

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LOIS MOORE, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 20cv1027 (RCL)
)	
UNITED STATES CENTRAL)	
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to this Court’s Minute Order dated October 27, 2020, Defendant Central Intelligence Agency (“Defendant” or “CIA”), through undersigned counsel and with consultation with counsel for Plaintiffs, respectfully provide the following Status Report to the Court:

1. On April 28, 2020, Plaintiffs Lois Moore, Robert Moore, Jana Orear, Christianne O’Malley, and Mark Sauter (“Plaintiffs”) commenced this litigation against the CIA alleging that the CIA failed to respond to their FOIA request for information regarding American POWs of the Korean War being transported to China and the Soviet Union for imprisonment and interrogation. ECF No. 1 (Complaint).
2. On June 3, 2020, CIA filed an Answer to the Complaint. ECF No. 6 (Answer).
3. Pursuant to the agreement of the Parties that Defendant prioritize 11 items identified by Plaintiffs from their FOIA request, Defendant reports that it has processed and provided documents with exemptions asserted with each redaction on October 7, 2020, and on October 23, 2020.

4. The Defendant's FOIA Office has completed the bulk of the searches for documents responsive to Plaintiffs' request, however, there are still a few outstanding searches that will not be completed until after the holiday season. Once those few outstanding searches are complete, the Defendant will have a better idea of the volume of documents responsive to Plaintiffs' request and will confer with counsel for Plaintiffs regarding a proposed schedule for the processing/production of documents responsive to the remaining requests.

5. As Defendant has previously informed Court, Defendant is prioritizing mission-critical activities, and Defendant's FOIA staffing and processing capabilities have been reduced due to the COVID pandemic and the workplace precautions required to secure Agency workspaces. Given the current limited availability of key search personnel and requisite subject matter experts and the inability of CIA's personnel to work remotely, and given the intervening holiday season, CIA requires additional time in which to process Plaintiffs' requests.

6. The parties cannot determine whether summary judgment briefing will be necessary until the CIA has completed its review/production of responsive, non-exempt records and the parties have had an opportunity to confer regarding the production and any withholdings.

7. The Defendant proposes, with Plaintiff's consent, to file a further Status Report on or before January 27, 2021.

Dated: December 24, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /s/ *Darrell C. Valdez*

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