

The British community in Tashkent were astonished to find their Ambassador was under attack.

Craig Murray
May 2006

**Residents and Businesspersons,
Tashkent,
Uzbekistan**

16 September 2003

**H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE,
THE FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,
C/O DEPUTY AMBASSADOR CARL GARN,
THE BRITISH EMBASSY,
TASHKENT**

SIR,

**Mr. Craig Murray,
H.M. Ambassador to Uzbekistan**

- 1) We, the under-named, represent a substantial proportion of the small British and International population of Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- 2) We believe that H.M. Ambassador, Mr. Craig Murray, is under your suspicion for alleged misconduct or mismanagement in his incumbency. Since we are not privy to events within the confines of the Embassy, we are unaware of the grounds upon which any such allegations may be based, but we are fully acquainted with the public performance of Mr. Murray in the execution of his duties.
- 3) Ever since his arrival here in Uzbekistan, Mr. Murray has taken a keen and active interest in British business concerns here, and in Aid activities funded by the British Government.
- 4) He has promoted, British culture and political ideals to an extent not previously known here, and has increased British prestige by his promotions, and by his forthright expression of British ideals, significantly in the issue of Human Rights.
- 5) Since we are unaware of the nature of any charges against Mr. Murray, we are unable to comment upon them, but we believe him to be a man of integrity and dedication, and are confident that any such charges will prove to be groundless.
- 6) We are prepared to meet jointly with the officer(s) of the investigation, which we believe you have initiated into Mr. Murray's activities, and to answer questions as to his conduct, his effectiveness in Post, and the esteem in which he is held. We believe that any investigation into Mr. Murray's activities would be unsound if it were not to consider such generally-held views.
- 7) We of the undernamed who are British Citizens are proud of our Ambassador and of his achievements in promoting British ideals and interests in Uzbekistan. We are also encouraged by his tireless work in improving the efficiency, effectiveness and prestige of the Embassy.

- 8) We have every confidence in Mr. Murray, and trust that your investigation will have the just outcome of allowing him to continue his incumbency as H.M. Ambassador to Uzbekistan, and, when his term here is over, to pursue his further career in your Office with his customary zeal, intelligence, dedication and effectiveness.
- 9) Please note the following in respect of the subscribers:
- a) We do not claim to represent all of the body of opinion in Uzbekistan (or even in Tashkent). The subscribers are random responses to an invitation for support for our Ambassador, which was sent-out on a routine mailing-list from which were pruned local nationals and Embassy staff. The list is neither exhaustive nor selective.
 - b) Some others have voiced support for the Ambassador and have confirmed that they have previously written to you in this respect, and have nothing further to add to their previous correspondence.
 - c) Even more have voiced support, but have regretted that their company policy does not permit their involvement in matters, which may be political.

We remain,
Sir,
Yours faithfully,

- Ray Brown; Director, Eurocommerce Ltd, (British National)
- Pedro Burkai; The Consul of Spain (Spanish)
- Kevin Edmonds; Managing Director, Hermes Datacoms Int (British)
- Steve Elliot; Project Manager, Baker Hughes (British)
- Phil Hesketh; Country Director, Wakefield Inspection Services (British)
- Robert Horton; General Director, JV Uz-Texaco (American)
- Rene Ijsselstein; Managing Director Central Asia, British and American Tobacco (Dutch)
- James McGrory; General Director, 3C-Uzbekistan/CCC Ltd, (British)
- Jitendra Patel; Director, Quickstop Holdings Ltd, (British)
- Eric Reynolds; Independent Consultant (British)
- Ali Saleh; Director, Eurocommerce Ltd (British)
- Igor Sidelnikov; Managing Attorney, Denton Wilde Sapte and Mouborak Kambarova, Uzbekistan, (Belarus)
- Sudhir Sreenivasan; Financial Controller, Quickstop Holdings Ltd, (Indian)
- Philip Vigors, Country Manager, Case New Holland, (British)
- Richard Wilkins; Director, OXUS Gold PLC (British).