#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### TOP SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JOHN M. POINDEXTER

SUBJECT:

Response to Libyan Terrorist Attacks

Issue

How to respond to the terrorist attacks perpetrated and supported by Libya.

#### Background

The bombing of the nightclub in West Berlin is the latest Libyan-backed terrorist attack against U.S. and allied interests. It has also provided us with the "smoking gun" evidence of the government of Libya's role. Prior to the bombing,

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#### DISCUSSION

I have asked George Shultz, Will Taft, Bill Casey and General John Wickham (Acting Chairman JCS) to attend the Monday, April 7, national security briefing in order to discuss our options and the recommendations made by the Terrorist Operations Sub-Group. An agenda for the meeting is at Tab A. Our counter-terrorism and intelligence experts believe that last night's attack is part of a sustained campaign launched by Qadahafi and that it will require a sustained response on our part. They have proposed a number of steps designed to respond to last night's attack and over the longer term, further isolate and undermine Qadhafi and his supporters in Libya:

-- U.S. military strikes against significant targets in Libya not later than Thursday, April 10.

TOP SECRET

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- -- Dispatch of a Presidential message to London, Rome, Paris, Bonn, and the Hague -- perhaps carried by a special emisssary who would show them our sanitized intelligence, explain our military response, and call on host governments to enforce the sanctions against Libya and close People's Bureaus offices.
- -- Have Ed Meese call upon the European Community Security and Interior Ministers organization (the Trevi Group) to convene in emergency session to discuss the Libyan threat and measures the allies can take in concert to better protect themselves and our citizens overseas.
- -- Prepare plans for further actions, including additional military strikes against higher value targets.

The most important issue for this meeting is to decide on the scope and timing of immediate strikes against Libya as a response to last night's terrorist attack. It is also necessary that the DoD be tasked to accelerate planning for expanded action beyond this response. We should also be considering the use of high technology military weapons for these operations that will reduce collateral damage and risk to U.S. forces.

RECOMMEN	DA	TI	ON
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OK NO	NO	That	you	approve	the	course	of	action	outlined
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### Response to Libyan Terrorist Attacks

#### **AGENDA**

April 7, 1986

9:30 a.m., Oval Office

Admiral Poindexter Introduction I.

Director Casey II. Intelligence Summary

A11 III. Course of Action

> ° Military Secretary Taft / General Wickham

- Target Set - Timing

° Diplomatic Secretary Shultz

- Strategy with Allies - Special Emissary / Message

- Trevi Group Meeting?

 Congressional Consultations Secretary Shultz

 Public Posture Admiral Poindexter

- Presidential Speech? - Press Conference

IV. Future Actions

Admiral Poindexter

° Expanded Target Set

Leadership and intelligence infrastructure
 Additional military and economic targets

- Psychological Warfare

- Mining

 Sustained campaign or respond only to further provacation

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NLS F95-093/1 #54

BY smf , NARA, DATE 1/18/05

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TALKING POINTS BY day , NARA, DATE 1/18/05

- The purpose of this meeting is to examine the evidence of Libyan complicity in the latest terrorist bombing in Berlin; decide on an appropriate response and discuss possible follow-on action.
- When we met on March 14 to approve the freedom of navigation operation in the Gulf of Sidra, we were aware of the possible Libyan military response and subsequent heightened risk of terrorist attacks. Both predictions have been fulfilled.
- (To Casey) Bill, could you please bring us up-to-date on the latest intelligence on the Berlin bombing as well as other Libyan terrorist operations.
- We have already agreed that Libyan terrorist attacks would require a U.S. military response.
- (To Taft and General Wickham) Will, could you and John review our strike options against Libyan targets.
- Our response has to be perceived as having a strong immediate connection to this latest bombing. We should aim for a response by Thursday at the latest.

TOP SECRET

- -- (To Shultz) George, we may have sufficient proof to convince our Allies to take positive action. The OSG suggested a Special Emmisary who would carry a letter from the President and de-sensitized intelligence to show Heads of State. They also suggest that Ed Meese call for an emergency meeting of the Trevi Group.
- -- The President has a news conference Wednesday evening? He will have to address Qadhafi's terrorism and the U.S. response head-on. If we don't strike until Thursday, how should we handle this?
- -- Is this the the time for a major Presidential address to the nation?
- -- Congress will have to be consulted. I recommend calling the leadership to the White House a few hours prior to the strikes to show them the evidence and review our response.
- -- Qadhafi has additional terrorist attacks planned, and we must expect that our strikes this week will generate even more. We need to consider how we are going to respond.

- -- We need to be able to strike Libya's leadership and intelligence infrastructure. Only then can we threaten those actually responsible for the terrorism. This would also seriously undermine Qadhafi's ability to govern and protect himself from an internal coup.
- -- What other military targets need to be struck. If this evolves into a series of strikes and counterstrikes, we have to knock out Libya's air and naval offensive capability and its air defenses in order to conduct the other options.
- -- (To Taft) Will, I think Defense should come up with an expanded set of military and economic targets in Libya and be ready to present them by Wednesday.
- -- How can we weaken Libyan public support for Qadhafi? We need to use psychological warfare and propaganda. Can we drop leaflets or beam radio broadcasts into Libya?
- -- As a follow-on option to isolate Libya and remove Qadhafi's resource base, we need to have a plan for overt mining of Libya's commercial harbors and oil transshipment facilities. We want to stop the flow of imports as well as exports.

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### TALKING POINTS

- This week, we sent a small military team to Paris to

  follow-up with President Mitterand's military advisors on
  the possibility of some type of cooperative efforts against

  Qadhafit
- -- We will be reviewing our options and will schedule an NSPG next week for you to consider future action.

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