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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 14 - 18 April 2003

Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) 14 May 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at Crystal City.

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) 20 May 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) 4-5 June 2003: Historical Review Panel: Next meeting at State Department and CIA Headquarters.

(U//~~ATUO~~) 31 December 2006: 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~~) High School Students Seek Information about JFK Jr.

(U//~~ATUO~~) Two female students from the DOD high school in Yokusuka, Japan, recently submitted a FOIA request for CIA information regarding John Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. The requesters indicate the material is needed for "a course assignment for our Government class and our own curiosity and interest ..."

- *CIA found 51 FBIS documents mentioning JFK Jr, which were forwarded to the students. The collection included FBIS-monitored media reports from around the world about the subject's air disaster. CIA also reminded the students, "... as you are probably learning in your Government class, the mission of the Central Intelligence Agency is primarily concerned with the collection of foreign intelligence matters ... not domestic matters ..."*

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Frequent Requester Complains About Perceived Abuse of FOIA Process

(U//~~ATUO~~) Stephen Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists, and one of CIA's most frequent FOIA requesters, recently complained in his newsletter that, in his opinion, some people abuse the Freedom of Information process, which causes agencies to have to divert their scarce FOIA resources from "legitimate" requests. In the past, Aftergood has complained in his newsletter about UFO enthusiasts sapping FOIA resources. In the 16 April 2003 edition of FAS' *Secrecy News*, Aftergood complained about those searching for Noah's Ark, describing their efforts as "the legal hijacking of the FOIA process to pursue a private obsession."

- *Since 1991, Stephen Aftergood has filed at least 19 requests with CIA for the release of various aspects of the intelligence budget. He has appealed the CIA's denial of the information in 16 of the requests, and filed a second appeal in seven. He has pursued his requests to federal court several times and to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) twice.*

(U//~~ATUO~~) National Security Archive Requests List of Ten Oldest Appeals

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive asks for "copies of the Central Intelligence Agency's ten oldest open or pending Freedom of Information Act appeals currently being processed."

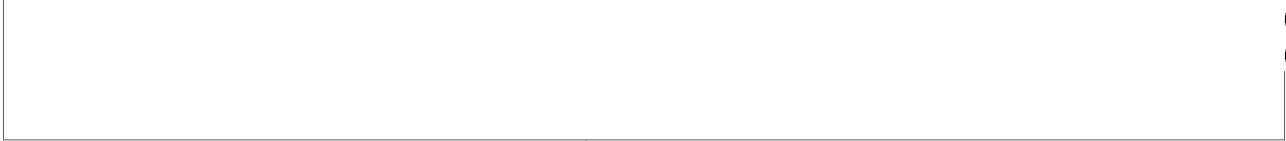
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(U//~~ATUO~~) Foreign National Wants CIA's Information About Himself


(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester living in Massachusetts wants information on himself. The requester indicates he is an Algerian citizen born in the Czech Republic.



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(U//~~ATUO~~) Texas Company Asks for List of Employees Holding Government Credit Cards

(U//~~ATUO~~) ErgoGenesis, a company in Navasota, Texas, asked CIA for "a current list of IMPAC card holders," apparently referring to the International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (IMPAC), which is a government-wide program implemented to process government imprest fund purchases through credit cards.

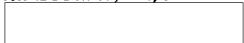
- *The Information and Privacy Coordinator authorized a statutory denial, advising the requester that in accordance with the CIA Act of 1949 the Agency is exempted from the provisions of any laws which require the disclosure of the names of personnel employed by the CIA.* 

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) ERWG Meets at NARA in Washington, DC

(U//~~ATUO~~) Chair, Rich Warshaw convened the External Referral Working Group's (ERWG) monthly meeting on 16 April 2003 at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC. J. William Leonard, Director, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) spoke to 32 attendees representing 16 federal agencies about EO 13292 (which will be referred to as "EO 12958 as amended"). He noted the new EO retains the basic structure of the original Order, but that it now 'belongs' to this administration. In the new order, the President: (1) recognized the effectiveness of the existing interagency process, (2) set a new deadline of 31 December 2006 for completion of the automatic declassification review, and (3) 'institutionalized' the automatic declassification process. Mr. Leonard told the ERWG to expect a draft implementing directive within 90-days.

- *President Bush signed EO 13292 on 25 March 2003 to amend President Clinton's EO 12958. Because Bush decided to amend rather than rewrite Clinton's Order, the Classified National Security Information EO will be known by the original number with "as amended" added.*
- *The ERWG was formed in 1996 to coordinate declassification policies, standards, and procedures among the agencies affected by President Clinton's Executive Order 12958 on Classified National Security Information. Rich Warshaw, Chairman of the ERWG, is also Chief of the CIA Declassification Center.* 

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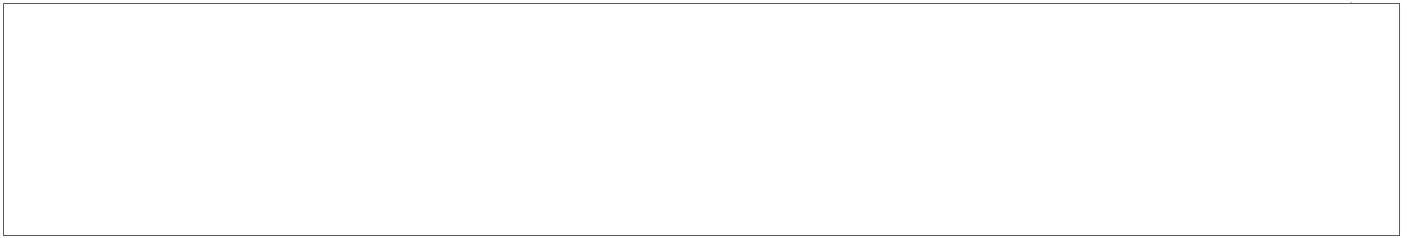
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