

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 30 May-10 June 2005 Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~ATUO~~) **20-21 June 2005: Historical Review Panel:** Next semi-annual meeting.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **28 June 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **13 July 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

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

Overview of IRR Activities--Last Two Weeks

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) Request on bin Laden Documents

(U//~~ATUO~~) A Florida requester asks for "information or records on Usama Bin Laden, released to the media in August 1996, describing him as an 'Islamic Extremist Financier'." The requester states that "we have an upcoming trial in mid-August, so if you could please send this as soon as possible we would greatly appreciate it."

- *The FOIA case manager advised the requester that the Department of State released a fact sheet on "Usama bin Ladin: Islamic Extremist Financier" (14 August 1996), and that he should contact that agency to obtain a copy of the document.* [redacted]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Seeking Financial Data on Former DCI

(U//~~ATUO~~) A Washington, D.C. requester asks for "a copy of former CIA Director George Tenet's financial disclosure statement for the year 2001." The requester notes that "each year, senior agency and cabinet level officials are required to publicly disclose their financial earnings and investments to ensure the open and transparent operation of government which is free of conflict of interests."

- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,* [redacted]

(b)(3)

(U//~~ATUO~~) Interest in Afghan Meetings

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive requests "all documents pertaining in whole or in part to [the] 29 September 2001 -1 October 2001 meetings in Rome, Italy between exiled former king of Afghanistan King Mohammad Zahir Shah and members of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance."

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(b)(5)

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

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) Remember When?

(U//~~ATUO~~) The Nixon Library contains a 30 August 1973 *Economic Intelligence Weekly* article titled "Premium Prices for Low-Sulfur Oil" that states: "Record high prices for recent sales of government-owned low-sulfur oil are putting pressure on oil prices generally. Under the terms of recent agreements with Libya, Occidental and Oasis oil companies will pay \$4.90 per barrel. Recent contracts for Ecuadorean and Bolivian crude oil have exceeded \$5.00 per barrel. Nigeria and Indonesia have also received offers of \$5.00 per barrel. The current prices reflect the bidding, particularly by small independent and national oil companies, for limited supplies of government-owned oil. Libya has by far the largest amount, selling 878,000 barrels per day (b/d) -- 40% of the country's total production. Of this amount, 570,000 b/d are being sold back to the major companies under the recent participation agreements. Nigeria may have as much as 330,000 b/d for sale, although it is not known how much is being offered at \$5.00 a barrel. Ecuador's sale at \$5.01 per barrel is for considerably less oil, 33,000 b/d. Bolivia sold 1 million barrels over a four-month period. Several governments are using the new oil prices as a basis for renegotiating long-term contracts with major producers. These negotiations are certain to lead to higher prices." [redacted]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) Report That North Vietnamese Near Surrender

(U//~~ATUO~~) A lengthy June 1976 document titled "Intelligence Materials for President Nixon" contained a tantalizing article on page 24 that states: "North Vietnam May Have Been on the Verge of Surrender in December 1972: Former VNAF pilot Ho Kim Hai, who flew his helicopter to freedom in Thailand on March 8, has told US officials that Hanoi may have been on the verge of surrender in December 1972. Hai claimed that he learned this from private discussions with a North Vietnamese general officer whom he entertained when the general visited his re-education camp. The North Vietnamese officer said that American B-52 raids at the time had so devastated Hanoi's air defenses and industrial base that the country was near capitulation. Both the Soviets and the Chinese were pressuring the Vietnamese to sue for peace with only the Cubans supporting the North Vietnamese decision to gamble that the US would not continue its strikes. The North Vietnamese officer also opined that had the strikes continued for one more week, 'a general retreat and cessation of hostilities' would have been too extensive to permit prolonged resistance."

- *Comment: President Nixon had been increasing the pressure on the North Vietnamese over stalled negotiations in Paris by escalating the bombing of North Vietnam. His landslide victory over George McGovern on 7 November coincided with a November-December B-52 bombing campaign that, by several accounts, rattled Hanoi and brought the Communists back to the peace talks, resulting in a "Peace Agreement" on 27 January 1973.* [redacted]

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This is a record

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