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PRESS RELEASE

13 May 2005: For immediate use:

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is calling for a comprehensive review of ground safety at Heathrow ¹

Although NoTRAG² welcomes this review it knows it is **NO ACCIDENT** this news item has been released to coincide with Future Heathrow - the new industry-led body set to lobby for the expansion of Heathrow, which is set to be launched in Central London on 23rd May.

Geraldine Nicholson, Chair of NoTRAG states: 'It seems ridiculous that the AAIB should be reviewing this now when Future Heathrow will be calling for further expansion at Heathrow. If safety on the ground is questionable then calls for a 3rd runway and a 6th terminal must stop. A 3rd runway would bring a 36% increase in flights, how long before the accidents on the ground start being reflected in the sky? The sky, quite literally, is the limit, we can't have more planes than our skies will safely allow - UK airspace is not limitless and the sky is not expanding. Safety and Pollution are the determining factors in this long-running battle between the "little people" and the aviation giants, we will not rest until the plans for expansion are concreted over forever.'

Press Secretary Christine Shilling emphasises 'The EU pollution criteria cannot be met, even without a 3rd runway. And still this industry lobbies. They think it's easy to solve the problem - just decant the entire populations of Harmondsworth; Sipson; Longford; Harlington and Cranford, destroy schools, churches and communities and Heathrow Airport will have plenty of space for its new runway and to park its planes.'

Furthermore Christine notes 'the relentless media lobby continues unabated - spin upon spin. The consequences of relentless expansion at Heathrow are akin to ethnic cleansing of entire communities and the concreting over of vast tracts of south-east England.' Geraldine adds 'it is ironic that the Government can send our troops into Iraq to stop Saddam's ethnic cleansing but are prepared to stand by, and even condone, similar events at home.'

1 See: Heathrow jam causes alarm - The Guardian May 12th

2 NoTrag (No Third Runway Action Group) is a non-party political group whose aim is 'to prevent the expansion of Heathrow Airport into the area outside of its existing boundaries.' This means NO THIRD RUNWAY AT HEATHROW.

NoTRAG Contacts:

Christine Shilling - Press Secretary
email: cshilling@notrag.org

Geraldine Nicholson - Chair
email: gnicholson@notrag.org