

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

32 CFR Part 1900

Public Access to Documents and Records and Declassification Requests

AGENCY: Central Intelligence Agency.

ACTION: Final rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 13, 1980.

§ 1900.25 Fees for records services.

(a) Search and duplication fees shall be charged according to the schedule set forth in paragraph (c) of this section for services rendered in responding to requests for Agency records under this part. Records shall be furnished without charge or at a reduced rate whenever the Coordinator determines that a waiver or reduction of the charge is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. Thus, the Coordinator shall determine the existence and extent of any identifiable benefit which would result from furnishing the requested information and he shall consider the following factors in making this determination:

- (1) The public or private character of the information sought;
- (2) The private interest of the requester;
- (3) The numbers of the public to be benefited;
- (4) The significance of the benefit to the public;
- (5) The usefulness of the information to the public; and
- (6) The quantity of similar or duplicative information already in the public domain.

In no case will the assessment of fees be utilized as an obstacle to the disclosure of the requested information. The Coordinator may also waive or reduce the charge whenever he determines that the interest of the government would be served thereby. Fees shall not be charged where they would amount, in the aggregate, for a request, or a series of related requests, to less than \$6. Denials of requests for fee waivers may be appealed by writing to the Executive Secretary of the Information Review Committee, via the Coordinator.

(b) In order to protect the requester and the Agency from large, unexpected fees, when it is anticipated that the charges will amount to more than \$25, the processing of the request shall be suspended until the requester indicates his willingness to pay. The requester shall be notified and asked for his commitment to pay all reasonable search and duplication fees. At his option, the requester may indicate in advance a dollar limitation to the fees. In such an event, the Coordinator shall initiate a search of the system or systems of records deemed most likely to produce relevant records, instructing the system managers to discontinue the search as soon as the stipulated amount has been expended. Where an advance limit has not been stipulated, the Coordinator may, at his discretion or at the behest of the requester, compile an estimate of the search fees likely to be incurred in processing a request, or of such portion thereof as can readily be estimated. The requester shall be promptly notified of the amount and be asked to approve its expenditure. In those cases where the Coordinator estimates that the fees will be substantial, an advance deposit of 50 percent of the estimated fees will be required; in those cases where there is reasonable evidence that the requester may possibly fail to pay the fees which would be accrued by processing his request, an advance deposit of 100 percent of the estimated fees will be required. The notice or request for an advance deposit shall extend an offer to the requester whereby he is afforded an opportunity to revise the request in a manner calculated to reduce the fees. Dispatch of such a notice or request shall suspend the running of the period for response by the Agency until a reply is received from the requester.

(c) The schedule of fees for services performed in responding to requests for Agency records is established as follows:

(1) For each one quarter hour, or fraction thereof, spent by clerical

personnel in searching for a record, \$1.50;

(2) For each one quarter hour, or fraction thereof, spent by professional personnel in searching for a record, \$3.50;

(3) For each on-line computer search, \$11.00;

(4) For each off-line (batch) computer search of Central Reference files, \$27.00;

(5) For all other off-line computer searches of Agency files, \$8.00 per minute of Central Processing Unit (CPU) time;

(6) For copies of paper documents in sizes not larger than 8 1/2 x 14 inches, \$0.10 per copy of each page;

(7) For duplication of non-paper media (film, magnetic tape, etc.) or any document that cannot be reproduced on a standard office copier, actual direct cost; and

(8) For extra copies of reports, maps, reference aids, and other Agency publications, actual cost.

(d) Inasmuch as the Agency's systems of records are highly decentralized, several computer searches may be required to process a request, depending upon its scope. The computer search costs given in paragraph (c), of this section, do not include whatever professional/clerical search time is needed to determine whether the records located are in fact responsive to the request.

(e) Search fees are assessable even when no records pertinent to the requests, or no releasable records are found, provided the requester has been advised of this fact and he has, that notwithstanding agreed to incur the costs of search.

(f) For requests which have accrued substantial search and duplication fees, or for requests for records which have been previously released, or where there is reasonable evidence that the requester may possibly fail to pay the accrued fees, then, at the discretion of the Coordinator, the requester may be required to pay the accrued search and duplication fees prior to the actual delivery of the requested records; otherwise, the requester shall be billed for such fees at the time that the records are provided. Payment shall be remitted by check or money order, made payable to the Treasurer of the United States, and shall be sent to the Coordinator. No appeals or additional requests shall be accepted for processing until the requester has paid all outstanding charges for services rendered under this part.