

~~TOP SECRET~~

TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

~~TOP SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS

Message from the President To Prime Minister Thatcher
For Charles Powell
From John M. Poindexter

Dear Margaret:

Thank you very much for your understanding of the reasoning behind my decision to act against Qadhafi's policy and practice of terrorism. Your offer of cooperation is most heartening and reaffirms the fundamental strength of the special relationship between our two countries.

In your message of April 10, you spoke of the need for targets which we might strike to be demonstrably involved in the conduct and support of Libyan terrorist activities. To achieve our objectives, U.S. forces will strike targets that are (1) directly related to Qadhafi's terrorist activities, and (2) related to his support for terrorist activities through command and control functions and logistic support activities. In order to defend our own forces, limited defense suppression missions must be undertaken as well.

~~TOP SECRET~~

1350 4/11/86
Read to President
on secure phone.

Released:

J. Poindexter

Transmit ASAP.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

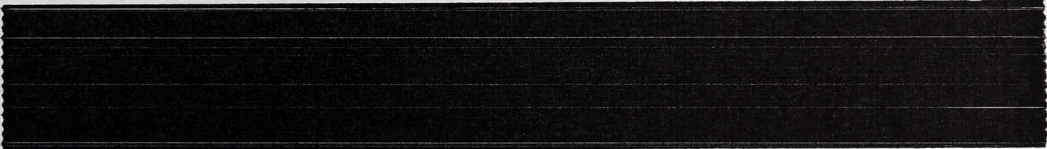
NLS F95-0231 #42

By AMJ, NARA, Date 1/10/85

~~TOP SECRET~~

Let me assure you that we are not targetting civilians, economic facilities or regular Libyan military troop concentrations. Again, a principal criterion for all our strikes will be to ensure the least possible risk of collateral damage and minimize risk to our own personnel.

I am convinced that FB-111's and supporting aircraft operating from bases in the United Kingdom are essential to provide us with the safest means of achieving our objectives with lowest possible risk of collateral damage. This derives from the aircraft's advanced avionics and precision strike capabilities.



E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4d

I am confident that the guidelines which I have given my military planners satisfy your concerns regarding my intentions.

With warmest regards,

Ron

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OUTGOING

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 2140
SIT111

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TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON

~~TOP SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH02141

FOR CHARLES POWELL

FROM JOHN M. POINDEXTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

BEGIN TEXT:

APRIL 11, 1986

DEAR MARGARET:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONING
BEHIND MY DECISION TO ACT AGAINST QADHAFI'S POLICY AND PRACTICE
OF TERRORISM. YOUR OFFER OF COOPERATION IS MOST HEARTENING AND
REAFFIRMS THE FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN YOUR MESSAGE OF APRIL 10, YOU SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR
TARGETS WHICH WE MIGHT STRIKE TO BE DEMONSTRABLY INVOLVED IN THE
CONDUCT AND SUPPORT OF LIBYAN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. TO ACHIEVE

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS E95-023/1 #43

By smf, NARA, Date 1/10/05

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OUTGOING

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 2140 DTG: 112115Z APR 86 PSN: 052053

OUR OBJECTIVES, U. S. FORCES WILL STRIKE TARGETS THAT ARE (1) DIRECTLY RELATED TO QADHAFI'S TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AND (2) RELATED TO HIS SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THROUGH COMMAND AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. IN ORDER TO DEFEND OUR OWN FORCES, LIMITED DEFENSE SUPPRESSION MISSIONS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN AS WELL.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE NOT TARGETTING CIVILIANS, ECONOMIC FACILITIES OR REGULAR LIBYAN MILITARY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. AGAIN, A PRINCIPAL CRITERION FOR ALL OUR STRIKES WILL BE TO ENSURE THE LEAST POSSIBLE RISK OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE AND MINIMIZE RISK TO OUR OWN PERSONNEL.

I AM CONVINCED THAT FB-111'S AND SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE US WITH THE SAFEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES WITH LOWEST POSSIBLE RISK OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE. THIS DERIVES FROM THE AIRCRAFT'S ADVANCED AVIONICS AND PRECISION STRIKE CAPABILITIES.

E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4d

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE GUIDELINES WHICH I HAVE GIVEN MY MILITARY PLANNERS SATISFY YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING MY INTENTIONS.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS,

RON

END TEXT
BT
0383

~~TOP SECRET~~