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**Memorandum**

To [Redacted] (cleared in draft)  
PS/Mr Burt

From [Redacted]  
Date 22/05/2011  
Pages 2

**SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): LIBYA UPDATE**

**Issue**

1. On Friday 20 May, the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is likely to recommend extending the Libyan deadline for destruction of their chemical weapon agents and precursors to 29 April 2012.

**Detail**

2. CPD's note of 1 March updated Mr Burt on the security of the Libyan chemical weapon agents and precursors stockpile at Ruwagha, approximately 300 miles south east of Tripoli. The 11 tonnes of sulphur mustard and 850 tonnes of associated precursor chemicals remain secured. [Redacted]
3. At midnight on Sunday 15 May, Libya missed its deadline for destroying its chemical weapon agents. The deadline for destroying the precursors is 31 December 2011. Destruction stopped on 8 February when the destruction facility broke down due to a faulty heating unit. [Redacted]
4. [Redacted]
5. [Redacted]
6. [Redacted]
7. [Redacted]
8. [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Head, Chemical and Biological Weapons Team  
Counter Proliferation Department

cc:

PS/FS

[Redacted]

[Redacted], MENAD

[Redacted], MENAD

[Redacted], MENAD

[Redacted], PS/DG DI

[Redacted], CPD

[Redacted], CPD

[Redacted], The Hague

[Redacted], The Hague

[Redacted], Press Office

[Redacted], Libya Unit, MENAD

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[Redacted], IOD

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[Redacted], CPD

[Redacted], FCO

[Redacted], UKMIS New York

[Redacted], UKMIS New York

[Redacted], Washington

[Redacted], Paris

[Redacted], UKDEL NATO

[Redacted], ACP, MoD

[Redacted], ACP, MoD

[Redacted], Dstl Porton Down

[Redacted], DI, MoD

[Redacted], Cabinet Office

[2. Letter from FCO to member of the public 21/12/2011]

Our reference: MOP/23858/2011  
21/12/2011

[redacted]

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your letter of 22 October to the Prime Minister concerning disarmament of militia and commercial opportunities in Libya. I am replying on his behalf.

We, along with international partners, are assisting the Libyan Transitional Government in securing stocks of weapons as quickly as possible. The Libyan authorities are aware of the importance of this, and are co-operating fully. The UK has already provided direct support including £1m to fund civilian experts to assist in weapons disposal.

Many of these weapons are old and difficult to handle. Nonetheless their proliferation is a concern, and we are developing with key partners a range of measures designed to help secure - and dismantle - stocks as quickly and effectively as possible. This has included the deployment of MOD experts to assist the NTC in coordinating this effort. Longer-term, we will contribute to a UN-led Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-integration (DDR) programme as part of the wider stabilisation effort.

You may be interested to know that the UK is supporting Libya on de-mining work, which will help protect up to a million people from unexploded devices. We are helping to restore public security, to promote the rule of law and order, to support transitional justice and to protect human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups. We are helping with the constitution-making and electoral processes, promoting national reconciliation with inclusive political dialogue, taking the required steps to initiate economic recovery, including promoting British business interests, and strengthening emerging accountable institutions and the restoration of public services.

UKTI re-established a presence in Tripoli at the beginning of October and in the last six weeks UKTI staff in Tripoli and London have engaged with well over five hundred businesses on a range of issues including planning entry into the market, identifying business opportunities, and resuming existing business in Libya.

[redacted]

Yours sincerely,

*[redacted]*

Libya Unit

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

[3. Letter from FCO to member of the public 30/12/2011]

Our Reference: MOP/12516/2011

30/12/1799

[redacted]

Thank you for your letter to the Foreign Secretary seeking clarification of an article in the Daily Telegraph. I have been asked to reply.

The policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Wikileaks is clear: we do not comment on the content of leaked documents. However, I am content to explain our policy on Libya's chemical weapons programme.

In 2004, Libya declared to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that it had a stockpile of some 24 tonnes of sulphur mustard. This stockpile was inspected and inventoried by the OPCW and over half of it has now been destroyed under OPCW supervision. Unfortunately the destruction equipment developed a fault in February and the Libyans are still awaiting the spare part needed to resume destruction. The stocks remain under guard and are in secure and remote locations. The agent is not weaponised – Libya destroyed all its declared chemical weapons munitions by November 2010 – and the agent could not be used easily.

The UK continues to monitor the situation closely with international partners and remains in close consultation with the OPCW.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Libya Crisis Unit

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**