

With the Iraq war in full swing, I found myself marked down as not sound on the War and Terror and simply "sent to Coventry" by my London management, as I complained in this exchange of emails with Linda Duffield. This proved to be the calm before the storm.

Craig Murray
May 2006

PA : CRAIG MURRAY

Sarah Douse

From: Howard Drake
Sent: 30 May 2003 15:18
To: Sarah Douse
Subject: FW: Personal for Linda Duffield - Tashkent - communication

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Important; please make sure it goes on the Craig Murray indiv

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-----Original Message-----

From: Colin Reynolds
Sent: 29 May 2003 18:23
To: Alan Charlton
Cc: Howard Drake
Subject: FW: Personal for Linda Duffield - Tashkent - communication

To be aware...

Colin

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Murray
Sent: 28 May 2003 14:14
To: Gillian Angrave
Cc: Colin Reynolds
Subject: Personal for Linda Duffield - Tashkent - communication

Linda

You will recall last autumn I had a spat with Simon and Eastern Dept over what seemed to me a lack of dialogue. Recently staff issues of which I expect you are aware have made Tashkent a still more difficult place than normal, while policy tensions if anything seem to sharpen (I thought the Guardian article of 26 May was excellent on the issues). But again I rather feel sent to Coventry. I send or copy emails every day to Eastern Dept, but the last email, or communication of any kind, I received from anyone in Eastern Dept was on 15 May - and that was a rather terse e-mail confined to the staff issue.

In my last Post - Accra - we exchanged emails with AD(E) many times a day as part of a regular, real-time dialogue both on issues and on day to day management. Before that as Deputy Head of AD(E) I had such a dialogue with all my Posts. Personnel Command have recently been in dialogue with me the same way. I exchange regular views with Research Analysts. The days and weeks of frigid silence from Eastern Dept are simply not the norm in the modern FCO - they are weird and unnerving.

It is already very difficult to work in the repressive Uzbek political environment. The feeling of isolation and lack of support makes it much worse. Colin Reynolds, to whom I have copied this, is coming out on a pastoral visit from PMU at the end of June. I will say more by classified means idc. But I fear policy differences (in which I believe there is plenty of evidence Ministers support my line and actions; I have seen no evidence that Ministers do not) are spilling over into personal behaviour and line management.

Craig

Melanie Weild

From: Gillian Angrave
Sent: 02 June 2003 15:32
To: Melanie Weild
Subject: FW: PERSONAL: COMMUNICATION

Importance: High

PA

Craig Murray
Indiv.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gillian Angrave
Sent: 02 June 2003 15:31
To: Craig Murray
Cc: Colin Reynolds
Subject: PERSONAL: COMMUNICATION
Importance: High

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PERSONAL

Dear Craig

COMMUNICATION

I have just returned to the office today, having been away for the last 10 days in Armenia and Croatia, and have just seen your email about communications with Eastern Department.

You have had a very difficult situation to handle in recent weeks on the staffing front, coping with the increased volume of work and re-building staff morale. All this in a tough and isolated post. Credit to you for soldiering on and doing so generously and in good heart. None of this is easy to handle. I understand that at this time perhaps more than at others you need and expect a little more instant communication with the Department on a range of issues. I am sorry if you feel let down. This is not deliberate, nor do I believe it indicates a lack of pastoral support or personal animosity. It is simply that for both the Head of Department and Head of Section the pressures of work in London have grown exponentially. And with a large number of countries to cover (including some difficult issues elsewhere in the region), they cannot give you instant responses to every email. I am a fan of IT. It has made all our lives simpler, and communications are instant. But human beings in London as well as in Tashkent are suffering from overload. On policy issues, also, security considerations constrain what can be said over unclassified mail.

However, I have mentioned to Simon and Charles your desire to have a bit more in the way of communication. I suggest that you now discuss with them what, more specifically, would be helpful to you, bearing in mind constraints imposed by absences and coping with other priorities elsewhere.

I would, as you know, like to visit Tashkent myself. It will probably not be before the autumn and I will be in touch with you separately about timing. In the meanwhile, please feel free to email me or call me if you need to (via Gill if I am away).

Thanks for keeping the show on the road. Keep smiling.

Yours

Linda