

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 15, 2026

Reply to attn. of: Office of Communications
Freedom of Information Act Office

James Louis Washkau, Jr.

POSTAL ADDRESS REDACTED

jlm@jlmwashkau.com

Re: FOIA Tracking Number 26-00719-F-JSC

Dear Mr. Washkau:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), dated April 11, 2026, and received in this office on April 13, 2026. You seek:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting copies of all records, including but not limited to reports, internal communications, mission debriefs, and planning documents, related to the following Space Shuttle missions:

- 1. STS-51B (Space Shuttle Challenger, April–May 1985)*
- 2. STS-51G (Space Shuttle Discovery, June 1985)*

Specifically, I am interested in any documentation regarding:

- Orbital tracking or observation of foreign space objects during these flight windows.*
- Contingency planning for "satellite retrieval" or "proximity operations" involving non-U.S. assets.*
- Any communication between NASA and the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding the Salyut-7 space station during the period of January 1985 through July 1985. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/1985 To 7/31/1985)*

Please note that after the close-out of the Space Shuttle Program, NASA only retained reports, mission debriefs, and planning documents to reasonably support analysis for future spaceflight missions in the Shuttle Knowledge console and NASA Technical reports Server. In response to your request we conducted searches of those archives using the search terms “STS-51B” or “STS-51G” in conjunction with the search terms “foreign”, “satellite retrieval”, “proximity operations”, and “Salyut-7”. Those searches began on April 15, 2026, and located no responsive records.

Appeal

You have the right to appeal my action regarding your request. Your appeal must be received within 90 days of the date of this response. Please send your appeal to:

Administrator
NASA Headquarters
Executive Secretariat
ATTN: FOIA Appeals
MS 9R17
300 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 2054

Both the envelope and letter of appeal should be clearly marked, "Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act." You must also include a copy of your initial request, the adverse determination, and any other correspondence with the FOIA office. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial determination should be reversed. Additional information on submitting an appeal is set forth in the NASA FOIA regulations at 14 C.F.R. § 1206.700.

Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at robert.s.young@nasa.gov. For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request you may also contact:

Stephanie Fox
FOIA Public Liaison
Freedom of Information Act Office
NASA Headquarters
300 E Street, S.W., 5P32
Washington D.C. 20546
Phone: 202-358-1553
Email: Stephanie.K.Fox@nasa.gov

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services it offers. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Important: Please note that contacting any agency official including myself, NASA's FOIA Public Liaison, and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90 day appeal clock.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Government Information Specialist