UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2015-06322 Doc No. C05927443 Date: 01/29/2016
Obtained by Judicial Watch, Inc. Via FOIA

From:

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Sent:

Wednesday, March 09, 2011 7:55 AM

RELEASE IN PART B6

To:

Huma Abedin

Subject:

Fw: H: serious trouble for Libyan rebels. Sid

Attachments:

hrc memo serious problems libyan rebels 030911.docx

B6

Can you print for me w/o any identifiers?

From: sbwhoeop

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 07:06 AM

To: H

Subject: H: serious trouble for LIbyan rebels. Sid

CONFIDENTIAL

March 9, 2011

For: Hillary From: Sid

Re: Serious problems for Libyan rebels

The latest report:

(Source Comment: Private individuals in Europe, with ties to the leadership of the National Libyan Council (NLC), plan to urge the NLC military committee to consider hiring private troops (mercenaries) to support, organize, and train the rebel forces in Libya. These individuals believe that NATO and the Western allies will not make a decision to aid the rebels until they are faced with a humanitarian disaster, and that the revolution is in danger. At the same time, these individuals believe a small number of private troops could turn the battle against Qaddafi's forces, particularly if they are equipped with sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons. These individuals also believe that experienced troops will have little trouble shooting down Libyan aircraft and attack helicopters. In the opinion of these sources, this would have a devastating psychological affect on Qaddafi's troops.)

During the afternoon of March 8, individuals with access to Saif al Islam Qaddafi stated in confidence that Muammar al Qaddafi is increasingly confident that his troops can drive back rebel forces attempting to advance on Tripoli from Benghazi. According to these individuals, Qaddafi continues to believe that, if he and his

supporters can hold on to power for the next two weeks, the morale of the rebel forces will begin to falter, while the opposition NLC, and the tribal leaders will begin to fight among themselves.

Knowledgeable individuals with access to the European security community state that they believe reports that Qaddafi may be preparing to flee the country are false. That said, they add that, in their opinion, the NATO surveillance of Libya will be able to tell if and when Qaddafi does prepare to leave. They add that to date there appears to be no activity indicating that such a move is about to take place.

(Source Comment: According to knowledgeable individuals, military commanders loyal to Qaddafi, including his son Khamis, are surprised that NATO and the other Western military organizations have not taken a more direct hand in the fighting. They continue to be concerned over this possibility, particularly in the wake of the capture of Dutch Marines west of Tripoli, and reports of British Special Forces troops being detained by rebel forces near Benghazi, while attempting to contact the NLC. That said, these military commanders still believe that NATO, and particularly the United States are using satellite imagery and other sophisticated surveillance devices to monitor the military situation in Libya. They have warned Qaddafi, that although the Western powers appear to be reluctant to enter the fighting, this surveillance can identify anti-aircraft facilities and other sensitive targets, and allows NATO commanders to move quickly if they decide to implement a no fly zone over Libya, or become more directly involved in aiding the rebels. Qaddafi remains confident that NATO and the Western allies will continue to debate a course of action for the immediate future. He also assured his commanders that neither the Arab League nor the Organization of African Unity (OAU) would participate in, or support any attack on Libya. Finally, according to these sources, Qaddafi believes that Russia and China will not support any action that involves increasing the military role the United States or NATO.)

In Benghazi, individuals with access to the NLC state in confidence that despite the best efforts of the NLC, a unified governing body has yet to emerge. At present, NLC leader Mustafa Abdel Galil is experiencing limited success in his efforts attract members of the academic and student movements to the NLC. Galil is from the town of Albeida, northeast of Benghazi and has family and traditional ties to many academic and civic leaders in the region. The leaders of the el-Senussi family continues to assert that they should be the basis for an interim government. Galil and his supporters reject this, and only one member of the el-Senussi has been allowed to work with the NLC. (Source Comment: This individual was imprisoned by Qaddafi for many years and is respected by all sides.).

PORTS:

Individuals with access to the military committee of the NLC stated in confidence that as of March 8 the major Libyan oil ports of Ras Lanuf and Brega in the eastern part of the country are closed. The Libyan army fought rebels for control of Ras Lanuf on March 7 and a rebel official reported that a captured Libyan Army officer stated that Qaddafi would attack oil fields if he believes that the rebels were winning the conflict.

On Saturday, March 5 a Turkish owned vessel left Ras Lanuf with over 500,000 barrels of crude oil. Sources with access to the NLC stated that this was the last cargo vessel to sail from that port. (Source Comment: These individuals said that on March 7 the NLC received word that the port of Tobruk was operational. Various sources reported on March 7 that the general cargo ports of Tripoli, Benghazi and Khoms were operational.)

The NLC sources add that many of the oil ports appear to be closed, and too dangerous to use. During the week of February 28 London's marine insurance market added Libya to a list of areas deemed high risk.

OIL PRODUCTION

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According to The International Energy Agency, before the uprising Libyan wells pumped around 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd). As of Friday, 1 million bpd of this oil production was lost, after foreign oil firms evacuated their workers.

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From:

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Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 1:12 PM

RELEASE IN PART B6

To:

Huma Abedin

Subject:

Fw: H: Q's trick, Galil's approach. Sid

Attachments:

hrc memo qaddafi's coming tricks 031011.docx

Pls print.

B6

From: sbwhoeop

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:13 PM

To: H

Subject: H: Q's trick, Galil's approach. Sid

CONFIDENTIAL

March 10, 2011

For: Hillary From: Sid

Re: Qaddafi's coming tricks and fears; Galil's strategy

Latest report:

As of March 10, 2011 individuals with access to officials of the government of Muammar Qaddafi stated in confidence that, several of his advisors, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Mousa Kousa, have discussed the idea of proposing a ceasefire to the National Libyan Council (NLC), followed by negotiations to form a new government led by a council of technocrats. Under this plan Qaddafi would stay in power as the head of state and national leader, and the day to day management of the country would be given over to the technocrats. According to these individuals Qaddafi does not believe the NLC or its leader Mustafa al Galil will accept this offer, but feels that it enhances his position as head of state in the eye of the world, making it less likely that NATO or some combination of foreign powers will come to the aid of the rebels.

Mousa Kousa is concerned that while the Western powers remain reluctant to commit to military action in Libya, they appear to be moving toward a series of political and economic gestures which may weaken the government. He was particularly concerned by the French government announcing it was recognizing the NLC as the legitimate government of Libya.

(Source Comment: According to knowledgeable individuals both Qaddafi and Mousa Kousa believe the announcement of the Russian government that it was suspending arms sales to the Qaddafi regime is symbolic

in nature, and that the Libyan military will continue to obtain new equipment and replacement parts for its existing Russian material, even if comes via an indirect route. Qaddafi repeatedly states that he has survived numerous assassination attempts, an attack by the United States Air Force and tribal uprisings. He is now increasingly confident that he will survive this crisis.)

On March 10 the rebels continued to move back slowly from the town of Ras Lanuf under fire from the Libyan Air Force, and the 155 mm motorized guns of the Libyan Army. Galil has expressed concern to the Military Committee of the NLC regarding unsuccessful efforts to organize the opposition troops into an effective fighting force. Galil also said to other members of the NLC that he fears the United States and the other NATO countries are reluctant provide arms to the rebels, because they fear that these weapons will fall into the hands of al Qai'da and other radical Islamist groups.

Galil is convinced that one of his most important tasks is to convince these Western governments that the rebels are not supported by al Qai'da, as Qaddafi regularly claims. (Source Comment: To date Galil has had only limited success in this regard. He also stated that sources in Washington have informed him that certain officials of the United States Government want to adopt a policy urging the Government of Saudi Arabia to fund rebel efforts to purchase better weapons. However, as of this time the proposal has not received high level support.).

In fighting on March 10, forces loyal to Qaddafi advanced into the outskirts of Ras Lanuf. The Libyan Army forces moved two T-72 tanks toward the oil town and are firing on rebel positions throughout the day. Eyewitnesses reported that the rebels are pulling out of the city under the ongoing artillery bombardment. Similarly, military airstrikes targeted the oil town of Brega, located 56 mi/90 km east of Ras Lanuf.

The Qaddafi regime has begun a crackdown on international media in the country. According to knowledgeable individuals, journalists from the BBC were detained and tortured by regime officials earlier in the week. BBC staff members were arrested just outside of the embattled city of Zawiyah, located 30 mi/50 km west of Tripoli. The BBC journalists received permission from the government to operate in the country. At the same time, a reporter from Britain's press outlet The Guardian is missing in the country. The Guardian correspondent and a Brazilian newspaper journalist disappeared on the outskirts of the city of Zawiyah. Guardian officials are reportedly in touch with Libyan authorities in an attempt to ascertain whether the men have been detained. (Source Comment: During the evening of March 10 Libyan Army forces advanced into Zawiyah, as the rebels withdrew.)

On March 9 advisors to Saif al Islam Qaddafi stated in confidence that his father had dispatched senior officials to Lisbon, Brussels, Cairo, and Vienna, carrying the message that Qaddafi is willing to negotiate the surrender of rebel forces, insuring their safety if they lay down their arms. Qaddafi believes that Mustafa Galil and other former members of his government who joined the rebels must be prosecuted for treason, but he is prepared to pardon the bulk of the rebels. In the opinion of these sources Qaddafi is asking these governments of the European Union and Egypt to weigh in with the rebels and influence them to receive Qaddafi's representatives to discuss an end to the fighting.

In Egypt, Qaddafi's representative, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Rahman al-Zawi, received a cool reception from representatives of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), who reminded al-Zawi of the incident in 1991 when ten members of the rebel Libyan National Army (LNA), under Colonel Khalifa Haftar, accepted Qaddafi's offer of amnesty if they returned to Libya from their base in the Congo. Upon their return these LNA fighters were arrested put on trial for treason and executed. (Source Comment: Al-Zawi asked to discuss these matters further after he had talked to Tripoli.)

According to these knowledgeable sources, forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi closed in on rebel forces in locations in both the eastern and western parts of the country on 9 March 2011. In Zawiyah, located

approximately 30 mi/50 km west of Tripoli, government forces surrounded rebels in the central city square. Eyewitnesses have reported seeing snipers and tanks surrounding the fighters and stated that clashes are ongoing. Government forces also drew closer to the rebel-held port city of Ras Lanuf in the eastern portion of the country on March 9. Rebel and government forces clashed just outside of the city, approximately 12 mi/20 km from the city center. Government forces also launched rockets at strategic areas of Ras Lanuf during the overnight hours of 8-9 March. Several injuries have been reported over the last 24 hours.

Conditions in Tripoli have been calm in recent days. Tensions remain significantly elevated, but government orders and edicts have instilled an almost forced normality to day-to-day operations in the city. Traffic and transport is normal, and shops and businesses are open; however, business operations have become increasingly difficult due to stifled economic activity, rising prices and an increasing scarcity of goods. Internet services and telecommunications, including text and most mobile phone services, have been suspended in the country for nearly a week, creating further business operation problems for workers and companies in the capital. Government surveillance has increased, and security and pro-Qaddafi militia patrols are prominent throughout the city.