

Feds scrutinize Halliburton exports

Did shipments to Libya violate U.S. trade embargo?

By SCOTT WILLIAMS

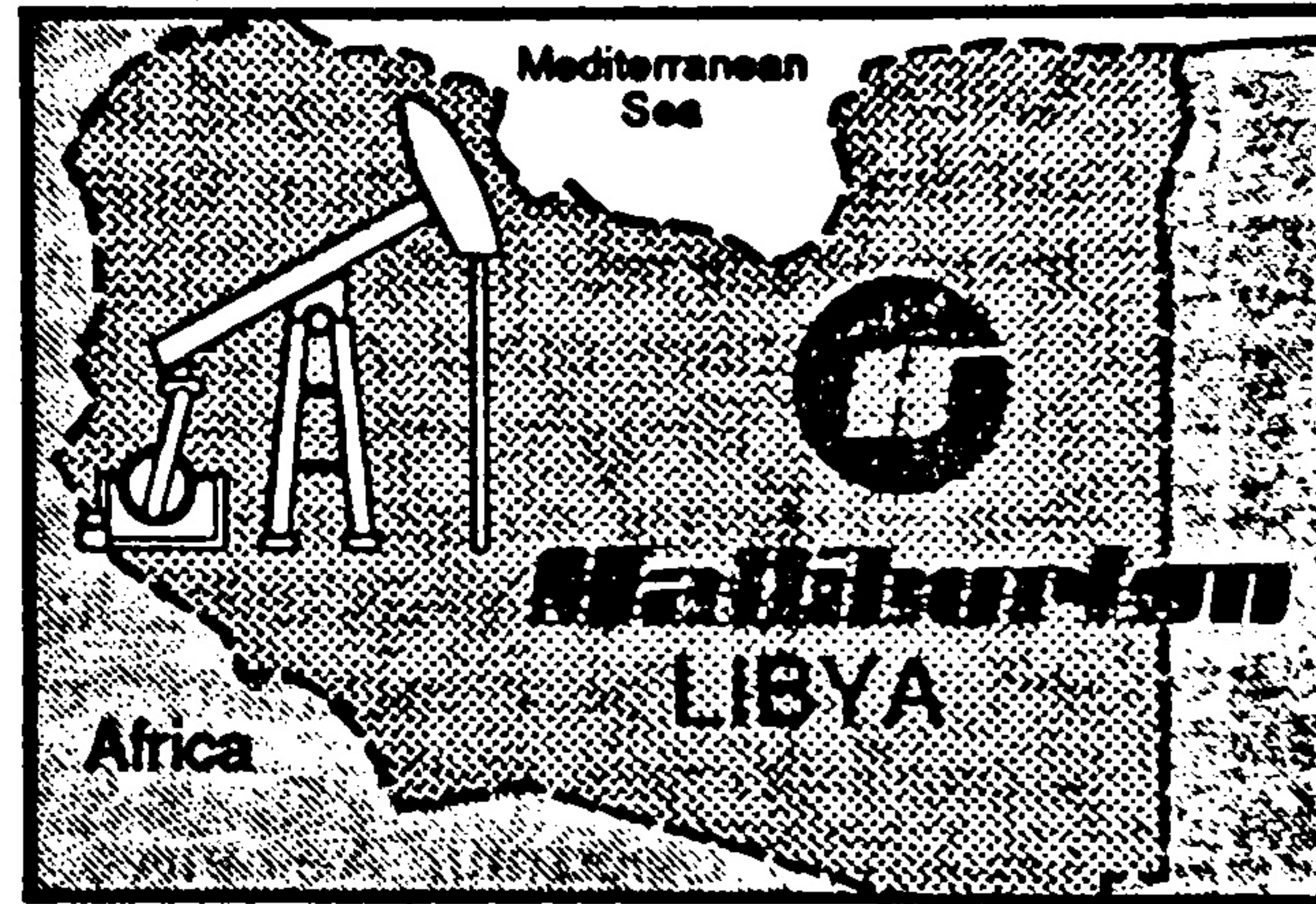
Most of the civilized world had long since grown to hate Libya.

Barbaric acts of terrorism had been traced repeatedly to the Mideast country and its notorious leader, Moammar Gadhafi.

Two years earlier, the United States had moved to punish Gadhafi by banning the export of American-made products to Libya.

But through it all, sophisticated oil exploration equipment from Dallas-based Halliburton Co. was finding its way into Libya.

The U.S. Customs Service has launched an investigation of Halliburton to determine whether equipment that



arrived in Libya in 1988 and 1989 violated American trade restrictions.

The shipments gave Libya hardware so technologically advanced that few in the worldwide oil industry can match it — and some members of Congress fear its military potential.

If Halliburton can be linked directly to the shipments, company officials could face criminal charges

and millions of dollars in fines.

Halliburton disclosed the investigation to stockholders recently, saying, "None of the equipment was ever sold to or placed in the possession or control of Libyan-controlled entities."

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