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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 10 - 14 February 2003

Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) 12 March 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at Crystal City.

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) 25 March 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(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~~) Author Decries Information Release Programs in Book about DCI Colby

(U//~~ATUO~~) The biography *Lost Crusader: The Secret Wars of CIA Director William Colby* by John Prados was released recently. The author is a frequent requester of CIA information under the FOIA and the Mandatory Declassification Review provisions of EO 12958, and he acknowledges the use of many declassified documents in the book. In the preface, the author describes his experiences with the declassification programs, "Materials were accessed in various ways. Secret documents have been declassified directly, by application under the Freedom of Information Act, or through the general declassification schedules of the government, or by mandatory declassification review, a process similar to that entailed by the Freedom of Information Act. The declassification process continues to be frustrating and cumbersome: documents that would have been relevant and that were requested long before research began for this book are still pending for action as this work goes to press. Some sources became available literally weeks or days before the manuscript had to be finished. Present declassification procedures provide for a research process that is in some respects a random walk."

- *John Prados is one of the most prolific requesters of CIA material, having submitted over the years 314 FOIAs and EO Mandatory Declassification Reviews. As of this date, 39 of his cases are still open, including 14 that he has filed since 1 January 2003. Out of 314 cases, he has appealed the CIA's decision seven times.*

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) Requester Seeks Information On the "ECO Experiment"

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester from Arizona requested "disclosure on the ECO experiment...." The requester feels he has been "held hostage by a device called ECO known as a[n] Audiogram much like [the] Army once used in an experiment in the 70s...." He likens its capabilities to that of the "Six Million Dollar Man Steve Austin's bionic eye and ear."



(U//~~ATUO~~) Cambodian National Seeking Information For Immigration Proceedings

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester from Cambodia requested all documents pertaining to "[his] military service in Cambodia during the 1970s, in concert with the United States Armed Forces; [his] training in Vietnam by the United States

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Armed Forces in the 1970s; [his] application for refugee status while in Thailand; and [his] entry into the United States as a refugee." The requester wants the information for immigration proceedings.

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(b)(5)**(U//~~ATUO~~) CIA Receives Requests for CD ROMs Containing the STAR GATE Collection**

(U//~~ATUO~~) CIA received its first two (of many expected) requests for CD ROMs containing the recently-released 74,000 pages of declassified information on the STAR GATE program, which involved experiments on remote viewing.

- *The STAR GATE collection is available on the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST), a public access system located at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland. IMS management currently is developing policies and procedures for handling requests for declassified STAR GATE documents in electronic format.* [REDACTED]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) CIA Declassification Center**(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Archives: DDCI Carter Questions "CIA Oversensitivity"**

(S) In 1963, DDCI Marshall S. Carter was troubled by CIA's classification policies, which were outlined in a memorandum for the record that was recently reviewed at the CIA Declassification Center. Carter said, "they continually jump on me for not being security conscious as to the size of our budget [REDACTED] and as to the number of people in the Agency. I would like a lucid explanation in writing as to what is so sensitive about those things.... "

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- *Lt. Gen. Marshall Carter was DDCI from 1962 to 1965 during the tenure of DCI John McCone. Because of a 1953 amendment to the National Security Act that prohibited commissioned officers of the armed forces from occupying both the DCI and DDCI positions at the same time, Carter lost his job in 1965 when LBJ appointed VADM William Raborn to replace McCone. LBJ then appointed Carter as Director of the National Security Agency, where he served from 1965 to 1969. General Carter died in 1993 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.* [REDACTED]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Archives: The USS Liberty

(U//~~ATUO~~) A Johnson Library document from June 1976, which was recently reviewed at the CIA Declassification Center, summarizes events occurring at the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli "Six Day" War. One paragraph titled "USS Liberty" states, "Four US Navy personnel killed and more than 50 wounded in the torpedo attack on the USS Liberty, a Sixth Fleet communications ship, this morning. It appears the attack was erroneously made by the Israelis, who have expressed deep regret."

- *The 35-year-old Liberty incident continues to be the subject of great controversy and was recently the subject of a 1 February article in the Washington Post. The Liberty survived a two-hour assault by Israeli fighters and torpedo boats that left 34 dead and 171 injured, and over 800 holes in the superstructure. According to the Post article, former US Ambassador Richard Parker (a political counselor in Cairo in 1967) -- at a symposium last month at the Middle East Institute here -- stated that "Dean Rusk, Richard Helms, Adm. Thomas Moorer and a host of former directors of the National Security Agency (NSA), as well as then-President Lyndon Johnson believed the attack was deliberate." Although the true nature of the attack may never be known, James Bamford, author of two books on the NSA, claims "there has never been a real investigation," and further claims NSA has not declassified any documents regarding this event.* [REDACTED]

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This is a record.

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