

21 Apr 53
0915
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

ATIE
ACTION

NO ANSWER NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO CENTER
FOR DECLASSIFYING
J. Atia
3. Atia
H.C. files

AIR 008
RR JEDWP JEDEN 222
DE JEPHQ 179C
R 202210Z
FM HQ USAF WASHDC
TO JEDWP/CGAMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
INFO JEDEN/CGADC ENT AFB COLO
/C O N F I D E N T I A L / FROM AFOIN 54365 CGAMC PASS TO CG ATIC
ACTION ON MESSAGE QUOTED BELOW FROM HQ ADC ENT AFB COLO IS TRANSFERRED
TO ATIC CMA THE ORGANIZATION HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR UFO
PROGRAM. NO ADDITIONAL INFO AVAILABLE THIS HQ. MESSAGE READS
CMA NUMBER COC 86 DTG 20053Z. OUR AP RADIO NEWS SERVICE MSG
AP 182 5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY CMA TENTH ITEM CMA SLUGGED /DISC/
STATES THAT LUMINOUS OBJECTS TRAVELING AT SPEEDS FASTER THAN SOUND
HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AND TRACKED ON RADAR WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS IN
PORK CHOP AND OLD BALDY HILLS AREA WESTERN KOREAN FRONT.
/5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY SIGNED BY 1028 PES 19/. IN VIEW OF RADAR
SIGHTING OF POSSIBLY SIMILAR SUPERSONIC OBJECTS LAKE SUPERIOR
AREA 20/0135 TO 20/0200Z APR FURTHER INFO OR EVALUATION OF THIS
AP REPORT IS REQUESTED
20/2314Z APR JEPHQ

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T53-4794-1

inspense
ATIA
4-24-53

But I did worry about it. My paychecks said Ohio State University. The phrase "laundered money" was not in common usage in those days.

I stewed over this for a few days—not more than a week or two—and then the courier came with the weekly reports. Same man, same car—a Chevy that bilious shade of GI green. For some reason I walked him back out to his car, and did an incredible double-take as he drove away. It wasn't a government car. It was his own car, with Ohio plates. This man's initials were V.E., and the car license plate was VE-29. What a stroke of luck: a spook with vanity plates!

Furthermore, he was from Columbus. The local Chevy dealer's name was on the license-plate holder.

Within five minutes I had raced over to the main OSU library, pulled down the Columbus city directory, and found the man's name and his place of employment: Battelle. Confronting Hynek with my intelligence coup resulted in a few days of negotiations with Stork followed by an increased work load.

I went on a number of field trips for Henry, and the security situation was almost invariably deplorable.

Hynek arranged for me to visit astronomer Clyde Tombaugh at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, during a trip I had previously planned for winter break

1952. (This was a private trip; I paid for it myself.) Tombaugh, who in 1930 discovered the planet Pluto, had himself experienced an extraordinary UFO sighting in 1949. A large, transparent fuselage with lighted windows had sailed across his view as he enjoyed the evening in his backyard.

I arrived at White Sands after a cold and miserable pre-dawn bus ride from El Paso, and Tombaugh sent someone out to the gate to escort me to his office. We walked through hangars and offices and laboratories. "Oooh, what's that?" I asked. There were rockets and fancy instruments and equipment lying all over the place. "That's the new Nike," my escort said, "and that one over there's the Honest John." I was carrying no documents to identify myself as affiliated with ATIC. No one asked what kind of clearance I had. And at that time, December 1952, I had none.

The fifth horseman

Hynek also arranged for me to meet with Lincoln LaPaz, the eminent meteoriticist at the University of New Mexico. LaPaz had been consulted by the Air Force during the spate of green-fireball sightings over the Southwest. It was common knowledge that he was