



TAX EXEMPT AND  
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES  
DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

JUL 21 2011

JUL 14 2011

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Wolf:

I am responding to your inquiry dated June 24, 2011, to Commissioner Douglas Shulman. You wrote about the Council on American-Islamic Relations and questioned the organization's possible receipt of money from foreign governments or agents during the period it failed to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.

We appreciate your comments and concerns about this organization's activities. However, the Internal Revenue Code includes taxpayer privacy provisions enacted by the Congress to protect the privacy of tax returns and tax return information of all taxpayers. Therefore, I cannot comment on what action, if any, we may take on the information you provided.

I can tell you that we maintain an ongoing examination program to ensure exempt organizations meet the requirements for tax-exempt status and are in compliance with the tax laws. Whenever we receive information about an organization that raises questions about the legality of its activities, we forward the information to our Dallas office to determine if it warrants an examination or other action.

Thank you for forwarding this information to us. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 283-0289 or Patricia L. Thomas (Identification Number 0704176) at (202) 283-8953.

Sincerely,

Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations