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WHAT'S NEWS

at CIA

November 27, 1996

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(C) Agency Officer Leslianne Shedd [redacted] Killed In Hijacking

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(S) Leslianne Shedd [redacted] a DO/AF operations officer

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[redacted] was killed on November 23 when her hijacked Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed in the Indian Ocean near the Comoros Islands. Flight 961 was departing Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when several Ethiopian hijackers boarded the plane and demanded that it be flown to Australia. The hijackers ignored the pilot's claim that the plane needed to refuel. While the pilot was attempting to make an emergency landing at a local airfield, the plane ran out of fuel and crashed.

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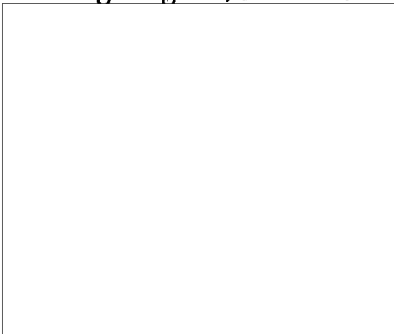
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(S) Shedd joined the Agency in February 1991. Following completion of the Career Training Program, she served



[redacted] She and several friends were headed for a short vacation in Kenya when the hijacking occurred.



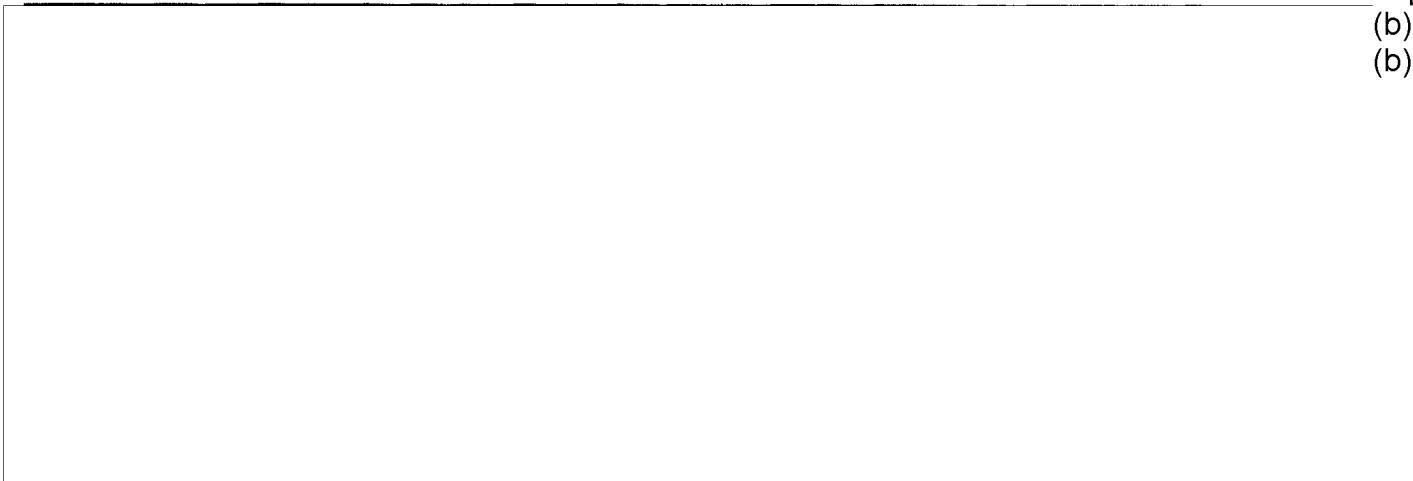
Leslianne Shedd [redacted]

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(S) DDO Dave Cohen told colleagues, "She did a great job as a junior officer. I know you all join me in expressing your deepest sympathies to Leslianne's (continued on p. 4)

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Shedd [redacted]...(from p. 1)

family and her colleagues in Africa Division. I have spoken to her family in [redacted]

(b)(6) [redacted] where the funeral will be held next Monday.

Several of us, including myself and C/AF [redacted]

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will meet privately with the family. Losing Leslieanne is another reminder of the constant risks the members of the Clandestine Service live with as they pursue our mission. I will miss her a great deal because she was so much a part of our future."

(S) Her many friends in the Agency were stricken by the loss.

- A DO colleague said, "Each of you who knew her will remember her fondly. She was a dedicated young officer with a promising career. Her vibrant spirit touched many of us." The

DDO's message to the Directorate of Operations reflected these sentiments.

- A CT classmate remembered her "unfailing positive attitude. She never complained, and always had a smile on her face. She was

[redacted]

- A DI officer told *What's News*, "I used to think how having been here all these years meant I knew so many people. However, the disadvantage of age is that you are more likely to know the victims of accident or hostile action. I didn't know Leslieanne, but her birth date, [redacted] confirms for me that our young, promising officers are dying out there in what remains a dangerous world for Agency employees."

- Another DO colleague said "words alone just cannot express what we are feeling about our loss."

[redacted]

"It makes me proud to be in the organization. Four of her colleagues spoke/sang eloquently and did a wonderful job. It truly is amazing what an impact she had on this community. As the DDO alluded to, if this is the caliber of the next generation, we're going to be OK. It was an amazingly uplifting ceremony to attend."

(C) A memorial service is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Headquarters Auditorium on Friday, December 6 at 10 a.m. (This is ~~SECRET~~)

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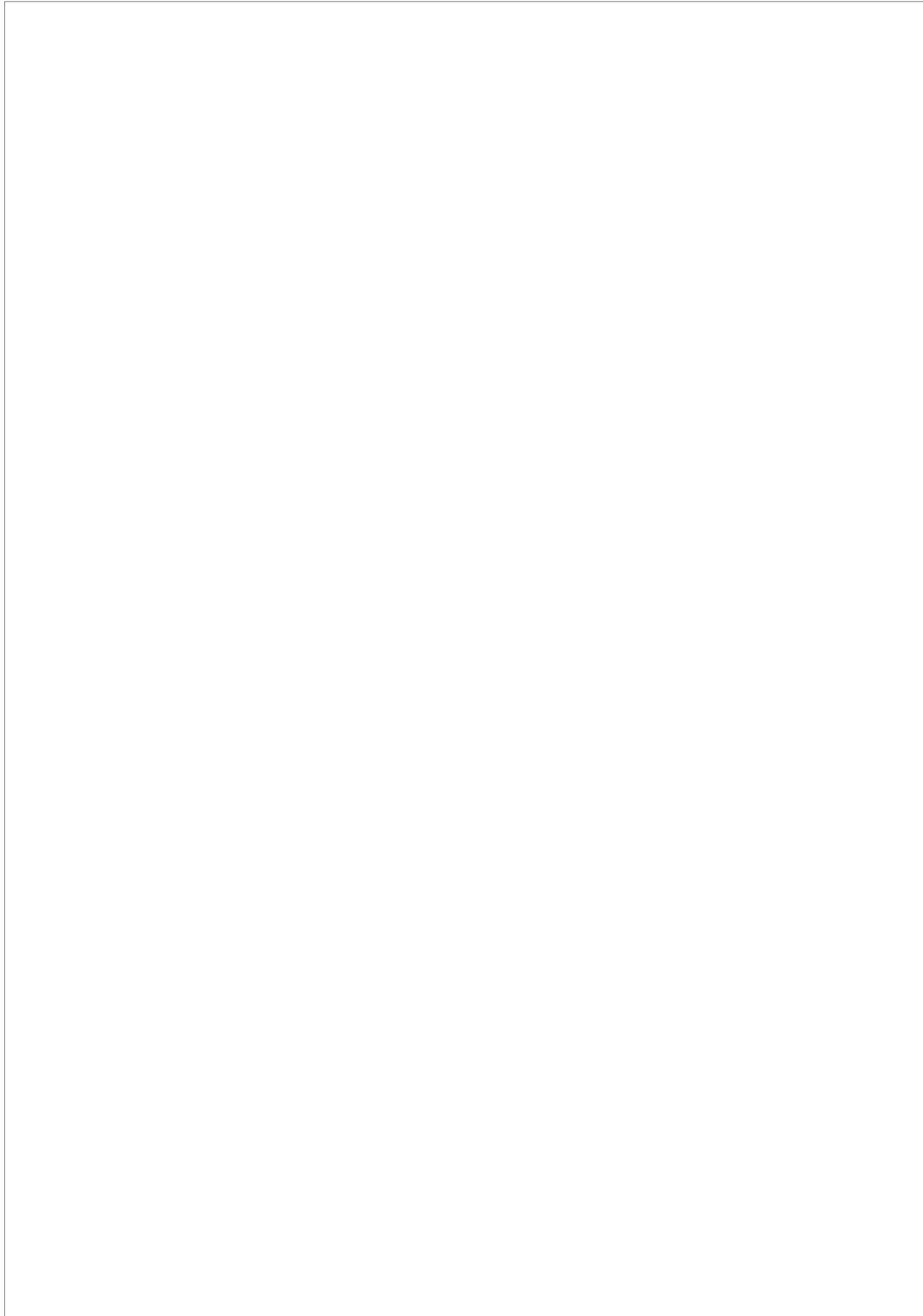
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