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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S CBS INTERVIEW AND RELATED STATEMENTS

1. COL. QADHAFI RECEIVED HARRY REASONER OF CBS IN A TENT NEAR BENGHAZI ON JANUARY 25. I SPENT TWO HOURS WITH REASONER (D ALI AL HOUDAIRI OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU) WHEN HE BRIEFLY PASSED THROUGH TRIPOLI JAN 27 EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK. HE SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE JAN 28 WHETHER TO USE ANY OF THE TV INTERVIEW ON CBS NEWS OR SAVE IT ALL FOR THE 60 MINUTES PROGRAM TWO OR THREE WEEKS HENCE.

2. FROM REASONER'S COMMENTS IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT QADHAFI SAID ANYTHING ENTIRELY NEW OR OUTRAGEOUS THIS TIME. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE INTERVIEW WAS POSITIVE, EXCEPT ON PALESTINE WHERE QADHAFI REPEATED HIS CALL FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL JEWS WHO ARRIVED AFTER 1947. QADHAFI'S REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN WERE SO NUANCED THAT NEITHER REASONER NOR HOUDAIRI WAS ABLE TO GIVE A CLEAR VERSION OF THE COLONEL'S VIEWS. IT SEEMS HE SAID LIBYA WAS OPPOSED TO THE OCCUPATION OF ANY COUNTRY BY ANOTHER. AT THE SAME TIME HE APPARENTLY JUSTIFIED MILITARY AID IF A COUNTRY WERE INVITED IN (LIKE LIBYA IN UGANDA?).

3. ON RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., QADHAFI REPEATED HIS STATEMENT THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE U.S. THIS YEAR. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER THAT THE U.S. HAD PLACED LIBYA ON A BLACKLIST (FOR EXPORTS) AND IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO PUT THE MATTER TO THE GENERAL PEOPLES CONGRESS NEXT YEAR TO DECIDE ON RECIPROCAL LIBYAN MOVES. (AT A MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT COMMITTEES ON JAN 27 QADHAFI IS REPORTED BY JANA AS HAVING SAID: "THE U.S. WILL PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR IGNORING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ARAB NATION. EVERY AMERICAN WILL REALIZE THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S FOLLY WHEN THE ARAB NATION IMPOSES AN OIL EMBARGO, BOYCOTTS AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND CLOSES SEA ROUTES AND AIR SPACES AS A RESULT OF ITS FATAL MISTAKE MADE TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR INTERESTS".)

4. REGARDING IRAN, QADHAFI PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER'S HANDLING OF THE CRISIS AND HIS RESTRAINT. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT IF MILITARY FORCE WERE USED AGAINST IRAN, LIBYA WOULD SUPPORT IRAN. (IN AN INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN JOURNALISTS CARRIED BY JANA JAN 27, QADHAFI SAID: "WE HAVE REITERATED THIS POSITION (SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRANIAN PEOPLE) REPEATEDLY AND INFORMED THE USA AND CARTER HIMSELF OF THIS. WE HAVE STATED THAT THE JAMAHIRIYAH WILL EMPLOY THE OIL WEAPON IN THE EVENT OF AN IRANIAN DECISION TO FIGHT THE USA.")

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5. ON RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, GADHAFI SAID SOVIET
NAVAL VESSELS HAD NOT, AND WOULD NOT, BE ALLOWED TO ENTER
LIBYAN PORTS.
EAGLETON

END OF MESSAGE

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