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ANGLO/LIBYAN CRISIS: SITUATION REPORT AT AT 1900 HOURS 24 APRIL 1984

#### ACTION AGAINST LIBYANS

1. Baghdadi was deported today. Matuq was arrested. It is believed that there are now no non-diplomatic members of the revolutionary committee at liberty in the United Kingdom.

#### POLICE PLANS

2. Police plans for the exit from St James's Square (and other buildings) are now ready. The plans were discussed in detail with Fitouri and Zlitni at the FCO this morning. All details were settled, though they attempted to reserve their position pending the arrival of Shaibi. They were pressed to provide lists of those in the buildings, but continued to fail to do so. They were persuaded to accept in principle that those in the LPB should rendezvous with families at Sunningdale, which would shield them from the press (and permit police questioning). Zlitni visited Sunningdale in the early afternoon, and was evidently impressed by the facilities. During the visit, he indicated that he hoped they could now leave soon. It remains possible that the arrival of Shaibi will slow progress. While at Sunningdale, Zlitni telephoned the Bureau and was informed that Shaibi would arrive at Gatwick at 6 pm. He accepted readily the suggestion that the negotiation group should meet briefly after Sir J Leahy's meeting with Shaibi later this evening. For the police, it was a quiet, hot day. The new cordon at Ennismore Gardens is now established and working, with negligible protests from the Libyans.

#### THE EMISSARY

3. Shaibi is accompanied by two others. Accommodation for his party has been arranged in co-operation with the Security Service.

#### THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

4. During the afternoon within the LPB most of the Libyans appear to have been concerned with packing and making other arrangements for leaving, such as the acquisition of consumer goods. The mood seems to be quiet and sombre.

5. This morning Dr Sudani complained to Tripoli that he was not being kept informed about the arrangements being made for the Libyans to leave the LPB. He was instructed by Tripoli that no one was to leave the UK before Sunday.

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#### LIBYAN REACTIONS

6. There has still been no violent reaction in Libya to our decision to break relations. We have however heard, albeit at third hand, that Qadhafi has decided that if the police enter the peoples' bureau after the break in relations the British Embassy in Tripoli will be burnt down.

7. In his discussions with Foreign Liaison Bureau officials about the practical arrangements for the hand-over to the protecting power and departure of our Embassy staff our Ambassador is making painfully slow progress. The Libyans have orally agreed our proposal for an interests Section and (at 1900 hours) had nominated Saudi Arabia as their protecting power. However, we still have no confirmation that they accept Italy as our protecting power. The Libyans have somewhat relaxed restrictions on Embassy staff to allow visits to families by diplomats in the Chancery. But they have refused to allow members of the staff or their families to leave individually before the deadline on 29 April. Today the Consul's daughter and nanny were turned back at the airport. Mr Miles will try to use our decision to accept a 2-man interests section to secure a relaxation on the early departure of staff and families. Further progress is unlikely until serious negotiations with Colonel Shaibi begin on 25 April. Meanwhile, we are giving urgent consideration to evacuation of our staff, possibly by chartering a British Caledonian aircraft.

8. We have no further news of the detained British Caledonian manager Ledingham. Mr Miles has tried to make use of the deportation today of one of the Revolutionary students (Baghdadi) and the detention today of a second (Matuq) as a lever to secure his release.

9. With the reopening of business in capitals after the Easter holiday we are receiving an increasing number of sympathetic responses to our successive approaches to other governments for support. Sir J Leahy gave a briefing to EC representatives this afternoon.

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