

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2011 4:16 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Benghazi and NATO

FYI – Jeff and I discussed and I fully agree that a NATO liaison is a good idea.

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Daalder, Ivo H; Cretz, Gene A; Polaschik, Joan A; Gordon, Philip H; Roebuck, William V; Keene, Matt E; Dibble, Elizabeth L
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Djerassi, Alexander M; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C
Subject: RE: Benghazi and NATO

Ivo, thanks for the helpful response. From NEA's perspective, an operational liaison with the TNC does not constitute formal, legal recognition of the TNC as the government of Libya. We don't consider Chris Stevens' presence in Benghazi to trigger formal recognition, and we've never broken relations with Libya despite suspending our embassy operations.

Without question, having a NATO liaison in Benghazi would have the appearance of NATO leaning in the direction of the TNC. But NATO's operations already show a considerable lean away from Qadhafi. Speaking for NEA, I don't mind the appearance. But the real purpose would be to avoid friendly fire incidents, of course.

Cheers,
Jeff

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

From: Daalder, Ivo H
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cretz, Gene A; Polaschik, Joan A; Gordon, Philip H; Roebuck, William V; Keene, Matt E; Dibble, Elizabeth L
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Djerassi, Alexander M; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C
Subject: Re: Benghazi and NATO

Jeff -

Been in touch with ADMs Stavridis and Locklear. They are working the issue hard, thru both US and UK channels, to solidify liaison cells with the rebels. The diversity of the opposition makes setting up the contacts more difficult, but the Nato command is fully engaged in trying to set up the right structure to ensure closest possible coordination between Naples and the TNC.

Relatedly, FR and UK are pushing the idea of sending a Nato liaison to the TNC to work the PA angle as well as to provide a way to improve communications between TNC and Nato HQ on the bigger picture. Sounds sensible, tho we need to avoid sense that Nato is recognizing TNC or wants role in any political process. Would welcome your thoughts on

this.

Ivo
Sent Using U.S. Department of State / Blackberry Server

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
To: Daalder, Ivo H; Cretz, Gene A; Polaschik, Joan A; Gordon, Philip H; Roebuck, William V; Keene, Matt E; Polaschik, Joan A; Dibble, Elizabeth L
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Dierassi, Alexander M; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 'Shapiro, Daniel B.' [REDACTED] Ross, Dennis B.

B6

Sent: Fri Apr 08 19:53:58 2011
Subject: Benghazi and NATO

Ivo et al: Greetings. Please look at points #3 and #4 below, conveyed by DCM Polaschik (from Embassy Tripoli, in exile on Navy Hill) from Chris Stevens, our envoy in Benghazi. This gets at a problem that I raised with Jake Sullivan and me: coordination between the Libyan TNC and NATO. I expressed deep frustration that there doesn't seem to be an existing, working mechanism for communication between the TNC and NATO (thus leading to mistakes such as attacks on TNC tanks). She asked us to find a way to fix this, now.

The question for you and your colleagues, Ivo, is what would work quickly? Should we rely on the UK military advisors to do this, as suggested in point 3? Or should we be encouraging the quick formation of a NATO cell, as suggested in para 4 (but which at least RADM Foggo suspected might not work)? Are there other ideas? (Joan, does Chris have views, from his on-the-ground-in-Benghazi perspective?)

We obviously need a quick, real solution to avoid more friendly fire incidents.

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

From: Polaschik, Joan A
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 12:36 PM
To: SES-O_SWO; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Cretz, Gene A; Roebuck, William V; Dibble, Elizabeth L
Cc: Kalmbach, Heather E; Keene, Matt E
Subject: Stevens Update - April 8 at 1200

SWO – could you please pass this to 7th floor principals/staff? DS also needs to see this update

- 1) Security situation in Benghazi remains quiet. Chris Stevens & team are in the hotel, moving only for meetings as required.
- 2) Chris spoke to the RADM Foggo, Deputy Commander of the 6th Fleet, who confirmed that the 6th fleet would be responsible for the team's evacuation if needed.
- 3) RADM Foggo was very interested in Chris' meeting with TNC Military Coordinator Abdul Fatah Yunis, particularly Yunis' frustration with the lack of coordination with NATO. Foggo is hopeful that presence of UK military advisors on the ground in Benghazi will help improve this coordination. According to Foggo, DoD is looking at ways to improve communications with the TNC, while still being mindful of red line re "boots on the ground."

- 4) Separately, Chris has heard from the UK Envoy that the UK and France are recommending that NATO place a coordination cell with the TNC in order to improve coordination, reduce chances of friendly fire incidents, etc. UK and France believe that existing coordination on a national level (which according to Chris also includes the Italians) is not working well. When Chris briefed this to RADM Foggo, Foggo expressed concern that NATO would not be able to reach agreement on establishment of this kind of coordination cell.

SBU

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