

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

1 MAR 1983

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Submitted herewith, pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(d), is the report of the Central Intelligence Agency concerning its administration of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) during calendar year 1982.

During 1982, 2,278 requests for information were logged and put into processing by the Agency, of which 1,010 were handled under the Freedom of Information Act. Several hundred additional request letters were received during the year but not formally processed pending receipt of additional information from the requesters. These incomplete requests were, without exception, requests for access to personal records, which, under the Agency's regulations, are usually processed under the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a) rather than the Freedom of Information Act. Production/workload statistics for CY 1982 are enclosed at Tab A. (Some of these statistics are necessarily tentative inasmuch as we sometimes have to reactivate "closed" cases or are able to "close out" cases retroactively.)

During CY 1982 the number of requests for information decreased by 752. Nevertheless, the Agency maintained its large expenditure of manpower on Freedom of Information, Privacy, and Executive Order requests, devoting the equivalent of 128 full time employees to this effort, despite the critical need to apply the expertise of our intelligence professionals to the Agency's primary mission. The dollar costs for personnel to sustain this effort amounted to over \$3.7 million. Of this total, 59% (\$2.2 million) was devoted to FOIA. During CY 1982 we were able to reduce our backlog of initial cases by 364, some of which were among the more complex cases that were contributing to the logjam in our queue system. Equally encouraging is the reduction in the number of cases awaiting processing in the administrative appeal phase. This year the Agency was able to reduce this backlog by 65 cases.

The administrative burden to the Agency over the past years has been considerable. Since 1975 we estimate that the