

SOME CONTEXT ON HAYDEN'S WITCHHUNT OF HELGERSON

As the NYT broke the other day, General Michael Hayden is conducting an investigation of the CIA's Inspector General, John Helgerson. Their first report on the story intimated the reason why Hayden was conducting such an unusual investigation.

A report by Mr. Helgerson's office completed in the spring of 2004 warned that some C.I.A.-approved interrogation procedures appeared to constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as defined by the international Convention Against Torture.

Some of the inspector general's work on detention issues was conducted by Mary O. McCarthy, who was fired from the agency last year after being accused of leaking classified information. Officials said Mr. Helgerson's office was nearing completion on a number of inquiries into C.I.A. detention, interrogation, and "renditions" — the practice of seizing suspects and delivering them to the authorities in other nations.

Last year's coverage of McCarthy's firing strongly suggest her firing was related to her opposition to the CIA's torture policies.