

FCO/LIS 020/18

ZZ LISBON

GRS 191

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 180915Z APR 84
TO FLASH LISBON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 95 OF 18 APRIL
AND TO FLASH HONG KONG
INFO FLASH TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL

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| Destroy after | |
| Finalist | |
| Excluded by Ministry | |
| 18 APR 1984 | |
| Desk Officer | PA |
| INDEX | |
| PRIORITY | NONE |

WA 19/4
h.a.

FOR PRIME MINISTER/SECRETARY OF STATE FROM MINISTER OF STATE

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE DISCRETION WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TO PROCEED AS PROPOSED UNDER MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATION.
2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO (NO) SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OVERNIGHT. CONTACTS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU HERE. THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI REMAINS SURROUNDED BUT THE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE SOME CONTACTS WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE HELP OF THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR, AND SOME OF THE WOMEN AT PRESENT IN THE EMBASSY MAY BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE IF THEY SO WISH.
3. I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH LEON BRITTAN THE TIMING OF A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE AND THE POLICE ARE CONCERNED THAT AN EARLY BREAK WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THE LIBYANS AS AN ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION RATHER THAN THE REVERSE AND MAY LEAD THEM TO SUSPECT THAT WE ARE CONTEMPLATING SOME FORCEFUL ACTION AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU PREMISES HERE. I AM THEREFORE CONSIDERING FURTHER THE TIMING AND PRESENTATION.
4. I SHALL REPORT AGAIN LATER TODAY.

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