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Craig Murray
Flat 1
31 Sinclair Gardens
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Dear Craig,

Thank you for submitting the revised text of your book, and for the amendments that you have made.

However, there are some important areas where you have not met the concerns we have expressed to you. We therefore firmly believe it would not be right for you to publish this book. This is nothing to do with debate and criticism and everything to do with a betrayal of trust. We do not approve in any way of its contents or condone the fact of its publication.

I should put on record that we consider your book to be inappropriate and misleading. It is inappropriate because you were a Head of Mission in the Diplomatic Service, in whom therefore particular trust and confidence was placed. In publishing this book you will be breaching that trust. The book is misleading because it remains in places factually incorrect and your criticism of your former colleagues is frequently unfair and unwarranted. Your comments in this regard are distasteful and risk bringing the Service into disrepute.

In particular, I must make it clear that we do not recognise the image you present of the operation of the Embassy in Tashkent before your arrival. The allegations you make about the effectiveness of our representation there are untrue. We do not accept them.

The account of your meeting with Research Analysts also contains serious and false allegations. Their publication on your website in September has caused considerable operational damage.

These are two examples of specific issues that we have already put to you and where, together with our more general comments about your text, we have continuing concerns. I hope that you will reconsider these specific points (even if you decide to proceed with publication), and remain happy to meet you to discuss this more fully.



I am also advised that there are a number of passages in your manuscript which could well ground actions for defamation. In addition, I must make clear that if the book is published, we will actively consider a claim for breach of confidence or of Crown copyright, and nothing in this letter should be construed as a waiver of the Crown's rights in this regard. Indeed, I reserve fully the Crown's rights in relation to any publication.

Finally, I must specifically remind you of your continuing obligations under the Official Secrets Act.

Yours sincerely,
Jickie Stagg

C R V Stagg
Director General Corporate Affairs