

2004

It seems the NYT was not the only one who knew that Addington, Gonzales, and Bellinger got a briefing on the terror tapes. It appears the whole SSCI knew that too. But Hayden said those briefings took place in 2004, not in 2003, as the NYT implies. Which is it?

IN WHICH COUNTRY WERE THE TAPES STORED?

The NYT's article has one more detail of note—again, reporting something that is intuitive, but not something that had been confirmed before AFAIK. That's that the torture tapes were stored in the country—singular—where the interrogations of Abu Zubaydah and al-Nashiri took place.

SUB-HEADING: WHITE HOUSE PANICS

The White House has gone to the trouble of making the NYT correct their headline indicating that news of the involvement of Addington and Gonzales in discussions of the terror tapes differs from the story the White House was pitching—that Harriet Miers was the only one involved.

While the White House is correct that they never officially claimed that Harriet was the only one involved, someone has certainly been shopping that story for over a week. Which is why it

behooves those who received that story to out their source, particularly if that person is in the White House.

LAWYERING THE TORTURE TAPES

Yes, the NYT story tells us something we were safe to assume: that David Addington and Alberto Gonzales were involved in the torture tape destruction conversations. But I'm more interested in that news in light of the mounting evidence that Jose Rodriguez got legal advice that he could destroy the tapes in seeming isolation from all the discussions about the wisdom of destroying the tapes or even the explicit court orders regarding the torture tapes.

DICK VERSUS SCOTTISH HAGGIS: THE GRUDGE MATCH

Arlen "Scottish Haggis" Specter introduced a letter exchange with Dick Cheney into the Congressional record yesterday. In case you needed any proof, the letters show that Dick is an asshole, even to nice little compliant Senators like Scottish Haggis.

U.S. SENATE,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, June 7, 2006.

Hon. Richard B. Cheney,
The Vice President,

Washington, DC.

THE TORTURE DEBATE

Dan Eggen and Walter Pincus have an interesting article describing the debate between CIA and FBI over whether waterboarding worked with Abu Zubaydah. If the timeline they describe is accurate, then it means that Abu Zubaydah gave up his most important intelligence before they started torturing him. As to the information he gave up under torture, the CIA and FBI dispute whether it was useful or not. The implication of the article is that the CIA may have destroyed the torture tapes to hide the fact that the water-boarding was ineffective.

The article explains that Abu

WHY DID REID PULL THE BILL?

Senator's Dodd demonstration that he was serious about a filibuster was undoubtedly one of the things that led to Reid pulling the bill yesterday. But I suspect it also has a lot to do with plans the moderate Dems had to introduce amendments that, while perfectly reasonable, would have been poison pills for the Republicans.

ISIKOFF TO CONGRESS: MAKE SURE YOU ASK FOR THE NEGROPONTE MEMO

For all his faults, Michael Isikoff certainly allows people to reliably launder leaks through him. And today's leak offers a clear message to Congress to go after the memo recording a meeting between John Negroponte and Porter Goss, where Negroponte told Goss not to destroy the torture tapes.

DID NACCHIO LIE, OR JUST MISUNDERSTAND?

Is the government telling different stories about whether Nacchio was asked by the NSA for access to its circuits? Or just that he expected to get other business and lost the business after he refused to tap Americans?

SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT THE TELECOMS TO GET IMMUNITY

Because they're leaking—and leaking big—to James Risen, Eric Lichtblau (and Scott Shane) again. Almost two years to the day since their first big scoop.