

H: how France created NLC. Sid
Mar 22 2011

CONFIDENTIAL

March 22, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: How the French created the National Libyan Council, ou l'argent parle

During the evening of 22 March, a knowledgeable individual stated in strictest confidence that in late February 2011 officers of the French General Directorate for External Security (DGSE) began a series of secret meetings with the current leader of the National Libyan Council (NLC), Mustafa Jalil, and General Abdelfateh Younus, the soon to be commander of rebel troops around Benghazi. At that time, the two had just left the government of Muammar Qaddafi, Jalil having been Minister of Justice and Younus Minister of the Interior. According to these knowledgeable sources, the DGSE officers provided money and guidance to assist in the formation of the NLC. These officers explained to Jalil and Younus that they were speaking under orders from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and they promised that as soon as the NLC was organized France would recognize the council as the new government of Libya. The DGSE officers added that Sarkozy felt that he would have the support of British Prime Minister David Cameron in this matter. Jalil and Younus accepted this offer and have maintained contact with the DGSE officers in Cairo.

In return for this assistance, the DGSE officers indicated that they expected the new government of Libya to favor French firms and national interests, particularly regarding the oil industry in Libya. Jalil and Younus agreed.

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During the week of March 14, as Qaddafi's forces approached the NLC base in Benghazi, the NLC leaders appealed to France, via the DGSE, for assistance. Jalil and Younus believe Sarkozy's efforts in pressing for allied attacks on Qaddafi's forces saved their movement.

(Source Comment: Both Jalil and Younus are convinced that Qaddafi's troops would massacre the citizens of Benghazi, if they captured the city.)

Para-military forces from the Special Section of the DGSE are present in the rebel held territory, but have not begun providing direct aid to the rebels. These individuals add that Egyptian Special Forces officers continue to serve with the rebels, focusing primarily on keep the lines of communications open between eastern Libya and the Egyptian border.

Younus' forces have used some of the DGSE funds to bring in basic supplies from Egypt, including uniforms and vehicles. As the allied attacks against Qaddafi's troops continue, Younus is trying to organize his inexperienced troops into an effective force, and intends to move against areas held by the Libyan Government under cover of allied air patrols. As of March 22 Younus' efforts were meeting with mixed results.