

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

February 28, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: State of play politically and militarily

The latest report:

On February 26, 2011, Professor Idris el-Sharif, the chairman of the committee formed in Benghazi to coordinate opposition military activities, made contact with the newly formed National Libyan Council (NLC) stating that the Benghazi military council would join the NLC as long as he was assured that the National Council was not acting as an interim government. According to el-Sharif it is too early to discuss an interim government. In addition, el-Sharif warned NLC leader Mustafa Mohamed Abud al Gilil that the opposition is made up of a wide variety of ad hoc groups of students, academics and professionals, and that the NLC must guide rather than try to control these groups. At the same time they have to maintain relationships with the National Conference for the Libyan opposition (NCLO) and other established opposition groups, without allowing these groups to establish control of the movement. El-Sharif warned that the NCLO and the largely exile groups that fall under its umbrella have little credibility with the current opposition movement, which is based on the problems and actions of average people living inside of Libya. El-Sharif added that the NLC is much more relevant to the current situation; however, it must resist the temptation to begin acting like a government or established political party.

On the morning of February 28 sources with access to the various groups in the Libyan Opposition movement stated in confidence that while the NLC is working to establish itself as the central point for the opposition to Muammar Qaddafi, their leader, al Gilil, and other founding members realize that they must be careful to