

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 07936 01 OF 02 151949Z
ACTION EUR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
IO-17 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 PA-01
INRE-00 ACDA-12 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01
DSE-00 SCT-04 /055 W

-----035474 151957Z /51

O 151629Z APR 86
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4709
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1276
INFO NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
HQ3AFRAF MILDENHALL UK IMMEDIATE
USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07936

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, LY, UK,
SUBJECT: LIBYA - BRITISH PUBLIC AND POLITICAL
- REACTIONS TO U.S. AIR STRIKES ON LIBYA

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE U.S. AIR STRIKES ON LIBYA,
MORNING RADIO AND TV IN BRITAIN PREDICTABLY FEATURED
INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES -- PRIMARILY
FOREIGN SECRETARY HOWE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, DAVID OWEN
FOR THE ALLIANCE PARTIES, AND NEIL KINNOCK AND DENIS
HEALEY FOR LABOR. HOWE REPEATEDLY AND FORCEFULLY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 07936 01 OF 02 151949Z

EXPLAINED WHY THE GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT ACTION HAD TO
BE TAKEN AND PROMISED THAT THATCHER WOULD MAKE A
STATEMENT LATER AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. DAVID OWEN,
WHILE EXPRESSING DOUBTS ABOUT THE ACTION, SAID IT WAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT O HOMME
DATE/CASE ID: 22 DEC 2009 200903792

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NOW UP TO THE USG TO MAKE CLEAR THE STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE, AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD DONE IN THE CASE OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. A SOBER LABOR PARTY LEADER NEIL KINNOCK SAID THAT THE F-111S ARE IN BRITAIN FOR NATO PURPOSES AND THAT LABOR WOULD NOT HAVE LET THEM BE USED IN THIS WAY. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE U.S. ACTION WAS DISPROPORTIONATE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THAT IF U.S. EVIDENCE IS SOLID, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO RALLY THE INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION OF QADHAFI. IN RELATIVELY POLITE TERMS HE SAID THAT "THATCHER'S COATTAIL ATTITUDE DOESN'T HELP BRITAIN OR THE U.S." MEANWHILE, DENIS HEALEY ACCUSED THATCHER OF GROVELLING SUBSERVIENCE AND SAID THE U.S. ACTIONS THREATENED TO SPLIT THE NATO ALLIANCE. CERTAINLY THE UK ROLE IN THE OPERATION AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UK AND HER EC PARTNERS WILL BE VERY MUCH A FOCUS OF ATTENTION HERE IN THE DAYS AHEAD. END SUMMARY

3. THE CABINET MET THIS MORNING IN EMERGENCY SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR A STATEMENT BY MRS. THATCHER TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN THE AFTERNOON. NUMBER 10 IS APPARENTLY WITHHOLDING ANY COMMENTS UNTIL THAT TIME, BUT THE CABINET IS REPORTED TO HAVE OFFERED ITS FULL SUPPORT. FOREIGN SECRETARY HOWE HAS APPEARED REPEATEDLY ON TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEWS IN DEFENSE OF THE U.S. ACTION AND HMG'S DECISION TO PERMIT THE U.S. TO FLY BOMBERS FROM BASES IN THE UK. IN HIS COMMENTS, HOWE HAS STRESSED THE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE UNDER ARTICLE 51 AND HAS ARGUED THAT THE AMERICAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 07936 01 OF 02 151949Z

ACTION HAD BECOME "NOT MERELY JUSTIFIABLE, BUT ESSENTIAL." SPEAKING ON BBC RADIO, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ASKED: "ARE WE TO STAND BY AND ALLOW TERRORISM DIRECTED BY LIBYAN AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE ABSOLUTELY UNCHECKED WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN APPEALED TO BY PEACEFUL MEANS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL; WHEN WE HAVE GOT CLEAR EVIDENCE OF FURTHER INTENDED PLANS OF SIMILAR TERRORISTS ACTS? IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES SOME ACTION BECOMES NOT MERELY JUSTIFIABLE BUT ESSENTIAL." HOWE NOTED THAT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES REACTED IN DIFFERENT WAYS ACCORDING TO THE SCALE OF SUFFERING THEY THEMSELVES HAD EXPERIENCED, AND SAID THAT "IN FACE OF THAT AND IN FACE OF EQUALLY INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF FURTHER PLANS OF ACTION OF THAT KIND, OUR CAREFULLY CONSIDERED REACTION WAS CLEAR."

UNCLASSIFIED

4. LABOR PARTY LEADER NEIL KINNOCK ATTACKED THE AMERICAN ACTION, SAYING "THIS WILL PROVOKE RATHER THAN PREVENT TERRORISM, AND IT WILL GIVE QADHAFI MORE SUPPORTERS AND ALLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAN THIS TIME LAST WEEK." HE ADMITTED THAT BRITAIN AND OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO TIGHTEN SECURITY AND TO ISOLATE LIBYA, BUT ADDED THAT "PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS NO RIGHT, WHATEVER THE RESPONSE OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES, TO PUSH THEM FROM THE BACK TO SECURE A POSITION FROM THE EUROPEAN POWERS THAT THEY ARE NOT WILLING SPONTANEOUSLY TO ADOPT THEMSELVES." HE CALLED THE USE OF AMERICAN BASES IN BRITAIN A "MISUSE OF NATO FORCES" AND ADDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S COATTAIL ATTITUDE HELPS NEITHER THE U.S. NOR THE UK. LABOR SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY DENIS HEALEY WENT FURTHER, ARGUING THAT MRS. THATCHER'S DECISION TO PERMIT THE USE OF BASES IN THE UK REFLECTED "GROVELLING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 07936 02 OF 02 151950Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
IO-17 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 PA-01
INRE-00 ACDA-12 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01
DSE-00 SCT-04 /055 W

-----035512 151958Z /44

O 151629Z APR 86
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4710
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1277
INFO NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
HQ3AFRAF MILDENHALL UK IMMEDIATE
USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 07936

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, LY, UK,
SUBJECT: LIBYA - BRITISH PUBLIC AND POLITICAL
- REACTIONS TO U.S. AIR STRIKES ON LIBYA

SUBSERVIENCE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN."
-

5. SDP LEADER DAVID OWEN, BEING INTERVIEWED ON BBC,
NOTED THAT THE END IS ONE EVERYONE SHARES BUT (DESPITE
THE DETAILED NATURE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE
NATION THE PREVIOUS EVENING) PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON
THE NEED FOR PRECISE EVIDENCE. HE ARGUED THAT THE
UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE EVIDENCE FIRST TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 07936 02 OF 02 151950Z

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND CHALLENGED THAT BODY TO
TAKE ACTION PRIOR TO ANY UNILATERAL MOVE BY THE U.S.
THE UK, OWEN SAID, SHOULD HAVE INSISTED THAT IT WOULD
ONLY PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE AS WOULD BE SUSTAINABLE
UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. WITH REGARD TO THE EC MEETING
ON APRIL 14TH, OWEN DESCRIBED THE STATEMENT THAT WAS
ISSUED BY EC MEMBERS AS "PATHETIC." HE SUGGESTED THAT
THE UK AND ITS EC PARTNERS SHOULD LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT
THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS, AND COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS
"NOT A PRAYER" THAT THE RESPONSE IN EUROPE WOULD HAVE
MADE THE U.S. RECONSIDER ITS PLANNED ACTION.

6. COMMENT: OVER THE PAST WEEKEND THERE HAS BEEN A
HEAVY FOCUS IN THE UK PRESS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A UK
ROLE IN THE U.S. OPERATION, PARTICULARLY THE USE OF
U.S. AIRCRAFT FROM BASES IN BRITAIN. THE ISSUE OF THE
UK ROLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF CENTRAL CONCERN TO
THE BRITISH PUBLIC AND POLITICIANS. IT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN HOW DEEP THE SUPPORT FOR MRS. THATCHER'S DECISION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2009-03792 Doc No. C17572047 Date: 06/19/2013
WILL GO. THERE IS CLEARLY UNEASE ON THE PART OF MANY
TORIES, AND LABOR POLITICIANS HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR
TO US THAT THEY CONSIDER THE USE OF UK BASES IN THIS
CASE TO BE OF HELP IN ADVANCING THEIR OWN POLICY THAT
THE UK SHOULD CLOSE DOWN U.S. NUCLEAR BASES ON ITS SOIL.

UNCLASSIFIED

-
THE ALWAYS TOUCHY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UK AND ITS
EC PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN THE UK IS
PREPARING TO TAKE OVER THE EC PRESIDENCY, IS ANOTHER
FACTOR WHICH WILL BE MUCH DISCUSSED HERE AS YESTERDAY'S
EVENTS ARE ANALYZED AND REVIEWED. END COMMENT. SEITZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED