

Note to File:

8 August, 1979

PROJECT MAGNET

The original copy of the PROJECT MAGNET REPORT is in Department of Communications file 50IO-4 vol. 5 (Confidential).

It has a covering memo signed by W.B. Smith submitting the report to the Controller of Telecommunications. It is dated August 10, 1953.

This date is, then, the official date of the Project Magnet Report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Bray". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur Bray



National Research Council
Canada

Conseil national de recherches
Canada

Herzberg Institute
of Astrophysics

Institut Herzberg
d'astrophysique

Reçu 2087

992-6511

File Reference 4712-5

October 17, 1977.

Mr. Michael Sinclair,
Vice-Chairman,
U.F.O. Research Centre : Ontario,
P.O. Box 427, Station F,
Toronto, Ontario.
M4Y 2L8

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

Thank you for sending me a draft copy of the U.F.O. Research Centre : Ontario's position statement entitled "An Introduction to the Phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)". I appreciate the opportunity to comment on your perception of government activities in this area in Canada, as given in Section (7).

In particular, I wish to emphasize the true status of W.B. Smith's Project Magnet which is stated incorrectly and gives a misleading statement of the official government position. The Department of Transport has stated that although Mr. Smith was officially given permission to work on his project, it was carried out almost entirely by Mr. Smith alone, and was in the nature of a spare-time activity which did not conflict with his normal duties. The conclusions reached in Mr. Smith's report are entirely those of Mr. Smith, and do not represent an official opinion of either the Department of Transport or the Second Storey Committee.

1968 -7 The Second Storey Committee was an official federal government interdepartmental committee under the auspices of the Department of National Defence to evaluate the UFO problem. (Mr. Smith was one of the members of that committee.) After examining the evidence, the committee concluded that the UFO reports contained no evidence of a threat to national security, and the committee was subsequently dissolved. In 1967, the Dept. of National Defence UFO files were declassified and all their reports were passed over to NRC.

From that time, reports received by the Canadian government have been maintained in a file at the NRC. Only reports which show clear promise of producing useful scientific information are pursued. These reports are open to public scrutiny (by appointment). Photocopying of the reports is not done; the interested individual must appear in person to read them.

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0R6
Telex 053 3715
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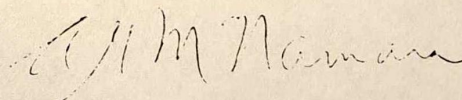
2.

On your request, I am enclosing complete copies of Project Magnet and the minutes of the Second Storey Committee for your files at the Centre. (We have only a small quantity of these copies and are unable to supply the general public. Hence, I would ask that you do not advertise their availability.) Incidentally, you will notice that in our copies of Project Magnet, we include a frontispiece which is a note by Dr. P.M. Millman explaining the true status of Project Magnet. I have not seen an Evanston, Illinois copy of this report which we sent to them, and which they have apparently copied, but I wonder if this explanatory note is included in their reproduction?

I hope that my notes will be of assistance to you in preparing your newsletter.

You are certainly welcome to visit us and see our file when you are next in Ottawa.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A G McNamara".

Allen G. McNamara,
Head,
Planetary Sciences Section.

AGM:vp
Encl. (3)

F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

VOL. II, NO. 9

SPECIAL INTERIM ISSUE

JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1963

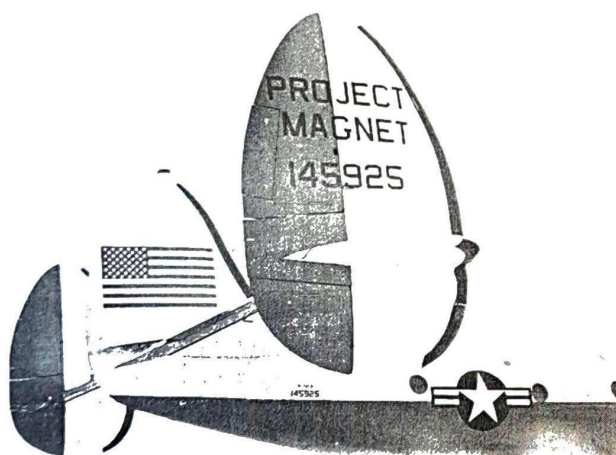
U.S. SPECIAL PROJECT LINKED TO UFOs

Bulletin. NICAP has been informed by a high-level Government source that very important UFO information is classified ABOVE "Top Secret." According to this unimpeachable Source, this information is unavailable even to many top-ranking officers and officials who do not have a high-priority "Need To Know."

A special U.S. program significantly linked with a Canadian Government UFO investigation has just been discovered by a NICAP technical adviser. Entitled "Project Magnet," this carefully unpublicized program is a worldwide operation using specially equipped Super Constellations, non-uniformed pilots and civilian scientists.

(Project "Magnet" was the official name of the Canadian Government UFO research operation headed by the late Wilbert B. Smith, a government scientist.)

Existence of the U.S. Project Magnet was discovered by NICAP Adviser Robert C. Beck, former Lockheed flight test engineer, now president of an electronics and photographic company. Mr. Beck also secured the accompanying pictures.



Each of the project Super Constellations is equipped with highly sensitive magnetometers to detect unusual magnetic variations, not only irregularities from the earth's magnetic field but also magnetic forces from any sources above the earth. It was this latter type of magnetic interference which Wilbert Smith and his associate engineers believed a result of sustained UFO operations over certain areas.

One important result from the U.S. project has been the discovery of peculiar magnetic forces coming from above the Key West-Caribbean area. Though no connection has been proved, this is the area where unexplained interference with aircraft compasses was reported by a Navy flight leader shortly before his five-plane formation vanished.

This case is familiar to most NICAP members. One day late in '45, five Navy torpedo planes took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station, for navigational practice over the Atlantic. The planes never returned. A large Coast Guard flying-boat searching for the missing aircraft also disappeared. No trace of the six planes was ever found, despite a long search by Navy carrier pilots and beach patrolmen.

Cont. page 8 col. 1

CRUCIAL NICAP REPORT NEAR!

The Six-Year Report, "THE UFO EVIDENCE," -- NICAP's complete, documented proof of official censorship and UFO reality -- is now near the final stages.

Pledged Congressional support and promised press coverage will make this the most far-reaching UFO development in 10 years.

Newsmen who have privately seen the evidence predict a powerful nationwide impact and public demands for an end to the secrecy.

To make certain this vital Report reaches Congress before the end of the year, NICAP was forced to take drastic steps: Publication of this issue had to be delayed. (A separate emergency situation, explained below, also was a factor.)

All other work has been temporarily halted, except handling the most urgent mail.

The next issue has been held up until the Report is out.

Because of the separate emergency situation, we have had to cancel the membership drive. NO NEW MEMBERS CAN BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THIS PROBLEM IS ENDED.

We appreciate the patient acceptance, by the majority of members, of the unavoidable publication hold-up. We are certain the results from the Report, once Congress and the public realize the long-hidden UFO facts, will more than compensate for these enforced delays.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. It involves serious decision about NICAP's future after the Report is made public.

ORDERS FOR THE REPORT

To avert a threat to NICAP's future, as explained below, we have worked out a solution that will give every member "value received" in helping to block this disaster.

The key: Advance orders for "THE UFO EVIDENCE," the 128-page documented NICAP Report. Previously, a number of members asked us to take orders, but we had to delay accepting them until plans were worked out. Details of ordering follow the editorial below.

NICAP'S FUTURE

This is the most hopeful -- and most critical -- time in NICAP's history.

We are on the verge of a great success -- the climax of six years' hard work. Yet we are faced with a threat of having to suspend operations just after we win this victory.

We have had to cancel the membership drive and refuse new memberships, though we shall badly need this revenue in the period just ahead.

THIS IS NOT AN APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY DONATIONS: JUST TO KEEP NICAP ALIVE. We will NOT keep limping along in the same old vicious cycle--undermanned, our publications always delayed, being forced to apologize to disgruntled new members and others who do not fully realize our long financial ordeal.

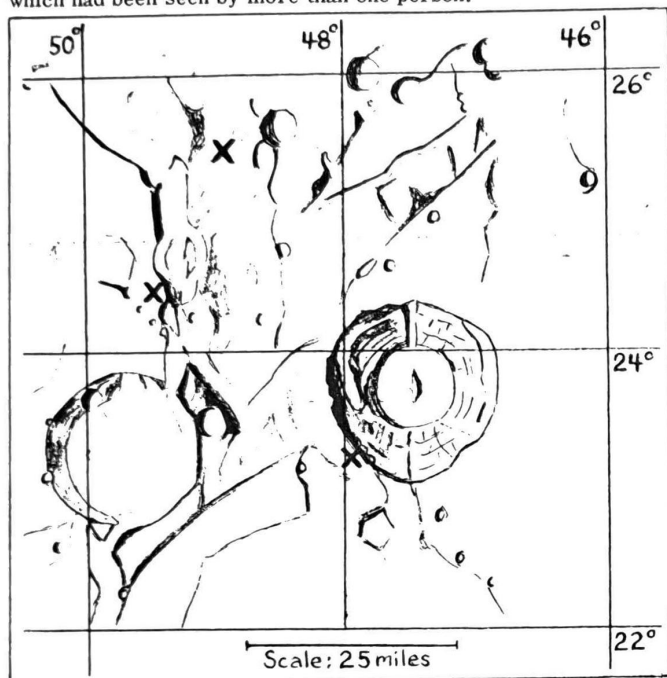
If NICAP is to continue after "THE UFO EVIDENCE" comes out, it must be on a completely new basis. Bi-monthly publication of the UFO Investigator must be guaranteed, with the cost of at least three issues fully paid in advance.

Cont. page 2 col.

ACTIVITY NOTED ON MOON

Confirmation of temporary ruby-red markings on the surface of the Moon by two major observatories in Arizona has sent skeptical astronomers back to their telescopes for a very careful look at what they have long called a "dead" satellite.

Apparent eruptions were spotted on the nights of Oct. 29 and Nov. 27, 1963 by a team of astronomers headed by John S. Hall of Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz. On the second occasion, the nearby Perkins Observatory confirmed the strange spots of color which had first been seen by a Russian astronomer in 1958. The Russian observation was not widely recognized outside the Soviet Union, since there had not yet been any activity on the Moon which had been seen by more than one person.



Moon Map. Aristarchus is Large Terraced Crater on Right.
X's Mark Locations of Red Spots

The first of the recent observations was by James A. Greenacre and Edward Barr of the Air Force lunar mapping program at Lowell Observatory. At about 6:50 p.m. MST, Greenacre spotted two reddish-orange areas in the vicinity of the crater Aristarchus, and then an elongated pink streak on the inside rim of the crater, about five minutes later, none of which he had previously seen during 50 hours of mapping this area.

By 7 p.m. the spots had changed to a light ruby-red which hid the surface features underneath. The spots faded completely by 7:10, and the rim coloring by 7:15. One spot was estimated to be about 1-1/2 miles in diameter, the other spot about 1-1/2 by 5 miles, and the streak 1-1/2 by 11 miles.

Less than four weeks later, Lowell Observatory Director Hall and a team of astronomers sighted a 1-1/2 by 12-mile ruby-colored spot near Aristarchus, which lasted an hour and 15 minutes. Hall called Peter Boyce at Perkins Observatory, five miles away, and asked that the 69-inch telescope be trained on the general area, without saying why. The Boyce group quickly announced it had seen a spot of the same size and color in the same place.

There is little agreement on the cause of the spots, but some astronomers feel there may be some connection with surface heating causing a release of a form of carbon gas, since the markings have been seen shortly after sunlight has hit the area. In 1961, Soviet Astronomer N. A. Kozyrev claimed to have detected molecular hydrogen gas coming from the central part of the crater, and stated he felt it had escaped from the interior of the Moon.

Late in 1962, Drs. Bruce Murray and Robert Wildey, of the California Institute of Technology, announced the discovery of four "hot spots" on the Moon—two near craters and two by themselves. These areas did not cool nearly as fast as the rest of the surface, following lunar sunset.

Project Magnet Official

The U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office has confirmed the existence of Project Magnet, an "Airborne Geomagnetic Survey," as an unclassified project allegedly not related to UFO investigation. In the previous issue of the UFO Investigator (Vol. II No. 9), NICAP reported a link between this project and the Canadian government project of the same name which was an avowed attempt to obtain scientific data on UFOs. Personnel of one of the U.S. project aircraft, a specially equipped Constellation, had admitted to NICAP Adviser Robert C. Beck that the two projects were "closely related." Mr. Beck was told that they were searching out magnetic anomalies,—disruptions of the earth's magnetic field,—emanating from above the earth.

In a letter to a NICAP member dated 21 November 1963, Cmdr. P. B. Everson, U.S.N., gave the following information:

*Project Magnet was initiated in 1951.

*"Currently there are two aircraft employed in Project Magnet operations, one C-121 and one C-54 type aircraft." (The C-121 presumably is the one whose photograph was published in the last issue).

*The Project is under the technical control and direction of the Navy Oceanographic Office.

*The purpose is to gather data over ocean areas for charts showing magnetic intensities and variations.

*The project is authorized "on a permanent and continuing basis" by OPNAV (Navy Regulation) 3160.3B.

*The average budget for the past three years has been \$114,000 per fiscal year, including aircraft operation.

A brochure prepared by the Oceanographic Office makes no mention of UFOs, magnetic anomalies from above the earth, or the Canadian project. NICAP will continue to seek additional information about a possible tie-in with unpublicized UFO investigations by the Navy.

Members' Requests

In response to frequent queries, information is herewith provided on:

1. The Piri Reis map, an ancient chart discovered by Adm. Piri Reis, Turkish Navy, which shows that unknown cartographers long ago mapped various parts of the world, including Antarctica. The high degree of accuracy has led some authorities, including a former Navy Hydrographic Office expert, to consider the possibility of an aerial survey made thousands of years before recorded aircraft or space flights. The Piri Reis map was discussed some years ago on the Georgetown University radio forum, but the forum transcript is out of print. A photostat of the Piri Reis map, with much interesting background information, may be obtained from the Photo-duplication Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C., at a cost between \$5 and \$6, depending on mailing charges involved.

2. The U.S. Department of Commerce translation of a Russian scientist's report on the so-called "Siberian meteorite" which in 1908 blasted a huge area in Siberia. The author and other scientists have suggested that the supposed gigantic meteorite actually was a nuclear-powered spaceship which crashed and exploded. According to the scientist-author, the large numbers of people who died after or during the "meteorite's" landing were victims of nuclear radiation. Copies of the U.S. translation may be obtained from the Office of Technical Services, Joint Publication Research Service, 1636 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. In ordering, ask for OTS No. 62-11-648, JPRS: 13480. Cost, 50¢ each.

The original observation by Kozyrev was acknowledged by many U.S. astronomers, since it was accompanied by photographs of the unusual spectrum. At that time, however, the view of such as Dr. D. H. Menzel of Harvard was that the cause was the escape of carbon dioxide or marsh gas, rather than volcano-like eruptions which would imply activity beneath the surface of the Moon. Just 2-1/2 weeks later, H. Percy Wilkins, the late British astronomer, described an intense reddish patch near the central peak of the crater Alphonsus like "some reddish substance has been spread over the area."

Cont. from page 1 col. 1
U. S. Special Project

During the fruitless Navy investigation, it was brought out that radio conversation between the flight leader and another of the missing pilots had been heard, indicating that the compasses on all five planes had ceased to function correctly. It was suggested that this strange interference might have kept the flight from finding the way back to Ft. Lauderdale, though this did not explain how the planes vanished.

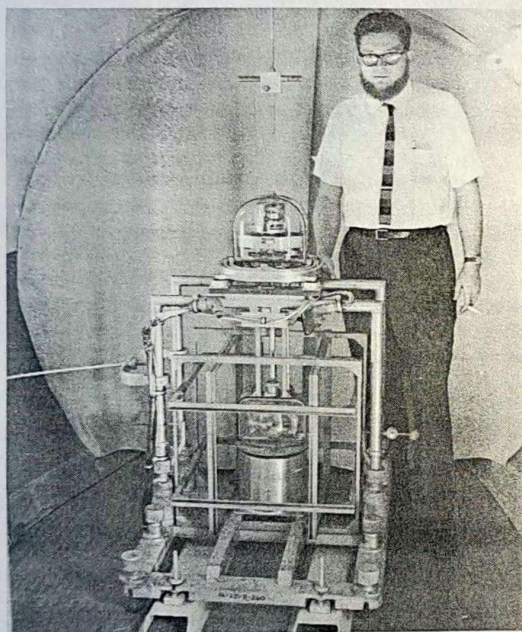
Adviser Beck's Report

On Aug. 22, 1963, Adviser Beck, attending a conference of electronic manufacturers at San Francisco, noted a Super Constellation on an auxiliary runway at the airport. Its tail bore the words "Project Magnet" with the identification number 145925. Using his Lockheed background (he had tested Constellations) he managed to enter into a discussion with the plane's three pilots.

"Does 'Project Magnet' signify the same type of research by the Canadian Project Magnet?" he asked.

"Yes, it is closely related," one pilot told him.

When they boarded the plane, Beck was introduced to a civilian scientist named Crow (first name not stated) who was in charge of the research equipment.



This Constellation, stated Engineer Crow, was one of a number equipped with highly sensitive magnetometers. Technical comparisons with World War II types are omitted here, since even the WW II equipment is still classified as secret. The Project Magnet fleet, said Crow, was covering most of the globe, searching for magnetic "anomalies" — unusual variations.

During the discussions, Beck reported, it was obvious that Crow and the pilots were aware that this project was part of the overall search for UFO information. Beck learned that Project Magnet had a "cover story," like the famous U-2 spy-plane flights. (The U-2's, prior to the forced landing in Russia, were explained as high-altitude weather observation craft.) The Project Magnet planes are supposed to search for unknown errors in the earth's magnetic field, to correct navigational charts.

While this undoubtedly is a by-product, it can hardly explain such a huge program. Existing magnetic charts are generally accurate enough for safe navigation, and they are well supplemented by radiobeacons, radar, Loran (long-range radio guidance) and other aids.

In addition, Engineer Crow disclosed that several of our satellites are equipped with special magnetometers which, like the Project Magnet types, can detect interference from above the earth. (Such as might be caused by UFO operations.)

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ENCLOSED

The code on your membership card indicates the first UFO Investigator you received.

If you joined after July, 1961, the Roman numeral "II" (Vol. II) will appear, followed by the number of your first issue. Example: II-5, for Vol. II, No. 5. (Each volume includes 12 issues.) If your first issue was II-5, you will be due to renew after II-10, having received the total of six issues due for each \$5 membership.

If your code number was typed in at this office, instead of being printed by addressograph, it may also include the expiration number. Example: II/7-II/12 means you began with Vol. II, No. 7, and will be due to renew after Vol. II, No. 12.

If you joined before July, 1961, an earlier code may appear. Examples: "9" meaning Vol. I, No. 9, or "5-58" meaning the May, 1958 issue. Usually, when earlier members renewed we kept the same addressograph plates because of printer's charges for new listings and making new plates. Eventually, all cards will have the new code. Until then, you can figure your expiration date by counting the UFO Investigators received, renewing after the sixth issue. If you are uncertain about this, please send us a self-addressed post-card and we will give you your new code number, to bring your card up to date.

THANK YOU, GEORGE TODT

George Todt, noted columnist of the Los Angeles Herald Express, has for six years given invaluable support to NICAP in his column and in TV and radio broadcasts. Time and again, he has urged his readers and listeners to join NICAP, contribute to its support, send in factual reports and urge their Congressmen to back an investigation of the UFO problem.

Mr. Todt's interest in the UFO subject dates back to World War II, when with other military men he sighted a number of round, unknown objects maneuvering over the European theater.

Since the war, several of his columns on UFOs and NICAP have been reprinted in the Congressional Record, adding to the number of Senators and Congressmen seriously interested in the problem.

Besides reporting on UFOs, George Todt's columns and broadcasts cover a wide field. One of his chief contributions to the national interest is his continued expose of Communistic and other subversive activities in the United States. Many of these columns also have been selected for reprinting in the Congressional Record. For his courageous fight against enemies of the American way of life, George Todt has three times won the George Washington Honor Medal of the Freedom Foundation.

NICAP is indeed fortunate to have the advice and support of a man like George Todt.

According to Engineer Crow and the pilots, their Super Constellation operations were arranged and paid for by the U.S. Navy. Whether all are Navy controlled, Beck did not learn; possibly NASA or the AF may also be involved.

If no other agency is concerned, it could mean that the Navy, barred by the AF from routine UFO evidence, has launched its own program to discover how the UFOs are powered and controlled, and if they are able to interfere with earth-made aircraft. The project may also include gravity research, since according to Einstein's Unified Field Theory electricity, magnetism and gravity are the same force, but in different forms.

The discovery by Adviser Beck raises the possibility of similar programs, projects created for behind-the-scenes UFO research while the AF automatically denies all UFO evidence. If any members have proof of such operations, or added Project Magnet facts, we would appreciate receiving the information as soon as possible.

Adviser Beck obtained several photos, besides those shown, showing the magnetic detector, control panels, etc. No details of value to an enemy power are shown. The photographs may be inspected at the NICAP office.

MAS

U. S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
GEOMAGNETIC SURVEYS
1953—1965

BROCHURE No. 3

Magnetics Division

1966

Distribution of this document is unlimited

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS DEPARTMENT
U. S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20390

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	
A. General	I-1
B. Instrumentation	I-2
II. SPECIAL GEOMAGNETIC SURVEYS	II-1
A. Airborne Surveys	II-A-1
B. Shipboard Surveys	II-B-1
III. PROJECT "MAGNET"	III-1
IV. PUBLICATIONS	
A. Reports	IV-A-1
B. Charts	IV-B-1
C. Data	IV-C-1

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

The U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office has been conducting geomagnetic investigations of ocean areas since the initiation of Project MAGNET surveys in 1953. These world-wide airborne surveys provide information for computing and charting all elements of the earth's magnetic field. With the introduction of the proton precession magnetometer, total magnetic intensity measurements could be made routinely from steel-hull ships. Shipboard magnetic surveys have been conducted by this Office since 1957. The information derived from these airborne and shipboard magnetic surveys is necessary to provide for safe navigation of ships and aircraft, to meet special Naval requirements, and to support the scientific research programs of the United States.

The purpose of this brochure is to present a brief description of geomagnetic surveys accomplished by the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office since April 1953 and to provide information on the format and availability of the resulting data. It is anticipated that this basic brochure will be brought up to date by annual supplements. This publication revises and replaces the Geomagnetic Survey Information Brochure No. 2 previously distributed by the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office.

This brochure is made available to assist other organizations in their survey planning and research investigations. It is requested that similar information be provided to this Office on an exchange basis to avoid duplication of survey and research efforts.

B. Instrumentation

Airborne magnetic measurements are made with a Naval Ordnance Laboratory Vector Airborne Magnetometer (VAM-2). Using this magnetometer system, total magnetic intensity, inclination, and declination are determined to the following respective accuracies: ± 15 gammas, ± 0.1 degree, and ± 0.2 degree. To reduce the effects of aircraft motion, angular measurements are averaged over a 100 second period centered on each 5 minute GMT. The observed data are recorded on continuous analog strip charts and, since 1964, are sampled and recorded digitally every three seconds by a magnetic tape recording system.

The Project MAGNET survey aircraft are air swung over the Coast and Geodetic Survey Magnetic Observatory at Fredericksburg, Virginia to compensate for the disturbing effects of the aircraft's magnetic field and to determine VAM-2 alignment errors. The VAM-2 is calibrated and standardized periodically in the laboratory and at the Fredericksburg Magnetic Observatory.

All shipboard magnetic measurements are made with proton precession magnetometers which record total magnetic intensity with an absolute accuracy of $\pm 1-2$ gammas. Measurements are made at 2 to 6 second time intervals continuously underway. The sensor unit is towed 500 to 1000 feet astern of the survey ship to minimize the effects of the ship's magnetic field. Data are recorded with time on analog and digital recorders.

II. SPECIAL GEOMAGNETIC SURVEYS

The U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office has conducted detailed geomagnetic surveys with aircraft in response to specific requirements, or on an opportunity basis aboard ships while they were engaged in some other priority survey mission. These special surveys are usually conducted on a regular grid track pattern and often produce sufficient data for the construction of contour charts. Data collected along tracks to and from the survey areas provide profile information in areas where frequently no other geomagnetic data are available.

The survey locations and descriptions are presented on the following pages. The resultant data are usually presented as contour charts or profiles in technical or informal reports along with a discussion of the survey conditions, instrumentation, data processing, and in some instances, analysis and interpretation.

III. PROJECT MAGNET

Among the more significant of the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office's geophysical surveys is Project MAGNET, the world-wide airborne geomagnetic survey. This survey normally employs two aircraft equipped with vector airborne magnetometers which measure the intensity and direction of the earth's magnetic field. The normal data output for the VAM-2 is continuous total magnetic intensity and periodic vector magnetic data spaced at five minute (GMT) intervals or about 15-20 nautical miles along the survey track. From these data, the magnetic elements -- declination, inclination, horizontal intensity, vertical intensity, and total intensity -- are determined and used in the compilation of the world isomagnetic charts published by this Office.

The survey is programmed to cover all ocean areas with equal priority. Tracks generally are oriented east-west and spaced 200 miles apart. The accompanying figure shows the Project MAGNET tracks flown as of 31 December 1965. Although flight altitudes vary from 4000 feet to 20,000 feet depending on survey conditions, the majority of the survey tracks are flown between 8000 and 10,000 feet altitude. The primary navigational control is celestial navigation. Doppler radar, radar, Loran-A, Loran-C, and visual navigational control are used when appropriate.

Geomagnetic data derived from Project MAGNET surveys are presented in tabular form along with the time and space coordinates in Special Publication No. 66, "Airborne Geomagnetic Data 1953-1961," and in Special Publication No. 66 -- Supplement No. 1, "Airborne Geomagnetic Data 1962-1963." Approximately 43,000 data points have been observed since 1953 and are available in these tabular listings, data cards, or magnetic tape. Total intensity profiles are available on microfilm. (See Section IV C.)

I made discreet inquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

- a. The matter [of UFOs] is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
- b. Flying saucers exist.
- c. Their modus operandi is unknown but a concentrated effort to discover the modus operandi is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.
- d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.⁹

Smith's report sharply contradicts the Project Grudge conclusions and lends weight to Keyhoe's argument about a cover-up. Unfortunately, the information was never passed on to Keyhoe. Smith's memorandum also said:

I was further informed that the United States' authorities are investigating along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena and I gather they are not doing too well since they indicated that if Canada is doing anything at all in geomagnetics they would welcome a discussion with suitably accredited Canadians . . . Mr. Wright, Defence Research Board liaison officer at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, was extremely anxious for me to get in touch with Dr. Solandt, Chairman of the [Canadian] Defence Research Board, to discuss with him future investigations along the line of geomagnetic release . . . Doctor Solandt agreed that work on geomagnetic energy should go forward as rapidly as possible . . .¹⁰

Not only does Smith's information appear to prove the existence of a cover-up, it also suggests the U.S. was actively investigating UFO phenomena along a number of different lines. Moreover, the involvement of **Dr. Vannevar Bush speaks to the high priority given the subject.** It is worth noting here that Bush is also cited in the Majestic Twelve documents as having been the scientist in charge of the analysis operation of the crashed disks.

Dr. Vannevar Bush was an electrical engineer. He developed the differential analyzer, the first electronic analog computer. He had taught at Tufts University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the 1920s he devised the network analyzer to simulate the performance of electrical networks and in the 1930s his work at MIT foreshadowed the electronic computers developed after the Second World War. In 1940 Bush was appointed director of the U.S. National Defense Research Committee and in 1941 he became head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, which co-ordinated all research and development for the war effort. After the war Bush was made chairman of the Joint Research and Development Board of the National Military Establishment. He was also president of the Carnegie Institution. In the American vernacular, Bush was a "heavy hitter" who **would not have been involved in an area of research considered frivolous.**

Clearly, the matter of UFOs had not officially been judged to be nonsense. **The ongoing investigations to ascertain the existence of flying saucers and their occupants, as well as to solve the mystery of their propulsion systems, were just what Scully had reported in his book.**

The Smith memo further suggests that a number of Canadians were likely in the know, most notably Dr. Omond Solandt, chairman of the Canadian military's Defence Research Board and the Canadian equivalent to Bush. **Solandt admitted to this author in**

1991 that he often spoke at length with his good friend Dr. Vannevar Bush on the subject of UFOs, but maintained that Bush never revealed anything about retrieved disks or alien bodies. Solandt said he and Bush would speculate at length as to what the UFO phenomenon was all about without ever finding a satisfactory answer. Unfortunately, my conversation with Solandt leaves unresolved the question, who provided Smith with his information?

In the early 1980s Canadian UFO researcher Arthur Bray, in sorting through Wilbert Smith's personal papers, found what are believed to be the original notes of Smith's discreet inquiries at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Smith had been in touch with Lieutenant Commander (Canadian Navy) James Stewart Bremner, the naval member of the Canadian Joint Staff Washington (CANAVUS). Bremner in turn had put Smith in contact with a leading American scientist.

Bremner had also been a member of the Defence Research Board, before retiring from the forces in 1954. His own background is somewhat obscure. It seems that in the forties he had worked at the National Research Council in Canada, before being posted to the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Working at the embassy, Bremner was seemingly able to identify American scientists involved in UFO matters — but how?

On July 6, 1951, Bremner advised the embassy staff in Washington that the United States would complete their prototype "atomic powered aircraft"¹¹ within the year. His source was Rear Admiral J. Tate (retired). Admiral Tate had been in charge of the Naval Air Station in Olathe, Kansas.

The idea of a nuclear-powered aircraft was suggested right after the war. At that time the USAF began a project called Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft, or NEPA. From the onset there was controversy over the potential hazard, and as the

difficulties and complexities became more evident, enthusiasm waned. Ten years later, when the hazards of nuclear power were even more evident and the expense of development more obvious on a risk/benefit basis, the project was supposedly abandoned.

Bremner's reference appears to be the earliest foreign indication that the U.S. was developing an atomic-powered aircraft to the point of having a prototype ready, as opposed to merely investigating the possibility of nuclear power for aircraft propulsion. What type of aircraft was it? Could it have been related to the flying saucers? If so, perhaps Tate was the one who told Bremner about the scientists involved in UFO research.

The scientist who Bremner put Smith in touch with was Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher. At the time Sarbacher was, among other things, dean of Georgia Tech's postgraduate school and a consultant with the American Research and Development Board. According to Smith's notes, dated September 15, 1950, Sarbacher was the one who made the revelations concerning the flying saucers:

Smith: I have read Scully's book on the saucers and would like to know how much of it is true.

Sarbacher: The facts reported in the book are substantially correct.

Smith: Then the saucers do exist?

Sarbacher: Yes, they exist.¹²

Smith asked Sarbacher whether the saucers worked on geomagnetic principles, since this was what Smith was working on and it was what Scully had reported. Sarbacher said the method of propulsion had not yet been figured out but that the whole subject was classified "two points higher than the H-bomb."¹³ When Smith asked how he could get more information, Sarbacher replied:

I suppose you could be cleared through your own Defense Department and I am pretty sure arrangements could be made to exchange information. If you have anything to contribute, we would be glad to talk it over, but I can't give you any more at the present time.¹⁴

This invitation by Sarbacher must be what led Smith to say in his memo to the Department of Transport's controller that the U.S. was willing to discuss geomagnetic propulsion research possibilities with accredited Canadians. It may also have been the impetus for Solandt to agree so readily to supporting a research effort led by Smith.

A logical question to ask at this point is why, if the matter was so highly classified, was Dr. Sarbacher saying anything at all about this work, and to a civilian rather than to Bremner or some other military person? It may be that Smith had already been checked out and cleared. With his high scientific profile, his work in geomagnetic propulsion theory, and the credibility he had established for himself in international scientific circles, he was seen as a good contact to whom some information could be revealed. If Sarbacher was sure an exchange of information could be established, that would indicate that the Canadian Department of National Defence was also in the picture, most likely through Bremner. And if Bremner knew, one can assume Solandt knew. Solandt would presumably have discussed the matter with Bush, his friend and the scientist in charge of the study of the crashed disks. In this way, Bush could have benefited from Smith's findings.

Was Smith's meeting with Sarbacher legitimate? According to William Steinman, author of *UFO Crash at Aztec*, it most certainly was. After researcher Arthur Bray released the Smith notes, Steinman was one of many to contact Sarbacher and query

him on the meeting he had had with Smith back in 1950. In December 1983 Steinman received a letter, dated November 29, from Sarbacher, in which he confirmed his meeting with Smith in 1950 and reaffirmed what he had told Smith about the existence of the retrieved saucers. Sarbacher again stated that Dr. Vannevar Bush was definitely involved in the subsequent scientific analysis of the saucers, with special emphasis on how they were constructed and functioned, and that John Von Neumann, another prominent scientist, was also likely involved. Sarbacher also indicated that there was more than one saucer and thought Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, the man behind the atomic bomb, was also part of Bush's scientific team.

Unfortunately, Sarbacher said he personally had not taken part in any analysis, nor did he have any firsthand knowledge from seeing wreckage or bodies. He had been asked to participate in examining the saucers, but due to other commitments could not get involved.

In May 1985 Sarbacher was approached by Barry Greenwood, editor of a publication called *Just Cause*. In a telephone conversation with Greenwood, Sarbacher was again asked about the meeting with Smith. Sarbacher said his letter to Steinman was not a hoax and that the contents as far as he was concerned were true. He further stated that at the time of the saucer investigations, he was involved with the Research and Development Board (of which Bush was chairman), as chairman of the Guidance and Control Panel of the Guided Missile Committee. It was from others in the Research and Development Board that he had heard the stories of the crashed disks and the ongoing research in which he had been asked to take part. His colleagues had told him that the origin of all the information about the disks was at Wright Field at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Stanton Friedman spoke face to face with Sarbacher and

obtained similar information. In his book *Crash at Corona*, Friedman states that in 1985 Sarbacher told another researcher, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, that he had had an opportunity to go and see the recovered material. Sarbacher was unable to attend but colleagues who did go advised him that the alien bodies were insect-like or robot-like. It is most unfortunate that again Sarbacher had been unable to see the wreckage or bodies firsthand. Despite his impressive background, without firsthand corroboration his information, while startling, remains unsubstantiated. Also unfortunate is that no one seems to have asked which of his colleagues at the Research and Development Board were involved.

Sarbacher died in 1986, leaving all to wonder whether his whole story in 1950 was a concoction or his revelations were truthful. One thing is certain, Smith believed Sarbacher's claims completely, and whether Solandt believed them or not, he certainly urged Smith to move forward with his own research.

Three

The New Science

"It appears then, that we are faced with a substantial probability of the real existence of extra-terrestrial vehicles, regardless of whether or not they fit into our scheme of things."

Wilbert B. Smith

Wilbert Smith's request for research into geomagnetic energy and hence the potential discovery of UFO propulsion was sanctioned by both the Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, Commander C. P. Edwards, and the Assistant Minister, J. R. Baldwin, and on November 21, 1950, Smith took charge of a newly created project dubbed Project Magnet. Its original purpose was to study geomagnetic phenomena. The work was broken down into theoretical and laboratory studies of geomagnetics. The latter would include various investigations into the

effects of magnetic fields on rotating, circular, metallic objects — such as propulsion systems for flying saucers.

Due to personnel problems in Smith's Broadcast and Measurement Section of the Department of Transport, the theoretical and laboratory work on geomagnetics had to be curtailed. Accordingly, "the only productive work which the group felt they could carry on was a detailed study of the sightings themselves."¹

On January 3, 1951, Smith wrote to Gordon E. Cox, Third Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Cox, along with James Bremner and Arnold Wright, had been one of the individuals who had helped orchestrate Smith's meeting with Dr. Sarbacher. Smith's purpose in contacting Cox was to bring the embassy staff up to date on Project Magnet. Smith said that three engineers and two technicians were working full-time with him and that the Canadian Defence Research Board was providing assistance wherever it could.

The project had become official and was designated secret. Smith noted that Dr. Solandt of the Canadian Defence Research Board had asked that the security classifications established by the United States be fully respected. This disproves statements in *UFO: The Government Files* by Peter Brookesmith, which contends that Smith had arbitrarily made up his security classifications. In the letter, Smith then asked Cox if he knew whether Solandt had obtained any additional information on the subject of UFOs from his most recent trip to Washington. Smith also broached the subject of Major Donald Keyhoe, with whom he had been in touch.

Smith had contacted Keyhoe shortly after reading his book in 1950 and discussed several issues with him, including the proposed magnetic propulsion mechanisms of the flying saucers. In their subsequent discussions Smith never revealed his meeting with Sarbacher. Based partly on some of these discussions with

Smith, Keyhoe wrote a draft article on UFOs which he was hoping to publish. Perhaps in an attempt to verify or legitimize Smith's information, Keyhoe had passed this article on to Solandt for review. Solandt had in turn given it to Smith for comment. Smith reviewed and redrafted Keyhoe's article to bring it more in line with the known facts and some reasonable speculation. Presumably, this meant postulating further the extraterrestrial origins of the saucers, without revealing the information obtained from Sarbacher.

Smith returned the article to Solandt, who returned it to Keyhoe via Wright, the Defence Research Board member at the Canadian Embassy mentioned in Smith's secret memo to the Department of Transport's controller. Keyhoe was asked to run the article past Dr. Vannevar Bush for final clearance for publication. In his letter to Cox, Smith expressed a desire to find out how Bush reacted to the article's revelations. Smith may have been concerned that he had revealed too much in the article and was anxious to find out if Bush's reaction would be negative. As far as can be determined, the article was never published by Keyhoe, although elements appeared in his later books. The entire affair, however, undoubtedly exposed Smith as a liability to the U.S. government, since he had been specifically asked by Solandt to keep matters quiet and respect their confidentiality.

Cox replied to Smith on January 6, 1951. Commenting on the UFO issue, Cox said there was nothing new to add:

The official position is still that nobody knows anything about the matter here at all. We are, of course, keeping our ears and eyes open and if anything does develop you will probably hear through the Wright and Solandt channel. On the Ambassador's instructions no one in the Embassy, apart from Wright and myself, is to discuss the matter with anyone.²

With respect to Keyhoe's article, Cox replied that he had no knowledge of any reaction from Bush, and stated that if Smith was going to meet Keyhoe or obtain information from him, Cox would arrange it through Bremner.

Cox closed with this final observation:

The Ambassador and I would be particularly interested in any indication you may have heard when you were here on the possibility of an official U.S. Government statement. It is this political angle [with] which I will be principally concerned.³

Wright, Cox, and the Canadian Ambassador, Hume Wrong, were all aware of Smith's revelations, but they took the official line and pleaded ignorance of the whole matter. It was obviously a matter of great importance, since it had reached the Ambassador himself and was monitored by Cox for possible political ramifications. Did Wrong make further inquiries to the U.S. government, either directly or through the Wright/Solandt channel? A search of the Canadian Ambassador's papers has turned up nothing thus far, and virtually no records appear to exist from Cox, Wright, or Bremner.

One can only wonder how Bush reacted to Smith's article. Did he discuss its contents with Solandt? Did he tell Solandt he was in charge of a scientific team to study the saucers? It seems plausible that he would have done so, but again no records to this effect have yet been found and Solandt himself denied it. Still, there are hints contained in other sources.

In June 1952 Smith issued an interim report for Project Magnet in which he wrote that from the limited information he had so far gathered on UFOs, it was difficult to deduce their operating characteristics. In particular, he was not able to establish whether they operated on geomagnetic principles. He further stated that

due to the lack of actual pieces to examine, a direct approach to solving the puzzle was not possible. He did however indicate that other information had established their reality. Undoubtedly, Smith was referring to the information from Sarbacher, without actually mentioning their meeting two years earlier.

As part of his interim report, Smith included a description of a typical saucer, as derived from the reports he was able to analyze. The saucers were generally reported as thin and round, with a hemispherical bulge on one side. They were anywhere from 100 to 200 feet in diameter and about 10 feet thick in the center. They were metallic in appearance and highly reflective. Notably, their speed capability was reported as being extremely high, possibly as much as 18,000 miles an hour. Their power source was unknown but Smith did not believe they were chemically or atomic powered, possibly due to the absence of residues such as radioactivity. Generally they were reported as being silent except for a slight swishing sound. He noted that they could allegedly cause a compass needle to fluctuate, even from as far away as 10 miles (an effect also reported by aircraft and ships entering the Bermuda Triangle).

Then Smith had his own sighting. While driving along Wellington Street in Ottawa, he observed a UFO. Traffic had momentarily stopped, when something caught his eye. The disk he saw was a bright colored, silver, elliptical-shaped object. He estimated that it was 40 miles up and traveling at 9,000 miles an hour, and he judged its diameter to be 125 feet. His sighting fit the general description he had developed.

By August 10, 1953, Smith had produced a refined and final report on Project Magnet. He again noted that the characteristics of the objects seemed to rule out conventional methods of propulsion and that their behavior was beyond the capability of known earthly technology. Smith went on to stress that there was

MEMORANDUM

CLASSIFICATION

TO
A

- (1) RECORDS
- (2) FOR FILE

YOUR FILE No.
Votre dossierOUR FILE No. 22-12-33 (TRB)
Notre dossier 22-12-33FROM
De TRB

DATE September 15, 1969.

SUBJECT
Sujet PROJECT 'MAGNET'

Dr. P. M. Millman, National Research Council, has advised me that the documents reporting the results of the Second Story studies in project 'Magnet' be declassified. Those reading this file will see that project 'Magnet' is a part of this file.

DRB
Agreed
to the
WFO

2. Since the question of flying saucers is still attracting public attention and since this file covers documents relating to the studies behind project 'Magnet' and, indeed, records much of the discussion in the Department of Transport surrounding project 'Magnet' which is confidential in nature, it is recommended that this file be down classified at least to the confidential level. At no time should it be made available to the public.

3. Those wishing to obtain a copy of project 'Magnet' can do so provided they represent an organization, describe the purposes of the organization and set forth the basis of their need for a copy to Dr. Millman of National Research Council. They may see the project 'Magnet' report upon making an appointment at the Meteor Centre, phone 3-9318.

4. A copy of the project 'Magnet' report on this file is the original and should not be destroyed until such time as this subject has "cooled off".

BTR
a copy of this
memo for her stapled
to the cover of the report.
also a copy made for
22-12-33 (Project Second Story)
C. H. H. H.
6/10/69

W. J. Wilson

Four

Yes We Do, No We Don't

"... in so far as the press and public were concerned at least, [the saucer studies] had been discontinued. Very recently, however, this investigation was re-opened, but is now classified."

Department of National Defence memorandum

Solandt insisted he never knew anything about crashed saucers, Vannevar Bush's involvement, or any of the other aspects of the mystery of the saucers revealed by Sarbacher. As it was, the report issued by Project Saucer (Grudge) had publicly denounced the subject. Yet Canada's Minister of National Defence took it all to heart.

In the papers of the Honourable Brooke Claxton, the Canadian Defence Minister in 1950, it is noted that he and Solandt met

with Bush in 1948. It seems that Claxton was a particular fan of Bush's, having read some of his works. What transpired in the ensuing years is quite interesting.

In April 1950, well before Smith's meeting with Sarbacher, Claxton requested that Solandt obtain the co-operation of the three Canadian military services — army, navy, and air force — in reporting occurrences of flying saucers seen over Canada. Claxton suggested that the matter be discussed at a meeting of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). This committee included representation from the Director of Air Intelligence (DAI), the Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI), the Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), and the Director of Scientific Intelligence (DSI).

The committee did discuss the matter, and the departmental records of this event state:

U.S. "Project Saucer" was completed about 1950 and it was found desirable to solicit Canadian reports. At the 220th meeting of the Joint Intelligence Committee, on the 12 April 1950, UFOs were discussed and the following decisions were reached:

- (a) The Director of Scientific Intelligence and Director of Air Intelligence were to collaborate in preparing a questionnaire to be distributed to field intelligence officers of the three services and the RCMP.
- (b) Director Air Intelligence is to co-ordinate the investigation arrangements in the field.
- (c) All field reports were to be passed to the Director of Scientific Intelligence for official examination on behalf of the Department of National Defense.¹

On June 29, 1950, a letter was sent from the Director of Air Intelligence to the Director of Scientific Intelligence. In it the DAI noted that a Canadian officer had been dispatched to Washington to learn more about the United States Air Force conclusions regarding Project Saucer. The officer came back recommending that the matter be quietly dropped; there was nothing to the UFO stories. The DAI's letter was followed by another, this time to the Joint Intelligence Committee, on August 4. This second letter further recommended that a questionnaire for investigating sightings not be developed, noting that a questionnaire was not required if the UFO matter was going to be dropped since the Americans had publicly stated that there was nothing to investigate. There is no mention of Bremner in this correspondence.

Despite these recommendations, the JIC did not drop the matter and a questionnaire was indeed drawn up, approved, and sent to field units with reporting instructions, under cover of document file "S21-1-9 (DAI) 19 October, 1950." The "S" in the document file indicates that it was classified "Secret." The number following the "S" is the numerical file number. DAI in brackets means that the covering letter was drafted by the Director of Air Intelligence in spite of his earlier recommendations to drop the subject.

It seems that someone in the Joint Intelligence Committee, or the Minister himself, knew something more about what was going on behind the scenes in Project Saucer. Why else would Claxton order the JIC to act despite the Project Saucer report which had publicly concluded there was nothing to the phenomena? Unless of course there was one conclusion for public consumption and a very different one for internal use, as Keyhoe had surmised. This would explain why the DAI's recommendation to drop the study of UFOs was overruled.

Search
521-1-9 (PA) 19 Oct 50

THE UFO FILES

A search for the document of October 19 with the questionnaire has not yet proven successful. Also, there is no clear indication of how many UFO cases were subsequently reported or investigated, but there is evidence of an attempt to keep the matter quiet. Reflecting back on these events, a letter written to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (ACAS) in 1957 states: "There has been a recorded instance of October, 1950 . . . that reports would be filed, but investigations would be played down. There has never been an investigation of any report on file at AFHQ."²

The last statement is somewhat peculiar, especially given that the minutes of that JIC meeting state that one of the purposes of the questionnaire was to assist field intelligence officers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in their investigations.

Smith's Project Magnet and this questionnaire from the Joint Intelligence Committee notwithstanding, in 1952 the Department of National Defence formally organized a group to collect and analyze UFO sightings. Like the Americans with their Project Sign, Project Grudge, and Project Saucer, the Canadian group chose a code name which was perhaps too appropriate: Project Second Storey.

The first meeting of the Project Second Storey committee was held on April 22, 1952, chaired by Solandt. The secretary of the group was Mr. H. C. Oatway. Others in attendance included Squadron Leader L. P. S. Bing from the Joint Intelligence Service, Group Captain D. M. Edwards from the Directorate of Air Intelligence, Commodore J. C. Pratt from the Directorate of Naval Intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel E. H. Webb from the Directorate of Military Operations and Planning, Flight Lieutenant V. L. Bradley (DRB), Mr. A. J. Langley (DRB), Dr. Peter Millman from the Dominion Observatory, and of course, Wilbert B. Smith from the Department of Transport. Over succeeding meetings some names would change.

Members
Smith only
one of all
meetings?

RB 24 Interim 49
JUNE 7523 Acc 83-84/167 52
File 3800-10-1 2+1

YES WE DO, NO WE DON'T

At this first meeting Solandt noted that based on the frequency of occurrence and persistent nature of the UFO phenomena, the idea that these were hallucinations should be ruled out. The committee also decided that the current approach to collecting and studying reports was haphazard and that a more structured method was desirable. The Second Storey meetings were intended to confirm if a more intensive effort was required in investigating the phenomena, and if so, to develop ways and means of organizing such an effort. The air force representative indicated that in the United States, work done in studying UFO reports by the USAF had resulted in little information of significance. But then he added:

... in so far as the press and public were concerned at least, [the saucer studies] had been discontinued. Very recently, however, this investigation was re-opened, but is now classified.³

This comment was most likely made in reference to the findings of Project Grudge and its subsequent transformation into Project Blue Book in March 1952. It seems that the public was being given one conclusion, that is, that there was nothing to the phenomena and that studies into UFOs were being terminated, while in reality Project Blue Book was being initiated to study the UFOs as a classified effort.

According to Blue Book, the earlier conclusions from the Project Saucer (Grudge) report, which stated that UFO sightings were the result of hysteria and the like, had been overturned because reports were continuing and many were from reliable military personnel themselves. The reason given for the "Secret" security classification was to protect the names of those filing reports. As well, it was explained that the original classification

of "Top Secret" had been used in earlier studies because no one knew where the investigations would lead. Now the classification had been downgraded to Secret, in the event that sensitive locations or classified equipment entered the discussion. No mention was made of crashed saucers, and it may be that this information, if real, was being held back even from Blue Book. One thing is certain, though, as pointed out by Stanton Friedman in *Top Secret/Majic*. Even Blue Book produced a report called "Special Report 14," which listed more than 600 unexplained sightings. However, the USAF publicly provided a diluted version of the report without giving its name or many of the startling facts it contained. The CIA was also convening a group to study UFOs. It was known as the Robertson Panel, since it was chaired by physicist Dr. H. P. Robertson. As Timothy Good points out in *Above Top Secret*, this panel seems to have been established to debunk sightings and discredit witnesses while concealing the truth.

At the Second Storey meeting, Smith took the opportunity to expound an extraterrestrial hypothesis. He had found an apparent correlation between the onset of sightings and the position of the planet Mars. He said the number of sightings increased when, due to their respective orbits, Mars and Earth came closer together in space. Smith then spoke about his own work with the Department of Transport's ionospheric stations. He indicated that no anomalous electromagnetic phenomena had been detected at these stations which might indicate the presence of a flying saucer. At no time during the meeting did Smith reveal his discussions with Sarbacher.

Oatway, the secretary of the group, told this author in 1995 that he was unaware of any discussions Smith had shared with Sarbacher. Oatway felt that Smith was a brilliant engineer in his field, but did not share his belief in extraterrestrials. If Solandt

was aware of the information from Sarbacher, he too did not let on. It is important to note that everything Smith did or said with respect to flying saucers was based on the information from Sarbacher that UFOs were from outer space. Smith was not out to prove that they were extraterrestrial, because he already "knew." His goal was to solve the propulsion problem. NB

Solandt took the opposite position to Smith at this first meeting and spoke about a terrestrial-based theory for UFO reports. He said that an aeronautical engineer, John Frost of A.V. Roe Canada Limited, believed the objects were of Russian origin. Frost had perhaps based this conclusion on his knowledge of alleged German flying saucer designs from the war. Solandt felt that Frost's ideas were to be seriously considered because even if the saucers were extraterrestrial, Solandt believed they would still have to follow conventional aerodynamic theory in the earth's atmosphere. Besides, he thought that a new type of high-speed design might evolve from Frost's work. JFK
CFC

When the first meeting of Project Second Storey came to a close, it was decided that Dr. Millman from the Dominion Observatory would be the chairman at future meetings. The group agreed to strive to produce a UFO-reporting questionnaire, develop interrogation procedures, and establish a standard approach for recording and analyzing reports. The DRB would remain in an advisory capacity and the collection of reports would be through field organizations such as the military and the RCMP. The group was essentially formalizing what had begun in 1950, and the new questionnaire would in fact become a refinement of the one developed in 1950.

At the second meeting, held on April 24, 1952, the group decided that the U.S. authorities should be formally approached for a possible exchange of information on the subject of UFOs. This was to be done through the DRB member in Washington. ↓

*what were public
statements
discussing this time?*

Solandt

*Security
clearance
required*

*Oatway
discussions*

A review of the minutes from succeeding meetings shows only that some inquiries were made and a summary of Project Blue Book was received from the USAF. There was no mention of Sarbacher, the committee under Bush, or anything else related to retrieved disks. It is also not known if Bremner was the contact man in question.

At the group's subsequent meeting, in May 1952, the official title of Project Second Storey was adopted. The important part of this meeting was the instruction Solandt gave to Millman: "The committee and all deliberations are classified as Confidential and must be so treated. Contacts with the press or public are not to be made."⁴ Interestingly, Wilbert Smith's name is also underlined in the minutes of this meeting.

Solandt gave no reason for his position but it probably harkened back to his earlier request to Smith that the U.S. classification on these matters be respected. What is peculiar about the directive not to speak to the media is that there was every indication Project Second Storey was to be open to the public, from whom it would solicit reports of sightings. Here again one wonders if perhaps two conclusions would be drawn. One conclusion would be for public consumption and the other for the government.

The committee, with considerable input from Smith, finally developed a suitable questionnaire with accompanying instructions. This was to replace the questionnaire developed and used in 1950. Smith even conducted an experiment for the group, to help determine the validity of reported sightings, i.e., how reliable witnesses would be in reporting what they saw.

Under the auspices of his Department, Smith launched a twelve-foot diameter meteorological balloon from the site of the agricultural experimental farm in Ottawa. Attached to the balloon was a thirty-second magnesium flare. The launch time was

9:52 p.m., on the evening of September 8, 1952. The press was not notified. Smith was hoping that as witnesses called in their sightings, he could determine how accurately the balloon's features were being reported.

The actual result was that no witnesses came forward with reports and Smith was unable to perform the validation he had hoped for. Any one of a number of things could have gone wrong but it may have been simply that, perhaps in the absence of noise as an attention getter, no one happened to be looking up at the time. Alternatively, maybe the object was recognized for what it was, a balloon, and promptly dismissed as nothing unusual worth reporting. In fact, Smith could perhaps have made use of the sightings of the Chant meteor. Although no one knew exactly what it was, there were enough sightings across Canada and the United States which could have been used for comparative purposes.

Smith soon became dissatisfied with the Project Second Storey committee. Whereas he wanted investigations and analysis, the committee was interested only in receiving and cataloging sightings. He had made several recommendations, few of which were accepted because they involved expanding the scope of the committee beyond the range in which its members were interested. He believed that apart from Millman, none of the other members, who were mostly intelligence types, had any scientific interest in the saucers. Though Smith continued attending the meetings, he pressed ahead independently with Project Magnet, his own study and analysis of the reports of UFOs, in hopes of finding clues to their methods of propulsion.

Although the actual minutes of it appear not to exist, a final meeting of Project Second Storey was held on February 25, 1954. At this meeting it was concluded that the sightings did not "lend themselves to a scientific method of investigation."⁵ Despite his efforts and the conclusions reached in his report, Smith had

apparently been unable to convince the Project Second Storey members of the value of the work. The project secretary informed the DAI of the group's conclusions. Oatway also noted, however, that while reports would not be analyzed, they would continue to be collected, and Millman wrote a summary memorandum expressing this conclusion.

According to Arthur Bray, a draft of the minutes of this last meeting was made available to him. In it there was no discussion of Smith's final Project Magnet report, but as it turned out, Smith's conclusions were not supported by the Project Second Storey committee or by his own Department of Transport.

For his part, Solandt remained silent on Smith's conclusions, noting only that from information he had obtained in the United States, it was unnecessary to put any more manpower into the study of UFOs. In fact, what happened was that Smith had just been discredited (see Chapter Three) when Project Second Storey failed to endorse his conclusions.

Enter Peter Millman. Millman did not subscribe to a belief in the extraterrestrial hypothesis and may have been chosen as chairman of Project Second Storey because of his skepticism. Or he may have been selected because it was known that he had already formulated a conclusion. In fact, Millman was the Canadian equivalent of the late Dr. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at Northwestern University and early hard-nosed skeptic of UFOs. Hynek had been asked to be a consultant to Project Sign in 1948 and remained as consultant to the USAF and Project Blue Book for about twenty more years, completely debunking UFO reports, before he slowly began to change his mind. He would later write that the air force attitude was to debunk and that he believed some of the best-reported cases bypassed him and Blue Book and went directly to some higher authority.

YES WE DO, NO WE DON'T

Putting Millman in charge of Second Storey was an excellent way for Solandt to distance himself from Smith and the entire subject, if that was his intention. Smith had recognized that Project Second Storey was essentially a do-nothing committee. Even Brant, Smith's boss, criticized Second Storey and came down on the Defence Research Board for leaving all the investigating to Smith and the Department of Transport.

If there was any kind of cover-up in the Smith affair, it might have been by the DRB and the liaison staff in Washington. Just what did Solandt find out when he made his inquiries in Washington? What did Arnold Wright or Gordon E. Cox know? Why had the Minister of National Defence requested a joint committee be established to study the matter? What did the people in the Joint Intelligence Committee know? The questions go on, but are not answered in the files thus far uncovered.

Wilbert Smith developed brain cancer in 1961 and died the following year. It is possible that proof of the existence of UFOs as interplanetary vehicles died with him, and his legacy consists largely of unanswered questions. ✕

Dr. Solandt passed away in the early nineties. He remained adamant that he had no knowledge of crashed disks or alien bodies.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Dec 14/50
Dec 14/79

-2-
1-50

OTTAWA, Ontario, November 21, 1950.

PLACE

DATE

SUBJECT

Geo-Magnetics

OUR FILE

(R.ST.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reopened
to CONFIDENTIAL
SEE MEMO 15/4/69 CR

MEMORANDUM TO THE CONTROLLER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

For the past several years we have been engaged in the study of various aspects of radio wave propagation. The vagaries of this phenomenon have led us into the fields of aurora, cosmic radiation, atmospheric radio-activity and geo-magnetism. In the case of geo-magnetics our investigations have contributed little to our knowledge of radio wave propagation as yet, but nevertheless have indicated several avenues of investigation which may well be explored with profit. For example, we are on the track of a means whereby the potential energy of the earth's magnetic field may be converted into electrical energy.

28. REPORTING PROCEDURE OF HOSTILE OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

FOR EARLY WARNING IN DEFENCE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT

CIRVIS-MERINT REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION

- Reports made from airborne and land-based sources will be identified by CIRVIS (pronounced SUR-VIES) as the first word of the text.
- Reports made by waterborne sources will be identified by MERINT (pronounced MUR-ENT) as the first word of the text.

2. WHAT TO REPORT

Report immediately all airborne and waterborne objects which appear to be HOSTILE, are UNIDENTIFIED or are acting suspiciously.



3. SEND TO ANY

Canadian Military Establishment,
RCMP Post,
Department of Transport or Fisheries Representative,
Hudson's Bay Company Northern Radio-Equipped Store, or
The nearest open Canadian Telegraph Office. (By telephone if necessary.)
Use the quickest possible means to make your report.

4. SEND THIS KIND OF MESSAGE

- Begin your message with the word "CIRVIS" or "MERINT" as applicable.
- Give the identification of the observer, aircraft or vessel making the report.
- Describe briefly the objects sighted.
- Indicate where and when the objects were sighted.
- If objects are airborne, estimate altitude as "low", "medium", "high".
- Give direction of travel of sighted objects.
- Estimate and give speed of sighted objects.
- Give other significant information.

5. SEND IMMEDIATELY

DO NOT DELAY YOUR REPORT DUE TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.

NOTE

There are no charges to the originator in the handling of CIRVIS or MERINT messages.

Authorized by Department of National Defence
Authorized for display in Post Offices by the Postmaster General

From this 1950s Department of National Defence poster there is no mistaking what is meant by a UFO. — National Archives of Canada

CONFIDENTIAL
C940-105 (Vol 4) DAI

MEMORANDUM

10 Dec 57

ACAS.

Unidentified Flying Objects

1 Reference the request from the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs on behalf of the High Commissioner at London, dated 27 Nov 57.

2 The RCAF has no official policy concerning the subject. There is no office within NDHQ commissioned to deal with the reports of these phenomena, although DAI seems to be the gathering place for them. There is a recorded instance in October 1950, where A/C Bryans, then AMAP, ordered that reports would be filed, but that investigations would be played down. There has never been a serious investigation of any report on file at AFHQ.

3 The Chief of the Radio Division in the Department of Transport, Mr. W.B. Smith, (against the advice of his superiors) has had himself appointed chairman to the Canadian Committee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, headquartered at Washington, DC. It would seem that External Affairs should be directed to Mr. W.B. Smith for the answers they seek.

4 A memorandum to this effect for DM's signature is attached.

R.B. Ingalls
(R.B. Ingalls) G/C
Director of Air Intelligence

Att

The RCAF denies having interest in or a policy concerning UFOs. — National Archives of Canada

SECRET

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL LOG BOOK

2242 FACILITY DATE 11/11/75

TIME	DETAILS	ENTERED BY
1118	CFO FALCONBRIDGE (44) CALLED RE UFO OVER THE BASE AND HEAR REP ON UFO OVER OPP BLOC DOWNTOWN SUBWAY - BRILLIANT GREEN-LIKE LIGHT AT A LARGE GYM WITH CHANGING LIGHTS AND HEARD IT.	16
1123	WORTH-SAGE ACTIVITY - INTERCOM (MIL LITTLE) STANDING BY (CL DECHSLE) ADVISED IT	
1147	1ST DRIVER FM FALCONBRIDGE CALLED RE UFO'S - REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS TIME 1152 - 1192 - SIGHTED 2 UFO BRILLIANT LIGHTS - ONE AT 200' FM CFB FALCONBRIDGE THE OTHER AT 150' BUT MUCH FURTHER AWAY. 1ST DRIVER THON 3 SUBS SAYS WITH DOWNING CAMERA (40 FEET) AS AT THIS TIME OTHER OBSERVERS WERE CAPT GELSON AND CPL LAWRENCESON OF CFB FALCONBRIDGE - THEY OBSERVED THE CLOSEST OBJECT THROUGH DISGUISED AND OBJECT WAS RISING RAPIDLY AT TREMENDOUS SPEED - THEY HAD IT ON HT FINDER AT TWO CUTS OF 40,000' AND 72,000' - OBJECT CIRCULAR - WERE MONITORED AND TWO WENT APPROX 93 TWO GAIN SPOTS IN THE COURSE.	

MONROE SAFE KEY 1 - TEAM A OFF/SE 2000
MONROE SAFE KEY 2 - TEAM B US OFF/SE NCO Harold A. Smith
SE A ON DUTY 11/11/75
SE B OFF DUTY 11/11/75 TIME 1204

1231 WORTH-SAGE: DTG 11/11/75 SPEAK II ONE
FALCON BRIDGE 67,300. REPORTER SAYS
NOTIFIED CL DECHSLE AND LITTLE
1303 STARTER CANT TO INSERT IN RECORD
1318 WORTH-SAGE: DTG 11/11/75 THREE FOUR
REAPPEARED 64,100. 01:11. ONE
UK F-4 1325
1322 2242/ RCL N14 ON IMMEDIATE P-4. 1324

SECRET

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