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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	3
<i>P U d U J Ca U</i>	
Introduction	5
<i>La a U a</i>	
Access to Government Information: An Overview of Issues	9
<i>a a R U</i>	
Access to Information: How Is It Useful and How Is It Used?	15
<i>R a d Ca a d</i>	
The Carter Center Access to Information Project: Jamaica Case Study	29
<i>La a U a</i>	
About the Contributors	35
The Carter Center At a Glance	37

FOREWORD

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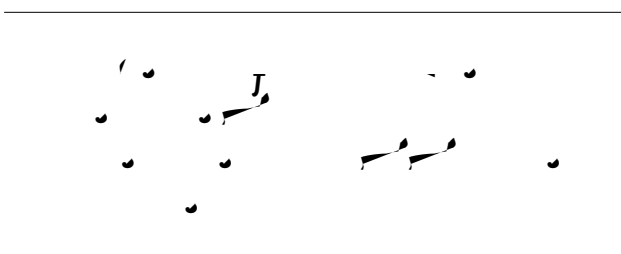
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LIMITS TO ACCESS RIGHTS MUST BE DEFINED

As the Commission has noted, the right of access to information is not absolute. It is subject to certain limitations. These limitations must be defined in law and must be necessary in a democratic society. The Commission has found that the current law does not provide for such limitations. This is a serious defect in the law. The Commission has recommended that the law be amended to provide for such limitations. These limitations should be based on the principles of necessity and proportionality. They should be limited to the protection of national security, public safety, and the privacy of individuals. They should not be used to restrict access to information in a way that is arbitrary or discriminatory. The Commission has also recommended that the law be amended to provide for a right of appeal against decisions made under the law. This is an important part of the law. It ensures that individuals have a fair and effective way to challenge decisions made under the law. The Commission has found that the current law does not provide for such a right of appeal. This is a serious defect in the law. The Commission has recommended that the law be amended to provide for such a right of appeal. This amendment is necessary to ensure that the law is fair and effective. It is also necessary to ensure that the law is consistent with the principles of access to information. The Commission has also recommended that the law be amended to provide for a right of access to information for individuals who are unable to access information themselves. This is an important part of the law. It ensures that all individuals have access to information. The Commission has found that the current law does not provide for such a right of access to information. This is a serious defect in the law. The Commission has recommended that the law be amended to provide for such a right of access to information. This amendment is necessary to ensure that the law is fair and effective. It is also necessary to ensure that the law is consistent with the principles of access to information.

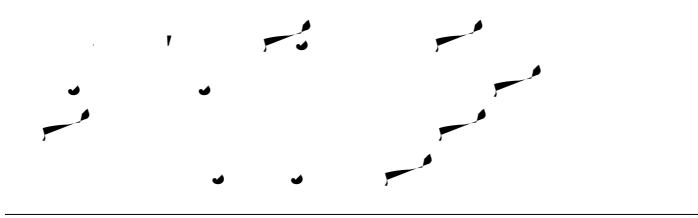
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Access to information is a key to democracy
because it allows citizens to know what their
government is doing and to hold it accountable.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: HOW IS IT USEFUL AND HOW IS IT USED?

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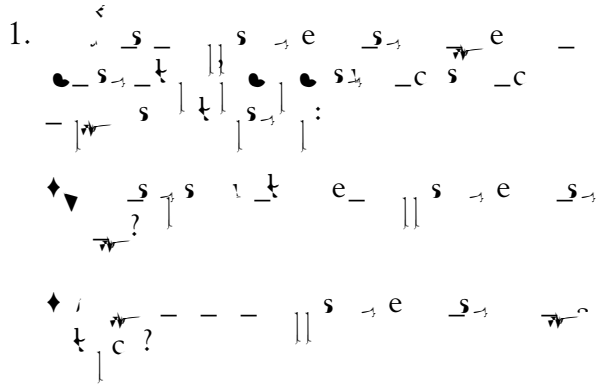
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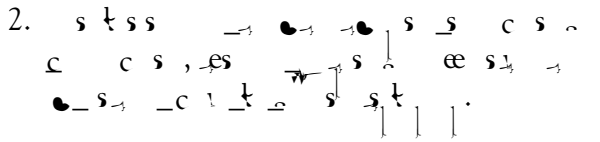
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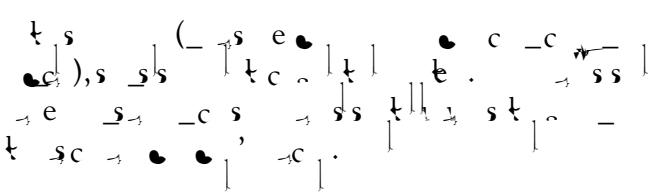
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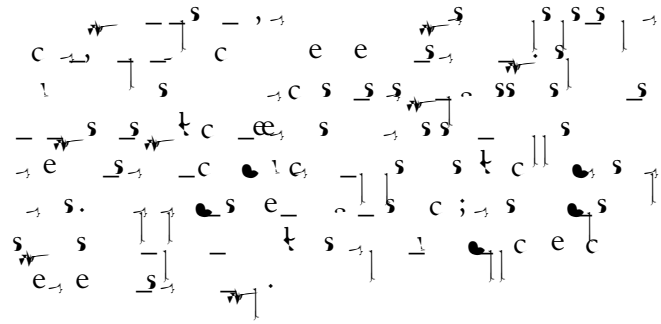
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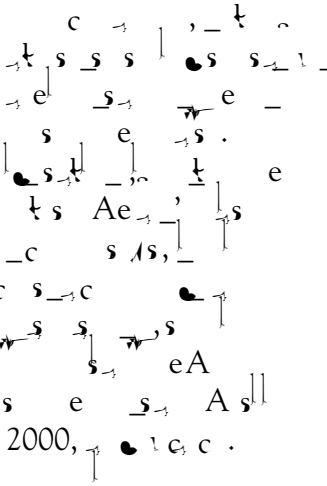
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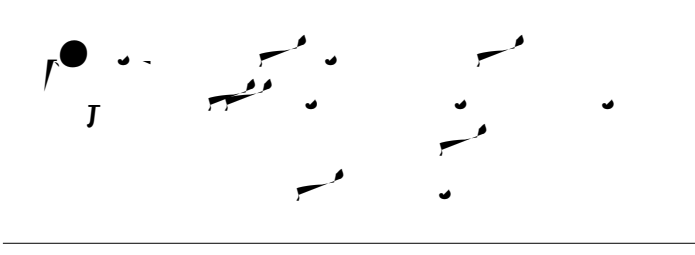
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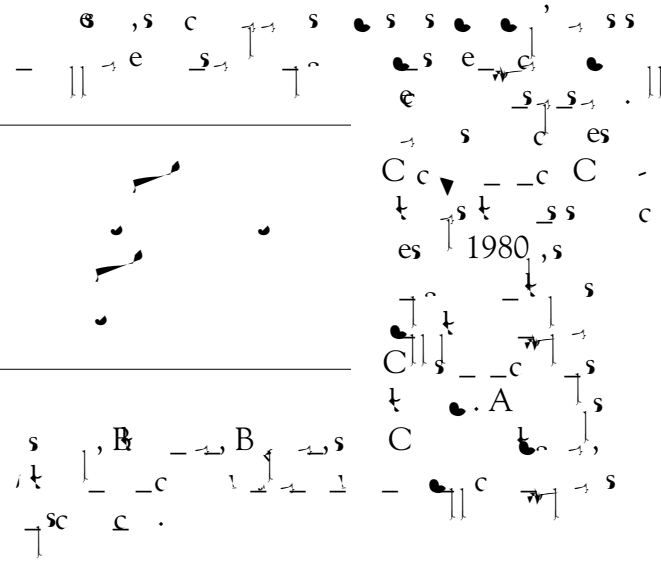
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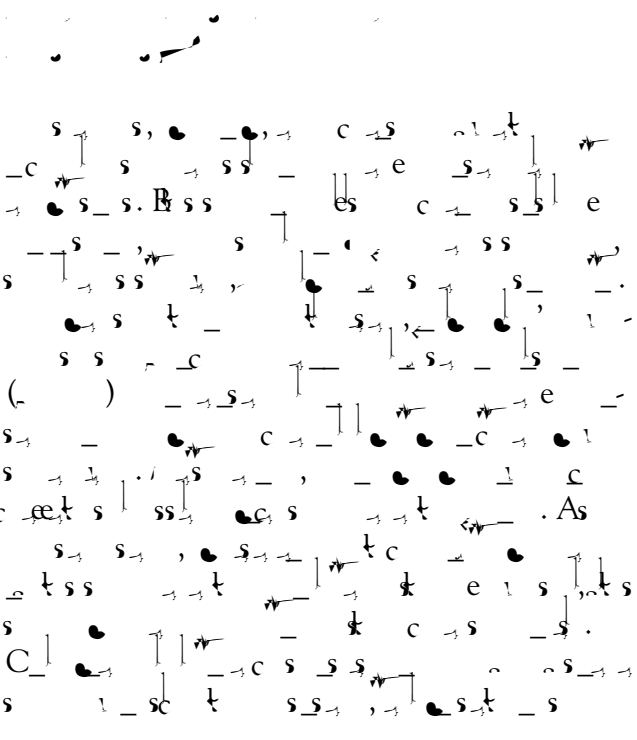


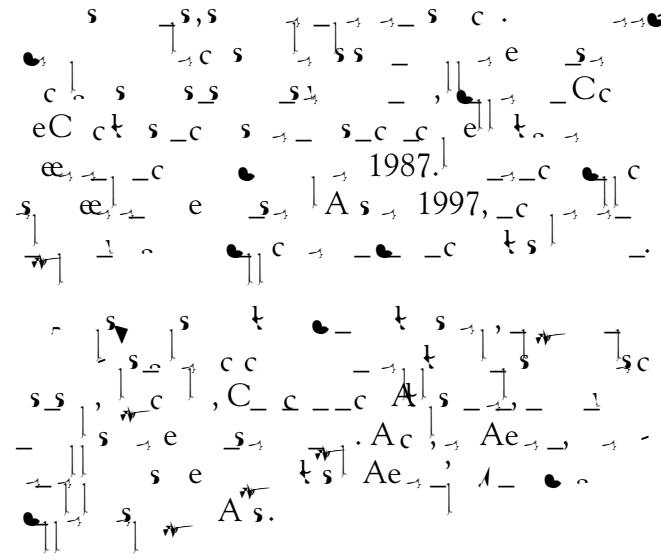












INFORMATION, DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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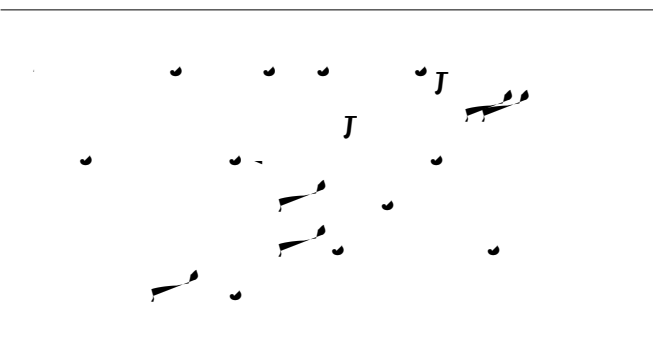
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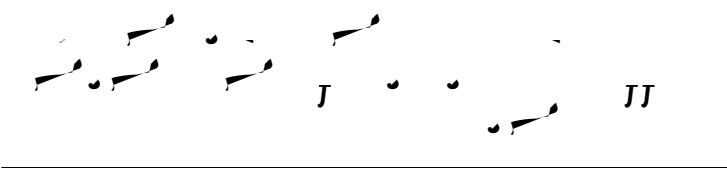
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**THE CARTER CENTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROJECT:
JAMAICA CASE STUDY**

Lara A. A.

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The Access to Information Act, 2002, is a landmark piece of legislation in Jamaica. It marks a significant milestone in the country's commitment to transparency and accountability in government. The Act provides a legal framework for the disclosure of information held by public bodies, ensuring that citizens have the right to know what their government is doing.

The Act was enacted in 2002, following a long process of consultation and public participation. It was designed to balance the need for transparency with the protection of certain types of information, such as national security, law enforcement, and personal data. The Act sets out the principles of access to information, the scope of information covered, and the procedures for requesting and receiving information.

Since its enactment, the Act has been a subject of ongoing discussion and development. While it has been widely praised for its progressive approach, there have been concerns about its implementation and effectiveness. In particular, there have been reports of delays in processing information requests and a lack of transparency in the decision-making process.

LESSONS LEARNED

The following lessons learned are derived from the experience of the Access to Information Project in Jamaica:

- Strong Leadership and Political Commitment:** The successful implementation of the Act requires strong leadership and political commitment from the highest levels of government.
- Clear and Accessible Legislation:** The Act should be clear, concise, and easy to understand. It should provide a simple and straightforward process for requesting and receiving information.
- Robust Implementation Framework:** A robust implementation framework is essential for the effective operation of the Act. This includes the establishment of a dedicated office or unit responsible for processing information requests.
- Transparency and Accountability:** The decision-making process should be transparent and accountable. Citizens should be able to track the progress of their requests and challenge decisions if necessary.
- Public Education and Awareness:** Public education and awareness campaigns are crucial for ensuring that citizens know their rights and how to exercise them.
- Independent Oversight:** An independent oversight body should be established to monitor the implementation of the Act and resolve any disputes.
- Regular Review and Updates:** The Act should be regularly reviewed and updated to address any emerging issues and ensure its continued relevance.

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THE CARTER CENTER AT A GLANCE

WHAT IS THE CARTER CENTER?

The Carter Center was established in 1982 as a non-profit organization. It is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, conflict resolution, and democratic governance. The Center was founded by Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter. It has a long history of providing humanitarian relief and promoting human rights. The Center has been instrumental in the resolution of several conflicts, including the Iran hostage crisis, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the end of apartheid in South Africa. The Center has also been instrumental in the promotion of democratic governance and human rights. The Center has a staff of approximately 150 people and a budget of approximately \$34 million. The Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

WHAT HAS THE CENTER ACHIEVED IN 20 YEARS?

In its 20 years of existence, the Carter Center has achieved a wide range of accomplishments. It has provided humanitarian relief to millions of people in over 100 countries. It has been instrumental in the resolution of several conflicts, including the Iran hostage crisis, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the end of apartheid in South Africa. The Center has also been instrumental in the promotion of democratic governance and human rights. The Center has a staff of approximately 150 people and a budget of approximately \$34 million. The Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Carter Center is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, conflict resolution, and democratic governance. It was founded by Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter in 1982. The Center has a long history of providing humanitarian relief and promoting human rights. The Center has been instrumental in the resolution of several conflicts, including the Iran hostage crisis, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the end of apartheid in South Africa. The Center has also been instrumental in the promotion of democratic governance and human rights. The Center has a staff of approximately 150 people and a budget of approximately \$34 million. The Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

HOW IS THE CENTER STAFFED AND FUNDED?

The Carter Center is staffed by approximately 150 people. The staff is composed of a mix of full-time and part-time employees. The Center is funded by a variety of sources, including private donations, grants from the federal government, and income from the Center's endowment. The Center's budget for the year 2000-2001 was approximately \$34 million. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that it is exempt from federal income tax. The Center is also eligible for state and local tax exemptions.

WHERE IS THE CENTER LOCATED?

The Carter Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia. The Center's main office is located at 100 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309. The Center also has several regional offices around the world. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that it is exempt from federal income tax. The Center is also eligible for state and local tax exemptions.