

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

**MAR 13 2015**

Case No. F-2014-20870

Segment: WEP-0001

John Greenwald  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

In response to your request dated November 16, 2014, under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552), we initiated a search of the following Department of State record system: the Central Foreign Policy Records (the principal record system of the Department of State).

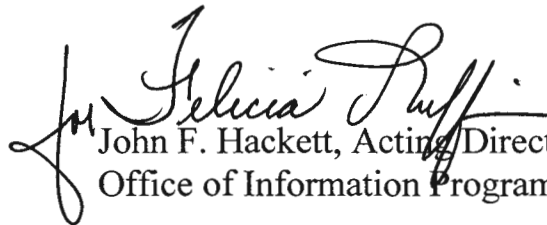
The search of the records has been completed and has resulted in the retrieval of one document responsive to your request. After reviewing this document, we have determined that it may be released in full. All released material is enclosed.

The Freedom of Information Act provides for the recovery of the direct costs of searching for and duplicating records requested for non-commercial use. However, no fee is charged for the first two hours of search time or for the first one hundred pages of duplication. Since less than two hours of search time have been expended and fewer than one hundred pages have been duplicated in this case, your request has been processed without charge to you.

We have now completed the processing of your case. If you have any questions, you may write to the Office of Information Programs and Services, SA-2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-8100, or telephone us at (202)

261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:  
As stated.

## The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

### FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 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) 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:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP        | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)                    |
| CIA PERS/ORG   | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)      |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT         | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004                    |
| INA            | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN           | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505      |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (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
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### Other Grounds for Withholding

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

Rules and Regulations

Subpart F – Appeal Procedures

§171.52 Appeal of denial of access to, declassification of, amendment of, accounting of disclosures of, or challenge to classification of records.

- (a) *Right of administrative appeal.* Except for records that have been reviewed and withheld within the past two years or are the subject of litigation, any requester whose request for access to records, declassification of records, amendment of records, accounting of disclosure of records, or any authorized holder of classified information whose classification challenge has been denied, has a right to appeal the denial to the Department's Appeals Review Panel. This appeal right includes the right to appeal the determination by the Department that no records responsive to an access request exist in Department files. Privacy Act appeals may be made only by the individual to whom the records pertain.
- (b) *Form of appeal.* There is no required form for an appeal. However, it is essential that the appeal contain a clear statement of the decision or determination by the Department being appealed. When possible, the appeal should include argumentation and documentation to support the appeal and to contest the bases for denial cited by the Department. The appeal should be sent to: Chairman, Appeals Review Panel, c/o Appeals Officer, A/GIS/IPS/PP/LC, U.S. Department of State, SA-2, Room 8100, Washington, DC 20522-8100.
- (c) *Time Limits.* The appeal should be received within 60 days of the date of receipt by the requester of the Department's denial. The time limit for response to an appeal begins to run on the day the appeal is received. The time limit (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) for agency decision on an administrative appeal is 20 days under the FOIA (which may be extended for up to an additional 10 days in unusual circumstances) and 30 days under the Privacy Act (which the Panel may extend an additional 30 days for good cause shown). The Panel shall decide mandatory declassification review appeals as promptly as possible.
- (d) *Notification to appellant.* The Chairman of the Appeals Review Panel shall notify the appellant in writing of the Panel's decision on the appeal. When the decision is to uphold the denial, the Chairman shall include in his notification the reasons therefor. The appellant shall be advised that the decision of the Panel represents the final decision of the Department and of the right to seek judicial review of the Panel's decision, when applicable. In mandatory declassification review appeals, the Panel shall advise the requester of the right to appeal the decision to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel under §3.5(d) of E.O. 12958.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 04707 301910Z  
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01  
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01  
HHS-04 INRE-00 OES-09 ACDA-12 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02  
/091 W

-----024424 301913Z /43

RELEASED IN FULL

O 301732Z JUL 81  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6570

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 04707

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/30/87 (SMITH, W.S.) OR-M  
TAGS: PEPR CU US  
SUBJECT: REJECTION OF CUBAN ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING BACTERIOLOGICAL  
WARFARE

REF: STATE 198619

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN DEMARCHE JULY 29, USINT CHIEF REJECTED CHARGES  
MADE IN CASTRO'S JULY 26 SPEECH AND PROTESTED FACT THEY HAD BEEN  
VOICED PUBLICLY WITHOUT SHRED OF EVIDENCE. CUBAN INTERLOCUTOR RE-  
PLIED THAT POSSIBILITY US ENGAGED IN BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE  
EFFORTS AGAINST CUBA WAS ONLY A SUSPICION. EXILE TERRORIST  
ACTIVITIES AGAINST CUBA AND US TOLERATION OF THOSE ACTIVITIES  
WERE FACTS. USINT CHIEF SAID TOLERATION BY NO MEANS A FACT.  
US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WERE TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES  
TO ENFORCE NEUTRALITY LAWS AND OTHER STATUTES. END SUMMARY

3. USINT CHIEF CALLED ON JOAQUIN MAS, MINREX DIRECTOR NORTH  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS, JULY 29. BASING HIMSELF ON SPOKESMAN'S  
JULY 27 STATEMENT (REFTEL) AND EARLIER STATEMENTS REGARDING US  
POSITION ON EXILE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, HE MADE FOLLOWING  
POINTS:  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 04707 301910Z

-- US REJECTED OUT OF HAND ANY INSINUATION THAT IT IN ANY  
WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUR PLAGUES MENTIONED IN CASTRO'S  
SPEECH, OR, FOR THAT MATTER, ANY OTHER PLAGUE OR DISEASE  
SUFFERED BY CUBA. INSINUATION HAD BEEN MADE WITHOUT A SHRED  
OF EVIDENCE.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan  
Flanigan, Senior Reviewer

--NEITHER NOW NOR IN PAST HAS US USED BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE  
METHODS AGAINST CUBA.

--CUBANS, MOREOVER, KNEW LICENSE FOR EXPORT OF ABATE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY USG ON JULY 17, YET HAD CHOSEN TO IGNORE THIS COOPERATION AND TO SUGGEST US SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR FACT SHIPMENT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. THIS WAS NONSENSE AND CUBANS KNEW IT.

--GIVEN ALL THESE FACTORS, ONE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING US BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE EFFORTS AGAINST CUBA HAD BEEN MADE FOR CYNICAL PURPOSES. WE THEREFORE NOT ONLY REJECTED THEM BUT PROTESTED FACT THEY HAD BEEN MADE AT ALL.

-- US ALSO REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT ANY ENTITY OF USG WAS INVOLVED IN OR SUPPORTED TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST CUBA SUCH AS THOSE ENGAGED IN BY ALPHA-66. US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAD TAKEN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTIONS TO ENFORCE OUR NEUTRALITY LAWS. USINT CHIEF REMINDED MAS OF THE SIX ALPHA-66 MEMBERS ARRESTED SOME MONTHS AGO.

4. MAS SAID HE WISHED TO CLARIFY THAT PRESIDENT CASTRO HAD NOT ACCUSED US OF INTRODUCING PLAGUES. RATHER, HE HAD SAID HE SHARED SUSPICIONS OF CUBAN PEOPLE THAT CIA MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE. FURTHER, THIS HAD BEEN PRESENTED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF INCREASING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST CUBA WHICH, IF NOT ACT-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 04707 301910Z

UALLY COUNTING WITH ITS SUPPORT, WERE CLEARLY TOLERATED BY USG. SINCE BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE HAD ONCE BEEN CONTEMPLATED AS PART OF OPERATION MONGOOSE, WHY WAS IT ABSURD TO SUPPOSE THAT IF USG RETURNING TO THAT KIND OF MIND-SET IT WOULD REJECT SUCH MEASURES NOW. THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION. US HAD BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE PROGRAM AND HAD CAPABILITY OF INTRODUCING DENGUE, SUGAR CANE RUST, ETC. IT WA FACT, MOREOVER, THAT CUBA HAD NEVER HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH SUGAR CANE RUST UNTIL LAST YEAR AND HAD NEVER BEFORE SUFFERED DENGUE TYPE-2. HOW COULD ONE EXPLAIN OUTBREAK NOW? US MIGHT NOT BE RESPONSIBLE, BUT CUBA HAD TO BE SUSPICIOUS -- AND ITS SUSPICIONS WERE NOT SO FAR FETCHED.

5. USINT CHIEF SAID THAT WAS STUFF AND NONSENSE AND CUBANS KNEW IT. FACT WAS THAT CUBA HAD BEEN AFFLICTED BY SUGAR CANE RUST BECAUSE OF FOOLISH DECISION TO SHIFT TO TYPE OF CANE WHICH NOT RESISTANT TO RUST. RESULTS WERE PREDICTABLE. THOSE WHO MADE DECISION COULD BLAME THEMSELVES, NOT US. AS FOR DENGUE, PERHAPS IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN BY CUBAN TROOPS RETURNING FROM AFRICA. CUBA SHOULD TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES. AGAIN, IT HAD ITSELF TO BLAME. US HAD COOPERATED WITH PAHO IN CONTROL EFFORT BY LICENSING SALE OF ABATE SAME DAY IT REQUESTED.

6. MAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LICENSE HAD BEEN GRANTED BUT NOTED THAT FOR REASONS WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED IN CUBA, IT STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED SHIPMENT, THOUGH SHIP HAD BEEN WAITING TO PICK UP THE FIRST 100 TONS.

7. USINT CHIEF SAID THERE OBVIOUSLY SOME CONFUSION SINCE WHO REP IN HAVANA HAD TOLD HIM CUBANS WANTED TO WAIT AND PICK UP ALL 300 TONS AT SAME TIME. IN ANY EVENT, THAT WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN PAHO AND GOC. USG HAD DONE ITS PART BY LICENSING SHIPMENT.

8. MAS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHIFT TO NON-RESISTANT CANE HAD DOUBTLESS BEEN FACTOR IN OUTBREAK OF RUST AND REITERATED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAVANA 04707 301910Z

THAT CUBA HAD NOT ACCUSED US. IT HAD, RATHER, VOICED SUSPICIONS. HE FELT GOC WOULD TAKE USG'S CATEGORIC DENIAL AS "VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT."

9. EXILE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST CUBA, HOWEVER, WERE SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. HERE, US DENIALS WERE NOT CATEGORIC. US SAID IT DID NOT SUPPORT EXILE TERRORISTS, BUT CLEAR FACT WAS THAT IT TOLERATED THEIR ACTIONS. ALPHA-66 OPERATED WITH IMPUNITY, EVEN HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTIONS. ALPHA-66 WAS NOW EVEN OPERATING RADIO STATION ON DAILY BASIS CALLING FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE IN CUBA. US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DO NOTHING. THEY MUST HAVE ORDERS TO DO NOTHING.

10. USINT CHIEF SAID THIS NOT THE CASE. WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DETECTED VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND HAD EVIDENCE, THEY ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED. FACT THAT THEY COULD NOT DETECT EVERY VIOLATION OR DID NOT ALWAYS HAVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN NO WAY SUGGESTED THAT USG WAS TOLERANT OF THESE OR ANY OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

11. REITERATING THAT US REJECTED ALLEGATIONS AND INSINUATIONS IN CASTRO'S JULY 26 SPEECH, USINT CHIEF TOOK LEAVE.  
SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

N WZCZ