

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2003.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Unit History

On Saturday 20th September, the Canberra Times published a full page feature article with a banner headline "Decoders Now Want To Tell Their Secrets." Under this was a colour photograph of Frank Hughes holding up a picture of 21 Henry Street ("Australia's Bletchley Park") and in the bottom right hand corner a shot of "the remains of Japanese planes littering the airstrip at Hollandia after a devastating U.S. air raid made possible by swift Australian decoding of a radio message." A subheading stated that "Frank Hughes' group probably helped shorten the Pacific war by two years." Of course the shooting down of Yamamoto also featured largely in the article as well as a number of other outstanding CB achievements. More importantly from our point of view emphasis was placed on the difficulties we are confronting in raising the necessary funds to "get our story told". Need I say that it is to Frank Hughes we are indebted for this marvellous piece of publicity and the power of the press is demonstrated by the response to it, which came in the form of an assurance that the \$10,000 needed for us to reach the \$50,000 goal will be donated. Although this money is not yet in the bank, things are now going ahead as if it were with the approval, importantly of Major General Steve Gower of A.W.M.

Our author Chris Clark has just returned from London where he was able to explore British Government primary sources in the Public Record Office in Kew and to visit the Japanese room at Bletchley Park. Chris is also looking at accessing material previously classified by the Australian Defence Department and the U.S. National Security Agency as well as photographic material previously held in D.S.D's custody.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Houston has offered research assistance and support through the RAAF Aerospace Centre and Historical Section as

well as publicity in the form of a feature article in the Air Force News. Arthur Skimin has already spoken with the Editor, who will initially focus on the material provided by Frank for the Canberra Times article.

General Cosgrove's suggestion has been that we apply for funding through the Army History Program, which is funded annually. General Cosgrove has arranged for the necessary papers to be sent to us in January 2004.

The National President of the RAAF Association is also supportive and some State/Territory Divisions have been canvassing WW 2 veterans for RAAF wireless unit personnel who may be unaware of CBICA.

Finally the Stop Press News is Frank Hughes, on 2nd December, in a personal interview, put our case to the Prime Minister, Mr. John Howard. On advice Frank did not actually mention money but he is confident that the message got through.

Life Membership for Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers

At the last Executive Committee Meeting Les McClean moved that in recognition of their outstanding work in promoting Unit History Project life membership of the Association be conferred on Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers. Although this resolution was carried unanimously, the Constitution dictates that it must be ratified at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 2nd February 2004. Hope to see you then! Meanwhile my best wishes to all members for a joyous Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Gordon Gibson
President
67/1-9 Yardley Ave
WAITARA NSW 2077

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email: sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Dear Friends . . . Well, that time of year approaches when we hope to draw breath and regroup.

Meantime, we did have a very happy mini-reunion on 11 November at the Roseville Memorial Club (arranged by Bruce) – a room to ourselves, and excellent choice of meals and courteous attention. Those present were Stan and Maureen Bayliss, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Col Brackley, Keith Carolan, Joyce Casey (looking great), Madeline Chidgey (so good to see her), Hope Creary, Jack and Melba Douglass (Jack still recovering from major illness – we were pleased they could make it), Gordon and Sue Gibson, Gordon Gibson (Pt. Macquarie), Faye Gilinsky, Joy Granger, David and Noeline Hansen, Lou Harris, Frank Hughes, Jacqui Keeling (keeping up tradition), Helen Kenny, Steve Kirsten, Alan and Pam Langdon, Brian and Heather Lovett, Les McClean, Jean Mulholland, Doug and Nell Pyle, John Shoebridge, Peg Teague, Eric and Eve Webb. Apologies were received from Joyce Grace and Judy Carson. We were aware of the great effort required by some to attend – their presence all the more appreciated.

That's it for now except to wish you a joyful Christmas and may 2004 be kind to you. Peace be with us all.

Joy Granger
WarVets 2/5 Endeavour Drive
NARRABEEN NSW 2101
(02) 9981 2397

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Repeated here is a little chat I had at the local fruit market and told at our recent mini-reunion.

When approaching the check-out I thought the lass had a Filipino appearance which was correct. She said she was from Tarlac.

I told her I was one of a number of Australians camped at the Hacienda Lousita at San Miguel in 1945. She then said she was from Concepcion, the village at the back of our campsite, and told me her mother was born in 1943.

I recall two of us from 6WU were invited for supper by a Concepcion family and a little girl, maybe about 10 years of age, sang "I'll walk alone."

On the way back to camp on a pitch black night we heard a rifle shot nearby and movement in the vegetation. After a minute we silently continued our walk.

I do not know who my colleague was, but remember he had an Italian surname and came from Mackay, Queensland. Would anyone know who he was?

Incidentally, Mrs Aquino, one-time President of the Philippines, was born at Concepcion

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Now for another matter. For the past two years we have been endeavouring to make contact with the following members, but to no avail. They are:

Jack Bleakley, Balwyn, Vic.
Jean Jarrott (Assoc), Sunnybank, Qld.
Joyce Stead (Assoc), Gympie, Qld.
Harold Sullivan, Aldinga Beach, SA.
Mostyn Williams, Malua Bay, NSW.

Would any member knowing the whereabouts of the above please let me know.

A number of our members, including Gil Holmes and Jack Douglass, who are recovering after long illnesses, are not enjoying the best of health. Let us hope 2004 treats all much better.

A book by Kirk Douglas had the following foreword:

"Do not complain about growing old – not everyone is granted that privilege!"

Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Bruce Bentwitch
Hon. Treasurer
7 Holly Street
CASTLE COVE NSW 2069
(02) 9417-1427

IN BRIEF

As you'll have read in President Gordon Gibson's report, December 2 was memorable day. We're not talking of the change of Labor leadership that day, or of politics, but of Frank Hughes' meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, on that date.

Senator Jeannie Ferris, from South Australia, who is Government Whip in the Senate, arranged the meeting. It took place just before lunch and Frank spent the morning, watching from the Gallery, as the new Labor leader, Mark Latham, took his place in the House of Representatives.

Then Frank, his wife Betty, Senator Ferris and their friend, Pat Wheatley kept the appointment with the Prime Minister. Frank handed Mr Howard that fine coloured photograph of 21 Henry Street on which the plaque is superimposed, and gave him a brief run-down on the work done by CB and its allied units. "This is said to have shortened the war by two years", Frank explained.

The Prime Minister was "extremely interested" in the projected Central Bureau history and was fully informed of its progress, said Frank. He promised Mr Howard a copy of the book when it is published by the Australian War Memorial, and told him it is expected that the ABC will make a TV documentary from it.

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Both Frank and Bill Rogers have shown the utmost tenacity in the cause of the CB history. Within the last month they have made two visits to Canberra, Bill travelling from Melbourne, Frank from Bowral. They have talked to Major-General Gower, director of AWM, and to the historian, Chris Coulthard-Clark. Now Frank has talked to the PM of the CB story. We wait in hope for its publication.

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Like our historian Chris Coulthard-Clark, many CBers have made the pilgrimage to Bletchley Park, site of wartime GCCS. They include Geoff Ballard (of course), Betty Chessell, and Coral and Sandy Hinds, who brought back a postcard of the Colossus machine.

Les Smith, of QUT, who produces this Newsletter for us, is Bletchley-bound in February, all being well. He and his wife Eunice hope to see Bletchley, after attending a conference in Paris.

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"Hijacking Enigma – The Insider's Tale", by Christine Large, Director of Bletchley Park Trust, was advertised in the London Review of Books, 24 July 2003.

The blurb reads: "What was the mysterious crime that threatened the very history of codebreaking? On April Fool's Day, 2000, a rare and highly valued Enigma machine was stolen from Bletchley Park – a bizarre episode in Bletchley Park's history that was as mysterious as the activities of the wartime codebreakers who worked there.

"In this gripping detective story Christine Large, Director of Bletchley Park Trust, reveals the inside story of the hate campaign against her which culminated in the theft of the machine and explains exactly how the person in possession of the machine was caught."

The book, as yet unreviewed, may be ordered from major booksellers in Australia by quoting the ISBN number, 0470863 463. Hardcover price here is \$46.95, and a paperback comes out in July.

In Britain there's a special inducement. A buyer wins 2 for 1 entry to Bletchley Park Visitors Centre with proof of purchase "plus a chance to win a behind-the-scenes tour of Bletchley Park." (What a shame there's no return airfare to Heathrow thrown in for us.)

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Geoff Patience, still very active in civic good deeds, is a former Mayor of Glen Eira, Victoria, and past District Governor of the Caulfield Lions Club. The Glen Eira News reported in July that, thanks to Geoff's initiative and the generosity of Caulfield General Medical Centre, much needed supplies had been sent to Port Vila, Vanuatu, for a hospital in Lenekal.

Included were wooden crutches, hospital beds, walking frames, examination tables, chairs and fans.

Geoff says that the idea came after his wife visited an eye specialist at Royal Melbourne Hospital, and heard that this hospital had sent unwanted supplies to another hospital in the South Pacific.

The Glen Eira News reports Geoff as saying: "I knew that the City of Caulfield Opportunity Shop and the Caulfield Lions Club had recently donated \$90,000 to the Caulfield General Medical Centre for the purchase of electronic beds. I approached them and asked if they had equipment they wished to dispose of."

Caulfield General Medical Centre was happy to donate equipment, and Port Vila Lions Club (contacted by Geoff) covered cost of the container and shipping freight.

Now another container is on its way, and books and toys are being collected for New Guinea.

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Robert Brown, of Wantirna, Victoria, saw a reference in the September Newsletter to Vladimir Klodinski, and recalls that his name was Klodinsky – Claude – or Klod (rather than Klodinski) and that John Stumm has the correct spelling on his list.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Some CBers who attended the mini-reunion lunch at the Roseville Returned Servicemen's Club came early enough to witness the ceremony at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The setting was a park next to the club, where young and old gathered around a granite boulder. Children from 20 schools laid wreaths beside it, but the 21st school, St Ives Primary, placed on the ground a mysterious wooden cage.

The children from different Christian denominations, from Jewish and non-denominational schools, listened as the Club's Vice-President, Mr Gordon Nelson, spoke. He had served with the 2/12 Field Company, Engineers, had been a prisoner-of-war, and had worked on the Burma-Thailand railway.

He told of the conditions the prisoners faced, of the cholera outbreak, and of how Australian doctors, working to exhaustion, sought volunteers to help the sick and the dying.

Two men came forward to help, although they knew the odds were against them. Soon they caught the contagion and died within the week.

Mr Nelson's fine speech described tragedy, but also courage, selflessness, comradeship, and the need to care for one another - virtues that should be upheld today.

Two boys from Lindfield Primary played the Last Post and Reveille on trumpets. As the notes died away, seven snow-white pigeons were released

from the cage. They symbolised peace and the seven continents of the world. In an instant they had soared into the air, banked against a blue sky, and were homing for their loft in Kings Langley, to the west.

The Remembrance Day service, first of its kind to be held at the Roseville Club, was over. It was unforgettable.

Lunch at the Club followed – and a very good lunch too. I sat beside Madeline Chidgey, and we talked of Noni (Grant) McNaught. We had been on the same shift in the Henry Street garage, and Madeline and Noni's friendship had lasted for 60 years. We spoke of Noni's warmth and generosity, of her wonderful cooking, of the way in camp that she read recipe books as others read novels.

Madeline said that Noni was very ill in Neringah Hospital, and that she would catch the train to see her as soon as lunch was over. That evening Madeline rang, saying with great sadness, that Noni had died before Madeline had arrived. Lachie, Noni's husband for more than 50 years, was with his wife to the end. CBICA sends deepest sympathy to Lachie and his family. Noni will long be remembered, and not only on Remembrance Day. HK

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VALE

Keith Payne was brought up in the northern Melbourne suburb of Preston and attended the West Preston State School and then Coburg High School. He entered the world of commerce by joining the State Savings Bank of Victoria. In March 1942, at 18, he enlisted, undertaking infantry training at Balcombe, before being drafted to Signals at Park Orchards near Kingswood. There he joined 5 W/T Section, which had served in the Middle East, and was the forerunner of the Australian Special Wireless Group. When it became known that during his schooldays he had attended special classes in Japanese on Saturday mornings at Melbourne University High School, he was immediately transferred to Intelligence.

Keith spent some time during the war with some of the ASWG Sections and detachments in the field, including Nadzab in PNG, and the Philippines.

After the war he returned to the Bank, serving in several north suburban branches, and even kicked a few goals for the Bank football team.

In 1948 he resigned from the Bank and joined the Defence Signals Bureau, which later became the Defence Signals Directorate. He served with DSB/DSD for 38 years, having overseas postings to the USA, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Keith died on 4th October, 2003, after a long illness.

Steve Mason (President ASWG)

Wilma Payne, Keith's widow, gives more details of her husband's career. Lieutenant Keith Payne, AIF, went to the Japanese war trials in Morotai and Tokyo and returned to Australia in 1947. He and Wilma married in 1949, and became parents of five children – Susan, Margaret, Ross, Robert and Stewart.

Keith, a linguist, studied Russian and Chinese at universities in Melbourne and Sydney. He and his family went on overseas "tours" of duty – Hong Kong from the end of 1959 to 1962, then home, then back to Hong Kong. They were there from 1964 to 1966, at a critical time when thousands of Chinese swarmed over the border into the British colony, and when headless corpses floated from China down the Pearl River.

After that the family returned to Australia, then it was Washington DC (1969-1972), Australia again, and another Washington tour.

Only then did Wilma get an inkling of Keith's work when the National Security Agency presented him with two medallions. The first, bearing his name, was engraved "National Security Agency, USA – from 1982 to August 1985." The other read "National Security Agency 1952 – Cryptology excellence yesterday, today and tomorrow."

(This medal and the date 1952 seems, Wilma thinks, to refer to the foundation of NSA.)

Keith Payne returned to Australia and served until 1986, when he retired. Group-Captain Arthur Skimin, long with DSD, said: "Especially in the USA and Hong Kong, Keith Payne had the reputation of being a straight talker. He was involved in many projects and was a quiet achiever when things were hard. Things are made easier for those who go on tour with their families today, but

in Keith's time there were difficulties. He made a major contribution here and overseas."

VALE

Some months ago, CBICA heard that a former CBER, **Norman Smith** could be interested in joining our Association. A letter and entry form were sent to his Dublin address in Ireland. No reply came.

Recently Helen Kenny received a telephone call from Judith Smith, who said she had found the unopened letter among her husband's papers after his death on September 13, at the Blackrock Clinic, Dublin.

Later, **Judith Smith**, who was in Australia to see friends, wrote of her husband at Newsletter's request, and enclosed the eulogy given at the funeral service held on September 16 at St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Dublin.

Here are some of Judith Smith's recollections: "Norman went to the Philippines. I can remember him talking of San Miguel in Luzon, and of Colonel Sinkov. Norman liked to work on a late shift, and was often called in by a friendly officer to have caviar on toast, which they cooked on the radiator. Was this Colonel Sinkov?"

Norman Smith went to the Philippines as a private in the Army, but "managed to take with him a sealed filing cabinet in which he had stored books and various comforts, like shoes (he didn't like boots!), clothes, bed linen and various other provisions.

Moreover, he arranged for a boy, Lasaro, to take his washing to a grandmother's house, where it was laundered. Often he went to the family's house where a chicken would be hastily cooked for his reception. I wonder if his fellow code breakers knew of this."

Judith Smith said that her husband had a phenomenal memory, and that he amazed Filipino nurses in the Dublin clinic by detecting from which part of the islands they came when they spoke to him in English.

Norman Smith was one of those who managed to hitch hike in a plane to Okinawa to witness the Japanese surrender. He also managed to board a plane going to Japan when the Allies landed there.

Norman Smith and Judith, both Australians, lived overseas, but on a visit to Brisbane “drove round to Henry Street to see the plaque affixed there in memory of the historic work done by the code breakers.”

Sir Ivor Roberts, eldest son-in-law of Norman Smith, gave the eulogy. Sir Ivor, former British Ambassador in Dublin, is currently British Ambassador in Rome.

The eulogy began: “I was very proud to have known Norman Smith, he was a big man in every sense of the work except one. But what he lacked in inches upwards he amply compensated for outward. No one who met him ever forgot him. He left an indelible impression not in the physical sense but in the powerful mind and personality he projected.”

“His background was extraordinary. His father was one of the most prominent men in Australia – the Lord Beaverbrook of Australian wartime munition supply and in whose shadow lesser men than Norman might have shrunk. Instead Norman pursued his own line helping during the worst days of the War in the Pacific to crack Japanese military codes.”

Sir Ivor told of Norman Smith’s return to post-war Australia, and of his marriage to “the only girl he ever had eyes for” who became his lifetime partner in a golden marriage of 55 years.

The Smiths settled in Sydney to bring up children and moved later to rural NSW. Norman loved sailing, was once shipwrecked off the Queensland coast. He also loved horses and had a long innings as a breeder of horses and grazier before he and Judith “decided to retire to England and devote themselves to carriage driving where they quickly gained prominence.”

In East Anglia Norman and his wife restored a magnificent country house belonging to a branch of the Butler family, whose elder scions were the lords of Kilkenny.

The Smiths then moved to Ireland to buy and restore another house in Tipperary, where the people of The Commons made them welcome.

Norman Smith’s interest in houses, architecture and furniture was part of his voracious interest in

history, natural sciences and culture. The history of Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire was a particular passion. He had a library of over 3000 books, and his passion for learning was undimmed.

“Like some latter day Pliny, he regarded a day where he hadn’t learnt something new as a day wasted. With his love of learning went a love of mankind in general if not always in the specific.”

Sir Ivor describes his father-in-law as an “unsung philanthropist to whom clerics round the world of different faiths were indebted for a contribution to the repair of a church bell tower here or a mosque minaret there.

The eulogy talked of Norman Smith’s help to family and strangers, of his free and genuinely liberal spirit, and ended “We shall not look upon his like again.”

CODES AND CALCULATIONS

“Transit of Venus and other Alignments” was the last seminar given by Dr Peter Donovan before his retirement from the Department of Pure Mathematics at the University of NSW.

Held at that Department on October 28, the seminar, according to the “Abstract”, explained the two occasions “in which alignments in the mathematical sense were of massive importance in Australian history.”

The first was a paper written in 1716 by Edmund Halley, the English mathematician and astronomer, who calculated the orbit of the comet named after him, and who, in that year, devised the means of determining the solar parallax by means of the transit of Venus.

Scientific measurements of this would enable mathematicians to know the precise distance of the earth from the sun which, in turn, would lead to more accurate navigation.

Halley predicted that Venus would transit the sun on June 3, 1769, and long after Halley’s death the Royal Society and Admiralty mounted an expedition to observe this from Tahiti.

Lieutenant James Cook set off in H.M. Bark Endeavour on this scientific expedition, with a

search for the southern continent as another object, given in secret instructions.

Hence Botany Bay, and the land known now as Australia.

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Dr Donovan's second occasion "in the mathematical sense" was the breaking of a Japanese naval code, which led to victories in the Battle of the Coral Sea and Midway, helping to save Australia from invasion. This was of "massive importance" in our history.

JN25 had a weakness known as far back as 1939. It had multiples of three, as did successive JN25 codes. The British, then the Americans, detected the flaw and broke the code. The Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL) – combined RAN and American Navy – broke into the latest JN25 at the time of the Coral Sea and Midway, in 1942.

Dr Donovan points out that the Japanese made an enormous blunder in retaining those multiples of three. It was as great a blunder as when they left their library of codebooks in a water-filled pit at Sio, only to have these discovered by the Australian Ninth Division.

He says that CB had a harder task in breaking the Japanese Army codes, which did not have multiples of three, with rare exceptions such as 3336.

At the lecture, to which CBers were invited, Dr Donovan told how Alan Turing left Bletchley Park to go to Dayton, Ohio, in December 1942, to inspect machinery there. He saw an upgraded version of a 1940 subtractor machine made by the British, and a machine NC4 made by the National Cash Register company.

The latter machine shortened the codebreakers' task. It had digits coloured red, white and blue, so that when cipher groups were set up, subtractors could be added to them quickly to see if they added up to a multiple of three.

Some of these machines were sent to Australia to be used by FRUMEL, but went back to the USA in 1947 according to records in the Australian Archives.

FRUMEL and Central Bureau both started in Melbourne, but had little to do with one another,

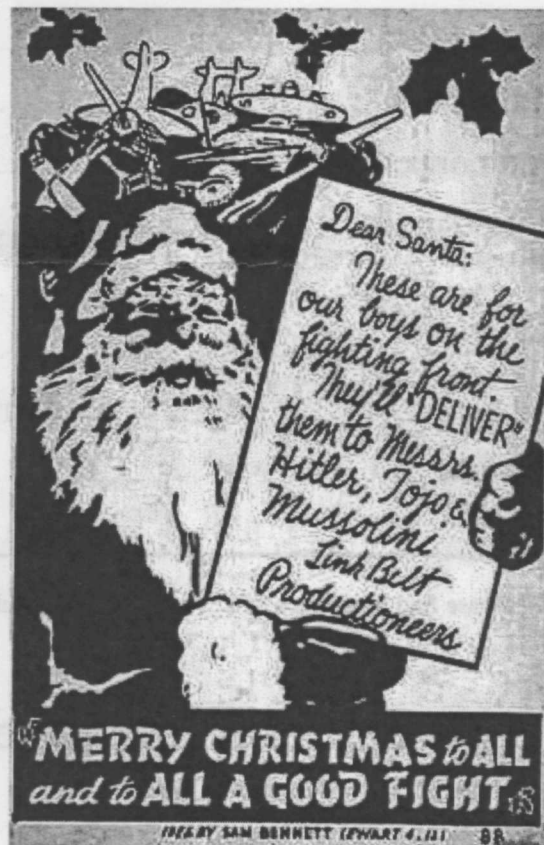
although some experts from FRUMEL it is said, were lent to CB.

At the lecture, which was attended chiefly by mathematicians, only I was there to represent CB. Judith Carson, cryptographer, had planned to come but was unable to at the last moment.

(Dr Donovan's seminar was witty, technical, and far above my head. I had done only "lower maths" at the old Leaving so that I could matriculate, so apologies to Dr Donovan and CB's learned cryptographers if, through lack of knowledge, I have committed errors, either singly or in "multiples of three"). Helen Kenny



Christmas wishes to CBers, and colleagues in ASWG and Wireless Units. May you have good health and peace in 2004.



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 2 February, 2004, at 2.00pm at the Combined Services Club, 5 Barrack St., Sydney.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 4 February, 2003
3. President's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers. (All positions will be declared vacant. Any member wishing to nominate a member for the Executive Committee should complete the nomination form below, and forward it to the Hon. Secretary, Joy Granger, at WarVets 2/5 Endeavour Drive, NARRABEEN NSW 2101. Both nominator and nominee must be financial members).
6. Hon. Auditor
7. General Business

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting a Special General Meeting will be held to confirm the proposal that the Annual Subscription be raised to \$15. Associates \$10.

The annual membership fee of \$15 for 2004 is now due and should be forwarded to Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer, 7 Holly St., CASTLE COVE NSW 2069.

Joy Granger, Hon. Secretary

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CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENTS (2)

HON. SECRETARY

HON. TREASURER

PUBLICITY OFFICER

EXECUTIVE (3)

SIGNED DATE

PLEASE PRINT

Attached please find remittance of \$being subscription for 2004.

Signed

Kindly send your subscription to Bruce Bentwitch (address above).