

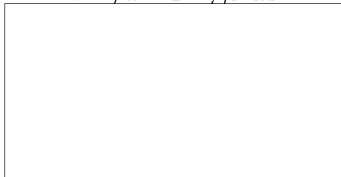
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

August 19, 2009

Mr. Ryan Gingeras

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 03-01-2011

Reference: F-2009-01323

Dear Mr. Gingeras:

We received your undated letter on 12 August 2009 appealing our 15 July 2009 final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information about Sami Al-Khoury, "a Lebanese drug trafficker who was based in Beirut and was active between 1947 and 1970." Specifically, you appealed our determination that we can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

Your appeal has been accepted and arrangements will be made for its consideration by the appropriate members of the Agency Release Panel. You will be advised of the determinations made.

In order to afford requesters the most equitable treatment possible, we have adopted the policy of handling appeals on a first-received, first-out basis. Despite our best efforts, the large number of appeals that CIA receives has created unavoidable processing delays making it unlikely that we can respond within 20 working days. In view of this, some delay in our reply must be expected, but every reasonable effort will be made to respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delores M. Nelson".

Delores M. Nelson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

