

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

8 May 2002

Ms. Tamara Feinstein
The National Security Archive
Gelman Library, Suite 701
2130 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Reference: F-2002-00718

Dear Ms. Feinstein:

The office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator received, on 2 May 2002, your 24 October 2001 letter (Archive No. 20011300CIA197) requesting records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, your request is for records pertaining to:

...the August 19, 1993 massacre of around 62 persons in Satipo Province (Junin Dept.) Peru. This massacre was linked to the Peruvian guerilla group, Sendero Luminoso (aka The Shining Path). This massacre is commonly known as the "Satipo Massacre."

For identification purposes we have assigned your request the number referenced above. Please refer to this number in future correspondence.

As you may know, the discovery of anthrax in a letter mailed to the United States Senate on 15 October 2001 led to a series of escalating safety concerns about opening, handling, and even being in the proximity of mail, especially in government offices in Washington, D.C. These concerns, in turn, led to disruptions in, and then total curtailments of, mail delivery service, to include Freedom of Information Act-related correspondence, at many federal agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Under such extraordinary circumstances, the administration of the Freedom of Information Act has inevitably been delayed at all affected federal agencies. As a matter of both common sense and legal precedent, when mail delivery is delayed, so is the commencement of the process of FOIA administration, regardless of the time at which a FOIA request is placed into the mail by the requester or postmarked thereafter. Simply put, the FOIA process cannot begin until the personnel of an agency FOIA office are able to open any belatedly delivered item of mail.

Based on the National Security Archive's agreement to pay copying costs as a requester in the category of "representative of the news media," we have accepted your request, it will be processed in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 431. Our search will be for documents in existence as of and through the date of this acceptance letter.

The heavy volume of FOIA requests received by the Agency has created delays in processing. Since we cannot respond within the 20 working days stipulated by the FOIA, you have the right to consider this a denial and may appeal to the Agency Release Panel. It would seem more reasonable, however, to have us continue processing your request and respond to you as soon as we can. You can appeal any denial of records at that time. Unless we hear from you otherwise, we will assume that you agree, and we will proceed on this basis.

Sincerely,



Kathryn I. Dyer
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Signature assigned by: [redacted]

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