



Homeland Security

Privacy Office DHS-D3

August 24, 2006

Melanie Sloan, Executive Director
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
11 Dupont Circle, N.W.
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: DHS/OS/PO 06-908/Sloan request

Dear Ms. Sloan:

While processing your September 7, 2005 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the Department of State (DOS) referred a 4-page document to this office for processing and direct response to you. That document was received by this office on August 21, 2006. You requested records from August 26, 2005, to the present pertaining to offers by foreign governments to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and the DOS response to such requests.

Enclosed is the 4-page document, referred to us by DOS, with certain excisions made pursuant to Exemptions 2 and 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(2) and (b)(5). Exemption 2 (low) exempts from disclosure records that are related to internal matters of a relatively trivial nature, such as internal administrative tracking. Exemption 5 protects the integrity of the deliberative or policy-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinion, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters.

You have the right to appeal the withholding of the above-referenced information. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal within 60 days of the date of this letter to: Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528, following the procedures outlined in Subpart a, Section 5.9, of the DHS Regulations. Your envelope and letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and regulations are available at www.DHS.gov.

If you need to contact our office again about this matter, please refer to **DHS/OS/PO 06-908/Sloan request**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Papoi", written over a horizontal line.

Catherine M. Papoi
Deputy Director, Departmental Disclosure & FOIA

Enclosure: 4-page document

(ba)

(ba)

From: Forden, Robert W (EAP/CM)
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2005 9:01 AM
To: 'Fujimura, Paul'
Cc: Bennett, Katia J; Lan, Melissa J (EAP/CM); Bonine, David N (EAP/CM)
Subject: RE: Call from PRC Ambassador

Katia and Melissa have been working shifts on the task force, so they may not be able to get back to you until later today.

Late last night, working through the State Dept. Task Force and with OFDA, we were able to finalize arrangements for the flight, including flight clearances and arrangements for the plane to be met at the AFB in Little Rock (the aircraft will fly via Anchorage direct to Little Rock). The flight currently is en route and expected to land at Little Rock AFB around 4:00 pm today. The Chinese have been notified of all details, both via our Embassy in Beijing and here. The Chinese Consul General from Houston and a staff member will fly to Little Rock to meet the plane. The base wing commander, BGEN Joseph Reheiser, will meet the aircraft, arrangements have been made to unload it, and the crew's housing at a local hotel is also arranged. The aircraft will depart on its return to China on 9/9.

I would suggest that you refer inquiries from the Chinese Embassy back to us here, either to the China Desk or the Katrina Task Force at the State Department for the latest information on the flight arrangements.

Feel free to call or e-mail us, either David Bonine (our point person for the flight) or myself, if you have further questions.

Thanks.

Robert Forden
 Deputy Director and
 Chief for Political Affairs
 Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs
 U.S. Department of State
 Tel: (202) 647-6772
 Fax: (202) 647-6820

b5

b5

bs

b5