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Request

OLC RECORD COPY

31 October 1978
OLC: 78-3359

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversations with Mr. Norman Shapiro, of Representative William S. Moorhead's (D., Pa.) Office

1. (U/IUO) Before returning a call (Friday afternoon, 27 October) from the Pittsburgh office of Representative William Moorhead on behalf of [redacted] a constituent, I checked the status of the request with IPS. After determining it would be at least nine months to a year before completion, I called Mr. Shapiro to advise him of this information. He mused that it was his Congressman who had been one of the prime movers for the Privacy Act and perhaps the Agency was feeling the burden of the Act and not too happy with it.

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2. (U/IUO) He went on to ask what could be done to expedite [redacted] request because he felt this was a rather long time for her to wait. I explained the backlog within the Agency and that I believed he would agree that it would not be fair to other requesters to take [redacted] request out of sequence. In fact, a recent court case upheld the principle of "first-in-first-out" (Open America vs. FBI). I also said it would be unfair to others if we were to give "priority" treatment to a certain few cases brought to our attention because of special interest.

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3. (U/IUO) He agreed with my views but went on to explain that in this particular case he felt there were extenuating circumstances and we should reconsider our stand. He pressed me to do whatever possible to make an exception for [redacted] and asked that I call him back on Monday at the Washington office. I said I would check around and get back in touch with him.

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4. (U/IUO) On Monday, 30 October, I called Mr. Shapiro and brought him up to date on the background of [redacted] request (he was unaware she was a former applicant). I mentioned that all components searched had been negative for information on [redacted] but we would be dealing with the applicant file. He asked whether he could mention my information to [redacted] including the fact that it was only the applicant file to be treated. I hesitated (not knowing what DDO might have added to the applicant file) and said I would double check that item and again get back to him.

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5. (U/IUO) After getting word from both DDO/FPG and IPS, we agreed there would be no problem with mentioning the applicant file, which [redacted] most certainly is aware of, and I again called Mr. Shapiro. In addition to his notifying [redacted] of the existence of the applicant file, I advised Mr. Shapiro that the Agency would send out an interim response, substantiating the information I had given him, within a day or so to [redacted]

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6. (U/IUO) Mr. Shapiro was most pleased with the cooperation extended him by the Agency on this personal request for special consideration.

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