24 May 2016

Mr. Michael Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 24751
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2016-01744

Dear Mr. Best:

On 12 May 2016, the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator received your 12 May 2016 letter requesting the status of your 25 March 2016 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records “relating to, dealing with or describing conspiracy theories and conspiracy theorists.” Specifically, you advised you are “not interested in records about specific conspiracy theorists but rather conspiracy theorists as a category...[and you are] particularly interested in the use of conspiracy theories by disinformation and propaganda tools by Foreign Intelligence Services, foreign powers and domestic dissidents.”

Please be advised we have no record of receiving your 25 March 2016 request. We apologize for this administrative oversight and the delays this may have caused in processing your request.

Our analysts have reviewed your request and are unable to determine what records you are seeking. For your information, the FOIA provides for public access to “reasonably described” records that professional employees familiar with the subject matter can locate responsive information with a reasonable amount of effort. Commonly this equates to a requirement that the documents must be locatable through the indexing of our various systems. Extremely broad or vague requests or requests requiring research do not satisfy this requirement.

Before submitting a FOIA request, we suggest that you go to our public website at www.cia.gov/foia/library and look at the Five Elements of a Request Letter and Helpful Hints.

Sincerely,

Michael Lavergne
Information and Privacy Coordinator