Mr. Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD
U.S. Right to Know
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Suryanarayanan:

As noted in our letter dated May 30, 2023, we are processing your request under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State ("Department") has located an additional eight responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined all eight records 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 each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records 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, your attorney may contact Savith Iyengar, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at savith.iyengar@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00075, and the civil action number, 22-cv-04359, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARMSEXP</td>
<td>Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIA PERS/ORG</td>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPORT CONTROL</td>
<td>Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS ACT</td>
<td>Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INA</td>
<td>Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAN</td>
<td>Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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
Many thanks to you both!

Official
SECRET
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: [b](6)@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:30 PM
To: [b](6)@state.gov; [b](6)@state.gov
Cc: [b](6)@state.gov; EUR-NBA-DL@state.gov
Subject: RE: READOUT: (b)(7)(E)

(b)(1); (b)(5)
(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)
Apologies I do not know the date of the conversation; this is the readout received on January 5, 2021. Feel free to add/edit. Thanks!
For the Latvian call, (b)(6) is sending ERA some low side updates re the OECD elections. (b)(1); (b)(5)
(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5) (He's in the office tomorrow.)

Best,

(h)(6)

Official
SECRET
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

Hopefully saved you (a little) from a whole bunch of write-ups! (b)(5)

Cheers

(b)(6)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED
To: [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; EUR-NBA-DL@state.sgov.gov

Cc: [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov

Subject: RE: READOUT:[redacted]

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6) [redacted]

Official

SECRET

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 1/5/2046

Reasons: [Derived] Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: [redacted]@state.sgov.gov

Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:57 PM

To: [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov; [redacted]@state.sgov.gov

Subject: READOUT:[redacted]

Apologies I do not know the date of the conversation; this is the readout received on January 5, 2021. [redacted] Feel free to add/edit. Thanks!

(b)(6)

(S/R/REL/US: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted])

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)
Official

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

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<tr>
<td>(b)(6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)(7)(E)</td>
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<th>Recipient:</th>
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<tr>
<td>(b)(6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>@state.sgov.gov&gt;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Also including DAS Murphy...

**Official**

SECRET

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

---

From: [Redacted]@state.gov
To: [Redacted]@state.gov; [Redacted]@state.gov
Subject: RE: READOUT: (b)(7)(E)
Date: Wed, 6 Jan 2021 08:18:30 -0500

---

From: Lempert, Yael (London)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:15 AM
To: [Redacted]@state.gov; [Redacted]@state.gov; [Redacted]@state.gov; [Redacted]@state.gov
Cc: EUR-NBA-UK-Ireland-DL@state.gov
Subject: RE: READOUT: (b)(7)(E)

Many thanks. Best,

Yael

---

**Official**

SECRET

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)
Colleagues,

Gottlieb asked me to forward you the below readout drafted by

Best,

Official
SECRET
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

No edits to the below—looks great thanks!

Official
SECRET
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)
From: [h\(\text{\&}\)A]@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:57 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Cc: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Subject: READOUT (b)(7)(E)

Apologies I do not know the date of the conversation; this is the readout received on January 5, 2021. Thanks!

(b)(6) (b)(1); (b)(7)(E)
(b)(6) (b)(1); (b)(5)
S/REL US
(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Official
SECRET/REL TO USA, USA
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.
FYI

Official
SECRET

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov
To: London ECON <LondonECON-DL@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: FW: READOUT: (b)(7)(E)
Date: Wed, 6 Jan 2021 05:18:27 -0500

Colleagues,

(b)(6) asked me to forward you the below readout drafted by (b)(6) (b)(1): (b)(5)
(b)(1): (b)(5); (b)(6)

Best,
(b)(6)

Official
SECRET

Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:30 PM
To: (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov;
Cc: (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov;
(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov; EUR-NBA-DL <EUR-NBA-DL@state.sgov.gov
Subject: RE: READOUT: (b)(7)(E)
No edits to the below—looks great, thanks!

Official
SECRET
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: [b](6)@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 3:57 PM
To: [b](6)@state.gov; [b](6)@state.gov;
   [b](6)@state.gov;
   [b](6)@state.gov;
   [b](6)@state.gov; [b](6)@state.gov;
   [b](6)@state.gov;
    Subject: READOUT: [b](7)(E)

Apologies I do not know the date of the conversation; this is the readout received on January 5, 2021. Feel free to add/edit. Thanks!

[b](6)

Official
SECRET/REL TO USA, USA
Classified By: Ambassador Reeker - Acting Assistant Secretary, Office: EUR, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sender:</th>
<th>(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recipient:</td>
<td>London ECON <a href="mailto:LondonECON-DL@state.sgov.gov">LondonECON-DL@state.sgov.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please don’t share – but for your awareness.

Attached are my (b)(5)

Note that we do not officially have a copy of this document.
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)
(b)(5)
Approved: EAP – Acting A/S Atul Keshap [ ]
Drafted: EAP/FO – David Feith, ext. (b)(6)
Cleared: EAP/FO: Jonathan Fritz ()
D: (b)(6) ()
P: (b)(6) ()
S/P: (b)(6) ()
WHA: (b)(6) ()
EUR: Philip Reeker or Michael Murphy ()
Official - Sensitive
This message is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s)
Classified By: David R. Stilwell - Assistant Secretary, Office:EAP, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/8/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Subject: FW: (b)(5)
Date: Fri, 8 Jan 2021 01:43:58 -0500

Hi [b](6)
Many thanks for the below and the separate message to [b](6) For what it’s worth, we completely agree and have relayed as much to our FO. That said, A/S Stilwell and David Feith are extremely focused on this issue. Please let me know if you might be free for a secure call at some point to discuss a bit further. I’ll be wrapping things up in about 30 minutes and hope you’ll have started your weekend by the time I’m up tomorrow, but can talk Monday morning your time if that would be convenient. In the meantime, [b](5)
[b](5) Unfortunately not in a single doc... [b](5) [b](5) [b](6)

Thanks again,

[b](6)

Official - Sensitive
This message is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s)
Classified By: David R. Stilwell - Assistant Secretary, Office:EAP, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/8/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:43 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; Beijing ESTH <BeijingESTH@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: EAP-CM-ECON-DL <EAP-CM-ECON-DL@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(5)
I do believe the most effective approach right now, given the timing. I'd also be curious to see what edits technical offices have to the AVC draft.

Best,

[Redacted]

---

Official
 SBU
 UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Beijing ESTH
Cc: EAP-CM-ECON-DL
Subject: [Redacted]

Hello Beijing ESTH colleagues,

Attached is an [Redacted]’s seeking feedback by OOB 1/7, so we’d appreciate any comments overnight – that said, we also let [Redacted] know we might not make their deadline given the short fuse.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Economic Unit Chief
Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

[Redacted]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sender:</th>
<th>(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recipient:</td>
<td>(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5); (b)(6)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5); (b)(6)
Apparently the DNI will make a statement on Thursday

Vic Raphael
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Analysis and Production
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

(b)(6)

This is what (b)(6) told EAP and sent to EAP—Feith (b)(5)
with (b)(5)

(b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

Vic Raphael
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Analysis and Production
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

(h)(6)

From: (h)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Feith, David;
Cc: (h)(6); Waters, John R (Rick); Raphael, Victor (b)(6); Stilwell, David R; Kesnav, Atul; Palladino, Robert; (h)(6)
Subject: RE: For clearance: (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5)
Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)
INB Chief of Staff

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET
Classified By: MARTINA STRONG - DCM, Office:RIYADH, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/4/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Feith, David
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 5:10 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Waters, John R (Rick); Raphael, Victor G; (b)(6) Stilwell, David R; Keshap, Atul
Subject: RE: For clearance: (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6) many thanks.

Please see attached note that A/S Stilwell sent to 7th floor folks earlier today on (b)(5)
Would appreciate your look.

++ A/S, PDAS.

All best,
David

--
David Feith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP)
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6) office
(b)(6) cell
(b)(6) office secure
(b)(6) state.gov.gov (SIPR)
(b)(6) state.ic.gov (JWICS)

Official - Sensitive
This message is SECRET when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s)
Classified By: MARTINA STRONG - DCM, Office:RIYADH, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/4/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 1:05 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; Feith, David (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Cc: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; Waters, John R (Rick)
(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; Raphael, Victor G (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Subject: RE: For clearance: (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6) and David,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET
Classified By: MARTINA STRONG - DCM, Office:RIYADH, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/4/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 6:23 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Feith, David; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: For clearance: (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)
Thanks again,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)
INR Chief of Staff
(b)(5)

---

**Official - Sensitive**

**SECRET**

Classified By: MARTINA STRONG - DCM, Office:RIYADH, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 50X1-HUM
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

---

From: [b](6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 5:51 PM
To: [b](6)
Cc: Feith, David; [b](6)
Subject: For clearance: (b)(7)(E)

Hi [b](6)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

---

**Official - SBU**

This message is **UNCLASSIFIED//REL TO USA [b](7)(E) when separated from SECRET** attachment(s)

Classified By: David Feith - DAS, Office:EAP/FO, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 12/30/2045
Reasons: OCA: 1.4 b, c, d

**Sender:** [b](6)@state.gov.gov>
**Recipient:** [b](6)@state.gov.gov>
NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY

(b)(5)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)
Approved: EAP – David R. Stilwell [DRS]

Drafted: EAP/J (b)(6)

Cleared:
EAP/FO: (b)(6) (ok)
EAP/FO: (b)(6) (ok)
P: (b)(6) (ok)