

Exhibit 4-17

Abidjan to Rota, 24-31 May 1967 (U)

~~(S-000)~~ The TRS was at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, at the end of May on its fifth African cruise when, in response to NSA's message on 23 May, the JCS/JRC, with approval of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, directed movement of the ship to the eastern Mediterranean via Rota, Spain, and requested the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic to change operational control of the ship to the Commander-in-Chief, Europe upon its arrival at Rota.³ At the time, the *Liberty* was under the operational control of the Commander, Service Squadron 8, a component of the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic, and on 24 May the Commander, Service Squadron 8 issued sailing orders to the *Liberty*, with information copies to Commander, Sixth Fleet and others, directing the ship to move at once to Rota.⁴ The *Liberty* departed Abidjan at 0530Z, 24 May, with estimated time of arrival in Rota, 31 May.⁵

***Liberty* at Rota,
31 May to 2 June 1967 (U)**

(U) When the *Liberty* arrived at Rota on 31 May, it came under the operational control of the U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe (Gen. L.L. Lemnitzer) who turned over control to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Navy Europe.⁶ While delegating his control, General Lemnitzer still wanted operational information on the ship's progress and asked on 1 June that situation reports (Sitreps) and planned intended movement (Pim) reports from the *Liberty* arrive at his headquarters daily and that any incidents be reported as soon as possible in accordance with the existing reconnaissance reporting instructions.⁷

~~(S-000)~~ After taking control, Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Navy Europe, directed the *Liberty* to send to his headquarters daily Sitreps and position reports and in those reports to include the Pim for the next 24 hours and any comments on status of the ship. He directed the *Liberty* to depart for the eastern Mediterranean when ready, provided guidelines for its staying within international waters, and asked for adherence to established communications procedures for the region. NSA also received the situation reports being required by Commander-in-Chief, Europe and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Navy Europe and used these, along with ship positions given in *Liberty's* daily informal technical summaries, to plot on a routine basis the course of the *Liberty*.⁸

(U) At Rota, the *Liberty* prepared for its deployment to the eastern Mediterranean, taking on

provisions and fuel, acquiring the military documentation necessary for its assignment to Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Navy Europe and later to the U.S. Sixth Fleet, and repairing its TRSSCOMM which had a faulty hydraulic system.

~~(S-0)~~ Six Arabic [redacted] linguists joined USN-855 for the expected work on U.A.R. and [redacted] communications. Three of the Arab linguists, NSA civilians Allen M. Blue, Donald L. Blacklock, and Robert L. Wilson, were among the specialists who came on board [redacted] the remaining linguists being Naval Security Group specialists. The NSA linguists brought with them selected technical material. [redacted] Assignment of civilian linguists to work on board a U.S. Navy ship was not unusual. On TRS deployments along the African [redacted] civilian linguists had worked alongside the military linguists, who at times were not available in sufficient number for the missions at hand.

~~(S-000)~~ NSA action officers established a tel-econ with USN-855 [redacted]

[redacted] 1 June in order to confirm the arrival of the personnel, special equipment, and technical materials needed in the eastern Mediterranean.⁹ In order to assist USN-855's reporting and transcribing functions, NSA had previously arranged with [redacted]

[redacted]

~~(S-000)~~ To facilitate the planning for USN-855's collection mission, Sigint managers had designated five operational areas numbered west to east in the eastern Mediterranean near the coastline of the U.A.R., Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, each measuring about 50-by-50 miles. In proposing the five operational areas to the JCS, the Director, NSA had indicated his preference, based on wave propagation analysis of U.A.R. communications, for operational area three (32:00-33:00N to 34:00E) if operational and safety factors did not dictate otherwise.¹⁰ With the territorial limits established by Middle East countries in mind, JCS subsequently directed the Commander-in-Chief, Europe to deploy the *Liberty* to operational area three with closest point of approach (CPA) to Algeria, Libya, and the U.A.R. of 13 nautical miles during transit. On arrival in operational area three, CPA was to be 12.5 nm to the U.A.R. and 6.5 nm to Israel.¹¹ Acting upon the JCS message for Commander-in-Chief, Europe and after hearing from the *Liberty* that it had

- (b) (1)
- (b) (3) -50 USC 403
- (b) (3) -18 USC 798
- (b) (3) -P.L. 86-36