

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cambridge Intelligence Seminar ('CIS') responds to allegations concerning governance and funding

- *CIS is the academic forum for the study of intelligence and security headquartered in Cambridge, UK*

Cambridge, UK, 20 December, 2016: Professor Christopher Andrew, on behalf of the Co-Convenors of CIS of which he was the founding Convenor and remains its senior academic, notes reports of alleged possible influence on its proceedings. The allegations relate to a very modest and new partnership with Veruscript, a digital publishing start-up in Cambridge, whose chief executive is of Russian nationality and descent and who is currently a Cambridge graduate student. Veruscript is one of a number of *de minimis* commercial partners with which CIS has engaged over its quarter-century history. CIS takes any reports of this kind most seriously, while on any and all current evidence, they are wholly untrue in relation to influence on the governance, operations, and integrity of the Seminar.

We note that Veruscript has formally denied the allegations in respect to itself, reserving its legal position. CIS, to its current knowledge, has received funding of less than £1,000 in the entirety of Veruscript's 9 month sponsorship of some of the Seminar's public events, and this funding was accepted on the basis of that company's *bona fides* and its presentation as an online academic publishing platform with private funding from the personal resources of its co-principals, and UK incorporation and largely British national staff base which includes leading executives from the world of academic publishing.

In addition, Christopher Andrew and a CIS Co-Convenor, Professor Neil Kent, a dual US and UK academic, had accepted invitations earlier this year to join the advisory boards of Veruscript and/or its launch academic publication, *The Journal of Intelligence and Terrorism Studies*, which is available free online and was understood to be the first of a dozen publications offering paid peer group review for academic research, in the sciences and liberal arts.

CIS utterly denies any influence upon its proceedings, operations, and integrity on the part of any commercial sponsor, and/or any private donor, all of whom have been UK or US incorporated entities or individuals; which is a condition of the acceptance of any commercial support.

In addition, CIS is announcing the following initiatives in the interests of removing any possibility of perceptions as to its academic integrity and independence:

- Professor Kent, who is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Intelligence and Terrorism Studies*, a journal owned by Veruscript, for which it is understood he has received a small expenses-based honorarium, has resigned by mutual agreement with immediate effect as a *pro bono* Co-Convenor of CIS.

- Professor Andrew has resigned with immediate effect from any advisory roles with Veruscript or its supporting publication(s), and has to his current knowledge received no payments as an honorarium nor in any other form for his nominal involvement, which has involved no or negligible duties.
- CIS has terminated its partnership with Veruscript, which was *de minimis* and *ad hoc* (i.e. there is no sponsorship agreement). Subject to the outcome of current and future developments and investigations, CIS will reimburse in full any monies received, should the *bona fides* of Veruscript be remotely not as represented.
- CIS is commissioning an immediate review of its past and present corporate governance, funding, and other institutional matters to investigate any relevant allegations and install best practice, if further required, in an organisation which has grown from an informal gathering of academic specialists to a leading global platform based in a world-class research university.

CIS notes that it has a full and developing future programme of events, and remains open to appropriate funding from vetted private and commercial sources with established beneficial ownership in countries which comprise the 5 Eyes security and intelligence partnership, namely US/UK/Canada/Australia/New Zealand. The current and historic Co-Convenors of CIS have exclusively been US or UK nationals, and with one German, and many have held or hold security clearances from their own governments.

Professor Andrew said:

"Any suggestion of foreign and/or commercial influence on any aspect of our proceedings is utterly without foundation and would be simply unacceptable to our Co-Convenors and our guests had it been sought, which it has not been to our current knowledge. I note the reported monies involved are absurdly small and could not conceivably influence anyone, not least in a University City which has home-grown a dozen billion pound businesses in as many years, and enjoys perhaps the best endowment of any European university.

Our review will report early next year, not least with a focus on any institutionalisation required at this point in our development. We remain very much open for the business of academic research in the spirit of freedom, innovation, and transparency which are among the core values of the University of Cambridge to which I have dedicated my working life. We are open to all talents, without fear or favour, and have been delighted with the enormous support for our work and future programme which we have received to date, not least in the last interesting days."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

About Cambridge Intelligence Seminar

The Cambridge Intelligence Seminar (CIS) is a forum for research and discussion of intelligence hosted by the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge. Participants discuss intelligence research, newly-declassified documents and more, and host distinguished visiting speakers. In 2016, these have included Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of the British Secret Intelligence Service; Sir Simon Fraser, former Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and Dr Michael Warner, Chief Historian of the US National Security Agency.

The Seminar was founded by Professor Christopher Andrew some 25 years ago to promote academic research by both junior and senior scholars into the role of intelligence past and present. Its members have published a series of major works on intelligence and the Seminar has achieved an international reputation.