

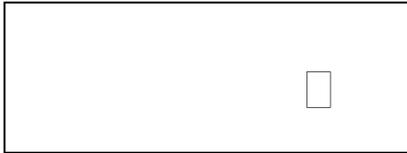
(b) (2)  
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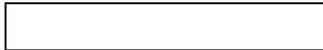
Washington, D.C. 20505

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE  DATE:  
29-Apr-2009

19 April 2002



Reference: F-2002-00364



This acknowledges receipt, on 2 April 2002, of your 26 February 2002 letter requesting records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, your request is for records pertaining to:

**the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in 1999  
(stated as 1988 in your letter).**

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 curtailment 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.

On receipt of your letter, we initiated processing, and have determined that we received an earlier FOIA request for records on the same subject as yours. If you wish, we will send you the same CIA-originated records, if any are located, and deemed to be releasable, once that request has been completed. Your cost for copies of any released documents would be ten cents per page. We note, however, that you are requesting these records in connection with a paper you are writing. As we surmise that you most likely have a deadline in connection with this paper, we must point out that we cannot estimate how long it may take to complete the original request on which our response to you would be based.

If you wish to receive any documents that *may* be located and released in connection with the aforementioned case, please so advise us by return letter within 45 days from the date of this letter. If you do not respond to us within that time, we will assume you are no longer interested, and will cancel your request. For your convenience, you may wish to fax your response to us at (703) 613-3007.

We regret we are unable to be more helpful at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn I. Dyer', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn I. Dyer  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

CIO/IMS/IRRG [redacted]../15APR2002

Signature assigned by: [redacted]

Distribution:

Orig - Adse

1 - PIPD/F-2002-00364 [redacted]

[redacted]

FOIA\ [redacted]

[redacted]