

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1986

SITUATION ROOM NOTE

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Aftermath of Libyan Operations, 0500 EST

**MILITARY OPERATIONS:** NPIC's initial Battle Damage Assessment includes the following: At Tripoli airfield there is heavy cloud cover, but no damage is observed in the visible area. At Benina the runway is operational with no craters observed. One MIG-23 and one F-27 have been destroyed, another MIG-23 probably destroyed, two MI-14 helicopters damaged or destroyed, and a third medium helicopter probably destroyed. At least 20 bomb craters are in the southern part of the apron, with at least three buildings near the apron showing some structural damage. The Qadhafi residence in Tripoli shows bomb damage in the compound, heavy roof damage, and damage to the entrance. At Sidi Bilal port there is no damage to the port itself, but the naval academy was hit and the dining hall destroyed. Two other buildings are severely damaged. At the Benghazi barracks east a large storage building near a MIG-23 storage area is damaged, with probable damage to MIG-23 crates.

An SR-71 overflight was conducted during 0155-0217 EST, but initial results will not be available until approximately five hours after landing. Press is reporting that the French embassy was hit several times, but imagery indicates that the building across the street sustained a direct hit, with the embassy suffering probable collateral damage. Press also indicates that other civilian residential areas sustained significant damage, and there are unconfirmed reports that sections of the Swiss and Iranian embassies sustained damage. Qadhafi has reportedly survived the attack, although he has made no public appearance. Precise casualty figures are not available; various press sources have claimed up to 70 civilians dead, with many more wounded. (NMCC/NPIC Telecon; various press)

All US carrier based aircraft are accounted for; however, USN aircraft report that one F-111 probably crashed near the Libyan coast, possibly over land. SAR Ops have not been conducted due to the hazardous location of the crash; rescue attempts may be carried out at a later time. Another F-111 was forced to land in Rota, Spain, due to a mechanical problem. All other aircraft have been recovered. Libyan press continues to report that 20 US aircraft were shot down and the crews killed. (NAVOPINTCEN Report; NMCC Telecon; various press)

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No significant Libyan military activity has been noted, with the exception of the deployment of two patrol boats, which have since returned to port. The status of Soviet naval forces remains unchanged. (NMIC Telecon)

**TERRORISM/REPRISALS:** While no specific terrorist incidents or attacks have been noted in response to US operations, Libyan radio is calling on all Arabs to rise up and "destroy all the US bases in the Mediterranean." Tripoli has also called for attacks on all American interests, encouraging Arabs to "tear apart the bodies of Americans, civilian and military, (and) drink their blood." Iran says the US has endangered its own security in the Middle East, claiming the Islamic world is now at war with the US. There is currently no information available on the status of US citizens remaining in Libya. (various press; State Telecon)

**DIPLOMATIC REACTIONS:** Very little official diplomatic reaction is available at this time. Embassy Canberra reports that Prime Minister Hawke has stated that Australia "deeply regrets" the conflict, and calls on both sides to seek a peaceful resolution. Opposition leader John Howard regretted the government's failure to support the US action, stating that the Liberal and National Parties' position supported the US operation as justifiable self defense. In press, TASS is calling the US attack "new bloody aggression," and a "barbaric act of state terrorism." While Israel has praised the US, several European diplomats have termed the strikes as "rather embarrassing" for Western European governments, as the action came hours after the EC foreign ministers called for restraint. UK Foreign Secretary Howe called the US action essential; however, opposition leaders were "horrified." Both the PRC and Syria strongly condemned the operation. Libya is calling on OPEC to impose an embargo on the US. Most other countries have not yet issued any formal comments. (Canberra 3633; various press)

- Follow-up w/ OAKLEY

- Go to Brussels

- Absolve Request

- Collateral Damage

- Shaping Public Perception

- Tischer wty.

o UOA Broadcast

o Accusation that we were imprecise

o Damage to civilian targets:

- Targeted ~~civilian~~ terrorist & terror related targets

o Abuse as targets

for public consumption

o Regret any civilian casualties