

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 14-25 November 2005 Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~ATUO~~) **30 November 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **20 December 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **13-14 December 2005: Historical Review Panel:** Next semi-annual meeting.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **31 December 2006:** The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

Overview of IRR Activities--Last Two Weeks

(U//~~ATUO~~) **New FRUS Volume on China**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A declassified portion of a forthcoming *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) volume on US-China (1973-1976) contains an excerpt from a 25 October 1975 memorandum of conversation between President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on the latest round of Beijing talks. The conversation focuses on George H.W. Bush, the Chief of the US Liaison Office in China, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the US representative to the United Nations:

"President: How is George Bush doing?

Kissinger: Magnificently. I am very, very impressed with him. I was not enthusiastic about his appointment, but he has grown into the job and I think he will one day be a considerable national leader. He is a big cut above Moynihan -- who is turning a disaster. To call Brazil a fascist dictatorship [because of its vote on the anti-Zionism resolution]....

President: When did he do that?

Kissinger: He is going wild about the Israeli issues.

President: I agree with you about George. He is a fine man."

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Request on Possible Release of Sensitive Information**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester asks for records concerning "whether classified information was improperly or illegally released as a result of the June 19, 2003 article appearing in the *New Republic* magazine online titled 'The First Casualty: The Selling of the Iraq War,' and the statement contained therein that 'following a request for information from the Vice President, the CIA has asked an unnamed ambassador to travel to Niger to investigate allegations that Iraq has sought uranium from Niger.'"

- *The FOIA case manager sent an initial letter acknowledging receipt of the request.*

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(U//~~ATUO~~) **Interest in NAFTA and Immigrants**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive seeks documents on "the potential impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the illegal migration of Mexican citizens to the United States, actions by coyotes, or smugglers of illegal migrants, to take advantage of the future agreement, and U.S. and Mexican government attempts to control NAFTA's impact on migration."

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(b)(5)~~(U//A//UO)~~ CIA Declassification Center~~(U//A//UO)~~ From the Archives:~~(U//A//UO)~~ Operation MONGOOSE Release

~~(U//A//UO)~~ A 16 March 1977 National Security Council (NSC) memorandum to the FOIA offices at CIA, State, Department of Defense (OASD), Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and US Information Agency (USIA) states that: "in connection with a request by Mr. David Martin for documents concerning Operation MONGOOSE, the senior NSC Staff man responsible for Cuban Affairs has reviewed the enclosed documents and has written:

"I have no objection to the declassification and release of these documents. I do not believe that the documents which I examined will in any way harm the U.S. national interest or negatively affect the current discussions between the U.S. and Cuban Governments. Assistant Secretary Todman informed Foreign Minister Malmierca in their first official contact that because of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, we might be required to release documents of an historical nature involving U.S. policy towards Cuba in the early years of the Cuban revolution. Malmierca said that such documents reveal the past but will not stain the future. In addition, much of the most sensational information on Operation MONGOOSE was disclosed during the Senate Intelligence investigations, and indeed Castro has already used this information publicly. I do not expect that the information which I examined will have a detrimental impact on our policies, and some of the memoranda are of genuine historical value. We would appreciate receiving your comments and recommendations as to whether or not these documents or segregable portions thereof may be declassified and released to Mr. Martin."

- *Comment: Operation MONGOOSE covered a wide variety of covert projects to overthrow the Castro regime. According to Christopher Andrew's For the President's Eyes Only, the program was launched in November 1961 "under the effective direction of Attorney General Robert Kennedy," who in January 1962 said it was "top priority...all else is secondary" and ordered that "no time, money, effort--or manpower...be spared." David Martin was a reporter for the Associated Press at the time.* [REDACTED]

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~~(U//A//UO)~~ The Czech Army Wants You!

~~(U//A//UO)~~ A DO *Information Report* circa 1953 on "Processing of Draft Eligibles" notes: "All men up to 50 years of age in Czechoslovakia are being processed for military service. Practically all physicians are being called to serve on draft boards to deal with the sudden influx of these draftees. The customary pre-induction classifications into A, B, C, and D categories has been supplemented by an E category, to which all those normally declared unfit for military service are being assigned. The E category denotes men earmarked for "cannon fodder units." [REDACTED]

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~~(U//A//UO)~~ Thinking Out of the Box

~~(U//A//UO)~~ The DCI files contain a 1973 memo to the DCI, in which the Assistant to the Director, Angus Theurmer, expounded on his ideas for "alternate means of briefing our customers." Theurmer wrote: "First, we must consider what I call Dial-A-Briefing. This envisages a magnetic tape briefing which certain officials would be able to get on their telephone: something like dialing for the time (or if in Vienna, dialing to get the concert schedule) . . . I have also been thinking of a real-time, live, world-wide, satellite, daily President's TV briefing. This scheme envisages briefings for the President and other senior officials at a set time from a central control studio here at CIA. Ambassadors or Chiefs of Station--especially those in hot, in-the-news, spots--could be standing by to transmit views by satellite and submit to questioning by the President if he wished . . . This is all pretty far out, but somebody is going to do it; I think it should be we." The buck-slip for the DDI that was attached to the memo said that the DCI wanted the DDI to take a look at these "far-out" notions, adding that the DCI probably doesn't seriously expect Theurmer's ideas to be adopted but "he hopes they will stimulate us to think of innovative approaches to intelligence presentations." [REDACTED]

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This is a record.

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