

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN RE PETITION OF LUKE NICHTER )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Misc. Action No. 17- (RCL)

Case: 1:17-mc-01263  
Assigned To : Lamberth, Royce C.  
Assign. Date : 5/24/2017  
Description: Misc.

**ORDER**


This matter comes before the Court following correspondence between the Court and Professor Luke Nichter of Texas A&M University. Prof. Nichter first wrote a letter to chambers on May 1, 2009, seeking various records related to the Watergate scandal. That letter and the correspondence that followed was placed on the Court’s miscellaneous docket and treated as a formal petition to unseal the requested documents. 12-mc-74 (RCL). This Court granted in part and denied in part Prof. Nichter’s petition on June 10, 2013. 949 F.Supp.2d 205 (D.D.C. 2013). In a letter dated June 24, 2013, Prof. Nichter requested the Court reconsider its ruling with respect to two categories of documents – the content of illegally obtained wiretaps, and grand jury records. In the same letter, Prof. Nichter requested an additional set of documents, as well: records turned over to the district court by John W. Dean III on May 14, 1973. Prof. Nichter wrote to the Court again concerning the Dean documents on September 30, 2016. Both the letter of June 24, 2013, and that of September 30, 2016, include exhibits that relate to Prof. Nichter’s request.<sup>1</sup> The Court has determined that Prof. Nichter’s correspondence should be filed on the public record and construed as a new and separate petition to unseal the specified documents. This Order effectuates that decision.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore hereby

<sup>1</sup> A third letter from Prof. Nichter to the Court, dated April 28, 2015, informed the Court of Prof. Nichter’s correspondence to the Attorney General regarding a proposed change to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e).  
<sup>2</sup> The aforementioned correspondence exchanged between the Court and Professor Nichter will be ordered filed on

**ORDERED** that the aforementioned correspondence be construed as a petition to unseal the specified documents. The Court hereby waives any filing fee. The Clerk of the Court shall file a copy of this correspondence on the public record, assign it a miscellaneous case number, and serve a copy of this order and the two letters on the Department of Justice; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the government shall have 60 days from the date of the issuance of this Order to file an opposition, if any.

**SO ORDERED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2017

  
ROYCE C. LAMBERTH  
United States District Court