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ACIPSS-newsletter

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contents:

- 641/07 Slowakischer Staatssekretär war Geheimdienstagent
- 642/07 Bush administration pressed for more surveillance powers
- 643/07 MEDIA ALERTs
- 644/07 High ranking Sinn Fein official named as informer
- 645/07 Iranian execution quota surges
- 646/07 South African securocrats sentenced
- 647/07 CIA launches 'MySpace for spies'
- 648/07 Report on CIA performance prior to 9/11
- 649/07 Domestic Use of US Spy Satellites
- 650/07 Pentagon to Suspend Anti-Terror Database
- 651/07 US: Outsourcing More Spying
- 652/07 CIA Statement on "Legacy of Ashes"
- 653/07 Germany's intelligence involved in secret talks with Taliban
- 654/07 Denmark: Threatening calls to relatives of soldiers in Iraq
- 655/07 Officers Quitting British Intelligence
- 656/07 History of the Cold War: Lifting the Iron Curtain

641/07-----
Slowakischer Staatssekretär war Geheimdienstagent

Der Staatssekretär im slowakischen Umweltministerium, Dusan Munko, soll nach einem Zeitungsbericht drei Jahre lang wissentlich als Agent für den kommunistischen Geheimdienstes StB gearbeitet haben. Die slowakische Tageszeitung "Hospodarske noviny" beruft sich in ihrer Donnerstagsausgabe auf allgemein zugängliche Geheimdienstakten im staatlichen Institut des nationalen Gedenkens.

<http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=92853228-1422-0CEF-70E24DABD335FCD1>

642/07-----
Bush administration pressed for more surveillance powers

Then-Attorney General John D. Ashcroft was "feeble," "barely articulate" and "stressed" moments after a hospital room confrontation in March 2004 with Alberto R. Gonzales, who wanted Ashcroft to approve a warrantless wiretapping program over Justice Department objections, according to notes from FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III that were released yesterday.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/16/AR2007081601358.html?wpisrc=newsletter&wpisrc=newsletter&wpisrc=newsletter>

643/07-----

MEDIA ALERTs !!!

„Die Geheimdienstlegende - Reinhard Gehlen und der BND“, ein Film von Wolfgang Klauser und Ulrich Stein, (Erstsendung 6.3.2006): Freitag 24.8., 20.15-21.00 Uhr auf 3sat (a)

"DDR geheim": 27.8., 21.30-22.02 auf ARD digital (b)

- (a) <http://www.teleboy.ch/programm/station/?id=11&day=2007-08-24>
- (b) <http://www.ard-digital.de/programmvorschau/index.php>

644/07-----

High ranking Sinn Fein official named as informer

The DUP is preparing to use parliamentary privilege to claim that a senior Sinn Féin figure conspired in the murder of a former RUC officer and was later recruited by police as an informer. The case reflects the ability of the MI5 and the RUC special Branch to recruit high ranking politicians for their services. Francie Molloy is the third Sinn Fein member, after Willie Carlin and Denis Donaldson, who worked for British intelligence.

http://www.nuzhound.com/articles/Sunday_Times/arts2007/aug18_Lutton_murder_LClarke.php

645/07-----

Iranian execution quota surges

Iran has hanged up to 30 people in the past month amid a clampdown prompted by alleged US-backed plots to topple the regime

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,2151798,00.html>

646/07-----

South African securocrats sentenced

Five former security officials in South Africa's apartheid regime have received suspended prison sentences for plotting to kill an anti-apartheid activist.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6950553.stm>

647/07-----

CIA launches 'MySpace for spies'

Spies and teenagers normally have little in common but that is about to change as America's intelligence agencies prepare to launch "A-Space", an internal communications tool modelled on the popular social networking sites, Facebook and MySpace. (a-c)

- (a) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6957828.stm>
- (b) <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e2648ea-5014-11dc-a6b0-0000779fd2ac.html>
- (c) http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/08/22/spook_myspace_facebook_community/

648/07-----

Report on CIA performance prior to 9/11

In compliance with a requirement imposed by Congress, the Central Intelligence Agency declassified and released the executive summary of a CIA Inspector General report that was generally critical of CIA performance prior to September 11, 2001. (a-c))

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2007/08/cia_ig_report_on_911_declassif.html
- (b) www.fas.org/irp/cia/product/oig-911.pdf
- (c) <http://www.diepresse.at/home/politik/aussenpolitik/324764/index.do>

649/07-----
Domestic Use of US Spy Satellites

Although Congress is out of session, the news that classified intelligence satellites may increasingly be used for domestic surveillance applications did not go unnoticed by congressional overseers. The new surveillance program "has drawn sharp criticism from civil liberties advocates who say the government is overstepping the use of military technology for domestic surveillance," wrote Eric Schmitt in the New York Times. (a-d)

- (a) http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118714764716998275.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
- (b) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2007/08/details_sought_on_domestic_use_1.html
- (c) http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_6646747?source=rss&nclick_check=1
- (d) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/15/AR2007081502430.html?wpisrc=newsletter&wpisrc=newsletter>

650/07-----
Pentagon to Suspend Anti-Terror Database

The Pentagon said Tuesday that it will shut down an anti-terror database that has been criticized for improperly storing information on peace activists and others whose actions posed no threat. It will be closed on Sept. 17 and information collected subsequently on potential terror or security threats to Defense Department facilities or personnel will be sent by Pentagon officials to an FBI database known as Guardian, according to Army Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon spokesman.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/21/AR2007082100648.html>

651/07-----
US: Outsourcing More Spying

The Defense Intelligence Agency is preparing to pay private contractors up to \$1 billion to conduct core intelligence tasks of analysis and collection over the next five years, an amount that would set a record in the outsourcing of such functions by the Pentagon's top spying agency. The proposed contracts, outlined in a recent early notice of the DIA's plans, reflect a continuing expansion of the Defense Department's intelligence-related work and fit a well-established pattern of Bush administration transfers of government work to private contractors. (a)

A Congressional Research Service report published last month titled "Private Security Contractors in Iraq: Background, Legal Status, and Other Issues," (b) puts it this way: "Iraq appears to be the first case where the U.S. government has used private contractors extensively for protecting

persons and property in potentially hostile or hostile situations where host country security forces are absent or deficient." (c)

- (a) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/18/AR2007081800992.html>
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/natsec/RL32419.pdf> (updated 250kB)
- (c) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/19/AR2007081901314.html>

652/07-----
CIA Statement on "Legacy of Ashes"

In an surprising gesture the CIA published a statement to Tim WEINER's book about the history of the CIA: "Legacy of Ashes"

<https://www.cia.gov/news-information/press-releases-statements/legacy-of-ashes.html>

653/07-----
Germany's intelligence involved in secret talks with Taliban

Germany's BND intelligence service held secret talks with the Taliban for several months in 2005 aimed at finding out whether the radical Afghan militia could loosen its ties with the al-Qaeda terror network.

- (a) <http://www.abendblatt.de/daten/2007/08/20/784394.html>
- (b) <http://www2.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu-239/0708188398142525.htm>

654/07-----
Denmark: Threatening calls to relatives of soldiers in Iraq

Denmark's military intelligence agency is investigating whether Iraqi insurgents have used mobile phone records to track down and threaten relatives of Danish soldiers in Iraq, officials said Thursday. Family members of several soldiers have told Danish media that they received threatening phone calls from unidentified callers in Iraq.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/16/europe/EU-GEN-Denmark-Iraq.php>

655/07-----
Officers Quitting British Intelligence

Britain's Intelligence Corps has lost one fifth of its officers in the past three years. A large number of upper-level staff members have exited the service in favor of more lucrative positions in the private sector. The Ministry of Defense said it was facing challenges in its military intelligence staffing. This is a troubling development, since the apparent threat of more terrorist attacks looms ever larger.

<http://www.thetrumpet.com/index.php?page=article&id=3566>

656/07-----
History of the Cold War: Lifting the Iron Curtain

Douglas Selvage, a history professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, has received a \$150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to translate 2,370 pages of formerly classified documents relating to the history of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet-led alliance that

squared off against NATO during the Cold War. The translations will be available online, and researchers hope the information will answer questions about how close the world came to nuclear war, why communism collapsed and whether communist states were afraid of a U.S. "first strike" during the 1980s.

http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/volusia/orl-mcfbriefs22_1007aug22,0,4557798.story?track=rss

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