

RF/2/21/8

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3 Muharram 1390  
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Dear Sirs:

At your request we have pleasure in presenting hereunder a condensed translation of the most important news of interest to you.

NEW SECRETS REVEALED BY THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION, COL. GADDAFI.  
(Al Thawra 10/3/1970)

How the deadline was put off twice. Counter plot by Al Shalhi and his supporters against the free officers. First secret Circular requested an appreciation of the possibilities for the success of the Revolution.

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Tripoli - LNA. The Libyan News Agency has obtained a written copy of the sixth part of the story of the revolution as told by its leader Col. Moammer El Gaddafi, President of the R.C.C. and Prime Minister. The following is a true reproduction of this part:

1. The revolution was to have taken place on the 12 March, then it was put off until the 24 March.
2. Late in January 1969 a standby order went out with the object of finding out the exact strength which the Free Officers for Unity Movement had gained.

3. I wrote down in my own hand the first secret circular on stencil at Garyounis camp.

With the exception of the Free Officers and a very small number of civilians, not exceeding a handful by all counts, who were prominent within the popular groups linked to the Free Officers movement, no other person, Libyan and Arab, and certainly no one of those who are being tried by the Special Military Tribunal, knew that we planned the Revolution on the 12 March and then put off the date until the 24th and subsequently to a date five months later.

The Control Committee of the Free Officers for Unity Movement met at the Tripoli Garrison Command Camp on the occasion of the first round of the officer promotion examinations. During this meeting we considered our own situation and the general conditions as a whole and decided to start thinking seriously of a revolution to take place few months later.

In January 1969 I wrote down a note in no more than five lines and dispatched it from Benghazi with a sargeant from the 1st Signals Coy to Mr. Abdul Salam Jloud in Tripoli. That note contained a precautionary order which requested the Free Officers to ascertain the strength of the movement and whether it could control all branches of the Armed Forces. The officers were asked to take stock of the overall strength under control including men, vehcles, arms and ammunitions. As a result of this check it became apparent that we were in full control and that what we needed was to fix the date.

In the meantime the first secret military letter from the Control Committee was written on a stencil in my own hand at Gar Younis. I made out a number of copies which were distributed to all Free Officers. Then I took first leave since I joined the Army. My leave lasted 45 days during which we had a number of enlarged meetings attended by many officers and other ranks from outside the Central Committee. Most meetings took place either in Tripoli at the house of Abdul Salam Jloud in Zawyet El Dahmany or in Benghazi in the house of Mohammed El Mgaryef. I also took the opportunity to determine by myself the exact strength of each formation in the army and met with the officers of each regiment separately. We set the 12 of March for the great effort or deed but then we found out that there was a concert to be held that night by Um Kalthoum and that it would not come to an end before very late that night. The fact could have hindered making certain arrests as the people concerned would be attending the concert, and for moral reasons we did not think it proper to dash out into a crowd of thousands of people in order to apprehend them.

And so I drove back to Benghazi in my Volkswagen. I asked Lt. Adul Hamid Shemash and Lt. Abdul Hamid Zayed to come with me. On my way back I went to see my family in the Sirte desert - I had not seen them for a long time. By midnight we had not yet completed our "round of tea" yet we started to move again at that hour. However we got lost on the way going up the hills or down the valley of Sirte. Eventually we got out of the area just at dawn. Moments before that we had heard the sad news broadcast announcing the death of the late Abdul Monem Riad, a hero whose loss left us overwhelmed by a mixed feeling

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of sadness and revenge. At the time Shamash took over the car. Suddenly we had a punctured tyre and the car lost balance. Together with Abdul Hamid Zayed who sat next to him in the front seat he tried to keep in control but in no time the small car was overturning outside the road rolling like a ball with all of us inside it. The moment was critical, more so because I had a large envelope in the car which contained a number of copies of the a/m circular.

(TO BE CONTINUED)