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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 17 - 21 March 2003

Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

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

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **16 April 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at Crystal City.

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) **3 June 2003: Historical Review Panel:** Next meeting at

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Overview of IRR Activities Last Week:

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) National Security Archive Praises and Reproaches CIA on Its FOIA Administration

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive, arguably the most frequent requester of CIA information under the FOIA, issued recently the results of their internal "Freedom of Information Act Audit." In the report, the Archive was both critical and complimentary of the CIA's administration of the FOIA. The Archive performed the audit of 35 agencies to gauge, among other things, the effects of the 9/11 events on the government's administration of the FOIA. In the report, which was presented on 14 March 2003 at the 2003 National Freedom of Information Day Conference, the Archive lauded the CIA as "the only agency to both send an initial acknowledgement and a substantive response within the 20-business day statutory time limit..." but also singled out the CIA for its "minimal contact information" on its Internet web page, stating, "there is no contact individual, telephone number or fax number, and no appeal instructions" listed on the CIA FOIA page.

- *The National Security Archive is a private organization located at George Washington University that compiles and sells histories of international events, which they derive from declassified records.*
- *The CIA's website does contain the information that the Archive alleges is missing. From the website: CIA's contact individual is the public telephone number is 703-613-1287, and the fax number is 703-613-3007. Also, the CIA website contains appeal information: "The FOIA permits requesters disagreeing with an Agency decision to file an administrative appeal to the Agency Release Panel in care of the Coordinator ... within 45 days of the Agency's initial decision..." Also included under the appeals section at the website is a sample letter that includes the CIA FOIA address and suggested language for an appeal letter.*

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Florida Requester Indignant at Report That CIA Took Children into Custody

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester from Florida recently faxed three letters to George Tenet indicating his indignation at news reports that the CIA took into custody the children of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the 9/11 attacks who was captured early this month in Pakistan. According to news reports, Mohammed's two sons, ages nine and seven, were taken into custody when their father was arrested and the CIA was involved in their interrogation. One of the requester's faxes was a "Freedom of Information Demand" for information, "concerning any and all children outside the United States who are subject to any form of custody or control, direct or indirect, by the CIA, or its representative/allies, or who are directly under surveillance by the agency."

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- *The Director of Public Affairs responded on behalf of the DCI on 14 March 2003, "The media reports, to which you refer, regarding children of a terrorist suspect allegedly being taken into custody, are without any basis in fact. Some news organizations published these erroneous reports without checking on the facts. Had they, or you, asked us, we would have given absolute assurance that the stories are incorrect."*

[Redacted]

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- *The requester is a conservative radio broadcaster who is running for the US Senate from Florida in 2004.*

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) Review Trip to Air Force Historical Research Agency

(U//~~ATUO~~) On 12-14 March 2003, representatives from the CIA Declassification Center visited the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. The purpose of the visit was to complete the certification of records, from 1975 and older, reviewed by Raytheon contractors over the past year. AFHRA's commander, Colonel Dieter Barnes, was provided an explanation of what the team accomplished and the limitations of the CIA review. The TDYers also made recommendations for follow-up actions to be undertaken by both the US Air Force and the CIA. Colonel Barnes was quite pleased with what had been accomplished and stated that he would act upon the proposed recommendations. [Redacted]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Review Trip to Stennis Space Center

(U//~~ATUO~~) On 17-19 March 2003, representatives from the CIA Declassification Center (CDC) visited the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, to complete review of the Center's collection of National Intelligence Surveys (NIS). The representatives established and recorded the existence of an additional 302 NIS volumes, totaling 33,500 pages. Additionally, 126 discrepancies, regarding differences between the initial count obtained in July 2002 and the actual volumes present, were corrected. CDC will close out the action relative to this location as soon as all entries are recorded in the CIA Declassification Center NIS database, and cover sheets, denoting the EO 12958 review results, are prepared and pouched to Stennis for affixing on each NIS copy. [Redacted]

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This is a record.

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CC:

Sent on 27 March 2003 at 11:23:45 AM