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FROM FCO 251330Z APRIL 84
TO FLASH TRIPOLI

Prime Minister

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 207 OF 25 APRIL 1984
AND TO IMMEDIATE ROME, KUWAIT, ACCRA
YOUR TELNO 229 PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. ON INTERESTS SECTION WE ARE INDEED WORKING ON THE BASIS OF TWO OFFICERS ONLY SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON PARTICULAR CANDIDATES. SHAIBI MENTIONED THREE TO US YESTERDAY EVENING AND IF HE PERSISTS WE SHALL HAVE TO LOOK AT THE QUESTION AGAIN. MINISTERS HAVE AGREED THAT A FINAL DECISION CAN BE TAKEN WHEN THE LIBYANS HAVE PUT A SPECIFIC PROPOSITION TO US: CONTINUING LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ON SECURITY GROUNDS AND SHOULD HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE 17 APRIL INCIDENT OR WITH ANY OF THE BOMBINGS.

2. ON PROTECTING POWERS, WE ARE ALREADY IN TOUCH INFORMALLY WITH THE SAUDI ARABIAN EMBASSY. THE LIBYANS HERE HAVE ASKED THE SAUDI AND TURKISH EMBASSIES TO PROVIDE OBSERVERS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE.

3. THE QUESTION OF FLAGS IS AWKWARD. SHAIBI MADE IT CLEAR ON ARRIVAL THAT THE LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC BUILDINGS AND THEIR IMMUNITY WERE A KEY ISSUE FOR THE LIBYANS. IT IS ALSO PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE HERE. WE SHALL BE HAVING A FURTHER SESSION WITH SHAIBI AT 1600Z AND PROPOSE TO SPEAK TO HIM ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- (I) NONE OF THE FOUR LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PREMISES WILL RETAIN DIPLOMATIC INVIOABILITY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 29/30.
- (II) IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FLY THE FLAG OF THE PROTECTING POWER.
- (III) HOWEVER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPT THAT THE PREMISES REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND

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WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO SEE THAT THEY COME TO NO HARM. WE TRUST THAT THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WILL DO THE SAME WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IN TRIPOLI.

- (IV) AFTER THE DEADLINE OF MIDNIGHT APRIL 29/30 EXPIRES, THE POLICE WILL WANT TO SEARCH THE FOUR PREMISES TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT NO WEAPONS OR EXPLOSIVES ARE INSIDE AND THAT THE BUILDINGS ARE IN A SAFE CONDITION. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROTECTING POWER CAN BE PRESENT IF NECESSARY. IF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD DECIDE TO CARRY OUT A SEARCH OF OUR PREMISES IN TRIPOLI WE SHOULD WANT TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROTECTING POWER PRESENT.
- (V) IF THE LIBYANS FIND AFTER THE BREAK IN RELATIONS IS COMPLETED THAT THEY HAVE NEED FOR PREMISES OF A NON DIPLOMATIC AND NONGOVERNMENTAL STATUS IN LONDON THEY WILL NO DOUBT LET US KNOW THROUGH THE PROTECTING POWER AND WE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER. WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT OUR PRESENT INTENTION IS THAT THE PREMISES, PARTICULARLY THE MAIN OFFICE IN ST JAMES'S SQUARE, SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED.

4. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BETTER AND LESS INCLINED TO CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IF THE ITALIAN FLAG WERE NOT(NOT) RAISED ON 26 APRIL. WE THINK THAT THE FLYING OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN FLAG IN LONDON MIGHT CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND IMPLY FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE LIBYANS WERE ALREADY DEPARTED: WE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO AVOID ANY SUCH COMPLICATION.

5. AS FOR PACKING, THE LIBYANS HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT THERE IS IN THE LPB NO (NO) BAGGAGE WHICH REQUIRES SPECIAL PACKING: ALL OFFICIAL MATERIAL WHICH LEAVES FROM THERE WILL GO IN THE FORM OF DIPLOMATIC BAGS. SO PACKING DOES NOT ARISE AT ST JAMES'S SQUARE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LIBYANS ARE MAKING PACKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROPERTY AT THEIR OTHER PREMISES AND PRIVATE ADDRESSES AND WE ARE NOT(NOT) AWARE OF ANY DIFFICULTY.

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