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LAW OFFICES

WILLIAM F. MANLOVE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

220 COMMUNITY COMMONS BLDG.

17800 CHILLICOTHE RD.

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44022

WILLIAM F. MANLOVE

WALKER T. WATSON

FADRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

July 17, 1975

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216/543-8111

ACTION
is assigned to

PA/FOI

The Honorable Henry Kissinger
Secretary of State
State Department
2201 C. Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I represent Donald Kothera, a United States citizen, of 15444 Crampton Drive, Burton, Ohio 44021.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (Public Law 89-487) as amended, the same being codified as 5 U.S.C. 552 seq., I respectfully request that you make available for inspection and/or copy all records which you have or may have access to regarding Amelia Earhart and/or her navigator, Frederick J. Noonan. Amelia Earhart disappeared July 2, 1937, while she and Mr. Noonan were flying her Lockheed Electra airplane in the Pacific. Our information reveals that she and Fred Noonan landed on Saipan in 1937 and were subsequently executed and buried. Our information further reveals that subsequent to the invasion of Saipan in 1944, Captain Tracy Griswold and two enlisted men, Billy Burks and Everett Henson, of the 18th Marines 2nd Division, disinterred the remains of Frederick Noonan in 1944 and possibly some of the remains of Amelia Earhart, who had been cremated earlier. At that time, Captain Griswold was an intelligence officer and had originally gone ashore on Red Beach One in the invasion of Saipan.

We request that you make available for inspection and/or copy not only your correspondence files, but also your complete investigative files. We would also appreciate your making available for inspection any concrete evidence which you may have, or know the whereabouts of, such as her Lockheed Electra airplane, or parts thereof, any photographs, any bones, teeth or other pieces of evidence. My client has in his possession some bone fragments and teeth which he had dug up from the Saipan grave in 1968. The detailed examination and report of a noted anthropologist seems to support my client's information. Graves Registration Service may have some of the evidence or information needed.

In the event that you claim exemption under one of the nine specific exemptions under the Act, I would appreciate your advising the undersigned of this

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fact and setting forth which specific exemption you believe applies. If for some reason I have not followed the particular regulations that your Department has promulgated, pursuant to the Act, in setting forth this written request for inspection and/or copy, I would appreciate your supplying me with a set of your regulations and pointing out to me any other or different procedure which you would like me to follow. I fully understand that some of the Departments have set forth certain fee requirements which we must abide by and we will make these fees available upon request.

Undoubtedly, the military's interest in Miss Earhart's around the world flight in 1937, the events leading to the orders given to Captain Tracy Griswold in 1944 to disinter the remains of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan on Saipan, and the subsequent disposition of the remains were, at the time, classified as top secret or restricted information in the interests of national security. We firmly believe the necessity for continued secrecy and/or exemption of the facts, details and investigative reports surrounding Miss Earhart's disappearance is no longer timely and that the records should be made available to my client, Donald Kothera, for inspection and/or copying.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

William F. Manlove

William F. Manlove

WFM:az