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Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 22 - 26 July 2002

Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **20 August 2002:** Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at Crystal City.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **21 August 2002:** Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting, site to be determined.

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//~~ATUO~~) **8-9 January 2003:** Historical Review Panel: Next meeting at

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(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~~) FOIA Requests

(U//~~ATUO~~) BBC News Requests Records Related to the "Ustica Crash"

(U//~~ATUO~~) A producer with BBC News requested records relating to a 1980 incident in which an Itavia Airlines DC-9 on an internal flight exploded in mid-air and crashed into the sea near the Mediterranean island of Ustica, west of Naples. Some days later the wreckage of a Libyan MiG-21 was found on a remote hillside in southern Italy, leading to speculation that the two crashes may have been related.

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(U//~~ATUO~~) National Security News Service Seeks Information Related to Francis Argenbright

(U//~~ATUO~~) A reporter for the National Security News Service, a project of the Public Education Center, requested records pertaining to Francis (Frank) Argenbright, founder of passenger screening company Argenbright Security, Inc.

- *As the requester provided all necessary biographic information, as well as a privacy waiver from the subject of the search,*

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Author Requests Information Relating to Meeting Between Former DCI Bush and Frank Sinatra

(U//~~ATUO~~) A writer researching a book for publication asked for records pertaining to a meeting between then-DCI George Bush and Frank Sinatra in New York on February 23, 1976, at which time, the writer states, Mr. Sinatra offered to inform the CIA of his meetings with foreign dignitaries.

- *The requester was advised that subsequent to the dates in question, we received FOIA requests from other persons seeking information pertaining to Frank Sinatra's offering his services to the CIA and all records in connection with Frank Sinatra. In both cases, thorough and diligent searches failed to locate any responsive records. As the information sought in the current request would clearly be encompassed by either of the aforementioned searches, the requester was advised that it would be fruitless to expend her funds on further searches, and that her request had been canceled.*

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

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **From the Archives: DCI Colby in 1975 "There Is Always One Report That Predicts an Event"**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ In 1975, DCI William Colby spoke on an issue that applies to the CIA's situation today after the 9/11 terrorist events: "I think the one game that is played in intelligence agencies after an event is to look around for the one report that predicted it, and I guarantee you, you can find it. There is always one report somewhere that predicts an event is going to happen. It may be lost in a hundred that predict it won't, and it may be a prediction of a hundred events that didn't take place. But, after a particular event, you can always find one report."

- The document was reviewed recently by the DCI team at the CIA Declassification Center.

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **From the Archives: The "Flying Tigers"**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A 1945 OSS document from the Casey Collection/Hoover Institute titled *American Cooperation with China During the First Year of the War*, included a detailed description of the history of the American Volunteer Group (AVG, also known as the "Flying Tigers"). Claire Chennault, a retired US Army aviator who had been training Chinese pilots in China to fight the Japanese invaders, proposed in 1940 to raise a unit of American volunteers. After many hurdles, 100 American-made Curtis P-40 aircraft were obtained from the British and shipped to Burma and 100 American pilots were "hired." Because of concerns over neutrality (this was before Pearl Harbor), the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO) was formed to hire and pay the pilots to be "an advanced training and instructional unit in China," but their real purpose was to defend the Burma Road. Pilots were paid over \$600 per month and received a bonus of \$600 for every Japanese plane they destroyed. With limited supplies and support, ramping up for action was slow, and the AVG didn't get into battle until 30 December. Over the next several months, the Chennault's AVG became the bane of the Japanese Air Force in Southeast Asia and Southern China, eventually tallying up 297 confirmed "kills" and "probably destroying" another 300 by 18 July 1942 when they were disbanded and the pilots absorbed into the US Army Air Corps.

- The document was reviewed recently by the Remote Archive Capture (RAC) team at the CIA Declassification Center.

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This is a record.

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