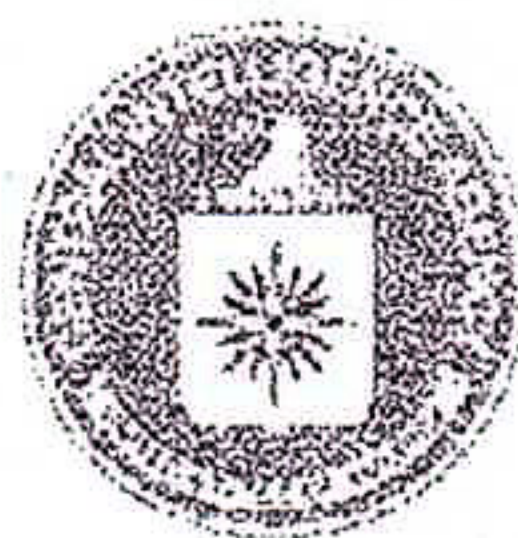


Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

15 December 2009

Ms. Anee Xiong
Take Action Minnesota
1821 University Avenue West, Suite S-137
St. Paul, MN 55104

Reference: F-2010-00304 (Formerly F-2009-01136)

Dear Ms. Xiong:

This is in response to your 23 November 2009 letter, received in the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator on 1 December 2009, regarding your 22 May 2009 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for "records of payments made to residents of Laos from 1961 to 1978, who were recruited and trained to fight for the United States during the war commonly referred to as the Secret War." Specifically, you advised that you are clarifying the information you seek and that you are only requesting "Verification by names and dates paid of Laos citizens by the CIA. If you cannot provide paystubs or official CIA records, I will accept a new list that you've created that provides the name of Lao citizens paid by the CIA and the date or date range they were paid."

As we stated in our 17 June 2009 response to your F-2009-01136 request, responsive records, should they exist, would be contained in operational files. The CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 431, as amended, exempts CIA operational files from the search, review, publication, and disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Further, the FOIA does not require federal agencies to create records in connection with a request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delores M. Nelson".

Delores M. Nelson
Information and Privacy Coordinator