

CONFIDENTIAL

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ZZ PEKING  
ZZ TRIPOLI  
GRS 285  
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FM FCO 171730 APR 84  
TO FLASH PEKING  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 431 OF 17 APRIL  
AND TO FLASH LISBON  
INFORMATION FLASH TRIPOLI  
FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE/PRIME MINISTER FROM MINISTER  
OF STATE  
ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

*Pa  
Doub  
18/4*

1. A REPORT ON THE SITUATION HERE AND IN TRIPOLI HAS BEEN TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY TO YOU.
2. I AM AFRAID THAT THE SITUATION IS GETTING INCREASINGLY TENSE FOR OUR PERSONNEL IN TRIPOLI. I HAVE OF COURSE BEEN CONSULTING LEON BRITTAN ABOUT ACTION HERE AS WELL AS THOSE CONCERNED IN THE OFFICE. WE ALL AGREE THAT THE BEST COURSE IS TO MOVE TO A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OBSERVING THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS IN THIS RESPECT. THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST SAFEGUARD FOR OUR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI. SUBJECT TO YOUR AGREEMENT, I WOULD AIM TO ANNOUNCE THIS AS SOON AS IT CAN BE SET UP. WE WOULD AGREE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PROTECTING POWERS (FOR OUR PART WE ARE INCLINED TO TRY THE ITALIANS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE). THUS ALL THOSE IN THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITHIN A STATED PERIOD FOLLOWING THE BREAK. THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE HOME SECRETARY ABOUT NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AT PRESENT IN THE LPB OFFICE IN ST JAMES'S SQUARE. THERE MAY BE SOME 30 OF THESE. I HOPE THAT WE CAN WORK TOWARDS DEPORTATION OF ALL OF THEM ALTHOUGH IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE TO INCRIMINATE ANY ONE OF THEM FOR THE MURDER OF THE POLICEWOMAN A CHARGE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL HOWEVER WHETHER ANY SUCH EVIDENCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
3. IF YOU AGREE IN PRINCIPLE I HOPE YOU CAN GIVE ME

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DISCRETION TO PROCEED ACCORDINGLY AND WE WILL TRY TO MANAGE  
THINGS IN SUCH A WAY SO AS GRADUALLY TO DEFUSE WHAT IS A VERY  
TENSE AND DANGEROUS SITUATION.

HOWE

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

LIMITED  
NENAD  
MAED  
M & VD  
NEWS D  
PUSD  
PROTOCOL D  
DEF D  
SGLS  
MED

CONS D  
PS  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR EGERTON

COPIES TO:  
F4 DIV. HOME OFFICE  
MRS DEALA LEGAL ADVISER  
MR CROSS PROTOCOL D

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