

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Case No.: 200706194

MAY 9 2008

Scott A. Hodes, Esq. 1410 Aintree Drive Rockville, MD 2085

Dear Mr. Hodes:

In response to your request dated October 11, 2007 under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 U.S.C. Section 552), we have searched the records of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Public Affairs, the Bureau of European Affairs and the Office of the Undersecretary for Political Affairs, resulting in the retrieval of 60 documents responsive to your request. After reviewing these documents, we have determined that 32 may be released in full, 7 may be released with excisions, and 16 must be withheld in full. All released material is enclosed.

A decision on the remaining 5 documents requires interagency coordination, and the documents have been referred to another government office for further review to assist us in making a final determination.

An enclosure provides information on Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable exemptions are marked on each document. The "B1, 1.4(b)" marking refers to excisions made under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1) and section 1.4(b) of Executive Order 12958, as amended. The "B3, OTHER" or "B3" marking refers to excisions made under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3) and the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, specifically 19 U.S.C. § 2605(h)-(i). Of the documents withheld in full, 4 were withheld under exemption (b)(5) and 12 under exemption (b)(1).

In some cases, two or more exemptions may apply to the same document. In the case of a document released in part, all non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released.

The Freedom of Information Act provides for the recovery of the direct costs of searching for and duplicating records requested for non-commercial use. However, no fee is charged if the cost of collecting and processing the fee exceeds the amount of the fee. Since billable costs in this case do not exceed that amount, your request has been processed without charge to you.

We have now completed the processing of your case. We hope that the Department has been of service to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.