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Mainstream Publishing Company (Edinburgh) Limited  
7 Albany Street  
Edinburgh  
Scotland  
EH1 3UG

**BY POST AND FAX: 0131 556 8720**

Our Ref: SMS/JXR/ww/A131/3

**ON THE RECORD**  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

08 July 2008

Dear Sirs

**The Road to Samarkand – Craig Murray**

We represent Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer OBE, C.E.O. of Aegis Defence Services Limited ("Aegis").

We are instructed to write to you with regard to '*THE ROAD TO SAMARKAND- INTRIGUE, CORRUPTION AND DIRTY DIPLOMACY*' ("the Book") written by Craig Murray and due to be published in September 2008 by you ([http://www.rbooks.co.uk/search\\_results.aspx](http://www.rbooks.co.uk/search_results.aspx)) to be sold in England and Wales by Random House Sales Department.

We have reason to believe that the Book may contain serious, untrue and damaging defamatory allegations about our client.

Please confirm by return whether the Book is due to be published in England and Wales in September 2008 and if so, the exact date. Please also confirm whether the Book is due to be published in any other jurisdiction, setting out each jurisdiction, together with the publication date and publisher concerned in each case.

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Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority

Partners: Rachel Atkins · Gideon Benaim · Rod Christie-Miller · John Kelly · Keith Schilling · Simon Smith



Importantly, we require you to confirm by return whether or not the Book contains any reference to our client, and if so, we require you to set out in full each and every reference to our client in its entirety to give our client the opportunity to take legal advice and to respond to any allegations in good time prior to publication.

Any widespread publication of the Book containing defamatory allegations concerning our client would be deeply damaging to our client's personal and professional reputations and would cause him profound distress and anxiety. We remind you that you would be responsible for that damage and any subsequent republication of the allegations. We also put you on notice that you will be liable for any special damage or loss suffered by our client as a result of the Book and we reserve all our client's rights in this regard.

We note from your website [http://www.mainstreampublishing.com/news\\_current.html](http://www.mainstreampublishing.com/news_current.html) that Mr Murray is due to speak about the Book at a 'Mainstream author event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival' entitled 'Lived Lives' on 12th August 2008 at 4.30pm in the RBS Main Theatre, Edinburgh. We hereby put both you and Mr Murray on notice that all our client's rights are reserved in relation to any defamatory comments or publications made by you or Mr Murray in relation to that event.

Please immediately take into your possession all drafts of the Book pre-publication, all notes, emails, correspondence, memos, images and other documents relevant to the publication of this Book, and preserve them safely pending the outcome of this dispute. They will need to be disclosed in due course if litigation has to be commenced. Also, you will need to disclose the financial arrangements for the sale and licence of the Book to other publications.

In the circumstances, we require that you confirm immediately that you agree to undertake on behalf of Mainstream Publishing Company (Edinburgh) Limited not to publish any libels regarding our client in any editions of the Book or at all.

We require the above undertaking by 4pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008, failing which we will have no option but to advise our client with regard to making applications to the High Court for an injunction to restrain publication and/or for pre-action disclosure. You are on notice that we will seek to recover the costs of any necessary applications from you.



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We await your response by return. In the meantime all our client's rights are reserved, including the right to issue proceedings against you without further notice.

Yours faithfully

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cc. Craig Murray Esq.