Conversation with UK Embassy, Libya, March 17, 2025

China, interesting, not something that are tracking that much to be honest. We often get reports of them looking to invest more, they will open their embassy. But from my experience, this is not the right env bc they like a unified gov to work with, this east west does not suit them. They could do stuff in the background and went to mizrata port, really impressive, very high tech and all of their tech is Chinese, some good deals being done there but we are not monitoring it as a threat per se. and we just had an expdrt looking at disinfo landscape in Libya and china did not come up, obviously Russia but also turkey, uae but china does not engage in disinformation.

Comparison to Russia, we are concerneda bour Russia in the east, concerneda bout Russia in the west, attacking in the diplomacy front… we talk about disinfo space and Russia being the biggest concern but se have not figured out how we want to be in that space. But we have not come up with programmatic ideas at the moment.

We had two disinfo projects from predecssro, working with Libyan cso, working with civil society to make civil society more resilient so teaching the basic of disinformation and spread the word and by own terms project successful. Modest funding and went a long way. Challenge is I don’t think we did a real analysis of disinfo landscape. What kind of messaging, what kind of objectives and for how long and it cwas not as strategic as it could have been. So this year we are trying to take more evidenced base approach, we had company do a bit of analysis on disinfo in liby aand a stop take of achievements to date. Budgets have been slashed. I looked at budgets for proujects which was not large to begin with. If we are serious about countering hostile state actors, I now… I do not have a budtt commensurate with challenge. 300k pounds so it is not a lot of money. Focusing on Russia and hostile states… who is willing to take the cchallenge, connections in Libya and not get shut down and persecuted. My focus the next year, an actual analysis of the data, who is pushing wht messages. What messages is Russia pushing out and looking at that data we pursue our objectives through diplomatic means, meessages targeting people or are we in a position to do proper activity based programming. Fact checking, etc. we need hard data.

We have a partner working with journalists in Libya to expose Russia. So even in a strategy to tackle Russian influence, hoping to expose and constrain and present a challenge to Russia. And

UK formal policy of mitigating Russian influence in Libya? No. there are strategy reviews, Russia in the glob and that trickles down to Russia in Libya. But Russia in Libya is not a priority in London but it is a priority for us and se struggling with h… uk and Russia key prpriority and from there it tri kles out. At the moment… .libya to London and Russia to Libya is not up there but it sis our number one priority in our country plan. That is why we struggle to pivote to state threats in Libya.

Get a verbal laydown…

Nobody is doing much in the mis/disinformation space, the dutch doing a little bit. It doesn’t seem to be much going on that we are aware of. BBC Media Action.

US EMB coordination. We regularly speak with counter parts in state and try to catch up but we talk a lot about all th topics of Libya. Political situation. I asked lee, what they doing on the disinformation side, he didn’t give me any details. He didn’t know himself but he didn’t know what is going on.

My counter part is director of usaid, before he left and his successor we never matnaged to meet and then we organize the meeting there was a dec to close down USAID.

Impact of usaid? LIBYA WAS NEVER A HUGE RECIPIENT OF INTERNATIONAL AID. IT IS NOT SYRIA AND not yemen, it is a middling country so donors have not put tons of money here but the us has been supportive of the south which is more marginalized and deprived and all of that programming has gone closed. Was providing provision of services with aim of stabilizing the region which is now on hold. Beyond that huge support to regugees,w e expect that money will fall short of un targets.

Humanitarian assistance is all UN… it is Southern .. impact in the south, high impact, I suspect less integration fo young people into the labor market a big American focus. Decline even more for poorer and deprived and it may lead to great instability.

POCS?

Dutch? Yes, will provide a poc.

Everyone knows it is an issue but similar struggles to us given limited impact.

Disinfo research?

UNDP?

French? Not very much. They focus on cultural issues, promotion of French language, they do stuff but all paris managed. We started discussion on migration with French butt that is not going anywhere. My partner expects a funding.

Integrated Security Fund, cut 30% starting in April. From 0.5%gdp to 0.3.