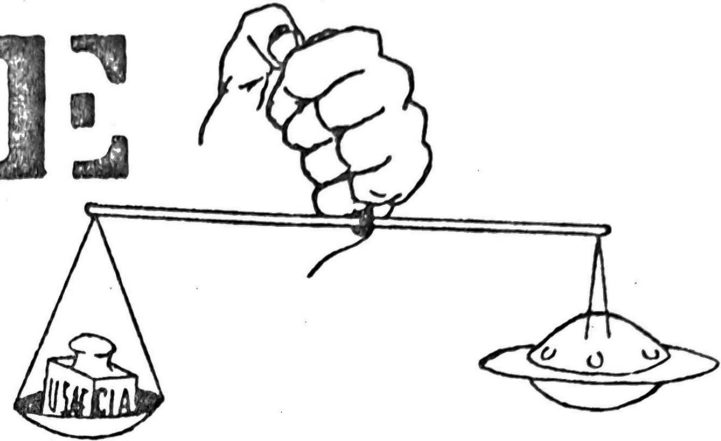


JUST CAUSE



JUNE 1978

VOL. 1 - NO. 3

The official newsletter of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS)

JUST CAUSE - Editor: W. Todd Zechel Legal Consultant: Peter Gersten

Associate Editor: Steve Stoikes Technical Consultant: Brad Sparks

Offices: 191 E. 161st St., Bronx, New York 10451

Telephone: 212-992-9600 (Ask for Mr. Gersten) or 608-643-3810

Copyright 1978 - All rights reserved - Citizens Against UFO Secrecy

Gersten Files Discovery Motion Against CIA - It took nearly eight months to put it all together, but as promised in the last issue of JUST CAUSE, Peter Gersten forced the CIA up against the wall with a discovery motion that can only be described as "incredible!" Consisting of 635 interrogatory questions and 274 requests for documents, plus 60 CIA documents attached as exhibits, the discovery motion represents the combined efforts of Gersten, Brad Sparks, Larry Bryant, Dick Hall and many others—all of whom contributed information and advice. Gersten, in particular, must be greatly applauded for preparing such a lucid and forceful presentation.

Previously, Gersten had planned to file the motion in person, but his busy schedule forced him to mail the documents to the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington, D.C. (The suit will be contested in U.S. District Court, District of Columbia.) Although the motion was filed during the first week of June, the CIA and/or the U.S. Attorney have not as yet responded. In fact, a CIA spokesman told a reporter for the Mesa (Arizona) Times last week that although the Agency was fully aware of GSW's suit, it was not aware of the discovery motion being filed.

Included in the requests for documents are the names of 69 UFOlogists and UFO witnesses whom GSW and its consultants suspect the CIA has files on. Also included are requests such as #96: "(any and all documents related to...) CIG intelligence reports on Scandinavian "ghost rocket" incidents of May-December 1946, particularly those of Lt. Gen. J.H. Doolittle, USAAF, who visited Stockholm, Sweden, ca. 29 August 1946; reports and analyses by CIA/ORE Scientific Intelligence Activity including those inherited by OSI; special study by the Swedish Defense Staff, ca. 23 December 1946; and report by British Air Ministry Directorate of Intelligence 9 September 1946."

Document request #99 seeks: "OSI's basic files of flying saucers/flying discs/UFO reports begun in the W&E Guided Missiles Br. in 1949, later transferred to W&E Aircraft Br; possibly transferred to GP Br., P&E Div., OSI, 1953; possibly transferred to the Directorate of Plans or the development projects staff of the SA/DCI/Planning & Coordination (R.M. Bissell) ca. 1955-1956 (DDP/DPD 1959-1962; OSA 1962-1965; OSP 1965-1973; ODE 1973—)."

Clearly, this is not a fishing expedition. In most cases, in fact, both the requests and the interrogatories are precise, asking for or about specific CIA projects, documents and incidents of CIA involvement. One suspects that even the most skeptical observers will be impressed that the discovery motion prepared by Gersten clearly presents a strong case for a massive cover-up of involvement with UFOs by the CIA.

GSW Makes Discovery Motion Documents Available - GSW, in the interests of informing the public and raising funds to support its FOIA suit, has decided to offer the discovery motion documents for sale. The entire set, which includes over 60 pages of interrogatories and requests plus 50 of the 60 attachments, will cost GSW and CAUS (JUST CAUSE subscribers) members \$25, which includes postage and handling. Non-members and the general public can obtain the set for \$35.

CAUS members wishing to order a set (which includes CIA documents never before revealed) should make checks payable to Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., and mail to CAUS hqs. Non-members should write directly to GSW: 13238 North 7th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85029.

CAUS Obtains Release of State Dept. UFO Documents—Finally - When Peter Gersten filed a FOIA request to the State Department on December 16, 1977, little did he suspect it would take six months to get a rather mundane document released. What makes the whole matter all the more annoying is the

no sound from the UFO. Descriptions of the UFO fell into two general categories, i.e., a type of silver colored luminous flattened ball (disc-shaped), or a large luminous tube-shaped object. Observers reported that the object intermittently emitted bright sparks from the rear. _____ said he was sent to brief DATT on the subject because he had himself sighted the UFO while returning from the city of Kenitra at about 0115 in the morning. He described the UFO as flying parallel to the coast at a relative (sic) slow speed, as if it were an aircraft preparing to land. It first appeared to him as a disc-shaped object, but as it came closer he saw it as a luminous tubular-shaped object."

Ambassador Anderson concluded his report by stating: "I frankly do not know what to make of these sightings, although I find intriguing the similarity of descriptions reported from widely dispersed locations. In any event, I wish to be able to respond promptly to ____'s request for information and would appreciate anything you can do to assist me in this."

On October 2, 1976, OES Asst. Sec. Irving drafted a response to Amb. Anderson's request for info on UFOs. Curiously, the text of the msg simply stated: "Hope to have answer for you next week. Regards. Kissinger."

Then on October 5th, the "answer" was transmitted. This time, however, the message was drafted by OES/APT/SA: J.G. Dardis (in the same office as occupied now by Col Robert Eddington; see JUST CAUSE No. 2—Ed.) The subject was stated as: "Moroccan Request For Info—UFOs." Basically, the "answer" consisted of a typical reference to the Condon Committee findings,

noting the Committee found sightings "can be explained in many ways," and described several natural or artificial phenomena which can account for UFO reports. But also noting that no such phenomena were known to be in the area of the Moroccan sightings. The piece de resistance of the "answer," however, was this statement: "The whole subject of UFOs has been one of much controversy. At present, there is no USG (U.S. government—Ed.) agency studying this matter, the view being that such sightings, where sufficiently detailed and reliable data are available, can be attributed to natural causes and that further study is not warranted."

In the meantime, while denying any interest by the U.S. government in UFO reports, the State Department is transmitting the reports and related correspondence to the CIA, NSA, Air Force and a host of other military/intelligence components.

One has to wonder why, if there is no interest, all such reports are transmitted to these agencies. One also has to wonder why there was no mention of the Iranian incident to the Moroccans—an incident which took place at the same time and had the same general characteristics!!! And, finally, if this information is so mundane, why does it take over six months to get it released????

NASA Responds to CAUS Appeal; Shoves Foot In Mouth Even Deeper - Hey, NASA, your slip is showing! As reported in the May issue of JUST CAUSE, CAUS had filed an appeal of NASA's response about its relations with the CIA on May 8, 1978. On May 23, 1978, Kenneth R. Chapman, Associate Administrator for External Relations, responded in behalf of NASA Administrator Dr. Frosch.

Chapman assured CAUS that, "In his letter of March 2, 1978, Mr. Waggoner stated, '...NASA queried the CIA to ascertain whether or not there were any classified data sources pertinent to the recommendations in the letter.' (Mr. Chapman's emphasis) The letter referred to is Dr. Frosch's letter to Dr. Press of December 21, 1977, not Dr. Hinners' internal memorandum of November 8, 1977 as you stated."

Chapman went on to explain that memo entitled "UFO Study Considerations" "was prepared solely by NASA employees and not coordinated with the CIA or any other agency..." He also related that "Mr. Waggoner was correct in his letter of April 26, 1978, when he stated there were no meetings or correspondence with the CIA on the subject of Dr. Frosch's letter to Dr. Press (notice he doesn't exclude UFOs entirely—Ed.). We specifically queried the CIA by telephone to inquire as to whether they were aware of any tangible or physical UFO evidence that could be analyzed; the CIA responded they were aware of no such evidence, either classified or unclassified."

After denying there was any improper behavior by NASA employees in regard to responding to CAUS's requests, Chapman topped his masterpiece by stating: "I can assure you that NASA was not persuaded by anyone under any pretext to take any particular position on the UFO question; Dr. Frosch's letter of December 21, 1977, is, I feel, explicit as to our willingness to investigate such physical evidence as may be brought before us."

(Emphasis added)

Let me translate for you: Mr. Chapman is saying that NASA called the CIA on the phone and asked, in effect, if they had any UFOs over at Langley. The CIA of course said no. Then, after Dr. Frosch wrote his final letter to Dr. Press—which said in essence that there was no tangible UFO evidence and NASA hadn't devised a method of researching UFOs without such evidence—NASA again called the CIA to find out "whether or not there were any classified data sources pertinent to the recommendations in the letter."

Obviously, this makes no sense—at least not in the context that NASA presents it. Why would NASA call back the CIA to see if a simple statement that there was no tangible UFO evidence was classified—particularly in light of the fact the Air Force has been saying the same thing publicly for thirty years? Did NASA really think such a statement might be classified?

Try this on for size: NASA queried the CIA for advice on handling Dr. Press's request. (It should be noted that NASA phoned the CIA, which has never been officially involved with UFOs purportedly, not the Air Force, which collected UFO data for twenty years.) The CIA advised NASA to stay out of UFOs, and presented NASA with the basis for turning down Press's request: that there was no tangible UFO evidence. Thus, after NASA had formulated this information into its final response to Press, it thought it necessary to query the CIA to make sure they weren't giving anything away. Just speculation, but it certainly makes more sense than NASA's version.

U.S. Agencies Scratch Heads Over Bolivian Incident - As reported in the May issue of JUST CAUSE, a UFO was reported to have crashed somewhere near the Bolivia/Argentina border on or about May 6, 1978. CAUS made a number of phone calls to NASA (which was reported to be investigating the incident) and the State Dept. Both agencies denied they were investigating the reported crash, but admitted they were receiving messages pertaining to it from the U.S. embassy in La Paz, Bolivia.

The messages only reported various rumors and reports from the Bolivian and Argentine press; none of the information referred to any first-hand sources. Col. Robert Eddington, OES/APT/SA, Dept. of State, subsequently revealed that a classified message had originated from La Paz containing the reports of U.S. personnel who had gone to the area of the suspected crash. Their report, however, apparently states the crash is still unsubstantiated; that no first-hand witnesses had been found. (CAUS has filed FOIA requests for all pertinent messages.)

CAUS recently spoke with Bob Pratt, the National Enquirer's UFO expert, who returned from Bolivia last week (second week of June). Pratt said he had spoken with a number of Bolivian witnesses who reported seeing the object execute a series of maneuvers (turns) before it exploded and apparently crashed. According to Pratt, there were two explosions: the first was tremendous and was heard 85 miles away; the second was much smaller. Pratt also said he had flown over the suspected crash site and had identified a recent landslide in which the rocks showed signs of searing (burning).

Pratt was evidently all set to write a story stating that a UFO had crashed and was buried under the beforementioned landslide. CAUS suggested that it was strange the U.S. government was totally unaware of the witnesses Pratt said he had spoken to; that NASA and the State Dept. hadn't even heard about the purported explosion. Pratt said he was aware of the U.S. personnel who were investigating the incident in the border area; he blamed their lack of diligence as the reason they hadn't made the same discoveries as he had. The Bolivians, Pratt said, were about to hold an election and various candidates were hopping around the country in the government's only helicopters. Thus, a recovery attempt on the mountainside where the UFO was allegedly located was not possible until after the election—if ever.

After speaking with Pratt, CAUS phoned Col. Eddington in the State Dept. and described the information Pratt had purportedly developed. Eddington seemed neither surprised nor concerned, and said he was confident his department had made a thorough check but had discovered nothing of the sort of information Pratt described.

Subsequently, Pratt stated that as of Monday, June 19th, the Bolivian UFO crash story had been "killed"—an editor had decided not to run it. Pratt said he would attempt to rewrite it and submit it again.

What really happened in Bolivia—if anything—remains a mystery. Even Pratt seemed to be suspicious of his sources. Apparently, one of the major problems is the language barrier: in most cases, it appeared Pratt had to rely on someone who spoke English to tell him what somebody else claimed to have witnessed. Obviously, this does not make for a very accur-

ate investigation. Another major problem is the U.S. government's attitude. Judging from Col. Eddington's cautious manner and the careful way he worded his comments, it seems that government personnel are almost deathly afraid of making any statement which could be construed to mean they are investigating the dreaded UFOs. Yet, at the same time they want to leave the impression they are doing a diligent job of investigating such incidents as one which purportedly occurred in Bolivia. Why they have to walk the tightrope like this can probably be blamed on a certain band of screaming-meanies who think it outrageous that government agencies even pay attention to such reports. This band has the ear of the New York Times, Reader's Digest and a number of other semi-respectable journals; all of which publish their tired propaganda, putting UFOs into the same category as occult phenomena and rehashing old Air Force propaganda which even the Air Force thoughtfully discarded. (Such as Phil Klass's predictions of a UFO flap following the release of "Close Encounters.")

It's really unfortunate that in this age of supposed enlightenment that government policies are affected by a group of so-called "skeptics," whose harangues closely resemble the "skeptical" warnings of those who advised Columbus he would sail off the edge of the world and the Wright brothers that it would never fly. In any case, I'm sure the CIA is grateful to this group for making its work a great deal easier.

CAUS Assists in CUFOS Investigations - CAUS recently assisted Al Hendry of CUFOS in the investigation of an alleged CE-III which took place in Las Vegas last month. Eventually, a semi-confession of a hoax was obtained. IUR magazine will report full details.

Ordinarily, CAUS would not have gotten involved with the investigation of an incident which involved only civilians, but in this case the witnesses were claiming harrassment by Air Force/MIB types. Allegedly, the witnesses' three-year-old German shepherd died as the result of the close encounter with the UFO, was taken to a Las Vegas vet for an autopsy and was subsequently confiscated from the vet by the Air Force/MIB types. Later, the witnesses claimed to be receiving threatening visits from the AF/MIB types and said their home was broken into.

Inconsistencies had already begun popping up by the time CAUS got involved. For example: The witnesses told CUFOS they couldn't give out the name of the vet because they were scared and the vet threatened to sue them. CUFOS arranged to have a lawyer contact them. Subsequently, the witnesses told CAUS that the lawyer knew the name of the vet and had advised them not to disclose it. Both statements were totally untrue.

CAUS advised CUFOS that the female witness might be ready to confess that the AF/MIB harrassment was a hoax, based on statements she'd made and her reactions to various events. When confronted with the overwhelming inconsistencies, she stated that there had been no MIB visits, no vet and no confiscation of the carcass—but still maintained there had been a CE-III. At that point, CAUS's participation ended.

Al Hendry's report on the case in a forthcoming IUR will be must reading for any UFOlogical observer.

Air Force Colonel Contacted About Involvement With Crashed Saucer - A few weeks ago, CAUS and an NBC reporter phoned Col. (Ret.) John B _____ to ask him some questions about his role in the recovery of a crashed saucer on the U.S./Mexico border in 1948. Previously, the Colonel's brother, a thirty-year NSA space intelligence expert, and his nephew, a former crypto repairman with NSA, had both confirmed the Colonel's involvement in cordoning off the area during the recovery of an extraterrestrial spaceship.

The conversation began with the NBC reporter identifying himself and relating to the Colonel the details of his relatives' testimony. As the reporter started describing the testimony of another retired officer about the same incident, the Colonel interrupted to state: "Look, to sort of get this thing into its perspective. Let's suppose a person did know something like that—what would the value be worth? (The reporter said then that it would be the greatest story of all time) Obviously, if such a thing had happened and a person had not disclosed it, it must be for... it would have to be for very important reasons, right? And if he wanted to disclose it, he could get millions for it, right? Or he would not be foolish—if there was such a thing—to even discuss it."

Interviewer's remark: "Or else you could get in a lot of trouble I suppose." Colonel: "Ah no, it isn't a question of trouble; there's no trouble involved in anything like that. But it's just obviously...I wouldn't talk to you, if something like that were true, I'd talk to persons of more status. (pause) Look, there's no use talking about it." (Hangs up)
