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27 FEB MEETING WITH [Redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2008

1. [Redacted] EXHIBITED RARE DEGREE OF PUNCTUALITY EVENING OF 27 FEB ARRIVING FOR SCHEDULED MEETING WITH C/O [Redacted] AT 2130 HOURS ON THE DOT. P/1 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY [Redacted] (T/1) WHO TRANSLATED. HE ATTRIBUTED HIS TIMELINESS TO FACT THAT HE HAD TO RETURN TO LUQA AIRPORT LATER IN THE EVENING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF AN UNSCHEDULED LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES (LAA) FLIGHT. AS REPORTED REF A, DUE TO AN AIRPORT STRIKE IN ROME, THE LAA FLIGHT WHICH NORMALLY FLIES DIRECT TRIPOLI-ROME STOPPED IN MALTA EARLIER IN THE DAY TO REFUEL. THE AIRCRAFT WAS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MALTA LATER IN THE EVENING TO AGAIN REFUEL BEFORE DEPARTING FOR TRIPOLI. THE MEETING WAS, THEREFORE, VERY BRIEF. C/O WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT P/1'S ENGLISH IS IMPROVING STEADILY--APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE THIRTY-MINUTE DISCUSSION WAS IN ENGLISH. IN GENERAL P/1 ONLY USED T/1 TO CLARIFY QUESTIONS POSED BY C/O.

2. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING INFO [Redacted] P/1 REPORTED THAT [Redacted] (F/1) HAD TOLD HIM EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO MALTA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. F/1 INDICATED THAT THE TWO WOULD GET TOGETHER AT THAT TIME FOR THE DISCUSSION HE HAD PROMISED P/1 IN LATE JAN. P/1 ALSO REPORTED THAT ESO OFFICER 'ABD EL BASET ALI ((ELMEGRAHI)) PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO MALTA FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS IN MID-MAR. THE PURPOSE OF ELMEGRAHI'S VISIT IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME BUT P/1 AGREED TO INVESTIGATE.

3. ACCORDING TO P/1 ESO MAJOR ABDALLAH ((MANSUR)) RECENTLY

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[REDACTED]

REPLACED 'ABD AL SALAM ((ZADMA)) AS THE HEAD OF THE ESO'S COUNTERTERRORIST SECTION. P/1 INDICATED THAT ZADMA REMAINS OUT OF SIGHT AND IS LIKELY STILL AT HIS HOME NEAR SURT. TIME DID NOT PERMIT LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER. WILL DISCUSS THIS IN GREATER DETAIL WITH P/1 AT NEXT MEETING ON 20 MAR.

4. REGARDING ESO ACTIVITIES IN MALTA, P/1 NOTED THAT SAID ((SHABANI)), AN ESO OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDER COVER AT LIBYAN-OWNED QUALITY SHOES, RETURNED PCS TO TRIPOLI IN FEB. P/1 THINKS SHABANI WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. P/1 ALSO SAID THAT FORMER LAA STATION CHIEF IN MALTA AND ESO COOPTEE AL-LAMIN ((FAHAYMA)) OPENED HIS OWN TRAVEL AGENCY IN MOSTA IN FEB.

5. P/1 TOLD C/O THAT AN EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HAD JUST ARRIVED IN MALTA TO DISCUSS INITIATION OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN EGYPT AND MALTA BY THE EGYPTIAN AIRLINE COMPANY ((ZAZ)). ACCORDING TO P/1 THE ESO HAD OBTAINED THE NAMES AND PASSPORT NUMBERS OF THE SEVEN EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE STAYING AT THE DRAGONARA HOTEL.

6. FINALLY, P/1 TOLD C/O THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO BRING SOME LAA DOCUMENTS (NFI) TO THE MEETING. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE ARRIVAL OF THE UNSCHEDULED LAA FLIGHT EARLIER IN THE DAY, P/1 WAS UNABLE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THESE PLANS. P/1 AGREED TO PASS THE PAPERS TO T/1 LATER IN THE WEEK WHO IN TURN WILL FORWARD THEM TO C/O.

7. AS AGREED AT PREVIOUS MEETING, C/O PASSED P/1 500 MALTESE POUNDS IN EXPENSE MONEY IN A CASSETTE TAPE CASE. T/1 DID NOT SEE THE MONEY. C/O ALSO GAVE T/1 SEVERAL BOOKS WHICH HE HAD ORDERED FOR HER. P/1 AGREED TO MEETING WITH [REDACTED] AND C/O [REDACTED] AT 2130 HOURS ON 20 MAR.

[REDACTED]