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E.O. 12065; GDS 1/9/86 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM. L.) OR-M  
TAGS: LY, US  
SUBJECT: GADHAFI'S DECEMBER 8 PRESS INTERVIEW  
(MURAMMAR)  
REF: TRIPOLI 0013

BF  
(Libya)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. JON RANDALL OF THE WASHINGTON POST RETURNED TO TRIPOLI FROM BEHGHAZI MOCNING OF JAN 9 AND LEFT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOR BEIRUT WHERE HE WILL FILE HIS STORY ON THE INTERVIEW HE AND SEVERAL OTHER PRESS REPS HAD WITH GADHAFI IN BENGHAZI LAST NIGHT. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE INTERVIEW WITH HIM AND HE LEFT A COPY OF HIS NOTES WITH US.
3. THE U.S.: ASKED WHY THE GENERAL PEOPLES CONGRESS HAD CUT ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA, BECAUSE OF CHINESE SUPPLY OF MIGHs TO EGYPT, BUT HAD NOT TAKEN SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST THE U.S.; GADHAFI REPLIED THAT THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE GIVEN THE U.S. SINCE THE LIBYAN PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY REVIEW RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. NEXT YEAR. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION REFERRING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW WHICH SAID GADHAFI WANTED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., GADHAFI SAID "THIS RESTS WITH THE U.S. THEY DO US INJUSTICE AND PUT US ON THE BLACKLIST.... IF THEY MISS THIS CHANCE AND DO NOT CHANGE THEIR POLICY THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE". RE QUESTION WHETHER BECAUSE OF ELECTION YEAR AND SACKING OF EMBASSY IT WAS BETTER TO COOL IT, GADHAFI REPLIED, "YES, BECAUSE OF THE ELCTION YEAR." ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO SEE THE U.S. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES TO CLARIFY THE MATTER, GADHAFI SAID: "IF THERE IS AN AMERICAN PEOPLES BUREAU IN TRIPOLI I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MEETING THEM". QUESTION: "THAT MEANS YOU ARE UNINTERESTED IN SEEING THE AMERICAN MISSION IN ITS PRESENT FORM?" REPLY: "YES."
4. OIL: GADHAFI REFERRED TO INFLATION IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, BUT REFUSED TO PREDICT WHETHER OIL PRICES WOULD RISE DURING NEXT 6 MONTHS.
5. ASKED WHETHER HE PREFERRED CARTER OR KENNEDY, GADHAFI LAUGHED AND SAID THAT ANY U.S. PRESIDENT WOULD BE UNDER ZIONIST INFLUENCE BUT "BECAUSE CARTER PROMISED TO MAKE CHANGES IN AMERICAN POLICY WE PREFER CARTER BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE THAT AMECICA POLICY WILL NOT BE PRO-ISRAEL OR PREJUDICED AGAINST THE ARABS." QUESTION: "WHO MADE THESE PROMISES AND HOW? REPLY: "THEY WERE ALMCST PRECISE PCOMISES..AS I UNDERSTOOD IT I BELIEVE HE, (CARTER) PROMISED TO RADICALLY CHANGE AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."
6. PALESTINIANS: GADHAFI SAID LIBYA HAD FINANCED, ARMED AND TRAINED FATAH. "IT IS WE WHO GAVE FATAH IMPORTANCE.

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FATAH ITSELF IS NOT IMPORTANT."

7. FAILURE OF LIBYA AND IRAN TO EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC REPS: GADHAFI SAID: "SITUATION IN IRAN IS NOT YET STABLE AND RESPONSIBILITY THERE IS NOT WELL DEFINED. LIBYA HELPED IRAN BEFORE REVOLUTION TRIUMPHED WHEN KHOMEINI WAS IN PARIS. THIS WAS VIA QOTBZADEH."

8. AFGHANISTAN: GADHAFI SAID THE GENERAL PEOPLES CONGRESS COULD NOT MAKE MOTIONS SUCH AS ONE CONDEMNING THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. QUESTION: "THEN WHAT ARE THE COLONEL'S VIEWS?" REPLY: "I DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THAT REGION (HE SMILES)." Q. "MAYBE IN A WEEK OR TWO?" REPLY: "WE HAVE NO SPECIAL PLAN TO GET INFORMATION." Q: "DOES THIS CREATE PROBLEMS FOR YOU SINCE AFGHANISTAN AND LIBYA ARE MOSLEM NATIONS?". REPLY: "WE HAVE TALKED ENOUGH ABOUT THIS SUBJECT."

9. PEOPLES BUREAUS: GADHAFI SAID OPENING OF PEOPLES BUREAUS WOULD CONTINUE AND HE EXPLAINED THAT THEY BEGAN WITH THE U.S. AND WEST EUROPE BECAUSE OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS THERE.

10. SAHARA DISPUTE: GADHAFI BLAMED KING OF MOROCCO FOR FAILURE TO END THE WAR. HE CALLED FIGHT A "REVOLUTIONARY EXPLOSION."

11. JAMAHIRIYAHS AND REVOLUTIONS: LATTER PART OF INTERVIEW HAD GADHAFI ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS REVOLUTIONARY ROLE. HE PREDICTED THAT RULE OF THE MASSES (JAMAHIRIYAHS) WOULD TAKE OVER EVERYWHERE. "IRAN IS EXPECTED TO BE A JAMAHIRIYAH, ANY REVOLUTION THAT TAKES PLACE IN TURKEY WILL BE A JAMAHIRIYAH, AND RADICAL CHANGE IN SPAIN WILL BE A JAMAHIRIYAH. QUESTIONS: "DO YOU EXPECT OTHER GADHAFIS IN THE WORLD? REPLY: "THE MASSES WILL BE GADHAFIS. QUESTION: "DID YOU MAKE ANY ERRORS THESE PAST 10 YEARS?" REPLY: "I WISH THE GREEN BOOK HAD BEEN WRITTEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 10 YEARS AND NOT AT THE END. I HAD THE IDEAS AT THE START BUT THEY WERE NOT YET RIPE. THERE WAS THE INSIGHT TO HAVE MADE THE REVOLUTION 20 YEARS AGO IN 1959" (WHEN GADHAFI WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL).

12. RANDALL'S NOTES FINISH WITH: "THE END OF THE WORLD IS JUST AROUND", WHICH SEEMS SUM UP HIS IMPRESSION OF GADHAFI'S VIEW OF REVOLUTIONARY FUTURE. RANDALL FOUND GADHAFI LESS IMPRESSIVE AND MORE SUBDUED THAN HE EXPECTED. HE NOTED THAT GADHAFI'S COMMENTS WERE CALMER THAN THEY HAD BEEN A YEAR AGO WHEN HE WAS ATTACKING THE U.S., CAMP DAVID, ETC.

13. COMMENT: AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, THE GADHAFI INTERVIEW WAS A COMBINATION OF SERIOUS POLICY FORMULATION AND GAMESMANSHIP. HIS DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. AND OUR REPRESENTATION IN TRIPOLI PROBABLY FITS INTO THE LATTER CATEGORY.  
EAGLETON.

END OF MESSAGE

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