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2A The News World

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Supreme Court tells UFO enthusiasts here they cannot see data

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant some UFO buffs a close encounter with the justices in a battle over 135 UFO-related documents held by the super-secret National Security Agency.

The high court turned aside an appeal by a New York City-based group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, which wanted the justices to order NSA to release the material under the Freedom of Information Act.

The case began in late 1978 when the UFO group filed a formal request for 18 NSA documents under the information access law. NSA flatly refused to release the papers, claiming they are exempt from disclosure.

The group then filed suit, seeking the release of all papers "in the possession or under the control of the National Security Agency relating to or pertaining to unidentified flying objects and the UFO phenomena."

In response, NSA admitted it had 135 "UFO-related" documents, but again declined to release them. It claimed such disclosure would reveal some of its top secret electronic monitoring and interception techniques.

NSA is a Defense Department agency headquartered at Ft.

Meade, Md. One of its main responsibilities is to gather foreign intelligence information by intercepting radio communications sent to or from foreign governments.

In addition to this case, the high court, following up a major ruling, refused to delve deeper into controversial efforts by local and state governments to ban the sale of drug accessories at "head shops."

The action suggests that last week's decision by the high court allowing bans on paraphernalia sales to minors also applies to adults.

Yesterday, the justices rejected — without comment — an appeal by an Omaha, Neb., record store, challenging a ruling that found Nebraska's drug accessory law constitutional. The law prohibits the sale of such material both to juveniles and adults.

The statute is drawn directly from a "model" anti-paraphernalia law drafted by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

In a similar — but not identical — dispute, the justices ruled last Wednesday that local governments might ban the sale of drug-related accessories to juveniles. The issue of adult sales was not addressed in that case.

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and was sent home.

Court shatters saucer buffs

Washington (News Bureau) — The Supreme Court yesterday grounded efforts by a group of flying saucer buffs to force the federal government into releasing 135 classified documents dealing with unidentified flying objects.

The highly secret National Security Agency had battled with the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a New York City-based group, since its first court action back in 1978.

The security agency balked at releasing the information, contending that national security was at stake. Release of the documents would compromise top-secret electronic monitoring and interception techniques, the agency said.

court dismissed challenges to the law