

**Freedom of Information Act Request Letter**

Chief FOIA & Privacy Act Section  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Room 6296 JEH  
Washington D.C. 20535-0001  
(202) 324-5520

Dear Freedom of Information Officer.

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552. I request that a copy of documents containing the following information be provided to me:

1. All documents relating to the individual, now deceased, named *Jorge Mas Canosa*. This individual was a Cuban refugee. He is most popular for his leadership/stewardship of the Cuban American National Foundation. His death in November 1997 was widely reported around the world and in U.S. newspapers.
2. All documents relating to investigations/discussion of the Cuban American National Foundation in regards to their activities, whether lawful or unlawful from the years 1990 to 1997.
3. All documents relating to investigations of individuals and organizations in the United States and abroad that have undertaken actions that can reasonably be construed to undermine, injure, or in any way, no matter how minute, harm the nation of Cuba between the years 1989 to Present
4. All documents relating to the individual named



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I would like documents that describe [redacted] and [redacted] any other information relating to U.S. links with [redacted] or links between [redacted] and U.S.-based organizations

5. Documents which contain Cuba's protests to the United States regarding aerial flyovers of their island by unauthorized U.S. civilians, including internal memoranda or other documents which contain information regarding the posture, discussion, or response by the United States to illegal flyovers of Cuba emanating from the United States territory, years 1990 to 1998 only.

[I am basically looking for documents which show that Cuba was complaining to the U.S. about flyovers of their territory by individuals or organizations from the U.S. prior to shooting down such planes several years ago and in which resulted in the passage of the Helms-Burton Act. Please include all documents that show the U.S. response to such entreaties by Cuba?]

6. The following request concerns a January 9, 1977 story in *Newsday*. The story went as follows:

"With at least the tacit backing of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency officials, operatives linked to anti-Castro terrorists introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971. Six weeks later an outbreak of the disease forced the slaughter of 500,000 pigs to prevent a nationwide animal epidemic.

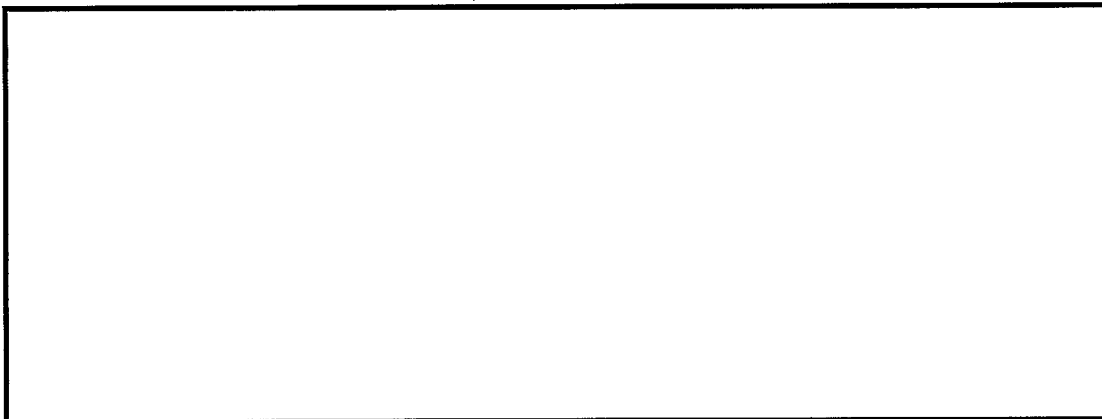
A U.S. intelligence source told *Newsday* he was given the virus in a sealed, unmarked container at a U.S. Army base and CIA training ground in the Panama Canal Zone, with instructions to turn it over to the anti-Castro group."

I request ALL documents or ALL documents containing information which either serves to deny, confirm, or otherwise describe, discuss, summarize or deal in any way with the above news story, either directly or indirectly. This includes all internal memoranda, reports, studies, etc.

#### Status to Assess Fees and Waiver Request

In order to help determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a member of a public interest organization that publishes and widely disseminates in printed journal form and via the internet, information regarding public health. This organization is called the American Public Health Association. My organization has previously published studies dealing with the U.S. embargo and the Cuban health system. My purposes for seeking this Freedom of Information Act request is not for commercial purposes.

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All information sought pursuant to my Freedom of Information Act request, again, is for non-commercial purposes only.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to a public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily for my commercial interest. As you likely know, the political, cultural, and economic relationship between the United States and Cuba invokes, perhaps, some of the most public and politically seminal themes from our Hemisphere's controversial past. As an illustration consider the following chronology of U.S.-Cuban relations: Platt Amendment in early 20th Century, allowing for U.S. military occupation of Cuba; the long history of a U.S.-based Mafia presence in Havana; the 1959 Cuban Revolution; the attempt by the United States to militarily overthrow the Cuban government (Bay of Pigs); the attempts by the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro, as revealed in U.S. congressional hearings; numerous efforts by Cuban exile groups to infiltrate Cuba in order to effect its downfall; the U.S. funding of radio broadcasts directed at the Cuban people; and, finally, the imposition of several embargoes against the Island of Cuba (Cuban Democracy Act; Helms-Burton Act; etc.).

Without a doubt, there is a tremendous amount of public interest sparked by U.S. policy directed toward Cuba.<sup>1</sup> There is, in fact, a great deal of heated debate in our nation about the current posture of our foreign policy toward Cuba. There are many who believe that U.S.-led embargoes against

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<sup>1</sup>The public interest in Cuba is not confined solely to issues of pure politics. There is a great deal of overlap with our nation's pop cultural iconography. For instance, the New York Times recently reported that there were five new biographies and six new movies in preparation about Che Guevara, one of Cuba's most famous revolutionary leaders

Cuba and the tacit acceptance of operation on our soil of military training exercises by Cuban exile groups is the appropriate course. Others believe otherwise, including many members of the U.S. Congress. Without getting into the specifics of [redacted]

[redacted] the requested disclosure of information will contribute significantly to current, and long-time, popular discussion of our country's relationship to Cuba. It will help define further the efficacy of our embargo policy toward Cuba and, using a very expansive definition of public health, determine whether organizations and individuals, based in the U.S, have sought to undermine the economy, culture, or political stability of Cuba since 1959. The latter political-economic component of public health is taken from the World Health Organization's adopted and expansive definition of public health. It takes into account that a nation's public health is not rooted solely in indices of disease, but is dependent as well on larger economic, political, and cultural issues as well.

Please note that if, for some reason, you determine that I must pay for any portion of the fees for this request, I am willing to pay up to a maximum of \$100. I do this because [redacted] If the amount exceeds \$100, please inform me first.

**Reminder of President/Attorney General's FOIA Policy**

In May 1997 Attorney General Janet Reno sent a memorandum to the heads of all federal departments and agencies reminding them of the "fundamental principles of openness in government." The Attorney General reminded federal agency heads that President Clinton, in 1993, ordered a more *expedited process* and "*presumption of disclosure*" when responding to Freedom of Information Act Requests. Some of the more salient points raised by the Attorney General include: "following the spirit as well as the letter of the Act;" "applying a presumption of disclosure in FOIA decision making;" and "mak[ing] a discretionary disclosure of exempt information whenever it is possible to do so . . . ."

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Christine Ann Tyler

[redacted signature box]