

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

April 19, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: UK/French advisers in Libya

Latest report:

During the week of April 18, 2011 a source with direct access to the Libyan rebel command under the Transitional National Council (TNC, also known as the National Libyan Council, NLC) stated in secret that senior members of the TNC are concerned that the announcement that British military advisors will be joining the rebels will give false hope to their forces. These TNC leaders believe that the approximately ten (10) high ranking British officers will concentrate on assessing the rebel's prospects for survival while providing the British and French governments with intelligence that will allow them to make hard decisions on providing aid to the rebels. French officers will also be involved in these meetings.

(Source Comment: Senior TNC officers are concerned that in the end neither the British nor the French will provide tangible assistance at a level that will make a difference for the rebels. These individuals are particularly bitter about the French position, since they note that early in the rebellion officers from the Action Group of the French external intelligence service (DGSE) met with rebel leaders and encouraged them to rise up against Muammar al Qaddafi, while promising French aid when the fighting began.)

At the same time, these individuals state that DGSE officers continue to maintain a close relationship with rebel commander, General Abdul Fattah Younus, encouraging him to support French and British diplomatic and economic plans for post – Qaddafi Libya. These foreign officers, in the opinion of knowledgeable sources, work against the efforts of General (formerly Colonel) Khalifa Haftar to establish himself in the rebel army. The DGSE believes that Haftar, who lived in the United States for twenty years, is too close to American interests. Again, these individuals find this intrigue frustrating at a time when the rebellion is in serious danger of failing. They are encouraging the TNC to broaden their efforts to obtain military assistance.

In the meantime, as the fighting continues, TNC military officers in the field report that prisoners captured from Qaddafi's forces have reported that prior to the initiation of the no-fly zone by the Western powers, ALGERIA provided Qaddafi's forces with a number of T55, T/56 E T/64 tanks. According to these prisoner interrogations; ALGERIA is continuing to supply fuel to Qaddafi's forces.

(Source Comment: These TNC officers are frustrated by France's failure to attempt to block these supply efforts. The Libyans believe France continues to exert a degree of influence in Algeria.)