

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

22 August 2002

Mr. Richard Banks



(b)(6)

Reference: F-2002-01395

Dear Mr. Banks:

This acknowledges receipt of your 18 July 2002 letter requesting records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, your request is for records pertaining to **“the Motorized Submersible Canoe, code-named Sleeping Beauty.”** 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.

As to the matter of your request, while we can conduct a search of our general records holdings for additional documents related to this subject, this would require your commitment to pay fees incurred under the conditions stated below. If you wish to have us conduct such a search, please so advise us by return mail, and include your commitment to pay fees.

For your information, the FOIA authorizes federal agencies to collect fees for records services. You will note on the enclosed fee schedule that we charge search fees, including computer time where indices are computerized, and copying costs for releasable documents. In accordance with Section (a) of the schedule, search fees are assessable even if no records are found or, if found, we determine that they are not releasable. This means you will be charged even if our search results are negative or if we determine that no information is releasable under the FOIA.

Based upon the information provided in your letter, we have determined that your request would fall into the "all other" fee category, which means that you would be required to pay charges which recover the cost of searching for and reproducing responsive records (if any) beyond the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours of search time, which would be furnished without charge. Copying costs are assessed at the rate of ten cents per page, while search fees for each item in a request are usually about \$150.

In an effort to assist you, we searched our database of officially released records, locating the enclosed documents relating to the subject of your request. These documents were released as the result of inquiries from previous requesters. As the enclosed documents total 82 pages, no charges will be assessed for these materials.

As an alternative, we would like to advise you that the majority of records from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and other predecessor organizations have been reviewed and turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). We suggest you might be better served by submitting a request to NARA at the following address:

Chief, Military Reference Branch
Textual Reference Division
The National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

We hope you find the foregoing information useful.

Sincerely,



Kathryn I. Dyer
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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(b)(6)

CIO/IMS/IRRG/PIPD [redacted]../19AUG2002

Signature assigned by: [redacted]

Distribution:

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enclosures: fee schedule, mori doc 458902 (82 compilation of several docs)