

92-74-0003

THE NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE

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IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE PLEASE REFER
TO ARCHIVE FILE NO. 920066D0007

Mr. Charlie Y. Talbott
Chief, FOI Division
Department of Defense
OASD (PA), Rm 2C757, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

01/16/1992

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Talbott:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Section 552, et seq. (as amended), I hereby request disclosure of the documents described on the last page of this letter for inspection and possible copying.

If you regard any of these documents as exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. In this connection I note that you are required under the FOIA to release any reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents containing information you regard as exempt. Section 552(b). To permit an intelligent, informed decision whether or not to file an administrative appeal of any denial decision, you are also requested to describe withheld records (or portions thereof) and explain the logical and factual basis for exemption claims. See Mead Data Central, Inc. v. Department of the Air Force, 566 F.2d 242, 251 (D.C. Cir., 1977).

This request is made on behalf of the National Security Archive, a nonprofit public interest research institute and library located in Washington, D.C. The Archive is organized and operated as a division of the Fund For Peace, Inc., a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. The Archive's purpose is to enrich public policy debate by making available records pertaining to important issues of major public concern in the areas of foreign, defense, intelligence, and international economic policy.

Documents obtained by the Archive, including the records requested in this letter, are carefully analyzed, indexed and organized into document sets in the Archive's collection and published. Document sets are available for inspection and copying by scholars, journalists, members of Congress and Congressional staffs, present and former public officials, other public interest organizations, and the general public at the Archive's Washington office. Information in the documents is disseminated across the country through distribution of comprehensive document indices to university and other research libraries and through the Archive's publications.

As a staff member of the Archive, I have been assigned to conduct research on the subject of this request. I am working as part of a research team which includes experts on this subject with a wide variety of educational and professional backgrounds relating to foreign affairs, defense, intelligence and international economic policy. Members of the team have conducted an extensive literature

search at the Library of Congress and specialized research libraries and have determined that the requested materials are necessary to our research.

I further ask that you waive all fees in connection with this request. In National Security Archive v. U.S. Department of Defense, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989), cert. denied March 19, 1990, the D.C. Circuit held that the Archive is entitled to a waiver of all search and review fees under the FOIA as a "representative of the news media". Id. at 1387. The appeals court also determined that Archive requests made in furtherance of its publication and related activities are not for a "commercial use." Id. at 1388.

This request also qualifies for a waiver of duplication fees because disclosure of the information in the requested documents is in the public interest as it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government. See 5 U.S.C. Section 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Should you decline to waive or reduce all duplication fees, we are prepared to pay normal reproduction costs if I decided to copy the records produced. Our willingness to pay such fees is subject to our rights to appeal and litigate the fee waiver question. I further ask that if you decline to waive duplication fees that you set forth your specific reasons for doing so in writing and that you obtain our authorization before incurring costs in excess of \$100.

In order to expedite the release of the listed documents, I request that you disclose them on an interim basis as they become available to you, without waiting until all the documents have been assembled. If you have any questions that I might be able to answer regarding the identity of the records, their location, or the scope of the request, please call me at the number listed above. I look forward to receiving your response within the ten-day statutory time period.

Sincerely,



Kate Doyle

Attachment

FOIA Sequence Number: 920066DOD007
Date of Request: 01/16/1992
NSA Record Number: 8395

Subject of Request:

All documents concerning the anti-drug U.S. aid packages granted to Mexico since mid-1990 as a response to shifting drug trafficking patterns which have left Mexico a major transshipment point. The aid packages include a central fleet of helicopters (9 in 1990, 12 more in 1991) to carry Mexican agents on raids, radar to help Mexican aircraft track smugglers, communications equipment, and additional law-enforcement equipment such as vehicles for anti-drug police.

Documents should include but not be limited to: (1) DOD assessments of the capabilities of the helicopters and other equipment provided to Mexico for anti-drug use, (2) agency analyses of the effect of the equipment and helicopters on the ability of Mexico's military and law enforcement to combat drug trafficking, (3) agency assessments of the effect of providing the equipment on the regional military balance, (4) agency discussions of the effect of providing the equipment and helicopters on Mexican human rights and police/military corruption, (5) all documents generated by and resulting from a meeting on Monday, 9 July 1990, between Pentagon and State officials, Foreign Minister Fernando Bolana, Atty. General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, and others to discuss details of the first (1990) aid package. Amb. Negroponte and Deputy Asst Sec for Narcotics Matters James Hoobler were both there, (6) Documents resulting from any and all meetings since then (to the present) during which top Mexican and US officials negotiated over the terms of subsequent counter-narcotics aid packages.

This request also includes all correspondence sent to members of Congress regarding the provision of stated equipment.

NOTE: This request has been sent under separate cover to DIA.