massive data on UFO mystery

Private groups battle to release UFO secrets

By Hal McKenzie
NEWS WORLD STAFF

It might not be as powerful as the American Rifle Association's gun lobby, or the lobbyists for oil companies and other big corporations, or most of the innumerable other special interests that haunt Capitol Hill and pester the government in support of various causes. But in terms of persistence and determination, the growing citizens' UFO lobby can match any of them.

Private citizens' attempts to pry open the lid of secrecy clamped by the government on UFO data has already won impressive victories and they are continuing the battle without letup.

An enormous amount of information about UFOs from thousands of government documents has been made available to the public through Freedom of Information Act suits brought by Bronx lawyer Peter Gersten, legal advisor for Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). Gersten, who works for the law firm of Rothblatt, Rothblatt & Seijas in the Bronx, is continuing the fight with a suit against the supersecret National Security Agency (NSA) which he says is withholding at least 135 documents entirely relating to UFOs.

The U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. recently decided against CAUS' suit on the grounds that release of the material "could seriously jeopardize the work of the agency and the security of the United States." Gersten is appealing the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals which has scheduled oral arguments on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 2:00 p.m.

Gersten urged in a letter publicizing the hearing that "since this case is extremely important we would like to publicize both the decsion and the court date as widely as possible." He also wrote that plans are being made to have the week of October 26 declared National Freedom of UFO Information Week with a press conference scheduled for Oct. 27, at which time the filing of new FOIA lawsuits will be announced.

Proof of UFO existence

Gersten claims in an article appearing in the May-June issue of Frontiers of Science that evidence released in 3,000 pages of previously classified documents released in FOIA suits in the past few years "indicates that Unidentified Flying Objects *do* exist, and that some of them are unconventional craft that (1) pose a threat to national security and (2) perform beyond the range of present-day technological development."

Another private citizen crusading for an end to UFO secrecy is Colman VonKeviczky (see story in Sept. 26 issue), founder of the Intercontinental UFO Research and Analytic Network (ICUFON). VonKeviczky has been sending memorandums crammed with UFO documents and evidence he has collected since 1956 urging the president to end the silence on UFOs apparently imposed on him and past presidents by the nation's powerful security agencies.

Gersten in the Frontiers of Science article says "DOD, USAF and CIA documents reveal that during October, November and December of 1975, reliable military personnel repeatedly sighted unconventional aerial objects in the vicinity of nuclear weapons storage areas, aircraft alert areas and nuclear-missile control facilities at Loring Air Force Base, Maine; Wurtsmith AFB Michigan; Malstrom AFB, Montana; Minot AFB, North Dakota; and Canadian Air Force Station, Ontario. Many of the sightings were confirmed by radar. At Loring AFB, the interloper 'demonstrated a clear intent on the weapons storage areas.'"

A Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report says that on Sept. 19, 1976, American-made Iranian jets encountered a number of UFOs that knocked out the instrument panel of one attacking jet. Gersten says "The DIA evaluation refers to this incident as 'an outstanding report' because the objects were seen by many witnesses of high credibility; the visual sightings had radar confirmation; similar electromagnetic effects were reported by three separate aircraft; and physiological effects were reported by some of the crew members."

A State Department message from our embassy in Kuwait reports that during November 1978 a series of UFO sightings caused the Kuwaiti government to appoint a special investigatory committee. In one report, a UFO appearing over some oil fields caused the automatic pumping equipment to shut down, but it started up again after the UFO vanished.

Gersten cites a NSA report entitled "UFO Hypothesis and Survival Question" released in October, 1979 as indicating the government is more concerned about the issue than it lets on in public. Comparing the UFO phenomena to a rattlesnake on a forest path, the NSA report says, "you would have to treat the alarm as if it were a real and immediate threat to your survival. Investigation would become an intensive emergency action to isolate the threat and to determine its precise nature."

Gersten scorns the USAF's defunct "Project Blue Book" and "Condon Committee" study in 1968 as whitewashes designed mainly to defuse public interest in the phenomena. Such government fail-

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Ambassador Griffith
Mission of Grenada to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue
Suite 502
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Griffith:

I wanted to convey to you my views on our extra-terrestrial visitors popularly referred to as "UFO's", and suggest what might be done to properly deal with them.

I believe that these extra-terrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets, which obviously are a little more technically advanced than we are here on earth. I feel that we need to have a top level, coordinated program to scientifically collect and analyze data from all over the earth concerning any type of encounter, and to determine how best to interface with these visitors in a friendly fashion. We may first have to show them that we have learned to resolve our problems by peaceful means, rather than warfare, before we are accepted as fully qualified universal team members. This acceptance would have tremendous possibilities of advancing our world in all areas. Certainly then it would seem that the UN has a vested interest in handling this subject properly and expeditiously.

I should point out that I am not an experienced UFO professional researcher. I have not yet had the privilege of flying a UFO, nor of meeting the crew of one. I do feel that I am somewhat qualified to discuss them since I have been into the fringes of the vast areas in which they travel. Also, I did have occasion in 1951 to have two days of observation of many flights of them, of different sizes, flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe. They were at a higher altitude than we could reach with our jet fighters of that time.

I would also like to point out that most astronauts are very reluctant to even discuss UFO's due to the great numbers of people who have indescriminately sold fake stories and forged documents abusing their names and reputations without hesitation. Those few astronauts who have continued to have a participation in the UFO field have had to do so very cautiously. There are several of us who do believe in UFO's and who have had occasion to see a UFO on the ground, or from an airplane. There was only one occasion from space which may have been a UFO.

If the UN agrees to pursue this project, and to lend their credibility to it, perhaps many more well qualified people will agree to step forth and provide help and information.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

L. Gordon Cooper
Col. USAF (Ret)
Astronaut

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