



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

February 5, 2015 — Sent via email

Re: Case No. 201400576  
NG: CM: CL

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
and RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)

e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

phone: 202-741-5770

toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

fax: 202-741-5769

This responds to your June 2, 2014 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received the same day via email. You requested assistance with your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, No. NW [REDACTED], to the National Archives and Records and Administration's (NARA's) National Declassification Center (NDC), and subsequent appeal, No. NGC [REDACTED] to NARA's Deputy Archivist. We are sorry for our delay in responding to your request for assistance. Until recently, we were short staffed and not responding to requests as quickly as we would like.

Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

We carefully reviewed your submission of information and understand that NARA's decision on behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD) to withhold portions of a NARA-held State Department document concerns you. In response to your appeal, NARA upheld its initial decision to withhold portions of the document you seek under FOIA Exemptions 1 and 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1) and (3). You asked that OGIS "review the response and see if it is possible to change the outcome in any respect."

OGIS Facilitator Christa Lemelin contacted James Hogan, Chief of the Defense Freedom of Information Policy Office, and NARA FOIA Officer Joseph Scanlon to learn more about NARA's action on your request. Mr. Hogan discussed the document you seek with Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) FOIA Chief Paul Jacobsmeyer who agreed to reconsider the agency's initial determination. OSD will review the document and communicate the agency's decision to NARA and NARA will contact you with a supplemental response.

We hope you find this information about your request useful. At this time, OGIS can offer you no further assistance. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki Gramian". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director  
Office of Government Information Services

cc: James Hogan, Chief of the Defense Freedom of Information Policy Office, via email  
Paul Jacobsmeyer, OSD FOIA Chief, via email  
Don McIlwain, NARA NDC FOIA/MDR Division Director, via email  
Joseph Scanlon, NARA FOIA Officer, via email

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.