

C.I.A. Invites Public To Write for Data, But Will It Comply?

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WASHINGTON, July 21—

The Central Intelligence Agency invited the public today to write in and ask for agency records. It did not guarantee to supply them.

The agency published a formal notice in The Federal Register in compliance with the new "freedom of information" law that became effective for all Government agencies earlier this month. The law requires that most Government records be available for public inspection, but it also sets a number of exceptions.

The C.I.A. said that anyone wanting its records should write to the Assistant Director, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C., 20505.

"When the requested record has been identified," the notice said, "the agency will determine whether it is exempt from public inspection under the provisions [of the new law]. If it is exempt, the assistant to the director shall deny the request."

The applicant can then appeal to the director, the notice said, who will "promptly consider each such request and notify the person involved of his decision."