

## ***Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 6-10 September 2004 Executive Summary***

### **Future Planning Calendar**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **28 September 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

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

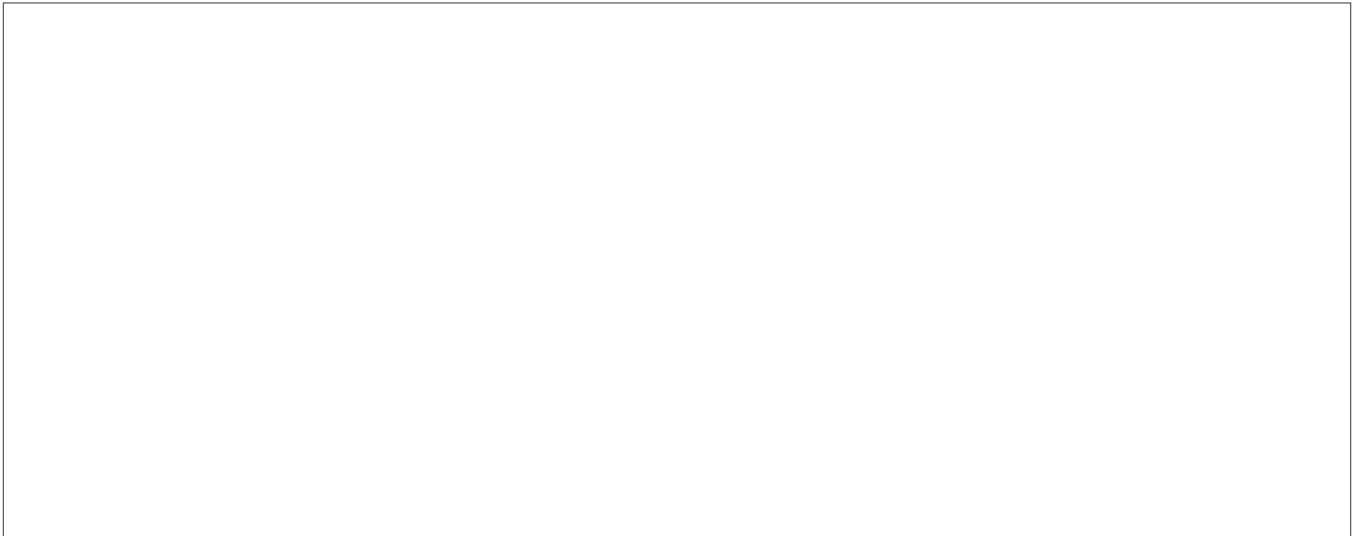
~~(U//ATUO)~~ **31 December 2006:** The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

### **Overview of IRR Activities--Last Week**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **PRB to Assist in Component Review of Current Employees' Manuscripts**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ The Agency's Publications Review Board (PRB), which reviews former employees' nonofficial publications to ensure that they do not contain information damaging to national security, will soon become involved in reviewing works of current employees. All Agency employees agree to prepublication review when they sign their secrecy agreements. This means that they must have written Agency approval before publishing anything on CIA, intelligence matters, or topics to which they have had access to classified information.

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

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Professor Interested in Noted Surgeon**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A professor at Temple University requests information on "Mary Stults Sherman, an orthopedic surgeon [and] associate professor of clinical orthopedics at Tulane University School of Medicine." The requester is "planning a scholarly biography of Dr. Sherman" and indicates that she "has written scholarly biographies of the American short story writer, Kay Boyle, and the playwright, Lillian Hellman."

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- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,* 



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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Seeking Information on Wreckage Dispute**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A requester from Alabama asks for records on "the aircraft salvaging/ownership/dispute of wreckage that took place on Nikumaroro Island (formerly Gardner Island) in the Phoenix Group, South Pacific during late 1978-early 1979 time frame....The aircraft carrier *USS Constellation* was positioned off the coast of Nikumaroro in January 1978 to observe these events."

- *The FOIA case manager explained the foreign intelligence mission of the Agency, and referred the requester to the United States Navy for a response.* [redacted]

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Request Concerning Prominent Union Leader**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A Senior Fellow with the Washington, D.C. office of The Century Foundation seeks information for a biography he is writing on "Albert Shanker (1928-1997), president of the American Federation of Teachers (1974-1997), president of the United Federation of Teachers (1964-1986), and a vice president of the AFL-CIO (1973-1997)."

[redacted]

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*Note: According to their website, the mission of The Century Foundation is "to persuade those who care about issues such as economic inequality, population aging, homeland security, discontent with government and politics, and national security that significant improvements are possible even when the conventional wisdom says they are not."*

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

[redacted]

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **NRO Provides Equity Briefing**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ On 8 September [redacted] National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), gave an NRO equities briefing [redacted] at CDC's invitation. Personnel from several IRRG Divisions attended. [redacted]

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

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Spanish Terrorist Attacks**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ From the White House Evening Notes on 28 January 1977: "Spanish Prime Minister Suarez has convened an emergency Meeting of the Spanish cabinet following terrorist attacks in the Madrid suburbs today that killed five police and civil guards and wounded three. A meeting earlier between Suarez and top law enforcement and military officers resulted in a blanket warrant being issued for the arrest of all political 'extremists' for questioning."

- *Comment: Although less deadly than the Madrid terrorist attacks earlier this year (11 March 2004), the attacks 27 years ago were an attempt to change Spanish government policy, by sowing chaos and crippling the government's efforts toward liberalization. At the time Spain was transitioning from the Franco-era to a parliamentary democracy and eventual membership in the EU, however, some forces on both the right and the left were attempting to stymie the process.* [redacted]

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Note on Bolivia**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A Current Intelligence Bulletin note of October 1969 summarizes a frank assessment the US Ambassador to Bolivia provided: "President Ovando no longer appears to be controlling influence in his own government. [Ovando is] 'tired, discouraged, tattered and torn, without confidence' and [conveys the impression] that he [is] 'no

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longer the master of his own ship'...Ovando was noncommittal on every question raised and gave the appearance of a man unable to redeem even the few commitments he had made....This deteriorating situation is beginning to spur rumors of a countercoup by disenchanted army officers."

- *Comment: CIA's World Factbook reminds us that Bolivia has experienced nearly 200 coups and counter-coups, a fact that may have been in the Ambassador's mind, as he poignantly reported, the status of then Bolivian President Ovando.* [redacted]

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**(U//~~ATUO~~) Longstanding US Intelligence Interest in Soviet "Super Weapons"**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A DO report noted that "During 1953 the following rumor was being circulated around Moscow: 'The Soviets have developed a weapon which will prevent any enemy aircraft from coming within a 200 mile radius of Moscow. The weapon operates on the principle of the electric eye. It will detect the aircraft and then by electrical means destroy the ability of the aircraft to fly.'" The report continues, "Residents of Moscow believe that one of the reasons for making Moscow University such a tall building was in order that this electronic apparatus could be installed on top..." the DO comments termed the rumor "a laymen's garble of the facts," but noted it was being disseminated for whatever clues it might contain on Soviet developments in anti-aircraft defense.

(U//~~ATUO~~) A 3 May 1977 CIA press release reflected our continued interest in any Soviet weaponry breakthrough: The CIA..."does not believe the Soviet Union has achieved a breakthrough which could lead to a charged particle beam weapon capable of neutralizing ballistic missiles. The question has been the subject of intensive analysis for a number of years and the results...made available to US government officials on a continuing basis." [redacted]

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