



## **MEMORANDUM N° 50/2011**

### **SPECIAL ON LIBYA**

**23/03/2011**

#### **SUMMARY:**

**ONE) - EU DIVISIONS GROW OVER LIBYA OPERATIONS – Page 2**

**TWO) – ASHTON DENIES EU HAS 'LAGGED BEHIND' IN ITS RESPONSE TO LIBYAN CRISIS – Page 3**

**THREE) – OIL PRICE RISES TO NEAR \$ 115 OVER WAR ON LIBYA - Page 4**

**FOUR) - MANY FLEE AS GADDAFI FORCES ATTACK WESTERN TOWN - Page 4**

**FIVE) – LIBYA SAYS MANY KILLED IN PORT, AIRPORT ATTACKS BY WESTERN ALLIANCE – Page 5**

**SIX) – UN SECURITY COUNCIL POSPONES MEETING ON LIBYA’S DEMAND FOR THREE DAYS – Page 5**

**SEVEN) – FRANCE HOPES GADDAFI’S GOVERNMENT TO COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS - Page 5**

**EIGHT) – CAMERON TRIES TO CALM FEARS OVER WAR ON LIBYA - Page 5**

**NINE) – ONLY ONE IN THREE BRITONS SUPPORTS LIBYA WAR - Page 6**

**TEN) – ITALY THREATENS TO BAN USE OF MILITARY BASES BY ANTI-LIBYA COALITION – Page 6**

**ELEVEN) – NORWAY SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN LIBYA WAR - Page 6**

**TWELVE) – NATO CHAOS ON LIBYA WAR - Page 7**

**THIRTEEN) – SPANISH PRIME MINISTER SEEKS PARLIAMENT SUPPORT FOR LIBYA WAR – Page 7**

**FOURTEEN) - WORLD DIVIDED DAYS AFTER U.N. BACKS LIBYA RESOLUTION - Page 8**

**FIFTEEN) – CHINA WARNS OF "HUMANITARIAN DISASTER" IN LIBYA - Page 8**

**SIXTEEN) - NOBODY WANTS COMMAND OF WESTERN WAR ON LIBYA - Page 8**

**SEVENTEEN) - U.S. TO TRANSFER CONTROL OF LIBYA WAR WITHIN DAYS - Page 9**

**EIGHTEEN) - OBAMA SEEKS TO CLARIFY 'MISSION' IN LIBYA - Page 9**

**NINETEEN) – PENTAGON CHIEF IN RUSSIA TO TALK LIBYA WAR - Page 10**

**TWENTY) - WHO DOES WHAT IN WAR ON LIBYA, AN UPDATE - Page 10**

**TWENTY ONE) - EU COUNTRIES TO MEET FRIDAY ON WHAT TO DO WITH REFUGEES FROM LIBYA WAR – Page 11**

**TWENTY TWO) - EU TO SEEK SOLUTION FOR LIBYA JOINTLY WITH AFRICAN UNION – Page 12**

**TWENTY THREE) - CRITICISM OF LIBYA WAR RISES AMONG EMERGING POWERS – Page 12**

**TWENTY FOUR) - NATO SHIPS WILL ENFORCE LIBYA ARMS EMBARGO – Page 13**

**TWENTY FIVE) - TURKEY WANTS HUMANITARIAN OPERATION IN LIBYA UNDER UN - Page 13**

**TWENTY SIX) - QATAR WARPLANES ENROUTE FOR LIBYA - Page 13**

**TWENTY SEVEN) - ITALY ANGERED BY FRANCE IN LIBYA WAR - Page 13**

**TWENTY EIGHT) - FRANCE RULES OUT OCCUPATION OF LIBYA - Page 14**

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## **ONE) – EU DIVISIONS GROW OVER LIBYA OPERATIONS**

EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels the 21 March admitted they were divided over how to enforce the no-fly zone over Libya, but agreed to extend sanctions on the Gaddafi regime and carry on offering humanitarian assistance.

French President Sarkozy hosted a ‘Summit for the support of the Libyan People’ on 19 March in Paris. Immediately after the summit, military operations against Gaddafi’s forces were launched.

The coalition has grown to 10 nations (France, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Qatar, and Belgium). The United States, with its massive force and sophisticated weaponry, play a discrete, but fundamental role.

French planes fired the first shots in what is the biggest international military intervention in the Arab world since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, destroying tanks and armoured vehicles in the region of the rebels’ eastern stronghold, Benghazi.

Hours later, US and British warships and submarines launched 110 Tomahawk missiles against air defences around the capital Tripoli and the western city of Misrata, which has been besieged by Gaddafi’s forces.

On the second day of the operation, it was reported that Libya’s air defences had been destroyed at 50%.

Some analysts have questioned the strategy of the military intervention, fearing Western forces might be sucked into a long civil war.

Speaking to the press, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé hailed as “a success” military operations launched last weekend in Libya, in which France, the UK and the USA have played a leading role. The operation prevented the rebel city of Benghazi from becoming “a bloodbath”, Juppé stressed. However, the French minister made no secret of difficulties between allies regarding the Libya operations. Italy in particular has been calling for a NATO operation to replace the current “coalition of the willing”.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron told parliament in London last Friday that operational command of the no-fly zone would be transferred to NATO. But he did not say when.

Juppé made clear that the Arab League does not want to see NATO in the driving seat of the operations. Reportedly, France itself would also like to avoid a situation in which Russia, China and other nations that abstained when the UN Security Council resolution was passed become even more antagonised by NATO taking centre stage in the operations.

According to diplomats, NATO will play a secondary role. Indeed, Juppé said the Alliance was prepared “to provide support” in the “coming days”.

A NATO role would require political support from all the 28 members of the alliance, which includes Turkey. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Ankara wanted several conditions to be met for NATO to play a role. Erdoğan said Turkey wanted the international military operation against Gaddafi’s forces to be concluded as soon as possible, so Libyans could settle their own future. He also said military intervention must not end with an occupation.

Juppé did not attempt to hide differences of opinion with his German colleague Guido Westerwelle. The German foreign minister stressed once again that his country would not participate in military action, adding that Berlin was aware of “the risks” of the operation and that it was “listening closely” to the Arab League’s concerns.

Amr Moussa, head of the 22-member Arab League said he respected the UN resolution authorizing military action in Libya, but questioned the need for such heavy bombardment, which he said had killed many civilians. The Gaddafi regime claims that 48 civilians were killed on the first night of strikes against military targets, a figure that cannot be verified independently.

Juppé denied suggestions that the Libya operations had marked a shift in policy, with France replacing its traditional partner Germany with the UK instead. Paris remains a strong partner with Berlin on many issues, such as governance of the euro zone, he said. “The fact that we speak to each other honestly with Westerwelle also shows that we have things in common,” he added.

Other EU countries, including Poland, said they did not intend to take part in military action in Libya. The most critical of all was Bulgaria, whose Prime Minister Boyko Borissov went as far as calling it “an adventure” and [accusing France and Britain of pursuing “oil interests” in Libya](#).

The EU ministers agreed to extend the Union’s sanctions on Libya. High Representative Catherine Ashton is expected to propose how EU governments can use naval forces to support humanitarian efforts such as the evacuation of refugees, paving the way for talks on the subject at a summit of EU leaders on Thursday and Friday (24-25 March).

## **TWO) – ASHTON DENIES EU HAS ‘LAGGED BEHIND’ IN ITS RESPONSE TO LIBYAN CRISIS**

EU foreign affairs supremo Catherine Ashton has denied the EU has “lagged behind” in its response to the crisis in Libya and the Arab world.

But, addressing parliament on Tuesday, she admitted that the EU sometimes had to engage in dialogue with regimes “it would prefer not to do so”.

This was, in part, a response to allegations that arms and weapons supplied by EU member states had been used by Libyan security personnel loyal to the regime of colonel Moammar Gadhafi against rebel forces.

She said the EU’s key task was to provide “the deep long-term support” to Libya’s people to help them toward “freedom and democracy.” Ashton said, “Yes, we sometimes have to engage in dialogue with regimes with whom we would prefer not to have to do so but, always, the aim is to help the people of that country.”

She played down criticism that the EU had been slow to respond to the unfolding crisis in the region, including Libya, saying, “Sometimes, we do lag behind and it can be difficult to keep up with events but we have not been lagging behind at all in this case.” On the contrary, we have been out front.”

Ashton, who was addressing a packed meeting of the foreign affairs committee, said the immediate aim of

the EU was to ensure humanitarian aid reached those most in need in Libya.

She said, "Gaddafi's forces are thought to be focusing on a town about 50km from Benghazi in order to cut off its water supplies. Our current task is to make sure that water gets through to Benghazi."

Ashton said, "Overall, our aim in this mission is to ensure that Libya is democratic, that human rights there are respected and people have the right to elect their leaders as we do in Europe."

Ashton also called for the governments in Yemen and Bahrain to engage with the opposition and to desist from any violence against civilians.

She condemned what she called stepped up "systematic repression" by Iran's government of the opposition.

Ashton said the EU stands behind the implementation of last week's United Nations security council resolution on Libya. "Everything that we do has one objective—and that is to help the people of Libya."

Her appearance in parliament comes after the EU agreed on Monday on a significant extension of its sanctions on Libya even while member states continued to express differences over military action in the North African country.

The EU also announced it was slapping an asset freeze on former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and 18 other officials of his regime.

Following a meeting of EU foreign ministers, the EU agreed to extend the asset freeze and travel ban on Libya to 11 extra people and nine more entities in Libya.

It is the second time in just over a week that the EU has broadened its sanctions.

On 11 March, the EU added one person and five entities, including Libya's central bank and sovereign wealth fund, to the list of 26 people named in the initial sanctions last month.

### THREE) – OIL PRICE RISES TO NEAR \$ 115 OVER WAR ON LIBYA

Brent crude futures were steady near \$115 on Tuesday, supported by a spreading unrest in the Middle East, while uncertainty about demand from the world's No. 3 consumer Japan capped gains. Anti-aircraft fire rang out across Tripoli for a third night on Monday, but air attacks on Libya are likely to slow, a U.S. general said, as Washington holds back from being sucked into the country's civil war. "It now seems likely that there will be a significant loss of Libyan oil supplies for some time," said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets. "This will reduce the buffer of excess capacity and increase the oil market's vulnerability to any new supply shocks which may emerge. This may see a risk premium being maintained in the oil price for some time." Brent crude for May gained 14 cents to \$115.10 a barrel at 0546 GMT, less than \$5 from a 2-1/2-year high near \$120 reached last month. (Reuters)

### FOUR) – MANY FLEE AS GADDAFI FORCES ATTACK WESTERN TOWN

Two witnesses said the western Libyan town of Zintan faced heavy shelling from forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi on Monday, forcing residents to flee, including to caves in the mountainous region. "Several houses have been destroyed and a mosque minaret was also brought down," Abdulrahmane Daw told Reuters by phone from the town. "New forces were sent today to besiege the city. There are now at least 40 tanks at the foothills of the mountains near Zintan." Swiss journalist Gaetan Vannay, also reached by telephone, said the shelling was the heaviest in three days. "Today this very strong battle started on the eastern front. Women and children hid in the caves in the forests." **GADDAFI FORCES IN CONTROL OF WEST LIBYAN TOWN OF MISRATA** (Reuters) – Al Arabiya television reported on Monday that the western Libyan city Misrata was now controlled by forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi. The channel was quoting a spokesman for Gaddafi's forces. There were no further details. Due to a lack of communications, the report could not immediately be checked. Residents had earlier said Gaddafi's forces fired on a crowd of unarmed people in the rebel-held city of Misrata and were using civilians as human shields against air strikes. (Reuters)

#### FIVE) – LIBYA SAYS MANY KILLED IN PORT, AIRPORT ATTACKS BY WESTERN ALLIANCE

A Libyan government spokesman said on Monday that foreign attacks had killed many people by bombing ports and Sirte airport. “You saw that place (Sirte airport),” Mussa Ibrahim told a news conference. “It’s a civilian airport. It was bombarded and many people were killed. Harbours were also bombarded. » (Reuters)

#### SIX) – UN SECURITY COUNCIL POSTPONES MEETING ON LIBYA’S DEMAND FOR THREE DAYS

Le Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU tiendra jeudi une réunion à la demande de la Libye, a indiqué lundi un diplomate des Nations unies. (AFP) –

#### SEVEN) – FRANCE HOPES GADDAFI’S GOVERNMENT TO COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS

NATO could soon take a planning role in international military operations in Libya now being led by the United States, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said, adding Arab nations opposed NATO being in control. Juppe said France hoped Muammar Gaddafi’s Libyan government would collapse from within from the pressure of the action by world powers. “When will the regime collapse? It is quite possible that given the weakness of the regime, it will break up from within,” he said. Juppe said while the United States was currently coordinating the interventions with France and Britain, in the next few days, if the United States pulled back from the operation, NATO would be ready to come in with support. “The Arab League does not want the operation to be placed completely under NATO’s responsibility,” Juppe said. “It’s a coalition of countries that is leading the operation, so they are in political control of it, and Arab countries, North American countries and European countries are participating in it,” he said. “Whether later, in the unfolding of the operation, NATO could bring its contribution to the planning and running of operations, (the answer is) yes,” he added. Earlier on Monday, a French diplomatic source said the Arab League had made it clear it does not want NATO involved. “As a coalition, we have to find a solution that meets the Arab League’s demands, which is that NATO doesn’t make political decisions on Libya, but that at some time is involved in the coordination. The negotiations are still going on,” he said. (Reuters)

#### EIGHT) – CAMERON TRIES TO CALM FEARS OVER WAR ON LIBYA

Prime Minister David Cameron tried to reassure a war-weary public on Monday that Britain’s military involvement in Libya will not drag it into another Iraq-style conflict. After a six-hour debate, the British parliament voted overwhelmingly to support Cameron’s decision to send British planes and ships. The vote was 557-13, although some lawmakers voiced fears of getting dragged deeper into the Libyan conflict and others questioned why Britain had chosen to intervene in Libya but not in other crisis-hit countries. “This is different to Iraq. This is not going into a country, knocking over its government and then owning and being responsible for everything that happens subsequently,” Cameron said. “This is about protecting people and giving the Libyan people a chance to shape their own destiny,” he said. Foreign Secretary William Hague said the Libya operation would be funded from a Treasury reserve and not from the defence budget, which faces real-terms, cut of 8 percent over the next four years as part of efforts to curb a big budget deficit. **ECHOES OF IRAQ** In a debate almost exactly eight years ago, the British parliament gave Blair a green light to wage war on Iraq despite a massive revolt within his own party. The 10-month-old Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government has stressed that the Libya situation is very different from the Iraq war. Unlike the Iraq invasion, the Libya no-fly zone has been authorised by the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council resolution expressly bars occupation. Labour leader Ed Miliband supported Cameron, saying: “We have seen with our own eyes what the Libyan regime is capable of. We’ve seen guns being turned on unarmed demonstrators.” But some lawmakers, particularly left-wing Labour members, voiced doubts about what Britain was getting into. “I’m far from convinced that the public are behind this,” Labour legislator Jeremy Corbyn said. “They are very concerned about where it leads to because they’ve been through the miserable experience of Iraq and they have deep concerns additionally about Afghanistan,” he said. Britain has 10,000 troops fighting Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. Conservative lawmaker Edward Leigh called for a rethink of last year’s

British defence review which he said had been a “disaster”. The review has paved the way for sharp cuts in armed forces’ equipment and personnel. Cameron said there was no action without risk. “But ... we have to weigh the risks of inaction ... the consequences for Europe of a failed pariah state on its southern border. All of these, in my view, are simply too great to ignore,” he said. (Reuters)

#### **NINE) – ONLY ONE IN THREE BRITONS SUPPORTS LIBYA WAR**

Only one in three Britons agree with the decision to take military action in Libya, a poll published on Monday showed. The ComRes/ITN poll found that 43 percent disagreed with the action and 22 percent were unsure. Just under half of those surveyed felt military action was an unnecessary risk for Britain to take. Haunted by the experience of the recent Iraq war and continued losses in Afghanistan, Britons told Reuters they were wary of getting dragged into another lengthy foreign conflict at a time of belt-tightening at home. “We shouldn’t be in there, we’ve got enough on our plate in Afghanistan,” said Neil Wozencroft, a 35-year-old pipe fitter. “It’s a civil war and we shouldn’t get involved, plus there are other atrocities in the world –the Congo and Mugabe in Zimbabwe. We can’t be the world’s peacekeepers.” Both Britain and France are having to introduce austerity measures to tackle large budget deficits, while at the same time people are having to cope with rising food and fuel prices. “Is it really worth it? I ask myself,” said widow Roymonde Urien in Paris, concerned the air strikes might lead to a flood of immigrants from Libya. **AGAINST BOMBARDMENTS** All those Londoners quizzed by Reuters agreed they would like to see Gaddafi removed, but not through bombing. Despite doubts about the action itself, most praised Prime Minister David Cameron. “He grasped the situation,” Phil Davis, a 43-year-old civil engineer, said. “He saw it was an issue and reacted to it.” Technical details: - ComRes interviewed 2028 British adults online between March 18 and 20, when allies started to enforce a no-fly zone against Libya. (Reuters)

#### **TEN) – ITALY THREATENS TO BAN USE OF MILITARY BASES BY ANTI-LIBYA COALITION**

Le chef de la diplomatie italienne, Franco Frattini a plaidé lundi à Bruxelles pour que l’Otan prenne le commandement de l’opération militaire en Libye faute de quoi, a-t-il laissé entendre, Rome pourrait ne plus autoriser l’usage des bases aériennes italiennes. « Si l’Otan n’assure pas rapidement la coordination des opérations militaires, nous devons étudier un moyen pour que l’Grande-Bretagne assume elle-même la responsabilité du contrôle des bases » situées sur son territoire, a dit M. Frattini à l’issue d’une réunion des ministres européens des Affaires étrangères consacrée à la Libye. « C’est l’Otan qui doit prendre l’initiative », a insisté le chef de la diplomatie italienne en regrettant que chaque pays de la coalition agisse, selon lui, sans en informer ses partenaires. « Tous les membres de la coalition ont besoin de savoir ce que font les autres et l’Otan a l’expérience pour ça », a-t-il dit. « S’il y a une multiplication des commandements, l’Grande-Bretagne prendra la responsabilité de contrôler elle-même l’usage de ses bases aériennes », a-t-il ajouté. Mais, a-t-il insisté, aucune décision n’a été prise à ce stade. « Il s’agit d’une réflexion », a-t-il assuré. « Ce n’est pas le moment de se diviser » entre membres de la coalition, a dit M. Frattini. Plusieurs pays de l’Otan, comme la Turquie ou la Grande-Bretagne, refusent à ce stade que l’organisation soit en première ligne de l’intervention en Libye, de crainte de s’aliéner les pays arabes. Cependant, a souligné le chef de la diplomatie française, Alain Juppé, l’Otan est « disposée à venir en soutien » dans « quelques jours ». Samedi, à l’issue du sommet de Paris sur la Libye, le chef du gouvernement italien, Silvio Berlusconi, avait annoncé la mise à disposition des bases aériennes italiennes, tout en n’excluant pas une participation plus importante dans un deuxième temps. (AFP)

#### **ELEVEN) – NORWAY SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN LIBYA WAR**

Les six F-16 norvégiens dépêchés lundi en Méditerranée pour participer à l’opération militaire en Libye n’entameront pas leur mission tant que la question du commandement n’aura pas été clarifiée, a déclaré la ministre norvégienne de la Défense, Grete Faremo, à l’agence « Leur participation à l’opération devra attendre de nouveaux ordres et suppose qu’un système de commandement soit mis en place. Cela prendra plusieurs jours », a-t-elle dit. Les appareils, qui devaient initialement être stationnés sur la base sicilienne de Sigonella (sud de l’Grande-Bretagne), ont reçu l’ordre en cours de route de se rendre en Crète où ils seront basés, a déclaré à l’AFP le lieutenant-colonel John Espen Lien, porte-parole de l’état-major de l’armée

norvégienne. Samedi, le Premier ministre norvégien, Jens Stoltenberg, avait annoncé l'envoi des avions. (AFP)

## TWELVE) – NATO CHAOS ON LIBYA WAR

L'orage, qui menaçait depuis des jours au sein de l'Otan, a fini par éclater lundi, la Grande-Bretagne refusant que l'alliance remplace la coalition internationale en Libye et la Turquie rejetant l'idée de lui donner carte blanche pour imposer une zone d'exclusion aérienne. Au cours d'une réunion, les ambassadeurs d'une majorité des 28 pays membres ont confirmé leur souhait que l'alliance relaie au plus tôt la coalition qui a lancé la campagne de bombardements samedi, selon les diplomates. Un point de vue qu'a résumé le chef de la diplomatie luxembourgeoise Jean Asselborn, venu à Bruxelles pour une réunion européenne qui avait aussi la Libye à son ordre du jour : « mon pays comme beaucoup d'autres, n'a qu'un seul moyen de s'engager, c'est dans le cadre de l'Otan ». Mais Paris, bien qu'assez isolé, renâcle devant ce qu'impliquerait un tel affichage : si l'Otan dirige l'intervention, les pays arabes ne voudront pas s'y rallier et, pire, finiront par la dénoncer, répète la Grande-Bretagne. Sans exprimer sa préférence, le secrétaire américain à la Défense, Robert Gates, a déclaré dimanche que son pays espérait transmettre la responsabilité de la coordination des opérations dans les jours à venir, soit « à la Grande-Bretagne et à la Grande-Bretagne », soit à « la machinerie de l'Otan ». David Cameron s'est prononcé lundi devant le Parlement pour que l'Otan prenne « au bout d'un moment » les commandes, tout en évoquant la possibilité qu'un officier britannique, américain ou français soit nommé à la tête de l'opération. La Grande-Bretagne n'est pas encore dans ces dispositions. Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Alain Juppé, à l'issue de la réunion de l'UE, a observé que « l'Otan était disposé à venir en soutien de la coalition dans quelques jours », semblant réserver un rôle complémentaire et non central à l'alliance. La position française est ainsi décryptée par un responsable militaire : « Il faut trouver une formule permettant de recourir aux moyens de l'Otan sans que son drapeau n'apparaisse ». Autre point de dissension, l'Grande-Bretagne et surtout la Turquie, ne veulent pas que l'Otan, si elle devait finalement intervenir, bombarde à son tour comme la coalition l'a fait depuis 48 heures. Des objections qui ne portent pas sur le commandement, mais sur la nature de l'intervention de l'Otan. Au terme d'une semaine de débats intenses, les plans opérationnels pour deux des trois missions qui pourraient incomber à l'Otan –sécurisation d'une opération humanitaire, respect de l'embargo sur les armes- ont été validés. Dimanche soir, cependant, l'ambassadeur turc a demandé à l'Otan de revoir sa copie en ce qui concerne la troisième mission, -une zone d'interdiction aérienne-, voulant apparemment des garanties sur les règles d'engagement afin que les civils libyens ne soient pas mis en danger. Les discussions à l'Otan, qualifiées de « très difficiles » par un diplomate allié, étaient suspendues une fois de plus lundi soir. (AFP)

## THIRTEEN) – SPANISH PRIME MINISTER SEEKS PARLIAMENT SUPPORT FOR LIBYA WAR

Le chef du gouvernement espagnol José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero demandera mardi le soutien du Parlement pour la participation du pays, pendant une période d'au moins un mois, à l'opération militaire internationale en Libye, ont annoncé ses services lundi soir. M. Zapatero va informer le Parlement « de la participation espagnole à la crise en Libye et demander la ratification de la participation » de l'Grande-Bretagne à l'opération internationale, a indiqué la présidence du gouvernement. Au total 500 soldats seront mobilisés dans le cadre de cette opération, selon le [communiqué](#). Le gouvernement a expliqué que le Conseil des ministres avait décidé vendredi de cette participation « face à l'urgence de la situation », et que des avions du dispositif espagnol avaient commencé leur mission dès lundi. Lundi à la mi-journée, deux chasseurs-bombardiers espagnols F-18 ont décollé de la base italienne de Decimomannu, en Sardaigne, pour effectuer leur première mission destinée à faire respecter la zone d'exclusion aérienne établie par les Nations unies en Libye. Les deux chasseurs étaient accompagnés d'un Boeing 707 espagnol de ravitaillement en vol, selon le ministère de la Défense. Au total, quatre F-18 espagnols et un Boeing 707 ravitailleur participent à l'opération. Ces appareils « seront déployés pour une période initiale d'un mois, renouvelable en fonction de la situation », a précisé le gouvernement. La frégate « Mendez Nuñez », le sous-marin « Tramontana » et un avion de surveillance maritime qui doivent s'ajouter à ce dispositif pour faire respecter l'embargo sur les armes à l'encontre de la Libye « seront déployés pour une période initiale de trois mois, renouvelable en fonction de la situation », a ajouté le communiqué. (AFP)

#### FOURTEEN) – **WORLD DIVIDED DAYS AFTER U.N. BACKS LIBYA RESOLUTION**

The international community was deeply divided over Libya on Monday, just days after the United Nations passed a no-fly resolution that allowed Western air strikes to protect civilians from Muammar Gaddafi's forces. Russia and China abstained in Thursday's Security Council vote on the no-fly zone but issued trenchant criticism of the operation, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin comparing the air campaign to "medieval crusades". That highly emotive language earned him a rare rebuke from his former protégé, Dmitry Medvedev, the Russian president saying Moscow would not participate in any military coalition in Libya but was open to a peacekeeping role. The divisions, which have affected European allies, NATO and the Arab world, reflect diverse domestic agendas and foreign policy goals. Arab League chief Amr Moussa said he respected a U.N. resolution authorising military action in Libya, having questioned at the weekend the need for a heavy bombardment he said had killed many civilians. The Western air campaign, led by France, the United States and Britain, has divided NATO member states with Germany saying the Arab League's criticism of the operation vindicated its decision not to get involved. The Arab world, too, was divided on the issue. Qatari warplanes have joined the international strike force imposing the no-fly zone. Iraq said it supported international intervention, although influential Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr condemned it and said Western states should avoid civilian casualties. The United States, with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has ruled out sending in its forces and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Arab countries did not want the military operation to be run by NATO. Turkey, a key member of the Western military alliance, is sceptical about any NATO role and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said the military operation against Gaddafi's forces should end as quickly as possible so Libyans could settle their own future. **AFRICA CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE** Gabonese President Omar Bongo Ondimba, whose country is a member of the U.N. Security Council said it had been hoped that the resolution would lead to an immediate ceasefire. "We are hoping that it is going to be a short campaign and that will lead to a ceasefire and a situation where it will be easier to find a solution, a peaceful solution, negotiated rather than by way of force," he told Reuters. China earlier stepped up its criticism of the Libya operation, its official newspapers accusing countries involved in the air campaign of breaking international rules and courting new turmoil in the Middle East. "It should be seen that every time military means are used to address crises, that is a blow to the United Nations charter and the rules of international relations," said a commentary in the People's Daily. Beijing's reservations were echoed in Moscow where Putin said the U.N. move on Libya "resembles medieval calls for crusades". "What troubles me is not the fact of military intervention itself – I am concerned by the ease with which decisions to use force are taken in international affairs," he said. "This is becoming a persistent tendency in U.S. policy," he added. The comments earned a swift rejoinder from Medvedev, who told reporters outside his Moscow residence: "In no way is it acceptable to use expressions that in essence lead to a clash of civilisations, such as crusades and so forth – this is unacceptable." It is rare for the two men to disagree publicly and it was not immediately clear if the apparent spat reflected a genuine disagreement, a difference in tone or a desire to speak to different constituencies at home and abroad. (Reuters)

#### FIFTEEN) – **CHINA WARNS OF "HUMANITARIAN DISASTER" IN LIBYA**

China warned of a "humanitarian disaster" in Libya and expressed "deep concern" at reported civilian casualties as it renewed calls on Tuesday for an end to fighting in the North African country. China "opposes causing even more civilian casualties through the use of armed force", Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular news briefing. "We again call on all sides to observe an immediate cease-fire." "We've seen reports of how the use of armed force is causing civilian casualties, and we oppose the wanton use of armed force leading to more civilian casualties and more humanitarian disasters," she said. (Reuters)

#### SIXTEEN) – **NOBODY WANTS COMMAND OF WESTERN WAR ON LIBYA**

Trois jours après le début des frappes aériennes sur la Libye, Paris, Londres et Washington n'avaient toujours pas désigné lundi de commandement unifié pour leurs opérations, une situation inédite dans les annales militaires récentes qui traduit l'embarras des trois capitales. Du Kosovo à l'Irak et de l'Afghanistan à l'Afrique, toutes les opérations multinationales, qui plus est sanctifiées par une résolution de l'Onu, ont été conduites ces dernières années sous pavillon unique, des Nations unies elles-mêmes, de l'Otan, des Etats-Unis ou encore de l'Union européenne. L'opération franco-américano-britannique en Libye reste donc jusqu'à présent

l'exception à la règle. Tout juste le porte-parole du ministère français de la Défense, Laurent Teisseire, a-t-il parlé d'opérations « coordonnées ». « Il n'y a pas d'état-major centralisé et à ce stade, chacun utilise ses états-majors propres de façon coordonnée », a-t-il expliqué. **THREE NAMES FOR ONE SINGLE WAR** Symbole de cette situation, les opérations en Libye ont été baptisées « Harmattan » par les Français, « Ellamy » par les Britanniques et « Aube d'une odyssee » par les Américains. Les militaires français ont installé leur principal centre des opérations au Mont Verdun, près de Lyon, les Britanniques à Northwood, dans la banlieue de Londres, et les Américains à Ramstein, en Grande-Bretagne (sud-ouest). De facto toutefois, l'état-major américain, immédiatement opérationnel, assume le leadership de cette coordination. Il s'agit d'une « opération coordonnée par les Etats-Unis, en étroite collaboration avec les autorités françaises et britanniques et qui pourrait être soutenue par l'Otan », a confirmé lundi le ministère français de la Défense. L'Alliance est « disposée à venir en soutien » de la coalition internationale dans « quelques jours », avait indiqué un peu plus tôt le chef de la diplomatie française, Alain Juppé, laissant entendre que l'Otan qui avait fait une offre de services pourrait revenir par la petite porte. **U.S. WOULD REFUSE FRENCH COMMAND** En lançant seule, samedi à 17H45 précises, les premières frappes aériennes, la Grande-Bretagne avait montré sa volonté d'affirmer son leadership politique, diplomatique et militaire sur cette affaire. Paris refusait clairement alors que l'Otan assume le commandement des opérations comme elle le fait en Afghanistan, invoquant l'hostilité d'un certain nombre de pays arabes. Une situation paradoxale après le retour de la Grande-Bretagne avec tambours et trompettes en 2009 dans le commandement intégré d'une Alliance atlantique dont le général de Gaulle avait claqué la porte en 1966. L'hypothèse d'un commandement français apparaît peu probable aussi. « Jamais dans leur histoire récente, les Américains n'ont accepté de passer sous commandement d'un autre pays au niveau stratégique », souligne un analyste militaire européen. Et l'hypothèse semble d'autant plus improbable que l'administration Obama s'est montrée plus que réservée sur cette opération voulue par Paris. Le temps presse cependant. Surtout que de nouveaux pays pourraient se joindre au triumvirat initial. L'Grande-Bretagne, la Grande-Bretagne, la Norvège, le Danemark, le Canada, l'Grande-Bretagne, le Qatar et les Emirats arabes unis ont annoncé leur participation. La Grande-Bretagne, la Grande-Bretagne et les Etats-Unis ont l'habitude de travailler ensemble, aux standards Otan. « Mais si tous ces pays rejoignent la coalition, ça va devenir très compliqué, un peu comme l'élargissement de l'Union européenne », observe l'analyste militaire européen interrogé par l'AFP. (AFP)

#### SEVENTEEN) – U.S. TO TRANSFER CONTROL OF LIBYA WAR WITHIN DAYS

The United States will transfer control of the air assault on Libyan forces within days, President Barack Obama said on Monday, even as European divisions fueled speculation that U.S. leadership would continue. Obama's comments reflected a U.S. desire to have others be seen to lead the U.N.-mandated campaign. It has destroyed most of Muammar Gaddafi's air defenses since it began last Saturday and is the third U.S.-led operation in a Muslim country in a decade. "We anticipate this transition to take place in a matter of days and not in a matter of weeks," Obama told a news conference during a visit to Chile. "NATO will be involved in a coordinating function because of the extraordinary capacity of that alliance" but details of the transfer –when it would take place and to whom- would be provided by U.S. military chiefs, he said. But as the days pass, doubts have been raised that the United States will be able to hand off control quickly, given differences within NATO about the alliance's appropriate role in the Libya campaign. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the intention was to transfer command to NATO but France said Arab countries did not want the U.S.-led alliance in charge. Rifts are also growing in the international community over the campaign, which Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin compared to "medieval crusades." Although Obama has called for Gaddafi to leave, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Libyans must ultimately determine his fate for themselves. He said the U.S. military would soon pass command of the operation to allies. "While we have had a major role in the first two or three days, I expect us very soon to recede back into a supporting role," Gates said during a visit to Russia. (Reuters)

#### EIGHTEEN) – OBAMA SEEKS TO CLARIFY 'MISSION' IN LIBYA

US President Barack Obama is facing criticism for not clearly outlining the goals of the Libya mission, as he squares his policy of ousting Moamer Gaddafi while leading a military campaign that prohibits removing him from power. Several lawmakers have questioned the purpose of acting militarily if at the end of the day, Gaddafi remains in control of the country. While in Santiago, Chile, on Monday Obama insisted the limited

military mission does not compromise his goal of Gaddafi's departure. He added that he will pursue his goal of ousting Gaddafi with a "wide range" of other tools, including sanctions and further international isolation. "It's very easy to square our military actions and our stated policies," he said. House Speaker John Boehner agreed the US has a "moral obligation" to stop Gaddafi but that Obama has not adequately explained the use of force. "Before any further military commitments are made, the administration must do a better job of communicating to the American people and to Congress about our mission in Libya and how it will be achieved," Boehner said. (dpa)

#### NINETEEN) – PENTAGON CHIEF IN RUSSIA TO TALK LIBYA WAR

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is due in Moscow on Tuesday where he is expected to reassure a divided Russia about a military campaign in Libya that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin compared to "crusades." Gates will not meet Putin, who is travelling, but will instead see Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who publicly split with Putin over Libya on Monday. On his flight to Russia, Gates praised strengthening ties with Moscow and noted that Russian leaders "despite their reservations" chose not to vote against the U.N. Security Council resolution authorising military action in Libya. Medvedev defended that decision on Monday, saying he did not consider the resolution wrong. Putin told workers at a missile factory in Votkinsk in central Russia the U.N. Security Council resolution was flawed and it "resembles medieval calls for crusades".

**MISSILE DEFENCE?** Putin made his comments on the same day that Gates, a former CIA director expected to retire from government later this year, spoke to naval officers in St. Petersburg about improving ties between the former Cold War foes. He pointed to Moscow's help in setting up the Northern Distribution Network, a key supply route for the war in Afghanistan, and urged cooperation on missile defence. "If you'd told me when I joined the CIA in 1967 that I would end my career helping to forge a stronger defence relationship with the Russians, I'd have been more than a bit sceptical," Gates told the audience. A holdover from the Bush administration, Gates saw firsthand the U.S.-Russia relationship deteriorate over Russia's 2008 war against pro-western Georgia, and then improve under Obama. Obama's effort to "reset" ties was crowned with the New START nuclear arms pact's entry into force last month. It limits each country to 1,550 deployed strategic warheads and 800 delivery systems by 2018. Russia's chief negotiator on the nuclear arms treaty with the United States has outlined tough conditions for further reductions, stressing Moscow's demand for an equal say in creating a European missile shield. Moscow worries the shield could weaken Russia's offensive arsenal and upset the balance of power. "The United States would far prefer to have Russia as a partner in European missile defence," Gates told Interfax. "I think that we can provide political assurances that would reassure Russia that no aspect of our missile defense is ever intended to be used against Russia." (Reuters)

#### TWENTY) – WHO DOES WHAT IN WAR ON LIBYA, AN UPDATE

Following are assets that are being used, or could be used. \* denotes new or updated item. **FRANCE** France has about 20 fighter aircraft deployed in Libya, including Rafale multirole warplanes, Mirage fighters and at least one AWACS surveillance aircraft. The target area involved is an area 62-by-93 miles (100 km by 150 km) around the rebel-controlled city of Benghazi. The French planes did not carry out any air strikes on Monday, an armed forces spokesman said. The French operation is being run from the Solenzara air base on the Mediterranean island of Corsica, about an hour's flight from Libya in a fighter plane. The aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle left the southern French port of Toulon on Sunday carrying a crew of about 1,800 members and some 20 aircraft and accompanied by an attack submarine, several frigates and a refuelling ship. It was due to be in place and ready to participate in Libyan operations from Tuesday, the armed forces spokesman said. **BRITAIN** Britain said it participated in a coordinated strike on Saturday against Libyan air defence systems using Tomahawk missiles launched from a Trafalgar-class submarine. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed Stormshadow missiles were launched from Tornado GR4 planes flown from a Royal Air Force base 3,000 miles (4,800 km) away in the eastern county of Norfolk in England. It said the operation was supported by VC10 and Tristar air-to-air refuelling aircraft as well as E3D Sentry and Sentinel surveillance aircraft. The MoD said Typhoon aircraft were standing by to provide support. \* Ministry spokesman General John Lorimer said in a statement the coalition forces' action at the weekend prevented Gaddafi's forces from seizing Benghazi. \* He added that Tornado aircraft on Monday conducted an air reconnaissance mission over Libya. The planes had landed at Gioia del Colle air base in Italy which would be their new base of operations. Britain has two frigates off the Libyan coast, the Cumberland and the Westminster, which also could be called on to

support operations. Government sources earlier said destroyers could be deployed. **UNITED STATES** The United States started a “limited military action” in Libya several hours after France which included launching strikes along the Libyan coast that would target Libyan air defences. The U.S. military deployed planes, cruise missiles and electronic attacks, the Pentagon said. A defence official said the U.S. Navy has three submarines outfitted with Tomahawk missiles in the Mediterranean ready to participate, including attack submarines Newport News and the Providence. They were joined by two navy ships. Tomahawk missiles can cripple aircraft or anti-aircraft defences in a no-fly operation. In all, the U.S. Navy has five combat ships in the Mediterranean, including at least one guided-missile destroyer, but there are no U.S. aircraft carriers close to Libya. The Enterprise, which recently was stationed in the Red Sea, has been moved eastwards, away from Libya, to join the Carl Vinson, in the Arabian Sea to support Afghanistan operations. Aviano in Italy is the region’s only U.S. air base with aircraft assigned to it – 42 F-16s. The Pentagon has not discussed the positioning of other planes in the region. The United States has a range of Mediterranean military bases and installations in Italy, Greece, Spain and Turkey. The Pentagon said on Saturday the United States was in charge of the Western intervention but the intention was to transfer it to a “coalition command” in the coming days. **CANADA** Canada’s frigate Charlottetown has joined naval actions, including a naval blockade, taking place off Libya, Prime Minister Stephen Harper told reporters. Canada deployed six planes over the northern Libyan coast on Monday, but they did not carry out any strikes, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said. One Canadian tanker aircraft was stationed at Decimomannu airbase in Sardinia, Italy, the Italian command at the base said. **ITALY** Italy has deployed dozens of combat aircraft at its base at Trapani, in western Sicily in readiness for possible involvement in air strikes on Libya. Eight planes had been assigned to the coalition command and were ready to take part in operations immediately, Defence Minister Ignazio La Russa said on Sunday. Tornado fighter-bombers which can be used to destroy enemy air defences and radar as well as F-16s and Eurofighters used for air-to-air defence have been moved to Trapani from bases in Piacenza in northern Italy and Gioia del Colle in Apulia. Italy has offered the use of a NATO base near Naples as joint command centre for the operation and might participate later in military activities, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said. La Russa said seven bases in Italy – at Amendola, Gioia del Colle, Sigonella, Aviano, Trapani, Decimomannu and Pantelleria – were available and some allies had asked to use them. Five are on the southern mainland or Sicily, making them some of the closest available bases to Libya. **DENMARK** Defence Minister Gitte Lillelund Bech said six Danish fighter planes had been deployed to Sicily. Four were awaiting U.S. instructions to join operations over Libya and two would be kept in reserve. A Reuters TV crew later saw four Danish planes take off from Sigonella air base in Sicily. **NORWAY** NATO member Norway sent six fighter aircraft to Crete to join the coalition on Monday but its defence minister said they would not engage in action until an effective, transparent command structure was in place, an apparent reference to NATO. **SPAIN** Spain says it is providing one tanker plane, one F-100 frigate, a submarine, a maritime patrol aircraft, and four F-18 jets. Two Spanish bases – Rota in Cadiz and Moron de la Frontera in Seville – are also available for use. **QATAR** a Greek Defence Ministry official said six fighters and a cargo plane from Qatar were expected to land at a military base on the island of Crete by Tuesday. **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** The Italian command at Decimomannu airbase said it was awaiting the arrival of F-16s from the United Arab Emirates. It was not clear how many, or when they would arrive. **BELGIUM** A Greek Defence Ministry official told Reuters four Belgian F-16 aircraft, in Greece since Saturday, took off on Monday heading for Libya. The official said he was not aware whether they carried missiles and were meant to strike or were just patrolling. (Reuters)

## TWENTY ONE) – EU COUNTRIES TO MEET FRIDAY ON WHAT TO DO WITH REFUGEES FROM LIBYA WAR

Les pays européens se concerteront vendredi à Bruxelles sur l'accueil en Europe de certains réfugiés établis en Libye, qui ne pourraient pas être rapatriés vers leur pays d'origine. Des représentants des ministres de l'Intérieur des 27 évoqueront l'accueil dans différents Etats membres de quelques milliers de personnes, notamment des Somaliens et des Erythréens, qui ne pourraient regagner leur pays d'origine en raison des conditions de sécurité très détériorées sur place. Depuis le début de la crise libyenne, les Européens ont largement contribué à des opérations de rapatriement vers leur pays d'origine de ressortissants de pays tiers qui avaient fui la Libye, en organisant notamment un pont aérien depuis la Tunisie vers l'Egypte. L'UE elle-même n'a pas été confrontée à un important afflux migratoire, comme ce fut le cas après la révolution tunisienne. (BELGA)

## TWENTY TWO) – EU TO SEEK SOLUTION FOR LIBYA JOINTLY WITH AFRICAN UNION

‘Union européenne va participer vendredi à Addis Abeba à une réunion appelée par l’Union africaine, dans l’espoir de trouver une approche commune pour mettre un terme aux combats en Libye, a indiqué mardi un haut diplomate européen. « Il existe beaucoup de points communs dans les positions prises par les deux Unions (européenne et africaine) » sur la crise en Libye, a estimé ce diplomate, Nick Westcott, conseiller chargé de l’Afrique auprès de la chef de la diplomatie de l’UE, Catherine Ashton. « Nous voulons nous appuyer sur ces points communs pour parvenir à la solution que nous souhaitons tous, à savoir la fin des tueries et un processus politique ouvert qui reflète les aspirations légitimes du peuple » libyen, a poursuivi M. Westcott, lors d’une conférence de presse à Nairobi. En visite en Afrique de l’Est, M. Westcott se rendra à Addis Abeba en fin de semaine afin notamment de participer à une réunion prévue en principe vendredi sur la Libye. Un comité de l’UA sur la Libye avait appelé dimanche à la tenue de cette réunion avec des représentants de la Ligue arabe, de l’Organisation de la conférence islamique (OCI), de l’UE et des Nations unies. L’objectif est, selon ce comité, de « mettre en œuvre un mécanisme de consultation continue et d’action concertée » pour résoudre la crise libyenne. Ce comité de l’UA, composé de cinq chefs d’Etat, a appelé dimanche à « la cessation immédiate de toutes les hostilités », au lendemain de frappes aériennes lancées par une coalition internationale en vertu d’une résolution du Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU. Après être restée longtemps très discrète sur l’insurrection en Libye et les combats qui ont suivi, l’UA a appelé à « l’adoption et la mise en œuvre des réformes politiques nécessaires pour l’élimination des causes de la crise actuelle ». Mais l’organisation continentale a également souligné son « attachement au respect de l’unité et de l’intégrité territoriale de la Libye » et son « rejet de toute intervention militaire étrangère quelle qu’en soit la forme ». « Il est tout à fait clair que le colonel Kadhafi était très décidé à tuer des civils pour rester au pouvoir. D’après ce que je comprends, à la fois l’UA et l’UE jugent cela inacceptable, à en juger par les déclarations qu’elles ont faites », a déclaré M. Westcott. (AFP)

## TWENTY THREE) – CRITICISM OF LIBYA WAR RISES AMONG EMERGING POWERS

China said on Tuesday that Western air strikes on Libya risked a “humanitarian disaster”, adding to the chorus of criticism from big emerging powers over the U.N.-authorised campaign. China, with Russia, India, Brazil and other developing countries have condemned the U.S.-led air strikes on Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi as risky and unwarranted overreaching by the West. The shared opposition to the Libya campaign could become a point of diplomatic convergence among the “BRICS” bloc of major emerging economies –Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa- which hold a summit in south China next month. But it is unlikely to evolve into united action by this disparate group of countries, with their own mutual rivalries, said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international security at Renmin University in Beijing. “Undoubtedly, many developing countries see a dangerous precedent in the Western attacks and intervention (in Libya) in what is fundamentally a civil war,” said Shi. “But Russia, China and the others will be afraid of a serious break with the United States or offending the Arab countries, so they won’t push their opposition far,” he said. “I think the idea that the BRIC countries would act as a coalition on this is outlandish. They are too deeply meshed with the West to risk a split,” Shi added. Western powers began the strikes against Libya over the weekend in a U.N.-sanctioned campaign to target air defences, enforce a no-fly zone and protect civilians from Gaddafi’s forces. India, China and Russia –which, along with Brazil, abstained from last week’s U.N. Security Council resolution- have a history of opposing intervention in sovereign states. They opposed the U.S.-led campaign over Kosovo in the 1990s, when the Chinese embassy in Belgrade was bombed, and also opposed the U.S. led invasion of Iraq. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, compared the campaign in Libya to the Iraq invasion, saying it “resembles medieval calls for crusades”. Brazil’s criticisms have been relatively muted. On Monday, it called for a ceasefire in Libya and regretted the loss of life there. Of the BRICS, only South Africa supported the UN Resolution. China has been among the loudest in voicing opposition. **WANTON USE OF ARMED FORCE** “We have noted the reports about civilian casualties from the military action against Libya by the countries concerned, and we express our deep concern about this,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a news conference in Beijing. “The original intent of the (U.N.) Security Council resolution was to protect the security of the Libya’s people. We oppose the wanton use of armed force causing even more civilian casualties and an even bigger humanitarian disaster.” She added that French President Nicolas Sarkozy, a strong proponent of the most vocal proponents of the no-fly zone over Libya, will visit China at the end of March to attend a seminar on global monetary reform. “What is happening in a country, within their internal affairs, no external powers should interfere in it,” Pranab Mukherjee, India’s finance minister and leader of the lower house of parliament, told lawmakers in New Delhi on Tuesday. “Nobody, not a couple of

countries, can take that decision to change a particular regime," Mukherjee said. The emerging powers could maintain their more united front over Libya in the coming weeks ahead of the BRICS summit in China, said Srinath Raghavan, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi. "If there is a serious ceasefire proposal or negotiated settlement, then the BRICS could well jump in diplomatically. They may want to then shape a global consensus if the West's policies get in trouble," Raghavan said. (Reuters)

#### **TWENTY FOUR) – NATO SHIPS WILL ENFORCE LIBYA ARMS EMBARGO**

NATO ambassadors agreed on Tuesday that NATO warships would help to enforce a U.N. arms embargo on Libya, diplomats said. The agreement was reached at a meeting in Brussels where the envoys have been trying to resolve a fractious debate on who should command the military campaign in Libya if the United States steps back from leading the operation, they said. (Reuters)

#### **TWENTY FIVE) - TURKEY WANTS HUMANITARIAN OPERATION IN LIBYA UNDER UN**

The United Nations should be the umbrella for a solely humanitarian operation in Libya, NATO member Turkey's prime minister, Tayyip Erdogan, said on Tuesday, staking out opposition to international military intervention. Turkey has said it is unable to agree to NATO taking over enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya if the scope of the operation goes beyond what the United Nations sanctioned. "Turkey will never ever be party pointing weapons at the Libyan people," Erdogan said in a speech to deputies of his ruling AK Party in parliament. "The umbrella for a solely humanitarian operation in Libya should be the United Nations," Erdogan said. "The operation should be run on legitimate grounds." Erdogan said he had spoken to U.S. President Barack Obama and the British and Dutch prime ministers on the telephone about the conflict. He said Turkey would spell out its position when NATO officials resumed talks in Brussels after failing to reach an agreement on Monday. "There are U.N. decisions and these decisions clearly have a defined framework. A NATO operation which goes outside this framework cannot be legitimised," Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told news channel CNN Turk on Monday evening. (Reuters)

#### **TWENTY SIX) - QATAR WARPLANES ENROUTE FOR LIBYA**

Two Qatar Air Force fighter jets and a cargo aircraft were heading to Crete Tuesday in the first sign of military operations by Qatar so far to help enforce a no-fly zone over Libya, officials said. The planes made an unscheduled stop at the island's Larnaca airport, and government spokesman Stefanos Stefanou said in a statement that the two Mirage jets and one cargo aircraft would depart after refueling. A Cyprus Civil Aviation Department official told The Associated Press that high winds forced the two Mirage 2000 and one C-17 cargo aircraft to land for refueling. The aircraft were enroute to a U.S. military base on the Greek island Crete, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with policy. Cypriot authorities initially refused the aircraft's request to land, but later granted permission after the pilots declared a fuel emergency per international regulations, Stefanou said. The head of the Gulf's main political bloc on Monday emphasized the commitment of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to the international military coalition striking Libya but stressed the mission seeks only to protect civilians. The UAE has said it is providing only humanitarian aid. The reaffirmation of the Gulf states' backing for the multinational force followed criticism by the Arab League's chief over the heavy missile barrages by U.S. and European forces against Libyan air defenses, tanks and other targets. Qatari officials have said its planes will take part in enforcing the no-fly zone but have not provided specifics on their contribution to the effort. (AP)

#### **TWENTY SEVEN) - ITALY ANGERED BY FRANCE IN LIBYA WAR**

Italy repeated its demand on Tuesday that military operations against Libya be placed under a joint NATO command, underlining the growing differences in the anti-Gaddafi coalition. Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said that in the very first phase of the operation it had been necessary to move quickly and individual forces had been left under national command to stop the immediate attacks on rebel forces. "But now this action,

which everyone judged unacceptable, has been stopped, it's time to get back to the rules," he told RAI radio. "The rules say there should be a single coordination, shared responsibility, each member of the coalition has to share in the choices that are made and pay the political price," he said. "I think that what has to happen is that NATO should assume command," he said, adding that if no unified command were agreed, Italy would resume control of the seven airbases it has made available to allied air forces. Frattini's comments reflect evident Italian annoyance with the attitude of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who led the diplomatic drive for the Security Council resolution against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. French jets were the first to begin bombing in Libya on Saturday and Paris has strongly resisted assigning command of the mission to NATO, saying Arab nations did not want to see military operations led by the U.S.-dominated alliance. "(France) is a friendly country but a moment for reflection and more coordination would be welcome," Gianpiero Cantoni, head of the Senate defence affairs committee and a member of the ruling PDL party, told the *Corriere della Sera* daily. He said French policy appeared to be motivated by a desire to secure oil contracts with a future Libyan government and to increase its own influence in the Mediterranean, while Italy would have to face a potential flood of refugees. "The attitude of France is not acceptable. Italy cannot only have the migrants, we absolutely have to protect our investments," he said. On Monday, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said the mission should be limited to creating a no-fly zone and he said Italian planes taking part would not open fire. (Reuters)

#### TWENTY EIGHT) - FRANCE RULES OUT OCCUPATION OF LIBYA

Le Premier ministre, François Fillon, a réaffirmé mardi à l'Assemblée nationale qu'une intervention au sol en Libye était "explicitement exclue", et qu'il ne s'agissait pas pour la France de se "substituer" au "peuple libyen", même si elle appelle "au départ de Kadhafi". "Nous ne conduisons pas une guerre contre la Libye, mais une opération de protection des populations civiles, une opération de recours légitime à la force", a déclaré François Fillon, lors d'une déclaration au nom du gouvernement. "Il s'agit de protéger la population libyenne, tout en excluant explicitement l'envoi d'une force d'occupation au sol", a-t-il ajouté, alors que des critiques sont apparues contre l'opération lancée samedi dernier par la coalition, sur la base de la résolution 1973 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. (AFP)

Fernando Matos Rosa

Brussels

