

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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SIT360

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BY amp, NARA, DATE 1/18/05

TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON

~~TOP SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS EYES ONLY WH02064

FOR SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG FROM JOHN M. POINDEXTER

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LIBYAN TERRORISM LIST

1. ~~TOP SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER:

DEAR MARGARET:

IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF LIBYAN PLANS FOR TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. A NUMBER OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS. WE NOW HAVE, IN LARGE PART DUE TO THE FINE WORK OF GCHO, CONFIRMATION OF LIBYAN-SPONSORED AND DIRECTED TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST THE U.S. IN BERLIN AND PARIS. ONE MAJOR DIFFERENCE FROM PREVIOUS LIBYAN EFFORTS IS THAT THESE OPERATIONS

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ARE DESIGNED TO INFLICT MAXIMUM AND INDISCRIMINATE CASUALTIES. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION THAT LIBYA IS WELL UNDERWAY IN PLANNING ADDITIONAL OPERATIONS AGAINST U. S. CITIZENS IN EUROPE AND OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THESE OPERATIONS IN SUDAN, WEST GERMANY, TURKEY, LEBANON, SYRIA, SPAIN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, KENYA, AND LATIN AMERICA ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO WARN OUR CITIZENS AND HOST GOVERNMENTS IN ADVANCE, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT, UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE TO STOP QADHAFI NOW, OTHER INNOCENT VICTIMS WILL DIE, LIKE SGT FORD, IN THE BERLIN BOMBING.

BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE ON DIRECT LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE BERLIN BOMBING IS SO CONVINCING AND OUR INFORMATION ON THEIR FUTURE PLANS IS SO THREATENING, I HAVE RELUCTANTLY TAKEN THE DECISION TO USE U. S. MILITARY FORCES TO EXACT A RESPONSE TO THESE LIBYAN ATTACKS.

MY MILITARY PLANNERS HAVE ADVISED ME THAT THE USE OF FB-111 AIRCRAFT, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER STRIKES FROM THE SEA, WILL MINIMIZE THE RISK TO U. S. PERSONNEL AND THE CHANCES OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE. THE EMPLOYMENT OF FB-111 AIRCRAFT AND SUPPORT TANKERS NOW IN THE U. K. IS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING. I, THEREFORE, REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF THESE ASSETS FOR STRIKES AGAINST LIBYA.

I RECOGNIZE IN MAKING THIS REQUEST THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF BRITISH SUBJECTS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS REMAIN IN LIBYA. MY HOPE IS THAT THIS OPERATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING FURTHER LIBYAN TERRORIST ACTIONS AND WILL CONVINCING QADHAFI THAT TAKING REPRISALS AGAINST YOUR SUBJECTS OR AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LIBYA WOULD BE A FATAL MISTAKE.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, RON

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3. IF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS ABOVE IS AFFIRMATIVE, THE PRESIDENT WILL DIRECT THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COORDINATE DIRECTLY WITH YOUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR NORMALLY DISCREET HANDLING OF THIS MATTER. PLEASE ADVISE VIA THIS CHANNEL RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUESTS. MILITARY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS NECESSITATE A REPLY BY NOON (GMT), WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9. U. S. MILITARY POINT OF CONTACT WILL BE LTGEN JOHN MOELLERING, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, TELEPHONE: SECURE KY-3 2278, OPEN AREA CODE 202-697-9124. WARM REGARDS, JOHN.

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