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SUBJ: LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITIES AND ASSAULT
UPON OPPOSITIONIST HEADQUARTERS IN AN EFFORT TO CURB
GROWING CIVIL UNREST

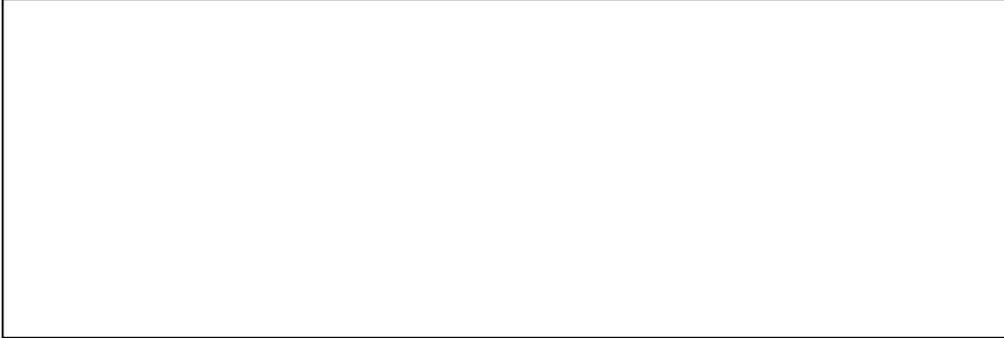
TEXT: 1. IN EARLY APRIL 1989, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ORDERED ALL UNIVERSITIES TO CANCEL CLASSES AND CLOSE CAMPUSES FOR THE DURATION OF RAMADAN. THE ORDER CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MOST LIBYAN ACADEMICS AND APPEARED TO BE IN REACTION TO GROWING UNREST AMONG THE STUDENT AND YOUNGER POPULATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. AS OF THE END OF RAMADAN (EARLY MAY 1989) IT REMAINED UNCLEAR WHEN OR IF THE UNIVERSITIES WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE REOPENED FOR COMPLETION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2008

2. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED ACTION IN APRIL 1989, GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES IDENTIFIED AND SEIZED TEN OFFICES OF THE OPPOSITIONIST MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE "TAQFIR WA HIJRA" MOVEMENT. THIS MOVEMENT HAD BEEN BLAMED BY LIBYAN AUTHORITIES OF INCITING LIBYAN YOUTH TO STAGE PROTESTS AGAINST THE QADHAFI

REGIME AND AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF ITS LEADERS WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.

3. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE ABOVE ACTIONS TOOK PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH RISING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE THROUGHOUT THE ZAWIYAH REGION OF WESTERN LIBYA DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND EARLY MAY 1989. LIBYAN AUTHORITIES WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED REGARDING ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE ZAWIYAH REGION, HOWEVER, NO DEFINITIVE PLAN OF ACTION TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN APPROVED OTHER THAN THOSE MEASURES DESCRIBED ABOVE.)



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