

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

February 21, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Libya intel

I just received this, more to come:

This is just in from Italian intel.

Just in, we are getting good reporting from Libya, the sourcing is from the ruling family, the highest levels of the military, and diplomats/intel. Mostly via Italy.

As of this hour, some units of the Peoples Militia have gone over to the demonstrators in Benghazi, and that is the origin of the report of mutinies. This is a possibility and the government no longer controls Benghazi, but it is too early for large scale mutinies.

There are two subplots, tension between the eastern (Benghazi) and western (Tripoli) parts of the country, and tension between the two oldest Qaddhfi sons. In the east there is support for the former royal family, and modern reforms. This area also supports Saif al Isalm Qaddhafi (second son, living in London/Vienna.) At the same time there is a violent conflict between those portions of the Presidential Guard loyal to Saif, the bulk of the Peoples Militia which is loyal to his older brother, national security advisor Motasem Qaddahfi.

Sisme is reporting that the Militia is firing on demonstrators who are attempting to surrender. Military officers, and the hospitals report that many of the wounds are being inflicted from close range.

Sisme believes that once the regime resorts to extreme violence they have set the stage for their downfall; the people, particularly in the east, are enraged. The violence is following the coast highway moving from town to town toward Tripoli.

These sources say that the situation is completely unpredictable and quite dangerous. They advise that all Americans should leave the country as soon as possible, as the Embassy has warned.

While rumors of Qaddahfi's departure for Venezuela are apparently not true, it is important, however, that at this early stage in the struggle they are being taken seriously by some of his supporters. (Qaddahfi is a friend of Hugo Chavez.)