



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 7, 2023

MR. JOHN R GREENEWALD
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1577378-000
Subject: RATZINGER, JOSEPH ALOISIUS

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 U.S.C. § 3024 (i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

28 pages were reviewed and 9 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a main and reference entity record search of the Central Records System (CRS) per our standard search policy. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

This is the **final release** of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Duplicate copies of the same document were not processed.

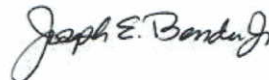
Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at www.fbi.gov/foia. Should you have questions regarding your request, please feel free to contact foipaquestions@fbi.gov. Please reference the FOIPA Request number listed above in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Bender, Jr.
Acting Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosures

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files.
 - a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
 - b. *Reference Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.
- (iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative "FBI file." An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1577378-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 16
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Page 4 ~ b7D; b7E;
Page 5 ~ b7D; b7E;
Page 6 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 7 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 8 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 10 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 11 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 12 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
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Page 15 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7E;
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Page 18 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 22 ~ Duplicate;

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Date: 06/21/2005

To: Cyber

Attn: UC

SSA

International Operations

Attn: SSA

LA

Sacramento

Attn: SSA

SSA

b6
b7C

From: Rome

Contact:

Approved By:

Drafted By:

Case ID #:

(Pending)

b6
b7C
b7E

Title: UNSUB(s);
IMPERSONATION OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI;

b3
b7E

Synopsis: To request identification of an email user.

Details: In a letter

informed

Legat Rome of an incident which occurred on 18 April 2005.

b7D

b7D

b6
b7C

b3
b7E

SET T 15 DAYS ✓
6-21-05

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Date: 06/23/2005

To: International Operations
Cyber
Rome

Attn: SSA [redacted]
LA [redacted]
Attn: UC [redacted]
SSA [redacted]
Attn: [redacted]

b6
b7C

From: Sacramento
Bakersfield RA
Contact: SA [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: [redacted] (Pending) [redacted]

b3
b7E

Title: UNSUB(S);
IMPERSONATION OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI;
[redacted]

Synopsis: Lead covered, investigation at [redacted]
[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Reference: [redacted]

b3
b7E

Details: On 06/23/2005, Bakersfield RA contacted [redacted]
[redacted] owner of [redacted] utilizing
the domain [redacted] at his business [redacted]

b6
b7C

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED

INDEXED
FILED

JUL 18 2005

LEGAL ATTACHE ROME

b6
b7C

* copy sent
to SSA [redacted]

6/28/05

UPLOADED

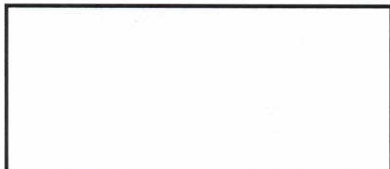
b3
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Embassy of the United States of America

Office of Legal Attache
United States Embassy
Rome, Italy

30 June 2005



b6
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b7D

**RE: IMPERSONATION OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI;**

Your File

Our File:



b3
b7D
b7E

Dear

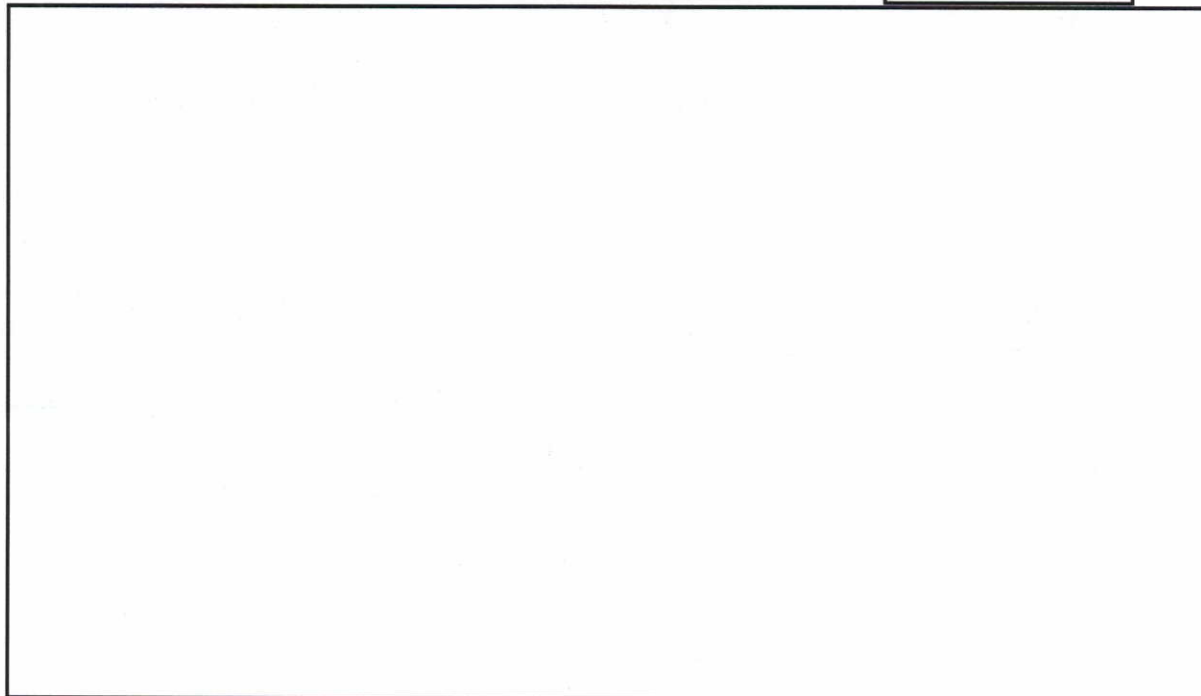


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On 23 June 2005, our office in Bakersfield, California contacted



b6
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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[REDACTED]
30 JUNE 2005

b3
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We hope that this information is useful to your investigation. If you have any questions concerning this communication, please contact Assistant Legal Attache [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Please accept my warmest regards.

b6
b7C
b7E

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Acting Legal Attache

FAX TRANSMISSION



Office of Legal Attache

United States Embassy

Rome, Italy

Telephone #: [redacted]

Fax #: [redacted]

b7E

To: [redacted]

Date: June 30, 2005

b6

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b7E

Fax #: [redacted]

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

Voice #:

From: Office of Legal Attache

Subject: Imitazione de su Santita

Case ID: N.26/RIS./2005

Comments:

Domenico,

Ecco i risultati delle investigazione fatto per nostro ufficio a Bakersfield, California.

[redacted]

*Per request of
Fixed on 6/30/05. This Doc*

[redacted]

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| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| [redacted] | |
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | [redacted] |
| LEGAL ATTACHE ROME | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] |

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***** -COMM. JOURNAL- ***** DATE JUN-30-2005 ***** TIME 13:08 *****

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=JUN-30 13:06

END=JUN-30 13:08

FILE NO.=068

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b7E

-LEGAT ROME

.....

- ***** -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 07/06/2005

To: Rome

Attn:

From: Rome

Contact: [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: [REDACTED] (Pending)

Title: UNSUB(s);
IMPERSONATION OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI;
[REDACTED]

Synopsis: To close captioned matter.

Details: On 4 July 2004, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] thanked Legat Rome and the FBI for its assistance and the prompt reply to his request dated 21 June 2005.

Inasmuch as no further investigations are required, Legat Rome will therefore close captioned matter.

VR
7-8-5

[REDACTED]

Searched
In
Serialized
Filed

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

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b6
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1577378-000

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. [redacted]

935 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW

[redacted]
August 13, 2007

b3
b7E

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

RE: [redacted]

b7D

Dear [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

Should you have further inquiries please feel free to
contact SSA [redacted] or FOS [redacted]
at [redacted]

b6
b7C

Sincerely

[redacted]
Unit Chief, Europe Unit
Office of International Operations

Close Case / CH

[redacted] 8/14/07

Placed in hand to
[redacted] on 8/14/07

by FOS [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1577378-000

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. [redacted]

935 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW
October 5, 2007

b3
b7E

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Subject: Holy Father Benedict XVI, meeting in Naples

Dear [redacted]

Reference is made to your letter concerning captioned
matter.

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
[redacted]

b7D
b7E

Should you have further inquiries please feel free to
contact SA [redacted] or FOS [redacted] at
[redacted]

b6
b7C

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Unit Chief
Office of International Operations
Europe Unit

b6
b7C
b7D

*Please Close
C-1*

10/15/07

Passed by hand to

on 10/13/07

by FOS

HQ

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusion of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.