that an agency more secret than themselves would be able to guide them toward a solution of the problem. Evidently the alternate approach of open, scientific inquiry, adequately financed by government funds, was never considered.

Now positive proof is available that the CIA was the agency directly responsible for the inane "debunking" policy used by government agencies for seventeen years. This policy of ridicule and deemphasization was employed to embarrass UFO witnesses, to deny reports, and to confuse the American public about the importance of this intriguing phenomenon.

Certain Bluebook officials were of the opinion, even in 1953, that UFOs were a matter of scientific interest. Therefore, a group of prestigious American scientists were selected to study the subject in secret. The declassified report plainly states that this group, later called the Robertson Panel, was convened at the request of the Director of Scientific Intelligence (CIA) and that authority over it was delegated to the Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence (AD/SI, CIA), Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell.

The Robertson Panel was officially a scientific advisory committee of the CIA. But the results of the panel's study were anything but scientific. They set back meaningful research on UFOs at least twenty years.

The scientists participating were the following: