

**Libya Domestic Media, March 15 (covering March 1 – March 14 2010)**

**By Odile Noël, MIGS Reporter for Libya**

**(Jana website, state-owned new agency, Tripoli, in Arabic 1533 GMT 3 Mar 10)**

- The US charge d'affaires was summoned to Libya by the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The committee objected to statements made by the US State Department about Al-Qadhafi's speech during the fifth rally of the Islamic defiance on 25 February in Benghazi. The committee asks that the US State Department apologize as the statement showed lack of information and ignorance about the speech, stressing that if no apology was made it would impact the political and economic relations between Libya and the United States.

**(Jana website, state-owned new agency, Tripoli, in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 10)**

- In response to Swiss anti-Islamic policies, the Libyan government decided to impose a commercial and economic embargo against Switzerland and will look into options for importation of medical supplies and medicines.

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 10)**

- Libya received a delegation of the military council in Niger that came to "inform the brother leader about the reasons for the changes, and to listen to his wise advice, which stems from his knowledge and interest in Niger". The delegation told the Libya leader that their goal was to ensure stability in Niger.

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Mar 10)**

- Demonstrators at a demonstration staged by supporters of Al-Qadhafi called for the boycott of Switzerland at political, economic and social levels and of Swiss companies. "Swiss racist insult against Islam and Muslims" were denounced and they urged the Swiss government to apologize officially to the international Muslim community.

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Mar 10)**

- Al-Qadhafi and the Libyan prime minister held meetings with the Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos about ways of improving the bilateral relations between Libya and Spain.

**(Jana website, state-owned new agency, Tripoli, in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Mar 10)**

- Al-Qadhafi received the Chinese ambassador to Libya who expressed his admiration for the development of Libya in different areas. He conveyed his interest in the development of economic cooperation and prospects of joint ventures between the two countries. The Chinese ambassador also expressed the interest of Chinese companies in being involved with implementation of major projects in the oil and gas sector in Libya.

**(Jana website, state-owned new agency, Tripoli, in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Mar 10)**

- Al-Qadhafi received the Russian ambassador to Libya who expressed his country's eagerness to set up joint ventures and develop bilateral relations, especially in the oil and gas sectors.

**(Jana website, state-owned new agency, Tripoli, in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 10)**

- After the Libyan leader expressed his position on the need for Africa to have a permanent seat on the UNSC, the Chinese ambassador declared that his country welcomed Al-Qadhafi's stand on "the issues which constitute the most pressing concerns of the peoples of the world." Another report explained how the Russian ambassador said roughly the same thing in his meeting with the Libyan leader.

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Mar 10)**

- A statement issued by the Presidency of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (Comessa) characterized "the illegal treatment by Switzerland of the Libyan diplomat" as a "serious violation of international law and the generally accepted diplomatic conventions", incompatible with the role of embassies. The issuing of a list of officials to be denied for a Schengen visa would also be incompatible with international law and "not serve any purpose". Should the Swiss government continue to disrespect its commitments toward Libya, the Comessa will discuss the option of implementing reciprocal measures.

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 10)**

- After an “official” apology from the United States for the comments of PJ Crowley, who criticized Al-Qadhafi’s call for “jihad” against Switzerland, the Foreign Ministry was quoted saying: Libya “accepts the apology and strong regret shown by the State Department” on 9 March. The ministry added that "the reasons which have led it to cancel visits by US officials to Libya have been eliminated by this apology".

**(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Mar 10)**

- Al-Qadhafi and the visiting Eritrean President, Isayas Afewerki, discussed the enhancement of security in Africa and the Cen-Sad countries as well as other international issues. Afewerki agreed with the Libyan prime minister to draft an agenda on the implementation of investment programmes between the two countries in the tourism, industry and real estate areas.