

I received many documents through an application under the Data Protection Act. These have been edited by the Foreign Office, with areas blacked out in the "interests of national security".

This is an interesting example. This minute of 26 September 2003 is addressed to Sir Michael Jay (PS/PUS) and Jack Straw (PS). By convention minutes are addressed to the Private Secretary (PS) not the Secretary of State direct.

Among the things deleted for reasons of national security is who the minute was copied to. The copy addressees would be at the top right hand corner under the date. A friend of mine in Jack Straw's office (remember I worked in the FCO for 21 years) tells me that the copy addressees on this and scores of other documents about me going through Jack Straw's office, included 10 Downing Street, MI6 and the MOD. That is why they have been deleted. As detailed in the book, the instruction to get rid of me had come to the FCO from No 10 on the instigation of the Americans.

Craig Murray
May 2006

Reference: //2003

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 26 September 2003

cc: [REDACTED]

PS/PUS
PS

**CRAIG MURRAY, HMA TASHKENT: LETTER FROM [REDACTED]
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

ISSUE

1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote to the Foreign Secretary on 29 August expressing concern at rumours that Craig Murray, HMA Tashkent had been withdrawn for disciplinary reasons.

TIMING

2. Priority.

PREFERRED OPTION

3. That the Foreign Secretary reply along the lines of the attached draft.

RESTRICTED STAFF

AGREED BY

4. Eastern Department, HRPD and Press Office.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

5. Allegations about the conduct of our Ambassador in Tashkent, Craig Murray, came to light during visits by Personnel Directorate and Eastern Department to the Post in June and August respectively. Following these visits Craig Murray was asked to call into the Office to see Personnel Directorate during his recent leave. He was accompanied by a representative of the DSA. At the meeting Craig Murray was told of the allegations made against him, and that we would need to investigate. He was asked to consider withdrawing voluntarily from Post in the circumstances. But he refused to do so, arguing that he should remain at post while the investigation was carried out. He was told he should not discuss the allegations made with any member of the staff at the Embassy when he returned to Post.
6. [REDACTED]
7. Craig Murray briefed his staff – and we suspect outside contacts - on his possible withdrawal. A campaign against this started last month:
- a) [REDACTED] contacted the Head of HRPD to allege that policy differences with the FCO over human rights had led to a campaign by the FCO to remove the ambassador;
 - b) [REDACTED]
 - c) A similar number of local businesses, including the local office of British Airways, wrote in his support;
 - d) [REDACTED] telephoned the PUS on 29 August on Craig Murray's behalf, protesting at the FCO's treatment of him.
8. Our investigation into the allegations against Murray was interrupted when he was taken ill a few weeks ago and brought back to the UK for medical treatment. The current prognosis is that he will be unfit for work for several weeks and also unfit to contribute to the disciplinary investigation process, which has therefore been put on hold.

9.

[REDACTED]

We are about to send a temporary SMS level Charge to provide support at a senior level. An undertaking has been given to Craig Murray that his temporary absence from Post due to illness will not be used as a reason to curtail the posting permanently. Medical and Welfare staff are in regular contact with him in hospital.

PARLIAMENT AND MEDIA

[REDACTED]

We also know that Craig Murray has tried to contact Andrew Mackinlay MP. UK Parliamentary interest is therefore quite possible.

Carole Sweeney

Carole Sweeney
Assistant Director Personnel Policy
PC-PP 2/79

Tel: 020 7008 0734