

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 16 - 20 September 2002 Executive Summary

Immediate Calendar:

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **9 October 2002: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at Crystal City.

Future Planning Calendar:

~~(U//ATUO)~~ **15 October 2002: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at the EEOB in Washington, DC.

~~(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)~~ **Costa Rican Newspaper Seeks Information on Former President**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A journalist with Costa Rican newspaper *La Nacion* requested information on Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, Costa Rican President from 1990 to 1994.

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Requester Seeks Copy of Chinese Publication**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A California requester sought a copy of an English language translation of a Chinese book titled *The China That Can Say 'No' To America*.

- *CIA has conducted a search previously for this publication on behalf of this requester. In the previous instance, the requester was informed that no records responsive to his request were located.*

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Journalist Interested in Agency Correspondence With Midwestern Congressmen**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A requester with Gannett News Service asked for "copies of any correspondence between (CIA) and the Cincinnati area congressional delegation, the members of which are: Sen. Mike DeWine, Sen. George Voinovich, Rep. Rob Portman, Rep. John Boehner, Rep. Steve Chabot, all of Ohio, and Rep. Ken Lucas of Kentucky."

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~~(U//ATUO)~~ **Local Requester Seeks Documents on Glomar Explorer Project**

~~(U//ATUO)~~ A Vienna, Virginia requester sought records pertaining to "the CIA/Navy project in which a sunken Russian/Soviet submarine was recovered from the ocean using a ship named 'Explorer,' the recovery occurred sometime between 1960 and 1970."

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- The FOIA case manager provided the requester with three previously released documents on the Glomar Explorer project. The FOIA case manager also explained to the requester that CIA has about 2,000 pages of material pertaining to the purchase of the vessel and the burial-at-sea ceremony that was conducted for recovered Soviet mariners. If the requester finds these materials responsive to his needs, he may have them upon payment of appropriate FOIA fees. [redacted]

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~~(U//ATUC)~~ CIA Declassification Center~~(U//ATUC)~~ ERWG Holds September Meeting at International Point

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~~(U//ATUC)~~ The External Referral Working Group (ERWG) met [redacted] on 18 September 2002 where ERWG representatives from 19 federal agencies heard the NSC's William Leary (who is also Chairperson of the Policy Coordinating Committee) discuss current efforts to revise EO 12958. Mr. Leary said that the 'essence' of EO 12958 would stand. The PCC's recommendations will seek: (1) to ease the classification of information in the first instance, and (2) to keep information classified (as necessary) without altering the strong incentive to declassify older records. He expressed optimism that the PCC's recommendations to the National Security Advisor will advance through the Office of Management and Budget review process this year. Mr. Leary affirmed the recommendation that the Order would be extended "one last time" to December 2006. Beyond this extension, the PCC supports a 3-year review period for referrals, and strengthened authority to reclassify easily recoverable records, regardless of age. [redacted]

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~~(U//ATUC)~~ From the Archives: Stark Realities of Concentration Camps in 1947 Bulgaria

~~(U//ATUC)~~ A stark revelation of the situation at the Nosarevo Concentration Camp in Bulgaria was the subject of a 1947 report about the conditions of political prisoners in Eastern Europe after World War II that was recently reviewed by the DO team at the CIA Declassification Center. The report noted that:

- Nosarevo was one of the worst political prisoner camps in Bulgaria. It was formerly a camp for Russian prisoners-of-war. There were several camps throughout Bulgaria where an estimated 10,000 people were held throughout the country.
- When the Germans fled from Bulgaria, a woman hid a German friend in her home. The militia searched the city, found the German in her apartment, and took her to militia headquarters where she was beaten. For eight days she had nothing to eat. Then, without a trial of any kind, she was sent to Nosarevo. She was not given an opportunity to prepare for her imprisonment. She wore the same clothes for two years without a change, except for a pair of blue work shorts issued at the camp. During the last year and a half she was barefooted. She was one of a hundred women housed in a room the size of a school room; many were ill. She witnessed one woman bear a child in the room. There were no facilities for bathing so for two years she was unable to take a bath. When they washed their cloths, which was seldom, they did so in the common room and had to remain naked while the cloths dried. At 4 a.m. they were taken to the fields to work; at 7 p.m. they returned. At 8 p.m. they had their one meal of the day, which consisted principally of beans without any fat. In the summer they made bricks. In the winter they cut wood in the forest. Often they had to stand waist-deep in the snow. They were frequently mistreated. The lice were so bad they even found them under their eyelashes. When she finally returned after two years to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, she was almost blind. [redacted]

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This is a record.
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CC:

Sent on 24 September 2002 at 03:38:51 PM

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