



**Democratic National Committee**

June 20, 2008

Office of Information Programs and Services  
A/ISS/IPS/RL  
U. S. Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20522-8100  
FOIA REQUEST

*Via US Mail And Facsimile To (202) 261-8579*

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and its related statutes and regulations, as detailed below:

**NATURE OF RECORDS:** Any and all records (including but not limited to letters, written requests, memorandum, reports, telephone records, electronic communication) created on or after January 1, 2008 and relating to travel by U.S. Senator John McCain to Canada during the period April 1, 2008 to the present.

**POSTS/OFFICES IN QUESTION:** Documents maintained or held by the US Embassy in Canada, including its various consulates; the Office of the Legal Advisor; the Executive Secretariat; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; the office of the “desk officer” for Canada; and the Office of Legislative Affairs.

**TIME FRAME:** January 1, 2008 - present

**Redactions:** I am requesting to receive as much information as possible, including documents and pages that can be partially provided with redactions, as provided under the relevant statutes and regulations with the reason for each redaction noted.

**Format:** I would prefer if possible to receive as much of this information as possible in an electronic form, be it on diskette, CD, via e-mail, FTP or other format. This is particularly the case if it reduces the time or cost involved in processing requests.

**Request For Expedited Processing:** I requested expedited processing under **22 CFR 171.12 (b)(2)**. This material relates to questions about potential Hatch Act violations by prominent officials of the Department in connection with the current US presidential election season, clearly a matter of major national importance with a sensitivity to time. (See [http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/19/democrats\\_question\\_ambassadors.html](http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/19/democrats_question_ambassadors.html)) Given the current backlog and average processing time for State Department FOIA requests, this

request most likely would not be processed before this November's general election or even before the end of the year.<sup>1</sup>

Please contact me before incurring costs in excess of **\$150**.

**Willingness To Modify Request:** Please feel free to contact me to discuss ways to change the scope or amend this request in order to speed its processing. I am certainly willing to make modifications to better suit the format and availability of information you maintain.

I look forward to receiving an initial response within the time period required by FOIA – twenty business days. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 863-8000 to further discuss this request. Correspondence and responsive materials can be sent to me at: 430 S. Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Sincerely,

Mike Gehrke  
Research Director  
Democratic National Committee

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<sup>1</sup> According to the FY07 State Department Annual Report, the median pending time for a request was 226 days (about 8 months), considerably longer than the 4 ½ months till the election.  
(<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/100129.pdf>)