

Israelis Pay the U.S. \$3-Million for Men Killed in Ship Attack

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WASHINGTON, May 28 —

Israel paid the United States \$3,323,500 today in compensation to the families of 34 Americans killed in the Israeli attack on the United States communications ship Liberty last June 8.

The State Department announced that the United States Treasury would shortly make payments to the next of kin, varying from \$20,000 to \$300,000, depending on individual family circumstances.

The claim for compensation was filed on Dec. 29, United States officials said. Israel paid the full amount requested.

Further claims were being prepared in behalf of 160 crewmen injured in the attack, and for damages to the 7,000-ton intelligence-gathering ship.

The officials said they expected all the claims to be paid without serious difficulties.

The Liberty was hit by Israeli jets and torpedo boats while in international waters 15.5 nautical miles off the Sinai coast. Israeli officials later explained that the attack resulted from mistaken iden-

tity. The defense units believed the ship was Egyptian.

Temporary repairs were made to enable the Liberty to return to the United States. Last February the Navy announced that it had been withdrawn from service because the damage was too extensive to justify repairs.

Officials said the amount of compensation for each of the casualties was determined in accordance with domestic and international damage laws.

Among the factors taken into consideration were the age of the victim and his family status and number of dependents. An unspecified figure was included in each of the claims to compensate for "emotional anguish" to the survivors.