

## ***Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 16-27 May 2005*** ***Executive Summary***

### ***Future Planning Calendar***

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

(U//~~ATUO~~) A requester with the newspaper for Wayne State College in Nebraska is interested in "records and data sheets of terrorists who have been in the custody of the United States Government and released. If the names can not be revealed for confidential reasons, a total number would be sufficient. I would also like to know why they were released and if possible, how long it took after their release to commit their acts of terrorism."

- *The FOIA case manager provided the requester with the mission statement of the CIA (i.e., the mission of the CIA is primarily concerned with foreign intelligence, not domestic matters) -- and referred the requester to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

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##### **(U//~~ATUO~~) Interest in Guatemalan Publication**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive submitted a request for "any documents generated by the Central Intelligence Agency concerning the public release of a Guatemalan military document in Washington, DC on May 20, 1999. The document-called the 'death squad diary' or 'military logbook'-chronicled the abduction and disappearance of 183 Guatemalan citizens by a Guatemalan intelligence unit during an 18-month period between August 1983 and March 1985."

- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,*

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

##### **(U//~~ATUO~~) ERWG Meets at NARA II**

(U//~~ATUO~~) On 18 May 2005, the External Referral Working Group (ERWG) met at NARA II, College Park, MD. Forty representatives from 23 federal agencies attended. Chief, Records and Classification Management Group (RCMG), briefed on the "Future of Permanent Records, focusing on records management issues concerning electronic records and the impact on E.O. 12958. A representative from the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), stated that agencies' comments on the referral standards were consolidated and are under review; ISOO will notify ERWG members when the standards are completed. A CIA representative provided a status report on the

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Document Declassification Support System (DDSS) and Don McIlwain, NARA, updated members on the Interagency Referral Center (IRC). [redacted]

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

**(U//~~ATUO~~) Air Force Intelligence Chief Speaks Out**

(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Ford Presidential Library comes a report of an interview, dated 2 November 1976, with the chief of Air Force Intelligence about his views on the quality of the intelligence product. The general, who was interviewed by the Intelligence Community Staff, delivered negative judgments on just about everybody. About CIA, he said: their "clandestine collection activity is a 'parasitic drag' on the intelligence collection of the community." He said that the National Security Agency (NSA) "is deliberately withholding SIGINT." He stated that the Intelligence Community "is sick" and the quality of their product is "a stinking disgrace;" and finally, that National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs) use "'cut/paste statements' and the end products are 'atrocious.'" The National Security Council (NSC) staff member who received this memo, Bill Hyland, wrote back to its author, Sam Hoskinson: "Why is he pulling his punches!"

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- *Comment: The general apparently did not make any comments on the quality of military intelligence.* [redacted]

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**(U//~~ATUO~~) They Don't Die, They Fade Into Glory**

(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Carter Presidential Library comes the following excerpt from the Information Items memo National Security Advisor Brzezinski sent to President Carter on 30 November 1977. "Trotsky's assassin, Ramon Mercader, received the Order of the Soviet Union on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. I thought you would like to be assured that old Stalinist agents never die—they live to receive their gold stars." [redacted]

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**(U//~~ATUO~~) At Mach 1, It's Easy To Be a Bit Off**

(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Carter Library comes the following excerpt from the Information Items memo National Security Advisor Brzezinski sent to President Carter on 14 November 1977: "In commenting on Israeli statements that their airstrikes last week were intended for military targets and only through error hit civilians, Ambassador Parker cautions that one should be careful about believing what any air force ever says about where it was or what it hit until the facts are confirmed by ground observers. Parker notes two examples: In 1970 the Israelis stated they had bombed a military installation at Khanka, Egypt when, in fact, they had bombed the steel plant at Abu Zabal—a target error of 2.8 kilometers. In 1953, aircraft from our own Sixth Fleet overflew Jerusalem with a series of low level passes which infuriated the Israelis. They were supposed to have been overflying Amman at the time and Jordanian citizens, having been alerted, were anxiously awaiting to see the power of the Fleet air arm. The navy's response was that the planes had been nowhere near Jerusalem and that they had not gone west of the Jordan Valley, one of the most prominent terrain features in the world." [redacted]

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