



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 31, 2024

Case No. FL-2022-00075

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 June 28, 2024, we are processing your request under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has identified an additional four responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that all four 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 exemption 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diamonece Hickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

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

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
To: Yu, Miles <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: (b)(1)
Date: Fri, 11 Sep 2020 10:34:32 -0400

Official - Sensitive

This message is ~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~ when separated from ~~SECRET~~ attachment(s)
 Classified By: (b)(6) CoS/Senior Advisor to the Counselor, Office:S/C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/6/2045

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

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:02 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: (b)(1)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Chief of Staff/Senior Advisor to the Counselor
 U.S. Department of State | Office of the Counselor of the Department

Phone: (b)(6)
NIPR: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR: (b)(6)@state.gov

Official - Sensitive

This message is ~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~ when separated from ~~SECRET~~ attachment(s)
Classified By: (b)(6) CoS/Senior Advisor to the Counselor, Office:S/C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/6/2045

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 8:31 AM
To: C_Policy <C_Policy@state.gov>
Subject: (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(6)

1. (S) (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

1. ~~(S)~~

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

Official

~~**SECRET**~~

Classified By: (b)(6) - Special Assistant, Office:C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/5/2045

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender:	(b)(6)	@state.sgov.gov>
Recipient:	Yu, Miles	(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
To: EAP-TC-Office-DL <EAP-TC-Office-DL2@state.sgov.gov>
CC: Syptak-Ramnath, Stephanie F (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Keshap, Atul (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: (b)(1)
Date: Fri, 7 Aug 2020 14:01:28 -0400

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: (b)(6) - analyst, Office:M/SS, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 50X1-HUM

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 11:53 AM
To: EAP-Staffers Mailbox
Cc: Fritz, Jonathan D; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: (b)(1)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive

~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~

Classified By: (b)(6) CoS/Senior Advisor to the Counselor, Office:S/C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/6/2045

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

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:51 AM
To: EAP-Staffers Mailbox <EAPStaffers@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov
Subject: (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant
 Office of the Counselor (C)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

Official - Sensitive

This message is ~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~ when separated from ~~SECRET~~ attachment(s)

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Declassify On: 8/6/2045

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

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:24 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Raphael, Victor G (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(1)

(b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Classified By: (b)(6) CoS/Senior Advisor to the Counselor, Office:S/C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/6/2045

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

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 9:02 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc:
Subject: (b)(1)

(b)(1), (b)(5)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Chief of Staff/Senior Advisor to the Counselor
U.S. Department of State | Office of the Counselor of the Department

Phone: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR: (b)(6)@state.gov

Official - Sensitive

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From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 8:31 AM

To: C_Policy <C_Policy@state.sgov.gov>

Subject: (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(6)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

1. (S) ~~Summary:~~

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

Official

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: (b)(6) Special Assistant, Office:C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/5/2045

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender:	(b)(6)	state.sgov.gov>
Recipient:	EAP-TC-Office-DL <EAP-TC-Office-DL2@state.sgov.gov>;	

Syptak-Ramnath, Stephanie F <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>;
Keshap, Atul <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>;
Fritz, Jonathan D <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>

From: "Feith, David" (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

To: Buangan, Richard L (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Keshap, Atul (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

CC: Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Subject: (b)(1)

Date: Mon, 4 Jan 2021 10:57:08 -0500

(b)(1); (b)(5)

EAP / Dave Stilwell

Official

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: Feith - DAS, Office:EAP, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 1/4/2046

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Sender: "Feith, David" (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Recipient: Buangan, Richard L (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Keshap, Atul (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>;
 Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

(b)(1)

Best,

(b)(6)

1. ~~(S)~~ Summary:

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

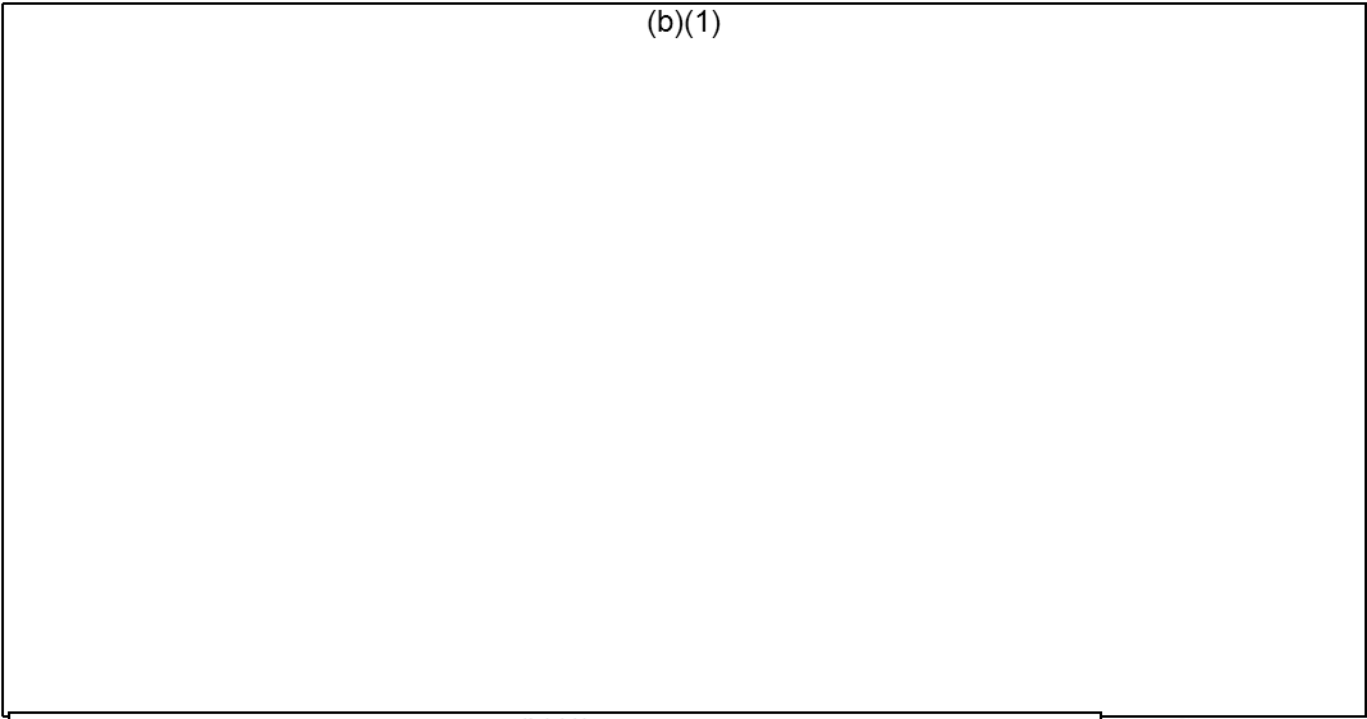
End Summary.

1. ~~(S)~~ Summary:

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)



(b)(1)

End Summary.

Official

~~**SECRET**~~

Classified By: (b)(6) Special Assistant, Office:C, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 8/5/2045

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.