

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JULY 2010

THE PARIS ART HEIST

FRENCH AUTHORITIES are searching for five oil paintings stolen from the Modern Art Museum in Paris. The paintings are worth an estimated €100 million and include works of art by Picasso, Matisse, Braque, and Modigliani.

INTERPOL has issued a global alert and circulated images of the stolen paintings to all 188 INTERPOL member countries. Currently, an international network is supporting the French investigation, making every effort to locate and eventually recover the masterpieces. Additionally, images of the paintings have been added to INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database, which can be directly accessed online by law enforcement bodies and authorised users, providing real-time access to the latest information.

Legitimate art dealers have been informed of the theft, and instructed to contact INTERPOL in the event of an attempted sale of any of the paintings. Therefore, investigating authorities speculate that it will be very difficult to sell any of these paintings on the open market.

TRACKING PASSING MOTORISTS

LICENCE PLATE READERS are increasingly being used by police forces across the United States. The system relies on automatic licence plate recognition; powerful surveillance cameras show the time, date, and location of passing vehicles on a road.

There are many practical applications of this automatic scanning system. Police officers can read licence plates, reconstruct daily car journeys of motorists, identify vehicles with false license plates, verify whether motorists are driving a stolen vehicle, and even identify motorists who have outstanding warrants. The information is analysed by software, and can then be used to generate data about motorists. Finally, the data is recorded and stored in a database.

This system is faster and more cost-effective than manually checking motorists. However, many civil rights campaigners have privacy concerns. Consequently, they are asking for specific guidelines restricting how the data is used.

HEIGHTENED CYBERSECURITY

THE U.S. CYBER COMMAND, or CyberCom, was recently launched by the U.S. Defense Department to protect military computer networks and defend cyberspace operations against cyber attacks.

CyberCom will additionally coordinate all of the military's computer networks and synchronise cyberspace operations, integrating over 15,000 computer networks across 4,000 U.S. military bases in 88 countries. The new command will bring together the resources of different departments so that different government agencies will be able to coordinate on cyber security matters. This is expected to speed up the interagency process.

To further safeguard military systems from the growing threat of cyber attack, CyberCom is meeting with allies to discuss this common threat and explore information technology (IT) resources.

PEACEKEEPERS COMMEMORATED

THE 8TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS was observed on May 29th to pay tribute to Blue Helmets who have lost their lives in the cause of peace, and promote awareness about the essential role UN peace operations play in international security. The UN General Assembly made a resolution declaring this a day of commemoration, on the same day as the authorisation of the first UN peacekeeping mandate in Palestine in 1948.

Observances and celebrations were held at UN offices worldwide. The events included memorial services, multimedia exhibitions on the work of UN peacekeepers, and award ceremonies.

Today more than 124,000 UN peacekeepers including 100,000 military and police personnel from 115 countries are deployed worldwide.

France requests global alert for Paris art heist treasures, *INTERPOL*, May 22, 2010

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2010/PR037.asp>

License-plate readers help police, alarm privacy advocates *Homeland Security Newswire*, 15 June 2010

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/license-plate-readers-help-police-alarm-privacy-advocates?page=0.1>

U.S. Cyber Command launched, *Homeland Security Newswire*, May 27, 2010

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/us-cyber-command-launched?page=0.0>

Fallen blue helmets honoured on International Day of UN Peacekeepers, *UN News Centre*, May 29, 2010

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18658&Cr=peacekeeper&Cr1=>

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Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 to issue | a) environment in which information is communicated over computer networks |
| 2 to circulate | b) to keep for future use |
| 3 to speculate | c) to officially announce something |
| 4 recognition | d) identification |
| 5 surveillance | e) something to honour and remember an important person or event |
| 6 warrant | f) to consider or discuss why something has happened |
| 7 to store | g) close observation of a person or group (usually by the police) |
| 8 cyberspace | h) to honour |
| 9 interagency | i) to pass on information from one place or person to another |
| 10 to pay tribute | j) a legal document from a court which gives police permission to do something |
| 11 commemoration | k) a formal event performed on a special occasion |
| 12 observance | l) involving two or more government agencies |

Task 2: comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 Priceless works of art have been stolen from an art museum in Paris.
- 2 It will be difficult to sell the paintings on the market because they are too expensive.
- 3 License plate readers are not widely used because it is easier for police to manually check passing motorists.
- 4 There are new laws in place which regulate how authorities can use the information stored in the database.
- 5 The mission of CyberCom is to synchronise and protect the U.S. military computer networks.
- 6 The disadvantage of CyberCom is that it could slow down cyberspace operations.
- 7 May 29th has been designated as an annual day of international observance to honour UN peacekeepers.
- 8 The first UN peacekeeping mandate was authorised in 1948.

Task 3: discussion

The first story in this month's CND talks about art crime. You are going to talk about art crime and suggest measures to increase security in museums, art galleries, and public collections. You can use this website for ideas: <http://people.howstuffworks.com/steal-painting-from-museum.htm/printable>

Task 4: writing

The fourth story in this month's CND talks about how the UN has established International Days, Weeks, and Years to help focus the world on important issues. Find out about a UN international day of observance, and use your findings to write an essay of about 300 words describing this day. You can use this website for ideas: http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp.

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Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 to issue | c) to officially announce something |
| 2 to circulate | i) to pass on information from one place or person to another |
| 3 to speculate | f) to consider or discuss why something has happened |
| 4 recognition | d) identification |
| 5 surveillance | g) close observation of a person or group (usually by the police) |
| 6 warrant | j) a legal document from a court which gives police permission to do something |
| 7 to store | b) to keep for future use |
| 8 cyberspace | a) environment in which information is communicated over computer networks |
| 9 interagency | l) involving two or more government agencies |
| 10 to pay tribute | h) to honour |
| 11 commemoration | e) something to honour and remember an important person or event |
| 12 observance | k) a formal event performed on a special occasion |

Task 2: comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 True
- 2 False. It will be difficult because they are so famous, and because legitimate art dealers have been informed.
- 3 False. The new surveillance technology is much faster, more effective, and less expensive.
- 4 False. There are no laws in place yet which restrict the use of the information in the database.
- 5 True
- 6 False. It will better defend military systems against cyber attacks and accelerate the interagency process.
- 7 True
- 8 True

Task 3: discussion

The purpose of this activity is to practice speaking fluency and improve discussion skills.

As a lead-in, ask students to think about the different ways that thieves could steal paintings from museums. Then elicit ways in which the thieves could sell the stolen masterpieces. These questions are addressed in the article on this website: <http://people.howstuffworks.com/steal-painting-from-museum.htm/printable>.

If the Internet is not available in your classroom, you could access the website before the lesson and print out the page for your students.

Divide students into small groups of four or five. Tell them that they are experts from law enforcement and other international organisations attending an INTERPOL conference on 'Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property'. Their task is to and come up with some preventative measures which can be taken to increase security at museums, places of worship and public collections.

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While the groups are working, go around the class and make sure that the speaking is equally divided among group members.

After the students have completed the task, each group should present their ideas to the class. To close this activity, ask the class to decide on the group that produced the best solutions.

You may want to review the language used for making suggestions, agreeing, disagreeing, expressing opinions, and interrupting before starting the activity. For more advanced students, you may want to present / revise hypothetical speech.

Task 4: writing

The purpose of this activity is to write a descriptive essay, and practice using key vocabulary related to international observances.

As a lead-in, ask your students if they know which international day was approved first by the UN General Assembly, when it was established, when it is observed each year and what it celebrates or promotes (Human Rights Day, established in 1950, is observed on 10th December and promotes the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948).

Have students brainstorm as many international days, weeks, or years as they can think of. International Days include:

Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_7988_en.htm

World Refugee Day http://www.hrea.org/index.php?base_id=533&language_id=1

International Migrants Day <http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/background.shtml>

Human Rights Day <http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2007/>

International Anti-Corruption Day <http://www.unodc.org/yournocounts/en/about-the-campaign/index.html>

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=271&ArticleID=3162>

There is a complete list available on this website:

http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp

Review the vocabulary used to talk about international days in the article eg *commemoration*, *observance*, *tribute*, *celebrations*, *services*, *ceremonies* as well as additional terminology related to ceremonial occasions. Additionally, you may want to review text organization before students begin writing.

Ask students to write an essay about a UN International Day including background information (such as when the day is held, when the day was established, and what the day aims to educate people about), provide a short overview of the issue, and describe how the day is observed.

A good example of an essay which students could use as a model for their writing can be found on this website: http://www.brynmawr.edu/es/environment_war.html

To close, students could orally present their findings to each other in small groups.

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