-TOP SECRET/UNDRA/RUFF/EXDIS

E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4(2), 3.3(4)(1),
2.3(4)(1)

12 1/2 1

LIBYA ATTACK - INTERE 43 (April 16, 0500 hrs)



Soviet Military Activity: There has been no significant change in Soviet military readiness posture following the US airstrikes. Soviet naval units remain in early warning/surveillence positions in the central Mediterranean. All Soviet civil flights regularly scheduled to land or overfly Libya have been rerouted to land at Algiers or to overfly Algerian airspace until further notice.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR M1399 #10

BY KML NARA DATE 7/14/10

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World Reaction

Soviet: The Soviet Government statement of April 15 warned that unspecified "far-reaching conclusions" would have to be drawn if US "aggression" did not cease immediately and blamed the US for making the Shults-Shevardnadse meeting impossible "at this time." Gorbachev in his April 15 meeting with Swedish Premier Carlsson called the US action a link in a chain of provocative actions and a deliberate aggravation of US-Soviet relations. The statement did not mention terrorism, but the media have played up Gorbachev's public disavowal of support for terrorism and have attempted to turn the US charge against Libya around to tar the US with the terrorism-as-state-policy brush, portraying Libya as the victim.

The overriding public theme, however, is that the US administration, in pursuit of its policy of neoglobalism, has committed the "crime" of aggression against a sovereign state in violation of the UN charter and international law.

Official pronouncements pledging solidarity with Libya before the attack were sensistently cast in generalized language, and Deputy Pereign Minister Korniyenko on April 14 skirted the issue of what Muccow would do in the event of US action against Libya. Gedhafi did not enhance his credibility with the Soviets by his actions in March, and Moscow is probably as distrustful of him as ever and as unlikely to make any sort of commitment that would risk drawing it into a confrontation with the Mi.

Other

Romania: Ceausescu called in the US ambassador April 15 to convey a strongly worded message to President Reagan protesting the US attack which allegedly demaged the Romanian Embassy and injured four people, and stating that Romania held the US fully responsible.

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Sec. 1.4(4)3.3(b(1), Japan:

3.366)6)

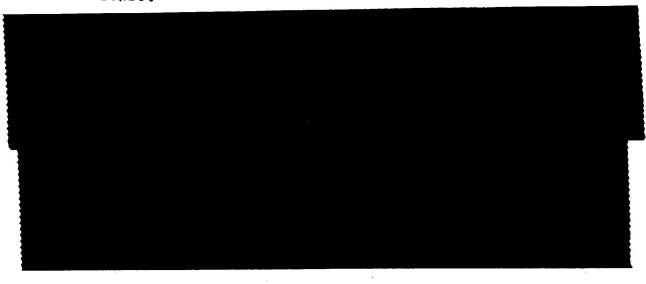
commentary is likely to remain cautious, probably regretting the current situation but avoiding any direct criticism of US action. The main concern of officials will be over any escalation of hostilities and the danger that US-European divisiveness on the issue could damage prospects for success of the upcoming Tokyo Summit.

China: The PRC Foreign Ministry press spokesman announced on April 15 that China "condemns" the US attack. He said China opposes terrorism and also "the encroachment" on the territory of another state "under the pretext of striking terrorism."

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Australia: Prime Minister Nawke said Australia "deeply regrets" the conflict and called on both sides to seek a "peaceful resolution" of their differences. Following Hawke's statement, opposition leader John Noward expressed regret that the government had failed to support the US and that the opposition supported the US actions as justifiable self-defense.



E.O. 12958

As Amended

Sec. 1.4(c), 3.3 (b) (l),

3.3 (b) (b)