

FOLIS 028/17

~~ZZ~~ LISBON (FOR P.M.'S PARTY)

GRS 454

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 171755Z APR 84

TO FLASH PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 433 OF 17 APRIL

AND TO FLASH LISBON AND TRIPOLI

ANGLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS SITREP AS AT 1730Z.

2. THE WOMAN POLICE CONSTABLE INJURED IN THIS MORNING'S SHOOTING DIED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. TEN OTHER CASUALTIES ARE DETAINED IN HOSPITAL. THE SITUATION AT ST JAMES'S SQUARE IS SLIGHTLY CALMER BUT STILL TENSE. THE POLICE HAVE CORDONED OFF THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU (LPB). THEIR MAIN SHORT-TERM PREOCCUPATION HAS BEEN TO LOCATE AND GET HOLD OF THE WEAPON OR WEAPONS USED THIS MORNING AND TO STAVE OFF ANY FURTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THEY WISH TO SEARCH THE LPB. WE HAVE ASKED THE INTERIM ACTING HEAD OF THE LPB TO ALLOW THIS. HE HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO COOPERATE BUT HAS SAID HE MUST HAVE AUTHORITY FROM TRIPOLI. FITOURI, WHO HAD BEEN OUTSIDE THE LPB DURING THE DAY, ONLY ENTERED THE OFFICE AT 1730Z AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POLICE, LEAVING HIS DEPUTY AS LIAISON OFFICER OUTSIDE.

3. WE HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY WHETHER TO GO AHEAD IF NECESSARY WITHOUT LIBYAN AGREEMENT. TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT LIBYAN AGREEMENT WOULD HOWEVER BE CLEARLY CONTRARY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT COULD BE JUSTIFIED ONLY IN THE LAST RESORT AS A MATTER OF RETALIATION FOR THE ILLEGAL ACTION ON THEIR SIDE AND WOULD SET A VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AS WELL AS INVITING COUNTER-RETALIATION. THE SITUATION SEEMS LIKELY TO DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME. THE CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THROUGH THE NIGHT.

4. SIX LIBYANS WERE ARRESTED AT HEATHROW THIS AFTERNOON. TWO OF THEM WERE IN A CAR WHICH HAD BEEN SPOTTED LEAVING ST JAMES'S SQUARE EARLIER. THE OTHER FOUR MET THEM AT THE AIRPORT. FOUR OF THE SIX HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. THE LIBYAN AIRLINES FLIGHT TO TRIPOLI WAS SEARCHED BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT RESULT.

5. ON THE PRESS ASPECTS, WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE HOME OFFICE. THE HOME SECRETARY HAS GIVEN A NUMBER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS. THE LINE WE ARE TAKING IS THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY IS TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER AND CALM THINGS DOWN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. BUT IT IS COMPLETELY INTOLERABLE AND A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THAT VICIOUS ATTACKS SHOULD BE LAUNCHED IN THE STREETS OF LONDON ON PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY DEMONSTRATORS AND ON THE POLICE. WE ARE KEEPING THE LPB UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE AND ARE URGENTLY REVIEWING THE NEXT STEPS. AT TODAY'S FCO PRESS CONFERENCE WE RECALLED MR LUCE'S RADIO INTERVIEW ON 11 MARCH QUOTE IF WE GET TO A STATE WHERE ANY COUNTRY USES BRITISH SOIL FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS BY VIOLENT MEANS, THIS IS TOTALLY AND UTTERLY UNACCEPTABLE AND BOUND TO DAMAGE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS UNQUOTE.

HOWE
NNNN