

I384

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Sindie, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 9:14 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-ELA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: "FREEDOM FLOTILLA II" GAZA AID CONVOY (SITREP #1) (SECRET)  
**Attachments:** Free Gaza II Flotilla Update\_23 Jun 2011.ppt

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Working

**RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B1,B5,1.4(D)**

B5

1.4(D)  
B1

FYSA...



V/R,  
Jim Sindie

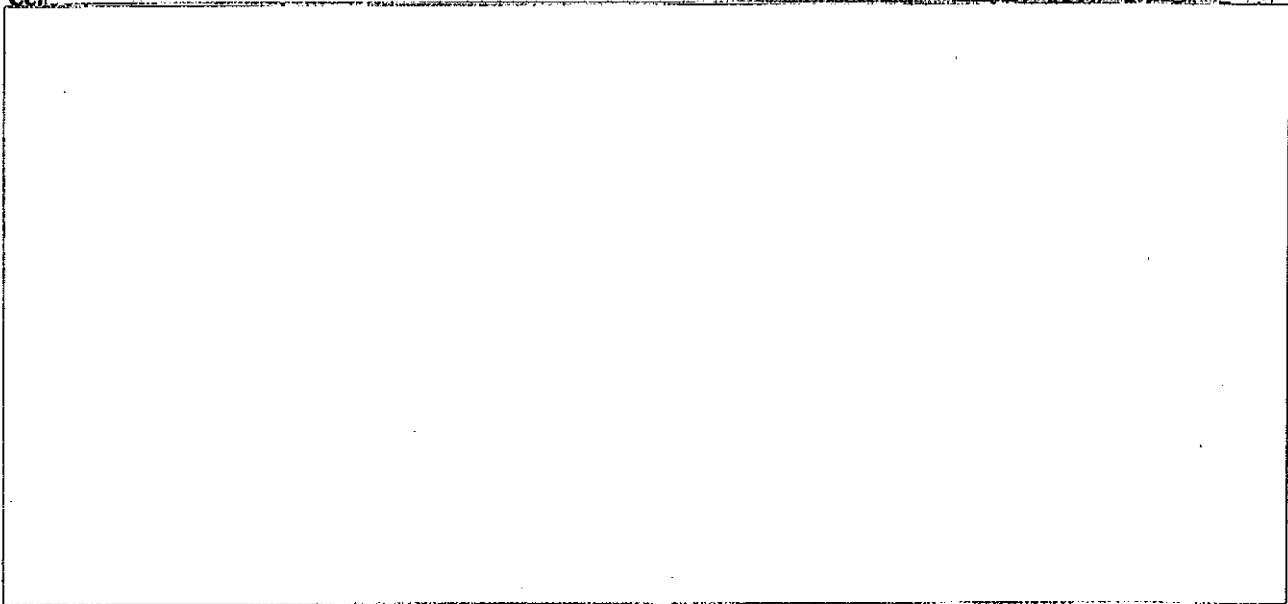
This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

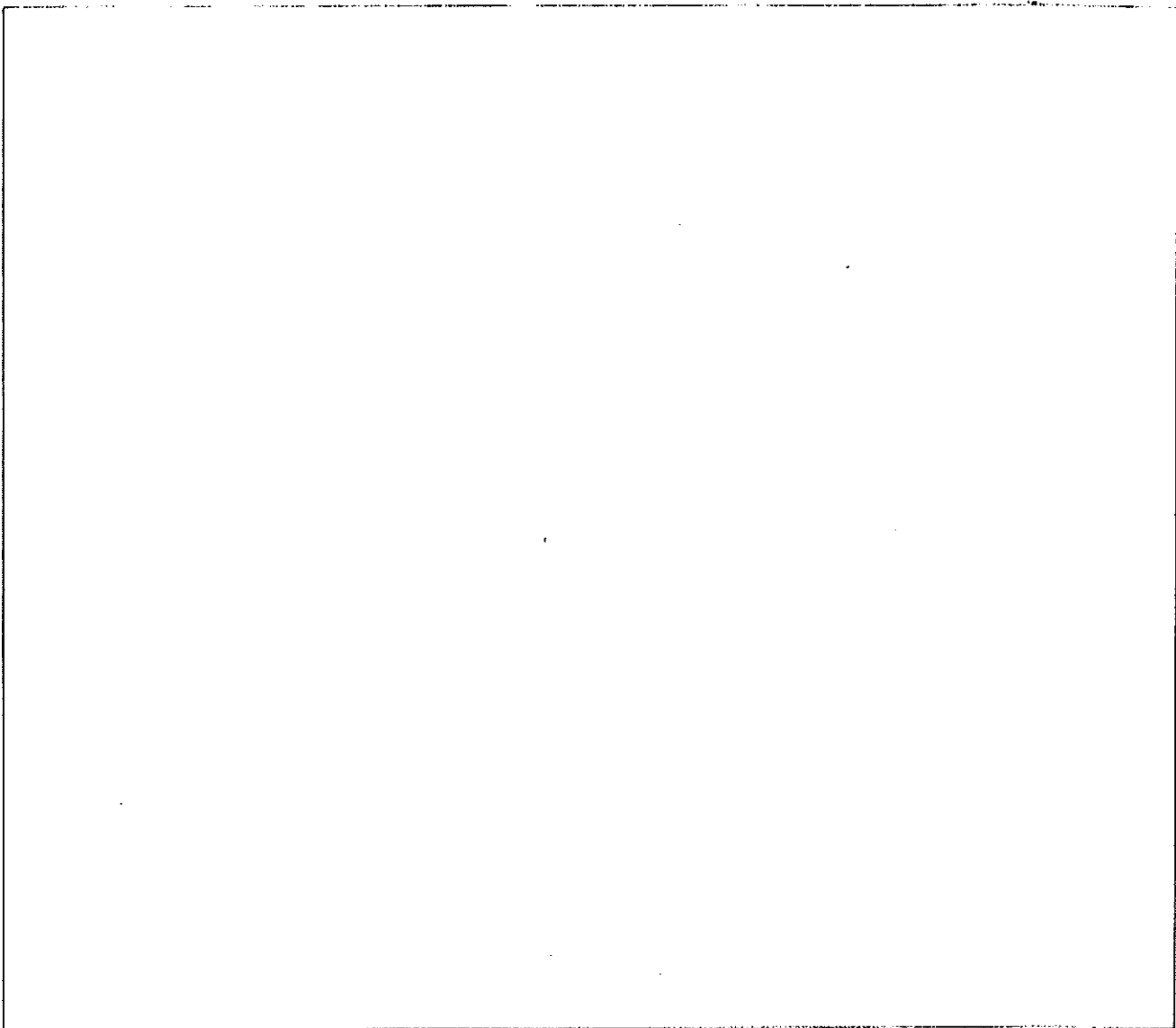
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/23

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 2:26 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP





**Subject:** "FREEDOM FLOTILLA II" GAZA AID CONVOY (SITREP #1) (SECRET)

**Classification:** SECRET  
**Caveats:** NOFORN

B5

Good morning J2 / DJ2 --



**PAGE DENIED**

C18750927

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, GBR  
Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

I137

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B), B3 DOD-CP, B1, 1.4(D), B7(C)

Bowers, Allyson M

From:

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Sent:

Wednesday, July 06, 2011 12:12 PM

To:

Doutrich, Jack T; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Zurcher, Kenneth M; Elts, Colin C

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject:

RE: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

CAVEATS: NOFORN

REL TO: NONE

1.4(D)  
B1

Jack/David/Matt -

[Redacted]

V/R.

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

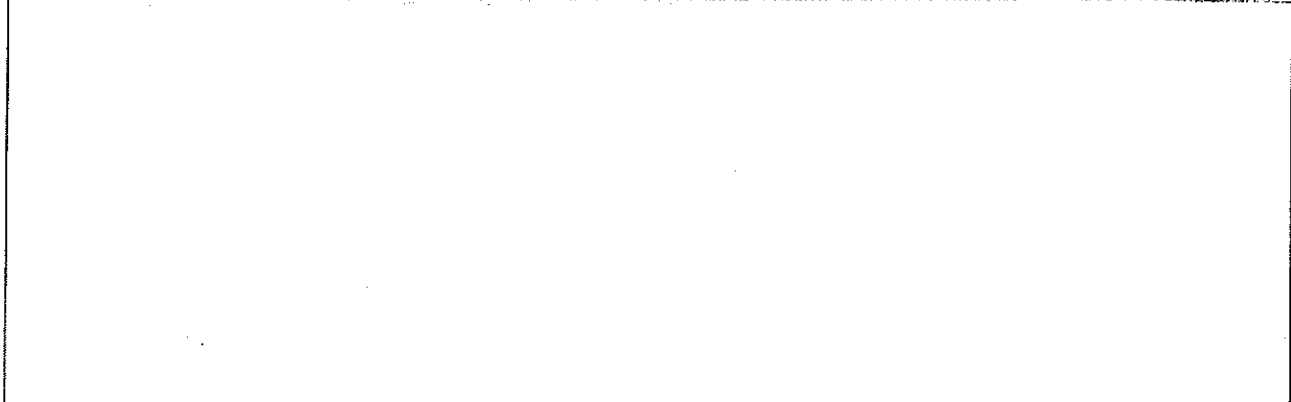
-----Original Message-----

From: Doutrich, Jack T [mailto:DoutrichJT@state.sgov.gov]

B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 11:39 AM

To: NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Zucher, Kenneth M; Filts, Colin C



Subject: FW: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

Jack Doutrich

Political Officer

NEA/IPA

(202) 647-4132

Sensitivity:

Sensitive

Classification:

CONFIDENTIAL

Derived From:

Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On:

2021/07/06

---

From:

SMART Core

Sent:

Wednesday, July 06, 2011 06:13:54

To:

Martin, Leah A (Athens)

Cc:

ATHENS-SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; MILAN-SMARTS; SMARTS, Reykjavik; Valletta, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; BAKU-SMARTS; SOFIA-SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS; TBILISI, SMARTS; BARCELONA, SMARTS; OSLO-SMARTS; Stockholm-SMARTS; BELGRADE-SMARTS; Dushanbe, SMARTS; VILNIUS, SMARTS; VATICAN, SMARTS; THEHAGUE-SMARTS; USNATO, SMARTS; YEREVAN-SMARTS; PODGORICA, SMARTS; SKOPJE, SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; WARSAW-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; TALLINN, SMARTS; Sarajevo, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; BERN, SMARTS; UNVIE-SMARTS; LISBON, SMARTS; DUBLIN, SMARTS; Tashkent, SMARTS; BRUSSELS-SMARTS; OSCE-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS; BUDAPEST-SMARTS; FRANKFURT, SMARTS; ZAGREB-SMARTS; LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; KYIV-SMARTS; Ottawa-SMARTS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; ASTANA-SMARTS; Tirana-SMARTS; Bishkek, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; KRAKOW-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; NAPLES, SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; CHISINAU-SMARTS; Pristina, SMARTS; Ashgabat, SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; BUCHAREST-SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team);

fbi.gov; gov;

B7(C)

B3 DOD-CP

Subject:

Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE SEAL

MRN:

11 ATHENS 407

Date/DTG:

Jul 06, 2011 / 061512Z JUL 11

From:

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

Action:

WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE

E.O.:

13526

TAGS:

PREL, PHUM, PHSA, PTER, KCSY

Reference:

A) 11 ATHENS 383

<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/\_layouts/OSSSearchResults.aspx?k=mrn%3a%22:11%20ATHENS%20383%22>

B) 11 ATHENS 349

<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/\_layouts/OSSSearchResults.aspx?k=mrn%3a%22:11%20ATHENS%20349%22>

Pass Line:

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Subject:

Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Greek government's decision on July 1 to prohibit the departure of ships from Greek ports intended for Gaza was a significant shift from Greece's previous, less visibly confrontational, approach towards "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" Gaza vessels and activists. Over the July 4 weekend two boats attempting to depart Greek ports, in violation of the ban, were intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of the AMCIT captain of one of the boats. Also over the weekend, Gaza flotilla activists protested the Coast Guard action at the American Embassy and the Embassy Mission Residence (EMR).

END SUMMARY.

Greek Ban on Departure of Ships to Gaza

2. (SBU) On July 1, the Ministry of Citizen Protection released a notice to flotilla participants that the departure of ships with Greek and foreign flags from Greek ports to the maritime area of Gaza was prohibited, and that the Hellenic Coast Guard would take all appropriate measures to enforce the decision. Despite the departure ban by the Greek government (as well as an order to remain in port due to unresolved questions about the vessel's documentation and seaworthiness), the American-flagged vessel "Audacity of Hope" attempted to depart the Greek port of Perama, near Piraeus on July 1. The Hellenic Coast Guard intercepted the vessel and after a standoff at sea, the ship consented to return to port.

3. (SBU) The American captain was arrested by Greek authorities upon the ship's return to port. Embassy Athens provided regular consular services to Amcit members of this year's "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" US Boat to Gaza organization both before and after the captain's arrest. On June 24, American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief and Counsel General met with AMCIT flotilla participants to provide a consular briefing and ACS Chief had regular contact

with the captain and his attorney, including a meeting on July 5 to verify that he was in good health, understood his arrest, had legal representation, and that authorities were treating him well. The captain was released on July 6 without bail. There will be a trial at some point, but the captain will not have to return to Greece.

4. (C) On July 4, the Canadian boat "Tahrir" was intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard five kilometers off shore when it attempted to leave the eastern port of Aghios Nikolaos on the island of Crete. The boat carrying 50 Gaza activists and medicine was towed back to an undisclosed location on Crete. According to reports, no arrests were made. According to Embassy sources, a total of nine ships intending to participate in the flotilla docked around Greece. Two of those, the "Audacity of Hope" and "Tahrir", defied the departure ban, prompting Coast Guard action. Seven have remained docked.

5. (SBU) On July 1 some 35 demonstrators assembled outside the American Embassy to protest on behalf of the Gaza flotilla. On the evening of July 3, a group of eight people from the US Boat to Gaza organization assembled at the American Embassy and presented a letter calling for U.S. officials to defend their rights to sail out of Greece to Gaza and to request 50 tickets to the Embassy's upcoming Independence Day celebration. On both occasions the protestors dispersed peacefully. On July 4, nine demonstrators assembled outside the EMR. The demonstrators were taken into custody briefly for identification checks after stating they planned to sleep on the sidewalk in front of the EMR. The demonstrators spent under two hours in the station and were released. They were never placed under arrest.

6. (SBU) In addition to the group's regular website updates and Tweets, the Embassy has received roughly 500 calls and emails since July 1 asking the USG to put pressure on Greece to allow the flotilla to proceed to Gaza.

#### Greek Proposal to Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Gaza .

7. (SBU) PM Papandreou spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on July 3. According to reports, Abbas positively viewed a Greek government proposal to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in cooperation with the United Nations. The proposal was confirmed later in the day when the MFA released a statement announcing Greece's intention to undertake the task of transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza through "appropriate channels." The statement also reiterated Greece's ban on departure from Greek ports primarily to protect human life and stressed Greece's concurrent view that the naval blockade should be lifted. The MFA announced plans to liaise with all concerned parties, while flotilla organizers and activists decried both the Greek government's intent and Abbas' alleged backstabbing collusion with the Greeks.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

B1

[Redacted]

COMMENT

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

9. (C) On June 22, the Greek MFA issued a strongly worded statement discouraging its citizens from participating in the flotilla, [Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

Signature:

SMITH

\_\_\_\_\_

Classified By:

Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador

Reason:

1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on:

2021/07/06

Drafted By:

ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)

Cleared By:

POL:Cockrell, John D (Athens)

POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)

Brandeis, Charles D (Athens)

Smith, Stuart M (Athens)

Miller, Thomas S (Athens)

Brandeis, Katherine (Athens)

C18750663

Approved By:

EXEC:Smith, Daniel B (Athens)

Released By:

ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)

Info:

JERUSALEM; AMCONSUL ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE; ZEN/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK;  
ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL  
LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments:

Metadata.dat

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Action Post:

Dissemination Rule:

Released Copy

CONFIDENTIAL

DERIVED FROM: Multiple Sources.  
DECLASSIFY ON: 20360706

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
CAVEATS: NOFORN  
REL TO: NONE

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B3  
DODFGI,B5,B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:57 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** FW: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps  
**Attachments:** Legal Aspects.ppt

A further plea for L's advice on international law aspects.

B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:53 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Hale, David M; [redacted] 'elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

According to attachment and in several statements, GOI believes that they are in armed conflict with Hamas in Gaza and have the right to enforce blockade, including interdicting ships in international waters that intend to break that blockade. [redacted]

B5

-----Original Message-----

B3 DOD-CP

**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:35 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Hale, David M; [redacted] 'elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S  
**Subject:** Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Isr Amb Oren told D-Steinberg that Israel would release/deport all the people forthwith. Did not address plans for the ships.

----- Original Message -- **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

From: Jeffrey, James F

To: [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] M; Hale, David M; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP

[redacted] 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:27:49 2010

Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Aside from stressing as Amb Tan did to Phil Gordon need for Am 'condemnation' of Israel Mercan-who can speak usually better for AKP leadership and Erdogan than MFA, Told Codel Delahunt and me that of particular importance for Turks is immediate release of Turkish ships and all personnel. He asserted and we need to look at, that under international law enforcing a blockade does not convey the right to seize people/property. [redacted] B5

----- Original Message -----

B3 DOD-CP

From: [redacted]

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Levin, Jan; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P;

Sent: Mon May 31 19:27:09 2010

B3 DOD-CP

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DODFGI

All,

[redacted] link between IHH organization and Muslim Brotherhood. Clear action on part of individuals on MAVI MARMARA to incite violence. Beat first wave of soldiers who arrived on board via Fast Rope. Several Rhibs and 3 Blackhawks were used in action against MAVI MARMARA. Took approximately an hour for INF forces (Flotilla 13(Navy Seals)) to gain control of the vessel. All 6 boats were boarded at approximately the same time(0400-0500L) in international waters. Violence isolated to MAVI MARMARA. Medical attention rendered to all injured.

- As of 1700L 3-4 of the vessels are in port Ashdod. MAVI MARMARA to arrive soon.
- All IDF forces are monitoring for reaction, but currently no heightened activity on borders or in Gaza. Some minor incidents involving Israeli Arabs within Israel (stone throwing). Israeli Arab protests and strike expected tomorrow. IDF continuing to monitor situation to determine reactions.
- Several meetings and conversations with Turkish officials have taken place. There is concern for safety of Israeli representatives in Turkey.
- Air exercise that has been taking place in Crete with Greeks has been stopped by the Greeks and the IAF assets have been asked to leave.
- GOI and IDF focused on getting the facts out. Multiple video clips depicting violence against IDF forces being released. They will review the operation internally.

- No decision on reaction to any additional vessels that may attempt to head to Gaza.
- We are awaiting response on CHALLENGER I Flag and any status of AMCITs.
- At this time, unclear if any riot related gas, etc was used.

V/R,



B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Michael P

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM

To: [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Levin, Jan; Hale, David M

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

Ma'am, Sir,



B3 DODFGI

"There was a significant event this morning, we don't have all the details, and we are still in the event. We will continue to update you."

[redacted] a prepared, written statement beginning with the assertion that the Gaza Strip is ruled by a hostile enemy, HAMAS, that does not recognize the State of Israel. HAMAS encourages and executes hostile activity against Israel and is currently holding an Israeli citizen, Gilad Shalit, against international convention.

B3 DODFGI

The naval blockade was established prevent smuggling that supports terrorist activity.

The Free Gaza flotilla was organized by the Turkish IHH which is belligerent towards Israel and supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel tried different avenues to prevent the flotilla from launching to include communications with the ships' owning countries and companies to no avail. Israel expressed willingness to transfer any non-contraband supplies via established land procedures and Israel continues to look for ways to ameliorate the human conditions in Gaza. Israel assesses that there is no Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.

When the organizers of the flotilla showed no desire to divert to Ashdod when requested by the Government of Israel (GoI), the GoI made the decision to board the ships in strict accordance with international law and with a desire to minimize damage to the ships and injury to passengers.

Boarding of the ships.

During boarding of the ship Mavi Marmara, Israel Navy (INF) Personnel encountered "severe physical violence" including knives, clubs and firearms. 1 INF weapon was seized by passengers. Due to a clear and present danger to INF personnel, the INF initiated contact using riot control systems (NFI) then transitioned to live fire. The injured in the event, both Israeli and foreign, have been transferred to "4-5 hospitals."

Short term future actions.

Provision of Medical attention to the wounded.

Non-contraband supplies, after inspection and processing, will be transferred to Gaza. An IDF investigation will be initiated.

The GoI continues to see HAMAS as a terrorist group. (Note: this seemed out of place in the context of the current topic of the briefing).

Israel is taking action to prevent escalation of the situation.

Israel will "respond heavily" to any entity seeking to provoke escalation.

B3 DODFGI

#### Legal Aspects

[redacted] that a separate briefing would be provided on the legal aspects of the operation. This was the attachment provided on [redacted]'s earlier summary. A copy is attached as well to this email.

B3 DOD-CP

Questions from the assembled group.

What are the nationalities of the casualties?

No information yet, should have details in "a few hours." This information will be transmitted via "diplomatic" channels, not military.

Where are the ships?

2 ships are at Ashdod, to include the Challenger I (as of 1415). The Challenger has US citizens, European citizens and at least one Israeli citizen. The Mavi Marmara should arrive to Ashdod between 1700-1800.

What will happen to passengers?

Passengers will have 2 options. Accept immediate extradition or be jailed by Israeli authorities. By "tonight," all personal details should be known.

Any information on nationalities?

Information will be passed to the Ambassador.

What time and where did boarding occur?

Between 0500-0600, 70 NM from Israel in international waters. All 6 ships were boarded. Only on the Mavi Marmara was serious violence encountered. One other minor incident occurred on a second ship. All casualties were on the Mavi Marmara.

Was permission granted to board the ships?

Unknown at this time.

What weapons were encountered?

One INF sailor was seriously wounded by rifle or pistol fire. 2 pistols were seized from dead passengers. One INF weapon was seized by the passengers during boarding.

What international reaction has occurred?

HAMAS has declared 3 days of mourning. Turkey has recalled its Ambassador. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey was summoned to the Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and was passed a "serious message."

[redacted] spoke with UNIFIL, and MFO to coordinate for de-escalation effortB3 DODFGI  
Lebanon and Egypt.

The INF assesses that there were Jordanians on the ships, but no details were given. If there are Syrian or Lebanese citizens on the ships, then they will be transferred via the Red Cross and UN to their respective countries.

The MoD and IDF sent messages to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Arab Community to not escalate the situation. At least one Palestinian passenger may have been wounded.

[redacted] pointed out that there has been no US reaction as of yet. B3 DODFGI

Casualties?

10-14 passengers severely wounded or killed, all on the Mavi Marmara. A total of 30 passengers now at 4-5 Israeli hospitals.

10 INF wounded, 1 seriously, one moderately

B3 DODFGI

Why were the ships boarded in international waters?

[redacted] started by saying the organizers were warned that the GoI would respond to any provocation and the Free Gaze flotilla was meant only as a provocation. He then said he would not get into operational details, but the INF intercepted at 70 NM in accordance with international law as the flotilla made it clear that its intention was to violate the Israeli exclusion zone.

Did the INF know what was on board?

Only through press accounts, but INF assessed contraband items such as concrete, and iron.

Intentions for the ships?

The ships will remain at Ashdod until further notice.

Very Respectfully,

[redacted signature box]

B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Marc (Jerusalem); [redacted] Levin, Jan; Schlereth, Frank G

B3 DOD-CP

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP  
B3 DODFGI

[redacted header box]

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific Highlights

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled

- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [Redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Felt  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from [Redacted], who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

B6

[Redacted] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

B6

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning he and [Redacted] made the following calls/contacts:

--Turkish FM and MoD [Redacted]; Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh [Redacted] He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

B6

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.  
Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. [redacted] briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

B6

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.  
-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.  
-- Col. [redacted] told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.  
-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

B6

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B3  
DODFGI,B5,B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:56 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Heinemann, Thomas B; Donoghue, Joan E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** Fw: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps  
**Attachments:** Legal Aspects.ppt

Sending also to L/PM. Seems related to another ongoing discussion.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E; Townley, Stephen G; Koh, Harold Hongju; Connery, Joyce L. <Joyce\_L\_Connery@nsc.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 14:06:54 2010  
**Subject:** FW: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Making sure you guys have this. (Tom Donilon asked for chop).

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:53 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Hale, David M; [redacted] 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] JCS J5 AO'; [redacted]; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B3 DOD-CP

According to attachment and in several statements, GOI believes that they are in armed conflict with Hamas in Gaza and have the right to enforce blockade, including interdicting ships in international waters that intend to break that blockade. [redacted]

B5

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:35 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey

B3 DOD-CP

D: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Hale, David M; [redacted]  
[redacted] 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov';  
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;  
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Isr Amb Oren told D-Steinberg that Israel would release/deport all the people forthwith. Did not address plans for the ships.

B3 DOD-CP

----- Original Message -----

From: Jeffrey, James F  
To: [redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara  
(Jerusalem); [redacted] Hale, David M; [redacted]  
[redacted] 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-  
randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Gordon, Philip H;  
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;  
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:27:49 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Aside from stressing as Amb Tan did to Phil Gordon need for Am 'condemnation' of Israel Mercan-who can speak usually better for AKP leadership and Erdogan than MFA, Told Codel Delahunt and me that of particular importance for Turks is immediate release of Turkish ships and all personnel. He asserted and we need to look at, that under international law enforcing a blockade does not convey the right to seize people/property. [redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara  
(Jerusalem); [redacted] Levin, Jan; Hale, David M; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 19:27:09 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

All.

B3 DOD-CP  
B3 DODFGI

[redacted] stressed link between IHH organization and Muslim Brotherhood. Clear action on part of individuals on MAVI MARMARA to incite violence. Beat first wave of soldiers who arrived on board via Fast Rope. Several Rhibs and 3 Blackhawks were used in action against MAVI MARMARA. Took approximately an hour for INF forces (Flotilla 13(Navy Seals)) to gain control of the vessel. All 6 boats were boarded at approximately the same time(0400-0500L) in international waters. Violence isolated to MAVI MARMARA. Medical attention rendered to all injured.

- As of 1700L 3-4 of the vessels are in port Ashdod. MAVI MARAMRA to arrive soon.
- All IDF forces are monitoring for reaction, but currently no heightened activity on borders or in Gaza. Some minor incidents involving Israeli Arabs within Israel (stone throwing).

Israeli Arab protests and strike expected tomorrow. IDF continuing to monitor situation to determine reactions.

- Several meetings and conversations with Turkish officials have taken place. There is concern for safety of Israeli representatives in Turkey.

- Air exercise that has been taking place in Crete with Greeks has been stopped by the Greeks and the IAF assets have been asked to leave.

- GOI and IDF focused on getting the facts out. Multiple video clips depicting violence against IDF forces being released. They will review the operation internally.

- No decision on reaction to any additional vessels that may attempt to head to Gaza..

- We are awaiting response on CHALLENGER I Flag and any status of AMCITs.

- At this time, unclear if any riot related gas, etc was used.

V/R.



B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM

B3 DOD-CP

To: [Redacted] Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [Redacted] Levin, Jan; Hale, David M  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

Ma'am, Sir,

B3 DODFGI



"There was a significant event this morning, we don't have all the details, and we are still in the event. We will continue to update you."

B3 DODFGI

[Redacted] a prepared, written statement beginning with the assertion that the Gaza Strip is ruled by a hostile enemy, HAMAS, that does not recognize the State of Israel. HAMAS encourages and executes hostile activity against Israel and is currently holding an Israeli citizen, Gilad Shalit, against international convention.

The naval blockade was established prevent smuggling that supports terrorist activity.

The Free Gaza flotilla was organized by the Turkish IHH which is belligerent towards Israel and supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel tried different avenues to prevent the flotilla from launching to include communications with the ships' owning countries and companies to no avail. Israel expressed willingness to transfer any non-contraband supplies via established land procedures and

Israel continues to look for ways to ameliorate the human conditions in Gaza. Israel assesses that there is no Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.

When the organizers of the flotilla showed no desire to divert to Ashdod when requested by the Government of Israel (GoI), the GoI made the decision to board the ships in strict accordance with international law and with a desire to minimize damage to the ships and injury to passengers.

#### Boarding of the ships.

During boarding of the ship Mavi Marmara, Israel Navy (INF) Personnel encountered "severe physical violence" including knives, clubs and firearms. 1 INF weapon was seized by passengers. Due to a clear and present danger to INF personnel, the INF initiated contact using riot control systems (NFI) then transitioned to live fire. The injured in the event, both Israeli and foreign, have been transferred to "4-5 hospitals."

#### Short term future actions.

Provision of Medical attention to the wounded.

Non-contraband supplies, after inspection and processing, will be transferred to Gaza.

An IDF investigation will be initiated.

The GoI continues to see HAMAS as a terrorist group. (Note: this seemed out of place in the context of the current topic of the briefing).

Israel is taking action to prevent escalation of the situation.

Israel will "respond heavily" to any entity seeking to provoke escalation.

B3 DODFGI

#### Legal Aspects

[redacted] that a separate briefing would be provided on the legal aspects of the operation. This was the attachment provided on [redacted]'s earlier summary. A copy is attached as well to this email.

B3 DOD-CP

#### Questions from the assembled group.

What are the nationalities of the casualties?

No information yet, should have details in "a few hours." This information will be transmitted via "diplomatic" channels, not military.

Where are the ships?

2 ships are at Ashdod, to include the Challenger I (as of 1415). The Challenger has US citizens, European citizens and at least one Israeli citizen. The Mavi Marmara should arrive to Ashdod between 1700-1800.

What will happen to passengers?

Passengers will have 2 options. Accept immediate extradition or be jailed by Israeli authorities. By "tonight," all personal details should be known.

Any information on nationalities?

Information will be passed to the Ambassador.

What time and where did boarding occur?

Between 0500-0600, 70 NM from Israel in international waters. All 6 ships were boarded. Only on the Mavi Marmara was serious violence encountered. One other minor incident occurred on a second ship. All casualties were on the Mavi Marmara.

Was permission granted to board the ships?

Unknown at this time.

What weapons were encountered?

One INF sailor was seriously wounded by rifle or pistol fire. 2 pistols were seized from dead passengers. One INF weapon was seized by the passengers during boarding.

What international reaction has occurred?

HAMAS has declared 3 days of mourning. Turkey has recalled its Ambassador. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey was summoned to the Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and was passed a "serious message."

[redacted] spoke with UNIFIL, and MFO to coordinate for de-escalation efforts [redacted] B3 DODFGI  
Lebanon and Egypt.

The INF assesses that there were Jordanians on the ships, but no details were given. If there are Syrian or Lebanese citizens on the ships, then they will be transferred via the Red Cross and UN to their respective countries.

The MoD and IDF sent messages to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Arab Community to not escalate the situation. At least one Palestinian passenger may have been wounded.

[redacted] pointed out that there has been no US reaction as of yet. B3 DODFGI

Casualties?

10-14 passengers severely wounded or killed, all on the Mavi Marmara. A total of 30 passengers now at 4-5 Israeli hospitals.

10 INF wounded, 1 seriously, one moderately

Why were the ships boarded in international waters?

B3 DODFGI

[redacted] started by saying the organizers were warned that the GoI would respbnd to any provocation and the Free Gaze flotilla was meant only as a provocation. He then said he would not get into operational details, but the INF intercepted at 70 NM in accordance with international law as the flotilla made it clear that its intention was to violate the Israeli exclusion zone.

Did the INF know what was on board?

Only through press accounts, but INF assessed contraband items such as concrete, and iron.

Intentions for the ships?

The ships will remain at Ashdod until further notice.

Very Respectfully,

[redacted signature box]

B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [redacted] Levin, Jan; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing



rhetoric could be kept in check. With [ ] they discussed primarily need for security B3 DODFGI cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM

B3 DOD-CP

To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [ ] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan

To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [ ] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010

Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.

-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.

-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

I-120A

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(C)

SECRET

JIOCEUR Analytical Center  
Morning Update Brief



# Israel: Gaza Flotilla Update

[Redacted] (S//REL TO USA, FVEY)

- **19 Jun: First Gaza Flotilla vessel scheduled to leave port from Hamburg, GE (U)**
  - Up to 22 ships, 1000 participants possible in Flotilla (U)
  - ~27 Jun: Flotilla to rdvs south of Cyprus (U)
- **Turkish NGO IHH sending mixed messages about Flotilla sailing (U)**
  - [Redacted]
  - Says may postpone flotilla due to concerns over possible int'l intervention in Syria (U)
- **Ankara discouraging Flotilla participation, but states it cannot block participation (U)**

(S//REL TO USA, FVEY) B1

Flotilla Rendezvous Point

Country	Candidate Vessel
USA	M/V Ozajj (At Sea City of Hope) IVO Croatia as of 5 May 11
ITA	M/V Stefano Chierini
YUR	M/V Mavi Marmara IVO Istanbul as of 31 May 11
YUR	M/V Gazze IVO Istanbul as of 4 Apr 11.
KHM	M/V Rachel Corrie
CAN	M/V Tahrir
GBR	M/V Discovery II
DEU	M/V Freedom Flotilla II
IRE	M/V Saoirse

(S//REL TO USA, FVEY)

[Redacted] (S//REL TO USA, FVEY)

16 Jun 11

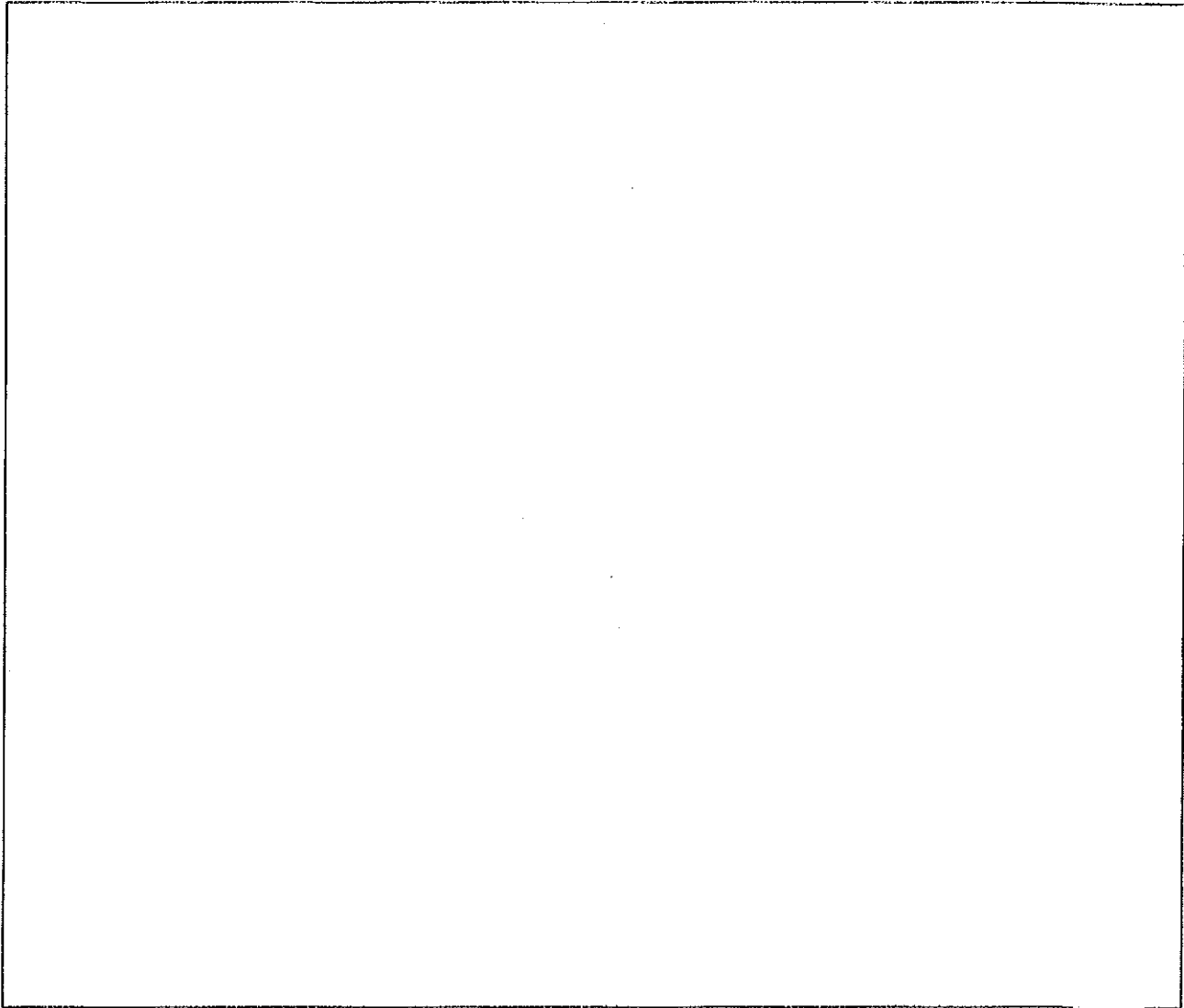
SECRET

Declassify On: 16 Jun 36

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Stafford, Edward G  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 1:33 PM  
**To:** Berns, David B; 'Kumar, Prem G'; Erickson, Mark D; Levin, Jan X; 'Stein, Lawrence J.'  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-TU-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; Ankara-PMA; Ankara-Political; [REDACTED] B3 DOD-CP  
POL; 'AGodfrey@nss.eop.sgov.gov' TELAVIV  
**Subject:** RE: "FREEDOM WAVES TO GAZA" FLOTILLA - (SITREP 2) - 3 NOV 2011 (SECRET)  
[SECRET, Record]



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** incoming IIR

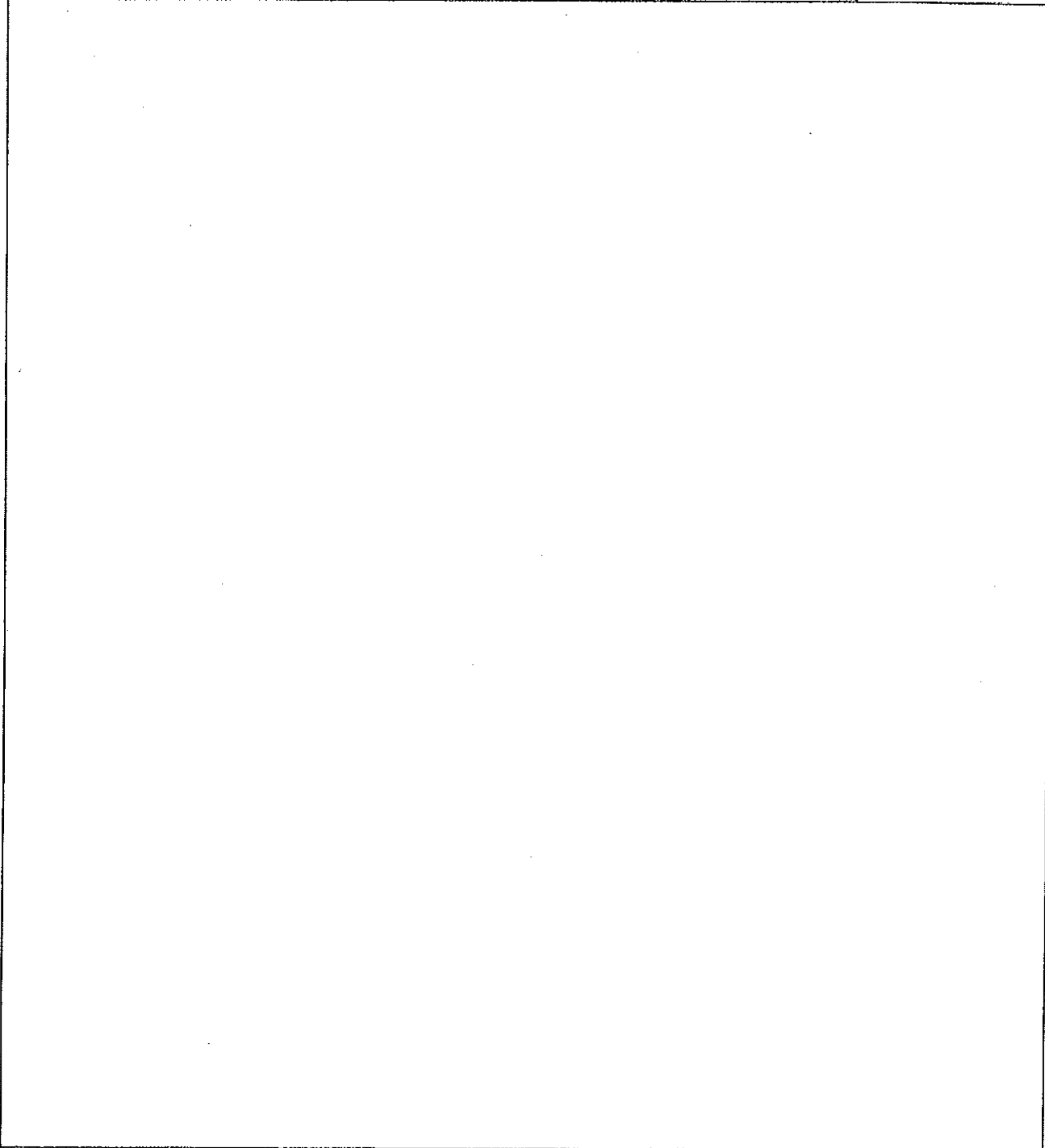
Declassify On: 2036/11/03

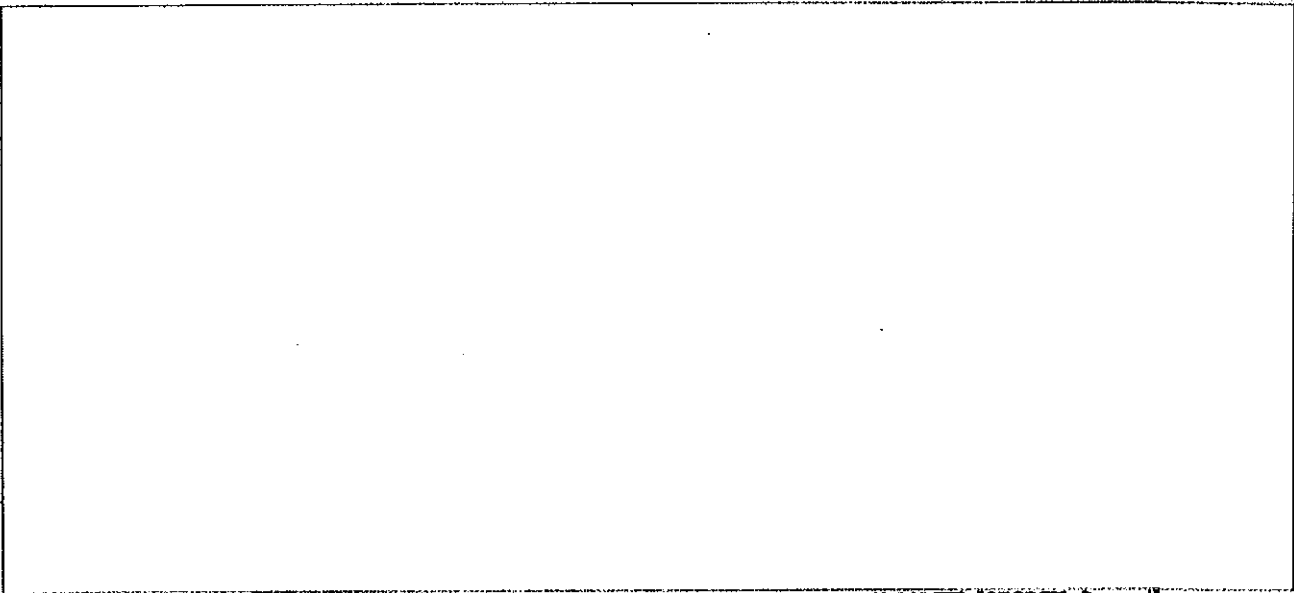
B3 DOD-CP  
B6

**From:** Berns, David B

**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 5:57 PM

**To:** 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Stafford, Edward G; Erickson, Mark D; Levin, Jan X;





**Subject:** RE: "FREEDOM WAVES TO GAZA" FLOTILLA - (SITREP 2) - 3 NOV 2011 (SECRET) [SECRET, Record]

01 01 031156Z NOV 11 RR RR SSSS

AT ZYUW HOTRPMC

B3 DOD-CP

FM [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

TO DIA WASHINGTON DC

B3 DOD-CP

[Redacted]  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
CDR USEUCOM [Redacted] VAHINGEN GE/[Redacted]  
CDR USTRANSCOM [Redacted] SCOTT AFB IL

[Redacted]  
CIA WASHINGTON DC/[Redacted]  
CNO WASHINGTON DC/[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
DA WASHINGTON DC/[Redacted]  
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC  
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC/[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD/[Redacted]  
DNI WASHINGTON DC  
ERT WASHINGTON DC

[Redacted]  
HQ NORAD PETERSON AFB CO/[Redacted]  
HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

[Redacted]

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC/[Redacted]  
SECSTATE WASHDC/[Redacted]

[Redacted]

USCENTCOM [Redacted] MACDILL AFB FL/[Redacted]

[Redacted]

USSOCOM [Redacted] MACDILL AFB FL  
USSTRATCOM [Redacted] OFFUTT AFB NE/[Redacted]

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM WASHINGTON DC

S E C R E T [Redacted] /NOFORN  
QQQQ

B3 DODFGI

SERIAL: (U) [Redacted]

B3 DODFGI

COUNTRY: (U) Israel (ISR); Palestinian Territory, Occupied (PSE);  
Comoros (COM); Turkey (TUR); Greece (GRC).

IPSP: (U) [Redacted]

B3 DODFGI

SUBJ: [Redacted] Update on Flotilla to Gaza - 3 November 2011  
(S//NF):

B3 DODFGI

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED  
S E C R E T [Redacted] /NOFORN.

B3 DODFGI

DOI: (U) 20111103.

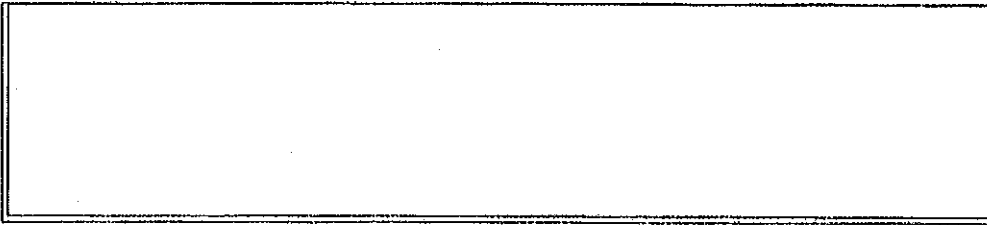
REQS: (U) [Redacted]

B3 DODFGI

SOURCE:

[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
B1



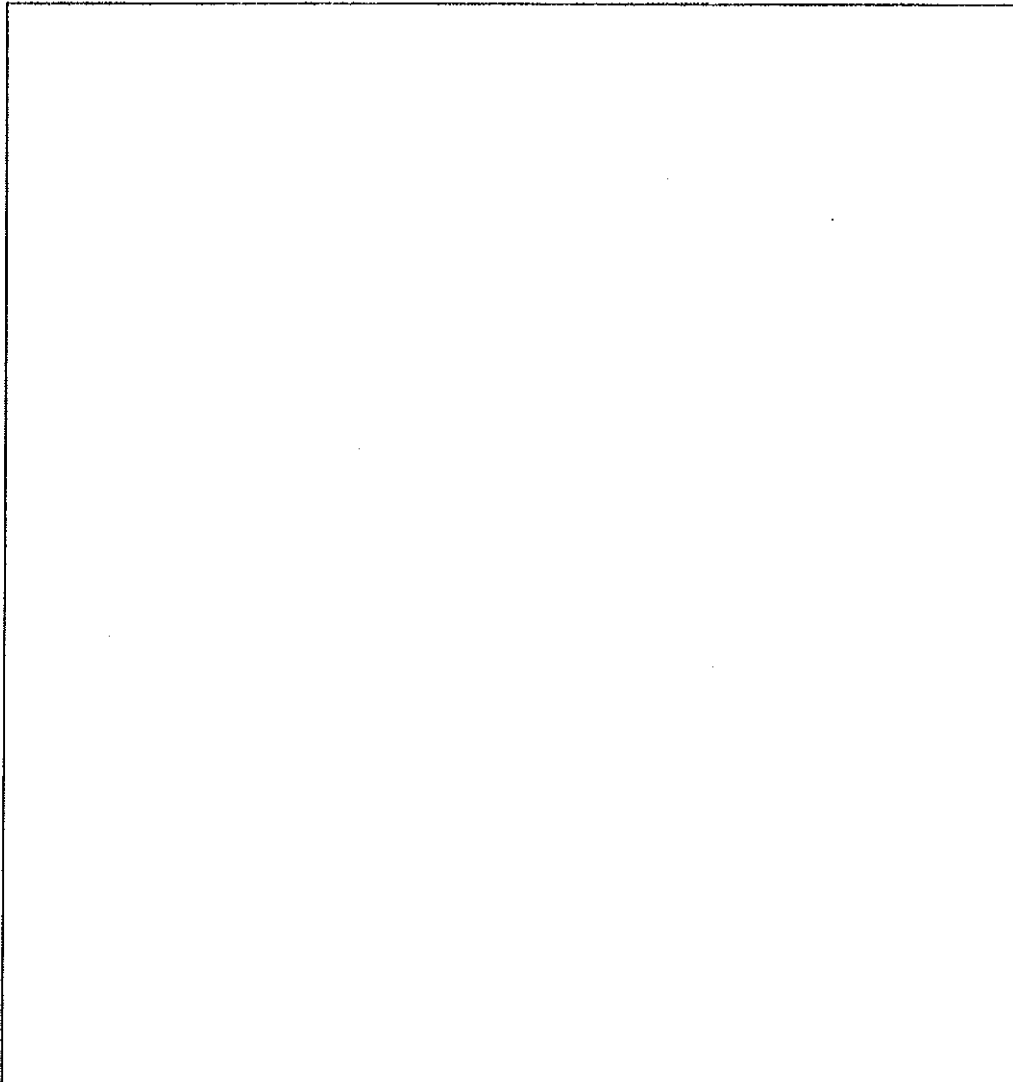
1.4(C)  
B1  
B3 DODFGI

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

TEXT: 1. (S//NF) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. The November 2011 Gaza Flotilla has transited south of Cyprus and as of 0730Z was located approximately 250 nm from Gaza. There are 27 participants from multiple nations. The vessels declared a next port of call to Rhodes, but then changed course after departing Turkish port. There is a Turkish vessel providing an escort for the flotilla, but at this time, it is not causing great consternation among the Israel Naval Forces. The intentions of this flotilla are still not known, and



1.4(C)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(B)  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B3 DOD-CP

**Page Denied**

B3 DOD-CP

[Redacted]

6. (U//FOUO) POC Information: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

7. (U) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

COLL: (U) [Redacted]

INSTR: (U) [Redacted]

PREP: (U) [Redacted]

ACQ: (U) [Redacted]

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED  
S E C R E T / [Redacted] / NOFORN.

CLASSIFIED BY: [Redacted]

DERIVED FROM: [Redacted]

DECLASSIFY ON: [Redacted]

SECRET / [Redacted] / NOFORN  
#0000

**Classification: SECRET//NOFORN**  
**Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (a), (b), (d)**  
**Declassify On: 2036/11/03**

B3 DOD-CP

B6

**From:** Kumar, Prem G. [mailto:PKumar@nss.eop.sgov.gov]

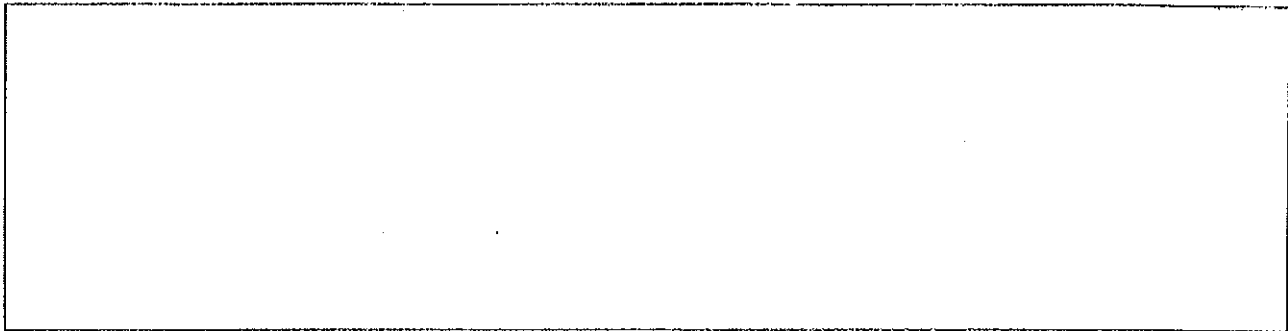
**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 2:50 PM

**To:** Stafford, Edward G; Erickson, Mark D; Levin, Jan X; [Redacted]

[Large Redacted Area]

**Page Denied**

**Page Denied**



**Subject:** RE: "FREEDOM WAVES TO GAZA" FLOTILLA - (SITREP 2) - 3 NOV 2011 (SECRET)

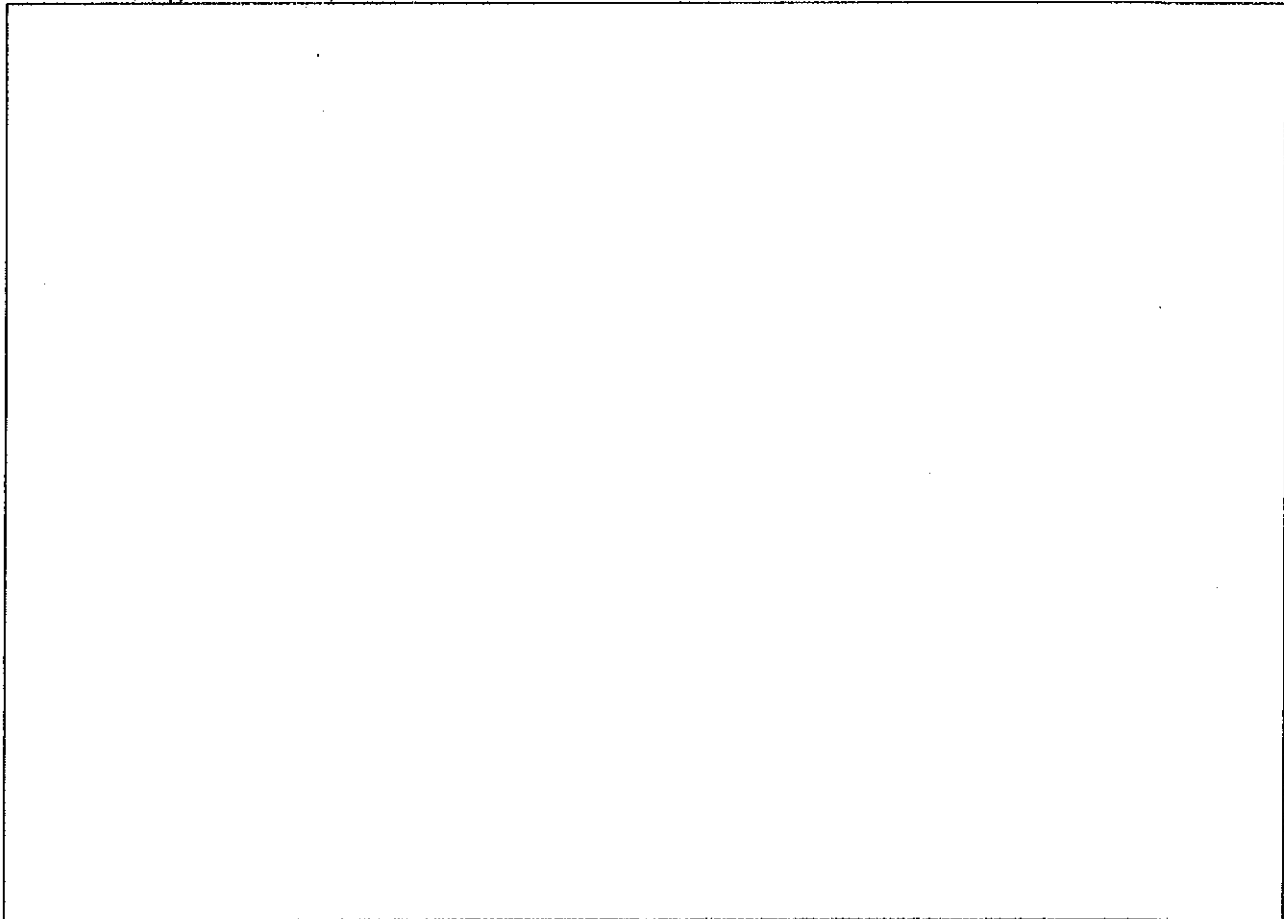


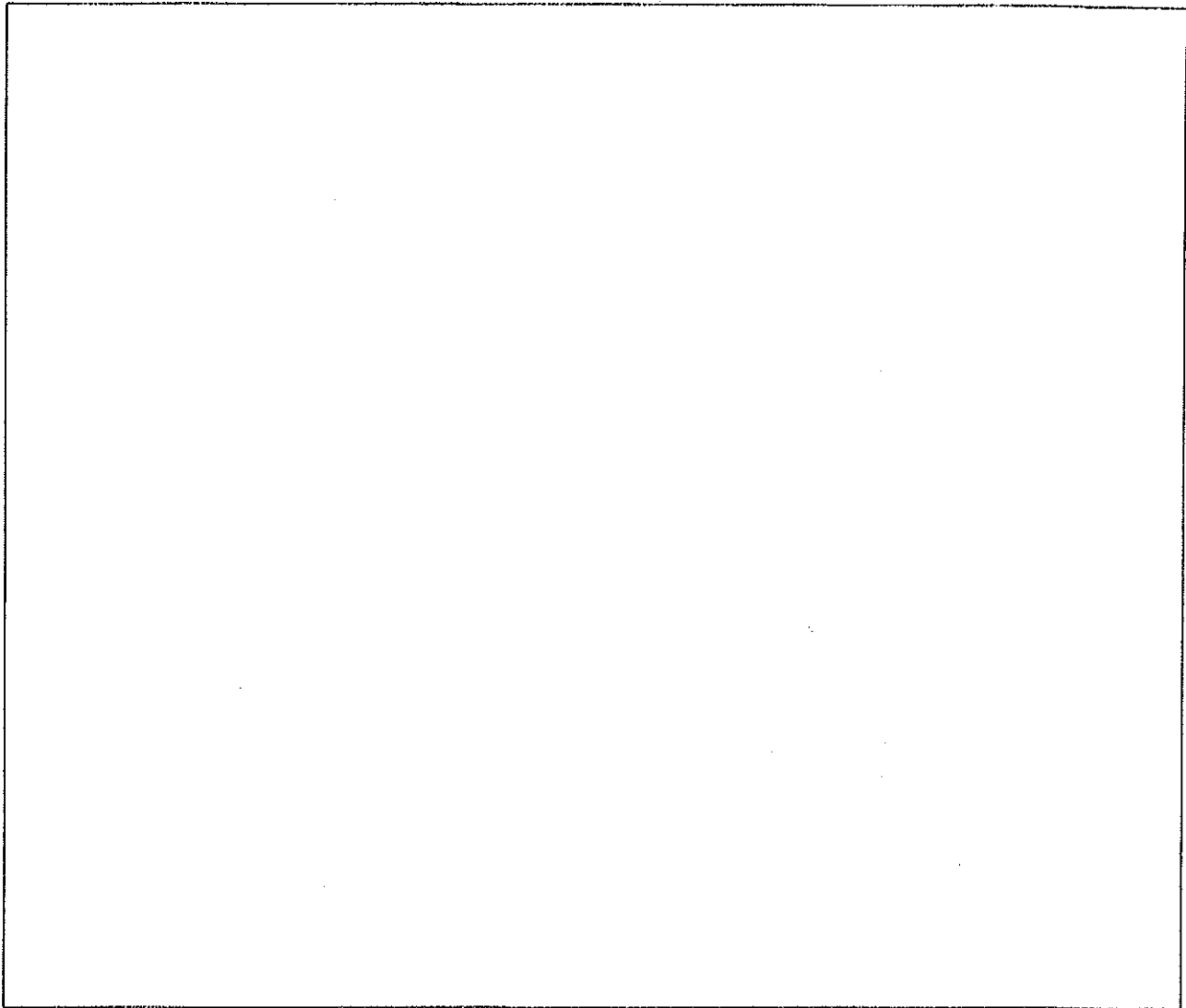
B5

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** preceding thread  
**Declassify On:** 2024/11/03

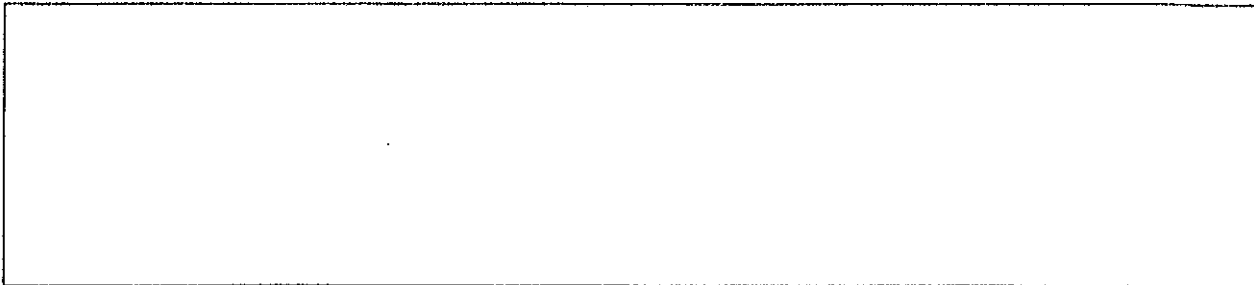
B3 DOD-CP  
B6

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 11:34 AM





**Subject:** RE: "FREEDOM WAVES TO GAZA" FLOTILLA - (SITREP 2) - 3 NOV 2011 (SECRET)

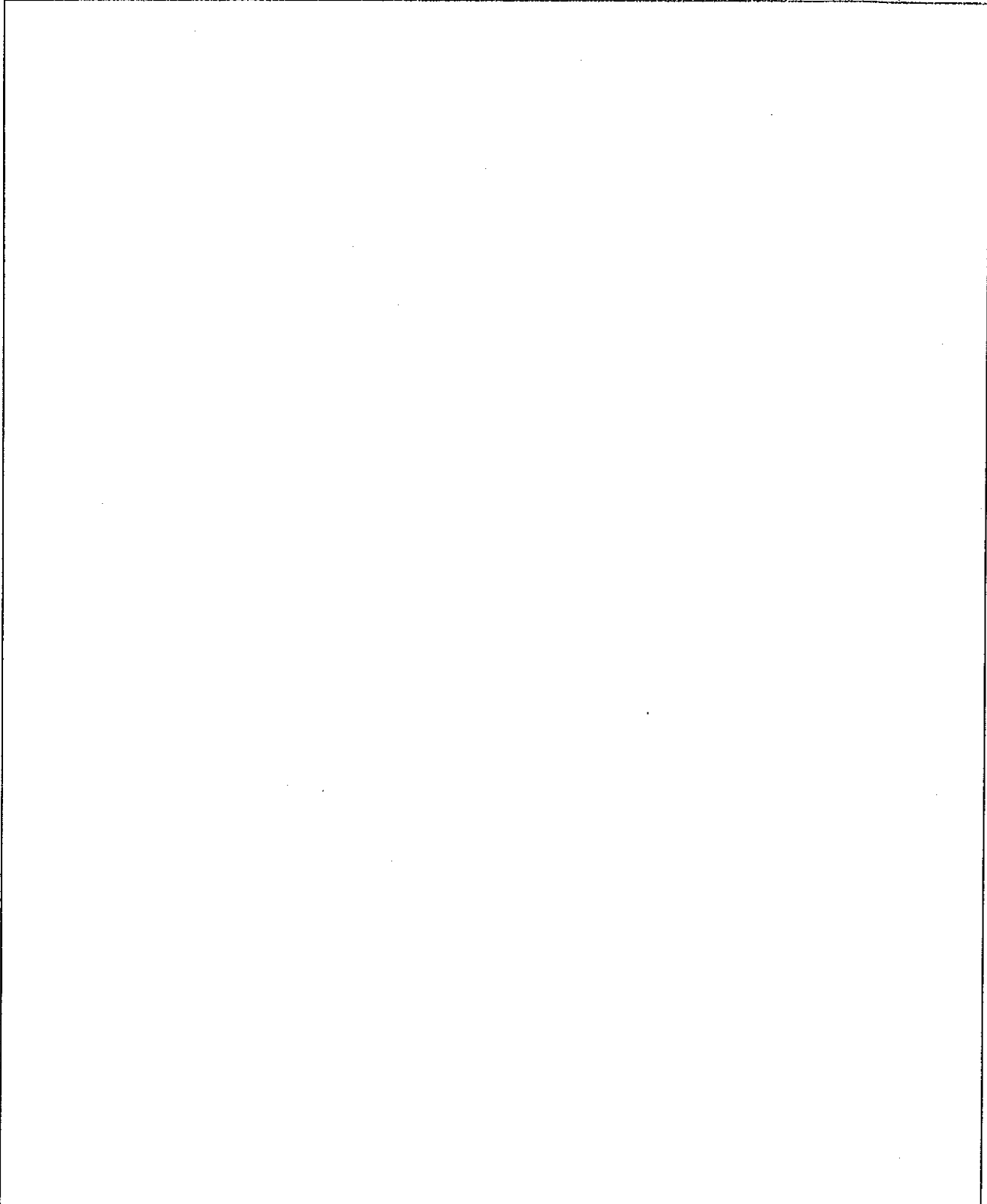


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

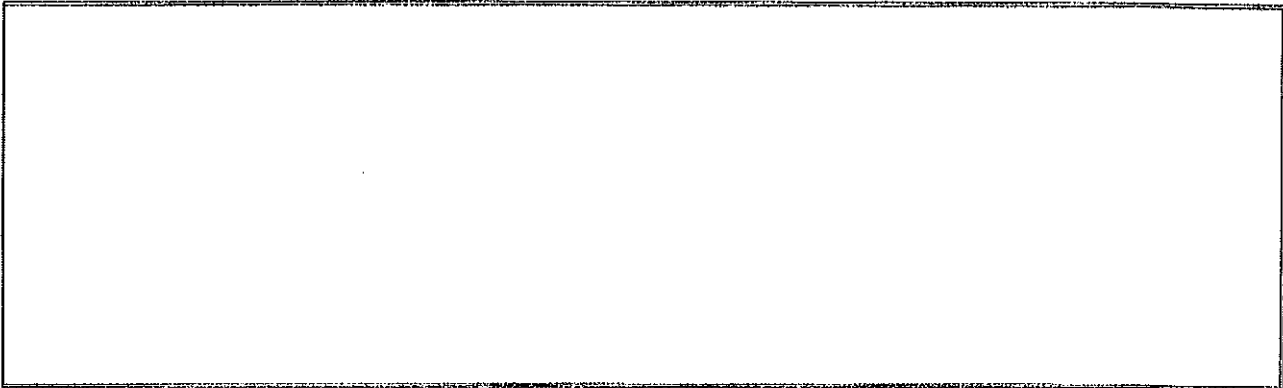
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** preceding thread  
**Declassify On:** 2021/11/03

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**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 8:14 AM



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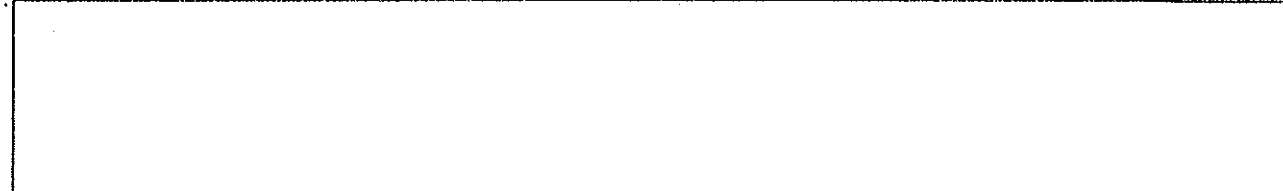
**Subject:** "FREEDOM WAVES TO GAZA" FLOTILLA - (SITREP 2) - 3 NOV 2011 (SECRET)

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, GBR

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, GBR

Good morning J2 -

1.4(B)  
1.4(C)  
B1



**SITREP follows:**

**Convention: Blue is new**

(U) This event, called "Freedom Waves for Gaza," unites 27x activists from at least 6x countries, including America, Canada, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, and Australia, alongside Palestinians from Bethlehem and Haifa in an international movement to break Israel's blockade of the 1.6 million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. "Freedom Waves for Gaza" is the 11<sup>th</sup> attempt by international activists to deliver humanitarian aid through the Israeli blockade of Gaza since 2008.

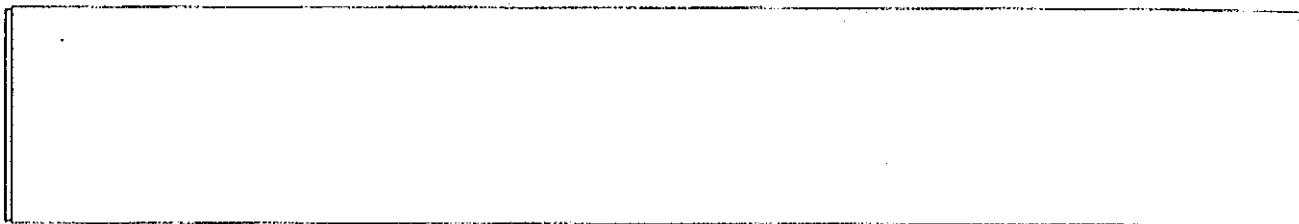
B1  
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(S//REL TO USA, GBR) Flotilla Ships

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)

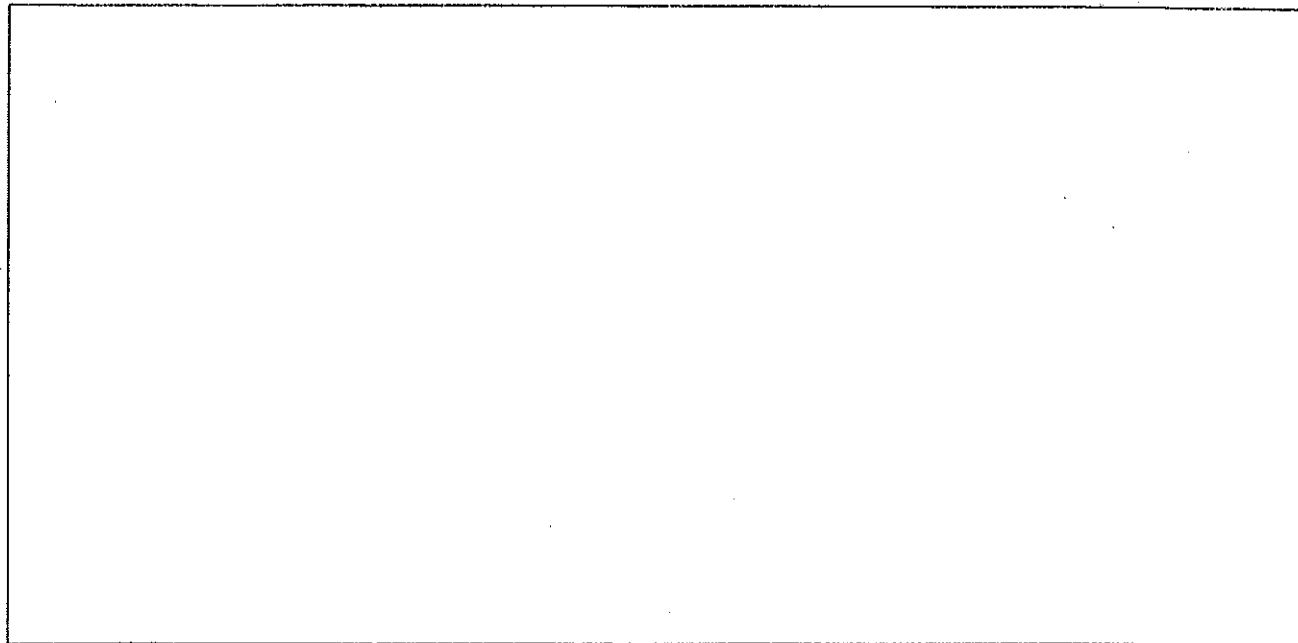




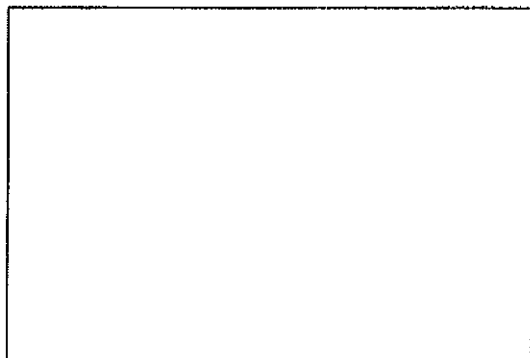
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(S//REL TO USA, FVEY)   
Naval Activity: Routine

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1



JAC Molesworth will continue to keep ALCON informed.



B3 DOD-CP  
B6

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY  
Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, GBR

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**The Supreme Court sitting as the High Court of Justice**

HCJ 4169/10  
HCJ 4193/10  
HCJ 4220/10  
HCJ 4221/10  
HCJ 4240/10  
HCJ 4243/10

*Before: The Honorable President D. Beinisch, The Honorable Justice M. Naor, The Honorable Justice U. Vogelman*

Petitioners in HCJ 4169/10: Yiftach Cohen; Omer Shatz, Itamar Mann  
Respondents in HCJ 4169/10: The Minister of Defense; The Minister of the Interior; The Minister of Public Security

Petitioners in HCJ 4193/10: Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; Physicians for Human Rights  
Respondents in HCJ 4193/10: The Minister of Defense; The Military Advocate General; The Israel Prison Service; The Israel Police; The Immigration Authority

Petitioners in HCJ 4220/10: Al Jazeera Satellite Network; Othman Al Bukhairi; Abas Naser; Muhammad Fal; Ali Sabri; Andrei Abu Khalil; Jamal Al Shial; Wasima Bin Salah  
Respondents in HCJ 4220/10: The Israel Defense Forces; The Minister of Defense; The Minister of Public Security

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Petitioner in HCJ 4221/10: Yekutiel Ben Yaakov

Respondents in HCJ 4221/10: The Israel Police; The Israel Prison Service; The Government of Israel; The Minister of Defense; The Prime Minister

Petitioner in HCJ 4240/10: Shurat Hadin – Israel Law Center

Respondents in HCJ 4240/10: The Attorney General; The Prime Minister; The Minister of Public Security; The Minister of the Interior; The Israel Police

Petitioners in HCJ 4243/10: 1. Almagor – Terror Victims Association; Y.S. – Navy commando (res.); D.B. – Navy commando (res.) and bereaved brother; Pniel Krichman; Yekira and Zecharia Komemi; Aviva and Rahamim Komemi; Tzila Rahamim; Moshe Keinan; Briana and Shmuel Hilberg

Respondents in HCJ 4243/10: The Prime Minister; The Minister of the Interior; The Attorney General; The Inspector General of the Israel Police

Petitions to grant an order nisi

Date of hearing: 20 Nisan 5770 (June 2, 2010)

For the petitioners in HCJ 4169/10: Itamar Mann; Yiftach Cohen; Omer Shatz

For the petitioners in HCJ 4193/10: Fatima El Ajou

For the petitioners in HCJ 4220/10: Zaki Kamal; Kamal Zaki Kamal

For the petitioner in HCJ 4421/10: Himself

For the petitioner in HCJ 4240/10: Nitsana Darshan Leitner

For the petitioners in HCJ 4243/10: Sharon Avni; Shira Greenberg

For the respondents: The State Attorney Moshe Lador; Osnat Mandel;  
Dina Zilber; Hila Groni

### Judgment

**President D. Beinisch:**

1. In view of the control of the Gaza Strip by the Hamas organization, Israel has taken various measures designed to prevent direct access to the Gaza Strip, among them a blockade of the Gaza Strip which, as declared by the State, is designed to prevent the infiltration of weapons and arms to the Hamas organization, which, for years, has carried out acts of shooting and terrorism at Israeli territory for the purpose of harming civilians.

2. In recent weeks, announcements have been publicly made by various organizations, among them organizations that declared themselves to be acting for humanitarian purposes, regarding their intention to arrange a flotilla of ships which, they claimed, were designated to transfer foodstuffs and materials as humanitarian aid to the residents of the Gaza Strip. Israel, for its part, made efforts to prevent the flotilla from reaching the shores of Gaza and breaching the blockade in such manner. The State proposed to the organizers of the flotilla, among others, that the cargo – which was supposed to reach Gaza – be unloaded from the ships and transferred directly to Gaza via Israel. This proposal was rejected.

In the early hours of May 31, a number of ships approached the shores of Israel to implement the flotilla's plan. As decided by the political echelon, the IDF prepared to take measures to prevent the entry of the ships into the Gaza Strip as stated. In the framework of an operation that was designed to stop the ships, soldiers landed on the deck of the ship Mavi Marmara, the largest ship in the flotilla. The soldiers met with a violent and severe response from the flotilla participants on the ship. The soldiers were attacked with knives, clubs and iron rods. Attempts were made to seize the soldiers' personal weapons and they were violently attacked. One of the soldiers was even thrown off the deck of the ship. The soldiers were forced to respond to defend their lives and, unfortunately, the operation ended with unexpected loss of life – nine people were killed and both soldiers and flotilla participants were injured. The operation concluded with the ships being halted and their passengers removed and detained in Israel.

3. That same morning, when the results of the operation became known, the petition in HCJ 4169/10 was filed with this court (hereinafter: *the First Petition*), in which four attorneys filed the petition as public petitioners. It should be noted that at the opening of the hearing before us, the petitioners gave notice of the request of attorney A. Feldman, who was among the petitioners, to strike his name from the petition. The petition ascribed grave and illegal acts to the State of Israel and the petitions sought a remedy of habeas corpus to free all the detainees. It is evident in the petition, which was hastily filed, that, notwithstanding the fact that the petitioners knew nothing about the actual events, they were quick to cast the gravest aspersions on the actions of the IDF forces, while using inappropriate language. Notwithstanding that stated, because

the relief sought was the release of the detainees, the petition was not stricken in limine at that stage, and the State's response was requested by the following day.

During the course of that day and the following day, a number of additional petitions were filed with court. In HCJ 4193/10, which was filed on behalf of the Adalah organization and other human rights organizations, the petitioners requested information on the detainees and their whereabouts, as well as details on the injured and the dead. This petition was also filed as a public petition. Another petition (HCJ 4220/10) was filed by the Al Jazeera television network and in the name of journalists acting on its behalf who had been arrested on the ship. This petition requested the release of the network personnel who had participated in the flotilla. It should be noted that during the hearing that we held, it transpired that this petition was superfluous since the petitioners had already been released.

4. On June 1, 2010, the government issued a statement that all the foreign flotilla participants would be released and returned to their countries. After this statement was issued, three additional petitions were filed with this court: HCJ 4221/10, which was filed on behalf of Mr. Yekutiel Ben Yaakov; HCJ 4240/10, which was filed by Shurat Hadin -- Israel Law Center; and HJC 4243/10 filed by Almagor -- Terror Victims Association. In these three petitions, the remedy sought was to bar the release of the foreign flotilla participants, with the main argument being that these were people who had committed an offense, who were required both for investigating the facts and the circumstances surrounding the incident and for a decision about arraignment for trial.

In view of the remedy sought, which related to the question of the release of a large number of detainees, we conducted an urgent hearing and deliberated all the petitions together before the panel at that session, and within two days of the filing of the First Petition.

5. Before the hearing, the State submitted a written response in which it protested the description of the events in the First Petition and pointed out the distortion of the facts therein. In essence, the State addressed the legality of the blockade and referred to an alternative remedy set forth in the relevant provisions of the Entry into Israel Law, 5712-1952, with regard to the foreign participants in the flotilla and the relevant provisions of the law pertaining to the criminal proceedings of investigation and detention with regard to the Israeli suspects who participated in the event. During the day, proximate to the time of hearing the petitions, the State completed its statement and submitted a decision formulated by the attorney general, which stated that on the day of the event, May 31, 2010, the attorney general ordered the opening of an investigation on suspicion of offenses committed on the deck of the ship Mavi Marmara, including the offense of the grave attack on IDF soldiers, disturbing the peace, endangering the lives of soldiers, seizing weapons and so forth. The attorney general further stated that the next day, the ministerial committee on national security matters convened and conducted a long and exhaustive discussion of the security, political, legal and other aspects of the affair. At the end of the discussion, the senior political echelon recommended "to enable the immediate deportation of all the foreigners who had arrived on the flotilla, who were suspected of committing criminal offenses. This is recommended for clear political reasons pertaining to foreign relations and the security of the State of Israel." In his decision, the attorney general noted that he had

discussed the matter with the state attorney and other senior officials at the Ministry of Justice and other government ministries, at the end of which he decided, as stated, to allow the immediate deportation of all the foreigners from Israel.

6. During the hearing before us, State Attorney Moshe Lador, appeared together with senior attorneys. It should be noted that due to the nature of the proceedings which we conducted, we sought not to address the claims pertaining to the legality of the blockade, nor with the factual events during that grave incident, the full details of which had not been presented to us. Claims pertaining to the detention of Israelis suspected of committing offenses while participating in the flotilla were also not adjudicated before us, as they should be argued in individual hearings on the criminal arrest proceedings before the competent courts. The hearing focused on the urgent remedies sought which pertain to holding the foreign detainees. The state attorney stated that all the foreigners who wished to do so could be released from detention and, in effect, those who had not yet left the country were on their way to the airport. The wounded whose medical condition allowed for it, were also removed to their countries of origin. Apparently, two of the wounded remained in the hospital because their condition did not enable them to be flown back to their country. The state attorney further stated that the names of all the wounded had been submitted to the relevant consulates and, with regard to those who came from countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, the details were provided to the Red Cross. It should be noted that the State did not see fit to acquiesce to the request to provide details in this matter to counsel for the Adalah organization, as the details had been provided to the relevant entities. However, the possibility arose that if a specific, substantive application were to be made to obtain details

regarding one of the casualties or the wounded, the State would examine the possibility of providing counsel for the Adalah organization with the requested details. It further transpired that the remaining details requested by the Adalah organization regarding the place in which the detainees were being held were resolved. The Adalah organization's counsel also made claims with regard to the detainees' ability to meet with attorneys. During the hearing it was made clear that there had been no intention to prevent such a meeting, and many detainees had actually already met with attorneys. Due to the need to release hundreds of people quickly, not all the detainees may have had the opportunity to meet with an attorney.

The position of the attorney general to release all the foreign participants meant that the main remedy sought in the First Petition was already granted. In the course of the arguments, in view of the response of the state attorney and the comments of the court, the petitioners retracted the style of the scathing verbal attack that they had employed in the petition.

7. As stated, three of the petitions were filed against the attorney general's decision to release the foreign detainees. Each one of the petitioners argued before us at length about the importance of keeping the detainees in Israel for the purpose of conducting an exhaustive investigation regarding the grave events that occurred on the ship, and regarding the need to exercise the full rigor of the law or, at least, to investigate details which, they claim, would constitute defense arguments for the IDF soldiers.

*We did not find any ground for intervention in the decision of the attorney general. The decision to release the detainees is in the realm*

of the attorney general's discretion. In a long series of judgments, this Court has ruled that the scope of intervention in the attorney general's discretion in decisions pertaining to investigation or prosecution is limited to exceptional and unusual instances. Due to the unusual nature of the event and the circumstances entailed therein which, aside from the criminal aspects, also encompass political aspects pertaining to the State's foreign relations, the attorney general was entitled to consider these aspects. The developments that have ensued in the international arena indicate that a particular political sensitivity exists in everything pertaining to the handling of the matter by the enforcement entities. The attorney general noted that he consulted with all the relevant government entities and after taking into account the fact that nine flotilla participants were killed and several dozen were wounded, he reached the conclusion that the public, political and security interests outweigh the interests of criminal enforcement. We did not find in this decision, which was reasoned as stated, and in the considerations underlying it, any cause for intervention.

Wherefore, after we were convinced that the main remedies sought in some of the petitions were superfluous, and in the absence of cause to intervene in the decision of the attorney general, we have decided to deny the petitions.

Given this day, 20 Sivan 5770 (June 2, 2010).

The President

Justice

Justice

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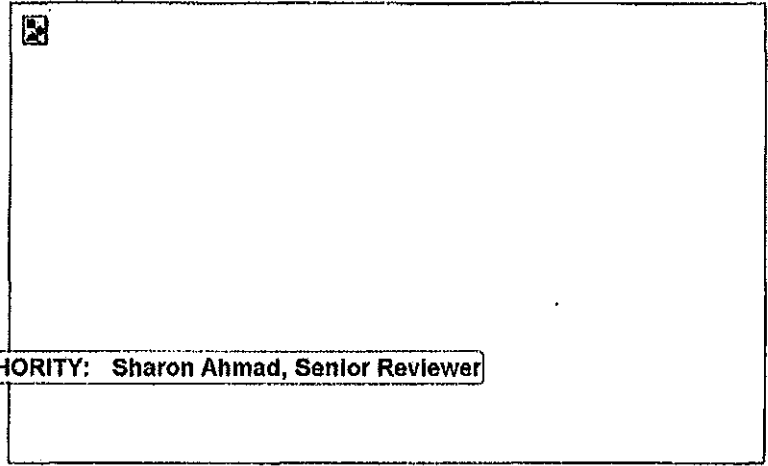
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# MFA Spokesman on Gaza flotilla

24 May 2010  
Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs.

MFA Spokesman Yigal Palmor  
MFA Spokesman Yigal Palmor

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Text:**

Ships forcing their way into Gaza will do nothing to aid the people there. Existing land crossings are more than capable of meeting their needs. International aid organizations and the private sector of Gaza ensure that all the necessary food, medicine and clothing are provided to the Strip via Israel.

In a typical week, 15,000 tons of supplies enter Gaza. Truckloads of meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, milk

powder, baby food, wheat and other staples arrive in Gaza on a daily basis. Building materials are also shipped in, when monitored by International organization so as not to be commandeered by Hamas for the fortification of bunkers.

Since the ceasefire in January 2009, well over a million tons of humanitarian supplies entered Gaza from Israel - that is almost a ton of aid for each man, woman and child in the Strip.

The land crossings remain the most efficient system to transfer goods to Gaza, and the flotilla organizers are well aware of this fact. The organizers also know that since December 2008, their ships have been denied permission to land.

Israel has invited the organizers of the flotilla to use the land crossings, in the same manner as all the reputable international organizations.

However, they are less interested in bringing in aid than in promoting their radical agenda, playing into the hands of Hamas provocations. While they have wrapped themselves in a humanitarian cloak, they are engaging in political propaganda and not in pro-Palestinian aid.

If the organizers were truly interesting in providing humanitarian aid - as opposed to engaging in publicity stunts - they would use the proper channels to ensure delivery of any supplies.

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community keep the focus on what is certainly the main problem in the Middle East and in the world: a nuclear Iran. Iran is trying in numerous ways to distract international attention away from its nuclearization on the eve of the Security Council's resolution on the subject. Iran is using extremist organizations and states in order to distract world attention, and it is entirely possible that the timing of the "terrorist flotilla" is not coincidental.

2. The purpose of intercepting the flotilla was to protect Israel's security and sovereignty by maintaining the maritime blockade on the Hamas terrorist entity and the hostile territory of the Gaza Strip. Israel must continue the blockade in order to prevent more terrorist victims. If the international community wants to give the proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority a real chance, it must strengthen the PA and Abu Mazen and not the Hamas.

3. The goal of the flotilla was not peace but rather to continue the terrorism and to strengthen the waning status of Hamas, which has been losing political and economic power.

4. IHH, the organization behind the flotilla, has close connections with Hamas, Al-Qaeda, and Global Jihad.

5. Israel regrets the loss of life, but responsibility for Monday's events rests solely on the organizers.

In answer to a question concerning Israeli-Turkish relations, the deputy foreign minister said that Israel did not attack Turkey, although the latter had the power to stop the flotilla, as Cypress did. Turkey must decide for itself where its interests lie.

DFM Ayalon thanked all the participants for their support of Israel and asked them to continue to engage in public diplomacy. For this purpose, the participants will be sent clips from the IDF Spokesperson.

In light of the conference call's success, the participants asked the organizers to set up calls of this type on a regular basis as well as in times of emergency.

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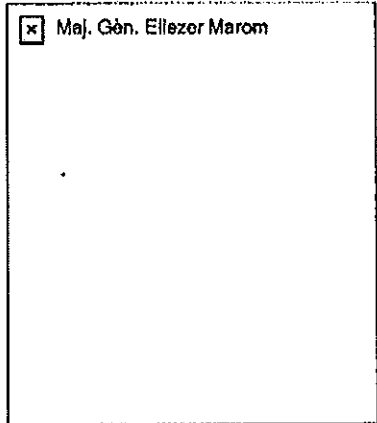


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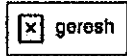
English > News Channels > News and Events > 2010 > May > Navy Com soldiers: "Act with judgment and accomplish the mission"

Navy Commander to soldiers: "Act with judgment and accomplish the mis 27 May 2010 , 11:39

Maj. Gen. Marom required soldiers not to be dragged into provocations while fulfilling their mission. Moreover, the flotilla will have the opportunity to stop its journey to Gaza's shores at several stages; otherwise the passengers will be escorted into Israel's shores and deported to their country of origin. The aid brought by the flotilla will be transferred into the Gaza Strip after a security check.



Navy Commander Maj. Gen. Eliezer Marom. Photo: IDF Spokesperson



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According to the decision made by the Israeli government, the IDF and the Navy are getting prepared to prevent the flotilla from reaching the shores c flotilla's passengers will be given the opportunity to turn back at any stage or to give up the control of their ships.

From the moment of their departure, the ships will receive formal warning

stages of their journey, requesting them to stop their trip to Gaza's shores.

Should the passengers decide to continue the journey and not take the Israel warning into consideration, they will be arrested, brought to Israel's shore; transferred to the Ministry of Interior and the immigration authorities so they are sent back to their country of origin.

The security forces will grab hold of the aid expected to be brought to Gaz flotilla, and after a security check of the goods, they will be transferred into the Strip.

During the last few days, the Commander of the Navy, Maj. Gen. Eliezer I organized a series of exercises, consisting in stopping the flotilla, gaining control of the ships and bringing them to Israel's shores. He stressed that during the operation Israeli forces will take all the required steps in order to protect the soldiers and make sure that no terrorist agents have been infiltrated into the ships.

Maj. Gen. Marom instructed his forces not to be dragged into provocations; to act with fair judgment; otherwise it could be harmful to the mission's accomplishment.

He also said to his men that there is no intention to cause any harm among hundreds of people expected to arrive on these ships, however a clear mission is assigned to the Israeli Navy and it has to be accomplished.

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Invites the international flotilla to unload its cargo in Ashdod port-27-May-

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# Israel invites the international flotilla to unload its cargo in Ashdod port

27 May 2010

The Minister of Defense has issued warrants prohibiting the entrance of the vessels to Gaza. Israel has advised the relevant countries of this ban, and requested they prevent the departure of the vessels.

D-G Gal with Swedish Ambassador Elisabet Borsini Bonnier today in Jerusalem (Photo: MFA)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

(Communicated by the MFA Spokesperson)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General Yossi Gal separately summoned today (Thursday, 27 May 2010) the ambassadors of Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden and Ireland – the countries from which the ships participating in the flotilla set sail.

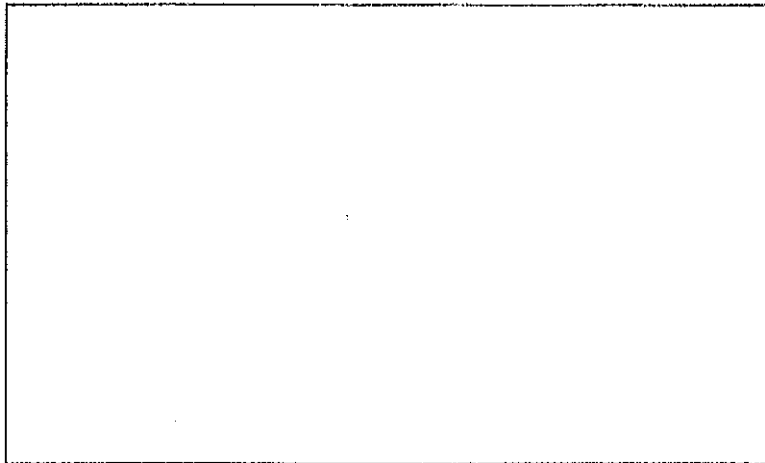
At all the meetings, D-G Gal expressly clarified the State of Israel's official position, which declares the flotilla an absolute provocation: There is no shortage of humanitarian aid to Gaza, as food products, fuel and supplies are constantly transferred into the Gaza Strip by the international organizations. Therefore, the flotilla organizers are invited to dock at Ashdod port, to unload their cargo and transfer it to Gaza, after a security check, either via the Israeli authorities or via the humanitarian organizations.

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This is the third round of talks with the ambassadors, and is in addition to parallel activities undertaken by Israeli ambassadors in the various countries warning the governments that the flotilla is about to break international law. In accordance with the authority granted to the State of Israel, the Minister of Defense issued warrants that prohibit the entrance of the vessels to Gaza. Israel has advised the relevant countries of this ban, and requested they prevent the departure of the vessels.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has arranged with the Ministry of Defense to assist the relevant government ministries in their handling of the passengers on the flotilla in order to assist them in leaving the country as soon as possible. The Consular Services Department has contacted the foreign embassies in Israel and explained the measures expected to be implemented against the participants in the flotilla. The MFA's situation room will also be reinforced in order to provide a response to developments.

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# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



116A

May 31st, 2010  
11:30

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pistols Found on Flotilla Activists**

According to reports from sea, on board the flotilla that was seeking to break the maritime closure on the Gaza Strip, IDF forces apprehended two violent activists holding pistols. The violent activists took these pistols from IDF forces and apparently opened fire on the soldiers as evident by the empty pistol magazines.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

### **IDF Spokesperson Unit - Foreign Press Branch**

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Video Release: "They are firing on us with live fire!"  
Video shows soldiers on their way to intercepting the Mavi Marmara ship being shot at with live fire

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Video: Humanitarian aid from flotilla transferred into Gaza  
IDF forces unload the humanitarian cargo from the Gaza Flotilla and bring the aid through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Humanitarian Aid Transfer Gaza Strip

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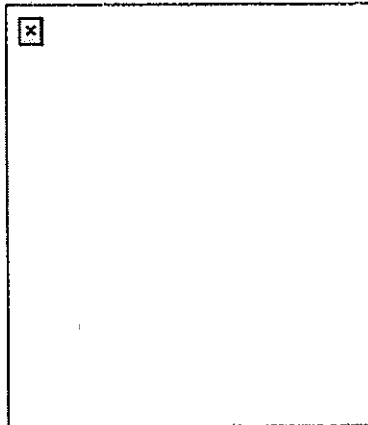
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Video Release: "They are firing on us with live fire!"  
01 June 2010, 21:08

Video shows soldiers on their way to intercepting the Mavi Marmara ship being shot at with live fire.



During the operation to redirect the Gaza flotilla on Monday (May 31), IDF commandos boarded the Mavi Marmara ship. On the other five ships which were part of the flotilla, the interception took place with no violence. When the soldiers attempted to board the Mavi Marmara, activists on board attacked the soldiers and stole two pistols in a prepared :

IDF commandos boarding the Mavi Marmara ship. Photo: IDF Spokesperson



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In this footage you can hear the radio exchange between soldiers on their vessel and the IDF ship. The soldiers report encountering live fire and serious violence.

On Tuesday (June 1) Captain R., a Naval Special Forces commander of one of the squadrons who participated in the interception of the Mavi Marmara ship, interview with IDF Radio: "There were terrorists who wanted to kill us. I can't explain it any other way. We used every means possible in order that those terrorists shouldn't get hurt - would not get hurt."

Captain R. was stabbed in the stomach and was wounded in his arm. "After I descended from the helicopter, I was in front of several terrorists and I saw a weapon when I saw one of them come towards me with a knife. I fired once at that point, another twenty people started coming at me from every direction, jumped at me and hurled me to the lower deck. At the same time, I felt intense pain in my stomach. I saw a knife stabbed into my stomach and I pulled it out. I saw a man managed to get to the lower level, where there was another mob of people. I, along with other team members, jumped into the water. The third commando that was hit in the head and lost consciousness," he said.

**"We came to speak, they came to fight."**

Another naval soldier, who participated in the interception of the Mavi Marmara and sustained a broken arm while under attack by the ship's passengers, described how the soldiers were shot at from the entrance to the ship's corridor.

"I saw two from my group lying flat on the ground. From the opening of the hatch they were shooting at them the entire time with live fire, bullets. We identified the barrel, and one of us shot at the guy holding it. Afterwards we entered and there. About 30 men, they simply came for war. We came to straighten things out, to speak to those who went downstairs, but each of us who descended was subsequently attacked."

"There were some from my group that were thrown to the lower floor, and the passengers took their equipment. They jumped to the water as a last resort. I was told that if they didn't listen, we should shoot at their legs with our paintball pistol. The paintball pistol was to be used only if we really felt our lives in danger, which wasn't the case."

to happen. It would be extremely abnormal. But in the end, that is what ha

"We came with the intention of stopping the ship and taking it to Ashdod, not come with the weapons we usually have, we came for something entirely different."

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Video: Humanitarian aid from flotilla transferred into Gaza  
 IDF forces unload the humanitarian cargo from the Gaza Flotilla and bring the aid through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

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Humanitarian Aid Transfer Gaza Strip

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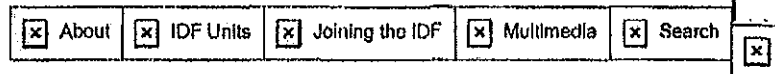
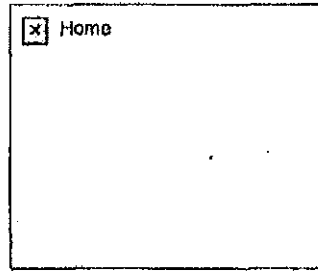
Supply of weapons discovered on board the Mavi Marmara  
 After passengers on board departed the ship, security forces began checking the boat and found a cache of weapons.

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Video eyewitness account by Naval soldier: "They shot at us the entire time"  
 One of the solders injured while intercepting the Mavi Marama ship gives an eye witness account of how his group was beaten and lynched. "We came to speak, they came to fight."

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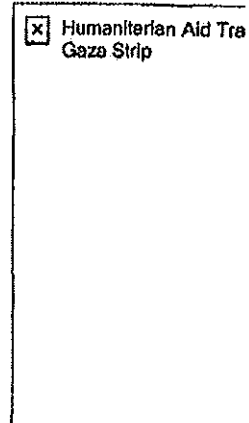


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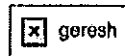
IDF forces unload the humanitarian cargo from the Gaza Flotilla and bring the aid through the Kerem Shalom crossing 

An average of 10,000 tons of aid a week are imported into the Gaza Strip in coordination with international organizations through the land crossings. However, there remains a maritime closure on the strip as Hamas continues to smuggle weapons through tunnels for use against Israeli civilians.

For more information about the IDF's humanitarian operations visit: [www.idfspokesperson.com](http://www.idfspokesperson.com) and <https://www.swivel.com/people/1016582>



Humanitarian aid int Strip. Photo: IDF Sp



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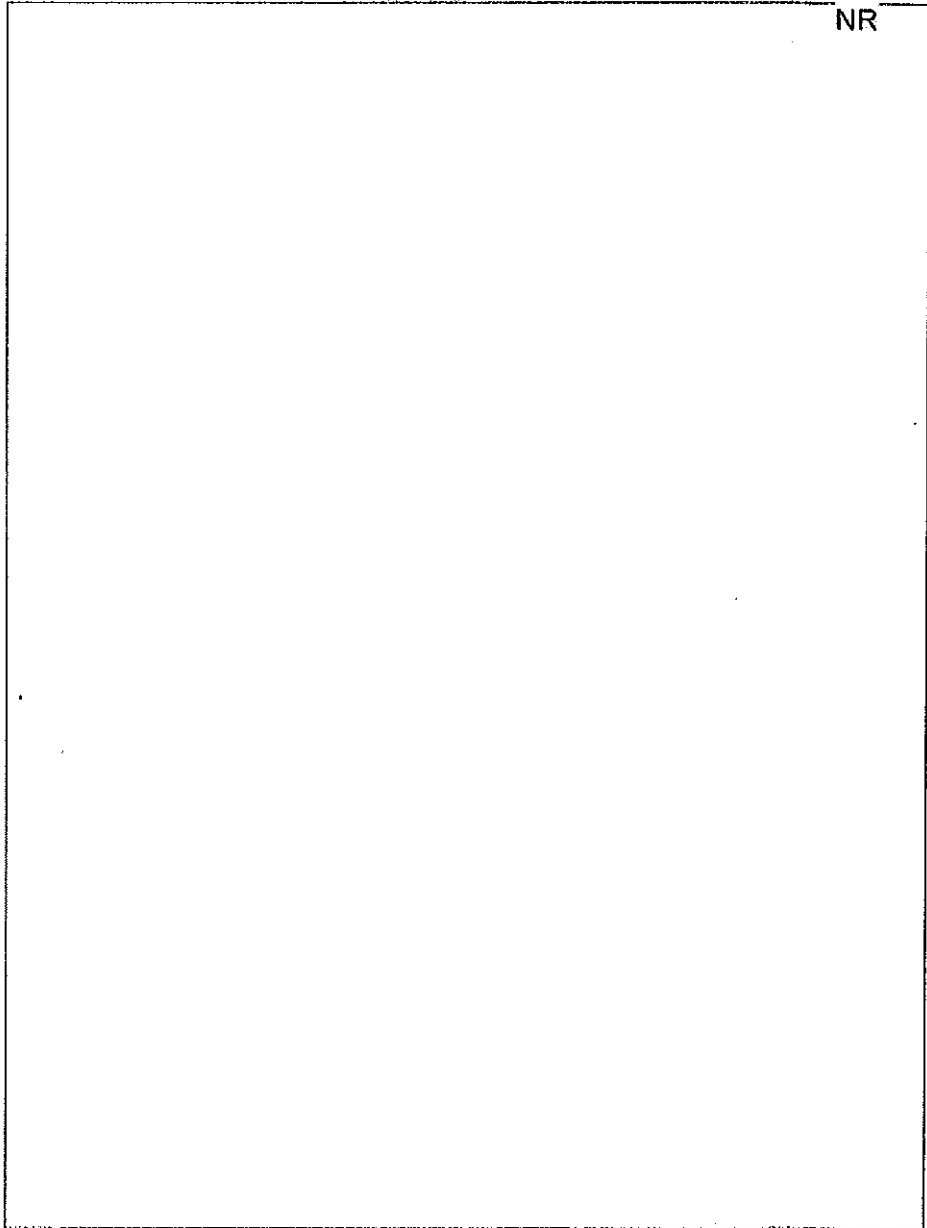
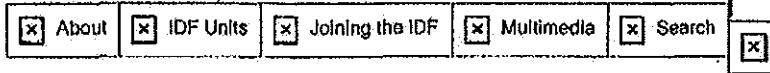
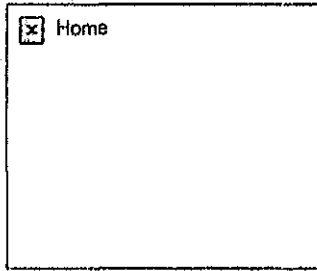
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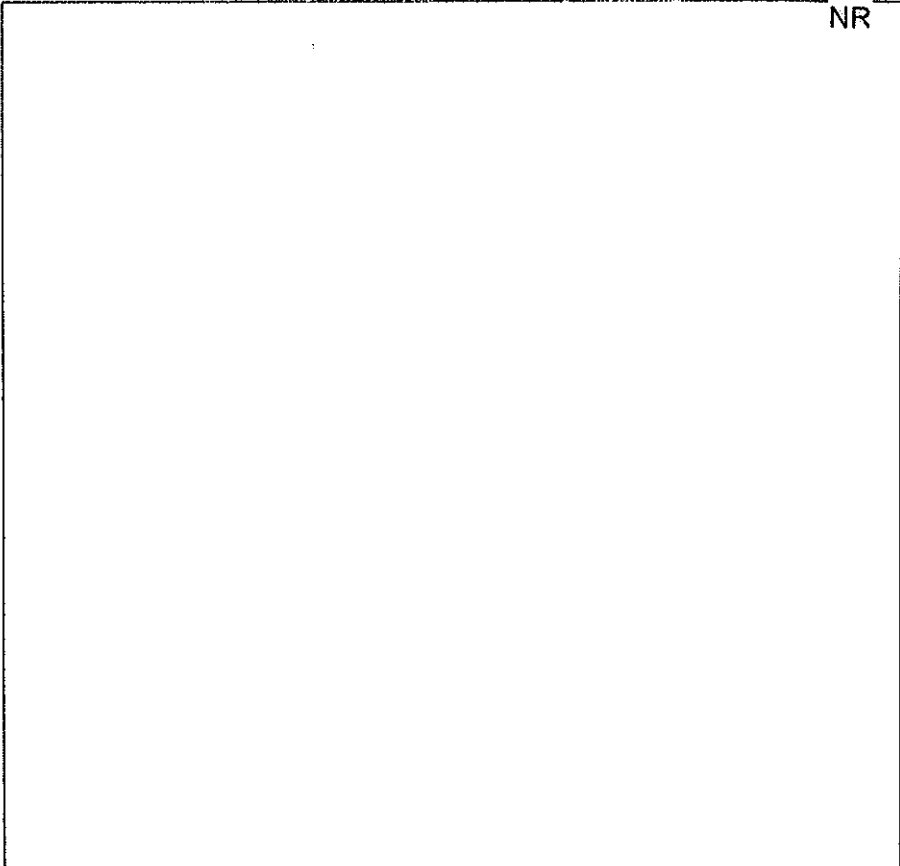
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Breaking Footage from Mavi Marmara interception  
 Video shows what took place as IDF soldiers intercepted the Mavi Marmara ship and were attacked by its passengers

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Video Release: "They are firing on us with live fire!"  
 Video shows soldiers on their way to intercepting the Mavi Marmara ship being shot at with live fire

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Video: IAF targets militant group preparing to launch rockets  
 IAF targeted a terrorist squad preparing to fire rockets into Israel from northern Gaza

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Video: Humanitarian aid from flotilla transferred into Gaza  
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Breaking Footage from Mavi Marmara interception

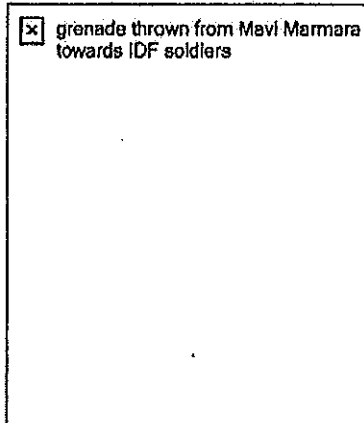
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Video shows what took place as IDF soldiers intercepted the Mavi Marmara ship and were attacked by its passengers

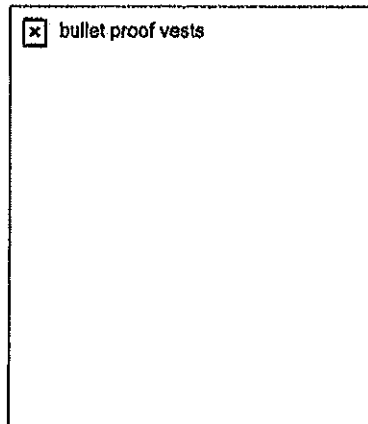
Elana Kieffer

Video footage shows Shayetet Naval Special Forces attempting to intercept the Mavi Marmara ship which is part of the Gaza flotilla.

Passengers on board are seen throwing chains, metal pipes and a stun grenade at the soldiers while attacking them with water hoses. The passengers later use the same metal pipes to beat the soldiers who boarded the Marmara. The soldiers can be seen armed with paintball guns, to be used as a means



Photograph shows a grenade being thrown from the Mavi Marmara ship towards IDS soldiers. Photo: taken from video clip



Pictured here is a pile of bullet proof vests found on board the Mavi Marmara ship. Photo: Arielle Yahalom, IDF Spokesperson

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of riot dispersal.

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IDF Chief of Staff to combat soldiers: "You operated ou

Five other ships arrived to the area with the flotilla,

Terror attack thwarted along Gaza security fence

Video: Humanitarian aid from flotilla transferred into G;

however IDF interception took place with no incident. The passengers on 1 other ships cooperated nonviolently with IDF soldiers and there were no ir



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