

JUST

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Due to the length of this issue, CAUS Bulletin will not appear this quarter. As you can see, Just Cause, Sept. 1987, is the largest issue in our brief history. We feel it is necessary to voice another side in the MJ-12 matter in as much detail as we can. Consequently, our finances will be virtually obliterated. Controversies like this tend to rage on endlessly and we have spent considerable space on MJ-12 over the last two years. Let us hope this will come to a swift conclusion soon.

THE MJ-12 FIASCO

We can now report to you that, regrettably, the MJ-12 affair appears to be a grand deception and, consequently, a giant black eye on the face of UFOlogy. This conclusion did not come lightly and was the result of extensive inquiries by CAUS. We did have high hopes that perhaps our initial doubts, as reported in our last issue, would have been allayed by additional releases and that a proper explanation would be found for the problems. It was not to be. The deeper we looked, the worse it became.

In dealing with government documents it is vitally important that we know where information comes from. Otherwise, how can one possibly vouch for its authenticity. It is why CAUS regards cover letters from agency releases almost as important as the releases themselves.

In the case of MJ-12, Moore, Shandera and Friedman (herein referred to as MSF) have not provided this most basic element. The material, save for the 1954 Cutler memo, was sent to Elaine Shandera anonymously, on undeveloped 35mm film which was later made into hardcopy. Who is the source? MSF doesn't say. Where did it come from? They don't say that either. This by itself should raise suspicions, but there is much more.

Why did Shandera receive the film? He is not exactly a well-known person in UFOlogy. We have a situation where a "government source" finds it important to release very sensitive, still-classified documents on crashed discs, Roswell, and alien bodies, certainly the story of the century! To whom does he go? Walter Cronkite? Dan Rather? Carl Sagan? No, he goes to MSF who are clearly in the pro-Roswell camp already and need no convincing. And they do have much to gain from these "documents" being made public. It sounds pretty self-serving that someone should

anonymously drop proof of Roswell into the laps of only its chief supporters and no one else who may have more influence in uncovering the "truth."

Why, at the MUFON Symposium in June, did Moore declare that the burden of proof is on those suggesting a hoax (in front of a press conference) while saying in a Ft. Walton Beach, Florida newspaper that he has found no undeniable proof that the document is genuine? In a true scientific investigation the burden of proof is always on the proponent to prove his case, not on the opponent to disprove.

Why did MSF alter the appearance of the MJ-12 documents in their first release of the Focus newsletter without explanation? Whole sections were deleted, giving the appearance of government censorship, but actually was performed by MSF as they later admitted. It smacked of a sensationalist technique to arouse interest.

These are only minor quibbles over technique. The major problems follow.

The Documents

The core of MSF's case lies in the documents which have been "released." These are what must survive scrutiny if we are to accept MJ-12 as genuine. Since we have described them in our previous issue, we will report on our study of the papers without extensive re-ducting.

--The "Project Aquarius" report - A three-page extract of a larger document with title page and two pages of text. Source and date are unknown and no other information is traceable. We direct your attention to the title page (Exhibit 1).

You see in large print "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" and below in typescript is "Executive Briefing." Looks impressive doesn't it? It implies an important presidential paper with the bold phrase "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE." However, there is a problem as you will see next.

Exhibit 2 is a reproduction of a sample sheet of stationery with a clear, plastic cover that had accidentally been sent with an FOIA release to Robert Todd in 1979. The cover says "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" at the top and on the bottom it says "DO NOT WRITE ON THIS COVER AS IT IS INTENDED FOR RE-USE. RETURN IT WITH THE FILE COPIES TO ORIGINATING OFFICE." It is a plastic file cover used internally by various agencies in transmitting and filing paperwork. The bottom portion of the cover takes away much of the presidential flavor of the top phrase.

Now note Exhibit 1 again. While the plastic cover in Exhibit 2 shows the top and bottom printing at the very top and bottom, the Aquarius paper shows "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" dropped down about an inch or so, resulting in the bottom phrase vanishing. We believe that this was a deliberate deception to give the paper an appearance of being presidential by moving the top wording downward to cause the more mundane bottom phrasing to disappear off the photocopy.

The emblem on the cover of the Aquarius paper has more the appearance of being drawn on rather than printed on the page. A felt-tipped pen could have done just as well.

Of the various projects mentioned on page 2 of the Aquarius text, one, "Pounce", has appeared in UFO history. It was said to be a proposal for investigating UFOs by Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, according to the CIA's 1953 Robertson Panel. No explanation of "Pounce" appears in the Aquarius paper.

Additionally, "Project Sigma" in the Aquarius paper (said to be an Air Force effort to communicate with aliens) has been located in the massive, two-volume CODE NAME DIRECTORY by the Defense Market-