



THE VOICE PROJECT
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May 27, 2016

Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/RL
U. S. Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20522-81006

Fax: (202) 261-8579

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Coordinator:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. subsection 552, I am requesting the following: all information, records, documents and communications previously undisclosed to the public, related in whole or in part to the U. S. Department of State's policy, involvement with, influence on, attempted or contemplated influence on, advice or other communications regarding the topic of U.S. NON-MILITARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AID TO FOREIGN STATES, from January 1, 2006 to present day.

In order to be helpful with keyword suggestions that could return records relevant to the above-mentioned topic, I would suggest perhaps in addition to those records, documents and communications topically referencing **aid (foreign aid programs of the non-military kind, e.g. development aid, economic assistance, etc.)**, a search including but not limited to:

1. Topical mentions of, or strategic communications with personnel from, **USAID** (United States Agency for International Development) and **AID** (Agency for International Development) programs; **IDCA** (International Development Cooperation Agency), **ITA** (International Trade Administration), **USTDA** (U.S. Trade and Development Agency), **OPIC** (Overseas Private Investment Corporation); **Ex-Im Bank (Export-Import Bank of the United States)**, the **Alliance for Progress**;

2. Records, documents and communications regarding **bilateral transfers** such as “ODA” (Official Development Assistance); and
3. Department and related agency involvement with or discussion of **multilateral transfers, loans** and other **economic development assistance** through third parties such as the **IMF** (International Monetary Fund), the **WTO** (World Trade Organization) and the **IDB** (Inter-American Development Bank), and the **World Bank** and **WBG** (World Bank Group) including its subsidiary organizations **IBRD** (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), **IDA** (International Development Association), **IFC** (International Finance Corporation), **MIGA** (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency) and **ICSID** (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes).

Please search all available records from January 1, 2006 to the present as I am trying to discover both historical patterns of influence in foreign aid as well as recent examples in order to advance the scholarship on this issue, *with a sole focus on information that can be safely disclosed from previously undisclosed documents, security classified or previously classified documents, information, communications, emails and/or cable traffic.*

Please do include all subsidiary and related departments, bureaus, agencies, advisory councils, commissions, delegations, committees, missions and boards, such as, but not limited to: the Office of the Secretary; The Deputy Secretaries; The Policy Planning Staff; U.S. Mission to the United Nations; the Bureau of Legislative Affairs; the Bureau of Intelligence and Research; The Office of Inspector General; The Office of the Legal Adviser; The Counselor of the Department; the Offices of the Under Secretaries; the Bureaus of African Affairs; East Asian and Pacific Affairs; European and Eurasian Affairs; Near Eastern Affairs; South and Central Asian Affairs; and Western Hemisphere Affairs; the Bureau of International Organization Affairs; The Bureaus of Economic and Business Affairs; of Energy Resources; of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; of the Science & Technology Adviser; of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance; of International Security and Nonproliferation; of Political-Military Affairs; of Conflict and Stabilization Operations; of Counterterrorism; of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; of Population, Refugees, and Migration; of Global Criminal Justice; The Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources; The Bureau of Public Affairs; The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; and, The Bureau of International Information Programs.

I would like to receive the records in electronic form, and by e-mail, if possible.

I am willing to pay for duplication and other fees up to a maximum of \$50. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform me with an estimate of costs before processing my request. However, I am seeking a public interest fee waiver under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and thereby requesting to have all fees (including duplication) waived since the material requested (1) “is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government” and (2) “is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.”

Specifically, the information provided would likely contribute to the public understanding of the operations or activities of government by clarifying the relationship between various government agencies, and the influence of non-humanitarian focused agencies and competing priorities such as geopolitical, defense, strategic, trade and other concerns on aid implementation, efficacy and

the determination of foreign economic development assistance levels, as well as the actuality and mechanics of specific aid delivery to foreign states.

Studies have shown that after more than 50 years and one trillion dollars of economic development assistance to foreign states, there exists no strong (non-fragile) statistical correlation to actual economic development across recipient states. In order to better serve humanitarian goals and refocus our policies to achieve their stated humanitarian ends such as per capital GDP growth and the alleviation of poverty, we need to understand to what extent have programs with explicit humanitarian goals, such as economic development assistance and non-military foreign aid, been refocused from their stated primary objective and subsumed by other strategic objectives, and what role do non-aid focused agencies play in this. Aid effectiveness is under increased scrutiny now as we currently face a number of great and historic humanitarian, migration and refugee crises around the globe. The root problem of failed states is being examined, and aid's role needs to be explored in this context.

I am the executive director of The Voice Project, an organization, which has a substantial social media following and an engaged audience, which works to support advocacy for effective, positive social change, and so I am well placed to disseminate this information to the public.

If the agency regards any of the documents as potentially exempt from disclosure under the FOIA, please nonetheless exercise your discretion in disclosing them. Please do release all reasonably segregable, nonexempt information within a document in keeping with the segregability requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me on my cell phone at 310.993.7198, by fax at 646.607.9110, at the above listed address, or by email at hunter@voiceproject.org. I look forward to receiving your response within the twenty day statutory time period. If you deny all or any part of this request, please cite each specific exemption you believe justifies your refusal to release the information and notify me of appeal procedures available under the law. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Hunter M. Heaney
Executive Director
The Voice Project