Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 8-19 September 2003 Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar:

(U//ALIO) 28 October 2003: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//AIUO) 3-5 December 2003: Historical Review Panel: Next semi-annual meeting.

(U//AIUU) Progress on the SovFinIntel Project

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

Overview of IRR Activities Last Week:

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(U//AIUO) CIA Declassification Center

(U//AHUO) From the Archives

(U//AIUO) COS Saigon Offers Counterinsurgency Lesson

(U//ATUO) After the 8 July 1962 publication of an Associated Press story criticizing the implementation of US policy in Vietnam (and, more specifically, the US counterinsurgency program), DDCI Marshall Carter forwarded the article to Chief of Station (COS) in Saigon asking for his frank views. COS Saigon responds with an eight-page cable containing a point-by-point analysis and rebuttal of the press article. While the overall cable is neutral to positive about US prospects, the last paragraph warns about what might lie ahead: "History of guerrilla wars indicates large number of troops must be committed to eliminate guerrillas. Was not uncommon in Greece to commit as many as 5,000 troops to clear out area thought to contain no more than 50 to 100 communist guerrillas. In Malaysia [many thousands of] troops were committed for 12 years against 8,000 hard-core communists who were in main ethnically distinct from majority of Malayan population and not supported by geographically adjacent communist territories."

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• Throughout the war years, the Intelligence Community struggled to reach agreement regarding the total number of enemy forces (North Vietnamese forces and Viet Cong) that were confronting the US military. The COS's historical comparisons about the ratio of forces needed to mount a successful anti-guerrilla effort provide yet another perspective as to the criticality of such estimates.
(U/AHO) Thucydides' Insight and the 'Cod War' (U/AHO) A Weekly Review article, dated 27 October 1972, assessing incidents at sea and high-level talks leads with a modern-sounding quote purportedly by the Athenian historian, Thucydides (471-400 BC): "A collision at sea can ruin your entire day." The article cites a collision between an Icelandic patrol boat and a British trawler in the wake of Iceland's decision to lay claim to exclusive offshore fishing rights to 50 miles. A boycott of Icelandic fish and the dispatch of Royal Navy gunboats to protect British trawlers characterized what became known as the "Cod War."
• Iceland developed a devicea "setline"a long fishing line towed by a boat and supporting many smaller lines bearing baited hooksalso called trawl, trawl line, trotlineto cut the "trawls" from foreign fishing boats. An agreement was reached in 1976, when Great Britain recognized Iceland's maritime fishing boundaries which, by then, extended out to 200 miles.
(U//ATUO) Brazilian Communists Plan 'A Night at the Movies' (U//ATUO) Anticipating the possibility of suppression, leaders of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) in Rio de Janeiro (circa 1949) urged PCB members to attend a French motion picture "A Batalha dos Trilhos" then appearing in Rio. It tells the story of the French underground during the German occupation. The Communists felt that the methods employed by the French underground in sabotaging the German occupation might be employed in Brazil.
(U//AHUO) Heavy Hitters Address CIA Orientation Course (U//AHUO) In April 1954, DCI Allen Dulles invited Senator Saltonstall to address the Agency Orientation Course. After explaining the course, the DCI noted that orientation sessions "have included in each instance a presentation by a key public figure from outside the intelligence field on a current topic of his own choice On such occasions in the past we have been privileged to have President Truman, Vice President Nixon, Averell Harriman, John Foster Dulles, Harold Stassen, General Walter Bedell Smith and others."
• Averell Harriman and Harold Stassen were both major players in the political arena. Stassen ran for President a number of times, and Harriman lost the 1952 Democratic presidential nomination to Adlai Stevenson. General Smith was the DCI prior to Allen Dulles. And, John Foster Dulles (Allen's brother) is best remembered for having served as Secretary of State under President Eisenhower.

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