

Where are the records for AF1 kept?

President's schedule for Feb 9, 10, 11, 12, 1955

Record of trip

Thank-you's

Newspapers /

George H. Humphrey, Sec. of Treasury.  
oral history  
records  
letters

Clifford Roberts, Wall St. broker / advisor

Ed Darby - Time Magazine

Press Secretary Haggerty files

Bumstead in flying saucer (Thomasville Ga paper) Feb 10<sup>th</sup>

~~Sponsor~~ AFB Pres. leaves at 8 a.m.

Bill Draper AF1 pilot arrive 8:10 a.m.

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page

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Post Paid  
Payran  
1965  
Post 34

33 Payran Street  
Petaluma, California 94952  
July 22, 1965

General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Dear General Eisenhower,

I recently heard a lecture given by Dr. Frank E. Stranges concerning the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects and their occupants. He claims that beings of extra-terrestrial origin are "in residence" in the Pentagon and also at various military bases. He further claims to have been an advisor in the above matters under you when you were President, and also under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. As such, he said that you had spoken with extra-terrestrial being(s) and were aware of the general situation.

Dr. Stranges claimed that if you were questioned on this matter, you would admit that you had spoken with such beings.

Is this, or any part of it true? If so, I would greatly appreciate some reply from you.

I realize that you are a busy man, and that it is a bit presumptuous of me to ask this of you, but I could think of no other way to check this part of his assertions.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Jon A. Johnson

Jon A. Johnson

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
30 July 1965

RLS/fk

Dear Mr. Johnsen:

With respect to your query of July 22nd, please be advised that there is no basis in fact to the statements made by Dr. Stranges regarding General Eisenhower. If you have any information as to where we can contact Dr. Stranges, we will be happy to hear from you.

With appreciation for your interest in writing and best wishes,

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. SCHULZ  
Brig. General, USA (Ret)  
Executive Assistant

Mr. Jon A. Johnsen  
33 Payran Street  
Petaluma, California 94952

Truman

Sandy interview overnight

Sandy files

Truman daily diary for Feb 1948.

Eisenhower

General Douglas MacArthur  
Chief Army Signal Corps.

2nd Eisenhower Visit.

Final Speech.

- Ann Whitman.

- Drafts.

Xerox satellite files

Truman

Keyhoe 73

With all ordinary answers disproved, the Navy experts agreed on the only possible conclusion:

*"Unknown objects under intelligent control."*

In the fall of 1952 the Navy evaluated the Air Force. Though the censors had sion, they were dismayed by the Navy's far, their own analysts had been stumped debunk the Utah film. Now the Navy impossible. There was not a single loopholeous and dangerous lie.

Stalling for time, the AF asked the Navy action until their own analysis was completed. Secretary Kimball, certain they could not explain away the film, agreed to a short delay.

During all this time, the CIA had been keeping a close watch on the UFO problem and the AF operations. (As Admiral Hillenkoetter told me afterward, this had been going on since 1948, when he was the CIA director.)

But in '52, though neither the AF nor the Navy knew it, the CIA was solidly behind the cover-up. When it learned of the Navy investigation and the Utah film conclusion it decided that Kimball had to be stopped. It would be a risky job. Kimball might defy them and publicly release the film analysis along with the strongest Navy evidence. It might be better to avoid him and try to convince President Truman that Kimball should be silenced. But this too might backfire—no one could be sure of Truman's reaction.

The CIA decided to wait for the November election. General Eisenhower's victory gave them a break—Secretary Kimball would soon be replaced by a Republican, and now he probably would not push any fight with the Air Force.

The agency heads proved to be right. As Secretary Kimball knew, preparing a strong case against the censorship would take time. In the aftermath of the election it would be difficult to launch a drive against the AF, and as an outgoing cabinet officer he would not have much chance of success. But his

efforts had not been wasted; if the new secretary decided to go ahead, Admiral Bolster would have all the evidence.

Even though the Kimball threat seemed ended, the CIA knew another Navy fight could erupt, and the AF had shown it was not tough enough to cope with such a danger. The only answer was to seize control of the AF investigation and insist on a hard-boiled, ruthless censorship, to kill off public belief in UFOs.

To carry this out, the CIA arranged a meeting of scientists and AF representatives at the Pentagon, for a confidential analysis of the UFO evidence. Supposedly, this was to be a careful, objective examination of the best verified reports. Actually, the CIA-selected scientists were known skeptics. Most of them had no real knowledge of UFOs and they considered the subject nonsense. Since the CIA agents would have full authority, they could limit and offset the evidence, steering the scientists toward a completely negative verdict. The agency heads had little doubt of the outcome.

Most of the AF group were opposed to the cover-up, at least privately. Deliberately or not, they were led to believe that the CIA was worried about the growing censorship hazards. Completely unaware of the true CIA stand, they expected to present irrefutable proof of UFO reality and then join the agents and the scientists in discussing plans to end the debunking.

The AF group to be summoned to this conference included a general from Wright-Patterson AFB; Col. William A. Adams and Wesley S. Smith of the Directorate of Intelligence; Maj. Dewey Fournet, Headquarters Intelligence Monitor of the UFO Project; Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt and other project officers, and Albert M. Chop, HQ press official handling UFO information.

Unsuspected by the CIA, Major Fournet and several headquarters officers had secretly worked up a plan to give the public the facts. This was six weeks before the CIA conference was arranged. I had been working privately with some of this

Keyhoe 1973  
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Within a few days Chop quit the Air Force, but I learned more about the CIA take-over from Captain Ruppelt.

"What Al Chop told you isn't the worst of it. We're ordered to hide sightings when possible, but if a strong report does get out we have to publish a fast explanation—make up something to kill the report in a hurry, and also ridicule the witness, especially if we can't figure a plausible answer. We even have to discredit our own pilots. It's a raw deal but we can't buck the CIA. The whole thing makes me sick—I'm thinking of putting in for inactive."

Major Fournet had already been put on inactive duty, with orders not to reveal his UFO conclusion. His secret report was bottled up at HQ as "an unfinished Air Force document."

Under the new CIA-dictated policy, even the highest-rated AF observers were ruthlessly slandered. One victim was Wing Commander D. J. Blakeslee, a famous ace in World War II. Blakeslee was flying a jet fighter over Japan one night when he heard the pilots of two other AF planes report a UFO to an Air Force base. Guided by ground radar, he sighted the object, a machine with rotating red, green and white lights. Cutting off his own lights, he tried to close in. Apparently his jet was not seen at first, but in a moment the UFO drew away and disappeared. When he saw it a second time he went to full power and switched on his lights. This time the unknown craft raced off at terrific speed, vanishing in five seconds.

In a debriefing report an Intelligence lieutenant colonel stated Blakeslee had held responsible command assignments and was stable and thoroughly reliable. The device sighted, he said, was definitely "an Unidentified Flying Object."

After the CIA took over it learned this report had been cleared for me. Under orders, the AF hurriedly explained the UFO as the planet Jupiter. The AF radar which tracked the UFO had a range of a few hundred miles. On that night Jupiter was 366 million miles from the Earth. But the CIA de-

liberately tried to make fools of Wing Commander Blakeslee, the other pilots and the AF radar experts.

In 1953, the true story of the Utah film was made public by Walter Karig, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy. Evading the Navy analysis, the AF rushed out this answer: The UFOs were only sea gulls.

Not all AF officers gave in to the CIA without a fight. One report that set off a row came from Prof. Henry Carlock, Chief of the Physics Department, University of Mississippi—who was also an Air Force Reserve colonel.

One night in '57, Carlock observed a UFO over Jackson, using a 100-power telescope. In a public report he described a maneuvering device with three portholes. In Washington, a CIA agent told an AF public information officer to release a debunking explanation. As it happened, the PIO knew Carlock.

"The colonel's a good astronomer," he told the CIA agent. "It's a damned shame to ridicule him—I know he saw what he reported."

"We can't help it," the agent said. "You'll have to say it was a delusion."

After an argument, the PIO wrote out a press release. But somehow it never reached the reporters.

In smearing commercial pilots, some debunkers have made vicious attacks. In one case, a veteran American Airlines captain reported sighting three UFOs, which also had been seen by his co-pilot, passengers, and the crews of five other airliners. A HQ spokesman, protecting himself by anonymity, withheld mention of the other witnesses and publicly implied the captain was drunk. After the captain went on the air to end ridicule of his family and himself, his company was forced to silence him.

Some of the hasty debunking is not only harsh but unbelievably stupid. One pilot who was given "the treatment" was Ernest Stadvec, an AF bomber captain in World War II, now the owner of a flying service in Akron.

Stadvec was flying over Ohio one night, with two pilots as passengers, when a bright-glowing UFO dived at his plane. Just as a collision seemed certain the object stopped abruptly. Then it climbed away at rocket-like speed, leaving the three pilots stunned by the near-disaster.

When the story broke, an AF spokesman hurriedly called the press, without even questioning the witnesses. Implying that Stadvec was alone, he said the object which frightened him was only the star Capella.

Stadvec hit back with an angry public retort.

"This AF man never bothered to investigate. Two other pilots were with me and they'll both testify that the UFO almost crashed into the plane. I've been flying 19 years, thousands of hours at night, and I'm certainly not going to be scared out of my wits imagining some star is diving at me."

But the AF never retracted the senseless Capella explanation.

At least once, under this hard-boiled cover-up policy, the AF has publicly denounced a foreign government picture of a UFO. This photograph of a round-shaped flying device was taken in broad daylight from a Brazilian survey ship, as Brazilian Navy officers and crewmen watched the UFO's maneuvers. Following extensive laboratory tests under government supervision, the photograph was certified as authentic by the Brazilian Navy Secretary, Admiral Garson de Macedo Soares, and other high Navy officers. It was then released by the President of Brazil.

When the picture was televised in the United States the Air Technical Intelligence Center called it a fake. Lt. Col. L. J. Tacker, a HQ spokesman, stated that the U. S. Navy had determined it to be a hoax. The Navy denied the AF claims, but they were repeated for months to Congress and the press. This deliberate insult, which caused ill feelings in Brazil, should have been retracted long ago, with a full apology. But under the CIA-AF suppression policy the picture is still listed as a hoax.

Even members of Congress are not immune to the pressure. The late Senator Richard B. Russell once sighted UFOs while in Europe. Someone tipped off an aviation columnist, Tom Towers, and he wrote for details.

"I have discussed this with the affected agencies of the government," Senator Russell replied, "and they are of the opinion that it is unwise to publicize the matter at this time."

As Senator Russell was a congressional leader, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, this was hot news, and Towers printed the letter as proof of high-level censorship. The CIA hastily contacted the senator and from then on he kept silent.

For years, the CIA and the AF have shown an astonishing disregard for congressional authority. Absolute denials of any spaceship evidence have been sent to legislators, signed by directors of legislative liaison, whose specific job is to give straight answers to Congress. Included in this group there have been several generals, among them Maj. Gen. Joe W. Kelly and Maj. Gen. W. P. Fisher.

Not even lawmakers with high security clearance can get the true answers. When Congressman John McCormack was House Majority Leader he made strong efforts to learn the AF conclusions. In a personal discussion and a letter, he told me he could not get the facts, even in closed sessions with high AF officers. Senator Keating, an Army Reserve general, not only was denied the AF conclusions but given a false explanation for the 1952 Washington sightings.

Senator Barry Goldwater, a major general in the AF Reserve, told me he tried repeatedly to get the truth about UFOs. As a general he was cleared for Top Secret. But the crucial UFO information, he discovered later, is classified at a higher level.

Even after some lawmakers were tipped off about the 1948 Top Secret conclusion, AF Headquarters denied its existence. Scores of legislators have received the following statement,

Eisenhower issued an Executive Order (10501) abolishing the classification of "Restricted." Keyhoe considered this a "stunning blow" to the silence group, as both JANAP 146 and AFR 200-2 were Restricted Defense documents. But UFO secrecy was unaffected, as meaningful sightings were simply classified at higher levels.<sup>42</sup>

The 4602nd continued to investigate UFOs outside Blue Book channels. On December 4, General Burgess chaired a conference with 4602nd officers, and stated that the 4602nd was the agency responsible to ATIC for investigating UFOs. Captain Cybulski then left for Wright-Patterson AFB to coordinate activities more closely with ATIC. He reported that the project astronomer (presumably Hynek) was "ready to quit." The astronomer said:

... put yourself in my position. I am being ridiculed by members of my profession for chasing those imaginary objects ... I have not been able to get support from the Air Force. It seems they all think this is a not subject, and they want to dismiss it.... No one wants to be quoted.

Cybulski himself took a hard line against the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and stated that "in all but a few cases a satisfactory solution has been reached and the Air Force feels that adequate, thorough investigative procedures can solve the small percentage of unsolved sightings. This is where we come into the picture."<sup>43</sup>

Blue Book now had scarcely the ability to handle any report received, since its staff consisted of two people. No wonder Cybulski said that AISS would "exhaust all efforts to identify a sighting before turning it over to ATIC." As a result, the AISS maintained a complete file on all UFO sightings. Reports would be unclassified, "unless it included necessitates a higher classification," or if "and this I really doubt ... it happens to be the real thing." Despite Cybulski's skepticism, he stated that reports would include such items as maneuvers and intercept attempts. This begs the obvious question: maneuvers of what, intercept attempts of what?<sup>44</sup>

#### LSD, MIND CONTROL, AND THE DEATH OF FRANK OLSEN

By this time, methods of assassination and neutralization become quite sophisticated among the world's leading intelligence organizations. It is believed, for example, that the Soviets were delving into the biological effects of microwaves as early as 1953.<sup>45</sup> Americans were working hard to develop biological and chemical weapons for use against large populations and individual targets. One source of information and casualty in this quest was Frank Olsen, a leading scientist in the Army's Chemical Corps, Special Operations Division (SOD) at Detrick, Maryland. The CIA had been working with Olsen for

time, as SOD provided the agency with an array of deadly chemicals and microbes that were undetectable upon a detailed autopsy. SOD also made various "operational systems" to infect foes with diseases such as anthrax. Only a very few CIA officials knew that the agency was paying SOD \$200,000 per year for these services, a relationship that continued at least until 1969, by which time SOD had stockpiled a veritable mountain of bacteriological agents.

Olsen had been duped into meeting with MK-Ultra director Gottlieb and other CIA officials for a meeting at a secluded cabin on November 19, 1953. That evening, Gottlieb spiked Olsen's alcoholic drink with LSD. This sort of thing had been going on at the agency all year, but principally among CIA staffers. Usually, the trip would last a little while, the unwitting subject would recover, and notes would be taken on the experience. All good fun. Frank Olsen, however, had a very bad trip. Days later, he still wasn't right. He was depressed, incoherent, and uncommunicative to friends or family. His CIA handlers took him to a "doctor" in New York City, who prescribed him more alcohol. Olsen then plunged to his death from the 10th floor of the Statler Hotel. According to the CIA man assigned to him, Olsen simply rushed out of his bed and crashed through the window. Of course, there were no other witnesses, and Olsen was a security risk. Twenty years later, Olsen's family finally learned the truth, such as it was revealed, and received \$750,000 from Congress in compensation. Throughout, the CIA's main concern was to maintain plausible deniability.<sup>46</sup>

In this context, it is useful to recall that the son of American socialist Paul Robeson claimed the FBI slipped his father hallucinogenic drugs during the 1950s in order to neutralize him. Many people dismissed these claims as paranoid, but it is true that for three decades the bureau harassed Robeson and spread false rumors about him. The case of Frank Olsen makes the claims of Robeson's son a bit more plausible, whether the actual culprit was the bureau or the agency.<sup>47</sup>

Olsen's death certainly did not impede CIA research into LSD. By the CIA had worked out an arrangement with the Boston Psychopathic Hospital (later the Massachusetts Institute of Mental Health) to permit students and professors to trip on LSD for a day. The program was quite popular, and led directly to some unanticipated results within a decade.<sup>48</sup>

More serious work was done in greater secrecy. On February 19, 1954, the CIA's Morris Allen conducted the ultimate hypnosis experiment: the creation of a "Manchurian Candidate," or programmed assassin. Allen first hypnotized a secretary to remain in a state of unconsciousness until he - and only he - commanded her to awaken. Next, he

long fuselage, elliptical wings, some kind of stabilizer, and no visible means of propulsion. The object had a bright light on its nose and tail, two yellowish lights on the bottom of fuselage, with possible lights on each wing tip. No one heard a sound. The report was sent directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA, the NSA, and other leading intelligence groups. This showed again how even the official new system of UFO reporting meant little with sightings that mattered.<sup>63</sup>

The South and West were the main areas of American UFO activity in early 1954. On March 8, a pilot at Laredo AFB in Texas reported a glowing red round object moving at tremendous speed, then vanishing. On March 24, a Marine Corps jet pilot in Florida saw a round object streak downward, stop, then speed away after he pursued it. Then, on March 29, a CIRVIS report described an "unidentified object glowing bright green" seen in Wyoming by a United Airlines pilot, and confirmed by another airliner. Recipients of the report included the CIA and DIRNSA.<sup>64</sup>

#### 1954: THE BATTLE CONTINUES

After the appearance of Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers From Outer Space*, a Yale professor named Thomas B. Eickhoff asked the Air Force if it had actually cleared the intelligence reports Keyhoe listed in his book. The answer: No – Keyhoe had *not* used cleared ATIC sightings. Early in March, Eickhoff informed Keyhoe of this fact. He quoted the Air Force letter:

the publication to which you have referred was not submitted to the Air Force for authentication prior to publication. There is no official recognition and the Air Force does not choose to comment upon it.<sup>65</sup>

Keyhoe never needed much provocation for a crusade; he now set out to gather his proof. Ruppelt had just left the Air Force, succeeded at Blue Book by Captain Charles Hardin and a total staff of two. Wasting no time, Keyhoe met with Ruppelt at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on April 4. They shared UFO accounts, and Ruppelt mentioned an upcoming UFO article he helped to write for *True* (his conclusion: if flying saucers were real, they were interplanetary). Ruppelt agreed to write a letter supporting the claim that Keyhoe had used genuine ATIC sightings for his book. His letter, dated a week later, also stated: (1) The request to clear classified UFO reports for Keyhoe came from Air Force Intelligence and the Office of Public Information; Ruppelt's superiors at ATIC then declassified them. (2) Keyhoe had correctly quoted the ATIC material. (3) The analysis of the Utah film was classified, and the press release Ruppelt had prepared at Dayton had not been made public. (4) A letter by Albert Chop to Henry Holt and

Company which attacked "the silence group" was honest and correct in all respects. (5) Except in a very few cases, ATIC rejected Donald Menzel's theory that UFOs were sun dogs, halos, light refractions, etc. It appeared Ruppelt had chosen his side of the battle.<sup>66</sup>

Meanwhile, another independent UFO organization started up. In March, Leonard Stringfield formed Civilian Saucer Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects (CRIFO) out of Cincinnati. Within months, Stringfield gained national recognition after Frank Edwards plugged him on the radio. Stringfield was swamped with requests for his newsletter – 6,000 in one week – and interviewed with newspapers and radio stations coast to coast.<sup>67</sup>

Leaks, rumors, and odd news items continued to appear. In April, Wilkinson heard of an alleged visit by Dwight Eisenhower to Edwards AFB in California, where Ike saw alien bodies and debris. This was said to have occurred from February 17 to 20, 1954. The public explanation was that Eisenhower saw a dentist named Purcell. The story lay dormant for decades, until William Moore (of MJ-12 fame) interviewed the dentist's widow. While vague about Eisenhower's dental treatment, she provided explicit detail about a presidential reception they attended during that time. Moore found no evidence at the Eisenhower Library that Eisenhower was treated by a dentist at that time. He also found no thank you messages, although Eisenhower tended to be scrupulous in such matters. On the other hand, Eisenhower's secretary did mention the event in a diary.<sup>68</sup>

Lincoln La Paz made the news again in March. On the 22nd, he pointed out the military value of space bases, urging the U.S. to rush its plan to build satellites. Whoever established the first station in space, he warned, would win control of the earth. This may have been typical mid-1950s Cold War paranoia. However, knowing La Paz's interest in UFOs, it may have been a different kind of paranoia, as well.<sup>69</sup>

JANAP 146 had already gone through some modifications; on March 10, the Pentagon issued JANAP 146 (C). The order continued to regulate "reporting vital intelligence sightings from airborne and waterborne sources." It distinguished UFOs from aircraft, missiles, and submarines – in other words, from standard military objects. Hynek and the Blue Book group continued to work with the 4602nd to devise a UFOB Guide that would train members on investigating UFO reports. Meanwhile, many UFO reports were going through other channels to places like NSA and CIA headquarters.<sup>70</sup>

shown that there was anything to substantiate flying saucers, although "some very reliable persons have reported flying objects that can't be identified." Keyhoe reached Twining's press officer about this, but was told Twining was "talking off the cuff."<sup>75</sup>

In an event that was presumably not pure imagination, four veteran National Guard pilots engaged in "high altitude tag" over Dallas with 16 UFOs before being outmaneuvered and outdistanced. This was reported in the May 25 *Dallas Herald*, but nowhere else. Another non-imagined event occurred on May 24, and included a photograph of a UFO from an RB-29 aircraft that left Wright Field. The photo was overexposed. On May 31, an AP story described a glowing disc seen by a pilot, an air traffic controller, police, and residents from Spokane to Portland. The next day, a TWA pilot saw a large, bright disc-like object as his plane approached Boston; eight airport personnel also saw it.<sup>76</sup>

On June 2, the Air Force reported 87 UFO sightings for the first four months of the year, a rather low total. Of course, these were merely the Blue Book reports, but no one thought to question the statement – for the moment.<sup>77</sup>

#### COVERT INFILTRATION?

Leonard Stringfield's publicity from Edwards' show considerably widened his social network. He soon met with UFO contactees and became suspicious. Some of them, he believed were "official plants."<sup>78</sup> Stringfield may have been on to something. Covert ops never ceased in the national security state. On May 20, Hoover's FBI gained authority to engage in unrestricted microphone surveillance, including any illegal trespasses along the way. This neatly circumvented a Supreme Court decision that bugging was unconstitutional. David Wise called the order "virtual carte blanche to break and enter, installing bugs and wiretaps." All this had long been going on; now it was just easier. The order remained fully in effect until 1965, when FBI bugs became subject to the Attorney General's approval. Even then, however, Hoover still did as he pleased.<sup>79</sup>

Official lies and deception continued apace. U.S. policymakers prepared public opinion for the coming CIA-orchestrated coup in Guatemala. By 1953, Guatemala's leader, Jacobo Arbenz, had introduced the unthinkable: land reform. In a country owned nearly lock, stock, and barrel by the American food giant, United Fruit, and where 2 percent of the population owned 70 percent of the land, this was as distressing to Americans as it was popular among Guatemalans. By late 1953, Eisenhower had decided that Arbenz *must go*, and told Allen Dulles to make it happen. Tensions grew throughout 1954.

In June, Arbenz charged that United Fruit – that is, money – was at the heart of the dispute. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (brother of Allen) called this "totally false." Ten days after Dulles' remark, Operation PB/Success threw Arbenz out, costing a mere \$15 million. The State Department announced it had "no evidence . . . that this is anything other than a revolt of Guatemalans against the government." American control over the coup was known to every intelligence agency in the world, but it remained secret from the American press and public, which was the idea all along. Foster Dulles added insult to injury, claiming the coup had exposed the "evil purpose of the Kremlin" to find "nesting places" in the Americas. Guatemalan patriots, he said, cured the situation themselves. Thus began over 40 years of dictatorship and terror, the effects of which will last for generations to come.<sup>80</sup>

In Indochina, Americans went quickly to work following the French military defeat in May, 1954. In June, Ngo Dinh Diem became the U.S.-backed ruler of South Vietnam (until the Kennedy team ordered him killed in 1963). In July, the Geneva Conference agreed on an armistice, temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel, and scheduled nationwide elections in two years. It planned independence for Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Eisenhower, however, declared American neutrality toward the matter, and never intended for fair elections to take place in Vietnam.

#### A RUCKUS AT WRIGHT-PAT

No sooner did the Air Force claim only 87 UFO reports for the first four months of 1954, when Colonel John O'Mara, Deputy Commander of Intelligence at ATIC, told Stringfield that the Air Force was receiving an average of seven hundred sighting reports per week[!] A rather big deal. Soon Frank Edwards announced the news to the whole country. Stringfield was becoming quite a nuisance. Then, on June 9, Colonel Frank Milani, Director of Civil Defense in Baltimore, publicly attacked Air Force UFO secrecy. The Air Force denied any UFO secrecy or censorship, and restated its 1954 UFO statistics. Back in Dayton, however, O'Mara said over 1,000 scientists were working on the UFO problem. The Air Force PIO denied O'Mara said this. Finally, Blue Book chief Captain Charles Hardin told the press:

Colonel O'Mara's words were misinterpreted. What he meant to say was that if all the sightings were reported to the Air Force, they would total about 700 per week.<sup>81</sup>

A rather weak correction, and not enough to stop UFO news. On June

Command in Columbus, Ohio, phoned Leonard Stringfield at his home. McKenzie seemed very knowledgeable of Stringfield's organization, and wanted help screening GOC reports from southwestern Ohio. He had instructed the local Ground Observer Corps to forward their reports to Stringfield's air filter center; Stringfield would then evaluate them and pass the best ones to ADC. McKenzie offered Stringfield a free, special telephone number to report to ADC at any time. McKenzie's only request was that Stringfield not ask any questions. Free phone? Stringfield could scarcely refuse such a generous offer. He later learned that Air Force jets were scrambled several times on the basis of his reports. Once again, the evidence is that ADC, not ATIC, was doing the serious work on UFOs. Stringfield served for two years in this capacity, and gathered that what the Air Force was doing privately and publicly were very different.<sup>146</sup>

Although UFO reports had not exactly been in the news in the U.S. for the past few months, on October 9 the Air Force released a statement through a *Chicago Tribune Press* article with the headline: "Finds Saucers Exist Solely in Imagination." The article stated that

The Air Force said today that after seven years of exhaustive investigation by its Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton, Ohio, it has failed to uncover any proof that flying saucers exist except in the imagination of observers....<sup>147</sup>

Why would the Air Force issue such a statement in the United States, when UFOs were not prominent at the time? Keyhoe pointed to the crazy stories from France and elsewhere which, while "obviously inspired by excitement or hysteria," nevertheless had sown "the seeds of panic" in most of the world.

On October 14, Keyhoe learned of a "Crashed Object" program at the 4602nd AISS, which someone within the unit had leaked to his friend Lou Corbin. According to the informant, the program was known as the "investigation of unidentified crashed objects." Corbin told Keyhoe that he "got the impression they'd recovered some kind of 'objects' – probably something dropped from a saucer." Corbin also related a recent encounter he had with an Air Force captain who had just returned from Alaska. When Corbin asked why the Air Force was so secretive about flying saucers, the captain angrily blurted out, "What good would it do you if you did know the truth?"<sup>148</sup>

The stew over Keyhoe's book continued, and in late November General Samford decided to end the mess. He summoned Colonel John O'Mara from Dayton and directed him to clear up any misunderstanding about Keyhoe's use of Air Force data. O'Mara was directed to write to Thomas Eickhoff and explain that Eickhoff had misunderstood the Air Force, that Keyhoe's latest book *did* contain officially

released Air Force reports – which it did, of course.<sup>149</sup>

Meanwhile, the 4602nd AISS had been investigating UFO reports. From mid-August to the end of 1954, it received 112 raw reports and conducted 25 field investigations. It resolved 77 reports (69%), leaving 35 unsolved (31%). These went on to ATIC/Blue Book, which recorded 22 unsolved cases for that period. In November, members of the 4602nd met with Blue Book representatives Captain Charles Hardin and Allen Hynek, who were to release the "rule of thumb" criteria to evaluate UFOs. Hynek was better qualified than Hardin to do this, and probably helped the 4602nd to compile its own detailed UFO Guide, which it was then doing.<sup>150</sup>

In the wake of the global rush of up-close-and-personal UFO sightings, one obvious question was, did the U.S. authorities know about it? Certainly, Keyhoe knew about it that autumn. Even Blue Book contained a report from that period describing a UFO occupant. The incident occurred in the Azores Islands on September 21, 1954. An airport guard reported a ten-foot wide metallic blue object with a clear glass or plastic nose. It made a humming sound, hovered, and landed vertically about 50 feet from the witness. A normal-sized blond man emerged from the object, spoke in an unknown language, and patted the witness on the shoulder. The strange man returned to the craft, attached a harness, pressed a button, and ascended vertically. The total encounter lasted three minutes. Blue Book listed the sighting not as a hoax, but as unknown. Other Blue Book unknowns in late 1954 occurred in the Philippines, Japan, Iceland, Greenland, Morocco, and South Africa – in addition to a rash of quality sightings within the American Midwest. These facts, combined with the knowledge that America had close military relationships with most of the countries experiencing UFO sightings, give us strong reason to believe that American authorities had a very good, if not total, awareness of what was going on.

One thing we know for certain: no one can ascribe these UFO encounters to America's secret U-2 spy plane – a favorite recourse from the CIA's official historian, Gerald Haines. On December 1, 1954, the CIA's Richard Bissell, in conjunction with the Pentagon, initiated the development of the U-2. It would not fly until August, 1955.<sup>151</sup>

At a press conference on December 16, President Eisenhower was asked about flying saucers and the recent attention they had been getting from European governments. Eisenhower repeated the Air Force statement from some months earlier: "Flying saucers exist only in the imaginations of the viewers." When asked as to whether he believed they were extraterrestrial, Eisenhower gave a good example

following a FOIA request. Interview notes about the sighting stated:

there were two lights toward the inside of the disc, which remained stationery as the outer surface went around.... The lights sat near the top of the disc. If a line representing the diameter of the disc were divided into three segments, the lights would have been located at the two points of division between the middle segment and the two outside segments.... The aircraft was circular. The aircraft was round, resembled a flying saucer.

There can be no doubt that Senator Richard Russell saw something extraordinary. Let us assume that, just as he described, he *did* see a flying saucer. Could it have been what it appeared to be, a Soviet flying saucer? If so, it would mean that human beings have had flying saucer technology for a long time. It would be a secret as amazing as that of aliens themselves. But of course, the leap to such a revolutionary method of aerodynamics and propulsion seems impossible. Contrast the image of a WWII-styled propeller-driven aircraft with a multi-Mach, silent, exceptionally maneuverable disc-shaped craft. The issue had been raised back in 1947 and 1948 at Wright-Patterson AFB: could the Soviets, Germans, Americans, or anyone else, have created the kind of breakthrough in aerodynamics that UFOs appeared to represent? The answer at that time was *no*. If, therefore, the Soviets (and presumably the Americans) did achieve such a breakthrough, all has been silent in the public domain, as well as on the field of battle.

Russell did see a craft. If it was not of human design, then the only alternative is that it was of alien design, and that both the Soviet and American governments knew this.

This much is certain: the Soviet government was deeply secretive about UFOs in its territory, and the American government – at the height of the Cold War – cooperated in this secrecy.<sup>186</sup>

Although the Russell sighting remained fairly well submerged within the media, a *New York Times* article from October 8, 1955 printed a cryptic remark from General Douglas MacArthur that world nations would have to unite against enemies from outer space. He refused any further explanation. Two days later, the Air Force released a statement from Ft. Worth, Texas, to explain that any flashing lights seen for the next two months across the U.S. would be wind-driven experimental plastic balloons that might travel as fast as 110 mph.<sup>187</sup>

Presumably, it was not an experimental balloon or U-2 spy plane that hit a B-47 near Lovington, New Mexico in October. According to the sole survivor, something solid definitely hit the plane. No other planes were in the area. One witness claimed a "ball of fire" appeared near the plane just before the crash. Several weeks later, another such incident occurred in Texas.<sup>188</sup>

On November 20, two shiny, elliptical UFOs, "like two dirigibles,"

traveled over the restricted area at Oak Ridge. On December 11, Navy jets engaged in a dogfight with a round, reddish UFO near Jacksonville, Florida.<sup>189</sup>

### GOVERNMENT OUT OF CONTROL

Military and intelligence activities of the mid-1950s offered few innovations from prior years. More signs emerged that the executive office, even headed by a war hero, was losing control of its military. Throughout the year, President Eisenhower and Air Force Chief of Staff Nathan Twining tried to get some kind of information from Curtis LeMay at SAC as to what his actual strategic bombing plan was. In October 1955, LeMay finally briefed the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The shocked attending members learned that LeMay's plan called for the instantaneous destruction of 645 military targets, 118 cities, and 60 million people in the Soviet Union. LeMay had not drawn up his plan as defensive, in accordance with the official U.S. policy of massive retaliation. A firm believer in first strike, LeMay said: "I'm going to knock the shit out of them before they get off the ground."<sup>190</sup>

For other branches of the national security state, it was business as usual. During 1956, the CIA established the brutal Cuban anti-communist police force, known as BRAC, under dictator Fulgencio Batista. In August 1956, the FBI began running Cointelpro (Counter-intelligence program). These various programs were deployed against American dissidents and their organizations; the first one targeted the American Communist Party. Typical Cointelpro methods were anonymous or fictitious letters, false defamatory or threatening information, forged signatures, and other methods of disinformation to disrupt an organization. The FBI blackmailed insiders to spread false rumors or promote factionalism. It created bogus organizations to attack or disrupt a bona fide group, and instigated hostile actions through third parties such as employers, elected officials, and the media. It enabled the FBI to investigate any political organization on the pretext of checking for Communists, including the NAACP, women's rights groups, and gay rights groups. Cointelpro and related programs prompted nearly 330,000 FBI investigations and created a Security Index of over 200,000 dangerous Americans to be detained in the event of war.

The FBI programs were also noteworthy in that documents relating to them were marked "Do Not File." This meant they were withheld from the FBI filing system, offering no clues that they even existed.\* The relevance for UFO-related information is obvious.<sup>191</sup>

\* The cover was blown after activists broke into an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, in 1971.

Pentagon-CIA-NSA central office that determines surveillance targets. Its existence was not revealed publicly until 1973, and even into the 1990s, its name could not be mentioned in Congress or in any unclassified government document. Already in 1960, optics capabilities had become quite advanced. An optics expert that year wrote that it soon should be possible to develop satellite cameras capable of "resolving two objects three inches apart from 125 miles up."<sup>122</sup>

Also in 1960, CIA Director of Plans Richard Bissell asked MK-Ultra Director Sidney Gottlieb to undertake research on assassination techniques. Gottlieb had already been working on this. He had recently come up with a perfume that could be sprinkled on pillows and sheets which, upon inhalation, was instantly lethal.<sup>123</sup> Early in the year, CIA contractee Dr. Cameron was about to pursue experiments in sensory deprivation to their ultimate conclusion: the irreversible scrambling of the human mind. Actually, Cameron did not need the CIA to provide "expendables" – he simply used his own patients. Researcher John Marks wrote:

It cannot be said how many, if any, other agency brainwashing projects reached the extremes of Cameron's work. Details are scarce. In what ways the CIA applied work likes Cameron's is not known.<sup>124</sup>

Probably the most significant new CIA project of 1960 was its secret war in Laos, which continued until 1973. This covert operation raised a 30,000 man army, consisting mainly of Meo tribesmen to fight the Communist Pathet Lao. Air America, a CIA airline, provided air support.<sup>125</sup>

Project Paperclip showed that extremely secret programs could continue in the U.S. for well over ten years without a significant leak. Throughout the 1960s, Paperclip (along with National Interest, a similar program), sponsored the arrival of at least 267 more people into America. Another Project, known as 63, brought an unknown number of others. These recruits worked everywhere. Among the government-related organizations were: NASA, Edgewood Arsenal, Wright-Patterson AFB, Fort Monmouth AFB, and the Naval Ordnance Testing Station in China Lake, California. Private corporations included Pennsylvania State University, MIT, Bell Laboratories, RCA, CBS Laboratories, Martin Marietta, Convair, and Mobil Oil.<sup>126</sup>

Everywhere, it seemed, duplicity reigned among America's ruling clique. By March of 1960, according to JFK lover Judith Campbell, Presidential hopeful John Kennedy began meetings with Chicago mobster and narcotics trafficker Sam Giancana; this news eventually reached J. Edgar Hoover, who liked knowing such things for blackmail potential, and who was also friendly with Giancana. Also in March, President Eisenhower authorized the secret training and

arming of Cuban rebels through the CIA. A month later, seemingly racked by guilt and worry over the Frankenstein nature of America's military state, the President asked the dying Foster Dulles, "How are we going to scale our programs down?" If we did not, suggested Ike, "in the long run, there is nothing but war – if we give up all hope of a peaceful solution."<sup>127</sup>

Sentiments such as these never change anything, but they do salve consciences.

### 1960: MONITORING THE UFOs

On the UFO front, the secret state never ceased in its efforts to monitor, and probably undermine, the civilian organizations. In early 1960, Keyhoe published yet another UFO book, *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*. As always, Keyhoe's narrative style – fast, impetuous, and full of snappy dialogue – did not lend credibility to conservative readers. Yet, this made four books in ten years on the subject, and a careful reading of them provided a huge cache of information to the serious UFO researcher. No doubt some of those careful readers were in the Air Force, CIA, ONR, NSA, and elsewhere. Despite his busy pace throughout the 1950s, this book would be Keyhoe's last for another 13 years. He was now in his sixties, and his NICAP duties undoubtedly took much of his time. Still, it was obvious that Keyhoe needed watching. Perhaps coincidentally, in 1960 Colonel Joseph J. Bryan III joined NICAP's Board of Directors. It would not be known until 1977 that Bryan had founded and led the CIA's Psychological Warfare staff. Prior to this, he had vehemently denied any connection to the agency. Although he made a number of strong pro-UFO statements throughout his history with NICAP, he later became strongly suspected in helping to facilitate the eventual demise of the organization, and certainly of Keyhoe's role in it.

APRO, although much less dangerous than NICAP, had become a substantial organization in its own right. By 1960, it had a good investigative network, both within the U.S. and abroad, including South America, New Zealand, Australia, and a several European countries. Led by Coral and Jim Lorenzen, APRO differed considerably from NICAP in its indifference to the drive for congressional hearings and disbelief in an Air Force coverup. UFO organizations, the Lorenzens believed, ought to be conducting investigations, and NICAP's obsession with a coverup was a supreme waste of effort. Despite this entrenched attitude, APRO was also monitored. In 1960, the Lorenzens moved from Alamogordo, New Mexico to Tucson, Arizona. On their third day in Tucson an "exterminator" visited them, offering to inspect their premises for free. This unusually well-dressed

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What we do know is that by 1961, Project Ozma was washed up, and Struve reversed his earlier statements on the project's importance. "Come back in a hundred years," he told reporters. Actually, however, the project did not die, as Struve implied: it simply moved to Arecibo, Puerto Rico.<sup>135</sup>

#### THE U-2 AFFAIR: A PEEK DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

On May 1, 1960, CIA pilot Gary Frances Powers was shot down in a U-2 over the Soviet Union. This was the first time in five years of overflights that anything like this had occurred. Quite serious, indeed, and no announcement appeared while both governments were determining just what to do. On May 5, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced that the plane had been shot down. He made no mention of Powers. The U.S. State Department confidently replied that the plane was not a spy plane; rather, it was a NASA weather plane that had drifted over the border from Turkey when its pilot had oxygen trouble. Sorry about the confusion. State was able to lie so confidently because it knew Powers had been instructed, in case of trouble, to eject from the plane and blow it up with a remote-control device. They did not know that Powers had not activated the mechanism. After letting this story sit for two days, Khrushchev triumphantly revealed that he had both pilot and plane. Whoops. The State Department now admitted to the spy flight (what else could it do?) but maintained that it had not been authorized in Washington. This was weak and everyone knew it. Therefore, on May 9, Eisenhower reversed the State Department position, took full responsibility for the U-2 flight, and issued a statement that was widely interpreted to mean that the flights over Soviet territory would continue. Khrushchev, indignant, stormed out of a much-heralded summit conference.<sup>136</sup>

Khrushchev played the U-2 affair exceedingly well, but none of

this changed American policy. Here is a snapshot of mid-1960. In May, the CIA sponsored the covert arrival of the first Cubans in Guatemala, and soon built a secret airstrip. The U.S. Ambassador was generally aware of the operation, but stayed clear since it was black. Meanwhile, the CIA was deeply involved in the elections of the former Belgian Congo, newly independent. The Congo had the misfortune to be the site of some of the world's richest mineral deposits, including high-grade uranium. It was therefore a universal target of domination, a game won by the Americans. In June, the CIA began providing arms to the anti-Trujillo underground in the Dominican Republic. In July, it made a payment to arrange for an "accident" to Raul Castro, Fidel's brother. In August, the agency's Office of Medical Services poisoned cigars destined for Fidel. Meanwhile, J. Edgar Hoover assiduously recorded JFK's reckless womanizing at the Democratic Convention, and may have fed this information to his friend Lyndon Johnson to use this for blackmail purposes against Kennedy, perhaps even to influence JFK's choice of a running mate.<sup>137</sup>

#### MID-1960: NICAP PRESSES CONGRESS ONCE AGAIN

While 1960 was a busy year for the covert world, UFO reports were scarce. Not only within the United States, but worldwide, flying saucers seemed to disappear. The few interesting sightings cannot obscure the fact that, by now, the fight to end UFO secrecy had become more engaging than sightings themselves. Nevertheless, a few incidents are worth mentioning from this period.

On May 14, 1960, a six-state area in Brazil experienced an unusual number of UFO sightings. One of these included a sighting of small, pale, human-like beings standing near two landed discs near Paracura, Ceara State (northeast Brazil). The beings beckoned to the witness, named Raimondo dos Santos, who fled. He claimed they wore blue uniforms and white helmets. Later, with others, he found marks in the sand where the crafts had rested. The previous day at 7 p.m., over 100 people saw a dark-grey, circular craft, 65 feet in diameter with a powerful light, maneuvering and hovering.<sup>138</sup>

Within a few days of July 1, 1960, according to Wilbert Smith from an interview in late 1961, the "Canadian Research Group" handling UFOs recovered "one mass of very strange metal." There was about three thousand pounds of it, said Smith, and the Canadians did "a tremendous amount of detective work on this metal."<sup>139</sup>

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### THE SECRET STATE IN 1960 AND 1961

By late 1960, Eisenhower was on his way out, Kennedy in. From a review of what declassified information exists, it appears that America's national security state went through significant expansion during this period, and, no doubt emboldened by years of secrecy and success, its activities became ever more brazen. More exotic methods of controlling the human mind emerged, such as the innovation by Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) biophysicist Alan Frey, who announced in 1961 that human beings were capable of hearing microwave broadcasts. More traditional methods of disposing enemies remained the rule, however. In September, 1960, Sid Gottlieb of MK-Ultra prepared a lethal biological agent intended for Patrice Lumumba, then in the protective custody of the United Nations. His concoction never reached Lumumba, but on January 17, 1961, Lumumba was "shot trying to escape" by the troops of CIA-backed Joseph Mobutu.<sup>149</sup>

By October, 1960, as Castro's poisoned cigars were ready, the CIA decided that a force of perhaps 100 Cubans would make a landing in Cuba in late autumn. This was planned to be a major, well-trained guerilla group within Cuba, and a rallying point for other guerilla groups. In November, the CIA began air dropping supplies into Cuba. President-elect Kennedy was soon briefed on the Cuban operation (11/17/60) by Dulles and Bissell at Palm Beach, and gave the go-ahead.<sup>150</sup>

Eisenhower, still president, finally learned of SAC's war plan in late November, called the Single Integrated Operational Plan, or SIOP. The plan distressed him: ten nations would be totally obliterated, and 500 million people would die. By this time, the United States had roughly 23,000 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, and Eisenhower probably realized that he had lost command over America's nuclear arsenal.

Dwight Eisenhower delivered his Farewell Address on January 17, 1961. It became famous for introducing the phrase, "military-industrial complex." His key statement:

We annually spend more on military security more than the net income of all United States corporations. This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence - economic, political, even spiritual - is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government.... In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

Famous last words, but they could not undue the damage of eight years of alternately encouraging and acquiescing in the growth of that complex.<sup>151</sup>

The CIA's Cuban operation was the main subterranean event of 1961. Eisenhower broke off relations with Cuba on January 3. Sketchy reports in *The Nation*, the *New York Times*, and the *Miami Herald* soon described the Guatemalan base, but failed to break into the mainstream. By February, the CIA-fostered guerrilla movement within Cuba had collapsed. In early April, the State Department accused Castro's regime of offering "a clear and present danger" to the Americas, and Kennedy soon felt compelled to announce that no U.S. forces would invade Cuba. Within days, however, American-supplied B-26s tried to destroy the Cuban Air Force, but only alerted the Cubans. Still, the CIA told the Cuban pilots in Guatemala that Castro's planes had been destroyed. When Kennedy gave his final go-ahead, the plan had no chance to succeed. Why do it, then? Bissell may have thought events would force Kennedy to commit American troops. If so, he was mistaken.<sup>152</sup>

The invasion took place at Cuba's Bay of Pigs on Monday morning, April 17, 1961, as State Department and White House spokesmen denied all knowledge. Six of the eleven B-26s were lost, and the exile brigade withered quickly on the Cuban beaches. The next evening, Bissell desperately asked Kennedy to authorize the use of Navy jets. Kennedy - knowing that plausible deniability was at the breaking point - first said no, then relented to allow unmarked Navy jets to support the B-26s for one hour, purely defensively. The Navy fliers arrived at the wrong time; no one remembered their time zone was one hour off. The operation ended in disaster.<sup>153</sup>

Kennedy was determined that CIA heads would roll, and they did, just in time for the opening of the new Langley headquarters. On September 27, Allen Dulles resigned as DCI; Rockefeller crony John A. McCone replaced him. Bissell soon left Clandestine Services, replaced by Richard Helms. Charles Cabell, who played a small but crucial role in the invasion's failure, was also gone. But despite new faces, little changed. If anything, the debacle heightened Kennedy's burning desire to get Castro the hell out of Cuba. The result was Operation Mongoose, a "full court press" against Cuba that included coup attempts, contamination of exports, and counterfeiting, often with Mafia assistance. Ironically, the Soviet Union also tried to remove Fidel, who was not especially servile in the early years. Castro's security forces disabled a KGB-organized plot against him in the fall of 1961.<sup>154</sup>

Other important events took place in 1961. Throughout the year,

money, secrecy, and power. NICAP had given it a good effort, but was out of its depth and sinking slowly but surely.

UFOs themselves continued to appear in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but with much less frequency than in previous years. Clearly, this helped the secrecy, but was also to some extent the result of secrecy. We simply do not know how many sightings were recorded through unofficial channels. That said, the period was a quiet one, but saw steady numbers of up-close sightings, and the development of something new: claims by credible individuals to have been abducted by aliens. In the early 1960s, almost no one took these seriously, but the phenomenon had begun nonetheless.

Also, the handling of this problem appears to have gone deeper underground. There are many indications of various "unofficial" dealings with the UFO problem, well beyond the authority of ATIC and Blue Book. The NSA and CIA certainly fit in here, but so do Air Force programs like Moon Dust.

Finally, there appears little doubt that *some* organization was pressuring individuals into silence and worse regarding UFOs. Ruppelt and Hillenkoetter are undeniable examples of this, and we must remember that agencies such as the CIA operated with almost total impunity during this period, carrying out grandiose and at times horrific schemes against undesirable individuals whenever it suited their needs. The UFO coverup restricted more than the flow of information; it targeted people, as well.

## Chapter 7

# Open Confrontation: 1962 to 1966

After talking with both officers involved in the sighting, there is no doubt in my mind that they definitely saw some unusual object or phenomenon.

— Air Force investigating officer, reporting a Blue Book unidentified, September, 1965.

I think there may be substance in some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date.

— Congressman Gerald R. Ford, March 1966

When the enemy starts to collapse you must pursue him without letting the chance go. If you fail to take advantage of your enemies' collapse, they may recover.

— Miyamoto Musashi

### OVERVIEW

The 1960s were a decade of confrontation. The war in Vietnam opened a permanent cultural chasm and estrangement among Americans. Civil rights, black power, feminism, gay rights, and the generation gap distinguished the era. It was a decade of assassinations: the Kennedy brothers, Malcom X, and Martin Luther King, Jr., to name the most prominent. Riots became widespread, many of them inflicting permanent damage on the cities where they occurred: Watts never recovered from 1965, and Chicago – once the convention capital of the country – never again hosted a national political convention after 1968. Intellectuals challenged old assumptions about America's place in the world, and revolution was in the air. That this revolution ultimately failed did not make it any less dramatic for those who lived through it. For a while during the sixties, everything was up for grabs.

The struggle to end UFO secrecy partook of the general upheaval. But here, as in most matters, the decade started quietly. Sightings of unidentified craft were at a low ebb and received little publicity. The Air Force's heavy-handed management of the problem was messy at times, but effective enough. Undesirable leaks and statements continued to occur, but only within a context of official dismissal and ridicule which impeded forward motion. In near-total media isolation, NICAP's struggle for congressional hearings met with failure year after year. Hillenkoetter's departure from the scene went unremarked.