

THE COVER UP CONTINUES

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

24 September 2010

Index Heading: Crown Office

Christine Grahame (South of Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will publish any information it holds related to payments reportedly made by US authorities to key witnesses either before or after the trial of Mr Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi, specifically payments to Tony Gauci, in relation to evidence he gave into the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

(S3W-35942)

Rt Hon Elish Angiolini QC:

The only forum in which the Scottish Government or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) can make public any information connected to witnesses involved in the investigation and prosecution of the Lockerbie bombing is in judicial proceedings in Scotland.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

24 September 2010

Index Heading: Crown Office

Christine Grahame (South of Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it is aware of comments by the former Lord Advocate, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, who has stated publicly in a television interview for Dutch television in 2009 that he was not aware that the timer fragment known as PT35 was sent to the United States of America for examination by FBI officials and that he would have opposed such transportation of this fragment on the basis of concerns that it might be lost in transit or provoke accusations that it had been tampered with.

(S3W-35943)

Rt Hon Elish Angiolini QC:

I am aware of comments reported to have been made by my predecessor, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie.

The fragment of electronic timer recovered from the wreckage of flight Pan Am 103, known as PT35, was taken to the United States of America by Scottish police officers and a British forensic scientist in June 1990 as part of the investigation into the Lockerbie bombing. The fragment remained in the custody and control of the Scottish police officers and the British forensic scientist during the visit to the United States and was subsequently identified as having come from an electronic timer manufactured by a Swiss company, MEBO, to the order of the Libyan intelligence service.

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Index Heading: Crown Office

Christine Grahame (South of Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it is aware of the reported comments of former FBI scientist Frederic Whitehurst implying that the FBI laboratory in Washington DC may constitute an additional crime scene with regard to the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

(S3W-35944)

Rt Hon Elish Angiolini QC:

There is no evidence of any criminal act having been carried out in relation to any of the forensic evidence in the Lockerbie investigation.

A fragment of electronic timer recovered from the wreckage of flight Pan Am 103, known as PT35, was taken to the FBI laboratory in Washington DC by Scottish police officers and a British forensic scientist in June 1990 as part of the investigation into the Lockerbie bombing. The fragment remained in the custody and control of the Scottish police officers and the British forensic scientist during the visit to the United States and was subsequently identified as having come from an electronic timer manufactured by a Swiss company, MEBO, to the order of the Libyan intelligence service.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE