



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

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MEDIA RELEASE

OCG CONCLUDES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION INTO AWARD OF CONTRACTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES TO TAYLOR AND ASSOCIATES FOR THE SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION

Kingston; February 25, 2010 – The Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has concluded its Special Investigation into the Award of Contracts, by the Ministry of National Security and/or the Jamaica Constabulary Force, to Taylor and Associates, for the Supply of Ammunition.

In strict compliance with the requirements of Section 15 (2) of the Contractor General Act, the Contractor General, today, conveyed to the Cabinet, the referenced 60 page OCG Report of Special Investigation, under cover of a letter which was addressed to Cabinet Secretary, Ambassador Douglas Saunders.

The decision to commence the Special Investigation was taken by Contractor General, Greg Christie, on September 12, 2008, following upon the publication, on September 7, 2008, of an article in The Gleaner Newspaper which was entitled: *“Arms broker violated US law”*.

The article alleged that a Mr. Lance Brooks, the operator of Taylor & Associates, an arms-brokering business in Lauder-Hill, Florida, was charged with being an unlicensed broker of defence articles, in violation of the United States (U.S.) Arms Export Act.

The article further indicated that *“...from as early as October 2007 to March 5, 2008, Brooks was brokering the sale of defence articles to the JCF. This indicated that the JCF had been dealing with Brooks prior to his initial indictment and continued to do so after he was arrested, charged, pleaded guilty to the charges and was out on bond awaiting sentencing”*.



The foregoing allegations raised critical questions about (a) the integrity and adequacy of the Government's Procurement Policy and Procedures, particularly as they related to the procurement of items of a sensitive nature for national defence and/or security purposes and, (b) the implications of the matter for national security and accountability issues.

Further, the allegations, in relation to the award of the contract to Taylor & Associates, inferred (a) impropriety, (b) a lack of transparency, (c) a breach of applicable Government Procurement Procedures, (d) mismanagement, and (e) a breach of the applicable Public Service Administrative and Accounting Procedures.

Section 15 (2) of the Contractor General Act prohibits a Contractor General from investigating any Government contract which is entered into for the purposes of defence or for the supply of equipment to the Security Forces, without the approval of the Secretary of the Cabinet acting at the direction of the Cabinet.

The requisite approval to conduct the Investigation was sought by the Contractor General by way of letter which was dated September 12, 2008, addressed to the Cabinet Secretary. By way of a letter, which was dated September 30, 2008, the Cabinet Secretary informed the OCG that *"This is to confirm that, on the direction of the Cabinet, I hereby convey the required prior approval for the investigation to be undertaken."*

Section 15 (2) of the Contractor General Act also provides that *"any report or comment thereon (meaning the Report of Investigation), by the Contractor-General, shall be made only to the Cabinet"*.

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