

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 12:49 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Libya: Coalition Forces Media Reaction - 3-20-2011 Noon EDT

Fyi

From: Hammer, Michael A
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 12:45 PM
To: Smith, Dana S; 'Benjamin_J._Rhodes'; Burns, William J; Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'Denis_R._McDonough'; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'Shawn_S._Turner'; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Steinberg, James B
Cc: Wells, Alice G; Mull, Stephen D; Smith, Dana S
Subject: Libya: Coalition Forces Media Reaction - 3-20-2011 Noon EDT

**Libya: Coalition Forces
 Media Reaction
 Pan-Arab TV snapshot: 3-20-2011 NOON EDT
 (prepared by London Media Hub)**

- Al-Jazirah:** reporting focuses on news of action on the ground and interviews with opposition figures in Libya;
- Interview with opposition figure: The most important military targets have been struck; the conflict will go on until Qaddafi goes;
 - Straplines from Qaddafi's speech: We will never give up; Benghazi will rise up; the attacks are unjustified;
 - AJ continues to run its earlier interview with the Qatari Foreign Minister in which he justified Qatar's support for the military operations;
 - Russia calls on UK, France and the US to "stop the aggression on Libya"; Russia calls on all parties in Libya to observe a ceasefire immediately;
 - Interview with Sennoussi Sikri, opposition figure in Benghazi: There is no pity for Qaddafi or his troops; Reactions (to the military action) have been positive; he claims anti-regime fighters are ready to "complete the operation" now that they have air cover and once Qaddafi's overwhelming military forces have been reduced; he claims Mullen's comment that the military operation is merely to protect civilians was merely a diplomatic ploy;
 - Reuters reporting that Qaddafi forces have entered Misrata with tanks in central square;
 - From Misrata, spokesman for Youth Revolutionary Movement that Misrata has been exposed to heavy bombardment and attacks which reached the center of the town, where it met heavy resistance; Qaddafi's forces are following a scorched earth policy and destroying everything in their path; Qaddafi forces using mercenary snipers;
 - Russia calls on Britain, France and the US to stop using what it calls arbitrary force in Libya
 - Al-Jazirah's presenters covering unrest in the region are asking every guest, no matter what the country they are discussing, if events would justify external intervention such as is happening in Libya;
 - Opposition accuses Qaddafi of using civilians as human shields;
 - Qaddafi has no margin of maneuver beyond Bab al-Aziziyah;

- New speech by Qaddafi accusing West of a Crusader war and vowing to battle to the end in a long war; claims the West is trying to "wipe out" Islam;
- Pentagon says it has destroyed most Libyan air defenses;

Al-Arabiya:

- Qaddafi's forces are using boats to close the port of Misrata (little reporting on Libya in the afternoon)

BBC Arabic:

- News headlines on the conflict; caption is: "The Western military operation in Libya."
- Interview with an Arabic-speaking Russian analyst; Russia trying to walk a very fine line;

General:

- No Arab governments have voiced objections or criticism of Western intervention in Libya. Objections come from Russia, China, Chavez and the African Union.
- Qatar's PM defended his country's participation in enforcing no-fly zone in Libya saying it is to protect civilians from organized attacks by the military and mercenaries.
- Libyan opposition welcomed intervention but maintained they do not want a direct foreign presence on Libyan soil.
- Qaddafi describes intervention as a "Crusade" and says he has ordered arming of the Libyan people.
- Misrata is said to be under siege by Qaddafi forces.
- *Elaph* reports that the Western operation in Libya has no clear end-objective.

Other news of note:

- SYRIA: *Al-Arabiya* is focusing this afternoon on Syria; it carries an interview by phone with a Syrian speaking about the protests in Der'a and elsewhere, comparing Syria to Libya; he accuses the Syrian government of using mercenary forces to attack civilians, including Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon; *Al-Jazirah English* also covers the Syria protests;
- YEMEN: coverage on *al-Arabiya* and *al-Jazirah al-Mubashir* of big protests in Sanaa and continued calls for Saleh to step down; Aden reported at a standstill because of protests.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.