



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

2002 0533 DOI001

Ms. Meredith Fuchs
General Counsel
The National Security Archive
The George Washington University
Gelman Library, Suite 701
2130 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

JAN 30 2003

Dear Ms. Fuchs:

This responds to your January 28, 2003, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal (FOIA 2003-086) which was received in this Office on the same day. Your FOIA appeal pertains to the issue that a response has not been issued to the September 2, 2002, FOIA request that William Ferroggiaro, of your organization, sent to the Department of the Interior.

In his FOIA request, Mr. Ferroggiaro sought copies of

All records, including but not limited to guidance or directives, memoranda, training materials, or legal analyses, concerning the US Department of the Interior's implementation of US Attorney General John Ashcroft's October 12, 2001 memorandum on the US Freedom of Information Act.

Upon receipt of your FOIA appeal, the Department contacted OS concerning the issue of your appeal. By letter of January 30, 2003, OS issued a response to Mr. Ferroggiaro's FOIA request, and released copies of five documents in their entirety, totaling 16 pages. The OS has advised the Department that it has gathered additional responsive documents from the Department and the Office of the Solicitor (SOL), and at this time, the documents are with the SOL, Division of General Law for legal review. The OS advised the Department that it expects to issue its response as it pertains to the documents under review shortly. The Department is confident that OS will make every effort to issue its next response as soon as possible. The Department has no reason to question the statements of OS. Accordingly, the Department is closing its files on your FOIA appeal.

If you wish to discuss this issue with the OS FOIA Officer, you may contact Ms. Sue Ellen Sloca, OS FOIA Officer, at (202) 208-6045, or you may contact me at (202) 208-5339.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William W. Wolf
Freedom of Information Act
Appeals Officer