

on 5 April. American officials claimed to have conclusive evidence showing Libyan sponsorship of the attack. That day France expelled two Libyan diplomats allegedly planning attacks on US targets in the country and two days later West Germany also expelled two Libyan diplomats.

On 12 April US naval ships in the Mediterranean were put on alert and, on the following day, the United States Ambassador to the UN, Vernon Walters, travelled to Europe to organize concerted action against Libya. After a special meeting in The Hague on 13 April, European Community foreign ministers announced new measures against Libya and urged all parties to the confrontation to exercise restraint. Several hours later, US fighter-bombers flying from bases in Britain attacked targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. Britain, Canada, Israel and South Africa expressed varying degrees of support for the US action.

The following week the European Community agreed to impose further sanctions on Libya, again urged all belligerents to exercise restraint, and called for international action to combat terrorism. At the Tokyo Summit on 5 May, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and the West Germany announced a package of measures against terrorism, noting that these applied "in respect of any state which is clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, and in particular of Libya...."¹

The US Government sought to maintain pressure on Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi throughout the summer of 1986. An article published in the Washington Post on 2 October revealed that the Administration had conducted a disinformation campaign intended to destabilize the Qaddafi regime. A Presidential directive signed by Ronald Reagan in August had authorized selective leaks to the foreign press emphasizing Qaddafi's continuing

¹ Original statement printed in the New York Times, 6 May 1986.