

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 8-12 December 2003
Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~ATUO~~) 8 January 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at Crystal City.

(U//~~ATUO~~) 27 January 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) 31 December 2006: The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

Overview of IRR Activities--Last Week

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(U//~~ATUO~~) **Church/Rockefeller Reports on ARP Database**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The Publications and Policy Review Division (PPRD) recently added complete copies of the Church congressional reports and Rockefeller Commission report to the Agency Release Panel (ARP) database. The copies are full text searchable, and can be viewed in their original format via links provided in the database. The 1970-era reports offer comprehensive responses to allegations of wrong-doing within the CIA and other national intelligence entities.

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) DCIDs Shed Light on US Intelligence

(U//~~ATUO~~) Federation of American Scientists (FAS) Senior Research Analyst, Steven Aftergood, is requesting "a copy of all unclassified *Director of Central Intelligence Directives* (DCIDs) that may have been issued or reissued since the date of my last pending request for such Directives..." Mr. Aftergood adds: "DCIDs collectively govern the activities and operations of the intelligence community. Insofar as these documents are unclassified and can be disclosed without damage to national security, their disclosure would serve the public interest by shedding light on U.S. intelligence."

[Redacted]

(b)(3)
(b)(5)

(U//~~ATUO~~) Records on the Jamaican Founder of "Reggae"

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester from Kentfield, California, seeks records on Bob Marley, the Jamaican founder of the spiritual and musical movement known as Reggae. He also seeks records on the "Most Observed List for the island of Jamaica."

- [Redacted]

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(b)(5)

The requester failed to adequately describe "Most Observed List for the island of Jamaica" for purposes of a reasonable search, and was so notified. [Redacted]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Author Requests COMIREX Records

(U//~~ATUO~~) Author and frequent requester, Jeffrey Richelson, seeks copies of four COMIREX (Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation) documents. He provided document numbers and titles (or partial titles) to facilitate a FOIA search.

- *The FOIA case manager referred the requester to the reorganized National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) now known as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for NGA's review and direct response. The NGA is responsible for COMIREX records.* [Redacted]

(b)(3)

Editor: Mr. Richelson's books on imagery-intelligence include: America's Space Sentinels: DSP Satellites and National Security (University Press of Kansas, 1999); and America's Secret Eyes in Space (Harper & Row, 1990).

(U//~~ATUO~~) In a 1965 memo to the DCI, then-DDI Ray Cline proposed the following concerning CIA's imagery resources: "I think it is essential for the DCI and the Agency to maintain a substantial capability for 'detailed studies' of imagery available at the national center (NPIC) to meet priority intelligence needs of primary interest to CIA rather than to the Intelligence Community as a whole....This would mean that, if the squeeze on reference or research projects in the national center becomes too tight in view of the workload there, the DCI would still have a capability for handling urgent projects without being subject to veto by other members of the Intelligence Community." In the same memo, Cline named the new Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) and proposed changing the National Photographic Interpretation Center's name to the National Imagery Analysis Center.

(U//~~ATUO~~) CDC Declassification Center

(U//~~ATUO~~) From The Archives:

(U//~~ATUO~~) Dien Bien Phu—"57 Days of Hell"

(U//~~ATUO~~) The 18 March 1954 *Current Intelligence Bulletin*, titled "Viet Minh effectiveness at Dien Bien Phu surprises French," reports that "a high French official in Saigon described the situation as 'very serious.'" French commanding general Navarre's staff "is appalled by the enemy's swift successes in overrunning French strong points manned by tested troops, and by the concentration and accuracy of Viet Minh artillery fire....the first phase of the attack had been 'very bad' for the French...and the eventual outcome of the battle would depend on French air power, the ability of the French to lift sagging morale, and the extent the Viet Minh command is willing to take murderous losses to crack battle troops." The French official believes the Viet Minh had decided to risk maximum effort at Dien Bien Phu because they recognized the catastrophic effect of an insurgent victory. Such a victory would "further damage French military morale, already lowered by talk of an imminent truce; seriously discredit the strategy of General Navarre; and give the Viet Minh a tremendous boost in prestige perfectly timed with the Geneva conference."

- *The battle of Dien Bien Phu lasted from 13 March to 8 May -- "57 days of hell." France had been fighting the Viet Minh since 1946 and by late 1953 both sides were preparing for peace talks in Geneva. The French chose Dien Bien Phu, a stronghold at the bottom of a bowl-shaped river valley, as a site for a battle because of its position as a hub of road connecting Laos, Thailand, Burma, and China and with the intent of interdicting the enemy's rear. Several factors prevented French air power from playing the decisive role planned for it: 1) the distance from Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu, 2) monsoon rains, and 3) the strategic placement of Viet Minh artillery. In a major logistical feat the Viet Minh had dragged scores of artillery pieces up steeply forested hillsides, which the French had written off as impossible. Legend has it that in preparing for the battle, Ho Chi Minh, surrounded by his staff, took off his tropical helmet, turned it over and putting it in his fist said, "the French are here." Then, slowly running his finger around the edge, he quietly said, and "we are here." When the Viet Minh opened the battle with extremely heavy artillery fire, the French artillery commander, aware he had vastly underestimated his adversary, committed suicide. After 57 bloody days, the Viet Minh overran the final French positions at Dien Bien Phu. At the Geneva talks, the French sued for peace, and Vietnam was divided into the North and South with elections to be held within two years.* (b)(3)

(U//~~ATUO~~) Relations With FBI

(U//~~ATUO~~) FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover passed a wide range of documents to various DCIs over the years for their edification. One of the more unusual, provided in 1950 to General Bedell Smith, was a copy of Alfred S. Kinsey's pioneering study, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. The book was forwarded by the FBI liaison officer to CIA along with a review done by an Agent Suttler, who was then handling sex offender matters. Agent Suttler observed: "Dr. Kinsey has contributed a study helpful to students of sociology, psychiatry, psychology and anthropology, but its value is limited. His sincerity to do a scientifically important study is not questioned, but exceeds his ability to accomplish the net result. It is conceivable that interested legislators might glean from the book valuable data in forming more effective sex laws, but it is also conceivable that this book could do incalculable harm in the hands of adolescents who read it as a justification for their own sexual habits." The FBI requested that the "book be returned after it has served its purpose." (b)(3)

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