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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 23 April - 27 April 2001 Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **17 May 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EOB, Washington, DC.

Future Planning Calendar:

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **6 June 2001: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA, Washington, DC.

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **17 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**)~~ FOIA Requests

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **CIA Receives First Requests on the Missionary Plane Shootdown in Peru**

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ CIA has received six requests so far this week on the April 20 shootdown in Peru by the Peruvian Air Force of a missionary plane. The Associated Press, CBS News, ABC News and the *Miami Herald* are among the first requesters. The requesters have asked for a wide range of information on the event including CIA's audio and video tapes of the flight, and CIA information on similar shootdown incidents dating back to 1990.

[Redacted]

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~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **Freedom Magazine Interested in Noted Reporter/Biographer**

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ Thomas Whittle, a frequent requester from *Freedom Magazine*, seeks information on James Phelan, an investigative reporter, editor, and author who wrote the best-selling book, *Howard Hughes: The Hidden Years* (1977).

- CIA accepted the request [Redacted]

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~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ **Argentinean Newspaper Seeks Information on Argentinean Banker**

~~(U//**ATUO**)~~ A requester with Argentina's *La Nacion* newspaper asks for information concerning David Gravier, an Argentinean banker and businessman who died in a plane crash in Mexico in 1976. The requester indicated that at the time of his death, Mr. Gravier was living in New York waiting for authorization to buy the American Bank and Trust.

- *The FOIA Case Officer advised the requester that although it is the CIA's policy to neither confirm or deny the existence or non-existence of records that might indicate a current or former operational or analytical interest in any particular foreign personality, we can sometimes provide overt or previously released records containing information on foreign nationals that is unrelated to any classified or covert interest. Accordingly, the requester was provided with 14 pages of previously released material on Mr.*

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Gravier from the Management of Officially Released Information (MORI) database.

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **National Security Archive Shifts Interest to Rwanda**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ Recent requests from the National Security Archive include a request for "a copy of an April 26, 1994 intelligence memorandum titled 'Responsibility for Massacres in Rwanda.'" Also, the Archive requests information concerning "the investigation conducted during April 1993 in Rwanda by Waly Bacre Ndiaye, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and his subsequent report issued at the United Nations on August 11, 1993."

- *The FOIA case officer accepted the request*

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

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Judge Dismisses Parallel FOIA Case on Princess Di and Dodi Fayed**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ On 26 April, a US District Court Judge of the Eastern District of Virginia dismissed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed by freelance journalist Kate McKenna that sought virtually the same information that is being sought in a lawsuit filed by attorney Mark Zaid in the District Court of DC. Both lawsuits seek records under the FOIA that the CIA might have about the deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi Al-Fayed in a Paris car accident, and other related issues. In the case filed in DC, the judge recently granted the CIA's motion for a 24-month stay of proceedings to gather and process documents. Ms. McKenna's parallel lawsuit in the neighboring district was believed to have been a ploy to see if another district court would be more sympathetic to granting expedited processing.

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **OIM Declassification Center**

~~(U)~~ **ODC Makes Second Delivery of Declassified Records to NARA This Year**

~~(U)~~ On 26 April, the OIM Declassification Center (ODC) transferred 74.5 cubic feet of declassified records to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) -- ODC's second delivery of material to NARA this fiscal year. The most recent delivery included central reference reports from the DI, and intelligence publication reports and motion picture films from the DS&T.

- *The motion picture films included Soviet Space Research, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution, American White Paper -- about US foreign policy --, and T-Minus 4 Years, 9 Months, 30 Days -- about President Kennedy's announcement in 1961 that the US would put a man on the moon before 1970.*

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **From the Archives: In 1953, DCI Dulles "Passes the Buck" When Asked Policy Questions**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ In 1953, DCI Allen Dulles was asked at a CIA orientation course about the CIA's role in policy formation. Notes from the course were recently reviewed by the DCI team at the OIM Declassification Center. DCI Dulles responded to the question, "I've tried to keep the Agency out of policy. If we espoused a policy, the tendency would be to shape our intelligence to fit the policy. I've had this situation arise, though, at the National Security Council: if I present some situation that is critical, where something should be done, there is quite a tendency around the table to say 'What would you do about it?' Well, then I refer to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, whoever it may be, pass the buck to him -- very possibly because I haven't got the answer myself."

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Publications Review Board**

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This is a record.

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