

Who Is Andrew, Duke of York, Anyway?

Nov. 30—According to the London *Daily Mail*'s report on the latest WikiLeaks, the younger brother of Prince Charles and offspring of would-be deadly virus Prince Philip, Andrew, Duke of York, "is boorish, cocky, opinionated and arrogant—just imagine what he would be like if he drank!"

"The most astonishing aspect of his outburst in Kyrgyzstan is that it was fuelled on nothing stronger than still water.

"Teetotal Andrew may not be the brains of the Royal Family, but he has never been short on enjoying the sound of his own voice," begins a profile of the bloated prince in the *Mail*.

After the U.S. Ambassador's classified report of Andrew's meetings in Kyrgyzstan in October 2008 was put out through WikiLeaks, there have been numerous demands for Andrew to "resign" from his self-appointed role as trade envoy to the world, but Buckingham Palace continues to support his "passionate" belief in British trade. Here is an excerpt from the WikiLeaks posting:

PLAYING THE GREAT GAME (BY EXTENSION THE AMERICANS TOO)

9. (C) Addressing the Ambassador directly, Prince Andrew then turned to regional politics. He stated baldly that the United Kingdom, Western Europe (and by extension you Americans too) were now back in the thick of playing the Great Game. More animated than ever, he stated cockily: "And this time we aim to win!" Without contradicting him, the Ambassador gently reminded him that the United States does not see its presence in the region as a continuation of the Great Game. We support Kyrgyzstan's independence and sovereignty but also welcome good relations between it and all of its neighbors, including Russia.

10. (C) The Prince pounced at the sound of that name. He told the Ambassador that he was a frequent visitor to Central Asia and the Caucasus and had noticed a marked increase in Russian pressure and concomitant anxiety among the locals post-August events in Georgia....

11. (C) The Duke then stated that he was very worried about Russia's resurgence in the region. As an example, he cited the recent Central Asian energy and water-sharing deal (septel), which he claimed to know had been engineered by Russia, who finally pounded her fist on the table and everyone fell into line....

RUDE LANGUAGE A LA BRITISH

13. (C) The brunch had already lasted almost twice its allotted time, but the Prince looked like he was just getting started. Having exhausted the topic of Kyrgyzstan, he turned to the general issue of promoting British economic interests abroad. He railed at British anti-corruption investigators, who had had the idiocy of almost scuttling the Al-Yamama deal with Saudi Arabia. (NOTE: The Duke was referencing an investigation, subsequently closed, into alleged kickbacks a senior Saudi royal had received in exchange for the multi-year, lucrative BAE Systems contract to provide equipment and training to Saudi security forces. END NOTE.)

His mother's subjects seated around the table roared their approval. He then went on to these (expletive) journalists, especially from the National Guardian, who poke their noses everywhere and (presumably) make it harder for British businessmen to do business. The crowd practically clapped.

He then capped this off with a zinger: castigating our stupid (sic) British and American governments which plan at best for ten years whereas people in this part of the world plan for centuries. There were calls of hear, hear in the private brunch hall. Unfortunately for the assembled British subjects, their cherished Prince was now late to the Prime Ministers. He regretfully tore himself away from them and they from him. On the way out, one of them confided to the Ambassador: What a wonderful representative for the British people! We could not be prouder of our royal family!

14. (C) COMMENT: Prince Andrew reached out to the Ambassador with cordiality and respect, evidently valuing her insights. However, he reacted with almost neuralgic patriotism whenever any comparison between the United States and United Kingdom came up. For example, one British businessman noted that despite the overwhelming might of the American economy compared to ours the amount of American and British investment in Kyrgyzstan was similar. Snapped the Duke: "No surprise there. The Americans don't understand geography. Never have. In the U.K., we have the best geography teachers in the world!"