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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08713

EXDIS **DECAPTIONED**

FOR SECRETARY WEINBERGER FROM AMBASSADOR PRICE

NATO FOR USIS - R. KORENGOLD

E O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, LY, UK
SUBJECT: LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE ON LIBYA

REF: PRICE/WEINBERGER TELCON APRIL 23

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE TO SEND BOB SIMS TO LONDON FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE LIBYA RAID. AS I MENTIONED TO YOU, THATCHER URGENTLY NEEDS OUR HELP IN CONVINCING THE UK PUBLIC THAT WE ENGAGED IN A MEASURED AND CAREFULLY CONCEIVED ATTACK ON MILITARY RATHER THAN CIVILIAN TARGETS IN LIBYA. EVER SINCE THE RAID THE UK MEDIA HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE INDISCRIMINATE AT BEST, AS PREPARED TO ATTACK CIVILIAN
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TARGETS AS THOSE WITH ANY MILITARY VALUE. THATCHER HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY HARASSED IN PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. I BELIEVE A LIVE MILITARY PRESS CONFERENCE COMPLETE

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

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4. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH THE NEED TO HAVE THE
PRESS CONFERENCE THIS WEEK -- FRIDAY WOULD BE THE MOST
REALISTIC DAY -- SO THAT IT CAN BE REPLAYED THROUGHOUT
THE WEEKEND. IF BOB HAS TIME, IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY
USEFUL FOR HIM TO APPEAR ON A COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND
TELEVISION PROGRAMS. IF HIS SCHEDULE IS CRAMPED, WE
COULD HAVE HIM ON A FRIDAY AFTERNOON FLIGHT BACK TO
WASHINGTON.

5. AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS ONE.

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