

LIBYAN CRISIS
2/17/84
PS / *4004*
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
LORD N GORDON LENNOX
MR WRIGHT
MR EGERTON
MR ADAMS
SIR J LEAHY
CHIEF CLERK
MR WHITE
SIR J BULLOCK
HD/NENAD
HD/MAED
HD/DEFENCE
HD/PUSD
HD/CONSULAR
HD/NEWS
HD/SECURITY
ED/PROTOCOL
17/100
RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPIES 2527

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

MR FREELAND } LEGAL ADVISERS
MRS DENZA }

Prime Minister

TYPISTS



CONFIDENTIAL
FM TRIPOLI 251242Z APR
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 238 OF 25/4/84
INFO IMMEDIATE ROME KUWAIT ACCRA.

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNO 237: DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS.

FLASH

1. JERBI CALLED ME IN AGAIN URGENTLY TO MAKE TWO POINTS.

FLAGS

2. DO WE AGREE THAT THE NEW FLAGS SHOULD BE HOISTED ON 26 APRIL ? I ASKED IF THE SAUDIS HAD AGREED, SAYING THAT I COULD NOT AGREE TO AN ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE SAUDI FLAG UNLESS I WAS SURE THEY HAD ACCEPTED. JERBI SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THEY WOULD NOT OBJECT. I SAID I WAS NOT SO SURE THAT THEY WOULD WANT THEIR FLAG USED TO COVER A LIBYAN MACHINE GUN. JERBI LOOKED SHOCKED AND MUTTERED THAT THERE WAS NO MACHINE GUN, BUT I REMINDED HIM THAT THAT WAS WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. I ASKED HIM TO ENSURE THAT I HAD FORMAL SAUDI AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ENTRY INTO DIPLOMATIC PREMISES.

3. JERBI SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THE BRITISH POLICE INTENDED TO ENTER THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE PERIOD AFTER 30 APRIL. I SAID I HAD HEARD THAT THE LIBYANS INTENDED TO BURN DOWN MY EMBASSY. HE AGAIN LOOKED SHOCKED. HE SAID HE WANTED SOME KIND OF ANSWER ON THIS POINT AND THAT OUR ANSWER WOULD DETERMINE THE LIBYAN POSITION ON QUESTIONS OF DETAIL SUCH AS DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS.

DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

4. THIS GAVE ME MY CUE TO CARRY OUT YOUR NEW INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY TELEPRINTER CONFERENCE. AFTER ASKING WHETHER HE REGARDED MY WIFE AND CHILDREN'S TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AS A QUESTION OF DETAIL, I GAVE A TIRADE ON THE SUBJECT OF OUR LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION. I SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL I HAD PUT TO HIM THIS MORNING WAS A COMPROMISE, BUT THAT MINSTERS AT HOME WOULD PREFER ME TO INSIST THAT ALL OF US SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY OR POSSIBLY ON 26 APRIL, AS WAS OUR RIGHT UNDER THE LETTER OF THE LAW. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD TAKE THIS DISCUSSION FURTHER LATER TO-DAY.

OBSERVERS

5. JERBI MENTIONED THAT THE LIBYANS NOW HAD THREE OBSERVERS WHO WOULD OVERSEE DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN LONDON: TURKS, SYRIANS AND SAUDIS.

MILES