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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 84689A
26 July 2016

JOHN GREENEWALD
THE BLACK VAULT



Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 14 June 2016 for "a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, pertaining to the abductions of Japanese citizens from Japan by agents of the North Korean government, which occurred during a period of six years from 1977 to 1983. Include all reports, intelligence briefings, memos, letters, inter-agency communications, SIGINT, etc., that may pertain to this request." You clarified this request on 29 June 2016 to "just documents from 1977-1983 and only for COMINT reports, final reports, summaries, etc. relating to this incident." Your request has been assigned Case Number 84689. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. There are no assessable fees for this request.

Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA. In order to provide a more timely response, we have conducted a search for records between 1980 and 1983, as this material represents that which is more readily available for search and review within your two free hours. It has been determined that should any additional information exist, it would also be denied pursuant to the FOIA exemptions noted below.

The information located thus far which is responsive to your request has been reviewed by this Agency as required by the FOIA and has been found to be currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526. This information meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraph(s) (c) of Section 1.4 and remains classified TOP SECRET and SECRET as provided in Section 1.2 of Executive Order 13526. The information is classified because disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage or serious damage to the national security. The information is exempt from automatic declassification in accordance with Section 3.3(b) of E.O. 13526. Because the documents are currently and properly classified, they are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1)).

In addition, this Agency is authorized by various statutes to protect certain information concerning its activities. We have determined that such information exists in these documents. Accordingly, those portions are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statutes applicable in this case are Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). No portion of the information is reasonably segregable. Should records prior to 1980 be searched, we reasonably believe that they would also be exempt using the above statutes.

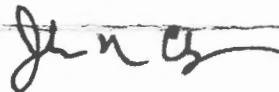
You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be in writing and addressed to:

NSA/CSS FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (DJ4),
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6248
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248

- It must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days of the date of this letter.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority