MEMO FOR: Brent Scowcroft
FROM: Robert B. Oakley

Attached is a record of the conversation you had with Ambassador Hedda from Tunisia on July 30, 1976, for your approval. No distribution is contemplated.

DATE: 7/30/76
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
His Excellency Ali Hedda, Ambassador from Tunisia
Robert B. Oakley, NSC Staff

DATE AND TIME: Friday, July 30, 1976
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Assistant's Office

After being welcomed back to Washington after a foreshortened home leave, Hedda said he had worked very hard during his brief stay in Tunis, first in encouraging American business exchanges with Tunisia and then with the Libyan threat against Tunisia and what could be done to counter it. He delivered to General Scowcroft a hand-written letter from Bourguiba, Jr., who had also asked Hedda to convey his thanks and appreciation for an excellent visit and good talks with the President and the Secretary. Scowcroft replied that he had been most impressed by Bourguiba, Jr.

Hedda described his special mission which had caused him to see Under Secretary of State Habib, Mr. Noyes of Defense (ISA) and Scowcroft, and to request an appointment with the Secretary. It is one of seeking help in coping with the serious threat posed by Qadhafi of Libya. He is mad but dangerous and Tunisia's latest intelligence is that in addition to the 700 mercenaries presently being trained in Libya for operations against other states, an appeal has gone out with strong financial inducements for 1,000 more to come to Libya. It is possible that an attack by "commandos" against Tunisia could occur on President Bourguiba's birthday, August 3. The GOT had gone to its best and strongest friends, the US, France and Egypt. All have agreed to help and all three are sending naval vessels to demonstrate their support.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12695, SEC 3.5
Subject to GDS of E.O. 11652
Automatically Downgraded at Two-Year Intervals and Declassified on December 31, 1984.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEMO, NSC 0153, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
by NARA DATE 1/23/04
Scowcroft said he had spoken to Defense which had promised to do more in the way of naval visits. Hedda said he had asked Habib and Noyes to accelerate delivery on TOW Missiles and Chaparral anti-aircraft weapons, and to raise the FY 76 and FY 77 FMS credits rather than waiting until FY 78 and 79 to do more. He had spoken to Senators Percy and Humphrey and McGovern who have promised to submit a joint resolution supporting Tunisia, perhaps on Bourguiba's birthday. They should also support an increase in funds. Hedda also asked that we intensify intelligence cooperation in order to help solve the long-term problem. Scowcroft responded that we will do all we can to help. Tunisia knows just how strong our support is. He observed that the Egyptian military movements along Libya's eastern border should deter any attack on Tunisia. Hedda said that this was true, but the GOT fears instead of a major military attack, a small commando unit which could assassinate or do damage to vital economic targets. Libya had trained over 1,000 people for the attack on the Sudan, and Tunisia is an open, free society with no means of tightly controlling movement of people.

Scowcroft said there is no question but that we will cooperate closely in the intelligence field and try to speed up arms deliveries. We agree about the threat posed by Qadhafi. Hedda expressed appreciation for the reception and left.

Key Passage of BBJr Letter (Tab A)

Tunisia needs "highly accurate detection and even pre-detection of any move started across our borders, something like the installations in the Sinai; it also needs "highly accurate and almost light-speed means of communication to keep the proper authorities informed so as they are able to commit all might to the border should any move (by Libya) be detected. Counter-action should be based on "light weaponry, bazookas, hand-portable missile throwers and grenades which could be used as soon as the alarm bell sounds."

"Ambassador Hedda will take time to make an assessment of my suggestions."
July 24, 1970

Habib Bourguiba Jr
La Marsa
Tunisia

To General Brent Scowcroft
Special Assistant to the President for National Security

Dear General,

Upon my return to Tunis, I found your very kind letter; I was happy to read it and I am less happy to write these few lines, which Ambassador Vedder will explain to you; and I am even happier.

Accept dear General the assurances of my high consideration and everlasting gratitude for your care for my little country, which made room for us and to the free World your sincere,

Habib Bourguiba Jr.
The conclusion: the counter attack is based on the idea to destroy the enemy's forces, but not to pursue them. The enemy should be kept as soon as possible in an ambush, and when they are pursued, they should be destroyed. We must remember the saying:

"Draw a line and keep a stone in your hand." 

Thank you again for what you did; you are doing and you are able to do. I have been doing my best to help you in the Mediterranean area. I will allow me to write to you frequently to make a decision which could be useful.

It will take time to make an assessment of my suggestions. My statement is that the situation is:

1. And 2. -

Maybe the release of a statement, shortly before...