

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

August 31, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: NTC politics of humanitarian aid

During the morning of August 31, 2011, sensitive sources with excellent access stated in strict confidence that Prime Minister Mahmoud Jabril, President Mustafa Abdul Jalil, and the other leaders of the Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC) continue to debate how best to organize their efforts to deal with foreign governments and firms in an effort to address the humanitarian and security needs of the Libyan people, as they attempt to form an effective government. The recent success of the rebellion against the regime of Muammar al Qaddafi has surprised these NTC leaders, and they are now struggling with the divisions inside of the movement. Jabril and Jalil realize that the real success or failure of their rebellion depends on their ability to form an administrative structure that can deal with other governments and major foreign business interests on behalf of the people of Libya.

(Source Comment: According to an extremely sensitive source, the NTC leadership is increasingly concerned over the failure of the rebel National Libyan Army (NLA) to capture Qaddafi or his remaining family members, particularly his son Saif al-Islam Qaddafi. They are especially worried that the former dictator may take advantage of tribal loyalties in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in order to carry on a guerrilla war against the new NTC government. At the same time they believe that certain governments will continue to hold back full recognition and cooperation until the Qaddafis are removed from the scene. In this regard Jalil is pressing the idea of asking the United Nations to provide experts to organize and administer any humanitarian aid the NTC receives, believing that this will give the new regime greater credibility as a national government. Jabril has not yet commented on this idea, and it has not been fully debated in the NTC.)

At present, these sources note that various European governments and firms are working with their particular friends on the NTC to gain favorable positions for future business opportunities. These sources believe that the private talks between NTC members and these foreign officials and businessmen involve discussions regarding how best to meet the needs of the population. For his part Jabril is concerned that many of the tentative offers of assistance appear to be linked to business concessions for the donor countries, particularly in the oil industry. One advisor to

Jabril has stated in private that if the NTC accepts this assistance without question, Libya will become a client state of the major European powers.

At present, senior NTC officials believe that the government of the United Kingdom is working to strengthen the position of British Petroleum (BP), pointing out that, while in the past BP was forced to deal closely with the Qaddafi regime, the UK was among the first of the major powers to come to the aid of the rebels. By the same token, the French government has quietly but forcefully continued to remind Jalil and other NTC leaders that they were the first major country to support the rebels. At the same time, the French, who feel that in the past firms like TOTAL/ELF were not fairly treated by the Qaddafi regime are looking for the NTC to open up a greater percentage of the Libyan oil fields to their operations.

The NTC continues to maintain a correct but cool attitude toward the Italian government and the Italian oil firm ENI. The NTC leadership believes that the Italians quietly dealt with Qaddafi regime well into the rebellion, and the new government will continue to move very carefully in dealing with either the Italian government or ENI.

At the same time, both Jabril and Jalil are particularly suspicious of the intention of the government of German Chancellor Angela Merkel toward the new Libyan regime, and have taken steps to monitor the activities of German diplomats and businessmen in the rebel stronghold of Benghazi. By the same token, the NTC has received unconfirmed reports from their security officers and military commanders in the field that officers of Germany's external intelligence service (Bundesnachrichtendienst – BND) are maintaining clandestine contact with Qaddafi's forces in and around the city of Sirte. These NTC officials believe strongly that the Germans continue to hedge their bet on Libya, in the event that Qaddafi can continue to fight until the political, tribal, and regional divisions on the NTC weaken their efforts to form a government.

(Source Comment: In the opinion of a source with excellent access to the NTC leadership, Jabril and his advisors are working to bring in private firms to meet their pressing humanitarian needs. The Prime Minister believes that if they wait for foreign governments to provide this assistance the death toll among the wounded and injured will continue to rise, and the NTC will be held responsible for failing to bring in emergency and battlefield medical support. To this end they have signed an agreement with the Osprey Security Group (OSG), a U.S. firm specializing in emergency medical care and humanitarian assistance. OSG is prepared to deliver the aid immediately upon receiving the funds from the NTC. Jabril's advisors believe that the use of this American firm will not only allow the NTC to meet a pressing need, but will also serve to cement good relations with the U.S. government and business community. One NTC official noted that OSG's ability to provide this medical and humanitarian support sets it apart from firms like the French security group SECOPLEX, which look to provide foreign fighters to support the rebel's NLA. Jabril continues to emphasize that unlike the Qaddafi army; the NLA does not, and will not use foreign mercenaries for military operations.)