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THE CARTER CENTER



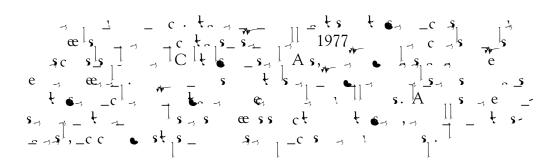
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ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A KEY TO DEMOCRACY			

FOREWORD

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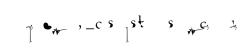
ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A KEY TO DEMOCRACY			

INTRODUCTION

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Knowledge is power, and transparency is the remedy to the darkness under which corruption and abuse thrives.



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ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A KEY TO DEMOCRACY				

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUES

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WHY ACCESS RIGHTS MATTER

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This paper was first written for The Carter Center's Transparency for Growth Conference, May 1999.

LIMITS TO ACCESS RIGHTS MUST BE DEFINED

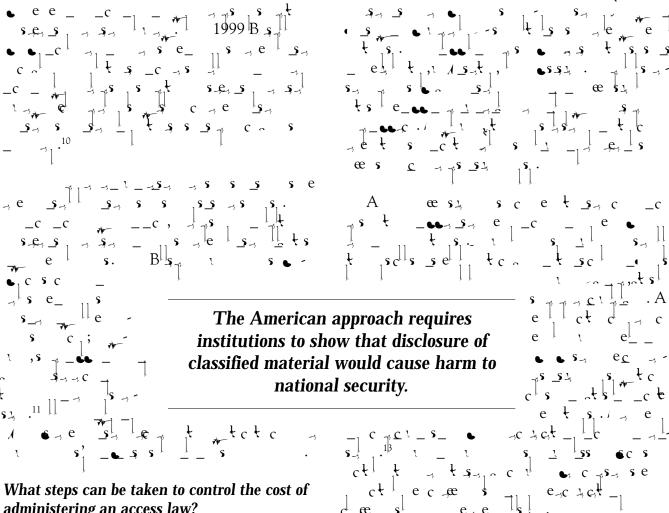
The burden was once on proponents of access rights to make a case for transparency; today, the burden is on the governments to make the case for secrecy.

What institutions should be subject to an access law?

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When can information be withheld by institutions that are subject to an access law?

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administering an access law?

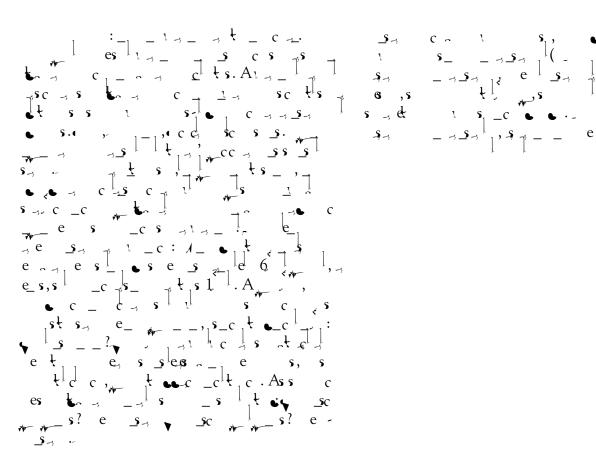
MECHANISMS FOR ENFORCING ACCESS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A KEY TO DEMOCRACY

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

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INTRODUCTION

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The Right to Know

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The Global Trend Towards Greater **Transparency**

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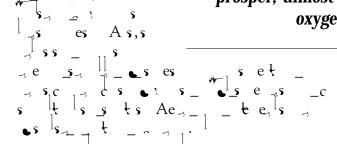
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INFORMATION, DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILTY

THE CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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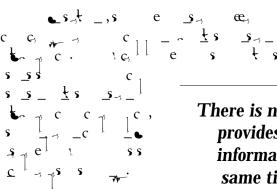
THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW



e - c - t

The Objects of South Africa's Promotion of Access to Information Act 2000

A System for Accessing Information



There is no point in having a law that provides for the right to access to information, if there is not at the same time a clear and workable system of mechanisms to enable citizens to use the law.

Using Its New Law to Powerful Effect: South Africa: Case One

Transparency for the Victims of Apartheid: South Africa: Case Two

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New Access to Information Act is Attracting Much Use: Bulgaria

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A F	K	

The Duty To Be Proactive – Adopting a Right to Know Approach

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For citizens, especially the poor, it is a chance to reclaim ground in their struggle for a more just existence.

CONCLUSION

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION: A KEY TO DEMOCRACY					

THE CARTER CENTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROJECT: JAMAICA CASE STUDY

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The government must see passage, implementation and enforcement of a vigorous access to infromation law as a priority.

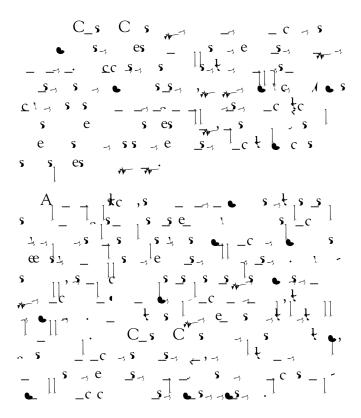
Passing the Law May be the Easy Part



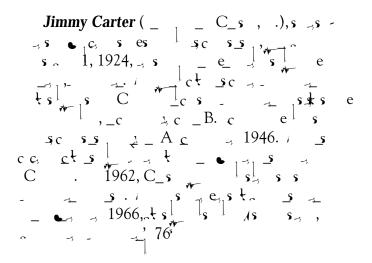
Changing the Culture of Secrecy

will truly have meaning.

CONCLUSION



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



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THE CARTER CENTER AT A GLANCE

WHAT IS THE CARTER CENTER?

WHAT HAS THE CENTER ACHIEVED IN 20 YEARS?

HOW IS THE CENTER STAFFED AND FUNDED?

WHERE IS THE CENTER LOCATED?