

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 5 February 2001 - 9 February 2001
Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **15 February 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA, Washington, DC.

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **15 March 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EOB, Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **June 2001: Historical Review Panel (HRP):** Next meeting at CIA

(U//~~ATUO~~) **October 2001:** The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended, for unreviewed general material older than 25 years.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **April 2003:** The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended, for unreviewed intelligence-related or multi-agency records.

Overview of IRR Activities Last Week:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Litigation**

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Author Files New FOIA Lawsuit After Earlier One Dismissed**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit was recently filed in the District of Columbia by prominent FOIA lawyer James Lesar, on behalf of William Davy, after an identical lawsuit was dismissed because Mr. Davy waited too long to file it. The earlier lawsuit sought information about projects QKENCHANT and ZRCLIFF. The Agency had provided the requester with a Glomar response--neither confirming nor denying the existence or non-existence of responsive records--and the requester had waited until the six-year statute of limitations expired before filing suit. After the Court dismissed the case, Mr. Davy filed a new request for the same information, followed shortly thereafter by an identical lawsuit. The plaintiff claims that the names of the cryptonyms, and thus the fact of the projects' existence, were acknowledged through releases made pursuant to the JFK Assassination Records Act.

- *Mr. Davy is the author of a book about the assassination of President Kennedy.*

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(U//~~ATUO~~) **FOIA Requests**

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Requesters Interested in Previously Released Reports**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology requested a copy of a DI intelligence report titled "The Formation of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces: A Study of Interservice Rivalries, March 1972." Also, noted author Jeffrey Richelson requested a copy of "The Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Atomic Energy Intelligence, June 9, 1950." And finally, a requester from Nevada requested a copy of "the summary of an accident investigation analysis for a Lockheed A-12 aircraft with a registration number of 06298 which crashed on January 5, 1967 in the Meadow Valley area of Southern Nevada, U.S.A."

- *The FOIA case officers provided copies of the requested reports from the Management of Officially Released Information (MORI) database of previously released documents.*


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(U//~~ATUO~~) College Student Requests Information on Notorious Gangster

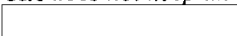
(U//~~ATUO~~) A student at Central Pennsylvania College requested information pertaining to the gangster John Gotti. The requester advised that she was making the request "for a school project studying access to government information."

- *The FOIA case officer advised the requester of the foreign intelligence mission of the CIA and referred her to the FBI for further assistance.* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Japanese Requester Interested in FOIA Statistics


(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester with Information Clearinghouse Japan is interested in "any document that includes information breaking down the total number of FOIA requests received by the CIA during 1999 according to the country of the return address as noted in each request."

- *The FOIA case officer informed the requester that the CIA does not keep an index of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by country of origin.* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) OIM Declassification Center**(U//~~ATUO~~) Army Reviews ODC's STAR GATE Declassification Effort**


(U//~~ATUO~~) Mr. John Kirchofer of the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) met with OIM Declassification Center (ODC) representatives on 8 February to survey the STAR GATE collection to determine the depth of review required to justify an approval from the Army to release of the material. ODC provided Mr. Kirchofer with its written declassification guidelines and a demonstration of ODC's computerized redaction and retrieval system. Mr. Kirchofer indicated the information likely will support an approval from the US Army Deputy Chief for Intelligence (DCSINT) to release the information.

- *The term STAR GATE refers to several programs that dealt with research into the parapsychological phenomenon known as remote viewing. Pursuant to a 1995 Congressional mandate, DIA records on remote viewing were transferred to CIA with direction to begin a program of review with the intention of declassifying as many as possible. When the review and declassification of the STAR GATE collection is complete, the Agency, after coordination with the US Army and several other agencies, will transfer the collection to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which in turn will make them available to the public.* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Directors of Presidential Libraries Briefed on RAC Program

(U//~~ATUO~~) Representatives of OIM's Declassification Center (ODC) gave the directors of the presidential libraries a status report on the Remote Archive Capture (RAC) program on 8 February. The briefing was presented at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) annual directors' conference. ODC briefers informed the directors that ODC is the executive agent of the RAC program, in which over 20 federal agencies now participate, and to date, RAC personnel have scanned around 633,000 pages of presidential records of which over 177,000 pages have been reviewed.

- *Directors of presidential libraries are appointed with the concurrence of the former presidents or their surviving families by NARA's chief executive, the Archivist of the US. NARA administers libraries for every president since Hoover. Directors from each of the libraries from Truman through Clinton attended this conference.* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Archives: DCI Colby Outlines His Favorite Projects for 1975

(U//~~ATUO~~) DCI William Colby outlined his favorite projects in an August 1974 memorandum that was recently reviewed by the DCI Team at the OIM Declassification Center. The memorandum was to the CIA's Deputy Director of Administration Jack Blake and provided financial guidance for 1975. The DCI stated, "I approved certain

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programs for 1975 representing major investments or activities in which I have a personal interest," including the SKYLINK Program, Secure Voice, Communications Area Facilities, Merged Computer Operations, Computer Assisted Field Terminals and COMIREX contractual studies. The DCI also requested that he be notified of "politically sensitive projects carrying a significant risk of causing embarrassment to the U.S. Government in general or to the Agency in particular."

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~~(U//~~FOUO~~)~~ Publications Review Board

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~~(U//~~FOUO~~)~~ PRB Reviews Presentations for CSI's Princeton Conference

~~(U//~~FOUO~~)~~ CIA's Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI) is sponsoring a scholarly conference at Princeton University beginning 9 March. The conference is based on the declassification of finished DI intelligence on the former Soviet Union, and former Agency employees, academics, and senior government officials will present papers commenting on the information newly released to the public. The Publications Review Board (PRB) has reviewed and will continue to review the presentations of all those participants with secrecy agreements, under the terms of which they are obligated to submit material to the PRB before making it public.

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- *The Board had either no objection or only minor objections to the papers it has reviewed to date.*

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