

foreseen to cause significant adverse consequences to a recognized interest.

(ii) *Urgency to inform.* The information requested should pertain to a matter of a current exigency to the American public, where delay in response would compromise a significant recognized interest. The person requesting expedited access under an "urgency to inform," must be primarily engaged in the dissemination of information. This does not include individuals who are engaged only incidentally in the dissemination of information. "Primarily engaged" requires that information dissemination be the main activity of the requester. A requester only incidentally engaged in information dissemination, besides other activities, would not satisfy this requirement. The public's right to know, although a significant and important value, would not by itself be sufficient to satisfy this standard.

(4) *Expansion of Agency response time.* The new law provides that agencies now have 20 working-days to respond to all FOIA requests. However, when possible, we will continue to respond to requests within the former 10 working-day time frame.

(5) *Estimation of matter denied.* The Agency will try to estimate the volume of any denied material and provide the estimate to the requester, unless doing so would harm an interest protected by an exemption.

(h) *Computer redaction.* The Agency will identify the location of deletions in the released portion of the records, and where technologically feasible, will show the deletion at the place on the record where the deletion was made, unless including that indication would harm an interest protected by an exemption.

(i) *Report to Congress.* In addition to the information already provided to Congress in the Agency's Annual Report on FOIA Activities, the Agency will include the following: the number of Privacy Act (PA) requests handled; the number of backlogged requests; the number of days taken to process requests; the number of staff devoted to processing FOIA requests; whether a claimed (b)(3) statute has been upheld in court; and the costs of litigation. The Agency's annual report will be

available both in hard copy and through the Internet. In the past, annual reports were required based on a calendar year and were provided to Congress on or before March 1 of the following year. However, the new law has changed the annual reporting requirements now to be related to the Agency's fiscal year. Thus, the Annual Report to Congress on FOIA Activities for 1997 only encompassed the first nine months (January through September), and was reported by March 1, 1998. The FY 98 report will begin in October 1997 and conclude at the end of September 1998. This report will be presented to the Department of Justice instead of Congress, by February 1, 1999, and Justice will report all Federal agency FOIA activity through electronic means.

(j) *Reference materials and guides.* The Agency has available in hard copy, and will have electronically via the Internet, a guide for requesting records under the FOIA and an index and description of all major information systems of the Agency. The guide is a simple explanation of what the FOIA is intended to do, and how you can use it to access USIA records. The Index explains the types of records that may be requested from the Agency through FOIA requests and why some records cannot, by law, be made available by USIA.

[63 FR 71587, Dec. 29, 1998]

PART 504—ORGANIZATION

Sec.

504.1 Introduction.

504.2 Description of central and field organization, established places at which, officers from whom, and methods whereby the public may obtain information.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 4, 63 Stat. 111, as amended, sec. 501, 65 Stat. 290; 22 U.S.C. 2658, 31 U.S.C. 483a, 5 U.S.C. 301, 552, E.O. 10477, as amended, 18 FR 4540, 3 CFR 1949-1953 Comp., page 958, E.O. 10501, 18 FR 7049, 3 CFR 1949-1953 Comp., page 979. Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1977, Pub. L. 97-241, 96 Stat. 291, Pub. L. 98-111.

SOURCE: 51 FR 10192, Mar. 25, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 504.1 Introduction.

It is the policy of the United States Information Agency that information

about its operations, organization, procedures, and records be freely available to the public in accordance with the provisions of Pub. L. 89-487, the "Public Information Act of 1966", referred to hereinafter as "The Act", which amended the "Public Information" section of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

[51 FR 10192, Mar. 25, 1986]

§ 504.2 Description of central and field organization, established places at which, officers from whom, and methods whereby the public may obtain information.

(a) The United States Information Agency, redesignated by section 303(a) of the United States Information Agency Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1982 and 1983 (Pub. L. 97-241, Stat. 291), was formerly the International Communication Agency.

(b) The United States International Communication Agency was established as an independent Agency of the Executive Branch of the Government by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1977. The Director of the Agency is responsible for reporting to the President and the Secretary of State, as well as advising the National Security Council, on international informational, educational, and cultural matters. The scope of the Director's advice includes assessments of the impact of actual and proposed U.S. foreign policy decisions on public opinion abroad.

(c) Reorganization Plan No. 2 transferred to the new Agency overseas information functions previously lodged in the U.S. Information Agency and the educational and cultural affairs functions of the Department of State. The Reorganization Plan abolished the U.S. Advisory Commission on Information and the U.S. Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs and established the U.S. Advisory Commission on International Communication, Cultural, and Educational Affairs whose name was subsequently changed to the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy by section 604 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1980-1981 (93 Stat. 390, August 15, 1979).

(d) The United States Information Agency has responsibility for the conduct of international information, educational, and cultural activities, including exchange programs to build bridges of mutual understanding between Americans and the other peoples of the world. The United States Information Agency engages in a wide variety of communication activities—from academic and cultural exchanges to press, radio, and television programs—to accomplish its goals of strengthening foreign understanding of American society and support of United States policies. The United States Information Agency operates field posts in 129 foreign countries.

(e) Agency operations are organized along both functional and geographical lines and directed by the Executive Policy Committee composed of the Director, Deputy Director, Counselor, four Bureau Associate Directors, five Area Office Directors, the Inspector General, Director of Private Sector Committees, Coordinator of the President's U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiative, the General Counsel and Congressional Liaison, Director of the Television and Film Service, Director of the Office of Public Liaison, and the Comptroller of the Agency.

(1) The four Bureaus are: Voice of America (VOA), Programs (P), Educational and Cultural Affairs (E), and Management (M).

(i) The Voice of America is the global radio network of the United States Information Agency which seeks to promote understanding abroad of the United States, its people, culture, and policies. In carrying out its mission, VOA is responsible for conducting its operations in accordance with the VOA Charter, (Pub. L. 94-350), which states:

(A) VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

(B) VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

(C) VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible