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PAGE 01 LONDON 08020 161626Z
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4749
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08020

NODIS **DECAPTIONED**

STATE FOR SECRETARY SHULTZ
DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY WEINBERGER
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC FOR ADMIRAL POINDEXTER
FROM AMBASSADOR PRICE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: BRIEFING THE BRITISH

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. I DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF COMING UP WITH AN ACCURATE AND PRECISE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF TUESDAY'S RAID ON LIBYA, BUT TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE DEBATE HERE WE NEED AS MUCH AS WE CAN GET AS SOON AS WE CAN GET IT. THIS REQUIRES TWO FORMS:
 - (A) WE NEED TO BRIEF THE BRITISH MILITARY QUICKLY, CONFIDENTIALLY AND IN DETAIL AS BEST WE CAN. THEY HAVE GIVEN US FIRST CLASS SUPPORT AND WE MAY HAVE TO SEEK THEIR HELP AGAIN. THE BRITISH SHOULD NOT FEEL SHORTCHANGED ON PRIVATELY COMMUNICATED TECHNICAL INFORMATION. ADMIRAL CROWE'S LETTER TO ADMIRAL FIELDHOUSE, WHICH WE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 08020 161626Z

JUST RECEIVED, IS EXCELLENT AND WE HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP.

- (B) THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY AND TODAY IS GIVING VIGOROUS DEFENSE TO U.S. ACTIONS AND THE BRITISH ROLE.

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2009-03792 Doc No. C17572067 Date: 06/19/2013
THE AFFAIR WILL COST HER POLITICALLY BUT WE COULD NOT
ASK FOR MORE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT. UNFORTUNATELY THIS
IS PLAYING AGAINST A MEDIA BACKGROUND -- ESPECIALLY
TELEVISION -- WHICH HAS FOCUSED ON CIVILIAN CASUALTIES
IN TRIPOLI WITH LITTLE REFERENCE TO THE MILITARY
ACHIEVEMENTS. WE NEED TO BALANCE THE POPULAR PICTURE
OF WHAT HAPPENED.
3. THE LONGER THIS TAKES TO DO, THE HARDER WILL BE THE
JOB OF INFLUENCING THE DEBATE.
PRICE

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