

POLIS 14/17

SECRET

1A

Destroy after			
Register			
Received in Registry			
17 APR 1984			
Desk Officer		1	
DEX	PA		
1		2	NONE
PRIORITY			

LISBON
340
SECRET

FM FCO 171303Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 17 APRIL
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF DEPT
WAS SENT TO PEKING TELEGRAM NO. 427 OF 17 APRIL.

SECRET

FM FCO 171045Z APR 84
TO FLASH PEKING
TELEGRAM NUMBER 427 OF 17 APRIL
AND TO FLASH TRIPOLI

*WA 12/4
h-a*

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY.
ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. THERE WAS A VERY UGLY INCIDENT AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU (LPB) THIS MORNING WHEN SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM THE LPB INTO A CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS. REPORTS OF CASUALTIES ARE STILL COMING IN: THERE IS A REPORT, YET TO BE CONFIRMED, THAT A POLICEMAN HAS BEEN KILLED, A WPC INJURED AND 8 DEMONSTRATORS INJURED. THE HOME OFFICE ARE CALLING A MEETING AT THE CABINET OFFICE SHORTLY TO CONSIDER ADVICE TO MINISTERS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT A RECOMMENDATION TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE LIBYANS WILL EMERGE.
2. SOME BACKGROUND IS CONTAINED IN TRIPOLI TELS NOS 156 AND 158 WHICH WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU FLASH.
3. THE LPB CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT ON 16 APRIL TO SAY THAT PARKING METERS IN ST JAMES SQUARE HAD BEEN COVERED AND TO ASK WHETHER THIS PRESAGED A DEMONSTRATION. HAVING MADE ENQUIRIES WE CONFIRMED THAT THE POLICE HAD AUTHORISED A LIBYAN DISSIDENT DEMONSTRATION BUT THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE WOULD ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER AND THE PROTECTION OF THE LPB. MEMBERS OF THE LPB TELEPHONED AND CALLED AT THE FCO AT MIDNIGHT AND AGAIN THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN TRIPOLI TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS DEMONSTRATION AND TO ASK FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO STOP IT. WE CONVEYED THIS REQUEST TO THE HOME OFFICE AND THE POLICE DURING THE NIGHT, DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE LIBYANS WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THEIR THREATS. SPECIAL BRANCH DECIDED NONETHELESS TO ALLOW THE DEMONSTRATION TO GO AHEAD. A SUBSTANTIAL POLICE PRESENCE WAS ARRANGED AND BARRIERS WERE INSTALLED TO CONTROL THE CROWD. TWO MEMBERS OF THE LPB ATTEMPTED TO MOVE THE BARRIERS AND WERE ARRESTED.
4. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED. HMA TRIPOLI WILL WISH TO PREPARE FOR AN EARLY MOVE.

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