



CAPTAIN M. F. DURKIN, USN

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF ELLISON:

This cruise to the Middle East marks, for many of us, the high point of our tour aboard ELLISON. The turbulent international conditions which exist today increased the challenge and the importance of our assignment to this vital and infrequently visited part of the world. ELLISON not only met her assignment, but did so in a manner which brought repeated praise from Ambassadors and Admirals.

The wonderful success which ELLISON enjoyed on this cruise is attributable to many factors, such as: thorough preparations for the cruise, interest and enthusiasm in the assignment, an unsurpassed spirit and attitude, and consistent day-to-day hard work. All of these factors represent high individual performance on the part of all hands.

I hope that the pages which follow in our cruise book will bring fond and pleasant memories. Certainly we shall never forget Christmas in Bahrain with HMS ESKIMO, Emperor Haile Selassie's visit aboard, Independence celebrations at Mauritius, the uniqueness of Yenbo and Chisimaio and all the other visits. Each and every officer and man played a critical part in all our evolutions. I am proud to have been a part of this most effective team which represented the United States of America in far-off lands so admirably.

To all of you, I wish continued success in all your future endeavors. The high standards and principles which we have lived by on this cruise will never fail you.

Michael F. Durkin
Captain, U.S. Navy