



Foreign Affairs Committee

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From The Chair

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth office
London SW1A 2AH

15 March 2016

Dear Philip.

Libya

As you may be aware, the Foreign Affairs Committee visited Egypt and Tunisia from 6 March to 11 March in connection with the Committee's ongoing inquiry, *Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options*. I would like to thank HM Ambassadors to Egypt, Tunisia and Libya for hosting the Committee.

I note the announcement of the formation of the Government of National Accord on Saturday 12 March. We heard that the GNA's likely first formal action will be to request that the UK and its allies conduct airstrikes against ISIL targets in Libya.

In the course of our meetings and discussions in North Africa, we also heard that the UK plans to contribute 1,000 ground troops to a 6,000-strong international force which will be deployed to Libya in the near future. We heard that this force will have two objectives: first, it will train the Libyan Army; secondly, it will provide security for the Government of National Accord in Tripoli. It appears that the Defence Secretary will agree the UK contribution to this force at a European conference this week.

The pre-emptive deployment of UK military forces is now a matter for the House of Commons. I therefore request that you make a statement to the House on the state of the plan for any deployment of UK military forces in Libya before the Defence Secretary agrees the UK component of any international force and explain how this deployment is consistent with our policy objectives. The Committee has agreed to publish this letter on the FAC website at 6pm today.

Yours truly
Crispin

Crispin Blunt MP
Chairman