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TO: MEDIA

DATE: 04 SEPTEMBER 2007

RE: S v GERHARD WISSER

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the decision of the Pretoria High Court to endorse the Plea and Sentence Agreement in respect of accused number 2.

The NPA thanks the following State Departments, which assisted it:

- The South Police Service (SAPS);
- The South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction;
- The Department of Minerals and Energy;
- The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA);
- The South African Revenue Service (SARS);
- The Department of Foreign Affairs; and
- The National Intelligence Agency (NIA).

The NPA thanks the following foreign governments, which provided evidence or other assistance to it:

- The United States of America;
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain;
- Malaysia;
- Switzerland;
- Spain; and
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Today, 04 September 2007, the accused, Gerhard Wisser entered into a Plea & Sentence Agreement with the State and as a consequence, was convicted of seven counts which were in one way or the other connected to the activities of the AQ Khan network and its procurement efforts for Libya and Pakistan.



Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

The accused pleaded guilty to the following charges linked to the Libyan nuclear weapons' programme:

1. Count 1:

The import and export of a flow-forming machine between November 2000 and December 2001

2. Count 2:

The manufacture of systems for the Libyan gas centrifuge plant between 1999 and 2003.

3. Count 4:

An attempt to export the systems referred to in Count 2 in 2003.

The accused pleaded guilty to the following charges relating to the Pakistani nuclear weapons' programme:

1. Count 7: The manufacture of three autoclaves in 1994/1995.

2. Count 8: The export of the autoclaves in 1995.

3. Count 9: Forgery of an order form in order to acquire
Leybold Heraeus vacuum equipment in May 1995.

4. Count 10: Forgery of order forms also to acquire Leybold
Heraeus equipment in July 1995.

The accused was sentenced as follows:

1. Counts 1, 3 and 4: Three years' correctional supervision and
10 years' imprisonment, suspended for five years on appropriate conditions.

2. Counts 7 & 8: Five years' imprisonment, suspended for
five years on appropriate conditions.

3. Counts 9 & 10: Three years' imprisonment, suspended for
five years on appropriate conditions.

The accused is required to cooperate with the authorities and has also consented to a confiscatory order in respect of Euro 2.8 million and R6 million as being the proceeds of crime.

The NPA regards the conviction as a significant step in combating nuclear proliferation networks.

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