United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN 1 8 2018

Dear Requester:

Re: [illegible]

This is in response to your request dated [illegible] which was received on [illegible]. We have assigned Case Control Number [illegible] and will begin the processing of your request based upon the information provided in your communication.

The cut-off date is the date the search is initiated unless you have provided a specific timeframe.

Our published regulations regarding expedition, 22 C.F.R. § 171.19(b), require a specific showing of a compelling need. Expedited processing is granted only in the following circumstances: (1) imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity and the information is urgently needed in that a particular value of the information would be lost if not disseminated quickly; (3) substantial humanitarian necessity; or (4) loss of substantial due process rights. Your request does not meet any of the established criteria. Regretfully, I must advise that you have not provided adequate justification for expedition. Moreover, you may be assured that we will make every effort to process your request in as timely a manner as possible. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the Department's expeditious processing criteria.

If you wish to appeal the denial of expedition, you may write to the Requester Liaison Division, at the address below, within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter.

We have considered your request for a fee waiver. A waiver or reduction of fees may be appropriate when the disclosure of records is in the public interest because the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government and is not primarily in the interest of the requester. See 22 C.F.R. § 171.16. In light of the information supplied in your request, we will now defer our decision to grant or deny your request for a fee waiver until we are able to determine whether the disclosure of any records responsive to your request is in the public interest, consistent with the application of 22 C.F.R. § 171.16.

Unusual circumstances (including the number and location of Department components involved in responding to your request, the volume of requested records, etc.) may arise that would require additional time to process your request.

We will notify you as soon as responsive material has been retrieved and reviewed. Should you want to contact us, you may call our FOIA Requester Service Center at (202) 261-8484 or send us email to FOIAstatus@state.gov. Please refer to the Case Control Number in any communication.

Sincerely,

Requester Communications Branch
Office of Information Programs & Services

Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State, SA-2
Washington, DC 20522-0208
Website: www.foia.state.gov

Inquiries:
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