

Air Services
Telecommunications Division

SECRET

OTTAWA, Ontario, January 3, 1951.

Dear Gordon:

I would like to bring you up to date in our magnetic program and also request from you any information which you have been able to obtain along these lines since we last discussed the matter.

We have three engineers working full time on the program, together with two technicians, with concentrated effort on the magnetic sink. Progress is, of necessity, slow because of the physical labour involved in making the various set-ups and measurements necessary.

Full co-operation is being given by Defence Research Board and National Research Council although at this stage in the work there is not a great deal that they can do beyond assisting in some of the machine work and providing materials and instruments. The holiday season of course made quite a hole in our program as no one felt inclined to put forth a maximum effort at that time.

I understand that Doctor Solandt was in Washington for sometime recently but I have not had a chance to speak to him since he returned. I do not think that he uncovered anything of significance or he would have passed the information along to us. It is possible that Mr. Wright may be able to add something.

Incidentally, our program is now official within the Department of Transport and is known as Project Magnet. It is classified as secret until such time as we know where we stand. Doctor Solandt has requested that we respect fully the United States classification on these matters.

Doctor Solandt referred Donald Keyhoe's draft article to me for comment. I took extreme exception to the first portion of the article which dealt with material which we had discussed, and in order to preserve our position I took the liberty of redrafting the first part of this article.

I returned the article with the revision to Doctor Solandt together with a letter to Keyhoe explaining my action. I also asked Doctor Solandt to show the article revision and letter to the others in our group for their comments and any further revisions which they might consider in Canadian interests.

 I have heard nothing further in regard to the Keyhoe article and I was wondering if you could throw any light on the subject. I imagine that it has long since been returned to the Canadian Embassy in Washington after which I understand Keyhoe was to take it to Doctor Bush for clearance. I do not know what Doctor Bush's reaction will be to the material contained in the major portion of the article and my revision, but his reaction should certainly be interesting and I would like you to have a talk with Keyhoe sometime at your convenience to ascertain this point.

I trust that you had a completely satisfactory Yuletide season and kept up the tradition of Canadians in Washington.

Yours sincerely,

(W.B. Smith)



SECRET

1746 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

January 6, 1951

Dear Wilbert,

Thank you for your letter of January 3. I was glad to hear how well you were progressing with arrangements for Project Magnet and I hope that this will give you ample opportunity to proceed with your research.

There is very little more that can be done here for the present. The official position is still that nobody knows anything about the matter here at all. We are, of course, keeping our ears and eyes open and if anything does develop you will probably hear through the Wright and Solandt channel. On the Ambassador's instructions no one in the Embassy, apart from Wright and myself, is to discuss the matter with anyone.

I shall be glad, of course, to act as a post office and I think it would be useful to keep this channel open.

I have not yet had an opportunity to meet Keyhoe but I can easily do so through Bremner, and I will make an exploratory contact in the near future. I did not see his article after it was referred to you. I can appreciate your annoyance with the first two or

W.D. Smith, Esq.,
Air Services,
Telecommunications Division,
Department of Transport,
Ottawa, Canada.

... 2.

three paragraphs. The article was returned to Keyhoe through Wright and he has not seen it since nor has he heard anything from Bush or what Bush did. I may be able to get something more on this angle after seeing Keyhoe.

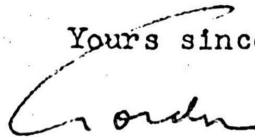
Is it possible to get "True" in Canada or should I send you a copy when and if the article comes out?

The Ambassador and I would be particularly interested in any indication you may have heard when you were here on the possibility of an official U.S. Government statement. It is this political angle with which I will be principally concerned. Anything you can do to help in this respect will be welcome.

There are a number of matters which I would like to discuss with you and if I manage to get up to Ottawa anytime in the next month or so I will make a point of getting in touch with you.

Thanks very much for your Christmas card. I hope that your celebrations were as alcoholic as ours.

Yours sincerely,



Gordon E. Cox.

TOP SECRET

Mr. Edwards should write to the Dept of national defence Ottawa requesting that clearance may be obtained for Mr. W. B. Smith to visit the appropriate Service in the United States to discuss the use of Terrestrial magnetic forces in relation to ~~XXXXXX~~airodynamic problems associated with saucer shaped objects .

In the covering request, the Department of transport should relate in as much detail as possible the objects of this study and also detail the work which has been carried out in the Geophysical field in Canada

Information unofficially obtained from Dr. Robert I Sarbacher , dean of the Graduate school, Georgia University

MEMORANDUM

Her Parliamentary Returns No 2340
dated 21 Oct 63

OCT 23 1963

Parliamentary Returns Section

Reply to Question No 1,416

1 The following information is submitted in response to question 1,416 raised by Mr Winch:

- (a) Para 1. Canada co-operates with the United States for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects. If a report warrants investigation, the investigation is conducted by Air Defence Command. In the normal course of events NORAD Headquarters would receive a copy of the report. Such investigations are not entitled "Project Magnet" and, in fact, no codename is applied to reports of unidentified flying objects.
- (b) Para 2. "Project Magnet" was the brain child of the late Wilbert B Smith of the Department of Transport, a project which he carried on in his own time without Government financial support. Because the records of "Project Magnet" were never made available to the Department of National Defence, nothing is known about their equipment or personnel.
- (c) Para 3. Wilbert B Smith was employed in the Radio Regulations Division of the Department of Transport, and was the head of a UFO research project which he conducted as a personal undertaking.
- (d) Para 4. Files and data compiled under "Project Magnet" - if any - are not controlled by Department of National Defence, therefore, availability of such data to the general public cannot be stated.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
(W. M. GARTON) G/C
A/CAS

(O.R. Dunlap)
Air Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

2
4-82

Ottawa, 25th June, 1954.

PLACE

DATE

YOUR FILE

SUBJECT

Projects Magnet and Second Storey

OUR FILE

2212-33 Secret

22-12-29 " (CT)

MEMORANDUM TO SUPT. OF RADIO REGULATIONS:

1. I am returning, herewith, your memorandum of April 27th, with attachments, also Mr. Smith's memorandum to you of the 10th instant.
2. You will recall that we had a preliminary discussion on these with the D.M.A., at which time it was decided that action should be deferred until the latter had had an opportunity to review the whole question with Dr. Solandt.
3. Mr. Baldwin has now informed me that he has discussed the matter with Dr. Solandt and has advised me as follows,-

Dr. Solandt stated that he has checked around and was of the opinion that no facts had emerged which would warrant making this a special government project. As far as he has been able to find out, both here and in the United States, as well as in the United Kingdom, no special research is going on. In the circumstances he agreed with the viewpoint I then expressed to him, namely, that Mr. Smith should be told that so far as official work is concerned, this project must not be carried on in Departmental time, and that what he wishes to do in his own free time is purely a matter for himself; also that, as heretofore, we will not refuse him access to use of equipment that we are not using for our own purposes, and which is available, but that any work done from here on will not be done under any official Departmental sponsorship.

Dr. Solandt's own investigations with the D.R.B. personnel indicate that they do not, from their own knowledge of what is going on here and in Washington, consider it worthwhile putting any further top level people on the investigation in the sense that Mr. Smith had earlier wanted as desirable.

That in the event of Mr. Smith's name being coupled officially with the Department in any publicity, that might eventually develop through his spare time investigation, the Department would have to take the position publicly that there was no official Departmental sponsorship of Mr. Smith's activities.

4. Will you kindly inform Mr. Smith accordingly.

(O.C.W. Browne)

Controller of Telecommunications

CCWB: PWS

cc- Mr. van Allen.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

2
8.32

OTTAWA, Ontario, June 10, 1954.
PLACE DATE

YOUR FILE	SUBJECT	OUR FILE
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MEMORANDUM TO SUPERINTENDENT OF RADIO REGULATIONS

1. Pursuant to our conversation regarding the status of Project Magnet, may I bring the following to your attention.
2. I am satisfied that there is a sufficient probability for the real existence of some Unidentified Flying Objects as Alien Vehicles, to warrant carrying on with the investigations and if possible, expanding them to include a more intensive study of the physics of the problem.
3. Whether or not these studies continue within the purview of this Division, I certainly intend to carry on with them. I feel that there is much to be learned in this field and that I would be most remiss if I did not follow up the leads I have.
4. I realize that this subject can hardly be considered as a Telecommunications matter, and for this reason I would suggest one of the following courses of action:
 - (a) To re-establish Project Magnet within Transport but outside of the Telecommunications Division, as a separate project.
 - (b) To provide a nominal grant for the continuation of the project on a spare time basis
 - (c) To release the project entirely from this Department so that it may be carried on as a private effort.
5. I would point out that only the first two methods permit government control of the work, or the disposition of results, and for this reason it would appear desirable to work out something along these lines.

C.T. as you are aware I am not in agreement2
with para. 2. Alternative h.c. would seem preferable but it
raises the issue of a Civil Servant + private publicity. 24
Memo of 23 March 54 refers. Kindly advise.
A.B. 14.6.54

MEMORANDUM

Parliamentary Returns No 2340
dated 21 Oct 63

OCT 23 1963

Parliamentary Returns Section

Reply to question No 1,416

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
(W. M. GARTON) G/C
A/CAS

(G.R. Dunlap)
Air Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff

The RCAF admits to co-operating in the investigation of UFOs but distances itself from Smith — despite his backing from the Defence Research Board.
— National Archives of Canada

Applicable to: Navy, Army, and Air Force

6

REPORTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

GENERAL

1. Reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are frequently received at Canadian Forces bases from various sources. CFHQ is responsible for processing any action required on these reports. Accordingly, UFO reports shall be transmitted to CFHQ in accordance with para 2.

REPORTING

2. Unclassified priority messages shall be addressed to CANFORCEHED and the first words in the text shall be "FOR CFOC. UFO REPORT". All reports shall include as much of the following information as is obtainable, using the identifying letter indicated:

- A Date and time of sighting (GMT).
- B Condition of sky (clear, cloudy, haze, etc).
- C Identification of observer.
- D Location of observer at time of sighting.
- E Identification of other persons also observing the UFO.
- F Description of sighting (shape, colour, altitude, movement, number of UFOs, etc).
- G Duration of observation.
- H Any other relevant information.

3. Fireball and meteorite observations shall be reported in accordance with CFAO 71-1

(C)

S 1605-71-6
V 2000-4 (DOPS)

Issued 7 Oct 66

Indexing
Unidentified Flying Objects
Reports & Returns

AL 40/66

This Canadian Forces Administrative Order (CFAO 71-6) was issued in 1966 for the reporting of UFOs. Note the existence of a separate order (CFAO 71-1) for fireballs and meteorites. — National Archives of Canada

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

2
2-50

OTTAWA, Ontario, November 21, 1950.

PLACE

DATE

YOUR FILE

SUBJECT

Geo-Magnetics

OUR FILE

(R.SP.)

MEMORANDUM TO THE CONTROLLER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

See Memo 15/1/50
CONFIDENTIAL

For the past several years we have been engaged in the study of various aspects of radio wave propagation. The vagaries of this phenomenon have led us into the fields of aurora, cosmic radiation, atmospheric radio-activity and geo-magnetism. In the case of geo-magnetism our investigations have contributed little to our knowledge of radio wave propagation as yet, but nevertheless have indicated several avenues of investigation which may well be explored with profit. For example, we are on the track of a means whereby the potential energy of the earth's magnetic field may be abstracted and used.

On the basis of theoretical considerations a small and very crude experimental unit was constructed approximately a year ago and tested in our Standards Laboratory. The tests were essentially successful in that sufficient energy was abstracted from the earth's field to operate a voltmeter, approximately 50 milliwatts. Although this unit was far from being self-sustaining, it nevertheless demonstrated the soundness of the basic principles in a qualitative manner and provided useful data for the design of a better unit.

The design has now been completed for a unit which should be self-sustaining and in addition provide a small surplus of power. Such a unit, in addition to functioning as a 'pilot power plant' should be large enough to permit the study of the various reaction forces which are expected to develop.

We believe that we are on the track of something which may well prove to be the introduction to a new technology. The existence of a different technology is borne out by the investigations which are being carried on at the present time in relation to flying saucers.

While in Washington attending the NARB Conference, two books were released, one titled "Behind the Flying Saucer" by Frank Scully, and the other "The Flying Saucers are Real" by Donald Keyhoe. Both books dealt mostly with the sightings of unidentified objects and both books claim that flying objects were of extra-terrestrial origin and might well be space ships

..... 2

*Given by Mr. X to Stanton Friedman
10/22/78 Toronto - note Top Secret
at top of page*

from another planet. Scully claimed that the preliminary studies of one saucer which fell into the hands of the United States Government indicated that they operated on some hitherto unknown magnetic principles. It appeared to me that our own work in geo-magnetics might well be the linkage between our technology and the technology by which the saucers are designed and operated. If it is assumed that our geo-magnetic investigations are in the right direction, the theory of operation of the saucers becomes quite straightforward, with all observed features explained qualitatively and quantitatively.

I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

- a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
- b. Flying saucers exist.
- c. Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.
- d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.

I was further informed that the United States authorities are investigating along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena and I gather that they are not doing too well since they indicated that if Canada is doing anything at all in geo-magnetics they would welcome a discussion with suitably accredited Canadians.

While I am not yet in a position to say that we have solved even the first problems in geo-magnetic energy release, I feel that the correlation between our basic theory and the available information on saucers checks too closely to be mere coincidence. It is my honest opinion that we are on the right track and are fairly close to at least some of the answers.

Mr. Wright, Defence Research Board liaison officer at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, was extremely anxious for me to get in touch with Doctor Solandt, Chairman of the Defence Research Board, to discuss with him future investigations along the line of geo-magnetic energy release.

I do not feel that we have as yet sufficient data to place before Defence Research Board which would enable a program to be initiated within that organization, but I do feel that further research is necessary and I would prefer to see it done within the frame work of our own organization with, of course, full co-operation and exchange of information with other interested bodies.

I discussed this matter fully with Doctor Solandt, Chairman of Defence Research Board, on November 20th and placed before him as much information as I have been able to gather to date. Doctor Solandt agreed that work on geo-magnetic energy should go forward as rapidly as possible and offered full co-operation of his Board in providing laboratory facilities acquisition of necessary items of equipment, and specialized personnel for incidental work in the project. I indicated to Doctor Solandt that we would prefer to keep the project within the Department of Transport for the time being until we have obtained sufficient information to permit a complete assessment of the value of the work.

It is therefore recommended that a PROJECT be set up within the frame work of this Section to study this problem and that the work be carried on a part time basis until such time as sufficient tangible results can be seen to warrant more definitive action. Cost of the program in its initial stages are expected to be less than a few hundred dollars and can be carried by our Radio Standards Lab appropriation.

Attached hereto is a draft of terms of reference for such a project which, if authorized, will enable us to proceed with this research work within our own organization.

D.M.A.

Concur

22/11/50.

W.B. Smith

(W.B. Smith)
Senior Radio Engineer

WES/cc

OK

Go ahead with it & keep me posted from time to time

G.D. P. Edwards

21/12/50

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UFO FILES IN CANADA:

There are many UFO enthusiasts willing to voice a protest against the "Conspiracy of Silence" which they see as the government's decision not to admit to the existence of extra-terrestrial craft tho they allegedly know they exist. Popular writers have expounded upon the 'conspiracy' when they find government officials reluctant to discuss the matter of UFOs and when access to government information has been denied. More sensational writers have claimed actual harassment and an active program of suppression of UFO investigation. After more than ten years of UFO research and five years of intensive research into Canadian events concerning UFOs, the only form of the 'conspiracy' this Fortean has encountered has been a reluctance to release or provide ready access to government files; however, a few items of interest have been uncovered in the last week of June.

Finding the chorus of researchers protesting "Conspiracy" quite noisome, (especially in view of the fact most were not willing themselves to provide access to their UFO files to other researchers), a search was undertaken to find out where Canadian UFO files were held, by whom, and under whose authority. Inquiries are directed almost automatically to the 'Non-meteoritic Sighting File' at the National Research Council. Even when it was pointed out that this inquisitor was most familiar with these files but was seeking other related files, many officials insisted "everything" could be found there. They were wrong!

Some documents pertaining to Project Second Storey and Project Magnet were made available to researchers at the National Research Council; but as no reports of UFOs predated 1965 in the 'Non-Meteoritic Sighting File', it was clearly evident they must be found elsewhere. Tracing the passage of the files from the Department of National Defence to the National Research Council, it became abundantly clear that not all of the files had been transferred, as had been repeatedly claimed by the Defence officials. Eventually, the existence of further Second Storey files was established in October of 1977, with the aid of Gregory Kanon, which the Directorate of History at the D.N.D. soon admitted to have in the process of "clearing" for outside inspection. Eighty-nine UFO reports were made available for the first time in March of 1978, and this investigator enjoyed the first outside glance thru these files. However, it was clear that not all of the files were present, and with further questioning it was found any UFO reports relating to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were not available and no consideration of making these available to outside researchers was being considered. Thus, the R.C.M.P. and D.N.D. are both known to continue to maintain files of UFO reports (of some age) which are not made accessible to outsiders.

When incoming teletype reports of UFOs were copied early in 1978 and were found missing from the 'Non-Meteoritic Sighting File' into which they had once been entered, it was soon learned that some reports were transferred into the 'Meteor File' which was not accessible. Shortly after, it was stated copying of incoming and unfiled UFO reports was not to be permitted. Earlier this year, (see RBB 43 & 44), access was at long last gained to the 'Meteor File' and its vast store of UFO reports which the Meteor Centre at the National Research Council had determined were meteors and meteorites. Altho these files are now accessible to at least one researcher from outside, it will be some time before the bulk of reports diverted into this file can be counted and assessed for their full content. A major disadvantage is that it is a "policy" that these files cannot be photocopied ostensibly because the names of reporting witnesses would become available outside of the confines of the Meteor Centre. That hand-copied reports are allowed and leave the confines of the Meteor Centre does not appear to affect this time-wasting and tedious "policy". However, progress is being made in hand-copying all current UFO reports and copying earlier reports prior to 1977.

The Ministry of Transport was unable to find any of the files pertaining to Project Magnet five years ago, but only this month further inquiries yielded the fact the Project Magnet files had been transferred to the Ministry of Communication which was independently established in 1969. Rapid progress was made in establishing the location and access to the files. Permission was obtained from Dr. John deMercado, who had no objection at all to allowing an outsider full access to File No. 5010-4, to examine the files before they would shortly be transferred to the Public Records Office at the National Archives. In the limited time available, only volumes 2 thru 4 could be fully examined; but, the new papers provided some valuable insight into governmental attitudes towards UFOs.

In a letter dated February 6th, 1978, Arthur Bray, a noted Canadian UFO researcher, asked for permission to examine the Project Magnet file he identified as "No. 6650-4" which he knew to be "confidential". He was sent the following letter on March 31st, 1978:

"Dear Mr. Bray,

"Thank you for your letter of February 6, 1978 addressed to the Honourable Jeanne Sauve.

"The Department of Communications does not have a file 6650-4 called "Project Magnet". However, we were able to determine that the late Mr. W.B. Smith's (of the Department of Transport) material on "Project Magnet" may be available from the Planetary Sciences Section of the National Research Council. You may wish to write to this unit which is

a part of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics.

"We also understand that the only stipulation in viewing this material is that individuals are required to sign a statement to the effect that they will not release the names of any of the people mentioned in the material regarding U.F.O. sightings.

"I hope this information will be of some help to you."

The original was signed by Mr. W.W. Scott, Director of Regulation Development, for Dr. John deMercado, who is the Director General of the Telecommunication Regulatory Service. A copy of the letter was sent to Dr. A.G. McNamara, head of the Planetary Sciences Section at the N.R.C., and to "ADMSP", who is Dr. C.A. Franklin, Assistant Deputy Minister Space Program.

It would seem a simple matter of expediency to refer Mr. Bray to the National Research Council. However, it does take on an air of deception when one reads the Memorandum dated "28 March 1978" to "DGTRS", (Dr. John deMercado), from "DGSTA", (Dr. B.C. Blevis, Director General of Space Technology and Applications, based at the Shirley's Bay Establishment). The subject of the Memorandum was: "Request for Access to Files on UFOs"; and, it read as follows:

"Attached is the request, to which I referred in our telecon of March 23, from Arthur Bray of Ottawa for release of files, originally transferred from DOT, on 'Project Magnet'. Since you are currently reviewing the two files involved (Confidential file No. 6650-4 and its unclassified companion No. 5010-4), it was agreed that you would prepare the reply to Bray's request, with copy to me and ADMSP, and co-ordinate with other Branches as appropriate."

The Memorandum was signed by Dr. Blevis. The fact that the file number requested by Mr. Bray was correct with regard to UFOs, if not "Project Magnet", and was answered by a denial of the existence of "a file called 'Project Magnet'" is food for thought in considering deception on the part of government officials at the Ministry of Communications. What disturbs me considerably is that the files pertaining to "Project Magnet" would be rather old by now, considering Mr. Smith has been dead more than a decade; but, it has been necessary for three section heads at the Ministry of Communications, (Dr. John deMercado, Dr. B.C. Blevis, and Dr. C.A. Franklin) to concern themselves with access to these files. Let us ask what does "Confidential File No. 6650-4" contain that requires a 'confidential' classification? It cannot simply be UFO reports, for 18 new UFO reports dating from 1932 to 1972 were found amongst the papers in volumes 2 to 4 of File No. 5010-4.

More clues may be provided in another Memorandum from Mr. W.J. Wilson of the Transport Research Board, dated September 15, 1969, (and noted as File No. 22-12-33 (TRB) and 22-12-29). Two copies were sent to "Records" and "For File"; and, it reads as follows under the subject of "Project 'Magnet'":

"Dr. P.M. Millman, National Research Council, has advised me that the documents reporting the results of the Project Second Storey studies in project 'Magnet' be declassified. Those reading this file will see that project 'Magnet' is a part of this file.

"2. Since the question of flying saucers is still attracting public attention and since this file covers documents relating to the studies behind project 'Magnet' and, indeed, records much of the discussion in the Department of Transport surrounding project 'Magnet' which is confidential in nature, it is recommended that this file be down classified at least to the confidential level. At no time should it be made available to the public.

"3. Those wishing to obtain a copy of project 'Magnet' can do so provided they represent an organization, describe the purposes of the organization and set forth the basis of their need for a copy to Dr. Millman of National Research Council. They may see the project 'Magnet' report upon making an appointment at the Meteor Centre, phone 3-9318.

"4. A copy of the project 'Magnet' report on this file is the original and should not be destroyed until such time as this subject has 'cooled off'."

The Memorandum was signed by Mr. W.J. Wilson, and an attending note states, "A copy of this memo has been stapled to the cover of the Report, also a copy made for 22-12-29 (Project Second Storey)", and is dated October 6th 1969. Clearly, more files have yet to be found either at the Ministry of Transport and/or the Ministry of Communications on "Project Second Storey"; but, the most attractive part of the Memorandum was the red underlining of the last sentence of paragraph 2.

Among the most interesting items was the initiating document containing the proposal for undertaking 'Project Magnet' and its authorization by Mr. C.P. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, on December 2nd, 1950. The subject title of the memorandum is "Geo-Magnetics" but was originally noted as "Top Secret", (although it was subsequently downgraded to "Secret" and to "Confidential"). The date of the originating memorandum is November 21st, 1950, which emphasizes a note on the second page, which reads in full as follows:

"I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

"a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.

"b. Flying saucers exist.

"c. Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.

"d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.

"I was further informed that the United States authorities are investigating along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena and I gather that they are not doing too well since they indicated that if Canada is doing anything at all in geo-magnetics they would welcome a discussion with suitably accredited Canadians."

If Mr. Wilbur Smith's inquiries led to finding as early as 1950 that Os were classified as being more secret than the H-bomb, which was not exploded until 1952, then the subject was clearly considered of tremendous importance to the national defence of the United States. The subject apparently was also of considerable interest to Dr. Solandt, then Chairman of the Defence Research Board, who offered "full co-operation" of the Board during a discussion with Mr. Smith on November 20th, the date preceding the date of the memorandum. The project was destined thru the actions of Mr. Smith and his colleagues, who were seeking to develop a new technology, to be kept within the Department of Transport. It was only later that Mr. Smith's study became allied with the Defence Research Board in Project Second Storey.

As for the matter that "Flying saucers exist," many UFO investigators will probably choose to pursue this statement in the United States under their Freedom of Information Act, (as is being undertaken by Ground Saucer Watch in Arizona); but, it may not be until August that any form of 'Freedom of Information Act' is proposed, needless to say passed, by the Parliament of Canada. In the meanwhile, the search for available UFO files must continue in Canada within the narrow confines allowed by restrictive policies, reluctance to admit having UFO reports and files, and the deception practiced by public officials.

FALLS FROM THE SKY:

Shortly after 5 P.M. on June 16th, Donna Matchett heard a 'thud' she believed to have been caused by a dog's tail thumping against some decking next to the backyard pool. When she turned around tho, what she saw was a mass afire atop the picnic table. Her father, Traven Matchett, was at the opposite corner of the backyard, but he also saw a cylindrical object atop the picnic table. It appeared to be several inches in height and about six inches in diameter, but it was difficult to judge its true dimensions as it was engulfed in an "orangish-reddish" flame about 18 inches in height. Donna had enough presence of mind to grab a garden hose and douse the flaming mass. In a moment the flame was extinguished leaving a greenish blob atop the picnic table and a nauseous white smoke filling the yard. The smoke dispersed, but it gave the Matchetts headaches and killed their appetites. Traven Matchett was concerned that the object might have been part of Skylab, another satellite, or a meteor, and set out to notify the authorities. The object, he thought, might be radioactive; and had it hit his daughter, himself, or his house, he might have suffered more than a burnt picnic table.

As usual, being a Saturday, most officials were unavailable, Toronto Airport's Air Traffic Control knew of nothing in the way of any crashed aircraft nor of anything that might have fallen in the Mississauga neighbourhood where the Matchetts lived. Neither the Fire Department nor the Police Department seemed to know what to do in the situation. No one was hurt, and the fire had been put out.

Cameramen, photographers, and reporters wanted to get in on the act. One media-person said it was all a fraud. The blob was simply a flaming frisbee thrown into the yard, he said; and, to prove his point he set fire to a frisbee. Everyone else agreed after the demonstration that the "blob" was not a frisbee. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment did not arrive until Monday, (a working day), and having taken a look

at the "blob" and obtaining a sample of it for laboratory analysis, they left within fifteen minutes. Traven Matchett was furious that they had not brought a geiger counter and had taken his story so lightly.

During one of several radio interviews, a Fortean in Kingston heard of the incident and contacted Traven Matchett directly. It was impossible to form an opinion as to what the substance was via telephone, so a visit was arranged for the next day. Also, the Meteor Centre of the National Research Council was telephoned regarding the event as was the Geological Survey of Canada which contains Canada's national collection of meteorites.

It was polypropylene, said the Ministry of the Environment, not a meteorite, it could not have fallen from outer space, they said. Perhaps it was a plastic dish accidentally set on fire. It was a hot afternoon, nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit, maybe, they speculated, something like a margarine dish had spontaneously combusted! The Ministry had identified what the substance was, a widely used plastic, but as to explaining where it had come from and how it fell in flames into the Matchett backyard they were unable to do anything more.

When the Fortean arrived, the Matchetts were advised many strange falls have occurred. The "blob" was examined and photographed. The yard was carefully searched for other debris. And, a few pieces of the substance that had fallen away when the picnic table was removed to the safety of the garage were collected with the Matchetts' permission. Two hours were spent listening to their story and plight, and the fact something had fallen "out of the sky" appears undeniable.

Thru the assistance of J. Hornick, information officer at Ministry of the Environment (Ontario), a copy of the laboratory analysis was obtained.

"The samples were examined by optical microscopy and electron microprobe analysis. X-ray analysis in the electron microprobe did not reveal the presence of chemical elements (metals, sulphur, chlorine) indicating an organic structure. The sample were submitted to the Organic Trace Contaminants Section and analysed by infra red spectroscopy. The material was identified as isotactic polypropylene. The analysis was confirmed by comparison of the spectra obtained with spectra of known polymer compounds."

"The material was ignited with a bunsen burner, and burnt with a sooty orange yellow flame."

"The material was not found to be radioactive."

Most newsmedia were willing to let the story of the "blob" be forgotten, for the "plastic UFO" was not going to be further investigated by the authorities. It was not any industrial pollution, explained the Ministry of the Environment, nor was it their responsibility to investigate 'unusual falling objects'. Even the Meteor Centre failed to record the incident. Annie Claude never heard of it, and it appears Dr. Ian Halliday who had heard about it never bothered to see that it was entered into the "Non-Meteoritic Sighting File".

The mystery of its origins remains. Traven Matchett wonders if it might not be a part of MAO 2, a Chinese satellite which was predicted to fall over Michigan on Sunday, but was not seen to fall there, (GRAND RAPIDS PRESS, June 19:

CR: D. Fidler). The TORONTO SUN did mention that two weeks before a similar blob fell into another backyard only a mile away, but it had been thrown away. No one saw it fall, but it was "discovered". And two months before, a "green substance" was found on a lawn in Brampton. The SUN of June 19th also listed the ice fall in Ripley, Tenn., of last April, and a clear "goo" in Golddust, 60 miles north of Memphis (?); but, their interest in the story had come to an end. It appears the mystery may remain even after inquiries in Ottawa are pursued, but at least Fortean will note the fall of a clearly artificial substance if no one else will.

Nine weeks before the fall in Mississauga (Ontario), on April 14th, an "icy meteorite" fell into the yard of the Burgess family in Mendon, Massachusetts. The mass was about "two feet in diameter", and its impact produced a 6 inch deep crater. By the time the police arrived the mass had melted into a slush, (MIDDLESEX NEWS, Framingham, MA, April 17, p. 4B; CR: L. Coleman).

ALIEN ANIMALS:

In the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, the authorities have been searching for an elephant. Elephant jokes are being exhaustively used by the press to describe the reactions of residents who are asked if they've seen any elephants around lately. A "reliable informant" told the New York City Bureau of Animal Affairs that someone was keeping one as an illegal pet, but the search failed to locate the puzzling pachyderm, (NEW YORK TIMES, May 3, p. B1; BOSTON GLOBE, May 3, p. 27, MIDDLESEX NEWS, May 3; CR: L. Coleman).

In the early morning of May 31st, a police officer in Scarboro, Ontario, reported to his station by radio that a kangaroo had been spotted, (TORONTO SUN, June 1; CR: D. Whalen). The Toronto Metro Zoo wasn't missing any wallabies, and a zoo spokesman said it was likely "just a rabbit with long ears".

On May 25th, another kangaroo was seen in Nashua, New Hampshire. "We got a call Friday evening from a motorist who sounded kind of confused and said that he thought he had just hit a kangaroo on Amherst Street," said Lt. Norman Boudreau of the Nashua Police Department. The kangaroo eluded the police, to no one's dismay; but then, a kangaroo was being reported as sitting next to the Everett Turnpike by several motorists. It was not until David Wills of the Nashua Humane Society tackled the wallaby that it became clear it was an escapee from a carnival that had recently left town. It is now destined for a new home at Benson's Animal Farm in Hudson, (BOSTON GLOBE, p. 13, and, BOSTON HERALD-AMERICAN, both May 30; CR: L. Coleman).

LAKE MONSTERS:

Who would believe a fisherman claiming to see a monstrous head arising from the Detroit River? Well, how about a hippotamus? Back in 1867, one fell out of a boatload of circus animals being ferried from Windsor to Detroit, and it scared Pete Nadeau considerably, (KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD, October 12, 1978, p. 31).

More conventional lake monsters are also being reported. Old tales of lake monsters are reported as inhabiting Lac

Saint-Jean in Quebec, (SAGUENAY LE QUOTIDIEN, Chicoutimi, April 14), in Lake Temiskaming on the Ontario-Quebec border next to New Liskeard, (NORTH BAY NUGGET, April 20), and in Nighthawk Lake near Timmins, Ontario, (TIMMINS PRESS, February 5). No date is given to a sighting of something "about 35 feet long and about two feet in diameter with a pike-like head" seen near Centre Island on Lake Ontario, but the TORONTO SUN, (June 13), appears to be creating more sensation for its "Metro Maggie". The EDMONTON SUN of June 4th reports a large water creature inhabits Peter Pond Lake, about 135 miles north of Turtle Lake where another Saskatchewan lake monster is reported. "Puff" is described as looking like "a big log with bumps", and he has been seen slithering about as recently as last year according to the RCMP detachment at Buffalo Narrows.

RECENT UFO REPORTS:

May 23rd - Edmonton, AB - A "cluster of lights in the sky" larger than stars were seen moving toward the western horizon, however they stopped, then proceeded to climb very rapidly straight up, stopped again, then proceeded to climb until out of sight to the west. The "cluster" was visible for 2 to 3 minutes, but no explanation could be given by the Edmonton airports nor the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium, (N79/036). May 22nd - Carstairs, AB - A "bright white light" was seen to move back and forth from north to south and back again for a period of ten minutes, (N79/032). May 21st - Sudbury, OT - An object reported as a "meteorite" but also referred to NORAD COC Cheyenne Mountain Complex by CFS Falconbridge was visible for three minutes. Described as "gigantic" and like a "blimp", the "bright light" was seen flying towards the airport, but it appears only one person saw the object which aroused the military's curiosity, (N79/35). May 18th - Beersville, NB - Two bright yellow lights were reported to be hovering in a stationary position 500 to 1,000 feet over the tree line from a back window. The lights were believed to be a half mile apart and 2 miles distant. They were visible for 5 minutes before they "went down into the trees". When the MONCTON TIMES was dropped off at the guard house, the driver reported to the M.P. on duty at the 21st Radar Squadron at St. Margarets that he had seen "a bright orange light" in the sky near Notre-Dame, north of Shediac, about 15 miles distant from Beersville. May 17th - Ottawa, OT - Another "cluster of lights" was seen over Ottawa by two separate witnesses unaware of each other's observations. Some lights moved apart and would return together, but they were visible a long time and did not move like aircraft, (N79/37). May 15th - Corbeil, OT - A bright white object with a "boomerang shape" was seen maneuvering "up, down, (and) sideways" across the sky for more than half an hour high up. The UFO might be explained as a high altitude weather balloon released at Sault Ste. Marie an hour and a half before, (N79/031). May 13th - Goderich, OT - A bright pinkish light was seen flying low over the town into the direction of Lake Huron. "It wasn't bright orange and it wasn't red," says one resident; but, it was too bright to be a 'firecracker' we are told. Police were unable to determine what the object was, (CLINTON NEWS-RECORD, May 17). May 1st - Golden, BC - White flashing lights were seen to travel from south to north in about five seconds at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. The object was probably a meteor, but I find it disturbing that flashing lights had been seen in the same town on February 20th, (see RBB 45:4). Might these be some local sky phenomenon, such as earthquake lights, or does Golden have some special attraction for brilliant meteors?