

Vincent Nouzille website/ Jan 14, 2025

## When Gaddafi offered his condolences to the families of the “innocent passengers” on the UTA DC10

**Gaddafi's cynicism knew no bounds. Previously unpublished Libyan and French archives, which Karl Laske and I have revealed in our book “L' [assassin qu'il fallait sauver](#)” (The [Assassin We Had to Save](#) ), published these days by Robert Laffont, provide clear evidence of this.**

While, as we reveal, his brother-in-law and secret service chief **Abdallah Senoussi** meticulously prepared the attack that blew up the UTA DC10 over the Ténéré desert (Niger) on September 19, 1989, killing 170 people, the Libyan dictator took up his finest pen a few days later to **offer his “most sincere” condolences to the families of the “innocent passengers” who died in what he called an “accident”**. This **unpublished message**, which we unearthed from the Quai d'Orsay archives, was sent to President François Mitterrand on September 25, 1989, via the Paris representative of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriya. In it, Gaddafi wrote:

*“Mr. President,*

*We have learned with sadness and emotion of the news of the accident of the French civilian plane which took the lives of its innocent passengers. I send you and the families of the victims my most sincere condolences. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.*

In terms of “sincerity”, the dictator responsible for Libyan state terrorism, which claimed hundreds of lives in the 70s and 80s, is a curious champion!

And that's not all. The day after the attack, while French investigators were in the fog trying to find a lead to identify the culprits of this mass murder, Libyan officials were sending messages to French diplomats in Tripoli aimed at **demonstrating their good will and directing the investigation towards... the Israeli Mossad**. In a **telegram dated September 21, 1989**, taken from the French diplomatic archives, Pierre Blouin, the French ambassador in Tripoli, writes: “*Since the air disaster of September 19, the Libyan authorities have been sending out more and more signals to exonerate themselves from any involvement in the destruction of the UTA aircraft*”, in particular by having authorized French aircraft to fly over their territory to search for the wreckage of the aircraft in the desert. The diplomat added: “*One of my collaborators was approached by Libyans who told him that their country had nothing to do with this affair and that the culprits should be sought by the Israeli services*”.

The ambassador continued: “*This zeal obviously has no probative value, but it is clear that Libya must be considered innocent of any responsibility in this tragedy until such time as proof to the contrary is provided. In this respect, I deplore the fact that certain media outlets - notably journalists from Radio France International - have taken it upon themselves to comment on Libya's involvement in what could be a terrorist attack*. In this case, the journalists were right, and way ahead of time. But the Quai d'Orsay did not want to believe in Libyan duplicity. For years, its officials even had trouble convincing themselves, as we describe in the book, that it was really an attack ordered by Gaddafi and organized by Senoussi.

**Libya's cynicism towards the Americans** was mirrored in the case of the **Pan Am** plane , **which was destroyed on December 21, 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.** When the American and Scottish investigations led to the indictment of two Libyan agents in mid-November 1991, Gaddafi was ready to do anything to deceive his Western interlocutors. He pretended to dismiss Abdallah Senoussi as head of the secret services, announcing the appointment of a new head of the services, Colonel Youssef El Dibri, but this was only a diversion, as Senoussi remained in charge. Above all, **on December 17, 1991, Gaddafi sent a secret message to US President George Bush.** This “oral message” was sent through the intermediary of the Belgian ambassador in Tripoli, who represented American interests (since diplomatic relations between the United States and Libya had broken down in 1979), and was unexpectedly received by Gaddafi. Belgian diplomats informed their French colleagues in Tripoli, who transmitted the contents to Paris in a telegram, which explains why we found it in the Quai d'Orsay archives.

In this message, Gaddafi explained to Bush that he would be sending him a 49-page argumentative document designed to steer the investigation into the Pan Am bombing away from Libya. He proposed that his new secret service chief could cooperate with the CIA and other services in the investigation of the Lockerbie and UTA bombings. *“If direct cooperation poses a problem, we could go through Egypt,”* he insists. Gaddafi says he is open to cooperation, but he won't do anything about it, because he will never stop claiming Libya's innocence in these attacks, just like his brother-in-law Senoussi.

The documents from Senoussi's own archives, which we detail in the book, provide clear proof of the extent of Libya's lies at the time.