

~~SECRET~~

(b) (1)
(b) (2)
(b) (3)
(S)

APPROVED FOR RE
DATE: FEB 2008

201517Z JAN 89

(b)

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SLAYING OF ESO OFFICER MUHAMMAD AL-'ATI

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] REPORTED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISTANBUL SLAYING OF SENIOR ESO OFFICER MUHAMMAD AL-'(ATI) DURING 16 JANUARY SAFEHOUSE MEETING. P/1 HAD LEARNED OF THE INCIDENT 2-3 DAYS AFTER IT HAD HAPPENED FROM VISITING ZAWAM ((AHMAD)), PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF THE KATIBAT AL AMN (SECURITY BATTALION) AND FORMERLY A MEMBER OF ABD-AL-SALAM ((ZADMA'S)) ESO COUNTER-TERRORIST SECTION. AT THE TIME OF ZAWAM'S INFORMATION, CIRCA 27 DECEMBER, THE ESO HAD NOT ADMITTED TO KNOWING THE MOTIVE BEHIND 'ATI'S KILLING. P/1 WAS AWARE THAT A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY HAD BEEN SENT TO ISTANBUL HEADED BY ESO COL MUHAMMAD AL-'(KAYALI)), FORMERLY HEAD OF ESO'S COUNTER ESPIONAGE SECTION AND RECENTLY JOINT HEAD OF CENTRAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (CSA) WITH MUHAMMAD ((KILBASH)). ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AL-'ATI KILLING SEEMED TO POINT TO A CRIMINAL CAUSE, A LARGE SUM OF MONEY HAD BEEN FOUND ON THE CORPSE. (NOTE: THIS IS AT VARIANCE WITH [REDACTED] INFORMATION THAT A LARGE SUM WAS MISSING FROM HIS BODY.) P/1 AND HIS SOURCE ZAWAM DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT 'ATI WAS KILLED BY A REGIME OPPONENT WHOM HE HAD BEEN SENT ON A MISSION TO EXECUTE, OR THAT 'ATI WAS DELIBERATELY KILLED BY THE QADHAFI REGIME FOR UNKNOWN REASONS. P/1 WAS AWARE OF THE NOTE BEARING A LIBYAN PROVERB FOUND ON 'ATI'S BODY BUT WAS UNAWARE THAT IT HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN TURKISH. HE UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION LIBYAN EXILES LIVING IN TURKEY, MANY OF THEM HAVING SETTLED THERE DURING THE PERIOD OF ITALIAN OCCUPATION. ZAWAM REPORTED THE SUM FOUND ON 'ATI'S BODY AS \$20-30,000 IN HUNDRED DOLLAR DENOMINATIONS. CURIOUSLY, HE HAD BOASTED TO TURKS WHILE DRINKING AT AN ISTANBUL BAR PRIOR TO HIS SLAYING THAT HE WAS QADHAFI'S PERSONAL PILOT. HE WAS WEARING AN LAA UNIFORM WHEN MAKING THIS CLAIM. P/1 ADMITS THERE ARE MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT 'ATI'S DEATH AND HE WILL BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO ELICIT FURTHER INFORMATION FROM ESO VISITORS TO MALTA.

2. P/1 HAD ADDITIONAL PERSONAL AND CAREER BACKGROUND ON 'ATI. HE REMINDED C/O'S [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] THAT 'ATI HAD BEEN ONE OF HIS FRIENDS AND PROTECTORS IN THE ESO HEIRARCHY AND HE SEEMED GENUINELY SADDENED BY HIS DEATH. HE DESCRIBED 'ATI AS COURAGEOUS AND ONE WHO KEPT HIS WORD. UNLIKE MANY OTHERS IN THE ESO, HE DID NOT BRAG ABOUT HIS DEEDS IN THE AREA OF TERRORISM OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS. IN HIS EARLY FORTIES, 'ATI IS SURVIVED BY A WIFE, TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER. HE WAS A NATIVE OF BANGHAZI AND HAD SERVED TOURS IN LONDON AND KHARTOUM. AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH HE WAS HEAD OF THE VESSELS AND SHIPS SECURITY SECTION OF THE ESO. HE WAS EXPOSED AND PNGED FROM LONDON FOR INVOLVEMENT IN AN ANTI-DISSIDENT CAMPAIGN IN 1985. HE ONLY LASTED A FEW MONTHS IN KHARTOUM, HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT, BEFORE EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE RAN AN EXPOSE ON HIS

~~SECRET~~

INTELLIGENCE/TERRORIST CAREER IN A LOCAL SUDANESE NEWSPAPER. THUS EXPOSED, HE WAS QUICKLY WITHDRAWN BY THE ESO. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO P/1, IT IS A GENERAL PRACTICE TO WITHDRAW ESO OFFICERS ONCE THEY ARE PUBLICLY EXPOSED.) THE ESO CONSIDERED 'ATI "BURNED" AND THEREFORE THE REST OF HIS CAREER WAS IN TRIPOLI WITH ONLY TDY TRAVEL OVERSEAS, OFTEN IN ALIAS. P/1 NOTES THAT 'ATI'S HOMETOWN WAS ZLITIN, THEREFORE HIS USE OF ZLITINI AS A LAST NAME AND THE OMISSION OF 'ATI, IS TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ALIAS NAME. P/1 ADDS, THIS IS A COMMON PRACTICE AMONG RANKING OFFICERS WISHING TO CONCEAL THEIR MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE USE OF PPTS BEARING VARIATIONS ON THEIR TRUE NAMES.

~~SECRET~~