

RELEASE IN
PART B6

From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan [REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 5:24 AM
To: H
Subject: Fwd: FW: TOP CONFIDENTIAL - IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO FORWARD

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From: Catherine Rimmer [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 08:37:23 +0000
Subject: FW: TOP CONFIDENTIAL - IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO FORWARD
To: "jake.sullivan [REDACTED]" <jake.sullivan [REDACTED]>

Latest from Aref

Dear Tony,

Greetings. Last night, Ali al-Sallabi, a key figure in the Libyan Muslim brotherhood and Qaradawi's man in Libya criticized the formation of the interim government announced by Mustafa Abdaljalil. He also called upon the youth to be more involved in the government. This indicates an early Ikhwan attempt at having a leading role in what is emerging.

Yesterday, I managed to block plans for setting up legal-issues committees in Doha, and to get the East-based coordinators to assign the task to my close and trusted Abu-Dahbi-based friend Dr. Abdul Rahman Habil (Former Professor of Law in Benghazi, and Legal Advisor to Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank). We would like to start to do our work from the UAE, and will make sure that it is technocratic and is not politicized. It is vital, therefore that I see Sheikh Abdullah and get his blessing. His office have already called, and I am awaiting a meeting time.

I have already called several leading Muslim scholars to pressure Qaradawi to press his student Sallabi to stand back, and let the interim government stand on its feet. It is very important that the international community support the interim government, quickly so that it does not crumble. It is our best hope, right now, of having an orderly transmission.

The negative operational development late yesterday in both Misrata and Zawiah, and the demoralizing tactics Gaddafi is using via his broadcasting company and by giving fee Money (500 LYD for every family booklet!) are not good. We losing important momentum. Gaddafi used air power (mainly helicopters) again. The no fly zone, or the jamming of his controls is VITAL. The broadcasting needs to be brought down URGENTLY.

Today, the criminal case against Gaddafi must pressed forward to with practical steps towards arrest taken. If he feels that he has a chance to come back, he will not take any option out. There is very little time to move.

Last night I was asked by an advisor of HM the King of Morocco to suggest some names for a possible central figure. Here is my answer:

"Honestly, and because of the 42 years of darkness, there is not a single figure who can unite and galvanize all Libyan's. That is why it is best to encourage the consolidation of local galvanizers, and support the emerging interim government for now. Some sort of national council or committee can then emerge connecting all the consolidated centers. Any attempt to impose a central figure head may back fire, for the time being.

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Here are some names:

Prof. D. Zahi Bashir al-Megherbi, son of Bashir al-Megerbhi, Omar al-Mukhtar association. Professor of Political Sciences, widely published, and well-respected in Benghazi and abroad.

Prof. Dr. Najib al-Hasadi, Professor of Philosophy and writer. He participated in galvanizing intellectuals in the East, and some in the West through an annual Derna-based cultural event. He is an important connection between Derna and Benghazi, and is well respected in Tripoli.

Jurist Mustfa Abdaljalil. Former Minister of Justice, with a clean record, and very strong tribal base in the East. His family is of Sanusi sympathies, and is willing to work with others. He can bring in the entire network of Eastern tribes, and is well coordinated with Benghazi-based and Derna-based notables. He has some good connections with Tripoli as well. His presentation skills are quite limited, however.

Dr. Juma' al-Zreghi. Senior Counselor to the Supreme Court. A respected legal expert and historian. Can play add an important juridical dimension to such a council. Strong presence in Tripoli. Would be ideal of heading judiciary.

Prof. Dr. Aref Ali Nayed, Professor of Islamic Studies and Philosophy. Has been working for the past several years on building together a network of traditional Azhari-type Ulema and Sufi Teachers. He has connected with all schools and all major tariqahs. This is very important for rehabilitating the spiritual and moral fabric of the country, and for preempting Ikhwan and Salafi radicalization. He contributed to the A Common Word initiative, and well connected with theological circles abroad, both Muslim and Christian. He is from the Wirfallah tribal grouping.

Eng. Ousama Otman Assed. Son of a former PM of Libya. Architect with a practice in Morocco and has recently started to reestablish himself in Tripoli. Honest and clean and carries a family name that is still respected in the South, especially amongst the Zwiah clans."

If I think of any further suggestions of people who maybe able to help achieve stability for the future, I will update the list.

Thank you very much.

Best regards.

Aref

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