

~~SECRET~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

OUTGOING
Dipl - UK

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SIT758

DTG: 182200Z APR 86 PSN: 066563
TOR: 108/2213Z

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32204

OP IMMED
DE WTE #2316 1082213
O 182200Z APR 86
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO CABINET OFFICE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS EYES ONLY WH02316

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
FROM ADMIRAL JOHN POINDEXTER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: LIBYAN TERRORISM ~~(S)~~

1. SECRET--ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER.

BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MARGARET

I WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED TO LEARN YESTERDAY OF THE MURDER OF THE
BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT. I WOULD LIKE
TO CONVEY MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF PHILIP
PADFIELD AND LEIGH DOUGLAS. WE OURSELVES HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT

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BY LOJ NARA DATE 8/24/08

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THE THIRD BODY IN BEIRUT HAS NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AS THAT OF PETER KILBURN, A U.S. HOSTAGE WHO HAD WORKED AT THE SCHOOL AS A LIBRARIAN.

NO DOUBT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL USE THIS TRAGEDY AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE BOTH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MINE FOR THE DECISION TO ACT AGAINST LIBYAN TERRORISM. MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL NOT BE SUBJECTED TO UNDESERVED CRITICISM FOR YOUR BRAVE SUPPORT. AS I INDICATED TO YOU IN OUR EARLIER EXCHANGES AND IN MY PUBLIC REMARKS ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, WE WERE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THIS SINGLE ACTION WOULD BRING AN END TO QADHAFI'S TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. NONETHELESS, WE ARE ALL SADDENED THAT MEN WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO HELPING OTHERS SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT FOR SUCH A CALLOUS ACT. IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME, YOU KNOW THAT YOU ONLY NEED ASK.

I AM SURE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BRIEFED, AS I HAVE, ON THE DIRECT LIBYAN ROLE THAT WE SEE IN THEIR DEATHS. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM YOUR EMBASSY, I HAVE DIRECTED THAT OUR OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAY NOTHING FOR THE TIME BEING ON THIS CONNECTION. NOW THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ESTABLISHED THE LIBYAN RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR SLAYING, WE WILL ADHERE TO YOUR LEAD IN OUR PUBLIC COMMENTS. WE HAVE LIKEWISE SEEN A LESS DEFINED LIBYAN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ATTACK ON THOMAS CALKINS, THE U.S. DIPLOMAT SHOT IN KHARTOUM ON TUESDAY EVENING. IF MR. CALKINS LIVES, HE WILL LIKELY BE SEVERELY IMPAIRED FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

YESTERDAY MORNING, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AMBASSADOR DICK WALTERS PROVIDE ME WITH A PERSONAL BRIEFING ON HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH YOU AND OTHER EUROPEAN LEADERS. I APPRECIATE THE HOSPITALITY YOU SHOWED HIM AND IN LIGHT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN KHARTOUM AND BEIRUT, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHARE SEVERAL THOUGHTS:

-- IN BOTH FRANCE AND SPAIN, DICK WAS TOLD THAT, WHILE THEY WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LIMITED STRIKES AGAINST

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LIBYAN TERRORIST TARGETS, THEY WERE FULLY PREPARED TO TAKE MORE PROFOUND ACTION TO REMOVE QADHAFI FROM POWER.

-- DICK ADVISED THEM THAT HE WOULD REPORT THEIR POSITIONS TO ME. DICK'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS IS A SINCERE OFFER ON THEIR PART AND THAT IT IS WORTHY OF FURTHER EXPLORATION.

SINCE MONDAY NIGHT'S ACTION, IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT RALLIED AROUND QADHAFI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF REBELLIONS WITHIN THE ARMY, THE MOST NOTABLE OF WHICH OCCURRED AT TARHUNA AND DERNA. CIVIL STRIFE WAS EVIDENCED THROUGHOUT THE TRIPOLI AREA ON BOTH APRIL 16 AND 17.

WE ARE EXPLORING VARIOUS MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN EXPLOIT THE INTERNAL DISAFFECTION AGAINST QADHAFI. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXAMINE OTHER MEASURES WHICH WE CAN TAKE TO HELP THIS PROCESS ALONG. I BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI HIMSELF IS INDEED IN JEOPARDY AND VULNERABLE TO A COUP FROM WITHIN, THOUGH ADDITIONAL SHOCKS (EITHER REAL OR THE RESULT OF DECEPTION) MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN THE INTERNAL EFFECTS WE ARE BEGINNING NOW TO SEE. GIVEN WHAT DICK WALTERS REPORTED TO ME, IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR US TO CONSIDER SOME QUIET DISCUSSIONS, BILATERALLY OR, IF YOU PREFER, TRILATERALLY WITH THE FRENCH, ON THIS MATTER. I CAN THINK OF NO MORE SALUTARY EXAMPLE TO OTHERS (AND NO BETTER JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR ACT) THAN TO HAVE QADHAFI FALL AS THE RESULT OF HIS OWN

PEOPLE RISING UP AGAINST HIM AS A RESULT OF THE DAMAGE HIS FAILED POLICIES HAVE CAUSED LIBYA.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON HOW YOU SEE THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN LIBYA DEVELOPING. I BELIEVE THAT UNLESS WE ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY, WE WILL SEE THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT QADHAFI WILL TRY TO CONTINUE HIS REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST ALL OF US. LAST NIGHT, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT RADIO BROADCAST INSTRUCTIONS TO KILL AMERICANS WHEREVER THEY CAN,

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BUT WE DO NOT DETECT ANY ANTI-U.S. FEELING TOWARD U.S. CITIZENS STILL IN LIBYA. WHERE WE CAN, WE WILL ACT AGAINST HIS INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THEY CAN CARRY OUT THEIR DEADLY MISSIONS.

I AM DETERMINED THAT I MUST ACT TO PREVENT QADHAFI FROM CARRYING OUT HIS FUTURE PLANS AGAINST OTHER INNOCENTS. BUT, I ALSO KNOW THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DETECT ALL OF THESE ACTIONS IN ADVANCE. WOULD IT NOT THEN BE BEST TO ACT WITH OTHERS, LIKE THE FRENCH AND PERHAPS THE SPANISH, TO PERMANENTLY END THE SCOURGE OF QADHAFI'S TERROR> I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO QUIETLY AND QUICKLY HAVE OUR EXPERTS LOOK AT VARIOUS COURSES OF ACTION IN THIS REGARD. YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, RON.

BT

0936

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