

121700Z France Overflight Granted

FLASH
Z 121700Z APR 86
FM USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
TO 3 AF RAF MILDENHALL UK
20 TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD UK
48 TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK
7 AD RAMSTEIN AB GE
306 STRAT WING RAF MILDENHALL UK
11 STRAT GP RAF FAIRFORD UK
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO //CC//
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO //CC//
TOP SECRET

SUBJ: REVISED EXECUTE ORDER -- OPERATION EL DORADO CANYON

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED TO LET UK BASED AIRCRAFT OVERFLY FRENCH AIRSPACE FOR ELDORADO CANYON. FRENCH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO KEEP COMMUNICATIONS TO A MINIMUM AND TO CLEAR A CORRIDOR AHEAD OF USAF STRIKE FORCE.

NO CHANGES TO PLANNED TIME ON TARGET. CHANGES TO OPERATIONS PLAN AT DISCRETION OF SUPPORTED COMMANDER.

121700Z Spain Overflight Granted

FLASH
Z 121700Z APR 86
FM USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
TO 3 AF RAF MILDENHALL UK
20 TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD UK
48 TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK
7 AD RAMSTEIN AB GE
306 STRAT WING RAF MILDENHALL UK
11 STRAT GP RAF FAIRFORD UK
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO //CC//
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO //CC//
TOP SECRET

SUBJ: REVISED EXECUTE ORDER -- OPERATION EL DORADO CANYON

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED TO LET UK BASED AIRCRAFT OVERFLY SPANISH AIRSPACE FOR ELDORADO CANYON. SPANISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO KEEP COMMUNICATIONS TO A MINIMUM AND TO CLEAR A CORRIDOR AHEAD OF USAF STRIKE FORCE.

NO CHANGES TO PLANNED TIME ON TARGET. CHANGES TO OPERATIONS PLAN AT DISCRETION OF SUPPORTED COMMANDER.

141705Z Intercept Soviet Communications

FLASH
Z 141705Z APR 86

WE HAVE INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC FROM SOVIET SHIPS IN THE AREA. IT IS POSSIBLE THEY HAVE LOCATED ONE OR BOTH OF THE CARRIER GROUPS AND WARNED THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

141806Z Message to TF 60 (F-111)

ROUTINE
R 141806Z APR 86
FM COMSIXTHFLT
TO CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO
USS AMERICA
USS CORAL SEA
COMCARAIRWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN
UNCLAS

SUBJ: STRIKES ON LIBYA

TF 60 AND USAF F-111'S ARE ABOUT TO CONDUCT STRIKES AT A SERIES OF MILITARY TARGETS IN LIBYA IN REPRISAL FOR CLEAR AND CERTAIN LIBYAN RESPONSIBILITY IN RECENT ATTACKS OF TERRORISM. THESE STRIKES WILL REPRESENT A HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN DEALING WITH STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM. THOSE WHO SPONSORED SUCH ACTS WILL PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDERSTAND THAT RETRIBUTION WILL BE SWIFT AND SURE AS THEY CONTEMPLATE THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITY.

141806Z Message to TF 60 (F-117)

ROUTINE
R 141806Z APR 86
FM COMSIXTHFLT
TO CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO
USS AMERICA
USS CORAL SEA
COMCARAIRWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN
UNCLAS

SUBJ: STRIKES ON LIBYA

TF 60 AND USAF AIRCRAFT ARE ABOUT TO CONDUCT STRIKES AT A SERIES OF MILITARY TARGETS IN LIBYA IN REPRISAL FOR CLEAR AND CERTAIN LIBYAN RESPONSIBILITY IN RECENT ATTACKS OF TERRORISM. THESE STRIKES WILL REPRESENT A HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN DEALING WITH STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM. THOSE WHO SPONSORED SUCH ACTS WILL PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDERSTAND THAT RETRIBUTION WILL BE SWIFT AND SURE AS THEY CONTEMPLATE THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITY.

142035Z Intercept Soviet Communications

FLASH

Z 142035Z APR 86

WE HAVE INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC FROM SOVIET SHIPS IN THE AREA. IT IS POSSIBLE THEY HAVE LOCATED ONE OR BOTH OF THE CARRIER GROUPS AND WARNED THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

142040Z Message to TF 60 (USN)

ROUTINE

R 142040Z APR 86

FM COMSIXTHFLT

TO CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO

USS AMERICA

USS CORAL SEA

COMCARAIRWING ONE

COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN

UNCLAS

SUBJ: STRIKES ON LIBYA

TF 60 IS ABOUT TO CONDUCT STRIKES AT A SERIES OF MILITARY TARGETS IN LIBYA IN REPRISAL FOR CLEAR AND CERTAIN LIBYAN RESPONSIBILITY IN RECENT ATTACKS OF TERRORISM. THESE STRIKES WILL REPRESENT A HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN DEALING WITH STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM. THOSE WHO SPONSORED SUCH ACTS WILL PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDERSTAND THAT RETRIBUTION WILL BE SWIFT AND SURE AS THEY CONTEMPLATE THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITY.

142130Z BBC News Broadcast 1

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into the BBC evening news]

[Opening jingle of BBC News theme]

Presenter: Good evening. Tonight, significant military movements have been observed at US Air Force bases in Britain amid escalating tensions with Libya. We go now to our defense correspondent at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

Correspondent: The usually quiet airfields of RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall have burst into activity today. Behind me, the distinct sound of F-111 fighter bombers can be heard taking off, as confirmed by video footage earlier and interviews with local plane spotters. Both air bases, which are extensively used by the US Air Force, have seen an increase in sorties in the past few hours.

While the exact nature of the missions is not yet clear, it's understood that these operations could be in response to recent threats linked to Libya. The Pentagon has yet to confirm details of the mission, but the use of these bases highlights the potential scale of the operation.

Presenter: This sudden surge in military activity comes in the wake of incidents that Washington attributes to Libyan aggression, including the recent bombing of a Berlin discotheque frequented by US servicemen. President Reagan has previously indicated that the US would respond decisively to what he described as Libyan-sponsored terrorism.

Correspondent: Locals around these bases have noted an unusual number of aerial refueling tankers, indicating possible long-range operations. Although our cameras are not allowed inside the bases, continuous movements have been observed, and the mood among the local communities is one of watchful anticipation.

Presenter: Thank you. As this situation unfolds, we will keep you updated with the latest information straight from the sources. Stay with BBC News for ongoing coverage.

Presenter: In other news tonight...

142130Z BBC News Broadcast 2

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into the BBC evening news]

[Nothing about the activity at RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath is reported]

142200Z CNN News Broadcast 1

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into CNN evening news]

Anchor: Good evening, this is CNN. Tonight, we lead with breaking news on what appears to be imminent U.S. military action against Libya. Details are still emerging, and we're here to break down what we know so far.

Over the past few days, several indicators have hinted at a significant military mobilization. Two U.S. Navy carriers are currently in the Mediterranean Sea. Ambassador Vernon Walters, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has also just completed a tour of key allied capitals across Europe.

President Reagan has been notably involved, convening a high-level meeting with members of Congress this evening. While the specifics of their discussion have not been disclosed, the timing raises questions about the potential for significant developments in U.S. foreign policy.

We will continue to follow this developing story closely and bring you updates as they become available. Stay tuned to CNN for the latest on the U.S. military movements related to Libya.

[Transition to expert panel discussing potential implications]

142200Z CNN News Broadcast 2

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into CNN evening news]

Anchor: Good evening, this is CNN. In Washington today, President Reagan met with key congressional leaders in what is being described as a significant discussion on domestic policy. While the specifics of the agenda have not been disclosed, sources suggest the talks centered around upcoming economic legislation aimed at addressing the national budget deficit. This meeting comes at a critical time as the administration seeks to solidify support for its economic strategies moving forward...

150000Z CNN News Broadcast

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into CNN evening news]

Anchor: Good evening, this is CNN. Tonight, we bring you a developing story from Tripoli, where tensions have been mounting amid rumors of possible military action. Our correspondent, [Correspondent's Name], is on the ground in the Libyan capital to provide us with the latest updates. We go live to Tripoli now.

Correspondent: Good evening. The atmosphere here has been eerily calm and quiet throughout the day, but the tension has been palpable, with residents bracing for what many fear could be a significant event. There's been a lot of speculation, but as of yet, nothing had disturbed the tense peace -

[Suddenly, the sound of explosions interrupts the correspondent.]

Correspondent: I'm hearing bombs and gunfire! . . . I can see rockets! I think there's an attack going on!

Correspondent: We are witnessing what appears to be a series of explosions across the capital. The night sky is intermittently lit by the flashes of rockets. It's clear that an attack on Tripoli has started. The situation here is rapidly changing. We'll continue to bring you live updates as we receive more information.

Anchor: Thank you. Please stay safe. We'll check back in with you shortly. For our viewers at home, we are monitoring this breaking situation closely and will provide updates as they become available.

150025Z White House Press Conference

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into CNN evening news covering a statement by the presidential press secretary]

US military forces this evening have executed a series of carefully planned air strikes against terrorist related targets in Libya. These strikes have been completed and our aircraft are returning. Libya bears direct responsibility for the bombing in West Berlin on April 5th. That resulted in the death of Army Sergeant Kenneth Ford and injury to a number of American servicemen and others. In light of this reprehensible act of violence and clear evidence that Libya is planning future attacks, the United States has chosen to exercise its right of self-defense. It is our hope this action will preempt and discourage Libyan attacks against innocent civilians in the future. US forces struck targets that were part of Qaddafi's terrorist infrastructure, command and control systems, intelligence, communications, logistics, and training facilities. These are sites which allow Qaddafi to perpetrate terrorist acts in addition to the strikes at terrorist centers. The president also authorized limited defense suppression missions in order to defend our own forces engaged in this mission. Every effort was made to avoid civilian casualties and limit collateral damage, and to avoid casualties to those American services servicemen who are participating. The president will address the nation from the Oval Office at 9 pm.

[The presidential press secretary answers questions from the press]

150205Z Reagan's Speech to the Nation

[On board the lead KC-10 a radio is tuned into CNN evening news covering President Reagan's speech to the nation]

My fellow Americans,

At 7 o'clock this evening eastern time air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities, and military assets that support Mu'ammar Qadhafi's subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people with whom we have no quarrel. From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission.

Several weeks ago in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Qadhafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens. More recently I made it clear we would respond as soon as we determined conclusively who was responsible for such attacks. On April 5th in West Berlin a terrorist bomb exploded in a nightclub frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Qadhafi's reign of terror. The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime. On March 25th, more than a week before the attack, orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb. On April 4th the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission.

Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable. We have solid evidence about other attacks Qadhafi has planned against the United States installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close cooperation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre, using grenades and small arms, of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American Embassy.

Colonel Qadhafi is not only an enemy of the United States. His record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring States in Africa is well documented and well known. He has ordered the murder of fellow

Libyans in countless countries. He has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the Western Hemisphere. Today we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again. It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. Before Qadhafi seized power in 1969, the people of Libya had been friends of the United States. And I'm sure that today most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant.

To our friends and allies in Europe who cooperated in today's mission, I would only say you have the permanent gratitude of the American people. Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of Western policy that there be no sanctuary for terror. And to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together. Sometimes it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Qadhafi or by striking at his terrorist installations we only magnify the man's importance, that the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him. I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Qadhafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction; and the atrocities mounted in number, as did the innocent dead and wounded. And for us to ignore by inaction the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in nightclubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition. When our citizens are abused or attacked anywhere in the world on the direct orders of a hostile regime, we will respond so long as I'm in this Oval Office. Self-defense is not only our right, it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, a mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

We believe that this preemptive action against his terrorist installations will not only diminish Colonel Qadhafi's capacity to export terror, it will provide him with incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. I have no illusion that tonight's action will ring down the curtain on Qadhafi's reign of terror. But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women. We will persevere. This afternoon we consulted with the leaders of Congress regarding what we were about to do and why. Tonight I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our Armed Forces who carried out this mission. It's an honor to be your Commander in Chief.

We Americans are slow to anger. We always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force -- and we did. We tried quiet diplomacy,

public condemnation, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded. Despite our repeated warnings, Qadhafi continued his reckless policy of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong. I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it. I said that we would act with others, if possible, and alone if necessary to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you, and God bless you.

161500Z Success Evaluation Message

ROUTINE
R 161500Z APR 86
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC//CJCS//
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
CINCNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCSAC OFFUT AFB NE
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO
3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
20 TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD UK//CC//
7 AD RAMSTEIN AB GE//CC//
48 TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK//CC//
USS AMERICA
USS CORAL SEA
306 STRAT WING RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
COMCARAIRWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN
11 STRAT GP RAF FAIRFORD UK//CC//
DET 4 9SRW RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
INFO CSA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CMC WASHINGTON DC
UNCLAS

SUBJ: WELL DONE

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUPERB JOB IN THE US SELF-DEFENSE ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA. THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THIS OPERATION WERE EXEMPLARY, DEMONSTRATING FIRM AMERICAN RESOLVE TO RETALIATE AGAINST ANY ACT OF TERRORISM. EACH OF YOU SHOULD BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION. YOUR EFFORTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED AMERICAN POLICY TO COUNTER TERRORISM, AND THE NATION IS PROUD. MAY I ADD MY PERSONAL THANKS TO THOSE OF THE

PRESIDENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AND A JOB WELL DONE. WARMEST REGARDS, ADMIRAL WILLIAMN J. CROWE JR., CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

161500Z Average Evaluation Message

ROUTINE
R 161500Z APR 86
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC//CJCS//
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
CINCNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCSAC OFFUT AFB NE
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO
3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
20 TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD UK//CC//
7 AD RAMSTEIN AB GE//CC//
48 TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK//CC//
USS AMERICA
USS CORAL SEA
306 STRAT WING RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
COMCARAIRWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN
11 STRAT GP RAF FAIRFORD UK//CC//
DET 4 9SRW RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
INFO CSA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CMC WASHINGTON DC
UNCLAS

SUBJ: WELL DONE

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, CONGRATULATIONS IN THE US SELF-DEFENSE ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA. THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THIS OPERATION WERE ACCEPTABLE, DEMONSTRATING AMERICAN RESOLVE TO RETALIATE AGAINST ANY ACT OF TERRORISM. EACH OF YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION. YOUR EFFORTS HAVE IMPLEMENTED AMERICAN POLICY TO COUNTER TERRORISM, AND THE NATION IS PROUD. MAY I ADD MY PERSONAL THANKS TO THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AND A JOB WELL DONE. REGARDS, ADMIRAL WILLIAMN J. CROWE JR., CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

161500Z Disaster Evaluation Message

ROUTINE
R 161500Z APR 86

FM JCS WASHINGTON DC//CJCS//
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
CINCNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCSAC OFFUT AFB NE
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ZERO PT TWO
3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
20 TFW RAF UPPER HEYFORD UK//CC//
7 AD RAMSTEIN AB GE//CC//
48 TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK//CC//
USS AMERICA
USS CORAL SEA
306 STRAT WING RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
COMCARAIRWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THIRTEEN
11 STRAT GP RAF FAIRFORD UK//CC//
DET 4 9SRW RAF MILDENHALL UK//CC//
INFO CSA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CMC WASHINGTON DC
UNCLAS

SUBJ: DISASTER

THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THIS OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE DISASTER.
LIBYA IS PARADING DOWNED AIRCREWS THROUGH THE STREETS OF TRIPOLI AND
BENGHAZI. A BOARD OF INQUIRY WILL BE ASSEMBLED TO EVALUATE YOUR
PERFORMANCE. REGARDS, ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE JR., CHAIRMAN JOINT
CHIEFS OF STAFF.