



Ben Fenton of the Financial Times, London, for "Standard's new owner adopts hands-off approach", April 18-19, 2009: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a8989b3a-2bb0-11de-b806-00144feabdc0.html>

CITATION NOTICE:

To: ben.fenton@ft.com

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 4:32 PM

Subject: From Moscow -- PAW citation

**FROM JOHN HELMER
MOSCOW BUREAU**

Dear Mr Fenton:

Your article, "Standard's new owner adopts hands-off approach", FT, April 18-19, 2009, has been nominated for the PAW award: http://johnhelmer.net/?page_id=1005

This award is designed to encourage interaction, accountability, and ethical reporting on Russia, and you are invited to respond to the following questions regarding your article:

- what costumes of Soviet intelligence agents are you familiar with to substantiate the contrast you draw between the clothing Mr Lebedev wore to his interview with you and the "figure of a London-based agent of the feared Soviet intelligence service in the 1980s"?
- why is the picture of Mr Lebedev published to accompany your interview text, showing a blue business suit and matching blue silk tie, an entirely different costume from the one you reported? Did Mr Lebedev ask you not to publish his "white sneakers, black drainpipe jeans, and a black satin ribbon tie"?
- how do you substantiate your opinion that Mr Lebedev is "a supporter of democracy in his native Russia", and with what Russian sources?
- what evidence do you have that Mr Lebedev has "subsidised" Novaya Gazeta since 2006; with what sums of money; and according to what corroboration by the magazine's management, or those in a position to know?
- what evidence have you gathered of Mr Lebedev's financial means to pay more than one GBP pound for the Standard?
- why did you fail to invite Mr Lebedev to estimate what he told you were his "free resources right now", in the context of your failing to examine the "speculation" you reported, suggesting he might be a buyer of The Independent? Do you also value The Independent at one pound?
- why did you fail to ask Mr Lebedev about "speculation" -- published in detail by your rivals -- that his acquisition of the Standard is being backed by Rupert Murdoch?
- why did you fail to ask Mr Lebedev what is the financial condition of his bank, his holding, his German airline property, and the pledge status of his Aeroflot shareholding?

You are invited to respond within a reasonable period of time, allowing both these questions and your answers to be published alongside your PAW citation.

Yours sincerely,

John Helmer

NO REPLY FROM THE PAW WINNER