

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
ROOM 1412, FEDERAL BUILDING
51 S. W. FIRST AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130

A. JAY CRISTOL
U. S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

(COM)(305) 536-4121
(FTS) (305) 350-4121

May 2, 1989

Professor Dean Rusk
School of Law
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Professor Dean Rusk:

I wish to thank you again for your courtesy in meeting with me on the afternoon of April 5, 1989 and permitting me to interview you regarding your recollections of the Liberty incident.

As I discussed with your secretary, Ann Dunn, I am forwarding a write-up of our interview in order to permit you to review items which I have indicated as to direct quotes. It is never my intention to incorrectly quote anyone and if I transcribe something incorrectly, I wish to provide the opportunity to correct same.

Also, please permit me to call the following few minor items to your attention. I enclose a photocopy of the daily diary of President Johnson for June 8, 1967 which I obtained from the Johnson Library. This document might be a helpful cross-check on the items I call to your attention.

1. Dean Rusk stated that first notice of the attack was received at the White House while the attack was still in progress. The earliest indication of notice of the attack on the President's log, is a hot line call at 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Washington time was 5:00 p.m. Israeli time. The attack began within five minutes of 2:00 p.m. Israeli time which was 8:00 a.m. Washington time and was over about 2:38 p.m. Israeli time, which is about 8:38 a.m. Washington time.

2. Dean Rusk described a meeting in the Operations Room. I have noted that when I visited the White House many years later, the sign on the room in the basement said "Situation Room." The President's log also refers to a meeting at 11:06 a.m. in the Situation Room.

3. Dean Rusk remembered the President, himself, Secretary MacNamara, D.C.I. Helms and N.S.C. Advisor Rostow, as present

at the meeting. The president's log indicates, in addition, the presence of Clark Clifford, Nicholas De Katzenback, Louellen Thomson and McGeorge Bundy. The log fails to mention D.C.I. Helms. Is there any objection to my adding those names to Professor Rusk's list of persons present and deleting Helms?

4. Please note the comment about the ship being Russian or Egyptian. Perhaps Mr. Rusk said Russian rather than Egyptian.

If I made any errors in my notes on the direct quotes which I have attributed to Professor Rusk, I would appreciate their being appropriately edited and I will change them in my final write-up of the report.

Professor Rusk, my deepest thanks to you and to Ms. Dunn for your patience, courtesy, and assistance in this research.

My very best regards to both of you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Jay Cristol".

A. JAY CRISTOL
Bankruptcy Judge

AJC/re
Enclosures.