

THE RT HON DR DAVID OWEN MP

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CONFIDENTIAL



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

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Further to my letter of 3 May I have heard again from Mr Richard Sammons, who as yet has not been approached by anyone from the Government. Following a meeting he had today with Mr Shabli, the latter reported that in a recent telephone call with his brother in Libya, his brother had said that in a meeting he had had with the Libyan equivalent of Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Treki, the Minister had said that if they did not get those Libyans who have been arrested on terrorist charges - and who they are demanding should be released - and Mr Shabli out of Britain early next week then they would not hesitate to round up and arrest a number of British people living in Libya. This may well be special pleading on behalf of Mr Shabli but in view of the source of the information I thought you should be aware of it.

I have been under constant pressure by the media to urge that British nationals in Libya should leave. I have resisted this because I recognise the judgement is a delicate one and ought anyhow to come from Government but it is my strong personal belief that some rather firmer guidance should be given to British nationals registered in Libya, some of whom I do not believe - despite living in the country - understand the true nature of the Gadafy regime.

David Owen