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ZZ LISBON

GRS 198

SECRET

FM FCO 181615Z APRIL 84

TO FLASH TRIPOLI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 150 OF 18 APRIL

AND TO HONG KONG (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY), LISBON (FOR PS/PM)

FROM PRIVATE OFFICE

LIBYAN CRISIS

1. EVENTS HERE SEEM TO BE LEADING TOWARDS A DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. WE ARE NOT (NOT) YET AT THE POINT OF TAKING A FINAL DECISION IN THIS SENSE, AND THE MODALITIES AND TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS REMAIN TO BE AGREED. BUT IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO HAVE IN ADVANCE THE LATEST DRAFT TEXT OF THE COMMUNICATION TO THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WHICH WE SHOULD ASK YOU TO DELIVER ONCE THE FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN. IT IS STILL SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON IT IF YOU HAVE ANY.

2. A MATTER OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WILL BE WHAT ADVICE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN LIBYA IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE SOMETHING ON THIS IN THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DECISION. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ADVICE ON THIS POINT. OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS TO GIVE YOU DISCRETION TO WARN THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. PLEASE SEE MIFT.

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MR 174