



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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MAIN POINTS ON AMBASSADOR KENNEDY'S REPORT
ON VISIT TO TRIPOLI

A. VISIT TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL (SAAD MUZBER)

- (i) Muzber implied in conversation that Jalloud had made reported remarks.
- (ii) Muzber said Libya took gravest exception to Ireland's support for EEC sanctions against Libya - only Greece questioned the evidence.
- (iii) Mrs. Thatcher and her family would pay for Britain's part in the U.S. attack on Libya.
- (iv) Ireland is now asking Libya not to support I.R.A. but Libya needs something in return - Ireland should go back to the EEC and absolve Libya of blame for terrorist attacks.
- (v) If EEC lifted sanctions the whole situation would change - Libya could play a constructive role in an international conference on terrorism.
- (vi) I.R.A. could not operate in the Republic without the sympathy of the population there. They were not at war with the Republic.
- (vii) Muzber declared that at the next popular Congress he would advocate full support for the I.R.A. against Thatcher. "What could the I.R.A. not do if they had \$50m to use against Thatcher."
- (viii) Muzber to consider Note Verbale.

B. VISIT TO DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

- (i) Libya entirely opposed to terrorism.
- (ii) Libya had never supported the I.R.A. either materially or morally.
- (iii) Should Libya feel called upon to take a stand on Ireland it will be in support of the Republic.
- (iv) Difficulties caused by media.
- (v) Director to consider Note Verbale.

C. SECOND VISIT TO DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

- (i) Stated he was under instructions not to accept Note Verbale.
- (ii) No justification for note in view of commitment he gave earlier.

Ambassador protested at refusal to accept Note Verbale which was returned to him.

D. COMMENT BY AMBASSADOR

It seems obvious that Jalloud is not going to admit openly that he made the statement about the I.R.A. and that we will not get anything more than the Director's statement. However, the content of the latter is quite useful (if unbelievable) and contains assurances that we can quote as a reply to our protest. Clearly the strategy decided upon in Tripoli was to offer the Director's statement as a quid-pro-quo for not accepting the note. Acceptance in their eyes

would have conceded that Jalloud made his statement on the I.R.A. Instead, the media is blamed in order to create the impression that Jalloud never said it. I feel on balance, however, that it was well worthwhile coming to Tripoli in order to leave them in no doubt how our Government feels on Jalloud and the I.R.A. I have personally no doubt but that Libya will reactivate its support for the I.R.A. in Britain and will endeavour to murder Thatcher and her family. Two hours with Saad Muzber made that quite clear.

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