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Ambassador Dwight Porter
#526
15100 Interlachen Drive
Silver Springs, Maryland
20906

Dear Ambassador Porter,

Thank you very much for granting me an interview by telephone on November 20, 1991. As soon as I am able to transcribe the tape, I will forward a copy for your final review.

If you will be kind enough to bear with me a little further, I am trying to look a little further into the information you have provided to determine if it is in conflict with other data or if it can be reconciled.

Your recollection of the day you saw the english translation is 8 June 1967. You also recall that the Beirut Embassy was under attack at the time. I have written to the Department of State to try to determine if the day of the attack was in fact the 8th or perhaps a day or two later. (See enclosure.)

I assume the message was not an interception of a combat message from the battlefield. I make this assumption on the basis of the physical location of the Embassy at or near sea level in excess of 205 miles from the Liberty and about 130 miles from Tel Aviv. UHF radio transmissions are "line of sight" and are not receivable over the horizon. The formulas for range of receipt published by the US Department of Transportation indicate that a UHF transmission made at 3,600 feet would have been receivable at about 74 miles. If your Embassy had made an intercept of a battle field message, it would have been in hebrew. Did you have a hebrew speaker in your Embassy who could have translated same?

If it is possible that the day in question was the a few days after the 8th, Is it possible that you saw a translation of a transcript of the Israeli tapes? I enclose a photo copy of my annotated copy of this translation which in several places reflects mention of an American flag on Liberty. In real time, this took place 24 to 34 minutes after the attacks had concluded. I have not determined the exact date this data was made available to us. Ambassador W. Barbour, his Chief of Station, Defense Attache' COL A. Perna, Naval Attache' E.E. Castle and Assistant Naval Attache' Lynn Blasch were all aware of this translation.

Following our conversation, I spoke with the 1967 Chief of Station at Tel Aviv. He suggested that a message of this nature would have been seen by your Chief of Station. It will probably take me some time to locate him. Is it possible that you could contact him and see if he is able to shed any more light on this matter such as the date, the time of day and the source of the message.

I hope it will not be ant intrusion if I call you in a few days to ask you about whether or not you had a hebrew translator and if you had any luck regarding your Chief of Station.

My very best wishes to you and Mrs Porter for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely

A. Jay Cristol
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