

EMAIL CHAIN: 29 March 2011, 2337: SUBJECT: Libyan visitor – Muhammad Ahmed Ismail

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 March 2011 23:37

To: Lindsay Appleby; [REDACTED]; Richard Northern (Restricted); [REDACTED]

Cc: Christian Turner ; Liane Saunders (Restricted); Geoffrey Adams ; Sarah Macintosh; [REDACTED]; Peter Ricketts (Cabinet Office) (Conf); Julian Miller (Cabinet Office) (Conf); [REDACTED]

Subject: URGENT: : Libyan visitor - Muhammad Ahmed Ismail

Lindsay,

To summarise the situation, and the outcome, for the benefit of copy addressees.

The facts are as follows:

- Muhammad Ahmed Ismail (an “aide” to Sayf Al-Islam, Director of the Qadhafi Foundation and one of his sons) landed at Luton at around 1845 local this evening in a private jet chartered in Cairo
- He was met [REDACTED] Richard Northern, and said that he had come en route from Oslo (where he had been negotiating the terms of release for a Norwegian member of an Al-Jazeera team detained by the regime). His intentions were to:
 - [REDACTED]
 - open a dialogue with the British government (he claimed an [REDACTED] had arranged something but was very vague about this; Richard had the impression he was making it up as he went along)
 - return to Oslo on Thursday to finish his business there
 - go on to Paris after that (also vague on why but possibly to open a dialogue there)
- he was unyielding in his view of the situation - the regime could not stop the fighting as they did not believe that the opposition would too; our line that Qadhafi should step down merely hardened their position; but they were open to talking about mechanisms for dialogue
- it is clear that he has high-level access to the Qadhafi family, and we can be confident that any messages we send will get to the right place
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The outcome, after consulting you, UKBA and Richard Northern, was agreed as follows:

- the Foreign Secretary [REDACTED] was content to see him admitted [REDACTED], made sure he left on Thursday as planned, used the opportunity to send very clear messages back to the regime [REDACTED]
- on this basis UKBA see no immigration case to refuse admission and will permit him entry (executed through the usual channels at Luton) but only till Thursday
- Richard Northern will arrange a telephone call with him in the morning and arrange a meeting with him (probably in the afternoon in the FCO at Director level) to pass on strong messages to Tripoli; details of this to be worked up first thing tomorrow. Richard will stress to him that we do not want any publicity (nor does he from what he has told Richard)
- [REDACTED].

Follow up actions:

- Richard to make arrangements for tomorrow’s meeting

- [REDACTED] to ensure a summary is in the FS's brief for NSC (L) tomorrow morning
- [REDACTED] to decide how to follow up in the light of developments [REDACTED].

Hope that's clear to all. Grateful if [REDACTED] could copy to [REDACTED] whose addresses I don't have.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Head
Libya Unit
e-mail: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

NSC BRIEF: 30 March 2011: Libya

Libyan regime associate's arrival in UK

- Muhammad Ahmed Ismail (an "aide" to Sayf Al-Islam, Director of the Qadhafi Foundation) landed in UK yesterday evening by private jet.
- Judge that he has high-level access to the Qadhafi family, and confident that any messages we send will get to the right place
- So am content to see him admitted and use the opportunity to send very clear messages back to the regime.
- He will be seen, discreetly, at Director level in FCO this afternoon.

Libyan regime associate's arrival in UK

- Muhammad Ahmed Ismail (an "aide" to Sayf Al-Islam, Director of the Qadhafi Foundation and one of his sons) landed at Luton yesterday evening in a private jet, where he was met and interviewed by [REDACTED] FCO officials – Richard Northern.
- [REDACTED]
- He is supportive of the regime and unyielding in his view of the situation. Our judgement is that he has high-level access to the Qadhafi family, and we can be confident that any messages we send will get to the right place.
- Therefore content to admit him and use opportunity to send very clear messages back to the regime.
- Will be met at Director level this afternoon. [REDACTED]

EMAIL CHAIN: 31 March 2011, 0024: SUBJECT: Libya – US Views

From: Neil Crompton *
Sent: 31 March 2011 00:24
To: Neil Crompton *
Subject: Libya - US Views

Regime Messages

5. I gave [REDACTED] the record of Christian's meeting with Mohammed Ahmad Ismail. They agreed with the assessment that Christian gave me over the phone, that this was similar to other messages regime insiders were pushing out. It showed the regime was feeling the heat, but those around Qadhafi had not yet absorbed that Qadhafi had to go.