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ACTION PRECEDENCE

INFO PRECEDENCE

SPECIAL HANDLING

PRIORITY

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FM: HQ NSAEUR

DATE: 17 JUN 67

FOR:  
INFO:

TO: DIRNSA

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F201/S/1007. F2/D/782

SUBJECT: SECURITY STATUS REPORT OF USS LIBERTY

HQ NSAEUR PERSONNEL WERE BRIEFED ON THE U.S. NAVY SECURITY PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ABOARD THE USS LIBERTY AND WERE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS THE DRAINAGE OF THE SHIP IN DRYDOCK. THE SECURITY PLAN AND EXECUTION OF THE PLAN PROVIDED MAXIMUM PROTECTION POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF EXTREMELY ADVERSE CONDITIONS. PRIOR TO DRAINAGE OF THE SHIP, A CANVAS WAS TIED ACROSS THE DAMAGED SIDE OF THE SHIP TO PREVENT VISUAL ACCESS INTO THE AREA AND SCREENS WERE INSTALLED ACROSS THE DRAINS OF THE DRYDOCK. DURING THE PUMP DOWN, U.S. NAVY DIVERS AND ONE MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH GROUP PICKED UP THE OIL COVERED PAPER AS IT FLOATED OUT OF THE SHIP. WHEN THE DRYDOCK WAS COMPLETELY DRAINED, A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE WHOLE DRYDOCK AND EACH DRAIN SCREEN WAS CONDUCTED BY INDOCTRINATED RESEARCH PERSONNEL. ALL UNINDOCTRINATED PERSONNEL WHO WERE EXPOSED TO THE MATERIAL WHICH FLOATED OUT OF THE RESEARCH AREA DURING THE VOYAGE TO MALTA AND WHILE IN THE DRYDOCK AND THOSE SUCH AS DAMAGE CONTROL PERSONNEL, CORPSMEN AND SHIPS CREW PERSONNEL WHO REQUIRED ACCESS INTO THE RESEARCH AREA WERE TO BE GIVEN INADVERTENT

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EXPOSURE OATHS. PRIOR TO OPENING THE HATCH LEADING DOWN TO THE RESEARCH AREA A GUARD WAS POSTED AND ALL PERSONNEL WERE REQUIRED TO LOGIN WHEN AUTHORIZED ACCESS. AS SOON AS THE AVAILABLE BODIES WERE REMOVED, APPROXIMATELY 2400 HOURS 14 JUNE, CREWS OF INDOCTRINATED PERSONNEL BEGAN REMOVING ALL CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT AND DOCUMENTS TO A SECURE AREA ONE DECK ABOVE THE DAMAGED AREA SO THAT DOCK WORKERS COULD BEGIN REPAIR OF THE DAMAGED SIDE OF THE SHIP. INVENTORY OF ALL CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE AFTERNOON OF 16 JUNE. ACCORDING TO U.S. NAVY PERSONNEL THE CREW OF THE SEA-GOING TUG, THE PAPAGO, BELIEVE THEY WERE SUCESSFUL IN EITHER PICKING UP MOST OF THE PAPER WHICH FLOATED OUT OR CUTTING IT UP WITH THE SCREWS OF THE SHIP. THEY ADVISED THAT THEY COULD SEE THE PAPER BETTER AT NIGHT THAN DURING THE DAY. IT WAS REPORTED THAT ONE AGI WAS FOLLOWING THE USS LIBERTY AND HER ESCORTS WHILE ENROUTE TO MALTA. HOWEVER, IT WAS FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE AGI DID NOT FOLLOW IN THE WAKE OF THE LIBERTY AND WAS NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PICK UP ANY MATERIAL. THE DAMAGE IN THE RESEARCH AREA WHERE THE TORPEDO ENTERED IS SO EXTENSIVE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE A SATISFACTORY INVENTORY AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FINAL COMPROMISE EVALUATION WILL BE MOST COMPLICATED. THE U.S. NAVY IS TO BE COMMEDED FOR THE EXCELLENT EFFORT THEY ARE MAKING TO PROTECT THE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IN THE FACE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS.

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