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UFO FILES IN CANADA:

The whereabouts of some of the UFO files held by the Ministry of Communications was revealed in the BULLETIN (48: 1-3), but a second inspection of records supposedly held by the same ministry has revealed a fifth volume of material and the identity of the "6650-4" file the Department of Communications "does not have", according to them.

A search was undertaken through the records management Branch of the Department of Communications for the Ministry of Transport files 22-12-29 (Project Magnet) and 22-12-33 (Project Second Storey) and for files 6650-4 and 5220-5 (which was cited on some UFO-related correspondence). The search was fruitless even though considerable effort was undertaken by the Records Management staff. It remained for an outsider to revisit Dr. deMercado's office to find that a fifth volume of 5010-4 has been found and that files 5200-3, 5220-5, and 6650-4 were (at least in part) incorporated into 5010-4. File 5220-5 is now the first volume of 5010-4, and correspondence relating to 6650-4 is to be found in the third and fifth volumes of 5010-4. Even with this knowledge in hand, Records Management Branch had no listing of any files 5220 nor 6650, so it remained for a visitor to inform them of the existence of these files and their current identity. Special Assistant Ann McCorquodale of the Office of the Minister of Communications advises that she is looking into the matter. It seems odd that the Records Management Branch cannot even find a reference to file numbers of several UFO files in the possession of the ministry, yet an outsider can find some!

One may wish to blame such mysteries to a cover-up, but the only cover-up the outsider could find was the pasting of a new file label over the previous file number. The Public Records Office also now states it has in its possession (a portion of) file 5010-4 and the Project Magnet file 22-12-29, both of which were transferred from Communications. However, these were admitted into RG 97 vol. 115, which currently is not due to be opened to the public until 1983. The Minister of Communications has been asked to open these files ahead of the normal waiting period.

A copy of The BULLETIN (48) with an accompanying letter was sent to all the Members of the House of Commons urging them to pass a 'Freedom of Information Act' and to allow access to outside researchers to government files on the matter of UFOs. Acknowledgment has been received from the following Members: David Crombie, Minister of National Health and Welfare; John Fraser, Minister of the Environment; William Jarvis, Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations; David MacDonald, Minister of Communications; James McGrath, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans; Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South - P.C.); Don Cameron (Kamloops-Shuswap -

P.C.), Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester - P.C.), and J. Gilles Lamontagne (Langelier - Lib.).

Prior to attendance at Fortfest 79, in Washington, D.C., a check was made into the Project Blue Book files at the National Archives. As a larger than expected number of Canadian cases were found therein, a copy of the first microfilm reel was purchased and surveyed for new reports. With some surprise, it was found there were 258 UFO reports from Canada. Not only does this number exceed the number of reports transferred from the Canadian Ministry of National Defence to the National Research Council when "all of the files" were allegedly transferred a decade ago, (about the same time Project Blue Book ended), but, the number of UFO reports from Canada in Project Blue Book well exceeds the number to be found in the files released out of Project Second Storey by the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, last year. For example, in the five years from 1960 to 1964, the Project Second Storey files (thus far revealed) show only 4 UFO reports over Canada; and, while some UFO investigators probably have more than that on hand in that period, Project Blue Book has 51 UFO reports from that period just from Canada. In 1956, when Project Second Storey files show no reports, Project Blue Book lists 14 reports out of Canada. Clearly, one must wonder how many Canadian UFO reports are being suppressed by the Department of National Defence and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from 1947 to 1965 and afterwards. The secrecy with which many cases are shrouded is undeserved, especially where the identity of the UFO is revealed. The chaff container that fell from the sky at Alexis Creek, B.C., on November 22, 1962, or, the lightning arrestor that was found by the R.C.M.P. to be responsible for a report at St. Georges de Beauce, Quebec, on June 15th, 1964, are certainly not matters vital to 'national security', yet these innocuous UFO files are still held secret from the serious UFO researcher and the public in Canada while they are openly available to anyone from the U.S. National Archives.