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EUROPEAN WIRELESS FILE

TUESDAY 15th APRIL 1986

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SPECIAL WIRELESS FILE

(Overnight Material on Libya)

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STORY: SF0010415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0010415 BT*SF-001 04/14/86
 U.S. EXERCISING "RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE," SPEAKES SAYS (305)
 (Text: White House statement on U.S. strikes at Libya)
 Washington -- U.S. military forces struck targets in Libya April 14 to "preempt and discourage Libyan attacks against innocent civilians in the future," according to White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

In light of the "reprehensible act of violence" against a discotheque in West Berlin April 5 "for which Libya bears direct responsibility" and "clear evidence that Libya is planning future attacks," Speakes declared, "the United States has chosen to exercise its right of self-defense."

Following is the text of his statement:
 (begin text)

U.S. military forces this evening have executed a series of carefully-planned air strikes against terrorist-related targets in Libya. These strikes have been completed and our aircraft are returning.

Libya bears direct responsibility for the bombing in West Berlin on April 5 that resulted in the death of Army Sergeant Kenneth Ford and injury to a number of American servicemen and others. In light of this reprehensible act of violence and clear evidence that Libya is planning future attacks, the United States has chosen to exercise its right of self-defense. It is our hope this action will preempt and discourage Libyan attacks against innocent civilians in the future.

U.S. forces struck targets that were part of Qadhafi's terrorist infrastructure -- the command and control systems, intelligence, communications, logistics and training facilities. These are sites which allow Qadhafi to perpetrate terrorist acts.

In addition to the strikes at terrorist centers, the president also authorized limited defense suppression missions in order to defend our own forces engaged in this mission. Every effort was made to avoid civilian casualties and limit collateral damage, and to avoid casualties to those American servicemen who are participating.

(end text)

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STORY: SF0020415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0020415 BT*SF-002 04/14/86
 REAGAN SAYS U.S. FORCES SUCCEEDED IN LIBYA MISSION (1090)
 (Text: statement to nationwide television audience)

Washington -- President Reagan says U.S. forces succeeded in their bombing mission over Libya April 14.

The mission, he told a nationwide television audience, was in retaliation for the terrorist bombing of the La Belle nightclub in West Berlin carried out by Libyan agents.

"The evidence is now conclusive," the president said, "that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime."

Following is the text of Reagan's remarks:
 (begin text)

My fellow Americans,

At 7:00 o'clock this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets that Muammar Qadhafi's subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission.

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Qadhafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Qadhafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

On March 25, more than a week before the attack, orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin, to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans, to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb. On April 4th, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable.

We have solid evidence about other attacks Qadhafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close cooperation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre -- using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Qadhafi is not only an enemy of the United States; his record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, as well as the Western hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. Before Qadhafi seized power in 1969 the people of Libya had been friends of the United States. And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who cooperated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the American people.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core Western policy that there be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Qadhafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Qadhafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in night clubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime -- we will respond, so long as I am in the Oval Office.

Self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, a mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We believe that this pre-emptive action against his terrorist installations will not only diminish Colonel Qadhafi's capacity to export terror; it will provide him with incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. I have no illusions that tonight's action will ring down

the curtain on Qadhafi's reign of terror. But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women. We will persevere.

This afternoon, we consulted with the leaders of Congress what we were about to do, and why. Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission: It is an honor to be your commander in chief.

We Americans are slow to anger. We always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

Despite our repeated warnings, Qadhafi continued his reckless policy of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong.

I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills.

I meant it.

I said that we would act with others if possible, and alone, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

(end text)

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STORY: SF0030415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0030415 BT*SF-003 04/14/86

U.S. STRIKES AT TERRORIST-CONNECTED TARGETS IN LIBYA (360)

(Article on Speakes briefing at the White House)

By Alexander M. Sullivan

USIA White House Correspondent

Washington -- The United States struck at terrorist-connected targets in Libya April 14, the White House said.

Aircraft hit "the command and control systems, intelligence, communications, logistics and training facilities," Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes told reporters. "These are sites which allow (Libyan dictator) Qadhafi to perpetrate terrorist acts."

(Senate Majority Leader Dole, who was briefed on the raids before they occurred, said aircraft from bases in Great Britain, as well as Navy planes from the aircraft carriers USS America and USS Coral Sea, participated in the attack. The United States has F-111 bombers stationed in Great Britain.)

Speakes made the announcement within 30 minutes of the start of the air attacks in the Tripoli and Benghazi areas. He said President Reagan had authorized "defense suppression missions" at Libyan anti-aircraft bases as well.

He said "every effort was made to minimize collateral damage" to other property and to civilians. Speakes described the attacks as "a series of carefully-planned air strikes against terrorist-related targets in Libya," flying in at 2 am Libyan time.

He said Libya "bears direct responsibility for the bombing in West Berlin on April 5," which caused the death of a U.S. soldier. "In light of this reprehensible act of violence," he said, "and (of) clear evidence that Libya is planning future attacks, the United States has chosen to exercise its right of self-defense. It is our hope this action will preempt and discourage Libyan attacks against innocent civilians in the future."

The air attacks followed a special mission to European capitals by the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vernon Walters. According to news accounts, Walters informed European leaders in detail of evidence, much of it apparently based on communications intercepts from Tripoli to the Libyan Peoples Bureau in East Berlin, showing clearly that Qadhafi had ordered the bombing of the West Berlin nightclub in which the American soldier was killed.

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STORY: SF0040415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0040415 BT*SF-004 04/14/86

LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM (370)

(Text: White House fact sheet)

-- Qadhafi uses terrorism as a primary instrument of foreign policy to undermine U.S. and other Western interests in the Third World, attack Libyan dissidents and threaten moderate regimes which oppose his efforts to subvert them.

-- Libya operates numerous terrorist training camps -- the number and location vary -- which provide instruction in demolition, sabotage, hijacking, assassination and various commando and guerrilla techniques.

-- Libya abuses diplomatic privilege to smuggle arms and explosives and store them at its diplomatic missions, as occurred during the shoot-out at the Libyan embassy in London in April 1984.

-- Libyan diplomats have also been directly involved in several recent terrorist operations, including a plot to kill dissident Libyan students in the United States last year.

-- Libya has a long history of support for radical Palestinian terrorists, including the notorious Abu Nidal group. Over the past year, Abu Nidal has shifted his base of operations to Libya, and has done so with the active support and knowledge of the Libyan government.

-- Abu Nidal has conducted at least 30 terrorist attacks since the beginning of 1984. Over two-thirds of the group's nearly 20 attacks last year took place in Western Europe and have taken an increasing toll of innocent bystanders.

-- Libya was deeply involved in helping Abu Nidal carry out the attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports and provided at least three of the Tunisian passports used by the terrorists. Qadhafi's spokesman referred to these attacks as "heroic actions."

-- Abu Nidal was also responsible for the hijacking of an Egyptian airliner last November which resulted in the deaths of 59 passengers, including one American. Libya is suspected of providing assistance in this attack.

-- Qadhafi's agents are particularly active in the Arab world, where they have been involved in assassination attempts, provision of weapons to radical groups, and plots to destabilize and undermine neighboring governments.

-- Qadhafi's activities are not limited to the Middle East. He provides money, training and technical support to revolutionary and terrorist groups as disparate as the Sandinistas, Colombian M-19 guerrillas, Caribbean leftist movements, the Irish Republican Army, rebel movements throughout Africa and muslim insurgents in Thailand and the Philippines.

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STORY: SF0050415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0050415 BT*SF-005 04/14/86
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ESCALATES (890)
(Text: White House fact sheet)

The costs of global terrorism are both obvious and insidious, with the United States and some of its Western allies among its most prominent targets and victims. The direct human costs of terrorism are staggering -- some 800 major attacks which caused more than 2,200 casualties (dead and wounded) last year alone. The material costs -- direct damage, expenses for enhanced physical security, lost productivity, as well as the psychological strain on fearful citizens -- are considerable. An even greater cost, however, is the unmeasurable damage done by terrorists to the fabric of peaceful international relations: through intimidation and indiscriminate violence, they have turned airports, city streets, and diplomatic and business facilities into battlegrounds.

In recent years, certain governments have brazenly adopted terrorism as an apparently low-risk and sometimes elective means of pursuing their national goals. As persons and installations at obvious risk have improved their security, terrorists have responded by becoming more indiscriminate. No longer are innocent bystanders spared in the terrorist onslaught.

State supported terrorism -- virtually all of which emanates from the Middle East -- has become a most lethal component of international terrorism. And Libyan leader Qadhafi, who has used the terrorist weapon to protect his regime and attack his opponents at home and

abroad, has now turned increasingly against U.S. and Allied targets. Libya has forged close links to radical terrorist groups whose lethal professional know-how he can exploit. The hijacking of the Egyptian airliner to Malta last November and the shooting attacks at home and Vienna airports in December marked the beginning of a new and more lethal phase in Libyan supported terrorism.

Libyan Terrorism Since Rome And Vienna

Libyan terrorist activity has accelerated dramatically since then. Following the encounter with U.S. naval forces in the Gulf of Sidra in late March, Qadhafi ordered a number of so-called People's Bureaus, including the one in East Berlin, to attack U.S. citizens and facilities. Warnings were dispatched to U.S. diplomatic and military posts abroad which were asked to warn private Americans. On March 26, the fact of this warning was announced by the Department of State. On March 27, a U.S. representative met separately with officials from the GDR and USSR to apprise them of the threat to Americans in West Berlin from the LPB in East Berlin, and called upon them to prevent any terrorist acts.

Libyan Anti-U.S. Attacks in Western Europe and Beirut

We believe Libya was directly involved in that April bombing of the West Berlin nightclub frequented by Americans. On the evening of April 4, Berlin time, the LPB in East Berlin told Tripoli, Libya, that an attack would take place on April 5. U.S. security personnel in West Berlin had begun to warn military personnel to vacate bars and night clubs but had not gotten to the La Belle discotheque when the bomb exploded at 0130 on April 5. Subsequently, the LPB in East Berlin told Tripoli that the "operation" had been successful and that it could not be traced to the LPB.

Several Libyans stationed in East Berlin and known to have been involved in previous terrorist activities traveled to West Berlin frequently in the last two weeks.

One of these operatives apparently is a demolitions expert who was involved in the 1984 murder of a Libyan dissident in West Germany. He traveled to West Berlin three times between March 27 and April 5 using Libyan diplomatic documentation issued under alias.

Two other Libyans were assigned to London in 1984 when a Libyan-directed wave of anti-dissident bombings took place in Britain.

They also may have been involved in the murder of a British policewoman in front of the Libyan People's Bureau in April 1984, and were expelled from the UK with all other Libyan diplomats after the incident. One of the two also was later expelled from Brussels.

A fourth Libyan was declared persona non grata from Bonn last year for transporting explosives for terrorist purposes.

There is compelling evidence of Libyan involvement in other planned attacks against the United States in recent weeks, several of which were designed to cause maximum casualties similar to the Berlin bombing.

France expelled two members of the Libyan People's Bureau in Paris for their involvement in a planned operation against the American Embassy. A North African and his accomplices were to attack visa applicants waiting in line at the Embassy on March 28.

Six days later, France expelled two disgruntled Fatah Force 17 members recruited by Libya to conduct another operation against the United States in Paris.

On April 6, a Libyan-inspired plot to attack the U.S. Embassy in Beirut resulted in a near miss by a 107mm rocket which exploded on launch.

In late March, Turkish police arrested two Tunisians in Istanbul who claimed they were to conduct terrorist operations against the United States in Turkey on behalf of the Libyans. Libyan intelligence is planning to attack one of several U.S. targets in Turkey using explosives. The operation was planned to inflict maximum casualties.

The Libyan People's Bureau in Vienna is planning a terrorist operation against an unknown target on April 17.

Libyan operatives are suspected of surveilling U.S. personnel and facilities in at least 35 reported instances in Europe, Africa and Asia this year.

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SLSF0060415 BT*SF-006 04/14/86
 U.S. AIR STRIKE AIMED AT QADHAFI'S TERRORIST CAPACITY (610)
 (Article on April 14 Reagan statement on television)
 By Alexander M. Sullivan
 USIA White House Correspondent

Washington -- The U.S. air strike against terrorist-connected targets in Libya was intended to "diminish" Colonel Qadhafi's capacity to export terrorism, President Reagan said April 14, and to persuade him to "alter his criminal behavior."

Citing direct evidence that Qadhafi's regime "planned and executed" the April 5 bomb blast in a West Berlin night club, Reagan told the American people in a televised address that he had acted after exhausting peaceful methods to change Qadhafi's actions. "We tried quiet diplomacy," the president said, "public condemnation, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded."

Secretary of Defense Weinberger, briefing reporters after Reagan's speech, said 18 U.S. F-111 aircraft flying from bases in Great Britain flew 4,500 kilometers, along a circuitous route, to join with 15 naval aircraft from the Sixth Fleet in hitting targets near Tripoli and Benghazi. He said the targets included a military airport near Tripoli, a barracks-bunker headquarters sometimes used by Qadhafi, a training area for marine commandos, and an alternate command post. He told a questioner it is a "fair assumption" that the aircraft used the indirect route because Washington had sought permission to over-fly France and were refused. He said the indirect route added 1,200 nautical miles to the flight.

Reagan told the American people he is under "no illusion" that the air strikes will end terrorism. "But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women," he said. "We will persevere."

He termed the night club bomb attack a "monstrous brutality" and said the Qadhafi regime had given orders March 25 "to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans" in West Berlin "to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Two persons were killed and 200 injured in the April 5 blast. "Our evidence" of Libyan complicity, the president said, "is direct, it is precise, it is irrefutable."

The president said cooperation between allies has begun to take its toll on aborted terrorist activities. He praised France for its cooperation in halting a planned "massacre," using grenades and small arms, against civilians standing in line for visas at an American embassy.

He said the European allies who cooperated with Washington in the Libyan raid "have the permanent gratitude" of the American people. He reminded the Europeans that there is "no security, no safety in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of Western policy that there be no sanctuary for terror and to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together."

The president made it plain he has no quarrel with the Libyan people, whom he described as friends of the United States before Qadhafi seized power in 1969. "I'm sure that today most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world," he said. Reagan said the air strike represented an action Washington had to take, and he added, "If necessary, we shall do it again."

Earlier, Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes told reporters Qadhafi's regime has been planning attacks and conducting surveillance on U.S. embassies in ten African countries. He said three Libyan agents arrived in one state last week to set up the bombing of the embassy and the kidnapping of the ambassador. He did not name the country. He said Libyans have planned attacks against several U.S. embassies in the Middle East.

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STORY: SF0070415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSF0070415 BT*SF-007 04/14/86

CORRECTION SF-002 (REAGAN SAYS U.S. FORCES) (90)

Make first sentence of second graf of text, beginning X X X At

7:00 o'clock X X X, read X X X At 7:00 o'clock this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets that support Muammar Qadhafi's subversive activities. X X X

Pick up at next sentence, beginning X X X The attacks were concentrated X X X.

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STORY: SFO080415

DATE: 04/15/86

SLSFO080415 BT*SF-008 04/14/86
 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON U.S. ACTION IN LIBYA (3010)
 (Text: White House guidance paper)

CLOSING LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAUS

Q: What have our allies done to cooperate with us in countering Libyan terrorism? Why haven't the Germans, French, and Italians closed down Libyan People's Bureaus for example?

A: We have been working closely with our allies to counter international terrorism. Some have taken measures and we applaud their efforts. Today the EC foreign ministers, meeting in a special session in the Hague, decided to restrict the movement of Libyan diplomatic and consular personnel, reduce the staffs at the Libyan People's Bureaus, and institute stricter visa requirements. Much still remains to be done and our consultations continue.

OVERTHROWING QADHAFI

Q: Is the United States trying to kill Qadhafi or to replace him with a friendly regime?

A: No, the United States is neither trying to kill Qadhafi nor replace his regime with a government more friendly to the United States. What we are trying to do is stop Qadhafi's direction of and support for international terrorism.

Our forces struck at the nerve centers of Libyan-backed terrorism.

MESSAGE FROM QADHAFI

Q: There are reports that Colonel Qadhafi has sent a message to President Reagan to negotiate an end to the crisis. Is this true and how will the president respond?

A: We have not received a formal message from Colonel Qadhafi as of now. Belgium represents the United States' interests with Libya since we have no formal diplomatic relations. If Colonel Qadhafi has a message for the president, it can be conveyed through appropriate channels with the Belgian Embassy.

As we have said so often before, the best message that Qadhafi can send is by his actions. If he truly wished to seek an end to our differences, he could call off his planned attacks on American tourists, servicemen, and diplomats. We have sought through peaceful means to convince Qadhafi that his policies and actions of international terrorism are unacceptable and cannot be tolerated in the world community.

EMISSARY

Q: Would you comment on press reports that the president sent a special emissary to Europe to discuss the strike with our allies? Where did he go?

A: Yes, Ambassador Walters travelled to several countries in Europe as a special presidential emissary prior to the strikes. I will not go into further detail on which countries were consulted or what the substance of those consultations might have been.

ALLIED COOPERATION

Q: Would you comment on press reports that some of our friends and allies (Egypt, UK, Italy) refused to let us use their air facilities and NATO bases for the operation.

A: I will not comment on any discussions concerning contingency and military planning with allies and friends. However, I can state categorically that we were acting in accordance with all agreements with our allies.

Q: Were any allied facilities used?

A: I would refer any questions on the military operation to the Department of Defense.

Q: (If any allied facilities were used after the operation.)

Did you have host nation permission to use...?

A: Because of (casualties/problems with planes/etc.), we did land at... Obviously, we had no way of knowing in advance and could not possibly have consulted on this issue. Moreover, it is not common practice to have to consult regarding emergency occurrences such as these.

Q: Which of our allies did you consult with before launching the attack?

A: We obviously were in touch with a number of friends and allies. I will not comment on the particulars of any consultations.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ACTIONS

Q: Why did you respond with military force after the emergency meeting of the EC foreign ministers called for restraint and announced an arms ban on Libya, as well as measures against LPBs in Europe?

A: The president was aware of the eleventh hour actions taken at the EC foreign ministers meeting. These actions included:

- a reduction in the staffs of LPBs;
- restriction in the movement of Libyan diplomatic and consular officials; and
- strengthening of visa application procedures.

Although these actions are certainly a step in the right direction, in our judgement they do not go far enough to ensure that the future terrorist attacks being planned by Libya in more than a dozen countries will be forestalled. The president felt an urgent responsibility to act decisively in light of the immediate Libyan threat.

It is also worth noting that the EC did not produce those actions until after the United States had begun to consult with its key allies concerning possible military action.

ARAB REACTION

Q: Are you not just building up Qadhafi further in the Arab world by attacking him? Is it not true that no Arab government can afford to be seen supporting the United States against Qadhafi at this time?

A: With respect to specific Arab reaction, I (have not seen any yet) (cannot comment on the motives behind those reactions). But I will say that a number of Arab countries have previously said privately that they appreciated our willingness to stand up to Qadhafi. I dare say we will have similar reactions this time.

SOVIETS

Q: Did you inform the Soviets?

A: Yes, as with the Freedom of Navigation exercise, we talked with the Soviets as events were underway to avoid a miscalculation on their part.

Q: Doesn't this U.S. strike risk direct hostilities or confrontation with Soviet forces? Won't they support their ally, Qadhafi?

A: We have made clear to the Soviets that our actions are not directed at them. The Soviet Union does not have a Treaty of Friendship and Assistance with Libya and we do not expect the Soviets to provide active military support to Qadhafi.

Q: Did you use the hotline?

A: No, the hotline was not used.

WAR WITH LIBYA

Q: Is the United States going to war with Libya?

A: No, the United States has neither declared nor conducted war against Libya. What we have done is conducted an appropriate military response to prevent intended acts of international terrorist acts by Libya. Such preemption is allowed under international law according to the doctrine of self-defense.

WAR POWERS

Q: Did you consult with congressional leaders before the strike as required under the War Powers Resolution?

A: The president consulted with the congressional leadership of the House and Senate prior to commencement of the strikes and intends to make a full report to the Congress within 48 hours.

PLANNING

Q: When did the administration decide to retaliate?

A: No comment.

EVIDENCE

Q: What evidence do you have linking Libya with the Berlin bombing?

A: We learned in late March that Qadhafi had sent orders to a number of so-called People's Bureaus, including East Berlin, to attack U.S. citizens and facilities. Subsequently, members of the LPB, with records of previous terrorist activity, were seen and identified in West Berlin by U.S. and West Berlin security personnel who were on alert. On the evening of April 4, Berlin time, we learned that the LPB in East Berlin told Tripoli, Libya, that an attack would take place on April 5. Subsequently, the LPB in East Berlin told Tripoli that the "operation" had been successful and that it could not be traced to the LPB. The same pattern of Libyan planning to attack Americans and others has been identified elsewhere, but for various reasons there have as yet been no other "successes." This is due to good security and intelligence by the United States and to good cooperation from friendly governments. However, we can not afford to sit back and wait passively for Qadhafi's murderers to try again and again.

WARNINGS

Q: What warnings did you issue as a result of the advanced indications of an attack?

A: We sent warnings to our diplomatic and military posts abroad and they were asked to warn private Americans. On March 27, our representative met separately with officials from the GDR and USSR to apprise them of the threat of Americans in West Berlin from the LPB in East Berlin and called upon them to prevent any terrorist acts.

Upon receiving more immediate warnings of an attack, U.S. security personnel in West Berlin began to warn our military personnel to vacate bars and night clubs. Unfortunately, they had not yet gotten to La Belle discotheque when the bomb went off at 1:30 a.m. on April 5.

QADHAFI'S TERRORISM

Q: What other terrorist attacks has Qadhafi been behind?

A: Our policy has always been to not answer questions that involve sensitive intelligence. The public record Qadhafi's involvement in many acts of aggression is clear and extends back many years. A British policewoman was murdered in front of the Libyan People's Bureau (LPB) in London in May 1984. The British closed the LPB as a result.

He has sent assassination squads all around the world, including the United States, to kill Libyan dissidents living in exile.

Libya has been convincingly linked to the brutal attacks at Rome and Vienna airports last December 27.

Qadhafi routinely gives material support to Palestinian terrorists like Abu Nidal.

In March, Qadhafi hosted what amounted to an international terrorist convention in Tripoli, with hundreds of terrorists from groups around the world attending.

FUTURE ATTACKS

Q: What evidence do you have of additional Libyan terrorist operations now in planning or underway?

A: We have highly reliable intelligence that Qadhafi and his key lieutenants are planning more attacks on U.S. citizens and facilities in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

-- In Africa, Libyans have been planning attacks and conducting surveillance of U.S. facilities in 10 countries. Last week, three Libyan agents arrived in one African state to set up the bombing of our embassy chancellery and the kidnapping of our ambassador.

-- In the Middle East, the Libyans have planned several attacks against U.S. embassies and have encouraged other terrorist groups there to conduct similar attacks.

-- In Latin America, Libyan diplomats have American diplomats and dependents.

-- Libya has also directed its agents to strike U.S. commercial interests, including U.S. international air carriers.

SYRIA/IRAN

Q: Aren't Syria and Iran just as responsible as Libya for state-supported terrorism? Why doesn't the U.S. treat them similar to

Libya?

A: We are equally concerned about Syrian and Iranian support for terrorist activities. Both states are on our "terrorism list," which affects commercial and trade controls. We have said that, when we have proof, we will hold accountable those responsible. In this case, the evidence points to Libya.

U.S. ACTION AGAINST LIBYAN TERRORISM

Q: You say this U.S. attack on Libya is in response to Qadhafi's terrorism campaign, but that our last strike was to defend our ships during a Freedom of Navigation operation. Wasn't the real objective of the Freedom of Navigation exercise all along to retaliate for the Rome/Vienna attack?

A: The United States cannot and will not tolerate state sponsored terrorism. This has been our longstanding policy. Following the Rome/Vienna massacres we took a number of political and economic measures aimed at persuading Qadhafi to abandon his support for terrorists. We made it clear that if he continued sponsoring terrorist, and our other incremental steps did not deter him, we would be forced to take military measures. We kept our word.

As we said at the time of the Freedom of Navigation operation, we responded in self-defense only after Qadhafi ordered and carried out attacks on our forces while they were operating in international waters.

OBJECTIVE OF STRIKE

Q: What did you hope to achieve militarily in launching this attack? What did you hope to accomplish politically?

A: Our objective was to inflict damage to Qadhafi's capability to direct and control the export of international terrorism. The United States, and for that matter, all freedom loving peoples of the world, cannot tolerate terrorism. When we can clearly identify those responsible for terrorist acts, we will hold them accountable. The military goal, therefore, was to strike targets in a way that would damage Qadhafi's ability to perpetrate terrorist acts. The political goal was to show that such attacks are a consequence of undertaking terrorist actions -- that terrorism cannot be supported without incurring a heavy price. We have successfully accomplished both objectives.

We hope that this action will deter future terrorist attacks. Nevertheless, we have no illusions about Qadhafi and other terrorists support for and export of terrorism. We may even face escalating attacks from him in the near future. Yet the purpose of our response was not to force a definitive end to his terrorist tactics. Rather, it was to send a clear message that we will no longer tolerate the death of innocent Americans and others. We are confident the message was heard and understood.

EXCUSE TO ATTACK

Q: Wasn't your real motive from the beginning to provoke Qadhafi so that you would have the excuse to strike Libya directly and more strongly as you have just done?

A: No. Colonel Qadhafi bears full responsibility for this turn of events. We know that his terrorist campaign was planned and underway long before the Gulf of Sidra operations. He is simply using the Gulf of Sidra operation as a convenient excuse for his unprovoked attacks. He has long supported terrorists who commit heinous crimes indiscriminately against innocent people of all nationalities. The irrefutable evidence that Qadhafi ordered the brutal Berlin bombing proves his cowardice to the world.

TARGETS

Q: Why did you choose the targets that you did?

A: Five targets were carefully studied and selected on the basis of their relation to Qadhafi's direction and support of terrorism. These five targets were:

1. Al Azziziyah barracks in Tripoli -- the main headquarters of Libyan planning and direction of its terrorist attacks overseas.
2. The Al Jumahiriyah barracks in Benghazi -- an alternate command post to the Al Azziziyah barracks.
3. The Sidi Bilal port facility -- training base for Libyan commandos.
4. The military side of the Tripoli airport -- IL-76 aircraft

transport military and subversive materiel around the world.

5. The Benina military airfield -- military suppression target, home base for Libyan fighter and bomber aircraft. It also supports the resupply of military and subversive materiel in the war against Chad.

Also evaluated very carefully was the possibility of collateral damage and casualties among innocent civilians. The targets and the means of attack were selected to prevent such damage and casualties as much as possible.

SA-5 SITES

Q: The Libyans, with Soviet aid, repaired the SA-5 sites quickly after we took them out and these were operational during this last strike. Why didn't the Sixth Fleet inflict more permanent damage at that time?

A: Our response at the time of the Libyan attacks against U.S. forces conducting a peaceful exercise in the Gulf of Sidra was considered appropriate. Our purpose was not to do disproportionate damage, rather it was to protect our assets and to send a clear message that we will respond if attacked.

THREE CARRIERS

Q: You used three carrier battle groups to conduct a Freedom of Navigation exercise last month. Why did you believe it sufficient to strike Libya with only two CUBGs this time?

A: The Freedom of Navigation exercise was a long-planned event for which we were able to bring together three CUBGs, the assets which seemed optimal for all possible contingencies. The response to Libyan terrorism needed to be immediate in order to prevent the additional Libyan-directed terrorist acts that were being planned in several other countries.

I would refer you to the Pentagon for any specific answer. You can be assured that the president would not have agreed to conduct such an operation if the military planners were not satisfied there were adequate resources to safely complete this mission.

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LIBYA

Q: How many American citizens remain in Libya? Doesn't the strike put their lives in danger?

A: We do not have an exact number, but we use several hundred as an estimate. Our attack should not endanger, either directly or indirectly, remaining American citizens, some of whom are there as spouses of Libyan citizens. We continue to hold the government of Libya fully responsible for the safety and welfare of any American citizens who remain in Libya. I should note, however, that on January 7 the president urged all Americans to leave Libya.

CHAIN REACTION OF VIOLENCE

Q: Surely you realized when you planned the Freedom of Navigation exercise that it would provoke Qadhafi to attack and retaliate with terrorism thusly leading to a chain reaction and terrorist acts?

A: Our exercise was a part of our longstanding and global policy to assert freedom of navigation and presence in international waters. We had previously conducted such exercises seven times in the Gulf of Sidra over the past five years. In undertaking the exercise, we hoped it would be a discrete event. Certainly, we considered the possibility that Qadhafi might respond as he did and our forces were prepared when they were attacked by Libya. However, and I cannot emphasize this strongly enough, we cannot cease to act in ways that uphold our principles because we believe that a consequence of such action may be a terrorist reprisal.

Also, Qadhafi's use of terrorism is not a recent event. He has, for a number of years, not hesitated to use terrorism to advance his own goals. What we saw in Berlin and elsewhere was not a new phenomenon, it was only Qadhafi acting in his usual way.

NEXT STEPS

Q: What do you expect to happen next?

A: That is really up to Colonel Qadhafi. Our position is very clear. He cannot carry out terrorist acts with impunity. If he decides to stop his direction and support of international terrorism, he has nothing to fear from the United States. If, however, he decides to continue or even increase such direction and support, the

United States is prepared to sustain counter-terrorist operations against Libya as long as it takes to stop Libyan-sponsored terrorism.

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STORY: SF0090415

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U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA "AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE" (2780)

(Transcript: Shultz, Weinberger briefing)

Washington -- Secretary of State Shultz called the April 14 U.S. air attack on Libya an "act of self-defense."

Referring to President Reagan's remarks to the American people over nationwide television, the secretary of state said, "The president has just described an act of self-defense on the part of the United States."

The action, he said, was "proportionate to the sustained, clear, continuing and widespread use of terror against Americans and others by Qadhafi's Libya."

Following is a transcript of the briefing by Shultz and Defense Secretary Weinberger at the White House:

(begin transcript)

SHULTZ: The president has just described an act of self defense on the part of the United States. The action was proportionate to the sustained, clear, continuing and widespread use of terror against Americans and others by Qadhafi's Libya.

As the president said, we must remember -- and, of course, Europeans, particularly, remember -- that tolerance or appeasement of aggression has historically brought more aggression. In Qadhafi's case, what we have seen over a period of years, and escalating in recent months, is a continuing increase in the use of terror. So this is not a question of something that we have done being countered by something he has done and so on. It has been an escalation by Qadhafi that has called forward this act of self defense on the part of the United States. So under these circumstances, the president decided that it was time to act, and he did.

Secretary Weinberger will describe more precisely -- precisely what the action was.

QUESTION: Can you tell us about casualties, first?

WEINBERGER: At about 7:00 p.m., Eastern time, elements -- medium units of the Third Air Force attacked targets in the Western Libyan Zone. And at the same time, A-6s from the America and the Coral Sea attacked targets in the Eastern Libyan Zone, as listed here. The targets of the Western Zone were the military airport near Tripoli, the Aziziyah Barracks, which are a command and control headquarters of the Libyan terrorist activities, and Sidi Bilal, which is a training area including a maritime diver training unit for terrorists, in the West.

In the East, the Jamahiriyyah Barracks, which is an alternate command post from the Aziziyah Barracks, was also attacked. And the Benina Airbase, from which defensive suppressive activities in air defense would be mounted, was attacked.

We used a combination of 500-pound and 2,000-pound laser-guided weapons and precision-guided delayed gravity bombs. And the -- all of the Navy planes have returned without casualty. All of the F-111s, with one exception, have been accounted for and are returning. There is one that is not accounted for at this time. They will reach their -- recover to their home bases somewhere in the neighborhood of about 2:00 a.m. Eastern time.

The bomb damage assessment at the moment is limited, and we've not had full reports. But we do know that at Benina Air Base the base was closed. They were unable to launch any aircraft. They had no lights, no radar, no communication as a result of the attack.

We will have very full reports of the attack as the F-111s return to their bases in the early morning, and we will have more precise bomb damage assessments at that time.

The attack was carried out precisely as planned and it was, as the president said, evidence of very great skill, both navigational as well as the organization of the attack, which was a difficult one from the professional point of view and done with great effectiveness. And we should have the full reports of the bomb damage assessment at that

time.

All of the targets were terrorist-related and the criteria for selecting the targets was that they would be -- had a full terrorist connection, that we would minimize any collateral damage from civilian or other facilities nearby, that we would have full consideration for the safety of the pilots -- that is a major consideration -- and that they would be good night targets in the sense that they had good outlines that could be reflected on the radar and not mistaken for other targets.

Q: Was there an effort to get Qadhafi personally?

WEINBERGER: No, there was not.

Q: There was a report that some of his family had been injured in this attack.

WEINBERGER: There was -- we don't know anything about those reports. They are from the Libyan radio.

Q: How many people do you think you killed?

WEINBERGER: We have no idea that we've killed anybody.

Q: Do you care?

Q: Mr. Secretary, do you believe that that F-111 was shot down?

WEINBERGER: We don't have any indication to the fact at all. It's simply not accounted for at this time.

Q: What -- other than it having been shot down, what other explanation could there be for not hearing from it?

WEINBERGER: Well, there are any one of a number of explanations. It could have radio trouble. It could be going to another base because of the radio trouble. It could have had an internal problem -- an internal explosion. But there is no indication that there was -- it went down or was the victim of any enemy fire or anything of that kind.

Q: There was also a report, sir, that you hit part of the French Embassy in Libya. Do you know anything about that?

WEINBERGER: No, that would be, I think, virtually impossible.

Q: Did Mrs. Thatcher approve the F-111s taking off from British soil?

WEINBERGER: Yes, permission was granted.

Q: Could you tell us when the decision was made to proceed with this operation?

WEINBERGER: Over a considerable period of time, as the evidence mounted and as the discussions were held.

Q: Could you give us the number of aircraft involved?

WEINBERGER: Yes, there were about 18 F-111s initially that were planned for and there were about 15 A-6s and 7s and supporting aircraft in addition to that in the form of tankers -- the E2-Cs, the fighter cover and various other missions that flew in at the same time -- a very considerable number. I don't have the exact total.

Q: Could you put up the other chart? This is the route that was followed by the F-111s from the bases in England -- at Mildenhall and Lakenheath and Upper Heyford and the tankers followed along down there and they went through that -- that's a total of about 2,800 nautical miles.

Q: Was the Soviet Union told in advance? Was the Soviet --

Q: Can you say if there was any permanent damage intended or likely to be inflicted by this, or is this really just a temporary --

WEINBERGER: Not in this scale -- there was certainly no slight suggestion that it was any gesture of any kind. It was intended to do exactly as Secretary Shultz and the president said.

Q: Was the Soviet Union informed?

WEINBERGER: They were informed. But, George, do you want to have a little time?

Q: In what respect?

SHULTZ: The Soviet Union was told that we had conclusive evidence of Libyan involvement in terrorist activity, including the Berlin bombing. At the time of the military operations -- that is, as it was taking place, the Soviet charge here, the senior Soviet in Washington, was called in and told of the operation. He was told -- why? He was told of our evidence and he was told that this action was directed against Libyan terrorism and was in no way directed against the Soviet Union.

Q: To what extent do you think this settles the score with

Libya, sir? To what extent do you think this settles the score with Libya?

SHULTZ: It's not a question settling scores. It's a question of acting against terrorism -- of saying to terrorists that the acts they perpetrate will cost them. If you raise the costs, you do something that should eventually act as a deterrent. That is the primary objective -- to defend ourselves, both in the immediate sense and prospectively.

Q: What steps have been taken now in the wake of this attack in order to increase the security around United States embassies abroad, especially in the Middle East?

SHULTZ: All of our embassies are on alert, of course. We have reports and indications, quite substantial evidence, of Libyan efforts to attack -- varying degrees of certainty on the evidence, up to 30 of our embassies. So, when I say that Qadhafi's planning is widespread, the evidence is quite clear what it is.

Q: This is recent planning?

SHULTZ: Yes. Absolutely.

WEINBERGER: I would also add that the military installations around the world are also on full alert for attacks -- terrorist attacks of any kind from any quarter.

Q: If we have such good intelligence, about this, particularly with that the spokesman and the president have said tonight, why were we unable to stop that Berlin attack if we knew one had been ordered the day before?

SHULTZ: We knew that they had ordered an attack in Berlin. Berlin is a big place. And we were in the process of trying to track down, and I think in Berlin and in other places, through the intelligence we collected, through the cooperation with other countries and their intelligence, we have been able to abort and stop a number of terrorist acts. And in this case, we were not able to identify the particular disco and get people cleaned out in time.

WEINBERGER: We were within fifteen minutes, according to General Rogers, of getting notifications with respect to this particular installation as to the fact that it was potentially a dangerous area.

Q: In light of the Syrian government's pledge to back the Libyan government in this crisis, are we now also on the alert for any Syrian-sponsored acts of terrorism directed against the United States?

SHULTZ: We are on the alert for any acts of terrorism against the United States, and of course, we have a collaborative pattern with other countries and we're as concerned about terrorism against others as we are about ourselves.

Q: Well, to follow it up, you indicated that we now have evidence that the Libyans were planning terrorist attacks against up to 30 U.S. embassy or diplomatic facilities.

SHULTZ: That's right.

Q: Do we have any evidence of Syria planning to attack or launch terrorist attacks on Americans?

SHULTZ: I have nothing that I'm prepared to talk about on that score at all. On the other hand, Syria has made the statement that you quoted. To what that will turn out to mean remains to be seen.

Q: Mr. Secretary, why do we stand alone among the allies? With the exception of Margaret Thatcher, apparently, why did the European Community caution us against retaliating if our evidence is so good?

SHULTZ: With respect to our allies, we have a variety of opinions and I would have to say, having talked with a great many of them recently, opinions vary within those governments. And I think, in general, what we see is a shift in the direction of seeing very clearly what Qadhafi is, what he is doing, and gradually, more and more, coming to the conclusion that something needs to be done about it.

Today, the European Community Foreign Ministers met. They were not apprised of what we were going to do, although some of those governments were aware of our plans -- obviously, the British. And they stepped up, in effect, their attitude of condemnation of Libya. They signaled Libya out by name. So there is movement, but, as you say, they do not yet share our conviction that action of this kind is necessary.

Q: And -- to follow up -- was there a Soviet response from the

Charge here or from any other quarter --

SHULTZ: Other countries will have to speak for themselves, including the Soviets.

Q: -- looking at the route followed by the aircraft --

WEINBERGER: Yes.

Q: -- is that route evasive action or is that to avoid flying over the soil of allies that might -- might not sanction that?

WEINBERGER: Well, obviously, if we had permission to fly a direct route, we would have not subjected the pilots to quite such a long flight. But given the available routes that we had, we left England and we reached Libya. But it would have been, obviously, from an operational point of view, less risk to the pilots and a quicker time than it took to go to the 2,800 nautical miles to get in there. There were -- when a route of that kind is chosen, you also try to do as much as you can by changes of altitudes and so on to have the maximum evasiveness.

Q: Twenty-eight hundred miles is an awfully long --

WEINBERGER: It is a very long flight. It is a --

Q: If you had had permission to -- for overflights on that other -- on other countries' soil, how short --

WEINBERGER: Oh, probably saved maybe close to 1,200 nautical miles.

Q: And what is --

WEINBERGER: Down, and 1,200 back.

Q: What is the range of an F-111?

WEINBERGER: It's refueled. Its range is virtually unlimited as long as you can refuel it, and they were refueled many times.

Q: Well, was permission sought, Mr. Secretary --

WEINBERGER: I'm sorry?

Q: Was permission sought, for example from France, and denied?

WEINBERGER: Well, I think that's a fair description.

Q: Mr. Secretary, may I ask a question about what if this does not --

WEINBERGER: I'm sorry. You had a follow up. Yes.

Q: Other countries, as well?

WEINBERGER: No, that was what was the -- that would have been the direct route.

Q: And --

Q: What if this doesn't -- go ahead.

Q: -- the president cited, for example, that the French assisted in uncovering --

WEINBERGER: That was an earlier case. They did indeed.

Yes.

Q: Mr. Secretary, what if this does not deter Qadhafi and terrorism continues? What then?

WEINBERGER: That gets us into the hypotheticals and, as you know, I try not to deal with those. The president, I think, made it very clear that he didn't feel that this would necessarily automatically spell the end of terrorism. But I think it will send an unmistakable signal and I think it will go very far towards deterring future acts.

As the president said, we're prepared to take other action if it does not.

Q: Well, I'd like to follow that up, if I may, sir, by asking Secretary Shultz -- You're the one who said that this was not a ratcheting up -- or words to that effect -- but a response of self defense. But what if Qadhafi strikes back? Do we not then have to ratchet up our military response?

SHULTZ: We will take the action that is wise as we see the situation unfold. What is clear tonight is that the United States will take military action under certain circumstances. That's established. That's very important. Now, the situation will unfold and we'll see where we go from there.

Q: Secretary Shultz, how much operational damage, though, does this do to Qadhafi and the terrorist operations? I mean, how long does this put him out of business? I guess what I'm asking is, is it an operational damage or a psychological blow that you're hoping to strike here?

SHULTZ: Of course, we don't have any real damage assessment as

yet and we will get that and we'll know more precisely what happened. But we seek to reduce his capability of carrying on terrorist acts and I'm sure to some degree that was done. And we also have registered the point with him and with other Libyans that they will pay a price -- that there is a cost to engaging in terrorism around the world. So they know that.

Q: Did Mrs. Thatcher give unqualified support or did she set limits on what she was prepared to allow these planes to do?

WEINBERGER: No. Mrs. Thatcher had, obviously, many questions and concerns and they were expressed and a response was made to them and permission was given to do what was done.

Q: There are additional reports that the French Embassy has been hit in Tripoli.

WEINBERGER: That I don't think is -- could be accurate reports because of the nature of the targets and the nature of the ordinance used.

Q: -- counter-attack?

Q: Did the planes encounter offensive -- defensive fire?

Q: -- what about the oil installations? Why did you cut off their money?

Q: How soon do you think you'll have a full report on casualties?

WEINBERGER: There will be full reports in the morning.
(end transcript)

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