



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

April 9, 2013

[addressee deleted]

Re: [text deleted]

Dear [name deleted]:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 12, 2013, concerning your possible obligation to register pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA or the Act). In order for this office to determine whether or not you are obligated to register under the Act, we are in need of additional information.

The purpose of FARA is to protect the national defense, internal security, and foreign relations of the United States by requiring public disclosure by persons engaged in certain political and quasi-political activity on behalf of foreign principals to insure the American public and its lawmakers know the source of information intended to sway U.S. public opinion, policy, and laws. It facilitates evaluation by the government and the American people of the statements and activities of such persons in light of their associations.

You indicate that you established [US firm], a [US state] consulting firm, and you now work for the [foreign research center], located in [foreign country]. The center is an independent entity¹ for the “promotion of professional studies and educational excellence in the [foreign country], the [region of the world], and the wider [text deleted] world.” It is academically oriented and sponsors conferences, workshops, lectures, and other scholarly events. Please inform us as to whether [foreign research center] was started by the [foreign government] and whether the [foreign government] funds, directs, or controls it in any way.

Your letter states that you report to Center Director’s office in [foreign country]. Your work consists of helping in conference logistics, finding qualified speakers, and assisting in education seminars. You also work about 30 hours per month from your home in the United States. Please describe in detail the work you perform for [foreign government] in the United States. Also, please advise whether any of the activities [foreign research center] or yourself engage in have as a goal the influencing of the policy of United States agencies, United States officials, or the American public. In addition, please explain whether the [foreign research center] or yourself aim to influence the entities named in the previous sentence with reference to the political or public interest of the [foreign country].

¹ [text deleted]

Predicated on the representations in your letter, you are an agent of the [foreign research center] within the meaning of the Act. An agent of a foreign principal is defined in relevant part under 22 U.S.C. § 611(c)(1) as

“any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, and who directly or through any other person:
(1) engages within the United States in political activities for or in the interests of such foreign principal: (ii) acts within the United States as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee or political consultant for or in interests of such foreign principal....”

Political activity is defined in 22 U.S.C. § 611(o) as conduct intended to influence any U.S. Government agency, government official or member of the public with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the foreign or domestic policy of the United States, with reference to the political or public interest, policies, or relations of a foreign country.

If [foreign research center] acts at the request or under the direction or control of the [foreign government] and you engage in activity in the United States, which is political activity designed to influence any U.S. Government agency, government official or section of the public with respect to formulating, adopting, or changing U.S. foreign or domestic policy, or with reference to influencing the above U.S. entities with regard to the political or public interest, policies, or relations of the [foreign country], then you have an obligation to register. Likewise, you must register if you are acting as public relations counsel, publicity agent, or information-service employee for the [foreign government] in the United States.

Please address our concerns in writing. If you have any question, please call me at (202) 233-0776.

Sincerely,

Heather H. Hunt, Chief
Registration Unit
Counterespionage Section