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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 23 2014

Case No. F-2014-02655

Segment: NSA-001

Mr. John Greenewald



Dear Mr. Greenewald:

I refer to your request dated October 30, 2013 to the National Security Agency, for the release of certain material under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552). Of the relevant documents retrieved in response to your request, one was considered to be of primary interest to the Department of State, and was therefore referred to us for appropriate action.


We have determined that it may be released with excisions. All released material is enclosed. In the case of a document released in part, all non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released.

An enclosure explains Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable exemptions are marked on each document.

All withholdings were made at the request of the National Security Agency. You may appeal this determination by writing, within 60 days, to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (DJ4), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. The letter of appeal should cite NSA FOIA Case number 75368-R1.

The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds under which you believe release of information is required.

Sincerely,


John F. Hackett, Acting Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated

(U) Scientology

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From Intellipedia

(U) **Scientology** is a body of beliefs and related practices created by science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986), starting in 1952, as a successor to his earlier self-help system, Dianetics. In 1953, Hubbard incorporated the "Church of Scientology" in Camden, New Jersey. Scientology has been surrounded by controversies since its inception. It has often been described as a cult that financially defrauds and abuses its members, charging exorbitant fees for its spiritual services.^[1] In 1967 the IRS removed Scientology's tax-exempt status, asserting that its activities were commercial and operated for the benefit of Hubbard, rather than for charitable or religious purposes.^[2] The decision resulted in a process of litigation that would be settled in the Church's favour a quarter of a century later, the longest case of litigation in IRS history.^[3] In December 1993, the Church of Scientology experienced a major breakthrough in its ongoing legal battles when the IRS granted full tax exemption to all Scientology Churches, missions and organizations. Based on the IRS exemptions, the U.S. State Department formally criticized Germany for discriminating against Scientologists and began to note Scientologists' complaints of harassment in its annual human rights reports.^[2]

Contents

- 1 SCIENTOLOGY FACES FURTHER SCRUTINY IN GERMANY. 2007
- 2 (C) Germany: Simmering Scientology Controversy. 2002
 - 2.1 (C) German Government: you're a dangerous sect
 - 2.2 (C) Scientologists: we are a religion
 - 2.3 (C) Scientology debate infuriates Germans
- 3 References

SCIENTOLOGY FACES FURTHER SCRUTINY IN GERMANY. 2007

(C) Germany's 16 state interior ministers (MOI) and the federal minister decided December 7 to gather information on Scientology to determine whether a basis exists to launch an official investigation into whether Scientology should be banned. The state and federal MOIs will review findings either at their April or August 2008 conferences to determine whether an official investigation is warranted. A ban can only be considered by the Federal Minister of Interior after an official investigation. Several state ministers, legal experts, and the federal Interior Ministry expressed skepticism that enough evidence exists to support an eventual ban of Scientology. Government and public hostility toward Scientology has a long history in Germany, in part due to concern over what they perceive as Scientology's anti-democratic practices and

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Perez, Senior Reviewer

recruitment techniques, particularly with youth. Scientology representatives expressed concern to the Embassy that the decision could lead to increased discrimination against Scientology members. On the basis of positions in the Department's Human Rights and Religious Freedom Reports, Mission Germany has expressed concern to federal and local MOI officials about a possible future ban on Scientology and possible discrimination against Scientology members that could ensue. ^[4] B3 NSA

(C) Germany: Simmering Scientology Controversy. 2002

(C) Though differing views of Scientology may not be a major factor in US-German or US-EU relations, they illustrate the difficulties in reaching consensus--even with Allies--on religious freedom issues, particularly with respect to newer, less traditional religious groups.

(C) Divergent views on Scientology and religious freedom continue to challenge US relations with Germany. For example, the State Department's annual publication of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the International Religious Freedom Report pushes the debate into the German media every spring and fall. Other European countries--for example, Belgium and France--also have anti-Scientology legislation but do not overtly discriminate against Scientologists to the same extent as Germany. ^[5]

(C) German Government: you're a dangerous sect

(C) In 1993 the US Internal Revenue Service determined the Church of Scientology is a religious and charitable organization. The German Government maintains Scientology is an economic enterprise--not a religion--and that consumer protection laws are applicable. Moreover, according to the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the ideology of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard advocates the replacement of parliamentary democracies with an undemocratic system of government based on the principles of Scientology. Berlin maintains Scientology advocates the diminution of basic rights for those not judged "worthy" under Scientologist criteria.

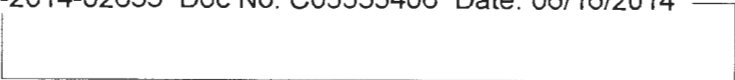
(C) According to the German Government, Scientologists operate an intelligence and counterintelligence service and their long-term goal is the replacement of the existing political system via the expansion of Scientology. In August 2000, for example, a German official reportedly cut short a visit to Florida because she was followed and harassed by Scientologists. Because the government argues that the allegedly totalitarian principles of Scientology are inconsistent with democracy and the German Constitution, the Germans could contend that the group would need to be controlled to protect human rights even if Scientology were recognized as a religion.

(C) Scientologists: we are a religion

(C) Scientologists report continued discrimination in Germany on account of their religious beliefs, and US Scientologists trying to do business in Germany frequently ask for help from Embassy Berlin when they believe they have suffered from such discrimination. They argue that the German Government attempts to exclude Scientology members from the Civil Service. In Bavaria applicants for Civil Service positions must complete questionnaires detailing any relationship with Scientology. Failure to do so results in applications being dismissed. Some localities and private firms use "sect filters" in hiring and contracting; the sect filters ask questions designed to identify Scientologists. Scientologists argue that these practices give rise to a climate of discrimination and cause financial losses for many individuals and companies.

Scientology - Intellipedia

DOCID: 4040930



(C) This month the Church of Scientology reported that three of its members had filed a formal complaint with the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva alleging the German Government had violated their rights to freedom of association and expression, their right to engage in public affairs, and their right to be free from religious discrimination. The three reportedly needed 11 years to exhaust all domestic remedies before filing the complaint with the UN.

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(C) Scientology debate infuriates Germans

(C) Many Germans have expressed indignation over transatlantic accusations of religious intolerance in Germany. German critics decry the moralizing tone from across the Atlantic, particularly from a number of Hollywood personalities active in Scientology. When former President Clinton was presented the Charlemagne Award (Karlspreis) in 2000 (in recognition of his service to European peace and unity), the European-American Citizens Committee for Human Rights and Religious Freedom initiated the annual Leipzig Award to compete with the 50-year-old Charlemagne Award. The Leipzig Committee was unhappy about US pressure on Germany and France to recognize Scientology as a religion.

References

1. ↑ Wikipedia transfer
2. ↑ **Cite error: Invalid <ref> tag; no text was provided for refs named NY_Times_tax_exempt_status**
3. ↑ **Cite error: Invalid <ref> tag; no text was provided for refs named Mø1ton13**
4. ↑ SCIENTOLOGY FACES FURTHER SCRUTINY IN GERMANY (<http://cars.state.sgov.gov/docview.asp?ResultMaxDocs=500&sortSpec=Date+desc&querytext=%28%28SCIENTOLOGY%29%3CIN%3ESUBJECT%29&docOffset=2>) *server not found*
5. ↑ Germany: Simmering Scientology Controversy (<http://inrweb.state.sgov.gov/IA/m021119c.htm>)

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- (b)(1) Withholding specifically authorized under an Executive Order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and properly classified. E.O. 12958, as amended, includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Information on weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|--------|---|
| ARMEX | Arms Export Control Act, 22 USC 2778(e) |
| CIA | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 App. USC 2411(c)(1) |
| FSA | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4003 & 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Sec 505, 50 USC 1701, note |
- (b)(4) Privileged/confidential trade secrets, commercial or financial information from a person
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 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
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Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request, excised with the agreement of the requester