

I.P.O. Information Service

Lockerbie Case – New Revelations – Call for New Criminal Investigation and for an Independent Public Inquiry

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In a statement issued today, Professor Hans Koechler, President of the International Progress Organization, called upon the Scottish judicial authorities to undertake a fresh investigation into the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in 1988. Professor Koechler – who acted as international observer at the Scottish Court in the Netherlands by nomination of the Secretary-General of the United Nations – further renewed his call for an independent public inquiry into the entire Lockerbie case and the handling of the case by the Scottish and British authorities.

Professor Koechler made his calls in view of this week's important revelations on the possible background of the Lockerbie crime and on the judicial circumstances in which the case was handled, namely:

- The statement of Atef Abu Bakr, former spokesman of Abu Nidal's "Fateh Revolutionary Council," published today in the Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* and distributed in English by *Associated Press*, according to which the group's leader Abu Nidal said: "I have very important and serious things to say. The reports that attribute Lockerbie to others are lies. We are behind it." (It is to be noted that this revelation comes a few days after the death of Abu Nidal under mysterious circumstances in Baghdad.)
- The revelations published in the British newspaper *The Guardian* (16 August 2002) and in the *Sunday Herald*, Glasgow (18 August 2002) about the membership of many people of the legal establishment of Scotland in the so-called *Speculative Society*, a group of "friends" dating back to the 18th century, that keeps membership secret – similar to Masonic traditions. According to names leaked to the media, a considerable number of the protagonists of the Lockerbie trial (from the panel of judges and from the prosecution and defense teams) supposedly belong to this group, which raises questions in regard to fairness and impartiality of the proceedings as required under Article 6 the European Human Rights Convention.

In his two reports on the Lockerbie trial – on the trial proceedings in February 2001 and on the appeal proceedings in March 2002 – Professor Koechler raised serious questions about fairness and due process and called into question the handling of the case in the framework of the adversarial system of Scots criminal law. He submitted his reports to the United Nations Secretary-General and to