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CIA spy testifies in bombing

- A CIA spy testified Tuesday that two Libyans kept bricks of explosives in a desk at Malta airport for at least two years, until a few weeks before Pan Am Flight 103 blew up, killing 270 people.

But the Libyan, who became a CIA mole four months before the bombing on Dec. 21, 1988, unexpectedly ended his testimony after less than a day Tuesday, providing only tenuous links between two Libyan defendants and the explosives.

Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah are charged with murder and conspiracy to murder the 259 passengers on the Boeing 747 and 11 people killed by the flaming debris that plunged 30,000 feet onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie. Most of those on the plane were Americans.

Identified by the pseudonym Abdul Majid Giaka and billed as the prosecution's star witness, Giaka said he worked in Malta since 1986 for Libya's Jamahriya Security Organization, using his job as the assistant station manager for Libyan Arab Airlines as a cover.

He said Fhimah, his immediate boss, kept bricks of explosives locked in a desk at Malta airport for two years — until just a few weeks before the bombing.

Fhimah "told me he had 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of TNT delivered by Abdel Basset," Giaka said, referring to the co-defendant, Megrahi. He said he was told to keep the existence of the explosives quiet.

Giaka also said he saw Megrahi, who had been in charge of airline security, with a "brownish" suitcase similar to the one the indictment says contained the bomb that blew up the airliner.

He testified that a senior Libyan intelligence officer asked him if it would be possible to put an unac-companied suitcase aboard an airplane at Malta.

Hanging out



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALE

Justin LaFan, a sophomore biomedical science major and member of the Texas A&M Gymnastics Club, hangs parallel to the ground from the rings at gymnastics practice.

The Aggie Orientation Leader Program would like to thank the following men and women for all of their hard work and dedication this summer during the New Student Conferences.

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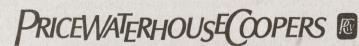
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