

ADVANCE COPY

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Prime Minister.

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM TRIPOLI 132040Z JUNE 80

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TEL NUMBER 297 OF 13 JUNE 1980

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SIR D. HAITLAND  
MR J. MOBILLY  
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DUTY CLERK No 10 DS.

1. AT ABOUT 21.15 HOURS (LOCAL), ONE OR MORE INCENDIARY DEVICES WERE THROWN AT THE EMBASSY'S MAIN ENTRANCE AND A FIRE STARTED. THE FRONT WOODEN DOOR WAS BADLY DAMAGED AND AN AREA AROUND IT WAS BLACKENED. INSIDE, THE STEEL SECURITY DOOR WAS BADLY SCORCHED BUT UNDOUBTEDLY PREVENTED FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING. THE PUBLIC RECEPTION AREA WAS BADLY DAMAGED. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN THE STAFF RECEPTION AREA.
2. WITHIN TEN MINUTES OR SO, THE FIRE BRIGADE ARRIVED AND PUT OUT THE SMALL FIRE. BY THIS TIME, A CROWD OF ABOUT 30/40 PEOPLE HAD GATHERED BUT WERE DISPERSED SOON AFTER TWO POLICE SQUAD CARS ARRIVED. THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION.
3. I AND FOUR MEMBERS OF MY STAFF (HOLDEN, BATES, SLATER AND HUTTON) WERE IN THE BUILDING AT THE TIME. WE RECEIVED NO (REPEAT NO) WARNING OF THE ATTACK. WE WERE ABLE TO CLOSE DOWN OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURE THE CONFIDENTIAL ZONE BEFORE LEAVING THE BUILDING WHICH WAS BY NOW FILLED WITH DENSE ACRID FUMES. NOBODY WAS HURT, THOUGH BATES AND HUTTON INHALED A FAIR AMOUNT OF SMOKE.

4. THE BUILDING HAS BEEN LOCKED AND SECURED FOR THE NIGHT. HUTTON, MY SECURITY OFFICER, AND ASLEN, MY AAO, WILL OCCUPY THEIR FLATS UPSTAIRS. THE MISSION'S TELEPHONES ARE WORKING.

5. I SHALL SEND A FULLER DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TOMORROW. MEANWHILE, THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS ATTACK WAS MOUNTED BY A SMALL GROUP OF ADOLESCENTS, PROBABLY MEMBERS OF A REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE. THE PROMPT ARRIVAL OF THE FIRE BRIGADE AND POLICE, WITHOUT CALLS FROM US, SUGGESTS THAT THE ATTACK WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND CO-ORDINATED. THERE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, A YOUNG MAN WITH A WALKIE-TALKIE NEAR THE ENTRANCE WHEN WE LEFT THE BUILDING.

6. I PROPOSE TO MAKE A STRONG PROTEST TO THE FLB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TOMORROW AND TO DEMAND FULL COMPENSATION AS WELL AS PROPER PROTECTION WHICH, DESPITE MY REQUEST YESTERDAY, HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED.

EDES

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