



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 2, 2022

Case No. FL-2014-06088

Mr. Jason I. Poblete  
Poblete Tamargo LLP  
Courthouse Square  
510 King Street, Suite 350  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Poblete:

We refer you to our letter dated May 3, 2022, regarding the release of certain Department of State (“Department”) records under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department has identified three additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all three records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, you may contact Jeremy S. Simon at (202) 252-2528 or [Jeremy.Simon@usdoj.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Simon@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case number, F-2014-06088, and the civil action number, 18-cv-02335, in all correspondence regarding this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson  
Acting Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
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

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

**From:** Teel, Wynne M <TEELWM@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 3:56 PM  
**To:** Amirfar, Catherine J <AmirfarCJ@state.gov>; Mitchell, Mary T <MitchellMT@state.gov>; Grosh, Lisa J <GroshLJ@state.gov>; Melamud, Anna <MelamudA@state.gov>; Rettig, Max L <RettigML@state.gov>; Kovar, Jeffrey D <KovarJD@state.gov>; Legal-bnpp-dl <Legal-bnpp-dl@state.gov>  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary <McLeodM@state.gov>; Daley, John D <DaleyJD@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Agreek

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Amirfar, Catherine J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 12:14 PM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; Grosh, Lisa J; Melamud, Anna; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Mitchell, Mary T  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 11:58 AM  
**To:** Grosh, Lisa J; Melamud, Anna; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Grosh, Lisa J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 11:33 AM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Anna,  
[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Lisa

.....  
**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 10:54 AM  
**To:** Grosh, Lisa J; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Lisa,

Thanks. [redacted]

B5

B5

[redacted]

Thanks,

Anna

.....  
**From:** Grosh, Lisa J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 10:39 AM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Anna,

Thanks. [redacted]

B5

B5

[redacted]

Lisa

.....  
**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 10:34 AM  
**To:** Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Anna

.....  
**From:** Rettig, Max L  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 8:50 AM  
**To:** Kovar, Jeffrey D; Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D

**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Combined edits here.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Rettig, Max L  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 8:33 AM  
**To:** Kovar, Jeffrey D; Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

I'm adding mine on top of Jeff's – I'll circulate momentarily

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Kovar, Jeffrey D  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 8:28 AM  
**To:** Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

[redacted] Thanks.

B5

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**From:** Grosh, Lisa J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:13 PM  
**To:** Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

All,  
Attached is the draft paper providing questions for DOJ, which is to be submitted by COB tomorrow. Please provide any comments/changes you might have as soon as possible tomorrow morning so that we can circulate to the policy folks by noon. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,  
Lisa

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Grosh, Lisa J <GroshLJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 7:00 PM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna <MelamudA@state.gov>; Simcock, Julian C <SimcockJC@state.gov>  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary <McLeodM@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Cuba Recomendations

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

Looks great. Thanks to you both! Copying Mary for her awareness.

Lisa

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 11:33 PM  
**To:** Simcock, Julian C; Grosh, Lisa J  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

Julian,

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Anna

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Simcock, Julian C  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 2:23 PM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna; Grosh, Lisa J  
**Subject:** FW: Cuba Recomendations

Anna, Lisa,

I've taken an initial cut at [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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B5  
B5

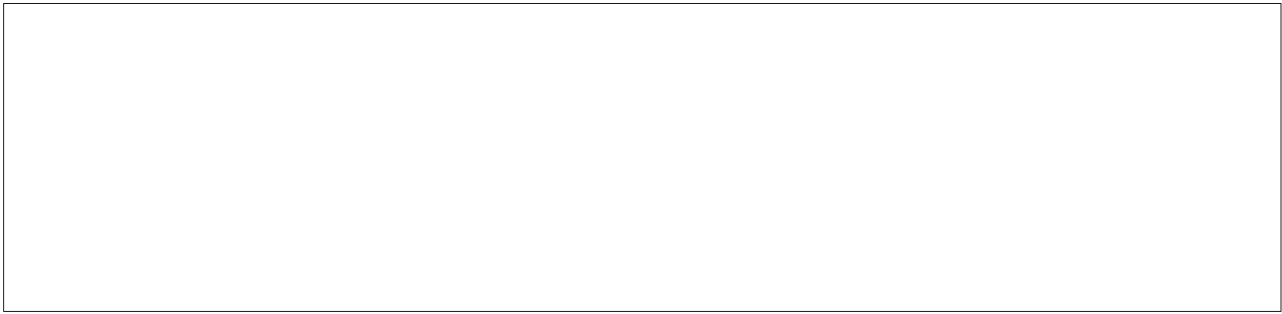
Please don't hesitate to let me know any thoughts.

Best,  
Julian

[Redacted]

B5

B5



SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Barron, Benjamin A  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 1:39 PM  
**To:** Wyngowski, Seth A; Melamud, Anna; Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); Figueroa, Richard A; WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C; Nutter, Julie H; Tracton, Michael K  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations



B5



Thank you for your consideration.

B5

SBU  
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**From:** Barron, Benjamin A  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 1:32 PM  
**To:** Wyngowski, Seth A; Melamud, Anna; Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); Figueroa, Richard A; WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C; Nutter, Julie H; Tracton, Michael K  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

No issues for SPI. Adding Mike Tracton for EB/IFD.

Ben

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Wyngowski, Seth A  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 1:29 PM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna; Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); Figueroa, Richard A; WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C; Barron, Benjamin A  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

+ Ben

[Redacted]

B5

Best,  
Seth

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 1:07 PM  
**To:** Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); Wyngowski, Seth A; Figueroa, Richard A; WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

Mark,

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Let us know if this is something you are interested in or want to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Anna



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2015 6:17 PM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna; Wyngowski, Seth A; Figueroa, Richard A; WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

Thanks, Mark

B5

Mark Wells  
Coordinator for Cuban Affairs  
U.S. Department of State, Rm. 3234  
202.647.9389

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:50 AM  
**To:** Wyngowski, Seth A; Figueroa, Richard A; Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Grosh, Lisa J; Simcock, Julian C  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Wyngowski, Seth A  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:11 AM  
**To:** Figueroa, Richard A; Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Melamud, Anna  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

Here are some thoughts...

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

-Seth

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Figueroa, Richard A  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 8:54 AM  
**To:** Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Melamud, Anna  
**Subject:** RE: Cuba Recomendations

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:27 PM  
**To:** WHA-CCA Economic Unit  
**Cc:** Perkins, Joan C; Melamud, Anna  
**Subject:** Fw: Cuba Recomendations



B5

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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**From:** Andres Fanjul   
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 6:26 PM  
**To:** Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs); Pedro A. Freyre  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cuba Recomendations

B6

As discussed, attached is an opinion that my lawyer did to address concerns about how to handle the claims situation of Cubans (now Cuban Americans) that immigrated to the US. My concern is that the President can settle the US Certified claims & that the Cuban American claimants are left out. Cuba can move forward without the Cuban Americans having the legal ability to go to Cuba & discuss how to move forward with their own claims situation.

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

**From:** Grosh, Lisa J <GroshLJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 11:33 AM  
**To:** Melamud, Anna <MelamudA@state.gov>; Rettig, Max L <RettigML@state.gov>; Kovar, Jeffrey D <KovarJD@state.gov>; Legal-bnpp-dl <Legal-bnpp-dl@state.gov>  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary <McLeodM@state.gov>; Daley, John D <DaleyJD@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Anna,

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Lisa

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**To:** Grosh, Lisa J; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
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**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

Lisa,

Thanks. [redacted]

[redacted]

B5  
B5

Thanks,

Anna

**From:** Grosh, Lisa J  
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**To:** Melamud, Anna; Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Legal-bnpp-dl  
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B5

Anna,

Thanks. [redacted]

[redacted]

B5  
B5

Lisa

**From:** Melamud, Anna  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 10:34 AM

**To:** Rettig, Max L; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

B5

[redacted]  
Thanks,  
Anna

B5

---

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**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2015 8:50 AM  
**To:** Kovar, Jeffrey D; Grosh, Lisa J; Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
**Subject:** RE: L Paper for DOJ re [redacted]

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B5

[redacted]. Thanks.

B5

---

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**To:** Legal-bnpp-dl  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Daley, John D  
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