ONE WAY COMMUNICATION--ALL 4 ARE FROM SAME SOURCE--OTHER TERMINAL IS

ON DIFFERENT FREQUENCY)

THORN, WE SEARCHED AROUND AND DIDN'T FIND ANYONE.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THORN MADE AN ERROR AND WANTED TO CALL 85, THE CALLSIGN 13872 HOWEVER HAS BEEN USED BY AN ISRAELI JET AIRCRAFT (EITHER A MIRAGE OR A MISTERY). IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT THORN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH 85, BUT IF THIS WAS THE CASE THERE ARE NO CONCERN REFLECTIONS OF THIS ACTIVITY.

THORN, THE BIG ONE (LIBERTY) IS NOT OURS.

AGAIN, THORN SAYS 13872 VICE 85.

THORN, WE SEARCHED AROUND AND DIDN'T FIND ANYONE.

THORN, WE HEAR YOU EXCELLENTLY, WHT. ACCORDING TO OUR SYSTEM, 85 IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM, 24360.

THORN, ACCEP 24360.

THORN, VICTORY! VICTORY! VICTORY!

THORN, VICTORY! VICTORY! VICTORY!

THORN, VICTORY! VICTORY! VICTORY!
SECRET

SPECIAL READINESS BRAVO "CRAYON" REPORT NR. 24

AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 6 JUNE 1967

PGODA SL 0 SL 0 SL 0 (CALLS)
PGODA SL 0 WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
PGODA SL 0 SEND YOUR REPORT.
PGODA SL 0 WHAT HAS TO BE DONE HERE?
PGODA SL 0 SEARCH TO SEE IF THERE ARE MEN IN THE WATER.

13562

PGODA (TRIBUNE) ROGER.
PGODA I UNDERSTAND AND FOR THE BIG ONE.
PGODA DON'T SPEAK ON THE CHANNEL NOW.
PGODA FIVE BY, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT I
PGODA FOUND THE MEN.
PGODA AFFIRMATIVE.
PGODA ROGER, THAT'S CLEAR.
PGODA ROGER.
PGODA NEGATIVE, IT'S NOT MEN, IT'S BOATS.

TRIBUNE SL 0 IT'S NOT MEN.
TRIBUNE (CALLING)
TRIBUNE GO AHEAD.
TRIBUNE (CALLING).
SL 0 SL 5 FIVE BY.
SL 0 SL 5 WHAT'S GOING ON?
SL 0 SL 5 I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
TRIBUNE (ABOUT THEM.) I'LL TRY TO CONTACT
TRIBUNE THEM ON 166.

(THE-NOTE: SL 5 IS TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE 3 SMALL
SHIPS ON 166 FREQUENCY)
SL 5 SL 5 ARE THE SMALL ONES OURS?
SL 5 TRIBUNE (CALLING).
SL 5 TRIBUNE FIVE BY.
SL 5 TRIBUNE PAY ATTENTION. IF ANY OF THEM ARE
SL 5 TRIBUNE SPEAKING AND IF THEY ARE SPEAKING
TRIBUNE 81.5
81.5 TRIBUNE DO YOU SEE THE MENT...
81.5 TRIBUNE TO WHOM DOES THE BIG ONE (SHIP) BELONG?

81.5 81.0
81.5 81.5
81.5 81.0
81.0 81.5

(CALLING) (REPEATS),
FIVE BY,
DON'T LEAVE THE VICINITY, IF YOU
DO LEAVE, REPORT (TO ME).
I'M NOT MONITORING THIS CHANNEL,
I'M SPEAKING ON 86 WITH THORN.
THIS IS THE SMALL ONE (810).
ROGER, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE
SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS WHETHER
YOU FIND THEM OR NOT?
(CALLS),
TRANSMIT.

81.5 81.5 PAGODA PAGODA

81.5 81.5

(CALLING) (REPEATS),
ARE YOU ABLE TO GO UP A LITTLE
HIGHER IN ORDER TO SEE THE SITU-
TION BETTER?

81.5 81.5 TRIBUNE (CALLING) (REPEATS),
81.5 TRIBUNE ARE YOU OVER WHATEVER YOU LOCATED?
81.5 TRIBUNE (TR-NOTE: IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE THAT HELICOPTERS 81.0
AND 81.5 ARE NOW ANSWERING CONTROL ON ANOTHER
FREQUENCY)

ROGER, THE FIRST MATTER TO CLARIFY
IS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEIR NATIONALITY IS,
REPORT TO ME IMMEDIATELY.

(b) (1)
(b) (3) 50 USC 403
(b) (3) 14 USC 798
(b) (3) T.L. 85-36

SECRET SAVIN
SECRET SAVIN

FINAL SECTION OF SEVEN 2/0

SIGNAL READINESS BRAVO "CRAYON" REPORT NR. 2A/0

AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY, 8 JUNE 1967

(81.5) (TRIBUNE) ROGER THIS IS CLEAR.

(81.5) TRIBUNE ROGER, YOU WATCH OUR FOR THE MASTS

(81.5) TRIBUNE (((CALLING))).

(81.5) PAGODA I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SHIP IS NOT IN DANGER.

(81.5) PAGODA I AM NOT SURE THAT IT (((LIBERTY))) IS NOT IN DANGER. ARE YOU SUGGESTING

THE SERIOUSNESS OF IT (((SITUATION))) BY (((SAYING))) THIS (((TR-NOTE))) AS HEARD).

(81.5) PAGODA ((NEGATIVE, G.T.R.-8 IS WRITTEN (ON IT))).

((TR-NOTE: LETTERS G.T.R. SENT IN ENGLISH))

(81.5) PAGODA ROGER (((STOP))).

(81.5) PAGODA ((NEGATIVE, IT DOESNT MEAN ANYTHING.

FROM BEHIND IT ((LIBERTY)) SEVERAL UNINFLATED BOATS WERE SEEN.))

(81.5) PAGODA ROGER.

(81.5) TRIBUNE YOU TAKE 81.5 WITH YOU AND RETURN

HOME, BEARING 81.5, DISTANCE OF 6 MILES.

(81.5) TRIBUNE ROGER, THIS IS CLEAR. DID YOU CLEARLY IDENTIFY AN AMERICAN FLAG

TRANSMIT, REMAIN MEANWHILE OVER THE AREA.

(81.5) TRIBUNE (((CALLING))).

((TR-NOTE: DO NOT HEAR FROM 81.5 UNTIL 1312Z))

(81.5) TRIBUNE ROGER.

FIVE BY.

FIVE BY.
(TRIBUNE) ROGER, THIS IS CLEAR, WHAT KIND OF FLAG IS IT?
(315) TRIBUNE ROGER, THIS IS CLEAR.
(315) TRIBUNE TAKE 816, AND RETURN HOME.
(315) TRIBUNE (COURSE) 062, DISTANCE 65 MILES.
(315) TRIBUNE ROGER, THIS IS CLEAR.
(315) TRIBUNE ROGER, I RECEIVED, I WILL NOTIFY YOU IMMEDIATELY AS TO WHAT TO DO.
(315) TRIBUNE ROGER.

PAY ATTENTION: ROGER, THIS IS CLEAR. ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTION, WHOEVER HAS THE MOST FUEL.

(315) TRIBUNE ROGER, I'M CHECKING ON IT.
(315) TRIBUNE PAY ATTENTION: WHOEVER HAS THE MOST FUEL BETWEEN YOU WILL RETURN HOME. THE ONE WITH THE LEAST WILL GO TO EL ARISH.
(315) TRIBUNE NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME. APPARENTLY THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO EL ARISH WILL RETURN LATER.
(315) TRIBUNE WHICH ONE OF YOU IS GOING HOME?
(315) TRIBUNE WHO IS GOING HOME?
(315) TRIBUNE OK.

TRIBUNE ROGER, THIS IS KNOWN: I RECEIVED THE NOTICE AND IT'S KNOWN THAT THESE ORDERS CAME FROM ABOVE.

TRIBUNE HE SAYS OVER TO 170 ON THE WAY HOME.

JEWEL: (CALLS) (REPTS).

END OF RADIO TELEPHONE CONVERSATION)

SECRET SAVIN
FOURTEEN (14) PAGES WITHHELD