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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 20-24 September 2004 Executive Summary

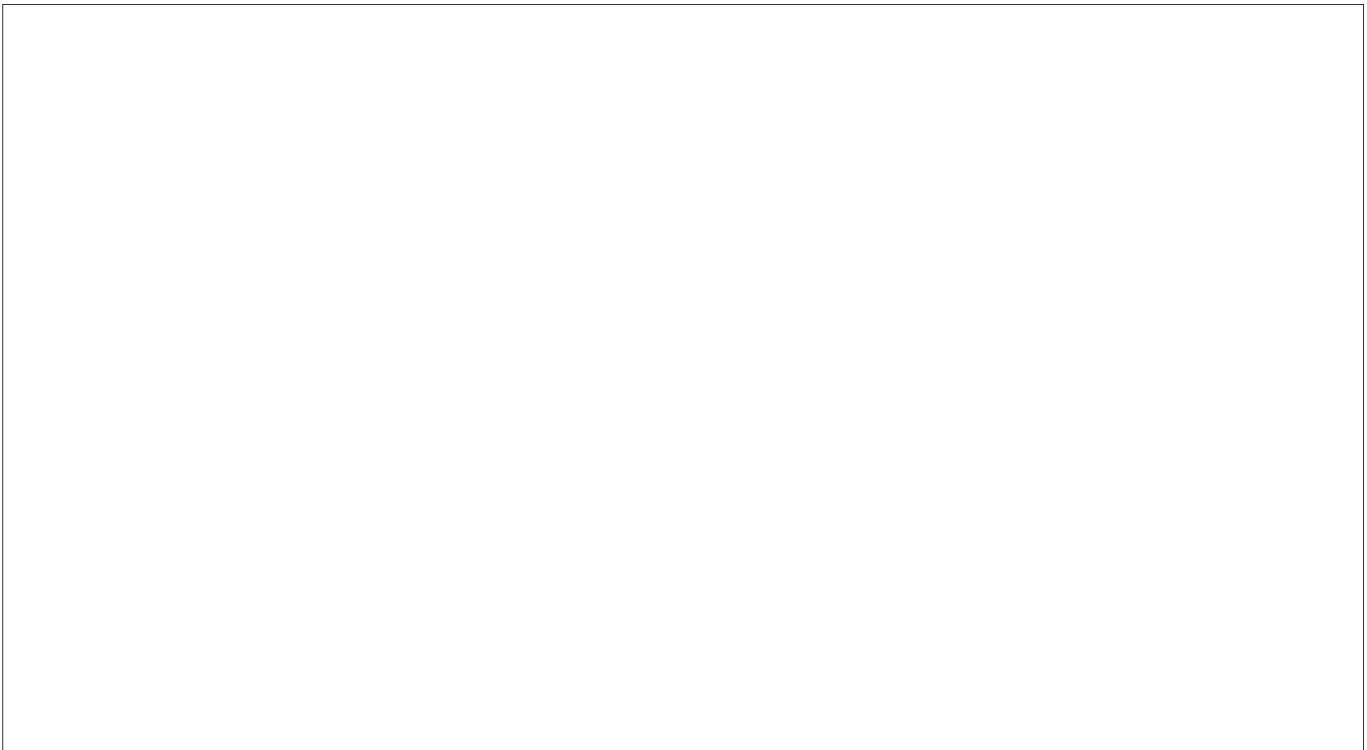
Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~ATUO~~) 13 October 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) 26 October 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~~) FOIA Requests

(U//~~ATUO~~) The Archive Revisits Events Cited in Coll's *Ghost Wars*

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive is requesting all documents created during 1 August–31 December 1987 regarding: (1) Communications between Soviet KGB Chairman (acting head of the KGB) Vladimir Kryuchkov and acting US CIA Director Robert Gates that relate to Afghanistan and Islamic Fundamentalism or the Mujahadeen, the Afghan resistance movement; (2) Attempts by the Soviet Union to disengage (remove) themselves from the conflict in Afghanistan; (3) Soviet approaches toward the US for ideas on Soviet disengagement from Afghanistan; and, (4) A 4 December 1987 meeting between acting head of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov, and acting US CIA Director Robert Gates, in Washington, DC. [Ref.: Steve Coll's *Ghost Wars*, New York: The Penguin Press, 2004, pp. 168-169.]

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Editor: As reported, the Archive last week requested records pertaining to the 1979 Soviet decision to mount a military invasion of Afghanistan. This week, the Archive is requesting information on Soviet efforts to 'disengage' from the conflict in that country. Frequently, requesters utilize the FOIA to bring additional clarity to major political issues currently facing our country —and, sometimes, to enhance public awareness of elected officials, or candidates. Indeed, FOIA case managers can often anticipate specific request topics before they are submitted simply by following the news..

(U//~~ATUO~~) TV Reporter Wants Senator John Heinz's Records


(U//~~ATUO~~) A reporter representing WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh is requesting a copy of all CIA records on deceased US Senator John Heinz, III. Specifically, the requester wishes to receive "all documents as they appear in the 'main' files and 'see also' or 'see references' of all units in your agency."

- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) The Missing "Appendix—Case Study of a Particular Weapons System"

(U//~~ATUO~~) The requester seeks release of a cited appendix to the report "Soviet Decision Making in Defense R&D: a Critical Analysis." He states: "I am researching the life of Joel Barr, an American who spied for the Soviet Union during World War II and, subsequently, worked as a scientist in Leningrad. I searched on the CIA's FOIA website using the terms 'Joel Barr' and 'Leningrad Design Bureau' (where he was the Chief Engineer)." Finding no mention of the subject in the report, the requester now wishes to consult the report's omitted appendix.

- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,* 

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Editor: The requester notes that his book about Barr and fellow spy, Alfred Sarant, is due to be published by Yale University Press. Presently, he is working on a manuscript based on the book, which he plans to publish in a peer-reviewed journal.

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

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) Brazilian Reaction to Release of Intelligence Information

(U//~~ATUO~~) In the "Noon Notes" for President Carter on 5 January 1977, the White House Situation Room noted that press coverage in Brazil following the release of formerly classified information concerning the 1964 Brazilian revolution "has ignited conservative criticism of US actions, primarily over the precedent of releasing sensitive information while many individuals involved remain active in the military and government." DIA said that reports of "drastic changes" in the military relationship between the US and Brazil were unlikely to occur as a result of the information release.

- *Comment: This information was only 13 years old at the time it was released, and the item does not say whether it was due to a FOIA or mandatory declassification request. It is typical of many European and Latin governments, however, that some politicians and officials remain in government for decades.* 

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Before There Was EO 12958

(U//~~ATUO~~) From the White House Daily Report for the President on 13 May 1980: "The Information Security

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Oversight Office has forwarded its first annual report as required by Executive Order 12065. The report concludes, *inter alia*, that there has been a substantial decrease in the number of classifiers, that information is being classified for a shorter period of time, and that most information is being classified at the lowest level. Thus, while much remains to be done as the program enters its second year, significant progress has been made on the goals you set—eliminating needless classification while strengthening respect for the national security information system." [redacted]

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~~(U//ATUC)~~ **Egyptian Concern With Religious Extremism**

~~(U//ATUC)~~ From (National Intelligence Officer) *NIO Monthly Warning Report* s—August 1981: "[Egyptian] President Sadat is about to embark upon a program to contain the rise in Muslim and Christian extremist activity. He correctly perceives this activity as threatening to the regime....The decision to round up the extremists comes at one of the cyclical periods of unrest in the armed forces about Egyptian foreign policy. The next few months do not appear to be critical to the regime but the potential for disorder comes at a time not particularly helpful to US policy in the area."

- *Comment: The analytic comment underestimated the danger from extremists to Sadat's regime. On 6 October 1981, Islamist extremists in the Egyptian army assassinated Sadat while he was reviewing a military parade.*

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