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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

29 March 2010

Mr Craig Murray

Via email:

craigmurray1710@btinternet.com

craigmurray@mail.ru

craigmurray@tiscali.co.uk

Information Management Group
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2PA

Tel: 020 7008 1224

Fax: 020 7008 1114

E-mail: brian.dorrington@fco.gov.uk

Dear Mr Murray,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST – REF: 0204-10

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 2 March 2010.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information falling within the terms of your request.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. The specific exemption engaged in relation to your request is s.27 (International Relations).

We estimate that it will take up to an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies regarding your request. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 29 April 2010. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will, of course, keep you informed.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Information Rights Team. Please note any request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days from the date our response was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The ICO can be contacted at:

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The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Dorrington
Information Rights Team



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

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