

1 **DECLARATION OF STEVEN FORSLUND**

2 For many years I have periodically been reminded of those days in June 1967 that had such an  
3 impact on me as a young man. It has been frustrating that, for all that time, I have had to stifle  
4 the shout I wanted to make over the injustice that was committed.

5 I finally feel the overwhelming compulsion to say something about what I witnessed. I do so  
6 with fear and discomfort because of the oath of secrecy we all took and the uncertainty over  
7 the legality of speaking out. What motivates me to speak is the fact that nothing I can add will  
8 harm our nation or compromise our intelligence sources at this late date. I can be written off as  
9 a liar or "conspiracy weirdo" or prosecuted if they want to admit that what I say is true.

10 Much discussion has gone on about what the NSA archives hold about the Liberty attack. The  
11 latest I read, stated that the only and final "tapes" that the NSA has released show that  
12 helicopters sent by Israel to the site of the attack on the Liberty, after the attack, were unaware  
13 of her nationality. Much importance is put on this issue by different factions in this debate.

14 Parties state that these are the only tapes of intercepts that exist. That may very well be true,  
15 now. Nothing I can say will change anyone's mind but I have to state, for my own peace of  
16 mind, what I witnessed as an all source intelligence analyst for the U.S. Air Force during the 6  
17 day war.

18 There were other intercepts, and I and many others like me, read transcripts of the air-to-air  
19 and air-to-ground communications of the fighters who attacked the USS Liberty. We read these  
20 in real time during the day the attack occurred. These intercepts were preceded by many  
21 others we read that week that started with the opening attack by Israel in the war and included  
22 intercepts of messages between the USA and Israel in which our government stated their  
23 knowledge of the Israeli's pre-emptive attack that began the war and warned Israel to cease  
24 their activities.

25 On the day of the attack on the Liberty, I read yellow teletype sheets that spewed from the  
26 machines in front of me all day. We obtained our input from a variety of sources including the  
27 NSA. The teletypes were raw translations of intercepts of Israeli air-to-air and air-to-ground  
28 communications between jet aircraft and their ground controller. I read page after page of these

1 transcripts that day as it went on and on. The transcripts made specific reference to the efforts  
2 to direct the jets to the target which was identified as American numerous times by the ground  
3 controller. Upon arrival, the aircraft specifically identified the target and mentioned the  
4 American flag she was flying. There were frequent operational transmissions from the pilots to  
5 the ground base describing the strafing runs. The ground control began asking about the status  
6 of the target and whether it was sinking. They stressed that the target must be sunk and leave  
7 no trace. The pilots stated they had made several runs and the target was still floating. The  
8 ground control station re-iterated that it was urgent that the target be sunk, leaving no trace.  
9 There was a detectable level of frustration evident in the transmissions over the fact that the  
10 aircraft were unable to accomplish the mission quickly and totally.

11 The aircraft eventually broke off and we received no further transcripts of the event. I have  
12 since learned in later descriptions of the attack that torpedo boats attacked the Liberty also. I  
13 saw neither intercepts nor analyses that addressed that attack. An hour or two later I was  
14 discussing the event with a team member and he stated they had received, during the time  
15 frame of the attack, an intercept of a US State Department message to Israel stating that the  
16 United States had full evidence of what had occurred in the attack on the Liberty and strongly  
17 warning Israel to cease activities immediately.

18 Imagine my surprise when, upon going home that night, I was watching the evening news and  
19 a short piece that gave vague reference to a mistaken attack by Israel upon an American ship  
20 off Sinai came on. The next day there was a small article buried in the A section of the paper  
21 stating that there had been an accidental attack on the USS Liberty and that the governments  
22 involved were in discussions. I saw little mention after that in the popular press and, of course,  
23 said nothing for the next 36 years.

24 I read these discussions debating whether Israel intentionally attacked the USS Liberty and  
25 what their motivation would have been for a deliberate attack. I can't debate their motivation.  
26 But, I will carry the memory of those transcripts with me until I die. We all lost our virginity that  
27 day.

28 Steven Forslund