



AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ANKARA, TURKEY

RELEASE IN
FULL

June 29, 2012

Dr. Robert Ballard
Ocean Exploration Trust
PO Box 42
Lyme, Connecticut 06371
USA

Dear Dr. Ballard:

We understand that the Government of Turkey has requested your assistance in the search for the Turkish Air Force RF-4 that was brought down off the coast of Syria on June 22.

As we have previously discussed, the United States supports the Turkish Government's determination to find its lost pilots and the wreckage of the Turkish aircraft. We wish to facilitate Turkish operations toward that purpose by any appropriate means. As Secretary Clinton said on June 24 we stand in solidarity with the Turkish people after the terrible loss of their pilots, and we lend our strong support to the Turkish government in this matter.

We recognize and respect that the E/V Nautilus is a privately-owned and operated vessel registered outside the United States, and that its management will take its own decisions with respect to any contractual services it may undertake with the Government of Turkey. Nonetheless, we greatly appreciate your offer to the Government of Turkey to support its search operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis J. Ricciardone".

Francis J. Ricciardone