

FACTS ON U.S.S. LIBERTY TRAGEDY

WASHINGTON (WNS) The facts around the sinking of the U.S.S. Liberty off the Sinai coast in June 1967 have taken on a new and more significant aspect as a result of the release of testimony given before the House Defense Appropriations Committee in April and May of this year.

The testimony showed that the ship was in those waters as a result of a series of blunders and misreadings of messages. The Liberty, it now appeared, had never received and order from the Pentagon to withdraw from the Sinai war zone. The sinking of the ship by Israeli torpedo boats and planes had set off some criticism and led to Israel's assumption of damage liabilities in the sum of \$3,323,500. Thirty-four Americans were killed and seventy-five wounded in the tragic incident. Israel said that when the Liberty was challenged by one of its Sinai campaign of 1956, but a U.S. naval board of inquiry ruled the attack was "unprovoked" and that the Israeli forces had ample op-

portunities to identify the ship correctly.

In view of this development, it is believed that Israel may raise the question of responsibility for damages in its negotiations of further claims.

Meanwhile, the disclosure of American failure has triggered a demand was made by Rept. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, who said since testimony shows that

the incident was a result of communications negligence by the United States there was no reason why Israel should "have to pay for our own tragic comedy of errors." Rep. Halpern simultaneously asked for a reassessment of the restitution question since "a grave disservice appears to have been done to Israel by bureaucrats anxious to cover up orders that were dispatched but never received."

GET TOUGH ON SABOTEURS

TEL AVIV (WNS) Premier Levi Eshkol, addressing a reunion of paratroopers here, asserted that Israel was determined to protect its border settlements and, if necessary, to destroy the Arab terrorists and their bases wherever they are found.

Israel, the Premier cautioned, will not tolerate a situation that allows Arab saboteurs to operate with immunity behind the Jordanian border.

Pursuit and destruction of terrorists was also the

theme of Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan and Minister of Information Israel Galilee.

Speaking in Kibbutz Ein Yahav in the Negev, site of attack of a gang of marauders that was driven back into Jordan after losing five men to Israeli gunfire, General Dayan said that the army will continue striking out against saboteurs in its effort to protect life, property and Israel's borders.

Similar sentiments were echoed in Jerusalem by Minister of Information.

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