

CBS EVENING NEWS  
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UPPER VOLTA/  
REBELLION

RATHER: There is further evidence tonight of what a U.S. official called 'Libya's pattern of destabilization in Africa.' An overnight coup in Upper Volta resulted in a new government, one allied with Libya. A moderate president was ousted by a former prime minister, who reportedly used Libyan-supplied arms. It was Upper Volta's third coup in three years. Libya also is actively backing an attempt to overthrow by force the government of Chad. Officials in that country charged today that Libyan bombers continue to pound three government-held positions. And as David Martin reports, Libya appears set to deliver a coup d'etat.

MARTIN: U.S. intelligence says a force of about 1,000 Libyan soldiers backed by Soviet-built tanks is poised to attack the government army of Chad's President Habre. One report says it is unlikely Habre can hold out. If Habre is forced to retreat, he will be exposed to attacks by Libyan warplanes in the open desert. Libyan air strikes already have enabled rebel forces attempting to overthrow Habre to capture a key eastern garrison. But an assault by Libyan ground troops on Faya-Largeau would be Moamar Kadhfy's most direct involvement yet in Chad's civil war, a fact which Libyan officials continue to deny. ALI AHMED HOUDERI (Libyan People's Bureau): We don't have any presence in Chad.

MARTIN: U.S. sources also say Libya appears to be mobilizing its forces for a wider conflict. The government has canceled military leaves, ordered students and teachers to report to military barracks and requisitioned four-wheel drive vehicles. The mobilization is an apparent reaction to signs that the U.S. and France are preparing to intervene. As one option, the U.S. is considering flying AWACS radar planes with F-16 jet fighters along Libya's eastern border with Egypt. The maneuvers would be officially described as part of the Bright Star exercises just beginning in Egypt but would be intended to intimidate Khadfy. To hear them talk, Libyan officials do not sound intimidated. HOUDERI: We know we're not a match for the United States. But when it comes to defending our right and our country, we will fight anybody.

MARTIN: U.S. and French military aid had been intended to help Habre beat the Libyan-backed rebel forces. Now that Libyan ground troops seem about to intervene directly, the calculations of how much is enough to save Habre will have to be re-done. David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.