

Reflecting on the scope and intensity of the current flurry of interest, Jerome Clark, vice president of the J. Allen Hynek Center for U.F.O. Studies in Chicago and editor of "International U.F.O. Reporter," said: "What's interesting is that all this is happening in the absence of a sighting wave. There hasn't really been anything sighted since the 1970's. If I were paranoid, I'd say it's quiet, too quiet."

Frederik Pohl, a science fiction writer, said belief in U.F.O.'s is flourishing now because the nation's political leaders are seen as floundering. "We're told by our leadership to be resolute against terrorism, yet they make deals," he said. "We're told 'Star Wars' is the future, but no one other than Ronald Reagan believes it. People have lost trust in reality and they're looking for something else."

Michael Wertheimer, a psychologist at the University of Colorado who has participated in studies that de-

bunked U.F.O. reports, agreed that feelings of helplessness tended to reinforce the urge to believe in the extraterrestrial.

Paul Kurtz, a philosopher at the State University of New York at Buffalo and chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said the current U.F.O. wave was "part of a bizarre trend in which there is no sense of standards of evidence."

Dr. Maccabee, the Navy physicist, conceded that skeptics often made valid points. "But the simple fact is that there are unexplained sightings," he added. "Over the past 40 years there have been 100,000 sightings, with 10 to 20 percent that are hard to explain."

In the case of the purported Eisenhower documents, he said, "maybe somebody's been clever, but I think there's a good chance they are authentic."

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On 24 June, 1947, a civilian pilot flying over the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington observed nine flying disc-shaped aircraft traveling in formation at a high rate of speed. Although this was not the first known sighting of such objects, it was the first to gain widespread attention.

On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreck site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action.

Source: William L. Moore

New interest in UFO's has been aroused by a document purporting to describe a team established by President Truman, below, to investigate the crash of an alien spacecraft.



The New York Times