

LIBYAN CRISIS  
~~PS/~~ *PS/ Mr White*  
~~PS/~~ *PS/ LAST YOU*  
PS/MR WHITNEY  
PS/FUS  
LORD N GORDON LENNOX  
~~MR WRIGHT~~  
MR EGERTON  
MR ADAMS  
~~SIR J BERRY~~  
CHIEF CLERK  
MR WHITE  
*Sir J Berrisford*  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MAED  
HD/DEFENCE  
HD/FUSD  
HD/CONSULAR  
HD/NEWS  
HD/SECURITY  
HD/PROTOCOL  
*Mr Kod*  
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

ADVANCE COPIES 2528

HOME OFFICE  
No. 10 DOWNING ST  
CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM  
DS11 MOD  
DSC, MOD  
RESIDENT CLERK, MOD

MR FREELAND } LEGAL ADVISERS  
MR DENZA }

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM TRIPOLI 250755Z APR  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 235 OF 25/4/84  
INFO ROME.

*Rome Minister*

*mf*

YOUR TELNO 203: LIBYA: BUILDINGS.

1. I NOTE THAT SHAIBI IS INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF THE BUILDINGS. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND I ARE BOTH CONCERNED, IF POSSIBLE, TO PREVENT THE SACKING OF THIS BUILDING (AND MY HOUSE) AFTER OUR DEPARTURE. I REALISE THIS WILL BE LOW AMONG YOUR PRIORITIES AT PRESENT. BUT SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE DAMAGING TO BRITISH INTERESTS (STILL HEAVILY INVOLVED HERE). MOREOVER, IT WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE THE EVENTUAL RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS.

2. I THINK IT WOULD THEREFORE BE WORTH A SERIOUS EFFORT TO GET ACROSS TO THE LIBYANS (PERHAPS THROUGH SHAIBI, BUT I COULD ALSO PLAY MY PART, PARTICULARLY SO LONG AS I HAVE THE EAR OF THE PRESS), AND ALSO TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WHO ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO WARM THEIR HANDS AT THE FIRE, JUST WHAT THE VIENNA CONVENTION SAYS ABOUT THE INVIOLABILITY/PROTECTION/RESPECT ACCORDED TO DIPLOMATIC PREMISES OR FORMER DIPLOMATIC PREMISES UNDER A PROTECTING POWER. WHAT WE NEED IS A CLEAR STATEMENT IN LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE WHICH WILL JUSTIFY OUR ENTRY INTO THE PB BUT SHOW IN WHAT WAY WE ARE LIMITED BY THE OBLIGATION TO RESPECT IT. YOU MAY LIKE ALSO TO THINK ABOUT ENGAGING OBSERVERS, AT EITHER END.

3. THE BURNING OF BUILDINGS HERE IS AN ACT OF POLICY, NOT OF PUBLIC OUTRAGE. IF QADHAFI SEES HE WOULD LOSE BY IT, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN.

MILES