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EX 95/53452(R/ME/C) OF 04 DECEMBER 1995 (G/N) EET

/REPORT

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REPORT NO: 95/53452(R/ME/C)

TITLE: LIBYA: PLANS TO OVERTHROW QADHAFI IN EARLY 1996 ARE  
WELL ADVANCED

SOURCE: A NEW SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS WHOSE RELIABILITY HAS  
NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED

SUMMARY

5 Libyan colonels in charge of plans to overthrow QADHAFI. Coup  
scheduled to coincide with the next General Peoples Congress in  
February. Coup will start with unrest in Tripoli, Misratah and  
Benghazi. Coup plotters not associated with Islamic fundamentalists.  
MUSA QADHAFI AL-DAM murdered by coup plotters in June. Attempt to  
assassinate QADHAFI in August thwarted by security police.

DETAIL

1. In late November 1995 Rescued to protect TUNISIA's identity  
described plans, in which he was involved, to overthrow Colonel  
QADHAFI. He said that 5 colonels from various parts of the armed  
forces were in charge of the coup plot. These included:  
The latter was most likely to  
take overall control.

2. The coup was scheduled to start at around the time of the next  
General Peoples Congress on 14 February 1996. It would begin with  
attacks on a number of military and security installations including  
the military installations at TARHUNA. There would also be  
orchestrated civil unrest in Benghazi, Misratah and Tripoli. The  
coup plotters would launch a direct attack on QADHAFI and would  
either

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either arrest him or kill him.

3. The coup plotters had 1275 active sympathisers in the  
following areas: TRIPOLI 240 persons; BENGHAZI 135; TOBRUK 114;  
MISRATAH 148; SIRTE 40; AL-ZAWIYA 180; AL-SHWARAH 100; AL-KHUMS 28;  
GHADAMIS 50. Their occupations ranged from students, military  
personnel and teachers through to businessmen, doctors, police  
officers and civil servants. The plotters were divided into 8  
groups, each with 5 officers in charge. Messages to members of each  
group were passed via schools and Mosques. The start of the coup  
would be signalled through coded messages on television and radio.  
The coup plotters had sympathisers working in the press, radio and  
television.

4. The military officer said that the plotters would have cars  
similar to those in QADHAFI's security entourage with fake security  
number plates. They would infiltrate themselves into the entourage  
in order to kill or arrest QADHAFI.

5. One group of military personnel were currently being trained  
in the desert area near KUFRA for the role of attacking QADHAFI and  
his entourage. The aim was to attack QADHAFI after the GPC, but  
before he had returned to SIRTE. One officer and 20 men were being  
trained especially for this attack.

6. The coup plotters were not associated with the Islamic  
fundamentalists who were fermenting unrest in Benghazi. However,  
they had had some limited contact with the fundamentalists, whom the  
military officer described as a mix of Libya veterans who served in  
Afghanistan and Libyan students. The coup plotters also had limited  
contact with the Algerian and Tunisian governments, but the latter  
did not know their plans.

/7.

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7. The coup plotters were responsible for the death of [redacted].  
[redacted] was about  
Names removed to protect security. [redacted] was about  
to take up the position as head of Military Intelligence when he was  
forced off the Tripoli-Sirte road and was killed. The 2 coup  
plotters involved escaped unhurt. In August 1995, 2 army captains  
who were part of the coup plot attempted to kill Colonel QADHAFI.  
However, security police caught them waiting at the roadside on the  
Tripoli-Sirte road awaiting QADHAFI's entourage. Both men escaped to  
TUNISIA.

8. The plotters had already distributed 250 Webley pistols and  
500 heavy machine guns amongst the groups.

SOURCE COMMENT

A. The coup plotters expected to establish control of Libya by  
the end of March 1996. They would form an interim government before  
discussions with tribal leaders. The group would want rapprochement  
with the West. They hoped to divide the country into smaller areas,  
each with a governor and a democratically elected parliament. There  
would be a federal system of national government.

B. The officer was disclosing this information in the hope that  
if the coup was successful, the new government could enlist RMG  
support. Other plotters were aware of the officer's contact with  
RMG, but did not entirely approve of it.

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