

4 March 2008

Information and Privacy Coordinator:
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington DC 20505

F-08-00941

Ref: F-2008-00313 (Scott Koch)

Dear Coordinator:

The referenced FOIA request was apparently denied on the basis that my broad wording would encompass "the actual conduct of intelligence operations." I would hardly have expected that, yet I am sorely disappointed that other information, not of that nature, was not supplied. It surely exists.

Nevertheless, I have chosen not to appeal. Rather, I will substantially narrow the scope of my interest, while adding another element, i.e. recognition of an existing declassification. The subject of interest relates to the *design, development and test* of balloons of any type which could be used to move agents to otherwise inaccessible locations. I specifically *exclude* intelligence *operations*.

This is a two part request:

First, I already have a body of knowledge about the subject, both by being personally involved in such development work, and also indirectly involved in other related projects where, as Security Officer, I was closely aware of the work of others. This subject matter has already been declassified, as evidenced by a four page narrative by one of your employees which was "Released as sanitized 2 July 96" (apparently this was internal) and then "Posted 2007-05-08", presumably for the general public. I refer to: "THE GOOD OLD DAYS - You Are on Your Own" by Walter H. Gioumau. [You probably have quicker ways to find this, but I just Google <"good old days" gioumau>] This part of the request involves no new searching. What I would like is a written acknowledgment that I and others who have this narrow scope of knowledge are no longer bound to secrecy (if you have your own wording to cover this type of release, that's fine).

The second part of the request does ask for searching. Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5U.S.C. subsection 552, I am requesting information or records in your files regarding the concept, design, development or test of man-carrying balloons from 1949 to 1975. Some of the work in that period used the Office of Naval Research as a conduit for funding. No information on possible operational uses is sought or expected.

While the product of this search will be published in some form, this clearly does not fall into your category of a "commercial" product. By my reading of the rules, this is in the "Education and Scientific" category. If there is any disagreement, please contact me before tasking this request.

If you have any questions about handling this request, I can be reached at [redacted] Email is also welcomed. [redacted]

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Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Jim Winker

[redacted]

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