

The Head of Eastern Department, Simon Butt, and the Head of the Diplomatic Service, Sir Michael Jay KCMG, were horrified by my questioning of US foreign policy and by my proposal to make a strong speech on human rights in Uzbekistan. This was not Sir Michael Jay's view of diplomacy at all. In fact it is worth noting that, if you replace the word "Diplomacy" with "Duplicity" in Michael Jay's email, it still makes perfect sense.

Craig Murray
May 2006

Simon Butt

From: Michael Jay
Sent: 16 October 2002 17:29
To: Simon Butt
Cc: Menna Rawlings; John Macgregor
Subject: RE: personal

Simon

Thankyou. I think your handling is entirely right. I am all in favour of Ambassadors expressing their views, to us forcefully. But they must use secure channels in doing so. They also need to discriminate between the message & advice to us & the way that message is got across to host governments. That is the basis of good diplomacy. Finally, of course, they need to follow instructions. With any luck we can square these circles with Craig Murray. But let me know if you want me to weigh in myself.

Michael

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Butt
Sent: 16 October 2002 11:32
To: Michael Jay
Cc: Menna Rawlings; John Macgregor
Subject: RE: personal

Michael,

Frankly, I'm not surprised by this. We are fast developing a problem with Craig Murray, who is using unclassified email pretty indiscriminately to fire off criticisms of the Uzbek regime, US policy etc and (in direct u/c communication with the private office), to question whether Baroness Symons should visit next year. He has also sent the draft text of a speech he is shortly to give at a Freedom House meeting, which criticises the human rights situation in Uzbekistan in terms which are bound to infuriate the Uzbeks ("This country has made very little progress in moving away from the dictatorship of the Soviet period...no effective brake on the authority of a President who has failed to validate his position by facing genuine political opponents in anything resembling a free and fair election").