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Adv. John Welch  
Head: Special Investigative Unit  
Office of the National Prosecutor  
Pretoria

**Helderberg: Your Investigation and new evidence**

Dear Adv. Welch,

Since you handed an FBI copy of the CVR of the Helderberg to Mr. Jack Mitchell last October, he has been working on it occasionally but with more intensity during the last two weeks. As you are aware of the fact that the FBI copy is of a superior sound quality to the copy we have worked off before. It only made good sense to verify the work done prior to receiving the FBI copy against such a copy.

While very effort was made to ensure the accuracy of our initial transcript, certain areas of the Helderberg CVR remained a mystery because whatever speech there was had been buried under very heavily distorted areas. To lift any intelligible information from these areas was almost impossible.

Working on the FBI copy of the Helderberg Mr. Mitchell during the past ten days also uncovered more evidence as to the nature of the cargo being carried on the Helderberg.

This evidence can be found in a badly distorted area approximately three minutes prior to the fire alarm bell being activated.

Someone, it could be Captain Uys, it could be any other member of the flight crew, responds to the question, "What are we carrying?" by saying "I believe it is rocket fuel"

This is the first direct statement on the nature of the cargo found on the CVR. As you know from our transcription, the captain informed the flight crew that "Boy George is aboard", a statement that is undisputed. However, this generic statement of a term allegedly used by pilots when referring to explosives on board, created more questions than answering them.

It is our belief that the statement "I believe it is rocket fuel" is more definitive and that it poses the question, what more can be found on the CVR?

Mr. Mitchell, referring to the enhancement made from the recordings of the copy made during 1997 at the SABC studios, says, "There is a different reality to those recordings, a conclusion I've just come to in the past two days.

Comparing the two recordings received that were produced at the SABC it has become clear that something screwy has taken place. The two recordings not only have different timing, but also have very different frequency characteristics, both of which are different than the FBI original. This should not be.

The only conclusion I can come to is that both (SABC) recordings were subjected to some sort of processing prior to being given to you (Neels van Wyk). This would explain the "bubble" sound, being what we call aliasing, which is caused by certain types of processing, particularly noise reduction software such as Sonics No-Noise.

This then renders both the recordings produced at the SABC studios into the unreliable category, which in turn renders the transcript into the same category.

However, transcribing the FBI copy, segments like Boy George - bomb on board - nuke bomb - saw some smoke - Molotov cocktail - all still are there, none of that has changed. However, there is now the question as to what really is being said during the other sections.

Finally, my conclusion is that due to the possible and probable processing done on the versions recorded at the SABC studios I have to declare that, although certain key words and phrases still are the same, the remainder of the recording and transcript must be considered to be unreliable.

This unfortunately means that the transcript needs to be done again working only from what we know to be the true original, that being the FBI copy."

It is our humble opinion that your office, while being appointed by the Minister of Transport to investigate new evidence relating to the Helderberg tragedy can be instrumental in this process.

Since October, Mr. Mitchell, like myself had devoted hours in search of the truth. The new information is proof of evidence still to be uncovered on the CVR.

With kind regards,



Neels van Wyk