

RESTRICTED

FM TRIPOLI 090900Z JUNE 80

TO PRIORITY F C O

TEL NUMBER 281 OF 9 JUNE 1980

QADHAFI'S INTERVIEW WITH 'PANORAMA'

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ITALIAN MAGAZINE 'PANORAMA' PUBLISHED IN THE LIBYAN PRESS ON 8 JUNE, QADHAFI SPOKE INTER ALIA (PREVIOUS TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) ABOUT THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO LIQUIDATE LIBYAN EXILES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LIBYA WITHDRAWING HER DEPOSITS FROM BRITISH BANKS.

LIQUIDATION OF LIBYAN EXILES

2. QADHAFI EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SPECIFIED THE DATE OF 11 JUNE AS THE LAST DATE FOR THE RETURN OF LIBYAN EXILES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEM FROM VENGEANCE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES. HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PROTECT THOSE WHO DID NOT RETURN AFTER THAT DATE. HE COULD ONLY PROTECT THEM IN LIBYA. HE BELIEVED THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES WOULD CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROGRAMME OF PHYSICAL LIQUIDATION. NO ONE COULD CONTROL THE WORK OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES BECAUSE THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT 'FORCES OF CORRUPTION AND DICTATORSHIP MUST BE PHYSICALLY REMOVED'.

WITHDRAWAL OF LIBYAN ASSETS FROM THE UK

3. REFERRING TO A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE BRITISH MAGAZINE 'EIGHT DAYS' (SIC) ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LIBYAN WITHDRAWING HER DEPOSITS - ESTIMATED TO BE 7.8 BILLION DOLLARS - FROM BRITISH BANKS, QADHAFI WAS ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS HIS INTENTION. HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ON WHEN ANY WITHDRAWAL WOULD TAKE PLACE.

EDES

DEPARTMENTAL
NENAD
T.V.D.
E.C.D.
J.E.D.
FRB
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO
MISS PHILIPPA DREW } HOPE
M.G.L. ANGEL } OFFICE

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

RESTRICTED