

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

16 September 2021

J Ader
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 119140
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
119140-02073172@requests.muckrock.com

Reference: F-2021-02366

Dear Requester:

This letter is a final response to your 10 September 2021 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **all records mentioning Walter Benjamin (15 July 1892 – 26 September 1940), German-Jewish philosopher and writer.**

We completed a thorough review of your request and determined that, in accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, the CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. Therefore, your request is denied pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

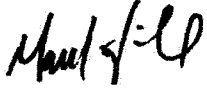
As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You may appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please explain the basis for your appeal.

Please be advised that you may also seek dispute-resolution services from the CIA FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Please note, contacting CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

To contact CIA directly with questions or to appeal the CIA's response to the Agency Release Panel:	To contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) for mediation or with questions:
Information and Privacy Coordinator Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505 TEL: (703) 613-1287 FAX: (703) 613-3007	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 TEL: (202) 741-5770 FAX: (202) 741-5769 / ogis@nara.gov

As you may know, the CIA was not created until 1947 and material dated prior to its creation would be contained in the records of the Office of Strategic Services and other predecessor organizations of the CIA. These record holdings were reviewed and turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You can find their address at www.foia.gov. There is no central office in the government that processes requests for all federal agencies. Each agency responds to requests for its own records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lilly", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator