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FROM TRIPOLI 080925Z JUL 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 337 OF 8 JULY  
REPEATED FOR INFO HSP5

ANGLO/LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. I WAS SUMMONED TO SEE BU SETTA AT FLB ON 7 JULY AT 7 P M.  
HOLDEN WENT WITH ME.
2. BU SETTA COMPLAINED IN VERY STRONG TERMS ABOUT THE TREATMENT  
OF LIBYANS BY THE UK AUTHORITIES WHICH HE SAID WAS AN  
"AFFRONT TO LIBYAN DIGNITY". LIBYANS IN TRANSIT AT UK AIRPORTS  
WERE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND TREATED LIKE "COMMON  
CRIMINALS". HE CITED THREE EXAMPLES, BUT SAID THERE WERE MANY.  
TWO OF THESE CONCERNED BILQASIM AND SHIHATI. HE CLAIMED THAT  
THE LATTER HAD BEEN KEPT WAITING FOR 8 HOURS AND HAD MISSED  
HIS FLIGHT. LIBYAN STUDENTS WERE STILL BEING HARASSED.  
POLICE HAD ENTERED THEIR HOMES LATE AT NIGHT AND OTHER STUDENTS  
HAD BEEN INTERROGATED AND ASKED TO PRODUCE THEIR PASSPORTS.  
HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THIS WAS PART OF NORMAL POLICE  
ACTIVITY SEMICOLON IT WAS A DELIBERATE POLICY OF HARASSMENT  
DIRECTED BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES AGAINST LIBYANS.
3. BU SETTA SAID THAT "THE PEOPLE" WERE ENRAGED AND THERE  
WAS MOUNTING PRESSURE FOR RETALIATION. THE FLB COULD NOT  
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO UK CITIZENS IN LIBYA.  
LIBYA WAS PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO  
PRESERVE THE DIGNITY OF HER CITIZENS, INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY,  
BREAKING OFF ALL RELATIONS. IT WAS UP TO THE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO END THE HARASSMENT. THERE  
HAD BEEN NO REASON, SINCE QADHAFI'S SPEECH OF 11 JUNE CALLING  
FOR A HALT TO THE KILLINGS, FOR THE UK AUTHORITIES TO  
CONTINUE TO HARRY LIBYANS. QADHAFI HAD CALLED FOR A HALT TO  
THE KILLINGS TO GIVE THE EXILES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN HOME.
4. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT THE KILLINGS HAD STOPPED  
FOR GOOD, BU SETTA ANSWERED ONLY BY REFERRING AGAIN TO  
QADHAFI'S SPEECH AND ASKING WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY KILLINGS  
OR ATTEMPTED KILLINGS SINCE 11 JUNE.

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5. HE CONTRASTED ITALY'S AND W GERMANY'S TREATMENT OF LIBYANS WITH WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO LIBYANS IN THE UK. HE SAID THAT THE FEW PROBLEMS THAT HAD ARISEN WITH ITALY AND W GERMANY HAD BEEN RESOLVED. HOW MUCH LONGER WAS THE UK GOING TO CONTINUE TO HARASS LIBYANS?
6. HE HANDED OVER A PROTEST NOTE WHICH HE ASKED TO BE CONVEYED TO YOU.
7. IN REPLY I MADE THE RELEVANT POINTS WE HAVE USED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH BU SETTA.
8. TEXT OF THE NOTE WILL FOLLOW BY TELEGRAM.

MCQUADE

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COPIES TO:-  
MISS PHILIPPA DREW H.O.  
MR G L ANGEL