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N O R T H A F R I C A

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## LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI CLOSING SPEECH AT PEOPLE'S CONGRESS REPORTED

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Tripoli ARNA in English 1020 GMT 5 Mar 77 JN

[Text] Sabhah, 5 March--Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has said that the Arab desert, which is usually linked with such terms as wilderness, aridity, and waste, has witnessed a marvellous human achievement: the birth of the age of the masses in the establishment of the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Public.

He told the closing session of the General People's Congress last Wednesday night, from Sabhah, in the heart of the desert, and on the birthday anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, today emerged the age of the masses in the most democratic style, worthy of emulation.

And as the 20th century in relation to the birth of Christ, may God bestow peace upon Him, draws to a close, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added, our people hereby declare the end of the age of conventional republics, which was initiated by the French people when they ended the age of monarchies, and the emergence of the age of the masses (masses is the English word for "Jamahir" from which Libya's new official name "Jamahiriyah is derived.)

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that the desert of the Orient is the cradle of ancient civilisation and heavenly books that came to illuminate the path of humanity, and from which the age of the masses is being brought to light. He quoted the great Greek philosopher saying from Libya new things come out.

He said the establishment of the people's power is a culmination of the long, bitter struggle for freedom begun by our fathers and forefathers. Let us be faithful to those generations who gave thousands of martyrs in the battle of salvation and freedom, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said at the General People's Congress.

He concluded his address by extending greetings to the officers and men of the Libyan Army and denouncing those who betrayed the trust and who tried to stab us in the back.

REPORTAGE ON CASTRO, DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES

## Visit Kufra Agricultural Project

Tripoli ARNA in English 1219 GMT 5 Mar 77 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 5, ARNA--Dr Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, and the accompanying delegation paid a five-hour visit to the Kufra agricultural project yesterday. They were accompanied by Muhammad abu al-Qasim az-Zuwi, the secretary of information and culture and head of the mission of honour.

The Cuban president and his companions had a tour of various parts of the Kufra agricultural project where they were briefed by the chairman of the executive board of Kufra and Sarifarea. The Cuban president also had a tour of the Kufra town and its modern houses in addition to the model villages and the 10,000-hectare project.

Dr Castro had his lunch in Kufra before leaving for Benghazi.

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NORTH AFRICA

## Arrive in Benghazi

Tripoli ARNA in English 1025 GMT 5 Mar 77 JN

[Text] Benghazi, 5 March--Dr Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Benghazi yesterday. Dr Castro and his delegation were welcomed at the Benina airport by the secretary of the basic people's congress of Benghazi, heads of people's committees, secretaries of people's congresses, army and police officers and crowds of citizens.

The Cuban president is accompanied by Muhammad abu al-Qasim az-Zuwi, secretary of information and culture and the director of the protocol department at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.

## Tour Plants, Farms

Tripoli ARNA in English 1030 GMT 6 Mar 77 JN

[Excerpts] Benghazi, 6 March--Dr. Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban State Council, and the accompanying delegation yesterday called at the iron pipes plant in Benghazi and made a tour of its various sections. Dr. Castro also visited the cement complex in Hawari and the adjacent paper bags plant.

Dr. Fidel Castro also visited the north Benghazi powerstation yesterday where he was welcomed by senior officials who briefed him about the huge powerstation.

He also acquainted himself with the agricultural project of Wadi al-Gattara near Benghazi, which is composed of 4,000 hectares divided into model farms of 10 hectares each, planted with fruit trees, vegetables and other field crops so as to realize annual income for the owner within the range of 1,400 Libyan dinars.

## Lays Wreath at Martyr's Grave

Tripoli ARNA in English 0822 GMT 6 Mar 77 JN

[Text] Benghazi, 6 March--Dr. Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban State Council, laid a wreath at the mausoleum of martyr 'Umar al-Mukhtar in Benghazi yesterday. Dr. Castro was accompanied by Muhammad abu al-Qasim az-Zuwi, the secretary of information and culture, and other senior officials.

## EGYPT CONTINUES TO CLOSE BORDERS WITH LIBYA

Tripoli ARNA in English 1555 GMT 6 Mar 77 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 6 March--The Egyptian authorities continue to close road borders between the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Public and Egypt. The border closure by the Egyptian Government came following the establishment of the people's power in Libya and the birth of the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Public.

Egyptian authorities also harass aviation services, as a number of planes which took off from Libyan Public territory heading for Egypt returned without the passengers being allowed to disembark.