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ACTION DSE-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NEA-06 NSAE-00 AMAD-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SNP-01 DS-01
SCT-04 /025 W

-----361502 142030Z /45 38

R 141622Z APR 86
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4645

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07829

FOR DS/IC/TAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AT EMBASSY LONDON

1. (U) EARLY ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, APRIL 13, DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN TO GATHER ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY. NO ADVANCE WARNING HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT A DEMONSTRATION WAS PLANNED, HOWEVER, THE POLICE ON DUTY TALKED WITH THOSE GATHERED AND IDENTIFIED THE AREA IN WHICH THEY WERE TO REMAIN. BETWEEN 1400 TO 1515, THE GROUP SWELLED TO NEARLY 150 OF MIXED AGES FROM INFANTS TO SENIOR CITIZENS. NO ONE ORGANIZATION COULD BE IDENTIFIED BUT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CND AND ONE COMMUNIST PARTY FACTION WERE NOTICED. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THEIR PROTEST WAS TO OPPOSE U.S. ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA. SIGNS INCLUDED "ENFIELD AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS" (NOTE: ENFIELD IS THE HOME OF THE ENFIELD RIFLE - DO THEY WANT CONVENTIONAL WAR AS A MEASURE OF GOOD BUSINESS?), SOME OF THE GENERAL ANTI-NUCLEAR SLOGANS, STAY OUT OF LIBYA RETHORIC, AND ONE WHICH PORTRAYED A HELP WANTED AD FOR A VET TO CURE THE MAD DOG.

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2. (U) AS THE DEMONSTRATORS GREW IN NUMBERS, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BACK-UP UNITS ARRIVED IN SMALL GROUPS TO SUPPLEMENT THE POLICE RANKS. AT 1515 SOMEONE FROM THE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT O HOMME
DATE/CASE ID: 22 DEC 2009 200903792

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MOVED ACROSS THE STREET AND TOOK OVER THE STEPS OF THE

EMBASSY, SITTING FROM SIDE TO SIDE ON ALL OF THEM.

ADDITIONAL POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WERE CALLED AND TWO
BUSSES WERE REQUESTED TO BE USED IF ARRESTS WERE
NECESSARY.

3. (U) FOR COMPLETELY UNEXPLAINED REASONS, FOR WHICH THE
POLICE HAVE REPEATEDLY APOLOGIZED, THE BUSES WERE
DELAYED AND DID NOT ARRIVE FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. DURING
THIS TIME, INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATORS PASSED LETTERS
THROUGH THE OUTER CHANCERY DOORS AND, IN TWO INSTANCES,
INDIVIDUALS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN SLIPPING PAST THE POLICE
AND ATTEMPTED ENTRY INTO THE CHANCERY. THE LOCKED DOORS
PREVENTED THEIR ACCESS. THEN, AS IF BY MAGIC, THE GROUP
ROSE AND BEGAN TO WALK AWAY JUST AS THE BUSES ARRIVED
AT NEARLY 1620.

4. (U) POLICE INFORMED THE RSO ON APRIL 14 THAT TWO OF
THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING AT THE
REAR OF THE CHANCERY. IN DESCRIBING THE PAIR, IT WAS
BELIEVED THAT THEY ARE THE SAME TWO WHO ATTEMPTED TO
BYPASS THE POLICE AND ENTER THE FRONT DOORS.

5. (U) AT APPROXIMATELY 1040 MONDAY, APRIL 14, A SMALL
GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS AGAIN APPEARED ACROSS THE STREET,
THIS TIME IN PROTEST OF ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN
NICAGUARA. AS THE DOZEN OR SO GATHERED, ANOTHER NINE
WALKED UP THE STEPS OF THE CHANCERY AND SAT IN FRONT OF
THE DOORS. THE POLICE ON DUTY IMMEDIATELY ADVISED THE
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GROUP THAT THEY WOULD BETTER THEIR CAUSE BY POSITIONING
THEMSELVES ACROSS THE STREET AND, IF THEY DID SO, WOULD
BE PERMITTED TO DEMONSTRATE. REMAINING ON THE CHANCERY
PROPERTY WOULD ONLY RESULT IN ARREST WHICH, APPARENTLY,
IS WHAT THEY DESIRED.

6. (U) ONCE AGAIN, REINFORCEMENTS WERE CALLED AND A VAN
REQUESTED. WHEN ALL WAS IN PLACE, THE POLICE REQUESTED
THE RSO TO, IF WE WISHED, ENSURE THAT EACH OF THE
PROTESTERS WAS REQUESTED TO LEAVE. THAT DONE, THEY
REFUSED TO LEAVE, WERE ARRESTED, AND WERE TAKEN AWAY.
WE LATER WERE ADVISED THAT, OF THE NINE ARRESTED, FIVE
WERE U.S. CITIZEN STUDENTS FROM OXFORD AND THE OTHER
FOUR WERE CANADIAN COLLEAGUES.

7. (U) AN ABUNDANCE OF CAMERAS, BOTH STILL AND VIDEO,

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APPARENTLY NONE WERE NEWSMEN AS NO PUBLICIST HAS BEEN NOTED. IN FACT, THE AP CALLED ON MONDAY AFTERNOON INQUIRING ABOUT TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION AND ARRESTS AND WERE REFERRED TO THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FOR COMMENT. THEY SOON CALLED BACK AS THE POLICE INFORMED THEM ABOUT YESTERDAY'S GROUP. AGAIN, THEY WERE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR COMMENT. ONLY ONE STILL CAMERA WAS NOTED TODAY AND THAT WAS IN THE HANDS OF ONE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. OF PASSING NOTE, THE DOZEN OR SO WHO REMAINED ACROSS THE STREET MARCHED OFF AS SOON AS THE POLICE VANS DEAPRTED. WE WERE ADVISED LATER THAT THE POLICE APPARENTLY TOLD THEM WHERE THEY WERE TAKING THOSE ARRESTED AND THEY MARCHED STRAIGHT TO THE POLICE STATION AND WERE DEMONSTRATING THERE.

8. (LOU) BOTH OF THESE DEMONSTRATIONS RAISED SOME MEASURE OF CONCERN WITH REGARD TO THE APPARENT DELAYS IN TIMELY POLICE RESPONSE. BEFORE WE COULD EXPRESS THESE CONCERNS,

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SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AT EMBASSY LONDON

WE FOUND THAT THEY WERE APPARENTLY SHARED BY SOME OF OUR POLICE CONTACTS, WHO ADVISED US, IN UNSOLICITED DISCUSSIONS AND CALLS, THAT THEY FOUND THE DELAYS EMBARRASSING AND UNACCEPTABLE. ONE SENIOR OFFICER CALLED TO APOLOGIZE AND STATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY INQUIRED INTO WHAT DELAYED THE BUSES AND WAS WAITING FOR A RESPONSE. MOREOVER, HE HAS ORDERED TWO VANS OF OFFICERS TO REMAIN IN THE EMBASSY VICINITY THROUGH THIS PERIOD OF UNREST. ACCORDING TO OTHER INQUIRIES, NEITHER OF THESE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE EXPECTED AND THE POLICE WERE CAUGHT AS UNAWARES AS WE WERE. SEITZ

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