

UFO

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Majestic-12 document is genuine say more research is needed. They note that the crashed-UFO story is supported by interviews with people familiar with the Roswell incident.

"There's no question at all that Roswell happened and there was a cover-up," said Stanton Friedman, an associate of Moore and a nuclear physicist who lives in New Brunswick, Canada. "Maybe this is a smoking gun."

When the Majestic-12 document was released to the press, it carried a cover letter from Moore. "Although we are not in a position to endorse its authenticity at this time," Moore wrote, "it is our considered opinion ... that the document and its contents appear to be genuine."

One question about its authenticity centers on who mailed a roll of undeveloped 35mm film to Jaime Shandera, a free-lance television producer who works with Moore, in December 1984. The negatives contained photographs of the Majestic-12 document.

Moore, 43, said he has about half a dozen contacts in the federal government, but "they all denied knowledge of the process of getting it to us."

Moore also acknowledged that he has released two versions of the document. The first appeared in Focus, a UFO-related newsletter, on April 28.

"We put it in that newsletter for people within the UFO community," Moore said. If others had received the same information, he said, they could meet and compare notes.

The second version was released to the press during the Mutual UFO Network's International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena held June 27-28 in Washington, D.C. In that version, the "TOP SECRET" and "EYES ONLY" classifications at the top and bottom of each page had been marked out.

"I, for one, tend to be self-conscious carrying around documents stamped 'Top Secret,'" Moore said, explaining why he had marked through those words.

He denied that tampering with the papers had damaged their credibility. "I don't know why it

would have been a problem if it had been a problem."

Two separate documents that apparently confirm the existence of Majestic-12 — although neither one connects the operation with UFOs — also have turned up. And they are being questioned as well.

One is a memorandum dated Sept. 24, 1947, to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal and signed by President Truman. It tells Forrestal to "proceed with all due speed and caution upon your undertaking. Hereafter this matter shall be referred to only as Operation Majestic Twelve."

The memo continues: "Any future considerations relative to the ultimate disposition of this matter should rest solely with the Office of the President following appropriate discussions with yourself, Dr. Bush and the Director of Central Intelligence."

Forrestal and Dr. Vannevar Bush are listed in Moore's document as members of the Majestic-12 panel. The director of Central Intelligence at that time was Hellenkoetter, another supposed panel member.

Moore said he obtained the Truman memo before he received the Majestic-12 document. That document lists seven attachments, but they aren't included. One of the attachments is described as "Special Classified Executive Order No. 692447," establishing Majestic 12. *Note 9/24/47*

The Truman memo may be the executive order referred to in the Majestic-12 document, Moore ventured.

But the Truman memo is not the original, and the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo., had never seen the memo until a UFO researcher supplied it and asked the library to authenticate it, said George Curtis, the library's assistant director.

"Unless it is clearly part of our holdings, we take the position that we cannot authenticate," Curtis told the Daily News.

Also, the Truman note has "EYES ONLY" printed at the top. That term is not known to have been used on any of Truman's memos, Curtis said.

And there is no record of the executive order, either, he said.

Moore said the numbering system for executive orders during the Truman administration corresponded to the dates they were issued. The order to form Operation Majestic-12, No. 692447,

dated Sept. 24, 1947.

But two of Truman's executive orders nearest that date are not based on that system, Curtis said. The orders, issued Sept. 23 and Sept. 30, 1947, are in numerical sequence. Neither concerns Majestic-12.

The second supporting document, dated July 14, 1954, was declassified by the Air Force in 1983 and is the only item mentioning Majestic-12 that has an unquestioned origin. It came from the National Archives in Washington.

The document is an unsigned memorandum from Robert Cutler, special assistant to President Eisenhower, to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Nathan Twining.

The disputed Majestic-12 document lists Twining as a member of the Majestic-12 panel.

The memo informs Twining that a joint National Security Council/MJ-12 SSP (Special Studies Project) briefing should be held July 16 at the White House during an already-scheduled meeting rather than after it.

MJ-12 is, presumably, an abbreviation of Majestic-12.

A copy of Eisenhower's schedule for the 16th includes a Cabinet meeting, but no mention is made of MJ-12.

Despite the memo's presence in the archives, its authenticity is still questioned.

The memo, found by Moore and Shandera among 150 boxes of declassified papers, is a carbon copy of an original and does not have any documentation number, said Edward Reese, an archivist at the National Archives.

There is no mention of MJ-12 in declassified National Security Council files at the archives, Reese told the Daily News.

Herb Pankratz, archivist at the Eisenhower Library and Museum in Abilene, Kan., said several points have led his staff to believe the Cutler memo is "salted," or faked. For instance:

- There is no record of an NSC/MJ-12 meeting in Eisenhower's appointment book on the date in question.

- The memo is classified "TOP SECRET RESTRICTED," which actually are two different classifications, and the "Restricted" label was eliminated in 1953.

- Records show Cutler was overseas from July 3 to at least July 15, 1954, visiting NATO military installations.

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Memo does not say "NSC" meeting

Moore took issue with Pankratz on several points. He said he has found two other memos from Cutler to Twining in the Library of Congress that have "TOP SECRET RESTRICTED" labels. "We do have other documents that have that label on it," he said.

Moore is not bothered by the fact that Cutler was away when the memo supposedly was written. The memo is not an official letter, he said, and the important point is that it establishes a link between the White House — not necessarily Cutler — and Twining.

As for the meeting not being listed in Eisenhower's appointment book, Friedman said, "He was famous for not putting things down on paper."

The lack of a documentation number on the Cutler memo could mean it was not meant to be released, Moore speculated. With thousands of pages of Air Force documents declassified, it would be easy for one to be included by mistake, he said.

Over in the skeptics' camp, however, Greenwood is not convinced.

Greenwood has less experience ferreting UFO information out of the government. In 1984 he co-authored "Clear Intent," a book that examined UFO-related documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

He is sure that whatever controversies arise from the Majestic-12 document, absolute proof lies with only one source.

"If this is proven once and for all," Greenwood concluded, "the information would have to come from the federal government itself."

There are some errors. Structural

Yes No!