



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

FEB 16 1990

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Subject of Request: Silvermaster Files/
Recipients Of
FOIA No. 318,280

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the identities of all requesters who have received documents from the Nathan Gregory Silvermaster investigation.

For several reasons it is not possible to identify all persons who have received FOIA releases from the "Silvermaster files." The first is our incomplete record-keeping in the early years of our implementing the Act. The second reason is that we record FOIA releases by the subject title or name of requester and not by the FBI file number of released documents. To expound on this second reason, if we were to check FOIA records for requesters of "Silvermaster files" we would find who specifically requested the "Silvermaster files." However, the investigative title in the "Silvermaster files" contains multiple subjects and FOIA requests may have been received for records concerning any one of those subjects. These requesters would have received the "Silvermaster files" (or portions thereof), but each request would be recorded in the FOIA records under the particular subject's name and not under "Silvermaster files."

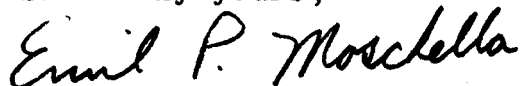
Another reason, of which your cross-reference release is a good example, is that it is not apparent from the face of an FBI file that documents therein were processed under FOIA and released to a requester as cross-references responsive to his/her FOIA request. A cross-reference is defined as a mention of the subject in a file on another individual, organization, event, activity or the like. For example, your name was mentioned in the "Silvermaster files,"

Mr. Harold Weisberg

but the fact that you received a portion of "Silvermaster files" through your FOIA request is only revealed through a search of your FOIA request file, which is only retrievable through a search of your name through our central indices. As you can imagine, within the enormous "Silvermaster file" are the names of hundreds of individuals who could subsequently have received cross-references from the files under the FOIA.

Also, for your information, the FOIA release package of the "Silvermaster files" was placed in the FBI FOIA public Reading Room in 1989, making the information available to anyone.

Sincerely yours,



Emil P. Moschella, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Records Management Division