

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (39)

DBY 290900Z

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

PS
 PS/MR BIRD
 PS/ER ORSLOW
 PS/PUS
 MR BULLARD
 SIR I SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 LORD N GORDON LENNOX
 LORD BRIDGES
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
 HD/PUSD (2)
 HD/S Am D
 HD/DEFENCE D
 HD/NEWS D
 HD/ERD
 HD/ECD(E)
 HD/URD
 HD/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
 EMERGENCY UNIT
 RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PE/CHANCELLOR }
 MR ILSTY } TREASURY
 MR LITTLER }

MISS DICKSON D/ENERGY

SIR R ARMSTRONG }
 SIR M PALLISER } CABINET OFFICE
 MR WADE-SERY }
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO }
 DIO }

Room 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET ✓

[Passed to E.R.]

[Typists a.a.]

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM TRIFOLI 290000Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKEY 290900Z

TELNO 150 OF 28 MAY

YOUR TELNOS 127 AND 130: LIBYA/ARGENTINA

1. I SAW OBEIDI THIS EVENING (28 MAY) AND HANDED HIM YOUR MESSAGE. HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE TEXT FROM KUWEIRI.

2. EMPHASISING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR QADHAFI OBEIDI MADE 3 MAIN POINTS:

(A) THE LIBYAN POSITION CHANGED SOLELY AS A RESULT OF US INTERVENTION ON BRITAIN'S BEHALF.

(B) LIBYA HAD NOT, WERE NOT AND WOULD NOT SUPPLY WEAPONS TO ARGENTINA. LIBYA HAD NOT REPEAT NOT PURCHASED EXCEPT.

(C) THE DISAGREEMENT OVER THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3 OBEIDI REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THE SOLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. OBEIDI REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES. BRITAIN COMPLAINED ABOUT LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA OVER THE FALKLANDS. BUT BRITAIN, LIKE THE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD FAILED TO RESPOND LAST YEAR TO LIBYA'S APPEAL FOR A STATEMENT OF POSITION ON THE GULF OF SIRTE. LIBYA HAD THEREFORE ASSUMED BRITISH SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES. LIBYA CONSIDERED AN ANGLO/AMERICAN ALLIANCE AGAINST A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY TO BE A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT. NOR WAS LIBYA ALONE IN THIS CONCERN. NON-ALIGNED OPINION, ALREADY DISTURBED BY THE SINKING OF THE GENERAL BELGRAND OUTSIDE THE EXCLUSION ZONE, HAD SIGNIFICANTLY HARDENED SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLIES TO BRITAIN. THIS HARDENING WOULD BE REFLECTED AT THE 31 MAY NAX MEETING.

4. LIBYA HAD REACHED HER NEW POSITION INDEPENDENTLY AND WAS NOT INFLUENCED BY SOVIET AND/OR CUBAN VIEWS. IT WAS A POSITION OF PRINCIPAL BUT ONE WHICH HE HOPED WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS. BOTH STATES HAD TRIED HARD IN THE LAST YEAR TO IMPROVE RELATIONS THOUGH LIBYA HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED AT THE PACE OF PROGRESS. THE HARBOURING OF LIBYAN DISSIDENTS IN LONDON, BRITISH SLOWNESS IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE DEFENCE FIELD AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY PRIME MINISTERIAL (SIC) RESPONSE OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO LIBYAN EFFORTS HAD BEEN DISHEARTENING.

5. I WELCOMED OBEIDI'S CATEGORIC DENIAL OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA. NONETHELESS THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THE PREFL STATEMENT WAS BOUND TO AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE KNEW BRITAIN WELL AND WOULD BE AWARE OF THE STRENGTH OF FEELING THERE AT PRESENT A HUNDRED FAMILIES HAD LOST THEIR SONS. THE BRITISH PEOPLE WOULD RESENT STATEMENTS DECLARING FULL SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA AND CALLING FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST BRITAIN. THE NEW LIBYAN POSITION HAD COME AS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT IN VIEW OF THE RECENT PROGRESS IN RELATIONS.

6. SEE MIFT.

BURTON

MMW