

***Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 28 June - 02 July 2004
Executive Summary***

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~ATUO~~) **14 July 2004:** Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **27 July 2004:** Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB 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~~) **FOIA Requests**

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Researching the "Popov Case"**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A FOIA requester writes: "In the course of research for an article, I saw a reference in the book *Battlefield Berlin* to two CIA publications relevant to my article. The documents were cited as: 'Popov: the Conformist That Failed,' undated monograph, CIA-HRP, and 'The Popov Case,' 22 September 1980, CIA-HRP. May I obtain a copy of each of these documents which the authors of *Battlefield Berlin* list as 'released by CIA/CSI/HRG?'"

- *The FOIA case manager conducted a successful search of the MORI database, and sent both HRP (Historical Review Program) documents to the requester.* [redacted]

(b)(3)

Editor: The first document states that Major Pyotr Semyonovich Popov worked for the CIA from 1 January 1953 through November 1958 as an agent within the GRU –the USSR's military intelligence service –serving first in Vienna, and then in Berlin. Popov established a record for longevity and distinguished himself as one of the CIA's most productive Soviet sources. On one occasion, he observed that "From the very beginning...you [CIA] were never concerned about what I would bring, but you always stressed that I should be careful about my own security. For this I am very grateful....With us [GRU], of course, the individual is nothing, and the Government interest is everything."

(U//~~ATUO~~) **Lingering Interest in a Meeting of Two Presidents**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive is seeking records pertaining to the "late April 1987 (approximately April 27) meeting of Syrian President Hafez Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Jordan. The meeting was arranged by Jordanian King Hussein. Among the issues discussed were Iraqi-Syrian relations and the Iran-Iraq war."

(b)(3)
(b)(5)

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

(b)(3)
(b)(5)

(U//~~ATUO~~) **CBS News Seeks "Mohammad al-Qahtani" Records**

(U//~~ATUO~~) CBS's *60 Minutes* producer has submitted a FOIA request for information on Mohammad al-Qahtani—"who is believed by some government officials to have been the planned 20th hijacker during the September 11,

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

2001, terrorist attacks. This individual was refused entry into the United States shortly before the 2001 terrorist attacks while going through immigration at the Orlando airport. We would like to have any documents pertaining to his alleged ties to terrorist organizations. Furthermore, please provide any photographs or video pertaining to this individual's attempt to gain entry into the US, if such material exists." The requester adds: "I intend to file an administrative appeal if your agency's response is not satisfactory to CBS News."

(b)(3)
(b)(5)**(U//~~ATUO~~) CIA Declassification Center****(U//~~ATUO~~) From The Archives:****(U//~~ATUO~~) Soviet Reaction to US Nuclear Accident**

(U//~~ATUO~~) An April 1979 Central Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) reports on the Soviet reaction to the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in the United States. Initially, the Soviets said little—but gradually they began emphasizing the importance, and absolute safety, of Soviet nuclear power reactors in an effort to stem potential domestic concerns. The First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Utilization of Atomic Energy claimed that Soviet safety standards ruled out the possibility of any accident that would lead to radioactive leaks. CIA's comment was that "Soviet designers believe they employ a conservative design philosophy but their safety measures are not as rigorous as those in the US...and...compliance with recognized safety standards is at best haphazard." For these reasons, "an accident at a Soviet nuclear power station would probably have severe results."

- *Comment: Almost exactly seven years later, the Soviets experienced the worst nuclear power accident in history at Chernobyl. The accident destroyed the fourth of four reactors at the plant. Many brave persons assisted with a massive containment and cleanup effort, but, ultimately, the accident required the resettlement of more than 200,000 people—and its consequences continue to this day.*

(b)(3)

(U//~~ATUO~~) For One Cambodian—Disillusionment and Death

(U//~~ATUO~~) Ford Library: A 15 April 1975 "Information Items" memorandum from National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger to the President contains an article titled "Cambodian Letter Comments on US Withdrawal." It states, "Sirik Matak, high counselor to the President of the Khmer Republic [Lon Nol], and one of the seven leading figures condemned to death by Prince Sihanouk and the Khmer Communists, refused [US] Ambassador Dean's offer of evacuation on April 12. He replied by sending Dean a hand-written note, the text of which follows:"

"Dear Excellency and Friend:

I thank you sincerely for your letter and for your offer to transport me towards freedom. I cannot, alas, leave in such a cowardly fashion. As for you, and in particular for your great country, I never believed for a moment that you would have this sentiment of abandoning a people which has chosen liberty. You have refused us your protection, and we can do nothing about it. You leave, and my wish is that you and your country will find happiness under this sky. But, mark it well, that if I shall die here on this spot and in my country that I love, it is too bad, because we are all born and must die one day. I have only committed this mistake of believing in you, the Americans. Please accept, Excellency and dear friend, my faithful and friendly sentiments."

- *Comment: Prince Sirik Matak (cousin to Sihanouk) and General Lon Nol deposed Sihanouk on 10 March 1972. Sihanouk aligned himself with the communists, exiling himself to North Korea. Sirik Matak stayed in Phnom Penh and was executed by the Khmer Rouge when they entered the city on 17 April. The Khmer Rouge then proceeded to carry out a program of mass murder that took the lives of over 1 million Cambodians. Sihanouk returned to Cambodia, but managed to escape his Khmer Rouge "allies" in 1979. He again returned when a UN-managed peace was arranged in 1991, and has since been declared King Sihanouk. According to press reports, the 81-year-old King is now again in a North Korean palace waiting out a constitutional crisis in Cambodia, but uses his website to join the political debate.*

(b)(3)

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~**(U//~~ALIO~~) "Group of Four"-Terrorist Wannabees**

(U//~~ALIO~~) Carter Library: *"Too Dumb to be a Terrorist?"* (5 March 1980)--"Early in February, after a shootout connected with a housebreaking episode, police arrested Werner Soffel, a man with a long criminal record. Soffel and three cohorts have comprised the 'Group of Four' (Vierergruppe), considered to be a terrorist sympathizer 'organization.' Soffel claimed to have contact with Astrid Proll and Vera Barzel of the Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist organization of West Germany. The Group of Four also has had contact with Red Help, another terrorist support organization, and with the Frankfurt Prisoner Committee. The Four provided logistical support for the Prisoner Committee, using theft and other criminal acts. In spite of such assistance, however, not one of the Group of Four was allowed to be a permanent member of any of these organizations, as they all have limited mental capacity. This problem was exemplified when the Four attempted to steal a car by short-circuiting the ignition and then realized, after the arrival of the police, that the car was on blocks and without tires."

(b)(3)

CC:

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~