



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
1322 PATTERSON AVENUE SE SUITE 3000
WASHINGTON DC 20374-5066

IN REPLY REFER

22 September 2005

RADM Clarence A. Hill, Jr., USN (Ret.)
P.O. Box 663
Front Royal, VA 22630

Dear Admiral Hill:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary England concerning the Israeli attack on USS LIBERTY. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

In his endorsement of the Navy investigation, Admiral McCain found that LIBERTY suffered an unprovoked attack by Israeli air and naval forces in international waters. The U.S. Secretary of State communicated to the Government of Israel, "the attack must be condemned as an act of military irresponsibility reflecting reckless disregard for human life." The Government of Israel formally communicated its sincere expression of deep regret and subsequently paid U.S. claims for the deaths, injuries, and damages caused in the attack.

In view of the facts cited above, I must renew the conclusions of previous Navy correspondents, to wit: there is no purpose to further investigation.

As Captain Dalton noted in her letter of March 16th, we recognize and honor the sacrifice and uncommon bravery demonstrated by the officers and crew in LIBERTY on that fateful day. Although we may disagree on the matter of the Navy's investigation, there can be no disagreement about the heroism of the men on that fine ship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Neher", written over a large, stylized flourish.

PATRICK J. NEHER
Captain, Judge Advocate
General's Corps, U.S. Navy
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate
General (International and
Operational Law)