

White / Black Hats

Question of Howard Blum

"What is your gut level about WIS-12?"

A - I would think that the documents are genuine government documents, but they're not true. In other words, at this stage I think that they are part of a very specific government disinformation campaign."

VO Magazine Vol. 5, NO. 5 1990. P. 13

I wonder, be prejudice? Or does the word 'incompetence' better describe it?

"Two. We are by no means convinced that the date format is as critical an issue as others would make it out to be. While the style is admittedly unusual, it is not without precedent.

"Three. To those of you who still harbor suspicions that I created the documents and am perpetrating a hoax, I say, 'Thank you for the compliment!' To those of you who think it more likely that I am the innocent victim of an elaborate hoax, I concede that remains a possibility which has not yet been entirely ruled out."

Phil Klass, sitting toward the rear of the large room, the self-proclaimed "skunk at the garden party," a tape recorder balanced on his lap, heard it all. To his sharp ears, there was nothing worth applauding. Moore's explanation was "evasive at best." "He's trying to have his cake and eat it, too," Klass complained.

Later that summer, now back home in Washington, he would play the tape of Moore's speech over and over. There was an unmistakably feisty quality to Moore's words, yet Klass would never fail to be charmed by the incongruously soft, woolly murmur in his enemy's timbre. Moore had a lovely speaking voice. Klass, an orderly man, would always start to play back the speech at the point of Moore's opening words. But it wouldn't take long before he grew impatient and would fast-forward precisely to Moore's discussion of the dates. "One," he would hear Moore begin, stressing the syllable like a referee giving the count; and, in an unconscious reaction, Klass would immediately move in closer to the machine. He was fascinated—and enraged—by what he had come to call "Moore's half-hearted argument." And by the time Moore's sly, teasing voice had facetiously thanked all those who believed he was capable of pulling off a hoax like the MJ-12 documents, Klass could not help but loudly reply, "You're welcome."

While he silently thought—case closed. I have proven once again that UFOs are not real.

THIRTY-SEVEN.

But it was not that easy. For just as Klass was poised to vent his private thoughts, just as he was ready to bring the gavel down on the MJ-12 documents and declare them once and for all an indisputable fraud, his opponents, returning to the fray with an almost uncanny sense of the moment, would time after time find one more provocative point to bolster their case. Friedman was a master; no researcher could have been more industrious, no lawyer could have mounted a more aggressive rebuttal. What's this about the dates? he would rumble. Klass's quibbles prove nothing except typically thick-headed "Klassical reasoning." And then Friedman, playing his trump cards with flair, would produce not only a small stack of government and military documents with "unnecessary commas" and zero-prefix dates, but also a letter written by none other than Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter himself which was dated, for all the world to see, with a resplendent "unnecessary comma." Take that, Mr. Debunker. UFOs were real.

Still, it was Moore and Shandera, a team that never failed to be blessed by Providence, who uncovered what many felt was the most convincing piece of evidence to support the authenticity of the MJ-12 documents. Only this time, the mailman didn't deliver a roll of film—just a perplexing clue that, when solved, sent them off on a most rewarding treasure hunt.

The hunt began with a postcard. It was addressed to the post office box Bill Moore still maintained in Dewey, Arizona, and then forwarded to his new home in Los Angeles. It was unsigned, and, it seemed, a bit of care had been further spent to protect the identity of the sender. The card had been postmarked in New Zealand; however, the pho-

126th carton—Box Number 189 was its official designation—was placed in front of them. Moore and Shandera dug in.

Shandera was skimming the papers in folder T4-1846, his eyes nearly bleary, when something he was reading all of a sudden filled him with a rush of discovery. With great care, more an odd reluctance to recognize what he held in his hand than an act of scrupulousness, he began to reexamine the page. It was an unsigned carbon copy of a brief memo, dated July 14, 1954, from Robert Cutler, special assistant to President Eisenhower, to General Nathan Twining. Its subject—“NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project.” His heart racing, he would later admit, “like at opening night,” Shandera reread the words that had so shaken him:

“The President has decided that the MJ-12/SSP briefing should take place *during* the already scheduled White House meeting of July 16 rather than following it as previously intended. More precise arrangements will be explained to you upon arrival. Please alter your plans accordingly.

“Your concurrence in the above change of arrangements is assumed.”

Shandera passed the page to Moore with only one soft yet succinct comment—“Bingo!”

Later a triumphant Moore would announce that the Cutler-Twining memo found at the National Archives “unquestionably verifies the existence of an ‘MJ-12’ group in 1954 and definitely links both the National Security Council and the President of the United States to it.” And, as he explained to his supporters, since the Majestic Group was real, then so were UFOs!

But if Shandera couldn’t believe his luck, Klass wouldn’t. It seemed, even in the most munificent realm of possibilities, too coincidental. Moore and Shandera travel across the country, roll up their sleeves, and dig into a mountain of documents never before examined by any civilian researchers, and after a mere three days find *precisely* the proof they need to authenticate the existence of the MJ-12 Group. It was, he would explain with arch politeness, “most unlikely.” Besides, he quickly pointed out after consulting authorities at the National Archives, all the other top-secret documents in the Record Group 341

It was this conscious decision to act on their romantic ideals and daydreams about other worlds, this leap of real courage, that distinguished the people—the physicists, farmers, generals, exobiologists, UFO researchers, town fathers—I had met in my journey across America. They all were gifted with different abilities, different minds, different educations; nevertheless, it was this practical commitment to finding proof, to making contacts with other souls across the universe, that was their common bond, and the shared calling that allowed them to transcend bitter, perhaps even paranoid, despair. In dreams, they all agreed, began their responsibilities. And so, each in his own way, they went to work.

Yet, are the hopes in NASA's Project Cyclops report, a plan for a ten-billion-dollar dedicated SETI facility, really so different from those expressed in the spiral-bound booklet that urged the construction of a fifty-million-dollar UFO Landing Field?

Are the aspirations of the group of intelligence officers secretly meeting in the Pentagon vault room in conflict with those of Bill Moore's investigative team?

Is the Dolphin scientists' deduction that a message from another world will arrive only over the narrow range of "water hole" frequencies any less romantic a notion than the belief that an alien spacecraft will decide to land in Elmwood?

If a Harvard professor can build his own device to listen to space, are Paul Bennewitz's motives any less inspirational?

Were not Phillip Morrison's concert hall reverie and Tom Weber's nightmare sparked by the same unconscious desire to reach out to other worlds?

Are not the speculative Drake Equation and Stanton Friedman's exhaustive research papers both wishful attempts to make philosophy real?

Wasn't it the same humanistic goal, the hope that mankind might learn how to live with its ability to destroy itself, the *L* of the Drake Equation, that inspired both Congress to support SETI and Tom Weber to plan his landing field?

And, ultimately, are not the Drakes and the Morrisons, the Moores and the Shanderas, the Webers and the Colonel Phillippes, all adventurers, all explorers off on the same elusive quest?

But there is more. They share a common strength. They are steeled by more than simple courage. They have all experienced a large leap

of the soul: a movement beyond resigned belief into an arena of absolute faith. They all know, in their secret hearts, that what they believe in, despite all odds, despite all obstacles of reason, will someday, no matter what, come to pass. We are not alone in the universe. They know, in time, there will be proof.

And so they are prepared to continue. To believe. And to wait.

This is a tale, then, where history is being made by men and women who dare to ask questions they know cannot yet be answered. It is a story by necessity without an ending. All its large figures are antiheroes; they have yet to win. They are victims of the same dilemma. They are confident they are right, but the proof eludes them. They are stuck at the same crossroads, waiting.

The UFO Working Group continues to serve President George Bush as it did President Reagan. Lately it has turned its attentions to the reports that a spacecraft landed in the Russian city of Voronezh. Colonel Phillips has doubts that the event actually happened, but still something in the Tass dispatch brought him up short. Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, revealed that the landing site was identified "by means of bilocation." Do the Russians have their own Project Aquarius? Phillips wondered to the Working Group. Are they also using scannate or some form of remote viewing to locate flying saucers? He decided that the Working Group should investigate.

Meanwhile in Elmwood, the success of UFO Days '88 convinced a lot of people that change was coming to the Eau Galle River Valley. Over at Thompson's Oil and Gas, an old pump was painted a bright red and, after a boisterous ceremony, hoisted up on the roof. "UFO Fuel," a sign written in slanted black letters archly explained. On the other side of Main Street, down at the Shack, Sissy rigged up a silver flying saucer on the roof. When she gave the word, a switch was thrown: the "UFO" actually spun in a lopsided circle. And Mayor Feiler, without even consulting the council, commissioned a local house painter "to design and erect suitable monuments" to commemorate the most notable sightings in the township's history. The painter was industrious and in no time at all four-foot-wide plywood models of dome-shaped spacecraft began appearing. Out by the quarry, for

EYES ON THE UNIVERSE

A Q U A R I U S



Tony Dodd

REPRODUCED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME THE ASTONISHING
PROJECT AQUARIUS DOCUMENTS.

TONY DODD RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTOR RECENTLY
ACQUIRED VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE BRIEFING DOCUMENT KNOWN AS
'PROJECT AQUARIUS' THROUGH A NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL
CONTACTS.

TONY DODD SUBMITS THE PAPERS WITHOUT BIAS, ADDING:

'THAT IF GENUINE, THESE DOCUMENTS REPRESENT A REMARKABLE
BREAKTHROUGH IN UFO RESEARCH. READERS ARE OFFERED
INFORMATION AT FACE VALUE, DETERMINING THE AUTHENTICITY OF
THE 'AQUARIUS' IS PARAMOUNT, A TASK WE WILL SPARE NO
EFFORT TOWARDS ACHIEVING'... TONY DODD 26th April 1991

Foreword by Graham William Birdsall

In his latest book, 'Alien Liaison - The Ultimate
Secret', Timothy Good publishes extracts from what is
purported to be a 'TOP SECRET/ORCON' document, entitled
'Executive Briefing. Subject: Project Aquarius', and is
dated 14th June 1977.

American researcher William 'Bill' Moore received a
telephone call in 1983 suggesting that some information
was to be made available to him.

The instructions that followed led him across the United
States, until finally he was handed a sealed brown
envelope in a New York hotel at precisely 5.00pm. He was
told he had just nineteen minutes to do whatever he
wished with the material inside, but it must be handed
back at the end of that period of time.

Bill Moore was to photograph eleven documents contained
in the envelope. A 25-cent piece was placed in the lower
left hand corner for scale.

According to Timothy Good, the document appears to be a
transcription of notes, either intended for use in
preparing a briefing for President Carter or taken down
and typed later.

Both Bill Moore and Timothy are naturally sceptical about
the document, with Bill tending to believe that although
they probably contain some important elements of truth,
it was perhaps shown for reasons of disinformation.

However, in 'Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up
(Sidgwick & Jackson, London, 1987) Timothy Good does

mention the document, and the efforts made to identify
the projects listed in it. The NSA confirmed the
existence of Project Aquarius, Sigma and Snowbird. Later,
the NSA qualified that by saying they did have a Project
Aquarius, but it wasn't related to UFOs. Later still,
following a Freedom of Information request, the NSA
Director of Policy replied a document they had located
'is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be
expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the
national security [and] no portion of the information is
reasonably segregable.'

'ORCON' according to Bill Moore, means 'Dissemination and
Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator' a
term used mainly by the CIA, DIA, NSA and USAF
intelligence. 'OPR' is an acronym for 'Office of Primary
Responsibility'. I am grateful to Timothy Good for
allowing me to quote that information directly from his
latest book, which I urge readers to obtain for a more
in-depth analysis of this, and many other fascinating
examples of how the intelligence community is seen to be
working in relationship to the UFO subject.

What will come as a huge surprise to many of the key-
figures involved with the document, is that Quest
International's Research Director, Tony Dodd, came into
possession of nine of the eleven pages only recently.

These are the very same pages photographed by Bill Moore
as each contains the same 25-cent coin in the lower left-
hand corner used for scale purposes.

The individual who showed the document to Bill Moore got
into trouble, and later Bill himself was investigated by
the FBI. That intensified following the release of the
MJ-12 documents. Of sixty-one known pages relating to that
FBI investigation, only six have been released, the
remainder being exempt from disclosure.

The original pages featured here are too poor in quality
to reproduce in their own right, but the wording has been
reproduced [including the misspellings] to ensure that
Quest International readers become the first people in
the world to view their entire contents publicly.

I'm sure you will join with me in congratulating Tony
Dodd for bringing this matter to everyone's attention.

G.W.B.

AS SEEN ON THE REPRODUCTIONS EACH DOCUMENT IS
CLASSIFIED ABOVE AND BELOW 'TOP SECRET'

1]

EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Briefing

Subject

Project Aquarius C T S D

ATTENTION

This document was prepared by MJ12. MJ12 is solely responsible for its subject matter.

Comment Control CXXXXXXX

Classified by MJ12 EO/340
Declassification Exempt

2]

Classification and Release Instructions

(TS/ORCON) The information contained in this document is classified Top Secret with ORCON. (Only the originator may release the information) Only MJ12 has access to Project Aquarius. No other government agency, to include the military has access to the information contained in this briefing. There are only two copies of Project Aquarius and the location is known only to MJ12. This document will be destroyed after the briefing. No photostat/Photographs or audio recordings may be made of this briefing.

3]

Executive Briefing

(TS/ORCON) In Jun 1947, a civilian pilot flying over the Cascade mountains of Washington observed nine flying discs, (later referred to as UFOs). The Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Centre of the then Army Air Force, became concerned and ordered an inquiry. This was the beginning of the involvement with UFO investigations. In 1947 an aircraft of extraterrestrial origin crashed in the desert of New Mexico. The craft was recovered by the military. Four alien (non homo-sapiens) bodies were recovered in the wreckage. The aliens were found to be creatures not related to human beings (Atch 1) In late 1949 another Alien aircraft crashed in the United States and was recovered partially intact by the military. One alien of extraterrestrial origin survived the crash. The surviving alien was mave and called itself "EBE". The alien was thoroughly interrogated by military intelligence personnel at a base in New Mexico. The

aliens language was translated by picturegraphs. It was learned that the alien came from a planet in the Zeta Reticuli star system approximately 40 light years from the Earth. EBE lived until June 18 1952 when he died of an unexplained illness. During the time period EBE was alive, he provided valuable information regarding space technology, origins of the Universe and ex-biological matters. Further data contained in Atc 2.

4]

(TS/ORCON) The recovery of alien artifacts led the United States on an extensive investigative program to determine whether these aliens posed direct threats to our national security. In 1947 the newly created Air Force initiated a program to investigate incidents involving UFOs. The program was operated under three separate code names: Grudge, Sign and finally Blue Book. The original mission of the Air Force was to collect and analyse all reported sightings or incidents involving UFOs and determine whether the information could be interpreted as having any bearing on the security of the United States. Some information was evaluated with the idea of using the gained data to advance our own space technology and future space programs. 90 percent of the 12,000 reports analysed by the Air Force were considered hoaxes, explained aerial phenomena or natural astronomical objects. The other 10 percent were considered legitimate alien sightings and/or incidents. However not all UFO sightings or incidents were reported under the Air Force program. In 1953 Project Gleam was initiated by order of President Eisenhower who believed that UFOs presented a threat to the national security of the United States. Project Gleam which became Project Aquarius in 1966, was a parallel reporting system for UFO sightings and incidents. Reports collected under Project Aquarius were considered actual sightings of alien aircraft or contact with alien life forms. Most reports were made by reliable military and defense department civilian personnel.

5]

SUB PROJECTS UNDER PROJECT AQUARIUS

1. (TS/ORCON) Project Pando (Proword Risk) Originally established in 1949. Its mission was to collect and evaluate medical information from the surviving Alien creature and recovered Alien bodies. This project medically examined EBE and provided United States medical researchers with certain answers to the evolution theory. (OPR:CIA) (Terminated 1974).

2. (TS/ORCON) Project Sigma: (Proword Midnight). Originally established as part of proword Gleam in 1954. Became a separate project in 1976. Its mission was to establish communication with Aliens. This program met with positive success when in 1959, the United States established primitive communications with the Aliens. On

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QUEST INTERNATIONAL COMMENT

Bill Moore, Jaime Sandlera and Timothy Good are sceptical about the documents authenticity. The pages have a sloppy appearance, misspellings, and seem hardly likely to have been used for a Presidential briefing.

We agree with that assessment 100%. To us, the wording on each page could have been designed by a 10-year-old who has read a couple of recent books on the UFO subject. Quite frankly, if anyone believes a 1947 alien would call itself 'EBE' as one page of this document claims, then the person or persons responsible for its 'release' must be laughing all the way to the bank.

To be fair, the pages do have some interesting project-names which are important to the intelligence community. There are several projects named Aquarius, one of which is very 'black' and 'Above Top Secret'; we know there is a Project Sigma and Snowbird, but they are definately not UFO-related; Project Pounce is UFO related and dates back to 1953.

Any individual scouring through library books and FoI documentation can come up with a hundred project names in 24 hours.

Place a few names within a UFO illustrated history; throw in some well-known agency names; make a telephone call; have your UFO researcher travel across America; give him a few minutes to photograph eleven pages, (he can't keep the originals for testing purposes); sit back and watch the tale unfold.

Nine years later, we finally view nine of the pages. Is it disinformation? Is it perhaps "a stepping stone" to other avenues of research as Timothy Good suggested to me only recently? What do YOU think? Please write in with your views and any comment - A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

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ADVERTISEMENT

Date: Mar. 8th, 1990

Dear Grant,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your kind letter dated 26 FEB 1990, together with the enclosed list of the nmaes.

There are a few items that I should clear before I go thru your letter.

1. Lee Graham in his latest telephone conversation told me that Moore showed the text of his MUFON speech to the "BOYS", and they DID extract parts out of it. He also said that he still IS in contact with them. On the issue of Tim Good, he said that Tim has denied any knowledge on the simultaneous release of the papers, but admitted that he had the papers when they had that dinner. Secondly, he has totally ignored the question of being a "controlled informant" when addressed to him again by Lee Graham. Lee also said that on the question of the Moore's ID card, Moore later admitted that he fudged the issue in order to get away with it. But, Lee still swears that he saw a proper DIS ID card. Moore, certainly cooperated with CIA. This I think I made clear in one of letters to you. I believe that he got into the DIS and OSI thru his CIA contacts. My conversation with Bob Emenigger, where he points out to the CIA contact involvement and then OSI, indirectly implies the close association these agencies have together. In my only letter to Moore, recently I have quoted the code word he used to use, so far no reply. I am also rather suspicious to Bill Coleman. Again Emenigger's innocent comments somehow confirms my suspicion. Be careful with him.

2. Thru a separate mail I have sent you some material which I hope you will find relatively useful.

3. I am enclosing herewith the reply I just received from the Assisstant Secretary of Defense on my FOIA request on the Snowbird. There seems to be some problem. I filed this request after Lee Graham's confirmation on the declassification of this document. As you see they have come out with blank. Where to go from here, and how much credit to give to Graham on some of his comments?

4. I am enclosing herewith one and only most important MOD documents ever by mistake let out by MOD. At the bottum of the document there is a distrebutation list for the departments handling the UFO problem. DSTI: Defence Science and Technology Intelligence.
The rest are clear.

The material I sent you on the alien, should NOT be seen by anyone but you. We still have a very long way to go.

I do need if at all possible, the information on Wang. The alien document you mentioned.

I do not have Smith's book. I need the names on the tapes you sent please.

I had a call from our New Zealand contact at 6AM on 7 MAR 90, he could hardly contain his joy. I had sent him the MARS material. The figures worked out by Hoagland confirm our friends 25 years quest. He is coming to England in two weeks, to stay with me for three weeks. He has had continuous approach by the CIA up untill past 18 months. Also, the British had offered him a complete lab, should he decide to work with them. He has had 2 death threats, MIB visits. We are hoping to develop a soft ware where we can accomodate his calculations to work out a world grid for this phenomena. I would need any of the Smith's scientific calculations or work that you can kindly send for comparisons and inputs. We are getting there. Let us hope god would be with us this time. I am waiting for some material on the Corn Circles. But, guess what, the guy who is supposed to send me the material, only yesterday I was told by a very reliable person that, he is an MI5. Whoops! I am going to play the game, and pretend that I do not know anything about him.

Try to get thru to Lazar and ask him about the idea of the three elements, I am interested to learn of his answer.

About the messages that we receive thru various means on the means of the alien intentions, the picture is not yet so very clear. The underline official story line seems somewhat different from the public's. Even, our mutual orchid loving friend somehow confirms in a round about way the cooperation there was or there is between THEM and THEM. Yet, the material projected by Hopkins, Jaccobs and a few others portraite more menacing version than what we are told by the officials.

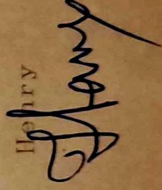
I am glad in your discovery of the papers in that university, I wish you every success my frined. Do keep it quiet until you come back with more evidence. The you would be able to try that evidence or part of it as your upper cards with some of these guys in the offices, without them knowing where you got them. It could be used as bait for further info.

I agree with your comment on SF. Although, he claims that he is a sharer, we have not seen much coming out. Maybe he does not have much more to offer of any major significance. I still believe Moore is not such a big fish as he projects to be.

I could also do with some addresses of the possible MJ12 members or those in JASON with possible connection in our field. I could do a fresh and different type approach. Hopefully to bear some fruit.

I would be sending you some material after this mail. Emenegger seriously believes that Falcon is Doty. I am still waiting for a reply from Coleman. I might send him a polite reminder. If what I have heard is true I do not think he would give the game away, by giving us the names we asked him for.

Henry



WILLIAM L. MOORE AND OSI

02 JULY 1991

No longer the issue of William L. Moore's association with OSI is a myth. Mr. Moore readily has admitted his extensive association and subsequent cooperation with the AFOSI. It is a case well documented on every format of the media, articles, TV, Radio etc., etc.

What bothered our group of researchers, was to establish the manner or the method by which psychological damage was inflicted upon Mr. Paul Bennewitz, due to Mr. Moore's greed in his own words "To find out how do they operate".

Having been a researcher in the Mind and Behavioural Control issues for as long as UFO's, all the signs were clearly indicative of some clandestine, gradual method of torture, administered on Mr. Bennewitz, in order to a) Divert his attention away from what he was finding out, b) To present him as an eccentric, in the fringe of lunacy to the UFO researchers c) And in doing so, make sure that he would never recover his senses completely, nor he would re-gain his courage to pursue what he was doing. This, they achieved with the help of Mr. Moore.

Some of the methods applied to create paranoia, were old-fashioned; breaking in entries, apparent search for material, moving of furniture around, etc. This founded the base in the target's mind, (Mr. Bennewitz) that he was a designated and deliberate target. Some other methods applied, were more sophisticated and require the usage of electronics, in various forms, based upon several files and records in our possession about other similar cases, prove without any shadow of doubts, the gradual dislocation of the memory, and substitution of fear instead, Lack of self confidence, utter confusion, short mindedness, forgetfulness, are the preliminary stages which finally lead to acute depressions and psychological fatigue and illnesses, not easily recoverable. It would have been possible to locate and find out these electronic methods of torture, should someone knowledgeable had access to Mr. Bennewitz at that time. Also, measures of safeguard could have been taken versus some of these methods. Unfortunately, as yet it is not known the depth of their operations. Mr. Moore too, either deliberately or out of utter ignorance has not cast more light on this issue, apart from some passive comments,

In the course of my conversations and correspondence with Jerry Miller, of Kirtland AFB, any time I have brought up some details, enquiring the type of possible operations conducted on Mr. Bennewitz, he never denies, nor does he reply either in writing or orally.

But, would AFOSI admit that Mr. Moore was at their employ, either officially, or as a volunteer free lance?

After consultation with other scientists of the board of our researchers, decision was made to make some discrete inquiries?

We already had at that time the names of at least more than half a dozen of his "birds". In fact as far back as 1989, I established that Conder was back at Wright Patterson, an issue that recently has been confirmed by others too.

The next "bird" to be investigated was an AFOSI Colonel, stationed in DC. The following is the text of our taped conversation with him, on 23 MAR 1990.

"Secretary : Hello, Office of Special Projects.

Caller: "X" please.

Sec.: May I ask who is calling?

Caller: Yes, this is ..., calling, from UK.

Sec. : Ok, stand by sir.

(A long gap before it was put through)

Sec. : Sir, did you say that your name was?

Caller: That is correct.

Sec. : Stand by.

Col. X : Colonel X.

Caller: Colonel X, Good morning to you, or rather good afternoon. It is 2PM there I gather, is it not?

Col. X: Yes it is.

Caller: Right. This is...speaking. Colonel. I have a couple of questions to ask you if you don't mind me asking you.

Col. X: A.I.I. r...igh...t (Thinking whilst answering).

Caller: First of all, do you know a gentleman called William L. Moore?

Col. X: (Thinking) William who?

Caller: William L. Moore, Burbank California.

Col. X: Could you spell that please?
(Caller spelled the name)

Col. X: May I ask who you are sir?

Caller: Yes, my name is and I do some research work.

Col. X: For who sir?

Caller: A private group.

Col. X: I see, and where are you calling from sir?

Caller: U.K.

Col. X: I see sir.

Caller: I would go further colonel to say that you are given the title of a "Bird". You are called is it correct?

Col. X: (Pause) Well, that is that is an air force acronym, habit or a slang expression, for ah.. for .. ah.. whatever, for..ah..a colonel. (He was clearly stammering).

Caller: You also collect a gentleman's letters. You have at least two thousand of his letters, and there is an FOIA request on some of these letters pending for two years, which have not been released. I am sure that you know him too (Giving the name). Am I correct?

Col. X: May I ask you why are you asking all these questions?

Caller: We are trying to get to the bottom of this MJ12 situation, that I am sure that some elements have some major role to play in materialisation of these and the dissemination of them as well. (Silence no words) Hello?

Col. X: Yes, I hear you sir.

Caller: I thought that the line is cut off, that maybe you got angry at me.

Col. X: No.

Caller: All right, this is why I am calling.

Col. X: I....I....I understand what you are saying.

Caller: Any comments?

Col. X: Ah...

Caller: You DO KNOW Bill Moore.

Col. X: I DO KNOW BILL MOORE.

Caller: In what capacity, if I may ask?

Col. X: I do not think whether I need to answer that question sir.

Caller: Well that is very...

Col. X: (Interrupting) No. I understand, I understand, you obviously have my name and telephone number and some idea...

Caller: Not only yours, but also some of your colleagues' who have been working with Mr. Moore. (Caller paused. Col. X was silent) which goes to higher areas.

Col. X: (Long pause) Well, is there some specific information you desire from US Air Force?

Caller: No. I am addressing you as a person colonel, not the US Air Force.

Col. X: Well, in...in... that particular capacity then sir...then...then...I am not specifically obliged to in fact answer.

Caller: I appreciate. I thought that we might be able to sort of see to whether to what we have been told, is there any element of truth, or it has been gossip. This is why I am calling you.

Col. X: I see.

Caller: To clear the air more than anything else.

Col. X: I understand sir. What else is it you desire to know?

Caller: How well you know Mr. Moore?

(There was a very long silence)

Caller: Hello?

Col. X: Yes, yes.

Caller: You are still thinking.

Col. X: Yes, I am. From...from...the...ah...(silence). In my job I meet many people.

Caller: But of course you do.

Col. X: A...n...d ah...ah...and...so...you asked me ah...a straight question, and I am searching my brain ah...trying to identify William Moore...ah...(very long silence). I do not know whether if I met the man.

Caller: ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN ABOUT IT COLONEL?

Col. X: No, I did not say that, no.

Caller: The reason that I asked you this question is that you know, we have some evidence to prove the contrary. If I was not certain, I would not have obviously bother to call you.

Col. X: Well, I understand that completely sir, a...n...d...ah...is it possible I could have met someone given any name that you...

Caller: Is it possible that you met the gentleman in a way that somebody gave you some information to pass on to him, just in the line of duty?

(Very long silence)

Caller: Somebody above you?

Col. X: Well...I...

Caller: It is possible, isn't it?

Col. X: I didn't say that.

Caller: Yes, I didn't say that you did say that colonel.

Col. X: Is there...i.e., what else is that you desire to know sir?

The rest of the conversation was on another topic not directly relevant to Mr. Moore's issue.

Immediately after the termination of this conversation, two of our colleagues, simultaneously tried Mr. Moore and Col. X's numbers. Both were occupied. I do not intend to draw any conclusions. I leave that to the readers.

After having established Mr. Moore's cooperational role with the OSI, upon collective decision, decided to make direct approach to OSI. On 18 FEB 1991, the following FOIA request was filed to AFOSI (Copy enclosed, Exh. 1). Requesting the following information;

1. A copy of the AFOSI's contract with Mr. William L. Moore.
2. A copy of all the records and information passed by the above to AFOSI so far on Mr. Paul Bennewitz, and other persons (Others were involved too).
3. A copy of the briefing as well as the material given to Mr. Moore by the AFOSI to be passed on to persons in (2) abovementioned.
4. A copy of the order, directive or document by which the AFOSI personnel were authorised with, to employ Mr. William L. Moore.
5. A list of such persons who are working on temporary employment basis, non-contractual-trust bases with the AFOSI currently, from the UFO community and among the community.
6. If (5) would not by remote possibility be possible, I therefore request the number of such person/s as described in (5).

On 5 MAR 1991, I received a reply from OSI's HQ, signed by Frank H. Batten, Jr., SA, Chief, FOIA/PA Branch, DCS, Information Management, asking for more information about Mr. Moore, such as date of birth, place of birth, social security number, and service number (if available). (Copy enclosed, Exh. 2).

The required information was given to OSI.

OSI replied on 8 APR 1991. This time the letter was signed by Cecil W. Fry, SA, Director, records management and Information Release DCS, Information Management. In his letter Mr. Fry said that a review of their files disclosed no record of employment of a Mr. William L. Moore by AFOSI. He furthered by asking, if I constitute this reply as an adverse action, I could file an Appeal to the Secretary of the Air Force. (Copy enclosed. Encl. 3) What was interesting about this particular response was that in a similar case filed almost at the same time on some other person, through us, OSI had requested us to follow the matter of records on the individual with the DIS. OSI, HAD mentioned in their response that DIS is the faculty holding records similar to this case (civilian employees). For some unknown reasons, they had refrained of passing this request to DIS. Is it possible that due to the extensive investigations conducted by DIS on Mr. Lee Graham, Mr. Moore's close associate, they were trying to avoid the access?

On 14 MAY 1991, I filed an Appeal to the Secretary of the Air Force, thru OSI's HQ, mentioning;

"We have both written acceptance as well as audio tape from the above mentioned individual (Mr. Moore) who was approached by the OSI, and subsequently recruited as a "free lance" agent to work for OSI. We are also aware that Mr. Fry has in fact several letters from Mr. Moore's close associate, Mr. Lee Graham, monitoring him as to whether Mr. Lee Graham in order to see whether Mr. Moore is upholding his agreement with the OSI in not disclosing information. Not so long ago Mr. Lee Graham, himself was the subject of DIS investigations, partly and indirectly due to his association with Mr. Moore. I find this rejection by Mr. Fry utterly ridiculous, with due respect to Mr. Fry. It sounds very much like the ostriches old game in his part.

I request the Appeal authority to review my request and release the information in my FOIA request. Otherwise, it would be a pertinent question to ask Mr. Fry, that why does he maintain a file on Mr. Lee Graham, a close associate of Mr. Moore?"

It is important to note that; the entire scenario was very well planned from the beginning. DIS mounted the investigation with Mr. Lee Graham, on the well planned scenario designed by OSI. How? Some information given to Mr. Moore by his "birds", some of whom are OSI agents, were in deliberate confidence, not specifying or briefing Mr. Moore in not disclosing them. These papers were decoys by which they were trying to check Mr. Moore's loyalty, despite Mr. Moore's claims of overzealousness, and apparent devotion in full cooperation with OSI. Lee Graham was used as a test element in due process. Upon OSI's request, DIS, without letting Moore know the reasons, and by creating a deliberate state of confusion, grilled Mr. Graham, in order to learn whether Mr. Moore has in fact given Lee Graham anything

more than he was asked. Both, the gentlemen were utterly duped, by swallowing the pill, they both thought in their part that they are upto something big, whilst OSI was quietly proceeding with their programs. The implications were multi faceted. By the time Mr. Moore had some suspicions, it was already too late.

On 25 JUN 1991, William A. Davidson, Deputy Administrative Assistant of Office of the AF Secretary, responded to my appeal.

"This is in response to your 20 MAY 1991 letter appealing under the FOIA, the decision of the Director, Records management and Information Release, Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations, to deny your request for information concerning Mr. William L. Moore.

The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force has considered your appeal, and I have determined it should be denied.

Current law requires appeal rights to FOIA requesters in those instances where a determination has been made that no responsive records exist. Upon receipt of a letter of appeal in such cases, the agency is required to make a second search for any responsive records. The second search conducted by HQ AFOSI in your case confirms no records exist at HQ AFOSI. Your appeal is therefore denied." (Copy enclosed, Exh. 4).

It is interesting to note that the letter suggests that there are no records responsive to my FOIA request at HQ AFOSI. It deliberately tries to quash the issue of the records at whole. This response fully corroborates with a directive issued by the HQ AFOSI to all their branches, requesting almost every inquiry relevant to the subject of UFOs to be directed to their Headquarters, and not to disclose any records that they might hold in their local branches. That way the HQ of OSI could, in a roundabout way respond to the requesters that they maintain no records in the Headquarters, and keep the records in the area branches where the inquiries in reality relate to. (For a copy of that directive, see "Final Report on Operation Majestic 12", by Stanton Friedman)

Today, even Mr. Moore justifies his acts for what he did, and the pain and agony he caused to Mr. Bennewitz and his family. But, was it worth after all? END

ARMEN VICTORIAN
01 JUL 1991

Department of The Air Force,
HQ AFOSI/IMDF
Bolling AFB DC 20332-6001
USA

Dr. Armen Victorian,
P.O.Box:99,
West PDO,
Nottingham, NG8 3NT
England

Date: 18 FEB 1991
Ref: BR-391

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: F O I A REQUEST

I request through the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act, records, documents, memoranda, memos about the following subject;

1. A copy of the AFOSI's contract with Mr. William L. Moore.
2. A copy of all the records and information passed by the above to AFOSI so far on Mr. Paul Bennewitz, and other persons.
3. A copy of the briefings as well as the material given to Mr. Moore by the AFOSI to be passed on to persons in (2) abovementioned.
4. A copy of the order, directive or the document by which the AFOSI personnel were authorised with, to employ Mr. William L. Moore.
5. A list of such persons who are working on temporary employment basis, non-contractual-trust bases with the AFOSI currently, from the UFO community and among that community.
6. If 5 would not by remote possibility be possible, I therefore request the number of such person/s as described in (5).

Sincerely,



A. Victorian

CC; Senator Robert Kennedy,
Senator Clayborn Pell,
Just Cause
Quest International
File.

EXH. 2



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE DC 20332-6001

5 MAR 1991

Dr. Armen Victorian
P.O. Box 99
West FDO
Nottingham, NG8 3NT
England

Dear Dr. Victorian

This is in reply to your 18 February 1991 request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. We received your request on 26 February 1991.

Access to files within the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) is through a computerized index maintained by the Defense Investigative Service. This index, known as the Defense Central Index of Investigations (DCII), identifies investigative records held by any Department of Defense component and is not restricted to this agency's files.

For the DCII to identify records responsive to a specific request, the Master Name Index identifies records on individuals by using the subject's name, date and place of birth, social security number, and service number (if available).

In order for us to conduct a search of the DCII for files pertaining to your request, we require additional information. Upon receipt of the additional information, we will search our records for information responsive to your request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank H. Batten, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

FRANK H. BATTEN, JR., SA
Chief, FOIA/Privacy Act Branch
DCS, Information Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE DC 20332 6001

EXH. 3

Dr Armen Victorian
P.O. Box 99
West PDO
Nottingham NG8 3NT
England

8 APR 1991

Dear Dr Victorian

This is in reply to your undated request for information. We received the request on 3 April 1991.

A review of our files disclosed no record of any employment of a Mr William L Moore by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

If you interpret this "no records" response as an adverse action, you may appeal it to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. Include in the appeal your reasons for reconsideration, and attach a copy of this letter. Address your letter as follows:

Secretary of the Air Force
THRU: HQ AFOSI/IMDF
Bolling AFB DC 20332-6001

Sincerely

CECIL W. FRY, SA
Director, Records Management
and Information Release
DCS, Information Management

"HELPING TO PROTECT A GREAT WAY OF LIFE"

EXH. 4

Secretary of The Air Force.
THRU: HQ AFOSI/IMDF
Rolling AFB DC 20332-6001
USA

Dr. Armen Victorian.
P.O.Box: 99.
West PDO.
Nottingham, NG8 3NT
England

Date: 14 MAY 1991

Ref: EN-491

Dear Sir/Madam.

RE: FOIA APPEAL

I hereby appeal versus Mr. Cecil W. Fry, SA, Director, Records Management and Information Release DSC. Information Management's decision on stating not having any records pertaining to a Mr. William L. Moore, the subject of my FOIA request, dated 3 APR 1991.

We have both written acceptance as well audio tape from the above mentioned individual who was approached by the OSI, and subsequently recruited as a "free lance" agent to work for OSI. We are also aware that Mr. Fry has in fact several letters from Mr. Moore's close associate, Mr. Lee Graham, monitoring him as to whether Mr. Lee Graham in order to see whether Mr. Moore is upholding his agreement with the OSI in not disclosing information. Not so long ago Mr. Lee Graham, himself was the subject of DIS investigations, partly and indirectly due to his association with Mr. Moore. I find this rejection by Mr. Fry utterly ridiculous, with due respect to Mr. Fry. It sounds very much like the ostriches old game in his part.

I request the Appeal authority to review my request and release the information in my FOIA request. Otherwise, it would be a pertinent question to ask Mr. Fry, that why does he maintain a file on Mr. Lee Graham, a close associate of Mr. Moore?

Sincerely,

A.V.

A. Victorian

EXM 5



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 25 1991

Dr. Armen Victorian
P.O. Box 99
West PDO
Nottingham NG8 3NT
England

Dear Dr. Victorian:

This is in response to your 20 May 1991 letter appealing, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the decision of the Director, Records Management and Information Release, Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations, to deny your request for information concerning Mr. William L. Moore.

The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force has considered your appeal, and I have determined it should be denied.

Current law requires offering appeal rights to FOIA requesters in those instances where a determination has been made that no responsive records exist. Upon receipt of a letter of appeal in such cases, the agency is required to make a second search for any responsive records. The second search conducted by HQ AFOSI in your case confirms no records exist at HQ AFOSI. Your appeal is therefore denied.

This constitutes the final Air Force action on your appeal. The Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, provides for judicial review of this determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William A. Davidson", is written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM A. DAVIDSON
Deputy Administrative Assistant

29 JUN 1991



Is it a UFO Project?

The Strange Case of Aquarius 'D'

By Vicki Cooper

The notion that a logical UFO paper trail can be pursued without encountering classified material is naive. Whether disinformation or true information leaked to advance someone's hidden agenda, government documents affix official concerns and activities, and are therefore at the heart of the pursuit. Yet the trail often tells us more about how the flow of documentation works rather than the UFO phenomenon itself. Take Project Aquarius . . .

For lack of other evidence, ufology tries to penetrate the "UFO cover-up" by obtaining and scrutinizing government documents. The controversial MJ-12 documents have been endlessly discussed and dissected amongst UFO researchers in trying to determine the government's UFO "program," and for at least one team of UFO sleuths currently concentrating on the Roswell crash of 1947, one of the papers apparently leaked to researcher Jaime Shandera in 1984 is absolutely key to proving that the Roswell UFO was a crashed alien saucer. (The Eisenhower briefing document corroborates this hypothesis.) The U.S. newspapers' indictment of the government in an extensive UFO cover-up would surely follow this determination, exposing the full, sordid picture behind the "ultimate UFO secret" as one after confounding piece of at least one aspect of the complex and sprawling UFO puzzle falls neatly into place.

William Moore and his fellow researcher Shandera stress that all of the controversial MJ-12 documents do

not stand alone in the long and frustrating task of completing the UFO puzzle, "but rather represent the final link (so far as is known) in a chain of apparently related documents and events dating at least as far back as late 1977." (Moore and Shandera; *The MJ-12*

Documents, An Analytical Report, p. 4. See review, p. 35.)

That chain, in turn, presents a fascinating but disturbing glimpse into what may well be the U.S. military's well-oiled counterintelligence machinery, which grinds out disinformation and falsified

APPENDIX - C

(SECRET)



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Appendix C - 1

83

documents in its apparent attempt to dutifully cordon off the UFO secret like so much messy saucer debris—at the same time keeping the curious UFO community at bay, safely preoccupied with peripheral and ultimately trivial matters.

When Howard Blum's book *Out There* hit the shelves, a red flag went up on the whole situation—one already dotted with such flags—but a new and potentially important element came into focus. In his rambling, dramatized account of an alleged UFO Working Group under the direction of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Blum happened to turn up yet another "Project Aquarius," a name already familiar in UFO circles.

Identities

Like a chameleon, Project Aquarius has scuttled in and out of ufological attention in any of (thus far) four possible identifications, all but one of which initially fell under the UFO research jurisdiction of Moore alone, an exclusivity which many other researchers deem unfair and unprofessional. Apparently in deference to their string of anonymous agents which Moore has code-named after bird species—Falcon, Condor, Seagull, et. al.—Moore and Shandera (M/S) have offered little in the way of new leads to other researchers.

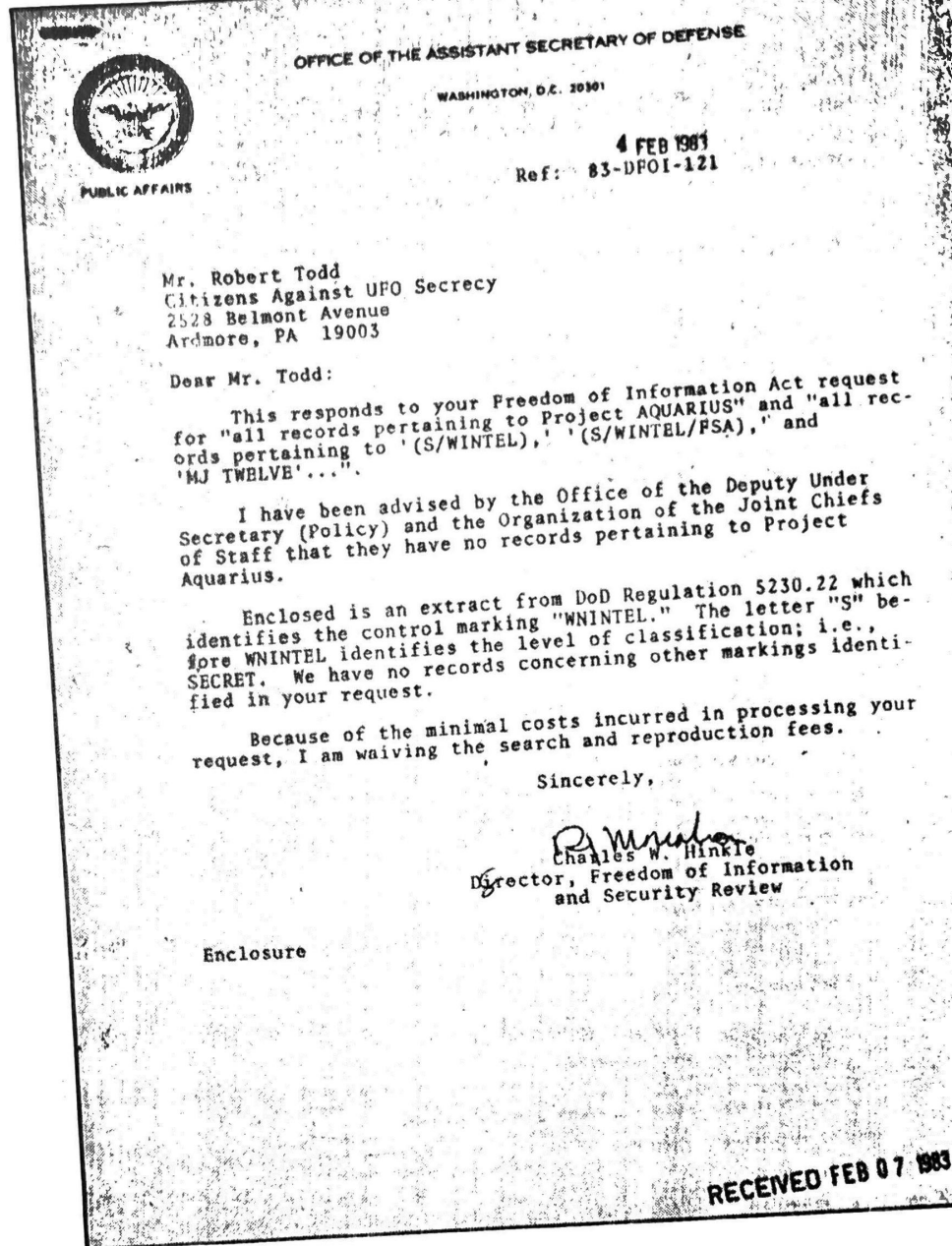
Be that as it may, Blum's apparent discovery of a fourth Project Aquarius has added a new and interesting trajectory to the course of events. Aquarius "A," "B," and "C," as labeled by M/S, are rooted in a spurious telex which first mentioned Project Aquarius in a UFO context, shown to Moore in March of 1981 by his alleged source, the "Falcon." The other eponymously-linked projects, identified after the telex surfaced, appear to have no connection to the UFO phenomenon. The original telex, which even M/S concede is probable disinformation, suggests that several governmental agencies are involved in a highly-restricted UFO operation aimed primarily at investigations of "legitimate sightings," the results of which are "still classified top secret with no dissemination outside of official intelligence channels and with restricted access to [guess what?] M-J 12."

The advent of Aquarius "D," as we shall call Blum's interpretation, illuminates what appears at first to be a fourth identity for Project Aquarius. The other projects, as proffered by M/S in their analysis: "A" is a Department of Defense project, a few details of which were passed on to Moore by one of his aviary, "Seagull."

Shielded by the national security exemption listed by the Freedom of Information Act, Aquarius "B" appears to be a project of the National Security Agency, while "C" functions under a branch of the Defense Department, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Blum's version of Aquarius may be

the same as Seagull's! Hardly a sober non-fiction work, *Out There* nevertheless credibly attempts to disclose much more on Project Aquarius than has been available from the M/S flock. The book depicts Aquarius "D" as a long-standing parapsychological research project of the Defense Intelligence Agency. This version of Aquarius is specifically aimed at testing the abilities of individuals skilled in remote viewing, a method of psychically determining information about a person or event. In Blum's scenario, the UFO factor came into play only when an experiment with a new version of remote reviewing, which the DIA scientists termed *scannate*, was interrupted



when the viewer began to pick up "something else" besides the Soviet submarine he was asked to locate. For all intents and purposes, that something else was a "flying saucer." Although Aquarius "D" portrays UFOs as only incidental to the main thrust of the project, Blum's information coincides with what "Seagull" allegedly found out about Aquarius "A," details found in a memo filed by Moore: "Project comes at least partly under NISC (Naval Intelligence Support Center) . . . [It] has to do with digital analysis and interpretation of photographs. . . [and] involved 'a type of information channel which is not in existence but might be established in the near

future.' " (Unless M/S are again holding it back, this data has no supportive documentation.)

'Positive I.D.'

Should we seriously consider information from someone we cannot identify? If we dare, could that "type of information channel" noted in Moore's memo be the novel application of remote viewing called scannate? Not forgetting the risks of such flimsy source material, the upshot is at least one tentative positive identification for Project Aquarius.

Aquarius "D" may be the most believable thus far—the government's involvement in parapsychological research is well known.

'The Aquarius miasma is murky, at best, and perhaps has only the barest relationship to the UFO situation.'

As far back as 1981, columnist Jack Anderson had written of the Pentagon's top-secret "psychic task force" at work on developing ESP weapons. But again, most of Blum's current sources on these matters are kept anonymous, too.

Familiarity with the strange protocols of military/intelligence classification helps; computers are used to generate some code names, at other times a code name results from an ad hoc decision by the officials involved. There could easily be more than one Project Aquarius, Blum says. "One (project) doesn't preclude the other. They could be totally different things. One could be a spurious code name—the Moore and Shandera project—that was part of a disinformation campaign. I don't know. I have been told the parapsychological aspects of the project are still going on."

Other researchers who have followed the Aquarius trail remain skeptical. Robert Todd, who calls *Out There* "a piece of trash" and claims that the government wouldn't use the same name for multiple projects, provided *UFO* with documents that chronicle his FOIA pursuit of Aquarius information found in the original disinformative telex. "Everything I found out didn't seem to check out," he said. "As far as I know, the (UFO) project doesn't exist."

The slices of the Aquarius pie still multiply. Attorney and researcher Peter Gersten, Todd's colleague with the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), mentions that he has heard the name in connection with an Air Force project utilizing underwater photography. (Aquarius "E"? Or yet another description of Aquarius A and D?)

Beyond this foray into the first few letters of the alphabet and the legitimate parapsychological information, the Aquarius miasma is murky, at best, and perhaps has only the barest relationship to the UFO situation. "The problem with all of this is that it's all very tantalizing, this whole field," says Blum. "And you get bits of information, but it's hard to take it further."

Thus it remains in the "blackened" halls of government: secretive and confusing—the antithesis of what the word "Aquarius" usually implies.



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

DJSM 479-83
30 March 1983

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request #1012 (82-193)

1. Reference your 15 February 1983 Freedom of Information Action assignment which forwarded a request from Robert Todd for:
 - a. Verification "that the word 'Aquarius' is indeed an actual codeword," and
 - b. JANAP 299.
2. A search of the OJCS records did not identify any document referencing "Aquarius" as a codeword.
3. The Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Publication (JANAP) 299(A) is the latest edition. (Superseded editions were destroyed in accordance with Service regulations for REGISTERED publications.) It is currently and properly classified and, therefore, must be denied. The document contains classified codewords that are used in military operations. Release of the information could be expected to damage national security. 5 USC 552(b)(1) applies.
4. BD Form 472 and DD Form 2086 are attached.

George B. Crist

GEORGE B. CRIST
Major General, USMC
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Attachments

B O O K R E V I E W S

The MJ-12 Documents An Analytical Report

By William L. Moore and Jaime H. Shandera. Burbank: The Fair Witness Project, 1990. 111 pp. \$25.

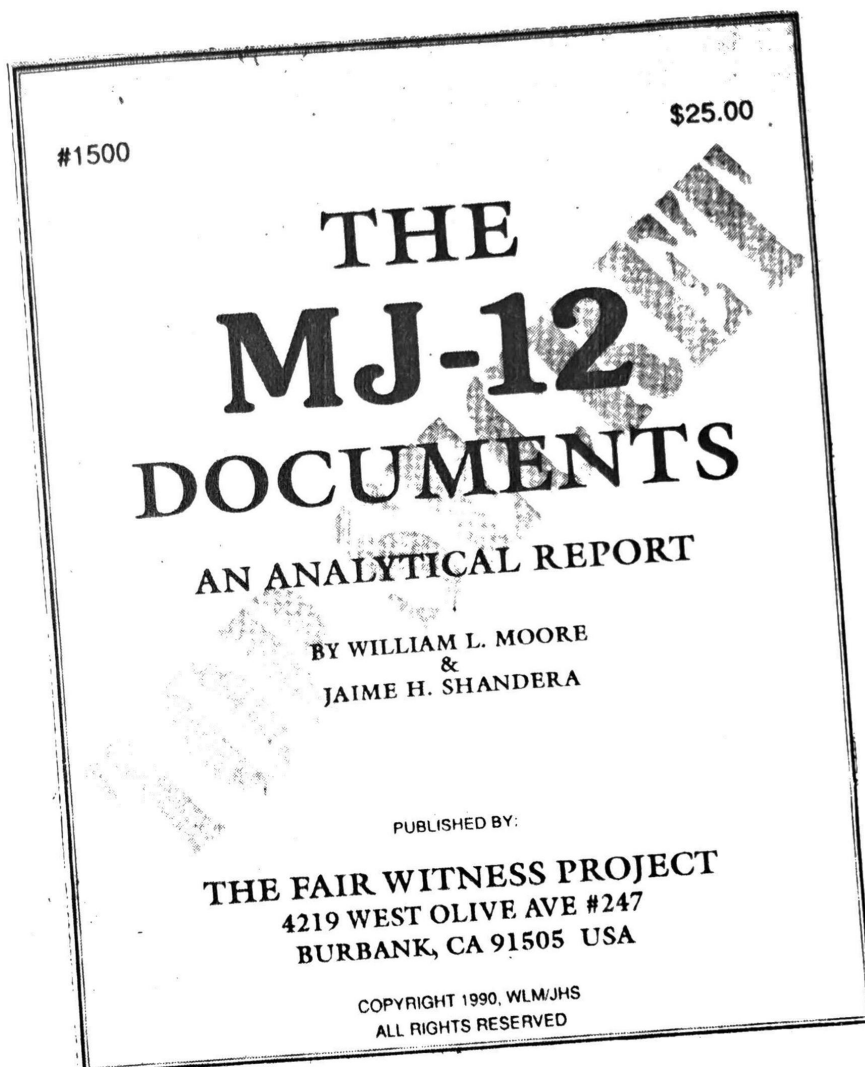
From the moment they first surfaced in the public domain in May of 1987, the MJ-12 documents have consisted of equal portions of confusion, mystery and controversy. The mystery, at least, is obvious, given that the eight-page document matter-of-factly references the recovery of unusual debris, and in one case, bodies, from the crash sites of two (presumably extraterrestrial) flying saucers or spacecraft.

The first such crash, according to the document, occurred near Roswell Army Air Field, New Mexico, on or around July 7, 1947, followed by a second incident along the Texas-Mexico border in December of 1950. Equally interesting is the fact that the document also refers to the establishment of a supersecret agency, Operation Majestic (or Majic) 12, established and empowered by president Harry S. Truman, to investigate these incidents. In fact, the names of the twelve operant members of Majestic are spelled out in order on page 2. The most surprising of these names (all were deceased by the time the document appeared) was that of one Dr. Donald (H.) Menzel, Harvard astronomer and the foremost UFO debunker of his day.

The manner in which MJ-12 originally manifested would only add to the subsequent controversy. In this country, at least, they first surfaced in the form of a roll of exposed b&w 35mm film mailed to Jaime Shandera, a Hollywood TV producer and at the time a relatively unknown associate of longtime ufologists William Moore and Stanton T. Friedman, major contributors to *The Roswell Incident* (1980), co-authored by Moore and Charles Berlitz. For the next two years, the trio conducted their own covert investigations into the legitimacy of the document, including an accompanying attachment (only one of eight referenced) which purported to be a copy of the original executive order, signed

by Truman, authorizing the establishment of MJ-12. A memo from presidential aide Robert Cutler to MJ-12 member General Nathan Twining, apparently substantiating the existence of the Majic operation, subsequently surfaced in government archives, adding considerable fuel to already oily waters. The fact that Moore himself took a black Marks-A-Lot to the first copies of the document released to the general public in this country only fanned the flames. (English researcher Timothy Good had already made "clean" copies available to the British media, avowing that his source was neither Shandera nor Moore, but some shadowy "American intelligence" source.)

Confused yet? Maybe I'm not trying hard enough. Perhaps it would help if we stirred into this Majestic stew not only the original Roswell Incident and its own accompanying controversies, but the fact that Moore later became embroiled with an ambiguous aviary of government and military intelligence agents (Falcon, Condor, Hawk, etc.), most notable for their involvement in the now infamous destabilization of one Paul Bennewitz. Toss in a little ongoing enmity between Friedman and former colleagues Moore and Shandera. Spice with a new investigation of Roswell and related matters conducted under CUFOS auspices by Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle, bitterly contested and



criticize by Moore and Shandera. (A print war over the latter, presently being waged in the pages of the *International UFO Reporter* and the *MUFON UFO Journal* threatens to spill over into the courts.) Now pepper in suspicions by some that Moore himself may be the perpetrator of MJ-12, and the broth becomes truly turgid, indeed, if not actually unpalatable. And I start feeling more and more like the Liz Smith, or worse, Betty Crocker, of ufology for trying to separate the meat from the sauce! Who that wasn't there will ever know?

Moore and Shandera have at least attempted to set the record straight on MJ-12, if that is even conceivably possible at this belated stage, by issuing massive bundle of papers, appendices and commentary under the name of the *MJ-12 Documents: An*

then assigned factual probabilities in accordance with the faith one puts in the original authors. For my own part (and I'm sure there will be extreme differences of opinion), I feel like Moore and Shandera have laid out the available data and disinformation (the majority of documents discussed are reproduced) to the best of their knowledge and ability, leaving the reader to draw his or her own conclusions. Others will be forgiven for believing that the situation is now almost beyond repair. For the record, however, the convoluted tale Moore and Shandera tell begins over a decade ago, in January of 1978, when a now known fabrication of an official Incident/Complaint Report arrives in the Florida offices of the *National Enquirer*. (Some may suspect this a less than auspicious or confidence-inspiring beginning, and

Richard Doty of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Projects Aquarius and Sigma, and the more conventional clichés of covert intelligence activities, including coffee shop contacts and airport drop-offs. We're even treated to a few similar shenanigans between and among ufologists.

The authors draw their own deductions near the end of the text, where they assign a probability value to each of the numerous documents they discuss, including the original MJ-12 papers. "This report," they advise, "represents the results of an in-depth investigation into an area which, up to this point in time, has been little touched by UFO researchers. The problem of assessing and attempting to authenticate or repudiate questioned documents is one which encompasses areas of expertise virtually unknown in this field. UFO researchers, for the most part, are chasers of lights in the sky, purveyors of fantastic and often unsubstantiated tales, examiners of question(able) photographs, interviewers of witnesses, or collectors and compilers of data." Again, my own feeling is that Moore and Shandera acquit themselves quite well here, within their own self-imposed constraints. The newcomer to the field will find *An Analysis* a basic, if far from complete, primer in the authentication of dubious documents, government, military or otherwise. At the same time, one has to ask whether the Roswell incident as we know it, and the MJ-12 documents, as we know them, can comfortably co-exist in the same room. My own impression, alas, is No. There are simply too many internal discrepancies remaining between the two at present to convince me that either one is a real reflection of the other.

I do agree with Bruce Maccabee and others that if the Roswell crash and recovery actually took place as bruited, then MJ-12, or something seriously similar, would indeed have been established in its wake. I remain uncertain, however, that the MJ-12 documents we have on hand are indisputable proof of that assumption.

A resident of San Antonio, Texas, Dennis Stacy writes regularly on UFO matters. He is editor of the MUFON UFO Journal.

'Moore and Shandera have at least attempted to set the record straight on MJ-12, if that is even conceivably possible at this stage . . .'

Analytical Report (\$25 from The Fair Witness Project, 4219 West Olive Ave., #247, Burbank, CA, 91505). I'm working with a pre-publication draft which consists mainly of Xerox pages; the final format may be somewhat different, although the contents are probably substantially the same. The review version consists of over 100 pages of typed text, along with another 30-40 of exhibits.

The average reader may find much of the material herein hard plodding, which is not to say that it isn't all fascinating reading, or that the potential rewards aren't in direct proportion to the effort one is willing to make to sort wheat from chaff. Often enough, however, the "proof" of any particular aspect swirls around such esoteric topics as what government agency used which sort of typewriter, carbon paper or dating protocols, and when. In contrast to the somewhat wider focus supplied by Friedman's final report on MJ-12 for the Fund for UFO Research, the authors here warn early on that their own analysis will focus on the forensics, or physical characteristics, of the MJ and related documents.

Much of this material will still have to be taken on face value and

who's to gainsay same? Well, I can, for one. Despite its florid headlines, the *Enquirer* actually does conduct its own, sometimes rigorous, investigations on occasion.) The Report, referred to here as the Ellsworth Document and reproduced as Appendix A, alleged that two alien entities were intercepted and fired upon in the vicinity of a Minuteman missile silo near Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. The two entities retreated into a landed UFO, but not before aiming a beam of light at one of the sentries which reportedly "disintegrated" his M-16 rifle, inflicting second and third degree burns. The authors describe the Ellsworth document as "officially fabricated as part of a government counterintelligence/disinformation operation."

And so, as Kurt Vonnegut might say in a lighter moment, it goes, through several similar and dissimilar documents, some more, or less, suspicious than others. Dry as the documentation is in some stretches, cumulatively, Moore and Shandera begin to read like le Carre, relating a Cold War conspiracy taking place in our own country, against our own citizens. Along the way we are introduced to shadowy figures like

OFFICIAL CHANNELS



UFO 'Image' Must Improve

A Government Inquiry

By Richard Hall

In recent years, various groups and individuals have advocated mounting a campaign to call for Congressional hearings on UFOs. Not all these are credible organizations; among the groups are ones rife with what are, to most, crackpot notions about alien hierarchies and constant "messages" from moralistic "aliens" who babble on endlessly. Crackpots or religious fanatics are just one of the problems.

When asked, "What would you request Congress to investigate?"—even the more reputable advocates respond with blank stares and dead silence. Presumably it is "obvious" (to them) what the investigation would be about. To expect Congress to investigate the UFO subject in any general or comprehensive way is naive, but there may be some specific areas that would be of interest to one of the Congressional committees under certain circumstances, mainly when they could investigate a specific

incident or event without having to take a position on the larger UFO subject.

Former hearings

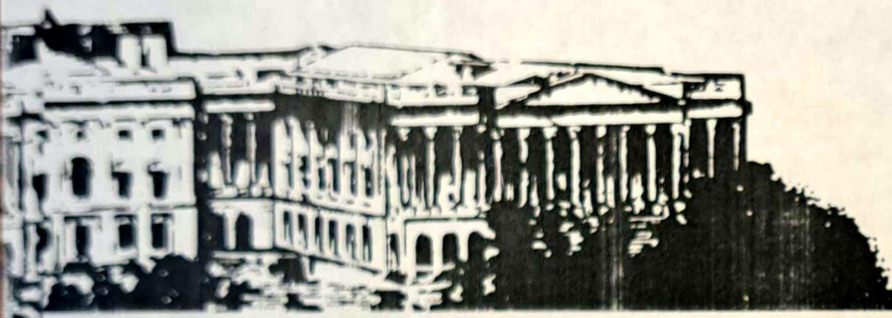
In the 40-odd years of UFO history in the United States, there have been exactly two open congressional hearings on UFOs, and I had a part (indirectly) in both of them. (According to rumors, there were other classified hearings on UFOs, and I don't doubt it.) The first, on April 5, 1966, was by the House Armed Services Committee in response to pressure from NICAP, impressive new UFO sightings, and other influences. The second, on July 19, 1968, before the House Science and Astronautics Committee, was termed a "symposium" and primarily consisted of an exchange of views by scientists about UFOs. The latter hearing was strongly influenced by Dr. James E. McDonald, University

of Arizona atmospheric physicist, whose whirlwind investigation of the subject had stirred a fresh breeze in the scientific community.

Why did the hearings come about at all? For several years, NICAP had been bombarding Members of Congress with serious UFO reports from qualified observers, letters from constituents, and facts to counter Air Force debunking statements. (The Air Force then had the Government responsibility for UFO investigations and was NICAP's main target.) Helped considerably by having a number of prominent scientists and military men on the Board, we had access to the Washington Press Corps, including national media and representatives of nearly every major daily newspaper in the country. Our efforts had attracted some high-level interest, and resulted in a lot of individual support from Government scientists and others in Executive Department agencies who leaked in-

formation to us. But this alone was not sufficient to bring about hearings.

What finally brought about hearings was the lucky(?) coincidence of having the NICAP information followed by a new and extraordinarily prolonged wave of UFO sightings starting in 1964, and an outpouring of public sentiment, also reflected in newspaper editorials from all over the country, just as NICAP's 200,000-page documentary report *The UFO Evidence* was released.



Congress responds to strong and clear, broadly based public opinion. We all support our troops in the Persian Gulf. We should not expect "courageous" actions based on principle, facts, logic, or anything else when it comes to UFOs. By the very size and nature of the Congress, representing the diverse views and concerns of hundreds of selfish and fickle constituencies, it should be clear that more fundamental matters of survival, health care and other basic and broad-based human concerns take precedence over such esoteric questions as the credibility of UFO reports (much less the notion that "aliens" are intervening directly in our lives).

The popular conception of UFOs in mass media (not just the tabloids, but also popular magazines, daily newspapers, and network TV news) is of a silly hodgepodge of wild stories unsupported by any solid data. Very simply, UFOs are treated as a joke. Serious researchers should, for their own education, back off a step and take a look at the steady stream of sensation that is fed to the

public, and indirectly to the Congress: Alien kidnapping of humans. Secret alien underground bases in the Southwest jointly manned by aliens and humans. Alien cannibals. World conspiracies in which our leaders have sold out to alien forces and are plotting to enslave us.

Some members of Congress may be able to distinguish serious facts from lurid fiction, but to publicly take UFOs seriously is a great risk because of the way the subject is perceived by important opinion

makers. It would take large numbers of concerned citizens actively contacting their Congressmen, endorsement by prominent scientists or other influential people, perhaps some current spectacular UFO events in the news, and a clear-cut, focused issue which lends itself to Congressional style. General investigation of phenomena is not something suitable for a Congressional investigation.

'Focused issue'

The 1960s' hearings also came about in part because there was a specific target, and a focused issue. NICAP and other critics claimed that the U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book was grossly misleading the public and denying that UFOs were anything significant, despite scores of impressive reports from reliable witnesses. The hearings, then, centered entirely around the issue of whether the Project Blue Book investigation was adequate. House Armed Service Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers was adamant that the Air Force was not lying to the

public, and effectively "rigged" the hearing to be an Air Force showcase. Next day the Air Force announced that it would seek an outside scientific review of the project, and this led ultimately to the University of Colorado UFO project. It also took the Air Force off the hook.

Although the 1968 hearing was presented as a "scientific symposium," it, too, centered around the adequacy of the Air Force study. Several of the scientists attempted to make the case that UFOs were something new, and a potentially important phenomenon of interest to science, but this was largely to offset the strongly ingrained notion purveyed by the Air Force that UFOs were a nonsense problem. In a sense, the two hearings provide some balance for the record, because the first was dominated by the Air Force and the second by Dr. James E. McDonald, who had been outspokenly critical of Project Blue Book.

After the Colorado Project issued its largely negative report (actually more equivocal except for Dr. Edward Condon's summary section, but given "negative spin" by the powers that be), the Air Force quickly opted out of the UFO business, disbanded Project Blue Book, and turned over the files to the National Archives—probably with a sigh of relief that echoed down Pentagon corridors. Since then there has been no Government focal point on UFOs, no single agency responsible that provided a convenient "target" for public criticism. Now our "enemy" is the *entire* Government octopus!

We do know, however, that the Government is not out of the UFO business. Thanks to some enterprising research and the Freedom of Information Act, documentary evidence shows that UFO reports continue to circulate through the intelligence community.

Congressional liaison project

For the past few years, a small group of serious UFO researchers around the country has been providing background information to Congressional officers as a matter of education and laying of groundwork. Pooled information has been compiled into scholarly briefing documents by a Washington area attorney, and

face-to-face meetings have been held with Congressional staff members. Thus far, there has been some positive response forthcoming in regards to the Roswell, N.M., crash case. This could lead to an investigation and/or closed hearings—not all hearings are open to the public—but this congressional liaison project is still in preliminary stages.

Roswell fits the profile of something Congress conceivably might look into. If the crash really happened, then the Executive Branch deceived Congress and the public. Judging from past situations, prospects of that nature can get the Congressional juices flowing. The Roswell case is a specific incident that stands or falls on its own evidence and can be investigated independently of the broader UFO subject. It involves a large number of credible witnesses, including some surviving members of the military who allegedly participated in the retrieval of crash materials and alien bodies.

Thanks to research breakthroughs in the past few years, there is ample evidence for a Congressional inquiry. Realistically, though, the inquiry is not likely to go public, at least in the early stages, unless the investigators satisfy themselves that they are onto concrete information that can withstand critical assault by skeptics, including skeptical Congressional colleagues.

The 1965 Kecksburg, Pennsylvania, crash is another case that is beginning to turn up large numbers of witnesses. It is a focused case that can be looked into in its own right without commitment to a broader inquiry. Again, it involves alleged government cover-up of potentially significant events and, like Roswell, some high-handed treatment of local citizens. The only weakness of Roswell and Kecksburg is that neither case immediately affected a large number of Congressional constituents—except insofar as Government cover-up affects us all. But the human testimony and physical evidence is potentially strong in both cases.

Hypothetically, cases even more likely to attract broad-based interest in Congress might be:

- If crop circles/pictographs began showing up widely in several farm states in the U.S., and included con-

siderable crop damage, in conjunction with UFO sightings.

- If UFOs began showing up over the Persian Gulf, causing electromagnetic effects and showing up on military radar.

- If widespread UFO sightings over a few months' period also were recorded on videotape from independent locations and showed some detail (not merely pinpoints of light against a dark sky). In short, if the reports were sufficiently widespread, detailed, and convincing, and left physical traces or instrumental data for analysis, Congress would pay attention. So would scientists.

'Bizarre front'

Instead, the ufological "front" displayed to Congress and scientists is bizarre, clownish, confusing and unconvincing, thanks to the crackpots and opportunists who seize every opportunity to grind their particular axes.

Also—at the risk of sounding paranoid—I am convinced that it is in the interests of those in the government who favor a complete cover-up to deliberately introduce disinformation, false information, confusion and doubt into the picture, so that no one knows what to believe and the whole truth is almost impossible to figure out. So there is a natural alliance between the information manipulators and the manure spreaders, both of whose stock in trade is public snowjobs. They use each other for their own ulterior motives.

In summary, Congressional hearings on UFOs are extremely rare, and then only brought about by very unusual combinations of circumstances. Before advocating Congressional hearings on UFOs, one should know something about the structure and workings of Congress, what problems members face when they are asked to investigate UFOs, and the types of information or evidence that are likely to stimulate Congressional interest. Solid, credible UFO facts and evidence is the most persuasive material to be furnished to them. Congress is daily faced with fundamental questions on military affairs, housing, anti-drug trafficking, agriculture, health care, transportation, environmental pollution, energy resources, space pro-

grams, science and technology—you name it. When members are asked to look into UFOs (read: crackpot stuff mainly in the tabloids), don't be surprised by their lack of enthusiasm. It is our job to separate out the crackpot stuff and present convincing evidence to persuade them that UFOs are not a nonsense problem. ☐

*Richard Hall was at the forefront of efforts to obtain Congressional hearings on UFOs during the 1960s, as assistant director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), an organization he served for 10 years. Hall has also been employed for a decade by the Congressional Information Service, a private publishing firm that markets abstracts and indexes of Congressional publications. He is the author of *Uninvited Guests*.*



Richard Hall

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Some Capitol UFO Ideas, Past and Present

Official Milestones

By Vicki Cooper



QUITE A DAY IN D.C.—This photo ostensibly shows a formation of UFOs overflying the nation's capitol. In the summer of 1952, a Washington wave of UFOs shook up the Pentagon and added more fuel to their fire of concern about UFO intrusions. (From the ICUFO Archives. Some years later Major Ret. Colman S. Von Keviczky geometrically analyzed this photo and determined it to be reflecting a row of lamps on the building's balcony.)

Until very recently, any hopes for real action by the U.S. government in addressing the UFO phenomenon has been largely an exercise in frustration. Names of people and projects read like a laundry list of dead ends, dashed hopes and defeated plans. Feelings of futility are natural. Since the days of Project Blue Book, the Air Force "front" that ended up nearly a mockery of the genuine seriousness and scientific rigor demanded by the phenomenon, most UFO researchers have met up with a stone cold wall of silence and denial by the military and other

agencies that tend to be most frequently approached by civilians on a quest for UFO answers. What some have termed the "national security state" finds an apex of rationalization in UFOs, resulting in some of the more extreme strategies of secrecy.

No one disputes the fact that disinformation has become just about the most plentiful medium of exchange in the field. But it is precisely this negative which signals genuine interest on the part of officialdom, an interest which, contrary to their pat

protestations, has increased since the late '40s.

Signposts

In the very first decade of the "flying saucer era" in this country, signposts sprang up:

- A formerly top-secret "Estimate of the Situation" by the Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, that reported sightings were of extraterrestrial spacecraft. (1948)
- An outpouring of UFO reports



U.N. CONCLAVE—The historic meeting at the U.N. in support of UFO study. Some I.D.s, left to right: Gordon Cooper, Jacques Vallee, Claude Poher, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Grenada's then-Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy. Seated below the U.N. logo is then-Sec. General of the U.N., Kurt Waldheim. (July 14, 1978)

which forced response in high places, particularly when unknowns virtually blitzed the U.S. capitol in Washington, D.C. An Air Force intelligence analysis also concluded that UFOs were interplanetary spaceships. (1952)

- The CIA convenes the Robertson Panel, which takes the first serious step, not in addressing UFOs but in commencing a program of official debunking and demystification to combat the presumed negative sociological and psychological impact of public UFO concerns. (1953)

- An astonishing statement by Gen. Douglas MacArthur that "...the next war will be an interplanetary war. The nations of the earth must someday make a common front against attack by people from other planets." (1955)

- NICAP rounds up Congressional statements that pointedly relayed opinions on the secrecy surrounding the UFO subject. (1959)

From the '60s onward, official mobilization drew in some political VIPs, who at least gave UFO beliefs a patina of celebrity:

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MICHIGAN OFFICE
425 CHURCH STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS
ZIP 49502

May 13, 1968

Mr. Robert E. Barrow

Syracuse, New York

Dear Mr. Barrow:

May I thank you most sincerely for your recent letter and for your interest in unidentified flying objects.

As you may be aware, I have repeatedly recommended that thorough investigative action be taken and the public be informed concerning this subject. I had called for an investigation of this matter in the Spring of 1966.

I can assure you that I share your concern and am disturbed by the recent article in Look magazine relative to the investigation of UFOs at the University of Colorado. I sincerely hope that the investigation will prove to be worthwhile.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford
Gerald R. Ford M.C.

- Senator Barry Goldwater tries to gain access to a secret building at Wright-Patterson AFB rumored to house top UFO material, but is refused. (1965)

- Former President Gerald Ford recommends an official committee investigation of the UFO phenomenon. (1966)

- On the campaign trail, soon-to-be President Jimmy Carter promises that upon election, he would make public all the government's information on UFO sightings. (1976)

- The United Nations steps in and organizes a well-publicized meeting where reputable professionals and U.N. officials discussed the august body's projected support of UFO study. (1978)

In what appears to be a sorry trend, nothing came of Carter's promise.

Around all these signposts over the years, remarkable UFO incidents and reports made sure that at least military interests didn't lag; known intrusions over military bases and nuclear installations were a particularly sensitive issue that appears to have tightened the counter-intelligence ring around the situation.

Air Force 'failures'

The abject failure of the Air Force's Project Blue Book and Colorado Study (the anti-fact bias of its chairman Edward O. Condon has been well-established) has served only to lower expectations and heighten cynicism regarding the utilization of official channels in plumbing the UFO mystery. Of late, some of that cynicism has shifted into a renewed hope, primarily because of documented testimony of witnesses to the Roswell UFO events, obtained by members of the Washington, D.C.-based Fund for UFO Research. Members of the Fund's executive committee met with ten witnesses, who were promised that everything would be off the record and their rights under the law maintained. Later, these individuals told their stories on videotape.

According to Fred Whiting, the Fund's secretary-treasurer, "Although I may have had a shred of doubt before this conference began, after we interrogated them



ON THE BLUE BEAT—Project Blue Book staff, circa 1967. Clockwise from bottom: Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Jr., 1st Lt. William F. Marley, Jr., Staff Sgt. Harold T. Jones, typist Hilma Lewis and secretary Marilyn Stancombe.

'The abject failure of Project Blue Book and the Colorado Study has served only to lower expectations and heighten cynicism regarding the utilization of official channels in plumbing the UFO mystery.'

under the unblinking eye of the video camera, I haven't a doubt in the world that at least one alien spacecraft landed in the New Mexico desert in 1947." Whiting's sentiment is echoed by many others, adding punch to the case as it may be put before influential people in an effort to galvanize a Congressional inquiry.

Just how likely is such an eventuality? For all its apparent stamp of official concern, the Congressional Symposium of 1968 may have come about for very different reasons than political support of UFO investigation. According to Robert L. Hall, Ph.D., sociologist and one of the men who testified at that symposium, "The story I pieced together is that the chairman [of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics] was coming up for reelection and was risking defeat. The hearings were in good part a desperate attempt to gain publicity."

Unfortunately, the kind of publicity usually engendered by UFOs isn't the kind any right-thinking Congressional representative would seek. (An analogy might be drawn from the

media flak the Reagans endured when it was disclosed that Nancy sought the services of an astrologer. To many, UFOs fall into the same pseudo-scientific bag.) According to one Washington official, "The 'fear factor' among Congressional officials has to be even higher than among scientists. UFOs are a tremendously delicate subject."

Without a constituency to elicit a politician's sympathy, an issue will likely die on the vine. A UFO constituency, given the government's own rigorous programs to suppress UFO info and to assure a fragmented UFO community, looks like the impossible dream. But everyone can help change that, by furnishing Congress with hard facts and credible evidence. From Capitol Hill comes this canny recommendation: Ask not what appeals to *you* in the UFO quest! Ask what your Congressman would need to really do something. And send it to him or her—ASAP. Enough Americans do that, and *viola*—a UFO constituency. And a real reason for Congress to get moving. ☐

Sea Space Systems, and universities. For suspected satellite sightings, the investigators had consulted the printed Echo satellite schedules, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) satellite reports, the Smithsonian North and South Equatorial Crossings, and the Space Detection and Tracking System. For suspected missile observations, the Blue Book analysts had conferred with authorities at Cape Kennedy, Florida; Vandenberg AFB, Lompoc, California; Point Mugu Naval Air Station, California; Wallops Island, Virginia; Eglin AFB, Florida; Holloman AFB; and Green River. Photographs had been sent to the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center and to the Eastman Kodak Company. Physical specimens had been shipped to the Air Force Materials Laboratory, Batte Memorial Hospital, the Food and Drug Administration, Libby-Owens, Corning Glass, the Institute of Paper Chemistry, and the Geology Department of Northwestern University.

More than 13,000 cases had been examined, and in 1969 the study found:

"(1) No UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' are extraterrestrial vehicles."

On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

"There is no likelihood of renewed Air Force involvement in this area," he stated.

It was a statement, I soon realized, that was never intended to be honored.

SEVEN.

Despite all its exhaustive claims, I began to have doubts as I started grappling with the legacy of Project Blue Book. Reading through its many cartons of files, I encountered a jumble of vague, unorganized and often flippant pronouncements. "Unfortunately, I do not have interplanetary Blue Cross coverage!" complained a report submitted by an investigator after he was pricked by a thorny bush near one alleged New Mexico sighting. Too many other reports, I found, shared a similar, irritably judgmental, unscientific tone. And after a trip to its former offices at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, my suspicions were reinforced.

The headquarters of Project Blue Book had been lovingly preserved. It was a small, gray room cluttered with the empty desks of the project's permanent staff: a major, a sergeant, and a secretary to answer the three phones. There were no computers, no high-speed cameras, no laboratories for scientific analysis. It was more reminiscent of a college newspaper office than a sophisticated research facility. I stood there and imagined an excited call coming in, and a bored secretary fielding it: "Sure, just leave your name and address and maybe next month we'll get around to looking into it." Yet against one battleship-gray wall there was an impressive line of filing cabinets. Hundreds of drawers. Room for thousands and thousands of files. Millions of pages. And that, I decided glumly, was what Project Blue Book was really all about. Its purpose was to provide a rationale, a stream of fruitless reports that would justify the Air Force's decision to abandon its public probe of unidentified flying objects.

But, I also learned, that probe continued behind the scenes, contrary to official Air Force policy, contrary to its pledge simply to walk away from the mystery. For, when I returned East and resumed my journey through once restricted government archives, I soon unearthed proof of a more complicated history. In the period following the termination