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Subject: FOIA Request to the Department of State: F-2014-03625 - Libya
Date: Apr 25, 2014 6:49 PM

Mr. Clarke:

My name is Howard Perlow. I am doing some of the preliminary work on your FOIA request (F-2014-03625) concerning Libya. In light of the many topics listed in your request letter, we have tasked a number of State Department offices to provide documents for possible inclusion in your case. As a result, this case has been separated into several segments. I am unable to estimate when document processing will begin. Each segment will be sent to you as soon as it is available.

Please note that while I might do some of the regular document processing at a later time, no decision has yet been made on who will be responsible for doing any segment. If you have questions in the future, please contact the Requestor Liaison office and they will get to the right office or person.

Your letter, dated February 21, 2014 does not indicate whether you have asked other US government agencies for documents. In order to avoid any later mis-understanding, I've cited (below) examples of topics where State is not the correct agency to seek documents about some topics. There are other similar examples in your list, but those below are the most pertinent examples of where other US government agencies could be asked whether such documents are in their holdings:

Page 2: (2) descriptions and inventories of all weapons brought into the (CIA) Annex;

- (3) the sources of all such weapons (at the CIA Annex).
- (6) all communication and cryptographic equipment at the CIA Annex....;
- (10) CIA situation reports or "sitreps" sent, including on September 11th, 12th, and 13th;

Page 3: (5) All records of Secretary (of Defense) Panetta's actions and communications;

- (7) Any records reflecting the time and substance of the President's first notification.....

- Page 5: (12) DOD and CIA records shared with members of Congress regardingarms and equipment in Libya
- (13) DOD and CIA records of Congressional approval for CIA transport of arms to Syrian rebels.
- (14) All records regarding the Deputy National Security Advisor.....John Brennan's recommendations regarding the overthrow of Libyan leader Gaddafi

Leaving aside these topics, your request will still generate hundreds of documents (and perhaps more).

There have been thirty five earlier private FOIA requests to State on Benghazi, not including the very large Congressional request. Virtually all of these private requests have some (or even a great deal of) overlap with your request.

In order to release information to the public as quickly as possible, the Department is establishing a web site where relevant unclassified/declassified/partially released documents will be posted. I understand that the first document postings are to be made next week – but I cannot state with certainty when the first batch will be available.

In light of the planned web site, I wanted to suggest the possibility of reducing the scope of your request. That would reduce the time required for us to compile and process documents. This could be achieved by making use of the State Department FOIA website on Benghazi. The bottom line is that it would enable us to get results to you sooner.

Please let me know via e-mail if you wish to modify the topics listed in your February 21 letter. If you have questions about this suggestion, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Howard Perlow
202-663-2070

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.