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FM BAHRAIN 090700Z JUL 79

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 146 OF 9 JULY

INFO ROUTINE CAIRO TRIPOLI

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON

*Libya 2*

*Prime Minister*

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MY TEL 142, PARA 6: UK/LIBYA

1. I ASKED THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THIS MORNING FOR A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF WHAT QADHAFI HAD SAID TO HIM ABOUT UK/LIBYAN RELATIONS.
2. SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK REPLIED THAT WHEN IT HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO QADHAFI THAT THE BAHRAINI/LIBYAN TALKS WERE BEING DELAYED BECAUSE OF MRS THATCHER'S STOPOVER IN BAHRAIN HE HAD COMMENTED THAT LIBYA HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE UK. AFTER THE REVOLUTION THE LIBYANS HAD CANCELLED AN ARMS CONTRACT WITH THE UK. QADHAFI SAID HE NOW REGRETTED THIS (APPARENTLY NOT SO MUCH THE DEED ITSELF AS BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE ARMS IN QUESTION HAD ENDED UP IN EGYPTIAN HANDS). SECONDLY, THERE HAD BEEN A DISPUTE OVER THE RENT OF THE AL ADHAM AIR BASE. THIRDLY, THE BRITISH HAD RESENTED LIBYA'S SUPPLYING THE IRA WITH FINANCE AND WEAPONS.
3. QADHAFI SAID HE COULD ASSURE THE BAHRAINIS THAT FOR THREE YEARS HE HAD GIVEN NO SUCH ASSISTANCE TO THE IRA, ALTHOUGH MORALLY HE SUPPORTED THEM IN THE SAME WAY HE DID OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO GET ON BETTER TERMS WITH THE LAST BRITISH GOVERNMENT BUT HIS EFFORTS HAD COME TO NOTHING. NOW HE WANTED TO TRY WITH THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO SHAIKH MOHAMMED, QADHAFI SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BUY MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE UK.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON

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