



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY OFFICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5995

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

February 11, 2002

Freedom of Information/
Privacy Office

Mr. John Young
Cryptome
251 West 89th Street
Suite 6E
New York, New York 10024

Dear Mr. Young:

References:

- a. Your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of March 29, 2001, for files pertaining to Ethiopia US Forces Espionage, ZF004041 (case #668F-02) and Polish Organizations in France, ZF010053 (case #669F-01). Your request was received in this office April 18, 2001.
- b. Our letter of April 20, 2001, advising you that additional time is needed to review the records, we are unable to comply with the statutory 20-day time limit in processing your request.
- c. Our reply to you dated July 9, 2001, in which we advised you that we were unable to locate the information you seek even though the Defense Clearance and Investigations Index (DCII) indicated the records are maintained in the US Army Investigative Records Repository (IRR).

This letter is to advise you that the IRR is still unable to locate these files. During the last year the IRR has undergone a major project to scan paper files into a computer server for electronic retention and retrieval. Once the paper file was scanned into the computer, it was boxed along with other files and placed in a storage area. These files were scanned and the paper file was boxed and stored. Unfortunately, due to glitches in the computer system, the IRR is unable to retrieve the electronic file from the computer system. We know it is there somewhere, but it is not retrievable at this time. Information systems experts are working to correct the glitches so that missing files can be retrieved. We do not know how long that will take, or if they will be able to retrieve all files.

The Freedom of Information Act requires agencies to do a reasonable search for records. Even though an agency may know that a record exists, if they cannot find it after a reasonable search, they can give a no record response to the requester. We have pursued all possible approaches at this time to find the electronic record. We also have determined that it would not be reasonable to conduct a manual search for your paper file throughout the hundreds of boxes in the storage area. We simply do not have the manpower to devote to that task, especially since you are not the only requester who is in this situation.