

[REDACTED]

From: Linda Duffield,
Date: 10 March 2003
Reference: 1

cc: Michael Wood, Legal Adviser
Matthew Kidd, [REDACTED]

To: PUS

**SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: INTELLIGENCE POSSIBLY OBTAINED
UNDER TORTURE**

1. Michael Wood, Matthew Kidd and I had a meeting with Craig Murray to discuss his telegram (Tashkent telno Misc 01)

[REDACTED] I said that you had asked me to discuss this with Craig personally in view of the sensitive nature of the issues involved.

2. Craig said his concerns had been prompted by a presentation to the Uzbek authorities by Professor Korff (OSCE Adviser) on the UN Convention on Torture. Craig said that his understanding was that it was also an offence under the Convention to receive or possess information obtained under torture. He asked for clarification on this. Michael Wood replied that he did not believe that possession of information was in itself an offence, but undertook to re-read the Convention and to ensure that Craig had a reply on this particular point.

3. I gave Craig Murray a copy of your revised draft telegram (attached) and took him through this. I said that he was right to raise with you and Ministers his concerns about important legal and moral issues. We took these very seriously and gave a great deal of thought to such issues ourselves. There were difficult ethical and moral issues involved and at times difficult judgements had to be made weighing one clutch of "moral issues" against another. It was not always easy for people in post to see and appreciate the broader picture, eg piecing together intelligence material from different sources in the global fight against terrorism. But that did not mean we took their concerns any less lightly.

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

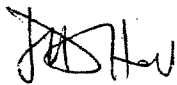
5. After Michael Wood and Matthew Kidd had left, Craig and I had a general discussion about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and the difficulties of pushing for a Resolution in Geneva, which we both agreed was important

[REDACTED]

CONCLUSION

6. In conclusion, Craig said that he was grateful for the opportunity to discuss these issues with me personally. At the end of the day he accepted, as a public servant, that these were decisions for Ministers to take, whether he agreed with them or not. If it ever reached the stage where he could not accept such a decision, then the right thing to do would be to request a move. But he was certainly not there yet. He had fed in his views. You and Ministers had decided how to handle this question. He accepted that and would now go back to Tashkent and "get on with the job".

7. I think it was right to see him. I am not sure this is the end of the issue (or correspondence), but it was a frank and amicable discussion and Craig appears to be making efforts to be able to balance his work on human rights with other FCO objectives. We shall, of course, be reviewing these again once he has produced his post objectives for the coming year.



Linda Duffield

Director Wider Europe