

"Bilderburgers"

In his paper, Cooper refers to a supposed secret society known as the Bilderburgers, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. He states that this organization was formed originally "to coordinate and control international efforts in order to hide the [alien] secret from the normal scrutiny of governments by the press." It then "evolved into a secret world government that now controls everything." Connecting this organization further to UFOs, Cooper claims that the "Bilderburgers, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission are THE SECRET GOVERNMENT [his emphasis] and rule this nation through MJ-12." (The MJ-12 group, also sometimes referred to as Majestic-12 or Majic-12, was allegedly established as a high-level study group by the U.S. Government because of its retrieval of alien bodies and a wrecked extraterrestrial vehicle near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947.)

There is an organization called by various names, such as the Bilderberg Meetings, the Bilderberg Group and the Groupe Bilderberg, that does indeed exist. (Note the difference in spelling here from Cooper's as quoted in the subtitle and first paragraph above.) The group was founded in 1954 at the Hotel de Bilderberg, from which it takes its name, in Oosterbeek (Netherlands) as a series of annual conferences. According to the 1990/91 edition of the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (14), this group provides "an informal atmosphere for off-the-record discussions on political, economic and military problems of mutual concern, between politicians, scholars, businessmen and labour leaders from the North Atlantic alliance." A recent work (15) describes the Bilderberg Group as a Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)-connected organization "which seems to play a role of promoting informal international communication, and which has a tradition of secretiveness." The meetings reportedly "provide opportunities for informal off-the-cuff and off-the-record exchanges about world affairs." (16) It is not a formal organization and has no membership, charter, or elected group of officers. Attendance at the meeting is by invitation of the Chairman.

The Chairman as of 1979, according to the *Yearbook* noted above, was Dr. Eric Roll. According to the *International Who's Who*, 1990-1991, 54th Edition, Dr. Roll is a banker, former British civil servant and the Baron of Ipsden in the County of Oxfordshire. His