



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 3, 2023

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:

As we noted in our letter dated September 5, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has identified one additional responsive record subject to the FOIA. We have determined that the record may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on the record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing the record and applying FOIA exemptions. 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, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (202) 252-2528 or Jeremy.Simon@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Diamonece Hickson
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

From: Murday, Megan <MurdayM@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:23 PM
To: Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett <Rogers-SpringsMB@state.gov>
Cc: Melamud, Anna <MelamudA@state.gov>; Kovar, Jeffrey D <KovarJD@state.gov>; Wyngowski, Seth A <WyngowskiSA@state.gov>
Subject: RE: MEGAN ACTION: Confirmed Thursday @ noon - Meeting on Certified Cuba Claims Request for Guidance

We have the CCA Conference Room tomorrow 12:00-1:00.

Thank you,

Megan

~~SBU~~
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Murday, Megan
Cc: Melamud, Anna; Kovar, Jeffrey D; Wyngowski, Seth A
Subject: MEGAN ACTION: Confirmed Thursday @ noon - Meeting on Certified Cuba Claims Request for Guidance

Megan:

Could you please locate an appropriate conference room for an 8-10 person meeting at noon tomorrow (Thursday, November 20)?

Please also do an access request for the four people below (full bios are in the attachment)...if you are available, please plan on escorting them up...let me know if you cannot do it. We can figure out how to get them out of the building after the meeting (we'll be headed to the (b)(6) meeting) – maybe we can tap Vickie.

Thanks,
Mary Brett

From: Mr. Jason Ian Poblete [<mailto:jpoblete@pobletetamargo.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett
Cc: Alston, Vickie; Melamud, Anna; Wyngowski, Seth A
Subject: Re: November 18 @ 2:00 pm - TBC - Meeting on Certified Cuba Claims Request for Guidance

Mary Brett,

Confirmed. On our end it will be Mauricio Tamargo, (b)(4); (b)(6) and me.

Thank you,

Jason

On Nov 10, 2014, at 11:05 AM, Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett <Rogers-SpringsMB@state.gov> wrote:

We are holding the 18th @ 2:00 pm – please let us know if you can confirm. Please note that we will need a list of participants (name/company/title) to facilitate access to the main State Department Building (2201 C Street NW).

Thanks, Mary Brett

Mary Brett Rogers-Springs
Chief of Economic Unit
Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
U.S. Department of State
rogers-springsmb@state.gov
202.647.5561

From: Jason Poblete [<mailto:jpoblete@pobletetamargo.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett
Subject: Re: Certified Cuba Claims; Mtg., Request for Guidance

Thank you. Can you hold the 18th, so I can confirm with one of our folks in Miami who is on travel right now?
Regards,

Jason I. Poblete
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On Nov 7, 2014, at 2:29 PM, "Rogers-Springs, Mary Brett" <Rogers-SpringsMB@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Poblete:

Following up on my voicemail message, we would like to try to schedule a meeting to discuss your proposal regarding certified Cuba claims.

We think it would be useful to have participants from our legal team and the Office of Cuban Affairs, and would propose the follow two options for meeting times:

Wednesday, November 12 @ 4:00 pm; or
Tuesday, November 18 @ 2:00 pm

We can host at our offices – please let us know which time is most convenient for you.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mary Brett

Mary Brett Rogers-Springs
Chief of Economic Unit
Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
U.S. Department of State
rogers-springsmb@state.gov
202.647.5561

From: Mr. Jason Ian Poblete [<mailto:jpoblete@pobletetamargo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 01:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Wells, Mark A (Cuban Affairs)
Cc: (b)(4); (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Certified Cuba Claims; Mtg., Request for Guidance

Mr. Wells,

Greetings. At (b)(4); (b)(6) recommendation, I'm following up on the appended matter. Will you or someone in your office be available in the near future to discuss?

Regards and thank you,

Jason

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mr. Jason Ian Poblete" <jpoblete@pobletetamargo.com>
Subject: Certified Cuba Claims; Mtg., Request for Guidance
Date: October 7, 2014 at 2:19:28 PM EDT
To: wellsma@state.gov

Mr. Wells,

Good afternoon. I was directed to you by colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. We represent various clients with certified claims against the Government of Cuba and we've submitted a Request for Guidance to Treasury OFAC that we would like to discuss with you or someone at the Cuba Desk (attached). Thank you for considering.

Regards,

Jason

Jason I. Poblete
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