

[OCR conversion with cleanup of letter Obtained via FOIA.]

[Redactions are in the original as provided in response to the FOIA demand.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, DC 20226

[symbols redacted]

JUL 23 1996

[Name Redacted]
[Address Redacted]
[City, ST Zip Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

This is in response to your letter of recent date, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). In your letter, you request classification of a device which you have designed to work on your semi automatic firearms. You have also submitted a sample of the device for our examination.

Title 18 United States Code (U.S.C.), Chapter 44, § 922(o), makes it unlawful for any person to possess, transfer or manufacture [sic] a machinegun which was not registered in accordance with the provisions of the National Firearms Act (NFA) prior to May 19, 1986.

As defined in Title 26 U.S.C., Chapter 53, § 5845(b), of the NFA, the term "machinegun" means any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under control of a person.

The submitted sample is a length of shoe string [approximately 8 lines of text redacted through the end of this page]

-2-

[Name Redacted]

[approximately 7 lines of text redacted at the top of this page]

ATF has previously examined similar devices and determined that they are auxiliary trigger mechanisms which are designed and intended for use in converting a semi automatic rifle into a machi negun; therefore, they are machi neguns as defined in § 5845(b). Based upon our examination of the submitted device and the information you provided, it is our opinion that the sample device is also an auxiliary trigger mechanism and a "machi negun" as defined in the third paragraph of this letter.

It is unlawful for anyone to make, possess, or transfer a machi negun which is not registered in accordance with the provisions of the NFA. Since we are unable to establish that the submitted sample was manufactured and transferred in accordance the provisions of the NFA and § 922(o), we are unable to return it to you, as submitted. However, we can return your shoe string without the loops.

The shoe string which you submitted (less the loops) is being returned under separate cover.

We regret that we are unable to respond more favorably at the present time. If you have further questions concerning this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature of Official Redacted]

[Name of Official Redacted]
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch