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UFO FILES IN CANADA:

There are many UFO enthusiasts willing to voice a protest against the "Conspiracy of Silence" which they see as the government's decision not to admit to the existence of extraterrestrial craft tho they allegedly know they exist. Popular writers have expounded upon the 'conspiracy' when they find government officials reluctant to discuss the matter of UFOs and when access to government information has been denied. More sensational writers have claimed actual harassment and an active program of suppression of UFO investigation. After more than ten years of UFO research and five years of intensive research into Canadian events concerning UFOs, the only form of the 'conspiracy' this Fortean has encountered has been a reluctance to release or provide ready access to government files; however, a few items of interest have been uncovered in the last week of June.

Finding the chorus of researchers protesting "Conspiracy" quite noisome, (especially in view of the fact most were not willing themselves to provide access to their UFO files to other researchers), a search was undertaken to find out where Canadian UFO files were held, by whom, and under whose authority. Inquiries are directed almost automatically to the 'Non-meteoritic Sighting File' at the National Research Council. Even when it was pointed out that this inquisitor was most familiar with these files but was seeking other related files, many officials insisted "everything" could be found there. They were wrong!

Some documents pertaining to Project Second Storey and Project Magnet were made available to researchers at the National Research Council; but as no reports of UFOs predated 1965 in the 'Non-Meteoritic Sighting File', it was clearly evident they must be found elsewhere. Tracing the passage of the files from the Department of National Defence to the National Research Council, it became abundantly clear that not all of the files had been transferred, as had been repeatedly claimed by the Defence officials. Eventually, the existence of further Second Storey files was established in October of 1977, with the aid of Gregory Kanon, which the Directorate of History at the D.N.D. soon admitted to have in the process of "clearing" for outside inspection. Eighty-nine UFO reports were made available for the first time in March of 1978, and this investigator enjoyed the first outside glance thru these files. However, it was clear that not all of the files were present, and with further questioning it was found any UFO reports relating to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were not available and no consideration of making these available to outside researchers was being considered. Thus, the R.C.M.P. and D.N.D. are both known to continue to maintain files of UFO reports (of some age) which are not made accessible to outsiders.

When incoming teletype reports of UFOs were copied early in 1978 and were found missing from the 'Non-Meteoritic Sighting File' into which they had once been entered, it was soon learned that some reports were transferred into the 'Meteor File' which was not accessible. Shortly after, it was stated copying of incoming and unfiled UFO reports was not to be permitted. Earlier this year, (see RBB 43 & 44), access was at long last gained to the 'Meteor File' and its vast store of UFO reports which the Meteor Centre at the National Research Council had determined were meteors and meteorites. Altho these files are now accessible to at least one researcher from outside, it will be some time before the bulk of reports diverted into this file can be counted and assessed for their full content. A major disadvantage is that it is a "policy" that these files cannot be photocopied ostensibly because the names of reporting witnesses would become available outside of the confines of the Meteor Centre. That hand-copied reports are allowed and leave the confines of the Meteor Centre does not appear to affect this time-wasting and tedious "policy". However, progress is being made in hand-copying all current UFO reports and copying earlier reports prior to 1977.

The Ministry of Transport was unable to find any of the files pertaining to Project Magnet five years ago, but only this month further inquiries yielded the fact the Project Magnet files had been transferred to the Ministry of Communication which was independently established in 1969. Rapid progress was made in establishing the location and access to the files. Permission was obtained from Dr. John deMendoza, who had no objection at all to allowing an outsider full access to File No. 5010-4, to examine the files before they would shortly be transferred to the Public Records Office at the National Archives. In the limited time available, only volumes 2 thru 4 could be fully examined; but, the new papers provided some valuable insight into governmental attitudes towards UFOs.

In a letter dated February 6th, 1978, Arthur Bray, a noted Canadian UFO researcher, asked for permission to examine the Project Magnet file he identified as "No. 6650-4" which he knew to be "confidential". He was sent the following letter on March 31st, 1978:

"Dear Mr. Bray,

"Thank you for your letter of February 6, 1978 addressed to the Honourable Jeanne Sauve.

"The Department of Communications does not have a file 6650-4 called "Project Magnet". However, we were able to determine that the late Mr. W.B. Smith's (of the Department of Transport) material on "Project Magnet" may be available from the Planetary Sciences Section of the National Research Council. You may wish to write to this unit which is