OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

November 3, 1976

James H. Lesar, Esq.
1231 Fourth Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is to acknowledge receipt by the FBI of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request dated September 30, 1976.

A preliminary review of the index to our central records discloses references to a name similar to yours. Since our records contain innumerable instances of different people with the same name, and we have reviewed only the index to our records at this point, and not the records themselves, we do not know whether the records in question relate to you.

An exceedingly heavy volume of FOIPA requests has been received these past few months. Additionally, court deadlines involving certain cases of considerable scope have been imposed upon the FBI. Despite successive expansions of our staff responsible for FOIPA matters, substantial delays in processing requests continue.

Since January 1, 1975, the FBI has received a total of 27,551 FOIPA requests. Of these, our present backlog is 7,950. In an effort to deal fairly with any request requiring the retrieval, processing and duplication of documents, each request is being handled in chronological

order based on the date of receipt. Please be assured that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents which can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date.

We are now beginning to work on requests which we received during February, 1976.

Your request has been assigned number 35,136 which you are requested to utilize in any correspondence with this Bureau regarding this request.

Should you desire a check of our field office files, you are advised that a listing of them as separate systems of records with separate indices has been published in the Federal Register, Volume 40, Number 167 - Wednesday, August 27, 1975. It will be incumbent upon you to so designate your requests directly to them.

Your patience and understanding will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director