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Herzberg Institute
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Room 2087
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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.

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.

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