

People's Temple: Dept of Treasury

Bur. Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

date.	Letter To/From:	Action:
May 8	To: Treas Dept, ATF	Orig FOIA request
June 13	From: Robert A. Lita Disclosure Branch, Ofc of Asst to Director	Payment \$21.90 areas of denial
July 3	To: Paul Mosny Asst to Director ATF, Disclosure Rm, 5202 RE: D:D: 80-103 FROM: BOWDIE	Response to 7-3... phone conversation w/said not to waive fees. Appeal to fee waiver denial
July 23	From: Paul Mosny Chief, Disclosure Branch	Records sent.

May 8, 1980

Treasury Department  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco  
and Firearms  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (§ U.S.C. 552), please provide us with any records pertaining to the investigation of illegal entry, smuggling and/or fraudulent documents including inter- and intra-agency correspondence and memoranda records of surveillance and/or inventories of contraband confiscated relating to the following organizations and/or deceased individuals:

The Human Freedom Center  
c/o Al and Jeannie Mills  
Berkeley, California

an organization for ex-members  
of cults.

The House of Israel  
Currently located in Georgetown,  
Guyana. A cult led by Rabbi Edward  
Emmanuel Washington, AKA Omari Oba,  
AKA David Hill.

The Concerned Relatives  
(Of members of People's Temple)  
a California based organization  
that has had the following addresses:

c/o Steven Katsaris  
Trinity School  
915 W. Church Street  
Ukiah, California 95482

and

Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, California

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The People's Temple AKA  
The People's Temple Full Gospel Church  
Ukiah, California

Berkeley, California

San Francisco, California

Indianapolis, Indiana

Los Angeles, California

Jonestown Agricultural Settlement,  
Guyana

Wings of Deliverance  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jim-Lu-Mar Corp.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Michael Prokes  
DOB: 1947  
LKA Modesto, California

Maria Katsaris  
DOB: 6-9-53

Karen L. Layton  
DOB: 8-10-47

Eugene B. Chaiken  
DOB: 12-18-32

Harriet Tropp AKA Sarah Tropp  
DOB: 4-16-58

Carolyn Moore Layton  
DOB: 7-13-45

Donald E. Sly  
DOB: 3-6-36

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Rev. James Jones  
DOB: 5-13-31

Jann E. Gurvich  
DOB: 11-5-53

Richard D. Tropp  
DOB: 10-9-42

Al Mills AKA Elmer Mertle  
LKA Berkeley, California

Jeannie Mills AKA Deanna Mertle  
LKA Berkeley, California

Marceline M. Jones nee Baldwin  
DOB: 1-8-27

Robert E. Kice  
DOB: 1-4-48

Linda S. Harris AKA Sharon Amos  
DOB: 7-4-36

Thomas D. Kice  
DOB: 11-18-35

Annie E. Moore  
DOB: 5-12-54

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and Firearms  
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In addition, please provide us with the names and addresses of all other FOIA requesters of any information ~~about~~ the subjects listed above, indicating whether the requests were complied with or denied.

Please send a copy of this letter to the appropriate field offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Indianapolis and any other field offices you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

John Hanrahan (bg)  
1638 R Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009



OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

JUN 13 1980

REFER TO

566  
7118  
Mr. Paul Massey

Mr. John Hanrahan  
1638 R. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Hanrahan:

This is in response to your letter dated May 8, 1980, requesting access to information maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Your request is granted in part. We are releasing the segregable portions of the records that contain exempt information and withholding those portions of the records that, if released, would cause demonstrable harm.

We will send you the records upon receipt of payment for the amount stated on the enclosed invoice. At the same time, we will enclose the List of Exemptions Claimed and Appeal Rights Procedures. The specific exemption for each deletion appears on the documents containing the deletions.

We are releasing the names of all other FOIA requesters of information on the same subject on the attached sheet.

Insofar as your request has been partially denied, and deletions have been made, you may submit a request for an administrative appeal by following the procedures outlined on the List of Exemptions Claimed and Appeal Rights Procedures.

Sincerely yours,

Disclosure Branch  
Office of Assistant to the Director  
(Public Affairs and Disclosure)

NAMES OF OTHER FOIA REQUESTERS

Tim Reiterman

John Jacobs

George Klineman

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT INVOICE

INVOICE NUMBER

D:D-80-173

DATE

6/13/80

INSTRUCTIONS TO PAYER

Send check or money order, payable to "BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS" to the address shown below. Please enclose one copy of this invoice with your payment.

TO: (Payer)

John Hanrahan  
1638 R Street  
Washington, D.C. 20009

FROM:

Assistant to the Director (Disclosure)  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
Disclosure Office, Room 5205  
Washington, DC 20226

DATE	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE		QUANTITY OR TIME	AMOUNT
		COST	EACH		
	PHOTOCOPIES	100	PAGE	69	\$6.90
	CERTIFICATION OF PHOTOCOPIES BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL	100	CERTIFICATION		
	UNPRICED PRINTED MATERIAL	25	25 PAGES OR FRACTION THEREOF		
	RECORDS SEARCH (for search of records not on file in Reading Room)	5.00	1 HOUR OR FRACTION THEREOF	3	15.00
	POSTAGE No postage necessary for microfiche and \$3.00 handling and postage for each computer tape.				
		PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT			\$21.90

REMARKS



### LIST OF EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED AND APPEAL RIGHTS PROCEDURE

Below is a list of exemptions provided by the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5 U.S.C. (b)(1) through (9). Each box checked indicates that the exemption has been claimed at least once to withhold information. A review of the enclosed records will indicate each deletion made, and the specific exemption for each deletion.

- ☐ (b)
- ☐ (1) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- ☐ (2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- ☐ (3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute:
- ☐ Tax Reform Act - 26 U.S.C. 6103;
  - ☐ National Firearms Act - 26 U.S.C. 5848;
  - ☐ Disclosure of Confidential Information, generally, 18 U.S.C. 1905;
- ☐ (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- ☐ (5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- ☐ (6) personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- ☐ (7) investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such records would:
- ☐ (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings;
  - ☐ (B) deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;
  - ☐ (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
  - ☐ (D) disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source;
  - ☒ (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or
  - ☒ (F) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;
- ☐ (8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- ☐ (9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

If any of the above are checked, you have the right to request an Administrative Appeal. Please refer to the reverse side of this sheet for procedures to follow for filing an appeal.

HANRAHAN & MINTZ

INVESTIGATIONS

1638 R STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

(202) 265-9252

July 3, 1980

Mr. Paul Mosny  
c/o Assistant to the Director (Disclosure)  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms  
Disclosure Office, Room 5202  
Washington, D.C. 20226

RE: D: D: 80-103

Dear Mr. Mosny:

This is in reply to our telephone conversation of this afternoon in which you indicated that it was your personal decision not to waive search and copying charges with regard to my request for information pertaining to The People's Temple, et al.

Mr. Mosny, I want to stress to you our position. A topic of such enormous impact as The People's Temple, and the tragedy surrounding it, is indeed of great interest to a vast number of the American public. A staff member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (which incidentally thought there was enough of a public interest to spend seven months investigating the events in question) told us that the Committee has been swamped with more requests for information on this subject than any other topic it has ever looked into. There is, for example, widespread concern over cults as a destructive influence on families, and numerous questions concerning their tax-exempt status.

Furthermore, there have been thousands of newspaper and magazine articles, a dozen or more books and at least two movie-length television shows or feature-length movies disseminated in the last eighteen months. It is clear, then, that Congress, the wire services, newspaper, television and radio editors, publishers of books and motion picture producers, generally recognized as persons with an insight into what constitutes "public interest," disagree with you on this point.

What's more, when there occurs a tragedy of this magnitude, affecting the lives of over 900 Americans and indirectly tens of thousands more, be it a crash of a 747

Mr. Paul Mosny

July 10, 1980

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jet or a mass suicide in a tropical jungle, it is clearly in the public's interest to prevent a repetition of those events.

You are, of course, entitled to your opinion, Mr. Mosny, but in this case, it is just that - one man's opinion. You are in a position to deny a waiver of fees: however, I urge you to reconsider, as appeal procedures are time consuming and an additional expenditure of taxpayers' money.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Goldstein, for John Hanrahan

BG:jz



OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

JUL 23 1980


Mr. John Hanrahan  
1638 R Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Hanrahan:

We have reconsidered your request that search and copying fees be waived. Your initial Freedom of Information Act request dated May 8, 1980 did not address the waiving of fees, and it has been our office's policy that the requester prove the information will benefit the general public in ambiguous areas.

Enclosed are the records. Since portions of the records have been deleted, you may submit a request for an administrative appeal by following the procedures outlined on the attached form.

Sincerely yours,

  
Paul Mosny  
Chief, Disclosure Branch

Enclosure