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BY KML NARA DATE 6/5/12

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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December 10, 1981

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 16

ECONOMIC AND SECURITY DECISIONS FOR LIBYA

After consultation with the National Security Council I have directed that the following steps be taken to reduce the threat that Libya poses to U.S. national security:

1. The Secretary of State should send a private demarche to Libya reemphasizing an earlier warning concerning its plotting of terrorist actions against U.S. citizens or facilities.

2. The Secretary of State should request in the name of the President that U.S. corporations with American citizens in Libya and U.S. corporations that trade with Libya make a voluntary withdrawal of those Americans and a minimization of sales and purchases to and from Libya.

3. The Secretary of State shall invalidate U.S. passports for travel to Libya.

4. During the withdrawal of Americans and in the context of Libyan terrorist planning against U.S. targets, the Secretary of the Treasury shall initiate and coordinate preparations for:

a. U.S. embargo of imports of Libyan oil.

b. U.S. embargo of exports to Libya.

5. The Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall undertake to develop and evaluate military measures suitable for execution in response to:

a. An unsuccessful assassination attempt while Americans are withdrawing.

b. A successful assassination attempt while Americans are withdrawing.

c. An attack after Americans have been taken hostage.

d. An attack following the withdrawal of Americans.

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6. The Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of State shall assure that military measures be proportional to provocation under international law, military feasibility, collateral damage and political implications.

7. Appropriate briefings shall be provided to Congressional leadership and other groups as required.

8. The Secretaries of State and Defense as well as the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the Director of Central Intelligence shall report to the National Security Council on diplomatic and military steps required to deter Soviet military involvement in light of Presidential decisions.

9. The State Department and the White House shall co-chair a Task Force on Libya. Duties of the Task Force shall include:

- a. Implementation of the above decisions.
- b. Recommendation of additional options to the President.

One of the first assignments of the Task Force is to decide what actions should be taken now if a mandatory withdrawal of U.S. business personnel from Libya is to be implemented.

*Ronald Reagan*

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