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S E C R E T

GRS 300

SECRET

DEDIP

BURNING BUSH

FROM ROME 040400Z MAY 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 136 OF 04 MAY 81

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, TRIPOLI (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

QUADRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL DINNER IN ROME, 3 MAY:

LIBYA

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

1. FRANCOIS-PONCET SAID THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO ACT, RATHER SIMPLY TALK ABOUT LIBYA. QADDAFI WAS BECOMING A POTENTIAL DANGER TO PRACTICALLY EVERY COUNTRY IN AFRICA. IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THAT HE WAS POWERFUL, BUT THAT AFRICA WAS WEAK. HAIG SAID THAT THE AMERICANS PLANNED TO CLOSE THE LIBYANS' OFFICE IN WASHINGTON IN NEXT FEW DAYS, FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF A LIBYAN IN CHICAGO. LORD CARRINGTON RECALLED OUR OWN SIMILAR ACTION. HAIG SAID THAT THE ITALIANS HAD ALREADY HAD JALLOUDD IN ROME, THOUGH THEY HAD NOT MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT QADDAFI'S VISIT. THEY HAD RECEIVED NO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HIM.

2. LORD CARRINGTON SUGGESTED THAT JALLOUDD MIGHT BE WORSE THAN QADDAFI, HE WAS MORE PRO-SOVIET. THE ARABS MIGHT ALSO FEEL THAT THE WEST WERE GANGING UP AGAINST THEM IF QADDAFI WERE DISPOSED OF. HAIG SAID THAT THE ARABS THEMSELVES (EG THE SAUDIS) WERE WORRIED ABOUT QADDAFI.

3. NO ONE COULD SUBSTANTIATE WHAT CONTEH HAD TOLD LORD CARRINGTON ABOUT A POSSIBLE OUA FORCE FOR CHAD. HAIG THOUGHT THAT THE LIBYANS WOULD STAY IN NORTHERN CHAD. FRANCOIS-PONCET AGREED. THE SUDAN, THE SAHARA, AND TUNISIA COULD BE NEXT IN LINE. QADDAFI'S TRIP TO MOSCOW HAD SHOWN THAT THE RUSSIANS DID NOT FULLY TRUST HIM, BUT WERE READY TO USE HIM. HE HAD DISCUSSED QADDAFI WITH GROMYKO, WHO SPOKE OF HIM AS IF HE WERE TALKING ABOUT KHOMEINI: SCEPTICAL, AND CRITICAL, BUT THE LANGUAGE OF THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE IN EFFECT SUPPORTED LIBYAN ACTION IN CHAD. IN TWELVE MONTHS QADDAFI HAD MOVED FROM AN ECCENTRIC BUT DANGEROUS ARAB TERRORIST TO SOMETHING MUCH MORE SERIOUS. THE ALGERIANS WERE WORRIED BY THE LIBYANS, BUT WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST THEM. HAIG AGREED. FRANCOIS-PONCET SAID THAT THE QUESTION WAS HOW TO HANDLE THE LIBYANS ENERGETICALLY AND FIRMLY. OTHERWISE WE COULD WAKE UP TO AN UGLY SITUATION IN AFRICA.

ARCULUS

LIMITED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

HD/EESD

HD/NAD

PS

PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS

MR BULLARD

SIR J GRAHAM

MR J MOBERLY

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