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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SYSTEM II  
90288

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER  
SUBJECT: Letters regarding Libyan Terrorism

Issue

Should you send letters to France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom regarding support for a U.S. response to increased Libyan terrorist activity.

Facts

Ambassador Dick Walters departs for Europe Friday morning, April 11. He will brief the heads of government in the UK (April 12), France (April 12), Germany (April 13), Italy (April 14), and Spain (April 14). We have dispatched cables to our embassies requesting that they arrange these meetings for Ambassador Walters.

Discussion

These letters will be handcarried by Ambassador Walters and delivered during the meetings. It is important that the heads of government receive this personal correspondence from you which expresses the gravity of the situation. Ambassador Walters will use the letters as the basis for his briefing to each head of government. Ambassador Walters will be accompanied on the trip by Associate Deputy Director of the CIA, [REDACTED]. The party will depart for the U.S. on Monday afternoon, April 14.

Recommendation

OK                      No

\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_ That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachment  
Tab A - Letters

Prepared by:  
Oliver L. North

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Declassify: OADR

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DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS #95-023/1 #506

By amf, NARA, Date 1/18/05

E.O. 12958  
As Amended  
Sec. 1.4c

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SYSTEM II  
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

April 10, 1986

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH  
ROBERT L. EARL *CE*  
CRAIG P. COY *CE*  
HOWARD R. TEICHER *HT*  
JAMES R. STARK *JS for*

SUBJECT: Presidential letters regarding Libyan Terrorism

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to the President requesting that he sign the letters to the heads of government in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom (Tab A) regarding support for a U.S. response to increased Libyan terrorist activity. The cables at Tab II were coordinated with State.

The talking points at Tab III are for Ambassador Walters' use and have been cleared by State, CIA, and JCS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That you initial and forward the memo at Tab I.  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_
2. That you approve the talking points at Tab III.  
Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I - Poindexter Memo to the President  
Tab A - Presidential letters
- Tab II - Cables
- Tab III - Ambassador Walter's Talking Points

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Declassify: OADR

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NLS F95-023/1 #505  
BY anf, NARA, DATE 1/18/06

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Mr. President:

I am grateful that both you and Prime Minister Chirac have agreed to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. Both your country and mine are facing the continuing problem of Libyan-sponsored terrorism. I applaud your recent decision to expel the two Libyan diplomats from France, as well as the two other persons suspected of engaging in terrorist plots. I hope you will share the details of these intended attacks with other members of the Alliance and also offer your public and ours a clearer understanding of Colonel Qadhafi's efforts to hide his sponsorship of terrorist activity behind diplomatic cover.

I have asked Ambassador Walters to share with you the sensitive intelligence that we have obtained, which clearly and unequivocally links the Libyan government to the latest terrorist bombing in West Berlin on April 5. Through his Libyan People's Bureaus, Qadhafi is directing terrorist violence, which is aimed at inflicting maximum numbers of casualties in several other countries as well.

Colonel Qadhafi's policies and actions are totally unacceptable. A passive response by the West will only encourage Qadhafi and his radical allies to step up their attacks

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NLS F95-023/1 # 507

BY sm, NARA, DATE 1/18/05



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I appreciate your willingness to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. The problem is one that we face together. In this light, I applaud your recent decision to expel two Libyan diplomats from France for their terrorist activity.

I have asked Ambassador Walters to share with you the sensitive intelligence that we have obtained, which clearly and unequivocally links the Libyan government to the latest terrorist bombing in West Berlin on April 5. Through his Libyan People's Bureaus, the Qadhafi government is directing terrorist violence which is aimed at inflicting maximum numbers of casualties in several other countries as well.

Colonel Qadhafi's policies and actions are totally unacceptable. A passive response by the West will only encourage Qadhafi and his radical allies to step up their attacks against our interests and our people. This has been a one-sided pattern of radical terrorism without any firm, serious, or decisive Western response.

This lack of firm Western response has encouraged Qadhafi to escalate his terror campaign. He is convinced that no price will

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NLS F95-023/1 #508

BY smf, NARA, DATE 1/8/05

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THE WHITE HOUSE

be paid for this aggression against a civilized world. If we are to offer our peoples a respite from fear on our streets, on the seas, and in the air, Qadhafi and others like him must know that terrorism has severe and adverse consequences.

I hope that you and your countrymen will be able to support us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency  
Jacques Chirac  
Prime Minister of the French Republic  
Paris

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NLS 88-2734 # 509

BY [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

I appreciate your willingness to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. The problem is one that we face together. Your swift action to expel the two Libyan People's Bureau diplomats in Bonn was certainly a prudent and necessary preventive step against other acts of Libyan-orchestrated terrorism in your country.

I have asked Ambassador Walters to share with you the sensitive intelligence that we have obtained, which clearly and unequivocally links the Libyan government to the latest terrorist bombing in West Berlin on April 5. Through his Libyan People's Bureaus, the Qadhafi government is directing terrorist violence which is aimed at inflicting maximum numbers of casualties in several other countries as well.

Colonel Qadhafi's policies and actions are totally unacceptable. A passive response by the West will only encourage Qadhafi and his radical allies to step up their attacks against our interests and our people. This has been a one-sided pattern of radical terrorism without any firm, serious, or decisive Western response.

This lack of firm Western response has encouraged Qadhafi to escalate his terror

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NLS F95-073/1 # 509

BY amf, NARA, DATE 1/18/05

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campaign. He is convinced that no price will be paid for this aggression against a civilized world. If we are to offer our peoples a respite from fear on our streets, on the seas, and in the air, Qadhafi and others like him must know that terrorism has severe and adverse consequences.

I hope that you and your countrymen will be able to support us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rm

His Excellency  
Dr. Helmut Kohl  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Bonn

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NLS 115-1026-432

BY [signature] DATE 1/18/95



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate your willingness to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. Although somewhat less direct, Libyan involvement has also been shown in the murderous attacks on the Rome airport last December.

I have asked Ambassador Walters to share with you the sensitive intelligence that we have obtained, which clearly and unequivocally links the Libyan government to the latest terrorist bombing in West Berlin on April 5. Through his Libyan People's Bureaus, Qadhafi is directing terrorist violence, which is aimed at inflicting maximum numbers of casualties in several other countries as well.

Colonel Qadhafi's policies and actions are totally unacceptable. A passive response by the West will only encourage Qadhafi and his radical allies to step up their attacks against our interests and our people. This has been a one-sided pattern of radical terrorism without any firm, serious, or decisive Western response.

This lack of firm Western response has encouraged Qadhafi to escalate his terror campaign. He is convinced that no price will be paid for this aggression against a civilized

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NLS F95-023/1 #510

BY amf, NARA, DATE 1/18/05

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
world. If we are to offer our peoples a respite from fear on our streets, on the seas, and in the air, Qadhafi and others like him must know that terrorism has severe and adverse consequences.

I hope that you and your countrymen will be able to support us in this endeavor.

Such short notice. I also appreciate your warm and supportive response to our rationale for the action we intend to take against Libyan sponsored terrorism.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

The two wider concerns in my message are my concerns as well. I have agonized over the issue of collateral damage and loss of innocent lives, as well as the possibility that Qadhafi might, as you say, respond with more wide-ranging action. I will continue to weigh these concerns as we move forward with our planning and assess the various advantages and disadvantages of certain specific targets and methods of engagement.

I shall ensure that we keep you fully informed of these decisions as they occur.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Bettino Craxi  
President of the Council of Ministers  
of the Italian Republic  
Rome

The Right Honorable  
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister  
London

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NLS 175-083/1-211

BY [signature] DATE [signature]

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Margaret:

I appreciate your willingness to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. I also appreciate your warm and supportive message of April 10, in response to our rationale for the action we intend to take against Libyan sponsored terrorism.

The two wider concerns you expressed in that message are my concerns as well. I have agonized over the issue of collateral damage and loss of innocent lives, as well as the possibility that Qadhafi might, as you say, respond with more wide-ranging action. I will continue to weigh these concerns as we move forward with our planning and assess the various advantages and disadvantages of certain specific targets and methods of engagement.

I shall ensure that we keep you fully informed of these decisions as they occur.

Sincerely,

Rm

The Right Honorable  
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister  
London

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NLS F95-023/1 # 511

BY Amf, NARA, DATE 1/18/05

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I appreciate your willingness to meet with my special envoy, Ambassador Vernon Walters, on such short notice. The problem is one that we face together.

I have asked Ambassador Walters to share with you the sensitive intelligence that we have obtained, which clearly and unequivocally links the Libyan government to the latest terrorist bombing in West Berlin on April 5. Through his Libyan People's Bureaus, the Qadhafi government is directing terrorist violence which is aimed at inflicting maximum numbers of casualties in several other countries as well.

Colonel Qadhafi's policies and actions are totally unacceptable. A passive response by the West will only encourage Qadhafi and his radical allies to step up their attacks against our interests and our people. This has been a one-sided pattern of radical terrorism without any firm, serious, or decisive Western response.

This lack of firm Western response has encouraged Qadhafi to escalate his terror campaign. He is convinced that no price will be paid for this aggression against a civilized world. If we are to offer our peoples a respite from fear on our streets, on the

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NLS F95-823/1 # 512

BY anf, NARA, DATE 1/18/05

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seas, and in the air, Qadhafi and others like him must know that terrorism has severe and adverse consequences.

I hope that you and your countrymen will be able to support us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency  
Felipe Gonzalez Marquez  
President of the Government of Spain  
Madrid

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