

CONFIDENTIAL

OPS
u. Master
Subject: LIBYA Relations
15915 - 1
pt. 2

ZZ ROME
GRS 214
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 281100Z APR 84
TO FLASH ROME
TELEGRAM NUMBER 157 OF 28 APRIL

PRIME - MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T65A/84

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
SR CRAXI. BEGINS.

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT MOMENTS IN
OUR DEALINGS WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN THE LAST 10 DAYS.
IT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS COMFORT TO HAVE YOUR RAPID, AND GENEROUS
AGREEMENT TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF
PROTECTING OUR INTERESTS IN LIBYA AND OF ENSURING THE SAFE
HANDLING OF THE DELICATE PROBLEM OF EVACUATING OUR STAFF FROM
TRIPOLI.

I AM VERY MUCH AWARE OF
THE ACTIVE SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASTIC PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WE
RECEIVED FROM YOUR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI IN ALL THIS. I HOPE YOU
WILL PASS ON MY WARMEST PERSONAL THANKS TO AMBASSADOR QUARONI,
COUNSELLOR CARDILLI AND THE REST OF YOUR EMBASSY STAFF IN TRIPOLI
FOR THEIR SELFLESS EFFORTS IN A VERY TENSE SITUATION. THEIR
SKILL AND COURAGE REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON THEM AND YOUR
COUNTRY.

I REALISE THAT THE TASK YOU HAVE TAKEN ON WILL NOT BE EASY
IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ITALY'S OWN INTERESTS IN LIBYA.
WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, LEFT TWO BRITISH OFFICIALS TO HELP
AMBASSADOR QUARONI LOOK AFTER THE BRITISH COMMUNITY. WE SHALL DO
WHAT WE CAN TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE DEMANDS WE MAKE ON HIM
AND HIS STAFF.

MY WARMEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES.

MARGARET THATCHER
ENDS.

HOWE

LIBYAN CRISIS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

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