

FOLIS 39/17

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ZZ LISBON

GRS 310

CONFIDENTIAL

FM F C O 172229Z APR 84

TO FLASH LISBON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 88 OF 17 APRIL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU FOR PS TO PM AT REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT WAS RECEIVED FROM TRIPOLI TELEGRAM NUMBER 163 OF 17 APRIL BEGINS:

- MY TELNO 161 AND TELECON HOLMES/MILES: ANGOLA/LIBYAN RELATIONS.
1. I CALLED AT THE FLD AT MY REQUEST AT 1545 LOCAL (1345Z). I HAD ASKED TO SEE TRAIKI BUT HE WAS ENGAGED WITH THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER AND I SAW SUWEIDAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INSTEAD. THE MEETING WENT BADLY.
 2. AS INSTRUCTED I GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF TODAY'S EVENTS, SAYING THAT A DEMONSTRATION OF 60 OR 70 WAS PROCEEDING WITHOUT DISTURBANCE OUTSIDE THE P B WHEN THERE WERE UNPROVOKED SHOTS FROM WITHIN THE P B FROM WHICH ABOUT 12 PERSONS SUFFERED INJURY AND I UNDERSTOOD ONE POLICEMAN WAS KILLED.
 3. I SAID YOUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS TO CONCLUDE THE INCIDENT AND I THEREFORE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO ENTER THE P B TO REMOVE THE MACHINE GUN WHICH HAS BEEN FIRING FROM THE ROOF.
 4. SUWEIDAN IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT PERMISSION WAS REFUSED AND WENT ON TO TALK ABOUT THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF WE TRIED TO ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION. I REPEATEDLY INSISTED THAT MY REQUEST SHOULD BE PUT TO DR. TRAIKI HIMSELF BUT THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED ON THE GROUNDS THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SPOKE WITH THE SAME AUTHORITY. I EVENTUALLY ASKED SUWEIDAN OUTRIGHT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MACHINE GUN AND HE SAID THERE WAS NO MACHINE GUN. I SAID IT WAS USELESS TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ON THIS BASIS AND LEFT A TENSE MEETING. TRAIKI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY SAW ME OUT AND I REPEATED THAT I STILL WISHED TO PUT THE REQUEST TO TRAIKI HIMSELF.
 3. SUWEIDAN ADVISED ME THAT MEMBERS OF MY STAFF SHOULD REMAIN EITHER IN THEIR HOUSES OR IN THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. I AM ADVISING STAFF TO ACT ACCORDINGLY UNTIL THE SITUATION IS CLEARER.

MILES

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