



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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WE ARE CONTINUING TO ASSESS THE INFORMATION, BUT FOLLOWING REPRESENTS OUR INITIAL VIEW: THE DETAILS ON ARMS SHIPMENTS ARE LARGELY IN KEEPING WITH OUR OWN ASSESSMENTS. THE INFORMATION ON FUNDING REVEALS LIBYA HAS GIVEN PIRA FAR MORE MONEY THAN WE HAD THOUGHT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INFORMATION ON TRAINING OF PIRA MEMBERS IS SPARSE AND THE DETAILS OF THE TRAINING IMPRECISE, THE INFORMATION ON LIBYAN CONTACTS WITH PIRA AND SINN FEIN MEMBERS IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE AND WE DO NOT (NOT) BELIEVE THE IMPLICATION THAT ALL LIBYAN CONTACT WITH PIRA ENDED IN JANUARY 1990.

OVERALL WE ASSESS THE LIBYANS HAVE TOLD US ONLY WHAT THEY SUSPECT WE ALREADY KNOW, WITH THE INTENTION OF DRAWING US INTO FURTHER EXCHANGES. WHILE WE MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON PIRA, THE LIBYANS ARE UNLIKELY TO COMPROMISE THEIR OWN PERSONNEL OR OPERATIONS.

DESPITE THE INADEQUACIES OF THE INFORMATION, THE FACT IT WAS PROVIDED IS A POSITIVE STEP. WE ARE TAKING A RELATIVELY POSITIVE LINE IN PUBLIC TO ENCOURAGE BOTH THE LIBYANS TO CONTINUE TO BE FORTHCOMING, AND PIRA'S MISGIVINGS OVER WHAT THE LIBYANS HAVE TOLD US.

WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON NEXT STEPS. WHETHER WE REVERT TO THE LIBYANS WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION.

Discussion with British Ambassador about information supplied recently
by Libya on contacts with the Provisional I.R.A.

The British Ambassador called to see me this morning by arrangement to deliver a message which he had been instructed by his Government to convey about the recent meeting in Geneva at which representatives of the Libyan Government had given information to the U.K. mission there about contacts with the Provisional I.R.A. over the years. He emphasised that what he was about to say was in strictest confidence.

The Ambassador said the meeting had taken place on 9 June and had involved Mr. Edward Chaplin, Charge d'Affaires, at the U.K. mission and Ambassador Al Obeidi a former Libyan Foreign Minister, and currently Ambassador to Tunisia, who was accompanied by three other Libyan officials.

The Libyan representatives had indicated that they had had their first contacts with the Provisional I.R.A. in 1973 through the Soviet Union. At that stage Colonel Gadaffi regarded the Provisional I.R.A. as a liberation movement. The Libyans provided assistance to them between 1973 and 1976. Between 1976 and 1984 all contact stopped, the Libyan representatives maintained.

At that time relations between Libya and the U.K. were good.

In 1984 the shooting of woman Police Constable Fletcher occurred in London and relations between Libya and the U.K. deteriorated dramatically. After the raid on Tripoli in 1986 Colonel Gadaffi decided to retaliate by providing arms and material help to the Provisional I.R.A. Most of the arms and material help provided by Libya to the Provisional I.R.A. over the years had been provided after that raid. Since 1987 most assistance from Libya to the Provisional I.R.A. had stopped but there had been "a little assistance" since 1988.

The Libyan representatives stressed that this information should be kept confidential and should not be published in order to discredit Libya. The view of the Libyan Government now was that the Provisional I.R.A. were not on the right path and their providing this information about past contacts with the Provisional I.R.A. was an earnest of their sincerity about breaking links with terrorism.

The British Ambassador understood that details of quantities of the arms supplied and the names of I.R.A. people with whom Libya had had contact over the years had been supplied by the Libyans at the meeting. The information supplied was still being assessed. He passed me the attached note giving an initial general British assessment of the information. He understood that more detailed information about the details of arms shipments etc. which had been provided was being passed to the Garda Siochana. I confirmed to him that this was in fact being done. He emphasised, that if there was any delay in the Garda Siochana getting information that we needed, we might let him know and he would use his offices to speed up the process.

He understood that the Libyan representatives had also indicated that they were ready to give some further information such as copies of passports of I.R.A. members who had visited Libya.

I thanked the Ambassador for the information he had provided and said that if there was any difficulty in relation to provision, through the police channel, of the more detailed information I would get back to him.

J. B.
Joseph Brosnan
Secretary

cc. *Kunal Arie*
Mr. Nally
Mr. Don

17 June, 1992.