



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**

### **CABINET AUTHORIZES CONTRACTOR GENERAL TO TABLE REPORT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION INTO AWARD OF CONTRACTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES TO TAYLOR AND ASSOCIATES FOR THE SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION**

**Kingston; March 30, 2010** – Contractor General, Greg Christie has, today, formally conveyed copies of his Report of 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, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

The Report was previously submitted, on February 25, 2010, by the Contractor General, directly to Cabinet Secretary, Ambassador Douglas Saunders, in keeping with the requirements of Section 15 (2) of the Contractor General Act.

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 Section also requires that *“any report or comment thereon, by the Contractor-General, shall be made only to the Cabinet”*.

However, in an unprecedented move, the Cabinet Secretary wrote to the Contractor General yesterday advising him that Cabinet had made the following decisions after reviewing the Report at its March 22, 2010 meeting:



- (1) *“Noted the Report;*
- (2) *Accepted the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report;*
- (3) *Referred the Report to the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the Attorney General’s Chambers for necessary action, as applicable, and*
- (4) *Authorized the Contractor General to table the Report in Parliament”;*

It is, therefore, in furtherance of the authorization that has been granted by the Cabinet, and acting in accordance with the discretionary powers that are reserved to a Contractor General by Section 28 (2) of the Contractor General Act, that the Contractor General has today submitted the Report to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

Now that the Report has been so conveyed, Section 28 (3) of the Act requires the Speaker and the President to have the Report tabled in both Houses of Parliament *‘as soon as possible’*.

The decision to commence the Special Investigation was taken by the Contractor General 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.

The OCG's 60 page Special Report of Investigation into the matter will be published on the OCG's website at [www.ocg.gov.jm](http://www.ocg.gov.jm), but only after the Report has been formally tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

In an effort to facilitate the previously expressed desires of the Speaker of the House to ensure the speedy and cost-effective dissemination and publication, by the Parliament, of Reports of Investigation of the Office of the Contractor General, the OCG has also today formally transmitted to the Clerk to the Houses, a compact disc which bears a full electronic PDF copy of the referenced OCG Report of Investigation.

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