

Clark Clifford



Official portrait, c. 1947

Clark McAdams Clifford (December 25, 1906 – October 10, 1998) was an American lawyer who served as an important political adviser to Democratic presidents Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Jimmy Carter. His official government positions were White House Counsel (1946–1950), Chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board (1963–1968), and Secretary of Defense (1968–1969); Clifford was also influential in his role as an unofficial, informal presidential adviser in various issues. All four Democratic presidents of the Cold War era employed Clifford's services and relied on his counsel, marking him as one of the ultimate Washington insiders.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Clifford

As Truman's political advisor, Clark Clifford, believed that the U.S. Jewish vote and contributions were essential to winning the upcoming presidential election.

Attack on the USS Liberty

Clifford served as the chairman of the [President's Intelligence Advisory Board](#) during the 1967 [Six-Day War](#). In this capacity, he oversaw the official investigation of the 1967 [USS Liberty incident](#). As a staunch supporter of Israel, he was perplexed by the Israeli government's explanation following the attack: "We were baffled. From the beginning there was skepticism and disbelief about the Israeli version of events. We had enormous respect for [Israeli intelligence](#) and it was difficult to believe the *Liberty* had been attacked by mistake.

"That the *Liberty* could have been mistaken for the Egyptian supply ship *El Quseir* is unbelievable. *El Quseir* has one-fourth the displacement of the *Liberty*, roughly half the beam, is 180 feet shorter, and is very differently configured. Liberty's unusual antenna array and hull markings should have been visible to low-flying aircraft and torpedo boats. In the heat of battle the *Liberty* was able to identify one of the attacking torpedo boats as Israeli and to ascertain its hull number. In the same circumstances, trained Israeli naval personnel should have been able to easily see and identify the larger hull markings on the *Liberty*. The best interpretation of from available facts is that there were gross and

inexcusable failures in the command and control of subordinate Israeli naval and air elements...The unprovoked attack on the *Liberty* constitutes a flagrant act of gross negligence for which the Israeli Government should be held completely responsible, and the Israeli military personnel involved should be punished.”

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However, it was Clifford, under LBJ, who authorized the official report on the 1967 attack on USS Liberty. Clifford’s report found that the Israeli military was negligent but that the aggression against the Liberty was not premeditated. The Liberty Incident, The Clark Clifford Report, <http://www.thelibertyincident.com/clifford.html>, Kevin Ryan, *Another Nineteen* Chapter 11, Note 7.

Many of the survivors maintained that the attack was deliberate. 539: John Crewdson, New revelations in attack on American spy ship, Chicago Tribune, October 2, 2007 ; See USS Liberty Matrix Icon.



BCCI Scandal

Clifford went on to infamy as a leading figure in the terrorist financing Bank of Credit and Commerce International(BCCI). It was Clifford who first approached Saudi Arabian intelligence director Kamal Adham with the proposal to create such a network to fund off the books intelligence operations internationally.

Kevin Ryan, *Another Nineteen* Chapter 11.

NEW YORK -- Legendary Washington insider Clark Clifford and law partner Robert Altman were indicted Wednesday on federal and state charges of engineering the BCCI scandal, which one prosecutor called 'one of the biggest criminal enterprises in world history.' Clifford, 85, and Altman, 45, were indicted simultaneously by a federal grand jury in Washington and a state grand jury in New York, exactly one year after Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau announced the start of an

investigation into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. July 29, 1992

The three-count indictment, returned in U.S. District Court in Washington, alleged among other things that Clifford and Altman enriched themselves through loans from BCCI that were concealed from the Fed, and breached their duty of loyalty to the First American banks.

Clifford, confidant and adviser to all Democratic presidents beginning with Harry Truman, was chairman and Altman president of First American, the nation's largest bank holding company. The Arab-owned BCCI, which was forced to close its operations last year by bank regulators in several countries, secretly and illegally gained control of American Bankshares in 1982, according to investigators. Clifford's law firm was the attorney for BCCI at the time. A judge dismissed BCCI bank fraud and bribery charges against Clifford 86, citing his age and ill health.

<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1992/07/29/Clifford-Altman-indicted-in-BCCI-bank-fraud/5122712382400/>

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