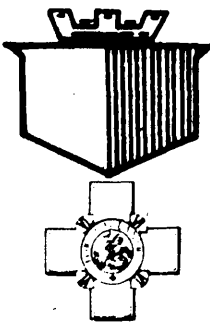




THE TIMES



No. 142

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1979

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MALTA

Col. Gaddafi arrives for today's celebrations

By a Staff Reporter

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, President of Libya, was accorded a warm welcome at Luqa Airport yesterday by several hundred Libyan students studying at Malta, and by members of the Peoples Congresses, who have been ferried to Malta to attend the March 31 celebrations.

During a previous visit, Col. Gaddafi had told a rally that he would revisit Malta when the British Forces had left the Island.

The Libyan President's arrival was delayed by about three hours attributed to normal security precautions. His arrival on the Presidential Boeing 707 airliner, was preceded by an aircraft-load of security personnel and Libyan pressmen.

The large number of Libyan students and members of the Peoples Congresses, who crowded the airport balcony and the public area near the VIP lounge, chanted enthusiastically as Col. Gaddafi wearing an Army Colonel's uniform alighted from the aircraft.

A Battery of 25-pounder saluting guns of the Armed Forces fired a 21-gun salute. The Libyan President was greeted at the foot of the aircraft by the President of the Republic, Dr. Anton Buttigieg, and by the Prime Minister, Mr. D. Mintoff. There were also Cabinet Ministers. The two Heads of State then walked to a dais and the AFM Band first played the Libyan Anthem and

then the Maltese Anthem. Col. Gaddafi inspected an AFM Guard of Honour.

Col. Gaddafi who came for the March 31 celebrations, was quoted on the state radio as having said, on arrival, that Libya would continue to give unlimited aid to Malta.

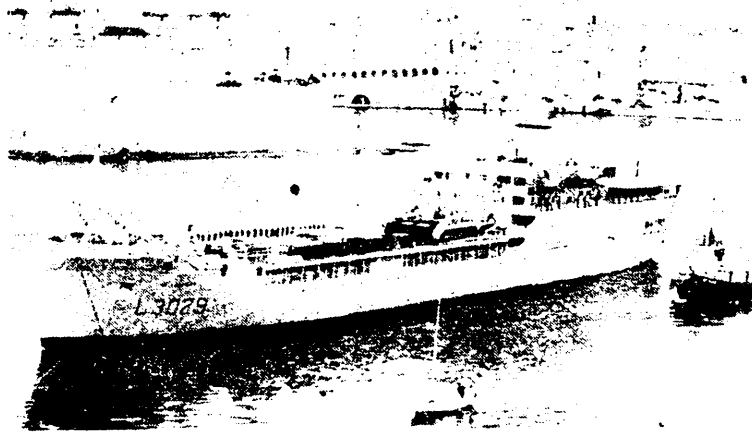
Reporters of the Maltese newspapers (including The

(Cont. Backpage Col. 1)



Colonel Gaddafi, President of Libya (in uniform) being greeted by Mr. Mintoff. Next to Col. Gaddafi is President Buttigieg.

LAST ROYAL MARINES LEAVE FOR BRITAIN



The last Royal Marines to serve at Malta sailed out of Grand Harbour for Britain yesterday morning on the RFA logistics ship "Sir Lancelot".

The 130-strong Salerno Company lined the deck as the ship left her berth at Vittoriosa and sailed out of the arms of the breakwater. Officers on the ship's bridge waved back at the number of people who turned up at the Upper and Lower Barrakas and other vantage points to see the Marines' departure.

Another Royal Fleet Auxiliary

The logistics ship "Sir Lancelot" sails out of Grand Harbour with the last Royal Marines who served at Malta.

ship, the "Tarbatness", left port as scheduled in the afternoon while the last of a long series of RAF VC-10 flights to the U.K. took off from Luqa in the afternoon. The VC-10 flew home the remaining personnel on the Island other than those who sail out on H.M.S. London tomorrow morning.

WEATHER

The following were yesterday's Celsius noon temperatures:

Amsterdam.....05	hazy
Athens.....18	sunny
Basle.....05	rain
Brussels.....04	rain
Frankfurt.....04	drizzle
Geneva.....06	cloudy
London.....06	drizzle
Madrid.....09	cloudy
Malta.....15	fair
Paris.....06	rain
Rome.....14	fair
Vienna.....03	rain
West Berlin.....04	rain

(Local weather on Page 16)

NEWS BLACKOUT ON EGYPTIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS

(Reuter's Service)

CAIRO, March 30.

Egypt today maintained a news blackout on movements of troops towards the Libyan border following Libya's boosting of its frontier forces.

Defence Ministry sources said yesterday that the country's armed forces had been placed on full alert because of the Libyan moves.

But the semi-official Cairo press and the State-controlled

the alert and Egyptian troop movements said by Western diplomatic sources to have taken place over the past four days.

Relations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, bitter since their 1977 border clash deteriorated sharply after the signing of a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace pact this week.

Informed sources said the road leading from the Mediterranean port of Alexandria to the joint border had been closed intermittently to civilian traffic for two or

KAMPALA UNDER FIRE Libyan plane bombs Tanzania

(Reuter's Service)

NAIROBI, March 30.

President Idi Amin of Uganda announced today that his Army was launching a counter-offensive against an invasion force. But diplomats in Kampala said his Army in fact appeared to have disintegrated.

The city could fall in a matter of hours, they said.

Shells crashed into city centre streets killing several people 50 metres from the French Embassy and destroying one of President Amin's residences, the diplomats said.

The only troops to be seen in the city were Libyans manning field guns to return fire from Tanzanian-backed exile forces and setting up anti-tank barricades across key roundabouts and road junctions.

The Tanzanian Government announced that a Libyan Tupolev 22 bomber flew across Lake Victoria yesterday to bomb the Tanzanian airbase town of Mwanza.

The bomber, flying from Nakasongola 110 km north of Kampala, missed vital fuel storage tanks and killed six gazelles in a nearby animal sanctuary, the Government said.

Only one person was injured in the raid.

Reuter Correspondent Paul Iredale reported from the Kenyan-Ugandan border that

Conservative M.P. killed CAR BOMB AT COMMONS

(Reuter's Service)

LONDON, March 30.

Airey Neave, the British Conservative Party's spokesman on Northern Ireland, was killed today by a car bomb at the House of Commons, police said.

In Belfast, sources of the guerilla Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) told reporters that their Belfast brigade sent a special cell of bombers to London to carry out the assassina-

tion.

They said it was the start of a pre-election campaign of violence on the British mainland.

The IRA, however, had not issued any formal statement claiming responsibility for the murder by early tonight.

Suspicion immediately fell on guerillas of the Provisional Irish Republican Army, who consider Mr. Neave as an enemy in their fight to force a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

Mr. Neave, 63, was the first Allied Officer to escape from Germany's wartime "escape-proof" Colditz Castle prison camp.

His books on escapes and spying were widely read.

The Provisional IRA had threatened to disrupt Britain's campaign for a general election on May 3 with bomb attacks on the British mainland.

The explosion appeared to erupt as Mr. Neave drove his blue saloon car out of an underground park into the cobbled courtyard alongside the House of Commons building.

An eyewitness said wreckage from the car was scattered all over the ramp leading out of the car park and numerous documents were strewn by the blast.

It shook windows 200 metres away and one eyewitness said: "There was a flash and a pillar of smoke rose halfway up the tower of Big Ben".

Parliamentarians in the House of Commons briefly suspended their sitting. They resumed their debate later with Labour Party spokesman Michael Cocks declaring it was "essential that the work of this House should not be interrupted".

Mr. Neave was the Conservative Opposition's spokesman on the troubled Northern Ireland province and was tipped to be chosen by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher to be her Northern Ireland Minister if she won the May 3 election.

But he had upset many Irish Catholics by the methods he advocated to fight the IRA as a symptom of what he called international terrorism.

He had called for the return of hanging — long abolished in Britain — for convicted IRA guerillas.

(Cont. Backpage col. 2)

THE TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Make sure that you are given the Special Supplement being distributed free with today's issue of *The Times*. The 32-page supplement commemorates the end of the Anglo-Maltese military link. Other articles on the Anglo-Maltese connexion are published in the newspaper.

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