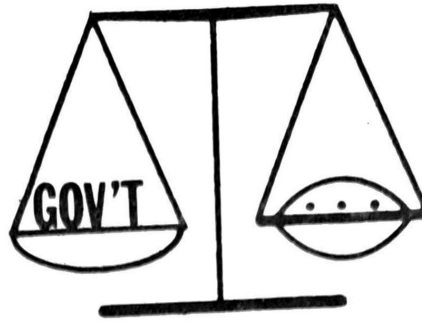


JUST CAUSE



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CIA FINDS 1,000 PAGES OF UFO DOCUMENTS: FOIA SUIT PAYS OFF

The Central Intelligence Agency disclosed on Aug. 10 that "approximately 1,000 pages of additional materials concerning UFOs have recently been surfaced and are currently under review." The discovery seems to have been prompted by the amended complaint in the Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) suit, which had been authorized by a federal judge on July 7, 1978.

The CIA disclosure was made in a letter to CAUS Director Todd Zechel (who also is GSW's research director), replying to Zechel's FOIA request of July 13, which among other things requested documents related to the reported recovery of an extraterrestrial spacecraft or landing craft by the U.S. Government. (See story on pp. 18-20 of this issue.)

(Continued next page)

CIA Information & Privacy Coordinator Gene F. Wilson asked Zechel to suspend his request until after he has reviewed the 1,000 pages of UFO documents the CIA apparently is going to release. CAUS thinks this to be a CIA stall tactic since the documents are thought to have little or no connection with Zechel's July 13 request.

Although GSW's initial complaint, filed on Sep. 21, 1977, mainly related to the Ralph Mayher incident and the Durant Report of the CIA Robertson Panel, an agreement was reached during the July 7, 1978, status conference to allow GSW to amend its complaint to include requests for virtually all CIA UFO-related records. (See JUST CAUSE, July 1978, pp. 1-2.) CAUS Counsel Peter A. Gersten, representing GSW, submitted an amended complaint in early August that included requests dating back to 1973--to all of which CIA had failed to respond satisfactorily.

On Aug. 17, Assistant U.S. Attorney (District Columbia) William H. Briggs telephoned Gersten and asked him to submit a stipulation that would go far beyond even the amended complaint in scope. CIA wanted Gersten to identify broadly all categories of UFO documents to enable CIA to search for all of its UFO records at once. Gersten, based on a draft by CAUS Director of Research Brad Sparks, prepared and submitted a stipulation requesting CIA to conduct "a reasonable search" of the following CIA components: CIA Strategic Warning Staff; CIA Operations Center; CIA Office of Legislative Counsel; National Foreign Intelligence Board (NFIB); National Foreign Assessment Center components as follows: Imagery Analysis Service; NFIB Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation Staff; Foreign Broadcast Information Service; Office of Current Intelligence; Central Reference Service; Directorate of Science & Technology (DDS&T) components as follows: Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center (Office of Weapons Intelligence); Office of Electronic Intelligence; Office of Research and Development;

Office of Development and Engineering; Office of Scientific Intelligence; National Photographic Interpretation Center; Office of Technical Service; Directorate of Administration (DDA) components as follows: Office of Security; Office of Joint Computer Support; Directorate of Operations (DDO) components as follows: Covert Action Staffs; Domestic Collection Division; Counterintelligence Staff; Counterintelligence and Foreign Intelligence Staffs of DDO (including area divisions).

Perhaps almost unbelievably, the CIA has agreed to abide by the stipulation and, evidently, has initiated a search of the specified components. U.S. District Court Judge John Pratt made the stipulation an official order of the court on Sep. 7, and he gave CIA 90 days from the date of its final approval in mid-September to complete the search (i.e., until mid-December 1978).

Meanwhile, discussions between Gersten and the assistant U.S. attorney Briggs, and between Todd Zechel and Charles E. Savage (Wilson's deputy in CIA), have established that the 1,000 pages of material are mostly Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) files from the 1950s. This material was first requested by Brad Sparks for APRO in early 1975. From Sparks' 1975 interviews with OSI officers in charge of the UFO files from 1949 to 1956, CAUS thinks it has a fair idea of what the files contain: Mostly Air Force and Navy reports of UFO sightings plus some records of unauthorized CIA domestic UFO investigations in 1951-1952.

CAUS requests that UFO researchers refrain from submitting FOIA requests until after the documents have been received and analyzed, in order to avoid slowing down the process of reviewing and releasing the documents CIA has located.

It also should be noted that the forthcoming documents may be fragmentary and lacking in historical context. Conclusions reached by people unfamiliar with

this context may lead to confusion or to the promulgation of erroneous assumptions. --WTZ, with BCS.

* * *

FBI INTERROGATES UFO RESEARCHER: GOVERNMENT MAY CONFISCATE DOCUMENTS -- Two FBI agents visited UFO researcher Robert Todd on the evening of July 28, 1978, CAUS learned in exclusive telephone interviews. Todd, age 24, was interrogated about his letters to the National Security Agency (NSA) for more than an hour at his parents' home in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. Todd specializes in sending FOIA requests to the U.S. Government about UFOs.

An Air Force major advised Todd by telephone late in the day, Friday, Aug. 4, to seal in an envelope all copies of a statement about a Cuban Air Force jet allegedly destroyed while trying to shoot down a UFO in 1967. (See JUST CAUSE, July 1978, pp. 11-12, for a full account of the incident.) Maj. Gordon B. Finley, Jr., told Todd "someone may be around" to retrieve the envelope, but he did not say when. Todd refused to comply with Finley's request.

"Assuming the security analyst's statement is true," Maj. Finley told Todd, "it does contain classified information." When Todd told Finley the FBI had said it was "SECRET or above," Finley remarked: "I don't know about the 'or above' part, but that it is SECRET--that sounds about right."

Al Hendry of CUFOS interviewed Maj. Finley by phone on Aug. 8, and Finley confirmed everything he had said to Todd on Aug. 4. However, Hendry could not pin Finley down as to what in the security specialist's statement was classified, i.e., the NSA information or the UFO incident, or both. Finley is Chief, Torts and Freedom of Information Branch, Air Force Judge Advocate General's Office.

The FBI men questioned Todd about the sources for his requests to NSA

concerning the Cuban jet mishap and the records of a former NSA employee now active in UFO research as Director of CAUS and research director of GSW, W. Todd Zechel. Robert Todd said he then did not know of a widely disseminated UPI dispatch of Jan. 12, describing the Cuban incident.

"I explained to them," recounted Todd, "a researcher had obtained this statement, the researcher had passed it on to the reporter ... (who) passed it on to me." Todd said he "finally broke down" and told the FBI the reporter was Robert V. Pratt of the National Enquirer. He refused to disclose the name of the "West Coast researcher" to the FBI. That researcher, physicist Stanton T. Friedman of Hayward, Cal., was quoted about the Cuban incident in the UPI story.

FBI spokesmen John Perks and Tom Coll (in Washington, D.C.) and Paul B. Lorenzetti (in Philadelphia) refused "at this time" to confirm or deny the interview or the FBI interest in Todd. However, Special Agent Roger Midkiff of Philadelphia (whom Todd later learned was one of the FBI agents who interviewed him) obliquely confirmed the interview by suggesting to CAUS research director Brad Sparks that he might be interviewed by the FBI.

(One of the FBI agents asked Todd, "Do you know a Todd Zechel?" Todd had asked NSA, by letter of July 10, if W. Todd Zechel was ever employed by NSA, as was claimed in an interview published by the International UFO Reporter in May 1978, pp. 7-9, a copy of which Todd enclosed. The FBI men confirmed that they had received this letter from NSA with the IUR article, Todd said. And Zechel mentioned Sparks by name in the IUR article in such a way as to suggest association. Thus Midkiff's remark to Sparks, "if there is something that might concern you directly, then, I'm sure that it would be brought to your attention at the appropriate time.")

Charles Sullivan of the NSA Policy Coordination Staff, at Ft. Meade, Md.,

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refused to comment on NSA's reported role in the UFO incident or in the FBI investigation of Todd.

Todd said the FBI men read his rights to him. Then they "tried to intimidate me," said Todd, "by citing the espionage laws and advising me of the penalties involved, namely, life in prison, or death." He added, "I was shook."

Todd sent a flurry of FOIA requests about the Cuban incident to the Air Force, CIA, NSA, and the Navy, from February to July 1978, all without success. However, on Mar. 10, CIA information and privacy coordinator Gene F. Wilson suggested Todd "check with the Cuban Government for records on this incident."

Todd notified both NSA and the Air Force, on July 14, that since neither agency wished to cooperate, he would contact the Cuban Government for further information. Since he thought both agencies hinted he might have classified data, Todd asked that they "provide advice as to what information in the attached statement should not be transmitted to the Cuban Government." He gave them a 20-day deadline for replies.

"And in response to that," observed Todd, "two FBI agents knocked on my door."

CAUS heard a report in late August that Todd, who figures he has submitted about 1,000 FOIA requests about UFOs since 1974 mostly at his own expense, will be quitting the UFO field when his pending FOIA requests are completed. CAUS wishes to praise Todd for his enormous accomplishments in the FOIA/UFO field, more of which we hope will come to light in the next several months. Meanwhile, CAUS recommends letters of encouragement be sent to Robert Todd at 2528 Belmont Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003. --BCS.

* * *

FBI DESTROYS UFO DOCUMENTS

FBI field offices nationwide destroyed their UFO files earlier this year, according to reliable information obtained by CAUS.

An agent at one FBI office told CAUS' confidential informant he was familiar with Dr. Bruce Maccabee's request for UFO files because of communications that agent had had with FBI Headquarters. The agent reportedly said Maccabee had not had enough money to buy copies of all of the FBI's UFO documents. Maccabee would have had to pay \$1,000 (i.e., 10,000 pages at 10¢ per page) to get all of that one field office's UFO files, the agent boasted. But it was too late, anyway, since the files had been destroyed on Apr. 1-2, 1978, as part of a general file destruction program at all FBI field offices.

CAUS has learned that the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) authorized the FBI field office file destruction program on Mar. 26, 1976. The NARS Office of Federal Records Centers/Records Disposition Division permitted the destruction of field office closed-files containing investigative reports, inter- and intra-office communications and related evidence. FBI Headquarters issued orders to all field offices, in October 1977, to begin the obliteration of all such records. UFO files are just one of the categories slated for the incinerators and/or the shredders. Certain old organized crime files are another category, to the chagrin of many FBI agents.

FBI is awaiting permission from NARS to perform an even broader housecleaning of the Headquarters' files. This FBI request of May 4, 1977, was submitted by NARS to Congress, where Sen. James Abourezk's Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (Judiciary Committee) has reportedly taken an interest. The destruction request must be cleared with Congress because Congress might have an investigative interest in the files, as a result of inquiries about Watergate, CIA, etc.

FBI Headquarters spokesman Tom Coll told CAUS on July 31, 1978, that the FBI had not yet received authorization from NARS to begin the HQ-file destruction.

CAUS urges its members to protest the FBI UFO-file destruction to Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the U.S., NARS, Washington, D.C. 20048, and to demand that UFO records be exempted from destruction in the future. CAUS understands that if there is sufficient public or news interest certain records will be preserved.

(References: The Nation 4 Feb 78 pp. 108-111, 25 Mar 78 pp. 325-326, 3 Jun 78 pp. 653-655; Los Angeles Times 13 Mar 78 part II p. 8.)

* * *

BOLIVIAN DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY STATE DEPARTMENT: MYSTERY CONTINUES -- In earlier issues (May pp. 10-12 and June pp. 10-12), JUST CAUSE reported an incident that was said to have occurred in Bolivia on or about May 6, 1978. UPI disseminated a story about a week later reporting that a UFO crashed near the Bolivian mountain village of Padcaya (21°52'S. 64°46'W); that the U.S. space agency, NASA, was investigating the crash and had sent personnel to Bolivia.

CAUS queried NASA repeatedly to determine if the UPI report was factual. NASA officials denied adamantly any involvement other than receiving messages from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. NASA said the messages contained mostly news reports from Bolivian newspapers and radio stations.

NASA referred CAUS to Col. Robert P. Eddington in the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) Advanced & Applied Technology Affairs (APT) Office of Technology Policy and Space Affairs (SA), or OES/APT/SA for short. Eddington said his office "kept track of launches," and he indicated fallen space objects were within his purview. He told CAUS his office had not determined whether the news stories were based on a real event or not. But Eddington said he had received unsubstantiated information that

an egg-shaped, four-meter diameter object had been recovered. He speculated that, if the report was accurate, the object might be a fallen propellant tank from a rocket.

CAUS sent an FOIA request to the State Department, on June 21, 1978, asking for all documents related to the Bolivian incident. Within a week, Mary Spruell of State's FOI Staff replied that unless the information sought was of interest to a broad segment of the public, rather than to a limited or specialized group, her office would charge search fees of \$11 per hour. Spruell's statement apparently was a State Department interpretation of subsection (4)(A) of the amended FOIA, which reads: "Documents shall be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge where the agency determines that waiver or reduction of the fees is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public."

Spruell argued that CAUS's request "does not appear to fall into this category." CAUS vigorously protested that recent public opinion polls and the popular successes of "Close Encounters" and "Project UFO" clearly showed the information sought is of interest to a broad segment of the public.

Evidently, the rather pointed letter by CAUS Director Todd Zechel, in response to Spruell's refusal to waive search and copying fees, convinced State that UFO material appealed to a "broad segment of the public." On Sep. 1, 1978, Spruell wrote that: "A search of our files has revealed 6 documents relevant to your request. The enclosed 5 documents have been reviewed by the appropriate officials of the Department of State and there is no objection to their release. One document is still under review and will be the subject of further correspondence." No mention was made of search or reproduction fees; State obviously decided to waive them after all.

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Of the five documents released, three originally were UNCLASSIFIED, one was classified CONFIDENTIAL, and the other was SECRET. The earliest of the messages was sent on May 15 at 1909Z (3:09 p.m. EDT) from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz to the Secretary of State, with the action copy to State's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and information copies to CIA, NSA, NASA, and other units inside and outside State. It carried an IMMEDIATE precedence, a designator reserved for situations "gravely" affecting the national security, intelligence "essential" or "vital" to the national security, etc., and it read as follows:

"Subject: Report of Fallen Space Object. 1. The Bolivian newspapers carried this morning an article concerning an unidentified object that apparently recently fell from the sky. The papers quoted a 'Latin' correspondent's story from the Argentine city of Salta. The object was discovered near the Bolivian city of Bermejo (2245S-6420W) and was described as egg-shaped, metal and about four meters in diameter. 2. The Bolivian Air Force plans to investigate to determine what the object might be and from where it came. 3. Request the Department check with appropriate agencies to see if they can shed some light on what this object might be. The general region has had more than its share of reports of UFOs this past week. Request a reply ASAP. Boeker." (Note: Paul H. Boeker is U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia.)

State replied to Boeker on May 18, in an IMMEDIATE message, classified SECRET, and drafted by Col. Eddington of OES/APT/SA:

"Subject: Report of Fallen Space Object. Ref: La Paz 3804 (Note: Quoted above). 1. Preliminary information provided in referenced cable and FBIS (Note: Foreign Broadcast Information Service, a CIA unit that monitors foreign newspapers, publications, radio and TV broadcasts) cables Panama 142357Z (Note: May 14 at 2357Z) and Paraguay 161913Z (Note: May 16 at 1913Z) has been checked with

appropriate government agencies. No direct correlation with known space objects that may have reentered the earth's atmosphere near May 6 can be made. However, we are continuing to examine any possibilities. 2. Your attention is invited to State Airgram A-6343, July 26, 1973 which provides background information and guidance for dealing with space objects that have been found. In particular any information pertaining to the pre-impact observations, direction of trajectory, number of objects observed, time of impact and a detailed description including any markings would be helpful. Vance." (State 126725.)

At about this time, Project MOONDUST got involved. MOONDUST is a foreign-space-debris analysis program of the Air Force Systems Command's Foreign Technology Division (FTD/SDM) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. FTD originated a CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN (means "No dissemination to Foreign Nationals," in this case Bolivians, it would seem) cable on May 19 that evidently referred to Latin American press reports and raised the question of MOONDUST involvement. (The FTD cable was not released to CAUS. We suspect it is the 6th document under State's FOIA review and we have sent a special request for it to FTD.)

On May 24, the U.S. Defense Attache Office (USDAO) in La Paz transmitted a CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN cable to FTD/SDM and to HQ USAF WASHDC/INISA (Air Force Intelligence Science & Technology Branch, or AFINISA for short), with info copies to DIA/DC-4B/DT-3B (Defense Intelligence Agency DC-4B is Guidance & Requirements Branch, Human Resources Division, Directorate of Collection Operations; DIADT-3B is Technical Data & Foreign Materiel Branch, Directorate of Scientific & Technical Intelligence), NORAD COC/DOFS (North American Air Defense Command Combat Operations Center/Aerospace Defense Command Space Operations Division), and the State Department. It read as follows:

"Subject: Moon Dust (U) (Note: "U" means subject title is unclassified).

Ref FTD CONF NOFORN 191830Z May 78, subj, as above & SECRET State 126725 (Note: Quoted earlier). 1. (C/NOFORN) (Note: This begins CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN part of cable) This office has tried to verify the stories put forth in references to the FTD msg and those which appeared in the local press. The Chief of Staff of the Bolivian Air Force told DATT/AIRA (Note: U.S. Defense Attache's Air Attache) this date that planes from the BAF (Note: Bolivian Air Force) have flown over the area where the object was supposed to have landed and in their search they drew a blank. Additionally, DATT/AIRA talked this date with the Commander of the Bolivian Army and he informed the DATT that the Army's search party directed to go into the area to find the object has found nothing. The Army has concluded that there may or not (sic) be an object, but to date nothing has been found. 2. (U) (Note: Remainder of message UNCLASSIFIED) Will keep you informed if anything factual turns up. GDS 31 Dec 84." (Note: Under the General Declassification Schedule, this cable ordinarily would not have been declassified until Dec. 31, 1984.)

From what CAUS can determine, the May 24 USDAO message was based on an expedition of Bolivian Army soldiers and scientists that returned from the suspected impact area on May 21. CAUS has reliable information from an American source that this expedition did not get to Cerro Bravo (Bravo Mountain), the suspected crash site, because the slopes were too steep to negotiate.

After the first expedition returned, a young Bolivian astronomer, who had been part of that team, flew over Cerro Bravo in a BAF plane with a BAF pilot, making five or six passes to observe a rockslide he had noticed earlier from the ground. He became convinced something had struck the side of the mountain, causing the slide.

A second expedition consisting of three BAF officers and a guide set out on horseback on May 23, reaching the rockslide on foot on May 25. The officers told

the American source they believe something crashed into the mountain but they could not find any debris. The officers reached this conclusion because: the rockslide appeared to be recent; it had created huge monolith-like boulders three meters (10 ft) tall and two meters (6 ft) in diameter; they found a 100-meter trench running parallel to the slide three to four meters (10-13 ft) wide at the top; some of the large rocks appeared to have been burned, having a whitish appearance as though seared by extremely high heat; and the grass around the sides and the top of the slide area was brown and withered for about 100 meters, whereas grass further away was green.

At present, it is not known if the information gathered by the second expedition--which returned on May 27--ever reached the U.S. Government. (The latest document released was dated May 26 and it merely promised to pouch on May 29 a copy of State Airgram A-6343 to Bolivia as requested on May 19.) Strangely, none of the State Department documents even alludes to the type of detailed and significant information given to CAUS by a reliable American source. Whether this denotes a coverup or a simple foulup is yet to be seen.

CAUS research director Brad Sparks has devised a possible explanation for the Bolivian incident: For the last eight years, the Soviets have occasion have placed heavy (20-ton) maneuverable payloads into high-energy orbits. These satellites are each equipped with a rocket stage (weight included in the 20 tons) to enable them to maneuver in space. (One theory has it that these are orbital tests of the Soviet version of our Lunar Module.) The report in the Salta, Argentina, newspaper (mentioned in Ambassador Boeker's May 15 cable) of an "egg-shaped" metal object about 4 meters in diameter is consistent with the 4-meter-diameter upper stages of the so-called "D" class Soviet satellite launchers that lift these maneuverable payloads into high orbits. Then there are the low-altitude Soviet ocean surveillance satellites (such as the one that reentered over Canada recent-

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ly), launched by "F" class rockets, and fitted with 2-meter-diameter station-keeping rocket stages to keep the payloads from reentering too soon.

Suppose one of these satellites failed and reentered the earth's atmosphere before consuming much of its propellant. The fuel and oxidizer tanks might have survived reentry because of their strong high-pressure design--and the Soviets are known to use more and denser metal (usually steel) for their sturdy rockets than seems necessary when compared to U.S. rockets.

During the fiery descent, the tanks might have leaked (even caught fire), thus accounting for some reports of course-changes and aerial blasts (JUST CAUSE, June 1978, p. 10). On impact with the mountain slope, the tanks still may have been leaking fiery propellant, thus accounting for the scorched rocks. Such fires might have been extinguished by a final rupture or explosion of the tank(s) at the end of the 100-meter slide, thus spraying propellant over a wide area. Ice-cold (cryogenic) fuel or oxidizer sprayed over the ground might explain the unburned dead grass.

"Catastrophic decays," as the deep-space reentries are called by NORAD, and even routine decays are observed by certain highly classified sensor systems, and the decay locations anywhere in the world can be fixed to within a precision of tens of meters. This raises the possibility that such a decay of a Soviet space vehicle occurred on May 6, 1978, that the U.S. recovered the remains (say, by May 11 or 12), and that the U.S. let everyone think it was surprised about the event when news leaked to the local press by May 14. This would obviate the need for the U.S. to return this useful intelligence materiel to the Soviet Union as required by treaty--"officially" the U.S. would know nothing about the material. Stranger things have happened in the realm of the U.S. Intelligence Community, e.g. the Glomar Explorer and the conflicting stories about how much of the Soviet submarine was retrieved, or even who ran the operation (CIA, NSA, or NSC).

There are, of course, problems with this theory and discrepancies. If the rocket came down tumbling, its burning or leaking propellant could not point in any preferred direction so as to cause a course-change--but that observer-report might be erroneous. Soviet propellant tanks are not likely to be "egg-shaped," or even round, since they can use enough excess steel to simply section off the cylindrical rocket into two tanks. Even if the Soviets made bathysphere-like tanks for the "D" class maneuverable stage, the tanks would be shaped more like squat pumpkins, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters high by 4 meters diameter, than like eggs. And the "F" class maneuverable stage tanks would be shaped similarly, but only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ meters high by 2 meters diameter. But the "egg-shaped" 4-meter-diameter report might, after all, be erroneous, too.

Further, this theory might not account for the 100-meter-long trench dug in the mountain slope, depending on how deep it was. The width (3-4 meters) is about right. Another possible problem is the Col. Eddington cable of May 18--but clever weasel-wording and hedging might eliminate it: Eddington said there was no "direct" correlation with "known" space objects that might have reentered at about the right time--leaving open the possibility of indirect correlations of known objects or of direct correlations of temporarily unknown earth-satellites. Then the hedge: "However, we are continuing to examine any possibilities." Still, public records of orbiting objects have enough continuity and completeness to make it difficult for the U.S. to conceal a reentry of a large object for very long, what with the British, Swedes, Germans, Soviets, and others, watching the skies to double-check them.

And so the Bolivian mystery lingers. --WTZ, with BCS.

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NICAP TARGET FOR KGB OPERATIONS -- CAUS has developed reliable information that a KGB officer or agent thought to be Gennadiy I. Fedosov, First Secretary for Public Cultural Exchanges, Soviet Embassy offices, Washington, D.C., attempted to recruit NICAP President John L. "Jack" Acuff in May 1977. The purpose of the operation is not clear at present: One theory is that the Soviets noticed NICAP had developed confidential sources who were providing the group with classified UFO reports, such as the NORAD message about the 1975 flap and the Iranian, Moroccan, and Tunisian UFO reports of 1976--parts of which were published in the NICAP newsletter, UFO Investigator. In that case, the Soviets either were interested in the sources of the classified data or in the UFO data, or both.

Another theory contends NICAP was targeted because of certain covert CIA employees who hold or held important positions in the organization. Still another theory explains the attempted recruitment as a continuation of the KGB operations aimed at the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers (SPSE) from 1967 to 1970, when Jack Acuff was its Executive Director.

The KGB operations against SPSE began rather innocuously: The Soviets ordered books about--presumably--photometry and photogrammetry from SPSE, sending checks for them through the mail. The FBI intercepted the checks and/or monitored the bank accounts, then phoned Acuff to inquire as to their purpose. From then on, Acuff made a point of notifying one particular FBI agent whenever Soviet checks came in. Eventually, Acuff's relationship with the Bureau reached the point where he would meet Soviet personnel at the secret request and guidance of the FBI. The Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of the Washington FBI office told Acuff he thought the KGB was trying to "get through to some of the people who are doing classified work" in the SPSE.

In May 1970, Acuff became President of NICAP, and left SPSE. This made no

difference to the FBI, but it did to Acuff: The FBI asked him to initiate new contacts with the Soviets, but Acuff declined. Apparently, there was no further communication with the Soviets until May 1977, when Fedosov phoned Acuff to try to arrange a meeting. Fedosov said he was interested in UFOs personally and he wanted to discuss the subject with Acuff.

The NICAP head cleared the meeting with the FBI and met Fedosov for lunch in a downtown Washington restaraunt. The Soviet never once mentioned UFOs, despite his earlier professed interest. Instead, Fedosov made a rather intriguing offer to Acuff, one that could be interpreted as part of a cultural exchange, or as part of something more ominous: "You will have a lot more money soon. You'll have a lot more space. You're going to have to learn a foreign language because you'll be traveling abroad."

Afterward, Acuff dutifully reported the Soviet offer to the FBI. The agent told Acuff, "We think they will offer you money; what we want to know is what the strings are." Evidently, Acuff never did learn what were the "strings," since Fedosov never contacted Acuff again, as far as CAUS can determine. The Soviets did attempt to recontact Acuff in late July or August 1978, when another KGB officer or agent came to NICAP headquarters in Kensington, Md., but Acuff was out of the office at the time.

Though the reasons for the KGB interest in NICAP are not yet clear, it is known that the founder and original Chief of the CIA's Psychological and Political Warfare Staff, Colonel Joseph Bryan, 3rd, (USAF-Ret.), is a prominent member of the NICAP Board of Governors. (JUST CAUSE, April 1978, pp. 8-9.) Some observers suspect the CIA's interest in NICAP stemmed from the Agency's concern about the dangers of Soviet psychological exploitation of NICAP's vociferous charges of government coverup, which Donald Keyhoe and others hurled repeatedly throughout

the late 1950s and early/mid 1960s. Whether or not Bryan's involvement with NICAP was related to this CIA concern, and whether or not he took part in some sort of plot to neutralize the organization, is not yet known. But more information is coming to light all the time, with 1978 being the most fruitful year of all since Brad Sparks' discovery of the Bryan-CIA connection in December 1974. More may be revealed when documents are released by the CIA. --WTZ.

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SUBPENAS FOR CRASHED SAUCER WITNESSES: CAUS PLANS FOIA SUIT AGAINST AIR FORCE ET AL.

Much has been said about so-called crashed saucers in recent months (and during the past 29 years), but not much constructive action has been taken, other than making charges and staging news conferences. Todd Zechel, Director of CAUS, has investigated a dozen or so such cases and has found only one that seems to have substance.

In that case, Zechel obtained the first lead while working in a National Security Agency communications center in 1964. He has since tracked down five people who have knowledge of the incident: A former NSA colleague, two of his colleague's uncles (one a retired Air Force Colonel and the other an NCO still with NSA), a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and a now-deceased career Navy officer.

All of the people involved are reluctant witnesses, as one might expect. But in piecing together what they have told Zechel and their friends and relatives, it has become evident that some sort of extraordinary vehicle crashed near the Texas-Mexico border in the late 1940s and it was recovered by U.S. armed forces.

More recently, Zechel tried to bring this evidence to the attention of the White House and NASA. The President's national security advisor, through another White House official, informed Zechel that the Air Force denied any such incident

took place. Although NASA repeatedly asserted its willingness to investigate UFO physical evidence, it offered no encouragement to Zechel that it would either meet with the officers or investigate their claims. NASA evinced no interest in actively seeking out physical evidence of extraterrestrial visitation (seemingly its primary mission if one believes its own statements), but said it would consider such evidence if delivered to its laboratories. (Should there be more than a few tons, transporting this to NASA could become a problem.)

Zechel submitted detailed FOIA requests to the CIA and Air Force on July 13 and 14, 1978, asking for records of the incident. CIA did not deny it has such information categorically, but it suggested Zechel contact the Air Force as this type of incident would come under its purview. Col. Jack Morris, executive for Air Force Intelligence (AFIN) and director of AFIN Command Management Support, replied on Aug. 17. Morris denied AFIN had any records related to such an incident.

While waiting for other Air Force units to respond to his elaborate July 14 request, Zechel filed an FOIA appeal with AFIN on Sep. 7, threatening to file an FOIA lawsuit if the Air Force does not produce the records demanded. The Air Force now has 20 working days to respond to the appeal, after which Zechel is free to file suit--unless the Air Forces supplies the documents.

CAUS would like to raise a retainer fee of \$5,000 to pursue the FOIA action against the Air Force. Legal fees and expenses for the GSW suit have thus far come to nearly \$8,000, but Peter Gersten has been forced to do most of the work on his own time, rather than during company hours, because GSW lacks funds to pay the entire amount. A retainer of \$5,000 would accelerate the litigation by allowing Gersten to devote most of his company time to the FOIA suits.

It is essential to note that both GSW and CAUS expect to be reimbursed by

the U.S. Government for their legal costs, in accordance with subsection (4)(E) of the FOIA: "The court may assess against the United States reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this section in which the complainant has substantially prevailed." GSW, soon to win the release of a large number of UFO-related documents, will submit that it has prevailed substantially and ask for an assessment.

In an action unprecedented in the history of the UFO controversy, CAUS intends to subpoena all of the military officers who know of the recovery of an extraterrestrial vehicle and a number of government officials thought to have knowledge of the incident. By compelling officials to testify, CAUS hopes to either prove or disprove the occurrence of such an event, to lay the crashed saucer rumors to rest in one way or another.

The CAUS suit depends on the support of the UFOlogical community and the general public. Many people have been looking forward to an opportunity such as this to discover "the truth" for a very long time. We hope the UFOlogical community will realize this is a unique chance to see if physical evidence exists. Judging from the reaction to the recent MUFON Symposium, many thousands of people believe in such a possibility. If these UFOlogists and UFO buffs would each contribute a small donation, we could collect the needed sum in short order.

The goal is \$5,000 by the end of October. It is a "put your money where your mouth is" challenge. If you decide to meet the challenge, please make checks payable to Peter Gersten/CAUS, 191 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY 10451. Please specify the money is for the FOIA retainer. If the suit is not filed for any reason within the next six months, your donation will be returned to you, unless you indicate otherwise. --WTZ.

* * *

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JUST CAUSE

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"The Evidence Will Speak for Itself"

GSW & CIA at Odds Over Release of UFO Papers

LARRY W. BRYANT

In what's shaping up as a career Freedom of Information case for CAUS Legal Advisor Peter A. Gersten, the latest developments in Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., Vs. U. S. Central Intelligence Agency offer little hope to those of us who welcome a speedy, comprehensive ruling in favor of GSW. Without that wrap-up, we here at CAUS and, indeed, throughout the UFOlogical community will remain stymied in our efforts to enlist the aid of the FOI Act toward ferreting out additional UFO data that the CIA has collected/evaluated since the filing of GSW Vs. CIA in 1978.

For some reason -- certainly not one in the interests of freedom of information -- the Agency has declared itself unwilling to entertain post-suit FOIA UFO-related requests until it concludes its participation in the suit. This policy means, in effect, that "If you want any UFO data beyond what we've already released to GSW, you'll have to wait until we can get GSW off our back."

Already, for example, it's been nearly a year since I sent the following FOI request to the Agency:

"... send me a copy of all your records/documents/electronic recordings pertaining to the CIA's coordination/cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (particularly the RCMP's intelligence-investigatory arm, the Security Service) in the collection/dissemination/evaluation/cataloging of intelligence data on the scientific, military, sociological, psychological, and political implications of reported sightings of, and encounters with, unidentified flying objects (flying saucers/flying discs/unconventional aircraft)."

So far, all I've received in response to the request is this put-off from one George W. Owens, of the Agency's Information and Privacy Office:

"On the basis of the amended FOIA request

which is the subject of litigation with the Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., any documents responsive to your request regarding the Canadian event would be encompassed by the search currently being conducted, if such documents exist. Under the circumstances, to continue the formality of recording your appeal when the substance of your request is already the subject of litigation would be a meaningless activity. In view of this, I am not planning to take any further action on your separate request."

Adding still another bureaucratic weapon to its arsenal of delay tactics, circumlocution of the issues, and general arrogance toward legitimate requests for its precious, "passively" received/stored Pandora's box of UFO goodies, the Agency has caught itself in a procedural web involving my FOI request of July 26, 1978, for its entire "George Adamski UFO Contactee dossier."

Here comes into play the Agency's old ploy of trying to discourage requestors by charging them exorbitant records-search fees -- in this case, over \$130 for what should be a simple matter of looking under index-file "A" (for Adamski, George) and "F" (for flying saucers) (or vice versa); and if they didn't want to cover old ground, they also could check through the package they'd already searched out/served up to GSW. But according to CIA spokesman Owens, the Adamski dossier wasn't included in the GSW complaint and therefore can't be made available as part of a reproduction of that package. (Apparently, he was unaware -- or was told to ignore -- that Adamski's name is included in the voluminous interrogatory submitted by GSW in the course of outlining its desires for all UFO-related information in the possession of the Agency.)

Based on the Agency's carefully orchestrated, censored release of its UFO papers under order of the U. S. District Court (Washington, D.C.); based on its continuing contradictory statements (if not outright misrepresentations of its agreement to comply with the Court's direction); and based on the predisposition that it intends merely to perpetuate a 30-year history of concealing its true role and findings in Federally controlled UFO research, Mr. Gersten has filed a "Notice of Motion for an Order Adjudging Defendant /CIA/ and Its Employee in Civil Contempt." *

True to form, instead of realizing GSW means business in this contest, the Agency, through the office of the U. S. Attorney, has chosen to rely upon the old Watergate strategy: stonewalling. Unfortunately for GSW, the judge in the case apparently thinks this is just another ho-hum civil action, of more nuisance than of any perceptible benefit to the public's right to know. Otherwise, why did he so glibly dismiss Gersten's multipage, documented motion in favor of the Agency's counter-motion that Gersten be restricted to filing a statement "reflecting what, if any, withheld documents are still being sought"?

For the answer to that question, we'll probably have to await the defendant's (and the judge's) response to the following "Reply to U. S. Attorney's Opposition to File out of Time," submitted by Gersten on June 18, 1979:

"The defendant has pursued, during the last 30 years, a policy of deception and dishonesty with respect to UFO information. This deception continues throughout this litigation. The dishonesty pervades the Stipulation and Order filed September 15, 1978.

"The Stipulation and Order filed September 15, 1978, is a sham: the perpetration of a fraud upon the plaintiff and the court. Plaintiff cannot comply with a fraud. Plaintiff is required to bring this fraud to the Court's attention.

"Defendant's affidavits did not detail 'all materials withheld' (see plaintiff's 'motion adjudging defendant and its employee in civil contempt of this court' - at paragraph 18). Plaintiff cannot possibly file a statement 'reflecting what, if any, withheld documents are still being sought' when the defendant has not complied with the Stipulation and Order.

"Plaintiff contends that it has no alternative but to file the aforementioned motion and bring to the Court's notice defendant's unlawful conduct. This entire lawsuit was totally unnecessary. The documents defendant denied possessing prior to the lawsuit were released to plaintiff on December 14, 1978. The evidence is clear and convincing that the defendant unlawfully withheld UFO information from the plaintiff.

"It is the defendant which willfully and flagrantly 'violates both the letter and spirit' of the Stipulation and Order. Defendant misrepresents plaintiff's position to the Court when Mr. Briggs in his 'opposition to motion for leave to file out of time' states: 'plaintiff intends to attack the adequacy of the CIA search conducted in this case.' It is not the adequacy of the search plaintiff intends to attack, but --

- (1) that no de novo search was conducted;
- (2) the defendant never intended to conduct a de novo search;
- (3) the defendant concealed this intention

from the plaintiff and the Court;

(4) the defendant's Information and Privacy Coordinator, George Owens, lied in his affidavit to conceal defendant's intention;

(5) defendant still has a considerable amount of UFO documents they haven't acknowledged withholding.

"It is obvious that plaintiff cannot participate in a fraud. Plaintiff can prove its contentions. Defendant's conduct is violative of the law and must be exposed and condemned. The defendant is not above the law. Unfortunately, the defendant has a tendency of forgetting this.

"Accordingly, plaintiff suggests that the Court consider its motion on the merits."

* Readers desiring a copy of the motion (with counter-motion, the judge's response, and Mr. Gersten's reply) may order it from CAUS for \$4.50 postpaid (\$5.00 for foreign orders).

Stonewalling at USAF's OSI

Here we go again. This time, acting on a lead provided by W. Todd Zechel's acquisition of information pointing to the existence of a now-defunct U. S. Army "Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit," CAUS has dispatched a Freedom of Information request to the Commander, USAF Office of Special Investigations, Washington, D. C. -- to wit --

"... furnish /us/ a copy of all documents and other records pertaining to the files, functions, and operations of the Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit, a defunct U. S. Army counterintelligence activity that transferred its technical reports, standing operating procedures, and other permanently filed data to your command back in 1962."

Predictably, on June 6, 1979, the OSI processor of the request informed CAUS that "A review of the Defense Central Index of Investigations and inquiries to the appropriate offices of this headquarters have failed to disclose any information regarding the Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit. If AFOSI had performed the function described in your letter, any existing records may have been incorporated in the Project Bluebook /sic/ files which have been transferred to the National Archives."

Considering this "kiss-off" reply to be an apparent denial of the request, CAUS filed a formal appeal under terms of the Act. Predictably, the OSI spokesman, Rudolph M. Schellhammer (Director of Plans, Programs, and Resources),

replied by denying that his failure to fulfill the request was meant as a denial of it. Again, he referred us to the National Archives' Project Blue Book files. (Of course, if those files do contain any documents pertaining to the alleged Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit, that fact would have been discovered -- and publicised -- long ago through the research efforts of dozens of Blue Book archeologists.)

Predictably, on July 24th, CAUS dispatched this rejoinder:

"Since you have failed to document for us the actual disposition of the documents/records in question, we have no choice but to assume these documents/records are being purposely suppressed from public view. And since you have invoked no alleged protection of any Freedom of Information

Act exemption for this suppression, we are prepared to bring the matter before the appropriate U. S. District Court in our forthcoming litigation to compel Air Force compliance with both the letter and spirit of the Act as regards all officially created/maintained records on the subject of 'Interplanetary Phenomenon.'"

Clearly on the defensive, Schellhammer's office fired back this beefed-up iteration:

"... [AFOSI] is not maintaining any information responsive to your request. Attached

[see figure] you will find a copy of the print-out from the Defense Central Index of Investigations which identifies those file numbers assigned to inquiries made by AFOSI in response to alleged UFO sightings. Please note that in each instance the file is clearly marked as having been destroyed.

"We have directed you to the agency that can most likely provide you with the information you are seeking. Accordingly, we can be of no further assistance to you regarding your request and consider the matter closed."

At this writing, the ball is back in OSI's court, where they have these last words of CAUS to ponder:

"We're unable to 'consider the matter closed' . . . inasmuch as you still have failed to account for OSI's disposition of the records in question. If those records were in fact transferred to another government agency or were destroyed by OSI, we need to have from you a formal, complete documentation of such transfer/destruction; otherwise, we have no choice but to add this matter to our docket of Freedom of Information Act appeals litigation."

Note: any CAUS member having details on the Unit is encouraged to relay them to us (anonymously or otherwise).

01 INTERPLANETARY PHENOMENON					GP=	
*** ?NO RECORD FOUND						
01 UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT					GP=	
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=00	NO=00HQD24-185/303	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/4/14	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=53	NO=53HQD24-185/5/27	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-185/14/3	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-185/18	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-185/3/28	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=55	NO=55HQD24-185/7/8	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=56	NO=56HQD24-185	CTX=SUBJECT	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=63	NO=63HQD24-185/4/37	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=64	NO=64HQD24-2854/303	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
02 UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS					GP=	
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=00	NO=00HQD24-185/8/18	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/1/35	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/2/10	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/340	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/382	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/4/12	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=52	NO=52HQD24-185/4/18	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=53	NO=53HQD24-185/2	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=53	NO=53HQD24-185/3/29	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
ADD'L DATADOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-0/1026	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
FWRD/PF-1					RNR/PF-4	
7SEL-NEXT 7UPDATE					EXT/PF-5	
01 UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS					GP=	
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-185/2/10	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=54	NO=54HQD24-185/8/5	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=58	NO=58HQD24-185/4/29	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED
02 UNIDENTIFIABLE FLYING OBJECT					GP=	
*** ?DOSSIER	LOC=FOSI	YR=00	NO=00HQD24-0/1598	CTX=	RET=UNK	DESTROYED

Hq Potpourri

JUST CAUSE BACK ON SCHEDULE ?

On the whole, CAUS members have shown remarkable understanding of our lack of a regular publishing schedule for Just Cause. Because former editor W. Todd Zechel has been preoccupied with the so-called "crashed saucer" investigation and related endeavors, and because of the earlier commitment of assistant editor Brad C. Sparks to a book-length research project, the editorial production of CAUS reached a standstill with issue No. 7 (Jan. 1979). As we now try to get back on schedule, we are extending everyone's initial subscription to cover a period of at least 12 issues, regardless of when the subscription was entered. We hope this will be a satisfactory arrangement for those of you who, in the words of one member, are hungry for news out there. When Mr. Zechel was editor, we had a surfeit of material to publish; now, with that source directed at other pursuits, we have a dearth of material and even less manpower by which to process and publish it. Obviously, we need your support in the form of procedural tips, late-breaking news items, story leads, and the results of your own FOI requests and other involvement in the politics of UFOlogy. With this material as a "domino base" -- whereby one datum leads to a string of related data and eventually into a clearer view of a report, event, or policy -- we can keep the pages of Just Cause rich in original research and strong in our effort to counter the plans and programs of official "UFO secrecy."

BACK-ISSUE DEPARTMENT

Meantime, for the information of newcomers to the CAUS, we advise that back issues of Just Cause are out of print. For the postpaid price of \$2.00 per issue, however, we can mail you xerographic copies.

\$ UFO PAPERS \$

Our document-sales project is suspended until it can be properly managed. If the suspension inconveniences any of you over past, unfilled orders, please let us know and we'll try to work out a settlement.

NEW HOPE FOR FOI ACTIVISM

The Fund for Open Information and Accountability, Inc. (FOIA), an NYC-based organization, shapes up as "a grass-roots movement necessary to the survival of the Freedom of Information Act," according to Vol. 1, No. 1 (Dec. 1978) of its bimonthly newsletter, Update. An article in Update's third issue (May 1979), entitled "Taking the FBI to Court," reports: "The accelerated pace at which the FBI is destroying documents has moved FOIA, Inc. into emergency action. A lawsuit demanding that the FBI be prohibited from any further shredding, burning, or pulping of politically and historically significant files is now being prepared in behalf of a broad group of individuals and organizations" Among the plaintiffs is the editor of the national periodical The Nation, which in its July 14-21, 1979 issue discusses not only the Bureau's arbitrary files-destruction program, but also director Webster's lobbying for a watered-down Freedom of Information Act.

Presumably, the material targeted for wholesale destruction, now ensuing apace, includes UFO-related documents. CAUS members desiring to add their voice of protest against the FBI's shredding/stifling programs might wish to do so by contributing funds to FOIA, Inc., or, at least, by subscribing for Update (\$12 annually: 36 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036).

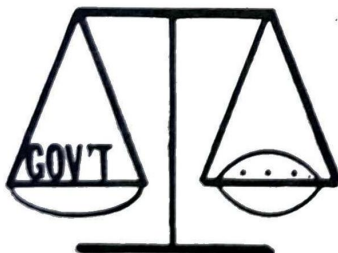
JUST CAUSE No. 9 . . .

. . . will contain the article "No UFOresight in Congress."

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS)

P.O. Box 4743

Arlington, VA 22204



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EDITORIAL

The FOIA guarantees that any person has a right, which is legally enforceable, to look at all federal agency records except for those specifically exempted by law. There are nine exemptions to the FOIA, not one of which pertains to UFO records or other information. Yet, when we request such information we are told that it is exempt from release due to national security or that "records cannot be released because they have been destroyed" or that "the information is properly classified and cannot be released". These responses raise suspicion in the government's pronouncements that UFO's are not real. If these statements are true how can the government use such exemptions for withholding data that is "non-existent".

To support this posture of unreality, an Air Force fact sheet released to the public on Dec. 17, 1969 states that the Secretary of the Air Force was terminating Project Blue Book and that after 22 years of study they had concluded that:

(1) "No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."

(2) "There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present

day scientific knowledge."

(3) "There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' are extraterrestrial vehicles."

However, we are told by no less than Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Air Force's Blue Book advisor for 20 years, that Blue Book was nothing more than a public relations venture and not a scientific study. Who is correct? Judging from the Air Force's track record on the matter it tells us that the government has not been up front with us and still manages to keep important UFO-related material from the public. We object to this policy of secrecy. We feel that the public has a right to know under law and the government has a duty to tell what they know about UFOs.

Larry Fawcett

MJ12: MYTH OR REALITY?

Did a secret government panel once intensively study a crashed-UFO case with compelling physical evidence at its disposal? Did this panel set the UFO debunking policy for the government which persists to this day? These are certainly questions which have echoed throughout UFOlogy for decades, generating scores of wild rumors. Many of the rumors died a quick death while others lingered, helped

along mainly by a cadre of conspiracy theorists/supporters. One such story was Frank Scully's Aztec, New Mexico UFO crash which formed the basis for the 1950 book Behind the Flying Saucers. In virtually all of these cases, the substance necessary to the credibility of the story was sorely lacking.

Recent revelations have shown that at least a small number of the surviving rumors deserve a day in court, most notably the Roswell, NM incident of 1947, involving the alleged crash of a UFO and the recovery and study of the debris (and bodies) at Wright Field (Wr.-Patt.AFB, Ohio)

A relatively new rumor has surfaced which we would like to discuss in some detail because it is new and it bears some interesting connections to old stories. CAUS does not yet endorse this as fact. Our long-standing policy of requiring conclusive government documentation still stands and will always stand. We have yet to see such documentation in this instance. Nevertheless, it is hoped that open discussion will elicit practical response toward proving or burying this latest tale.

During the final stages of CLEAR INTENT, I had collected documents relating to the multiple sightings of UFOs over Kirtland AFB, NM in August 1980. The story of this series of reports is in the Epilog of CI. What wasn't inserted in the book was a document, allegedly a government document, which had made the rounds in the so-called UFO grapevine. It told of an analysis performed by the Air Force of the "Dr. Bennewitz" photographic data, which had been part of the subject matter in the confirmed AFOSI file release on Kirtland. It concluded that some of the photos were "Legitimate negatives of unidentified aerial objects". The document went on to discuss, very briefly, a top-secret "Project Aquarius" and something called "MJ12". These terms meant little to us at the time so inquiries were launched to determine the origin of the terms and the document.

No government agency had any

knowledge of the matter and the alleged originator, AFOSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations), said that the document was a "fabrication". Since we had no evidence to prove otherwise and since the document came from a source other than the FOIA I chose not to use it in CI. My copy of the "Aquarius" document contained several misspellings and irregularities in format, further adding to my suspicions but I did not rule out the possibility of this perhaps being a re-typed version of an original, legitimate document by a "mole" in the military. The piece was filed and remained in limbo for a time.

This past summer the mysterious "MJ12" portion of the "Aquarius" document surfaced again when CAUS was advised by several members that California UFO researcher Lee Graham was conducting inquiries into MJ12, apparently based on specific information from an unknown individual in the government. The specifics were rather intriguing.

MJ12, or Majestic 12, was a panel formed to investigate and report it's findings to the President of the United States on the matter of unidentified flying objects. It addressed in particular the Roswell, NM incident of July 2, 1947. The panel consisted of the following individuals:

Detlev W. Bronk
Lloyd V. Berkner
Vannevar Bush
James V. Forrestal
Gordon Gray
Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
Jerome C. Hunsaker
Donald H. Menzel
Sidney W. Souers
Nathan F. Twining
Hoyt S. Vandenberg
Robert M. Montague

The report submitted to the President, called "MJ12", was classified "Top Secret-Eyes Only", 9 back-to-back pages long, dated September 18, 1947, and was signed by President Harry Truman.

And how did Mr. Graham get this information? He saw it! He held the document in his hands, which was briefly supplied to him by his military source.

Naturally, many questions arise out of this. Was this document an official document? It could have been a fake except that the signature of President Truman was checked and matched with an authentic Truman signature (Graham did this from memory as he wasn't allowed to keep a copy). It still could have been faked but then why does an individual go to the trouble of typing up a lengthy, phony document, show it to a single person, then take it back again when much more could have been gained from a hoax by letting Graham keep it for dissemination? A document with a recognizable signature of a president would certainly raise a few eyebrows! It would still be suspect despite that but it would not be readily apparent if supplied on a photocopy in lieu of an original.

Therefore, for a time, a hoax document would catch fire in the UFO community, cause much comment and consequently give the hoaxer much satisfaction.

Such did not happen here. It is not clear why a potential "disinformer" did not follow-up on a promising situation, unless of course the document were real. The informer's behavior here is a little more consistent with his being a "leaker" of sensitive information on UFOs. However, there is no way to prove it at this time. A checkable copy of this document would have to surface for examination.

What about the data in the "MJ12" report? The date is immediately telling. September 18, 1947, is the birthday of the CIA, the official first day of their existence! Is it a coincidence or a tell-tale clue to the document being phony? Or could this report have been one of the first orders of business for the fledgling CIA?

The connection of the 1947 Roswell incident to this affair makes sense. Based on the information unveiled by Bill Moore, Stan

Friedman and others, the Roswell crash was clearly a major topic in high government circles. It strains credibility to think that piles of metallic debris would have been sent to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio from New Mexico for analysis if the material were simply parts of what should have been an easily-recognizable radar reflector balloon to Army Air Force officers. After the arrival of the material at Wright-Patterson and wherever else it may have gone, official documentation ceases. No useful government files describing analysis of the debris have been unearthed. Obviously analysis took place somewhere. Where is the report? If the Roswell object were a strange device of some sort, then involvement of the individuals listed as MJ12 members would make sense.

Let's see who these members are:



Hessler

LLOYD V. BERKNER

A scientist known for his achievements in the fields of physics and electronics and in public administration, Lloyd V. Berkner was appointed in March 1949 by Secretary of State Acheson to the post of special assistant to the Secretary, in charge of the military assistance program proposed to strengthen Western Europe. Berkner is on the staff of the department of terrestrial magnetism at the Carnegie Institute of Washington, having begun this association in 1933. The executive secretary of the Joint Research and Development Board in 1946 under Dr. Vannevar Bush (now the Research and Development Board of the National Military Establishment), Berkner also was head of a special committee appointed at the request of the Secretary of Defense to direct a study that led to the establishment of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group.



Wide World Photos

DETLEV W. BRONK

Detlev W. Bronk, the sixth president of Johns Hopkins University, entered upon that office in January 1949, as successor to Dr. Isaiah Bowman. A physiologist and biophysicist of international repute, Bronk is chairman of the National Research Council and a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Atomic Energy Commission. During World War II he served several Federal offices in advisory capacities.

On July 30, 1948, Detlev W. Bronk was named successor to Dr. Isaiah Bowman, who was retiring, as president of Johns Hopkins University. The new administrator assumed his office on January 1, 1949. Proposed to the university's board of trustees by Karl Compton⁴, Bronk (Compton's only candidate) thus became sixth president of the Baltimore university, which was founded in 1876.

The study of neurophysiology over these years was Dr. Bronk's main field of research. By evolving a methodology, with the aid of electrical, optical, and electro-microscopic aids, he was able to measure the changes in nerve cells during the passage of stimuli to the brain. These same techniques assisted him in evaluating the molecular structure of nerve cells and the placement of the atomic and ionic components in the cells. Experiments in collaboration with Dr. Frank Brink resulted for the first time in the measuring of the pressure which carries oxygen through the body.

With Dr. Edward U. Condon⁵, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, Bronk in June 1947 was named a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, an organization devoted to atomic research. A few months later he was placed on the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine of the United States Atomic Energy Commission. As chairman of the National Research Council, Bronk supervised the choice and distribution of research fellowships for the AEC. When it developed that a scientist with Communist affiliations had received one of the fellowships, both Bronk and AEC chairman David E. Lilienthal⁶ were called before the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy in May 1949 to discuss the selection. Pointing out that no question of political sympathy was contained in the fellowship application blanks, Dr. Bronk indicated that he would call a meeting of the council's fellowship committee to consider a more careful screening of applicants.



Wide World Photos

GORDON GRAY

Gordon Gray, who succeeded Kenneth C. Royall⁷ as Secretary of the Army in June 1949, first came to the Pentagon Building in September 1947, as Assistant Secretary. He is widely known as chief author of the so-called "Gray Report," which recommended the placing of the National Guard under the control of the Federal Government instead of the separate States, in the interest of modern defense needs. A veteran of World War II, in which he served both as enlisted man and officer, Gray, a Democrat, is a lawyer by training, and has three times been elected to the Senate of North Carolina. From 1937 to 1947 he was publisher of two newspapers of that State, in Winston-Salem.



DR. JEROME C. HUNSAKER

Jerome C. Hunsaker, head of the Departments of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (on leave), chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, has left an indelible impression upon aeronautical science. Among his contributions are the design of the NC type of flying boat; the design of the *Shenandoah*, the first large airship made in this country; the development of launching catapults and arresting gear for deck landings

on airplane carriers; the design of light planes for service on these carriers; the development of gas-proof fabric for airship construction; and the promotion of air-cooled radial engines for planes.



U. S. Air Force

GEN. NATHAN F. TWINING

Soon after the end of the war in Europe, Twining was returned to the United States for interim duty at Washington, and on July 24 he was appointed to succeed Major General Curtis E. LeMay as commanding general of the 20th Air Force based on the Mariana Islands in the Pacific. B-29 Superfortresses of Twining's command dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and other 20th Air Force "very heavy" bombers made devastating incendiary and demolition attacks on the Tokyo area.

For various World War II achievements, including feats of personal courage, Twining was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the Yugoslav Order of Partisan Star and the rank of Companion of the Order of the British Empire.

Returning to the United States after the Japanese surrender, Lieutenant General Twining was assigned to Continental Air Force headquarters at Bolling Field, Washington, D.C., in October 1945. In December he was named commanding general of the Air Material Command, with headquarters at Wright Field, Ohio.

On October 1, 1947 he was appointed commanding general of the Alaskan Department and later in the month became commander-in-chief of the Alaskan Command, continuing as such until May, 1950, when he was recalled to Air Force headquarters at Washington to become acting deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Twining, whose permanent rank dating from February 19, 1948 is that of major general, became a four-star general (temporary) on October 10, 1950, when major changes in the top Air Force command brought him an appointment as Vice-Chief of Staff. At that time the *Washington Post* characterized him as "something of an elder statesman in the Air Force despite his relative youth," since his "unusually rounded command" had made him fully acquainted with "the tactical support as well as the strategic side of the Air Force job."

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DONALD H. MENZEL

The director of the Harvard College Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts is Dr. Donald H. Menzel, who was appointed in January 1954, after having served as acting director since the retirement of Harlow Shapley in September 1952. He has been a member of the Harvard University faculty since 1932 and professor of astrophysics since 1938, and was chairman of the astronomy department from 1946 to 1949. Long recognized as a leading authority on the solar chromosphere, Dr. Menzel in collaboration with J. C. Boyce had established in 1933 the presence of oxygen in the sun's corona, and with Winfield W. Salisbury he made in 1941 the initial calculations which led to the first radio contact with the moon in 1946.

Menzel's theory, first advanced in 1952, that the so-called "flying saucers" are in most instances optical phenomena akin to mirages, is set forth in his book *Flying Saucers* (1953).



Wide World Photos

JAMES V. FORRESTAL

James V. Forrestal, who came to Washington from Wall Street in 1940 as an "anonymous assistant" to President Roosevelt, advanced rapidly in the Government service, serving as Under Secretary, and then as Secretary, of the Navy for a period of seven years. In September 1947 Forrestal became the first Secretary of Defense, in charge of coordinating the activities of all the United States armed services, and of determining national defense policy. His department is the National Military Establishment.



U. S. Navy

REAR ADM. ROSCOE H. HILLENKOETTER

Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter was from May of 1947 to September of 1950 the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the first permanent intelligence office to be organized in peacetime by the United States Government. It is under the National Security Council, which is one of the divisions of the Executive Office of the President. The Rear Admiral's appointment was announced on May 1, 1947, when he was called from the post of naval attaché at the American Embassy in Paris, to which he had once been assigned as assistant attaché in 1933. That intelligence service, together with his record in the setting up of the wartime intelligence network in the Pacific, was the basis of his selection as the director of the CIA upon its establishment in 1947. In August 1950 it was announced that Hillenkoetter would be succeeded as CIA director by Walter Bedell Smith^{*}; and in November the Rear Admiral returned to sea duty when he took command of the Seventh Task Force, which is stationed near Formosa.

While Hillenkoetter was the first director of the CIA as such, his predecessors in central intelligence work were Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg^{*} and Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers^{*}, who is Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

VANDEMBERG, Hoyt Sanford, air force officer; born Milwaukee, Jan. 24, 1899; s. William Collins and Pearl (Kane) V.; student Columbian School, 1918-19; B.S., U.S. Mil. Acad., 1923; student A.C. Tactical Sch., 1934-35; Command and Gen. Staff Sch., 1935-36; Army War Coll., 1936-39; m. Gladys Rose, Dec. 26, 1923; children—Gloria Rose, Hoyt Sanford. Comm'd. 2d Lt., 1923, U.S. Army Air Corps; promoted through grades to lieut. gen., Mar. 1945, gen., 1947; Instr. Flighter Tactics, A.C. Tactical Sch., 1936-38; asst. chief of staff A.A.F., 1940-41; chief of staff, Northwest African Strategic Air Force, 1942-43; dep. chief of staff, 1943; head of air mission to Russia, 1943-44; apptd. dep. comdr. in chief, A.E.F., Apr. 1944; made comdg. gen. U.S. 9th Air Force in France, Aug. 1944; became asst. chief of staff G-2 (Intelligence), War Dept. Gen. Staff, Feb. 1946; apptd. U.S. dir. Cent. Intelligence, June 1946; became dep. comdr. A.A.F. and chief of staff A.A.F., 1947; vice chief of staff U.S. Air Force, October 1947; chief of staff 1948-53. Awarded Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star. Home: Washington. Died Apr. 2, 1954.



U. S. Navy

SIDNEY W. SOUERS

On June 7, 1946, President Harry S. Truman accepted "with reluctance" the resignation from the national service of Sidney W. Souers, the St. Louis insurance and cotton and linen trades executive who, as a naval reservist on active war duty from July 1946, had directed intelligence in the Caribbean theater, become Deputy Chief of Naval Intelligence, risen to the rank of rear admiral, and subsequently, beginning January 23, 1946, had organized the nation's first Central Intelligence Office. Within fifteen months, however, former Admiral Souers was back in public life: on September 26, 1947, he took oath of office as executive secretary of the new National Security Council, created by the National Security Act approved two months earlier. The officially defined function of this body is "to advise the President with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign, and military policies relating to the national security so as to enable the military services and other departments and agencies of the Government to cooperate more effectively in matters involving the national security." The council, moreover, now operates the Central Intelligence Agency. Among the duties of the executive secretary is that of "briefing" the President daily on "that branch of world affairs termed 'military-political.'" In December 1949, Souers tendered his resignation from the National Security Council, effective January 15, 1950. President Truman's press secretary stated that Souers would remain as a special consultant to the Executive on security matters.

ROBERT M. MONTAGUE -

Sandia Base Commander,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, July
1947 - February 1951

WE WANT TO WISH ALL OUR
SUBSCRIBERS AND SUPPORTERS A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR. SINCE OUR LAST SEASONS
GREETING WE HAVE GAINED THE RE-
LEASE OF NEARLY 2000 PAGES OF
GOVERNMENT FILES. LET'S KEEP IT
UP!

BUSH, Vannevar, Am. elec. engr.; b. Everett, Mass., Mar. 11, 1890; s. Richard Perry (D.D.) and Emma Linwood (Paine) B.; B.S., M.S., Tufts, 1913, Sc.D., (hon.), 1932; Eng. D., Mass. Inst. Tech., Harvard, 1910; LL.D., Brown U., Middlebury Coll., 1939, Johns Hopkins, 1940, U. Pa., Yale 1942, Washington U., U. Buffalo, 1946, Princeton, 1947, Colby Coll., 1951; Eng. D., Poly. Inst. ofoklyn, 1941, Rutgers Coll., 1942, Carnegie Inst. Tech., 1948; Sc.D., Harvard, Williams Coll., 1941, Stevens Inst. Tech., 1943, Trinity Coll., 1946, W.Va. U., 1947, Columbia, 1947, U. Cambridge (Eng.), 1950, Boston U., 1959; m. Phoebe Davis, Sept. 5, 1916; children—Richard Davis, John Hathaway. With test. dept. Gen. Electric Co., 1913; with Inspection dept. USN, 1914; instr. math. Tufts, 1914-15, asst. prof. elec. engring., 1916-17; research on submarine detection with pl. bd. on submarine devices USN, 1917-18; asst. prof. elec. power transmission Mass. Inst. Tech., 1919-23, prof., 1923-32; v.p., dean engring., 1932-38, pres. Carnegie Instn. of Washington, 1935-55, trustee, 1956—. Trustee Carnegie Corp. of N.Y., 1939-55, trustee emeritus; dir. Metals and Controls Corp., Am. Tel. & Tel. Co., chmn. Merck & Co., Inc. Mem. adv. com. Nat. Security Resources Bd. Trustee Tufts, Johns Hopkins, 1943-55; life mem. corp. Mass. Inst. Tech., hon. chmn. corp., 1959—. chmn. bd. Graphic Arts Research Found., trustee George Putnam Found.; regent Smithsonian Instn., 1943-55, Lammie medal Am. Inst. E. E., 1935, Edison medal, 1943, Research Corp. award, 1939; Ballou medal, Tufts, 1941; Holley medal Am. Soc. M.E.; John Scott medal Phila. City Trusts, 1943; gold medal Nat. Inst. Social Scis., 1945; Marcellus Hartley award Nat. Acad. Scis.; Wash. award Western Soc. Engrs., 1946; Hoover medal Asso. Engring. Nat. Acad. Scis.; Scientists, 1947, D.S.M., Roosevelt Meml. Assn., 1945, Tufts Coll., 1947; John Fritz medal 1951; award Am. Inst. Cons. Engrs., 1953; John J. Carty medal and award, Nat. Acad. Scis., William Proctor prize, Sci. Research Soc. Am., 1954. Mem. Nat. Adv. Com. for Aeronautics (chmn., 1939-41), Bus. Adv. Council of Dept. Commerce, 1939-41; chmn. Nat. Def. Research Com., 1940-41; dir. OSRD, 1941-46; chmn. Joint Com. New Weapons and Equipment of Joint U. S. Chiefs of Staff, 1942-46; chmn. Joint Research and Devel. Bd., 1946-47, ~~chmn. Research and Devel. Bd., Nat. Mil. Establishment, 1947-48~~ Fellow Am. Inst. E.E., Am. Phys. Soc., mem. Am. Acad. Arts and Sci., Nat. Acad. A.A.A.S., Am. Soc. Engring. Edn., (Lammie award 1955), Am. Soc. M.E. (hon.), Soc. Naval Architects and Marine Engrs. (hon.), Franklin Inst. (hon.; Levy medal 1928), Am. Philos. Soc., Am. Math. Soc., Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Beta Kappa. Author, (with W. H. Timbrel) Principles of Electrical Engineering, 1922; Operational Circuit Analysis, 1929, Endless Horizons, 1946; Modern Arms and Free Men, 1949. Builder of differential analyzer (machine for solving differential equations), 1942; research on transmission line transients, operational circuit analysis, gaseous conduction apparatus, analytical devices, principles of elec. engring. Home: 304 Marsh St., Belmont, Mass. 02178. Mass. Inst. Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.*

(Biographies gleaned from Current Biography issues, late 1940s and Who's Who.)

My first thoughts upon seeing this list of people is that if a UFO had crashed and was recovered, this would be the kind of panel that I would want to put together to investigate the matter. All of these individuals were at the top in their respective areas of expertise during the late 1940s and had the added benefit of government experience behind them. The Majestic 12 indeed!

A number of them were later involved in the UFO phenomenon. In fact, fully half of the panel would make a mark on UFO history during and after 1947:

- Hoyt Vandenberg- Said to have read the now-famous 1948 "Estimate of the Situation" and subsequently ordered it downgraded and destroyed

for lack of evidence that UFOs were interplanetary.

- Roscoe Hillenkoetter- Former board member of NICAP and proponent of UFO reality.

- Vannevar Bush- Mentioned in the formerly top secret Canadian "Smith memo" of November 21, 1950, as the head of a "concentrated effort" to study UFOs.

- Nathan Twining- Authored a well-known September 1947 Air Force memo strongly endorsing the serious nature of UFOs.

- Donald Menzel- Author of 3 books debunking the UFO phenomenon.

- Lloyd Berkner- Member of the CIA's "Robertson Panel" of 1953.

Panel members' backgrounds show that most had connections to either the National Security Council or the Research and Development Board (R&DB). The R&DB figures prominently in testimony given to us by Dr. Robert Sarbacher (see Just Cause #5) and CAUS is convinced that UFO file material exists in the R&DB's holdings at the National Archives.

Another curiosity. General Twining's pro-UFO "Flying Discs" memo (see CLEAR INTENT, pp.213-214) dated September 23, 1947, comes only five days after the MJ12 report. Could Twining's possible connection to an MJ12 panel have had an influence on his writing of the 9/23/47 memo?

The listing of Vandenberg and particularly Donald Menzel as MJ12 members is a major curiosity since both had later negative involvement in UFOs. If an MJ12 panel concluded that UFOs were real, Menzel's and Vandenberg's debunking would seem illogical. Or would it?

If a singular incident of high national security importance occurred, like a Roswell incident, such could be classified more highly even than the H-bomb, as the Smith memo so aptly put it. As study of the phenomenon progressed, secrecy would be of the utmost importance and any effort to diffuse the

interest of the public and non-need-to-know personnel would be encouraged. Therefore, General Vandenberg, by batting down Project Sign's "Estimate of the Situation", would be preventing undue attention from being drawn to the subject by Project Sign personnel, who could not be regarded as people having access to data more highly classified than the H-bomb. It was too visible to be part of an "inner circle". The "Estimate" also very likely lacked the proof to justify an interplanetary explanation for UFOs.

Dr Menzel's skepticism, in light of his supposed membership in MJ12, might be put into the same category as General Vandenberg's of being loyal and cooperative in not discussing a national security matter. However, it is difficult to imagine Dr. Menzel writing 3 totally skeptical UFO books and spending so much time over so many years arguing against UFOs if he were privy to a crashed UFO and occupants. Either he was never involved with MJ12 or he was a very good actor. (Interestingly, Dr. Menzel had a UFO sighting in 1949 which he could not explain [see Intern. UFO Rep., Nov/Dec 82, pg.11] though he tried hard to explain it) Menzel's involvement is clearly a controversial point in an MJ12 theory which argues for evidence, evidence, EVIDENCE from it's proponents.

This MJ12 theory does come close to a proposition by Maccabee (Revised UFO History, 1982 [83]) that a small, highly-classified group, perhaps coordinated by intelligence arms of the military, studied the Roswell debris in detail. The inclusion of Sandia Base, NM Commander Robert Montague argues favorably for this.

Several other possible connections to an MJ12 group should be noted here. In November 1961, Wilbert Smith was interviewed by UFOlogists C.W. Fitch and George Popovitch of Akron, Ohio. Smith told of how he was loaned a piece of a UFO shot off over Wash. D.C. in July 1952 by the Air Force. After

his examination of the piece, Smith was to return it to the government. When pressed by his interviewers to whom the piece was to be returned, Smith said it wasn't the Air Force or the CIA but "a highly classified group". He added, "You will have to solve that problem - their identity - for yourselves". (Columbus Ohio Dispatch, 10/20/66)

In the 1964 book The Invisible Government by journalists David Wise and Thomas Ross, a "Special Group" is described (pgs 260-61) as being the hidden power center of the Invisible Government, which formulated policy and made decisions on crucial matters of national interest. This group was said to have been created in the early 1950s and was called the "54/12 Group". 54/12 was said to include the Director of the CIA and the Secretary of Defense, among others, which sounds rather similar to MJ12. Could MJ12 have been an early incarnation of the 54/12 Group?

UFO researcher Dr. Richard Sigismond confirmed to CAUS via phone of his recollection of a UFO lecture by Dr. Edward Condon at the University of Colorado in 1966 (see Intern. UFO Rep., Sep/Oct. 1983, pgs 3-5, 16). When Dr. Condon was asked about the 1958 Trindade Is., Brazil UFO photo series, he seemed to falter in his knowledge of the case. The late eminent physicist Dr. George Gamow, sitting in the audience, appeared very interested in the case. Condon's lukewarm assurance that the case would be studied did not please Gamow, who, in apparent frustration, blurted out that in 1952 he and General Curtis LeMay, former head of SAC, had served on a secret UFO committee, with the purpose of evaluating UFOs. Could this committee have been MJ12 or a descendent?

I have played both angel's and devil's advocate in this review of a rumor. We have either another story destined for the dung heap or a real hot potato! COMMENTS??? the Editor.

JUST

CAUSE



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A UFO OVER THE MOON?

Over the years we have been regaled with stories of UFO sightings by astronauts, particularly during lunar missions. The accounts have ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. A number of the book-length treatments of alien bases and industrial activities on the moon have been an insult to the intelligence of amateur and professional astronomers who have spent their lives studying the lunar surface.

Indeed there have been reports of occasional unidentified lights by astronauts but none could be called evidence of alien machines. During research for CLEAR INTENT an attempt was made to verify the more vivid sightings allegedly made by lunar astronauts. No evidence was uncovered for any of the claimed encounters. However, we have left the door open for future consideration. After all, we may not have seen everything as was the case with other military sightings investigated. It would be pure folly for us to take a totally negative stance on this since it might discourage potential witnesses, either astronauts or other NASA employees, from speaking to us.

One individual who wrote to us was a former NASA employee. Bob Davis (pseudonym) was a Safety Inspector at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. His job was to patrol IMCC (Integrated Mission Control Center) Building #30 with another inspector and check all key areas of the building for safety and fire hazards. As it turned out, one of Bob's patrols was to prove memorable for him!

We will first let him describe in his own words the area of his patrol. It is quite important to picture this for the rest of the story:

"(The) viewing room is glassed in, has two telephones on one side, (for newsmen), a large screen television for the news' convenience, about six rows of orange upholstered seats, and two entrance/exits.

When you look out the front, you can see the very large map of the world, split up, and strung out on a wide scale. Across the map are drawn lines, which represent the flight, or position of the spacecraft at any given point in time. Attached to this wide angle map is a very large panel, empty most of the earlier flights, but put to use after the Apollo flights. It was in fact a very large television screen. The operation, as far as I have been

able to research, is this. A signal is captured, run through a computer, broken down into equal parts, then the computer sends a signal to a bank of cameras located at the back of the TV screen. If you have ever walked back of the screen, you will have noticed that the bank of cameras put out a large amount of heat."

We have been informed by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON and one who is familiar with the Johnson Space Center, that Davis gave a "very accurate description of Building #30." He also affirmed Davis' description of the area behind the TV screen, an area normally not seen by the public.

Now to the thrust of Bob's tale:

"Mike Brown (pseudonym) and I had been assigned to patrol on the flight. I do not remember which flight, but I can tell you that it was the one which had the astronauts going down into Hadley Rille, and as was our habit, after inspecting the fire alarm panel at the back of the viewing room, we sat down and lit up our pipes.

About ten minutes after we went into the room, several men, one of which was the director of JSC, came in and were excitedly motioning toward the big TV screen in the control room. Naturally, Mike and I looked at the screen to see what had excited them so much. The camera on the front of the Lunar Rover was pointed into the sky (?) over the area where the astronauts were supposed to be. In the center of the screen was a shiny object, which I thought was the Command Module. It was hovering there in the black, a brilliant speck, with the camera on the Lunar Rover focused on it. Now, you've got to understand that I thought it was the Command Module, and that it had come down to observe the grounded astronauts, or that it might be coming down on a rescue mission. However, it started moving towards screen right, and the camera on the Rover followed it. That camera had been focused on our men in Hadley Rille, as a means of keeping tabs on them, and here it was following an object in space above the moon's surface!

I watched the whole episode, and when the object had made a complete circuit of the area, it left at a very high rate of speed straight up. Now, I opened my mouth and stammered, 'What the _____ was that?'

It was at this time that we were noticed, and all of the men there whirled around, one of them demanding to know what we were doing in the room and how did we get there. I told the man (and I might be wrong but I think it was Dr. Kraft) that we had been in the room the whole time because we had been taking our break after inspecting the alarm panel.

I again asked him what we had been watching and another man butted in with the most illogical answer I have ever heard an intelligent man make. He said, 'That was an oil bubble on the camera lens at the rear of the screen there.', and pointed at the very large screen attached to the map.

I looked him straight in the eye and asked him how come the camera on the Lunar Rover had followed the drop of oil if it was supposed to be on the camera at the rear of the screen? He took my clearance card, which was hanging from my shirt flap, and said, 'Mr. Davis, I said it was an oil drop on the

camera lens at the rear of the big screen there, and that is what it was! Now get your asses out of here, keep your goddamn mouths shut or you might not have a job tomorrow.' With that threat, Mike and I left, exiting through a very well guarded door."

The "Hadley Rille" mission was Apollo 15, launched July 26, 1971, for a 12-day excursion to the moon. The command module pilot was Al Worden and the astronauts who landed on the moon were David Scott and James Irwin. The flight was the first to use the LRV, or Lunar Rover, to travel extended distances on the lunar surface.

It would be easy to write this off as just another in a series of tales about UFOs on the moon but there is a difference here. I believe I recall seeing some of this on television as it was happening!

My recollection is that I was home and preoccupied with paperwork and TV at the same time. The networks often interrupted their regular programs with special live broadcasts from the moon. One had come on with a report on a lunar rover excursion. The rover camera was pointing at the astronauts working some distance away inspecting and collecting soil samples. There was a dark sky in the upper left of the TV screen and a mountain to the right, which took up a good portion of the right screen background.

From the upper left part of the screen I noticed a small, bright object slowly moving in a straight path from left to right across the top of the screen. I was puzzled by it's appearance and thought it might have been the orbiting Apollo capsule at first. With the brightness of the foreground scenery and the lack of visible stars in the sky, the object seemed to have been much too bright to have been the capsule. It showed no detail, simply a very distinct, small, roundish, bright spot, as bright as the moonscape in sunlight that was visible during the coverage. It moved across toward the mountain and then blended into the brightness of the mountain top. I could not say whether it went behind or in front of the mountain. At that point it was lost.

The astronauts did not notice it but the ground controller at Houston made a remark as the object was moving. Without remembering exact words, I recall a short comment like, "What's that?" The astronauts were alerted by the comment but they appeared not to look in the right direction as the object moved away. No allusion was made to UFOs and nothing more was made of it during the broadcast. The scene did not cut away from the astronauts' activities after the object had vanished and I don't recall the camera following the object. There may have been a few more remarks by the ground controller and the astronauts but nothing substantive.

I remembered being puzzled also by the fact that despite the broadcast having aired over national TV, no mention was made of the sighting on the news. The object was there, was noticed by the people observing at Houston, and was not explainable at the time.

Perhaps several days later, a newscast stated that the object was caused by a piece of ceramic molding that had burst from internal air pressure on the rover antenna. I saw no other pieces fly off from the direction of the rover. No tumbling motion as one might expect from a hurled fragment was noted either. Additionally, the object seemed to move too slowly (in view about 30 seconds) to have been caused by an explosive action.

When I phoned Davis to discuss my viewing of the broadcast, he felt that I had seen at least part of what he saw and was amazed that it went over the air. He was extremely relieved that I had seen it, fearing that he would sound like a "nut" telling this story with-

out backup. I told him that I could not recall the object suddenly moving straight up and disappearing, which would have conclusively proved it's strangeness. Neither could I recall any altering of the broadcast. There was only one camera there during the event and it stayed riveted on the astronauts. We could not explain the discrepancy after discussion but, nevertheless, we agreed on most details and I know what I saw on TV that day.

I feel that footage certainly exists of the broadcast. It would require our pinning down the correct time, which is very uncertain to me at this point. I'm not sure a tape of the event would show much detail of the object. It looked like the classic "light-in-the-sky" so common in UFOlogy. On the moon though it is not so easily explained.

This is my contribution to UFOlogical moon lore! Does anyone else recall seeing this on TV?

NEW STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASE

The Department of State has released a 143-page file on UFOs as a result of a request filed by CAUS in March 1985. The documents cover incidents in such locations as Afganistan, Sri Lanka, Barbados, Argentina, Morocco, Tunisia and Kuwait. Some of the records were known to us already but others were new. The fact that this request took 18 months to fill speaks volumes about the increasing lack of responsiveness by government agencies under the FOIA. We can easily see requesters throwing up their hands in frustration over the massive delays they will encounter.

The most interesting reports of the lot told of strange radar trackings off Barbados in the early morning hours of April 12, 1984. At about 210 hours, The air traffic control radar at Grantley Adams International Airport showed a series of UFOs on it's screen. The objects were configured in four loose but distinct formations about 30 miles to the southeast, and tracking toward the airport at 90-100 knots per hour. Altitude uncertain. The Barbadian police and the Defense Force were notified.

At 220 hours, the formation split, with two objects to the west coast and two to the east coast of Barbados. The main body left behind divided into three loose formations. The objects closed to within four miles of the island and then moved off in a northerly direction at 330 hours. At 400 hours, radar still tracked nine objects over the northern portion of Barbados. At 410 hours, all objects disappeared toward Martinique.

The Barbadian government inquired of the United States if any military exercises were being conducted near the island. We answered that no U.S. exercises were ongoing and added that while the Soviet Navy was conducting exercises in the Carribean, they were not in the area of Barbados.

A further cable added that two unnamed tower personnel had seen "tails" up to five miles long on their radar screens. Two commercial aircraft left similar tails as they passed over the island however. It was learned that a Russian cruise ship was in the area, as well as a French aircraft carrier, but they could not be connected with the sightings.

The American embassy stated, "At this time, there appears to be no generally accepted explanation for this phenomenon." Malfunction of equipment, or operators (!), and a temperature inversion were offered as possible explanations but these were rejected by the Barbadian government.

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EDITORIAL

The reaction to our MJ-12 report was interesting. Most were supportive of our stand, while some were highly critical, even to the point of questioning our mental and emotional stability! Of course we expect such extremes when discussing a very controversial issue.

Some have said that CAUS criticized MJ-12 out of jealousy over a rival scoring a big coup in acquiring sensational documentation proving UFOs. We do not consider MSF rivals. We are very glad to see anyone unearth legitimate historical documentation as long as it is well-founded and factual. We have given full credit to people discovering interesting papers upon which we report. However, we will not uncritically support anything that is pro-UFO. If we see problems with it, we will say so in as much detail as we can. MSF say the documents are strong evidence of MJ-12. We say they are severely flawed as evidence. Let readers weigh both sides and come to their own conclusions.

Unfortunately, the only reaction to our report from Moore has been the comment "Sour Grapes," as reported in the November issue of Jim Moseley's SAUCER SMEAR. Friedman's response, received too late for this issue, is more substantive and we will deal with it in the next mailing.

There is still no statement from MSF regarding the suspicious CIA/MJ-5 memo and the Project Aquarius report, except that Friedman, in a recent phone con, considers the MJ-5 memo as genuine without elaborating. Again we ask: Why were these papers released by Moore as evidence of MJ-12 and why have they vanished from all subsequent MJ-12 promotions?

There have been few other new developments on MJ-12, though Moore has promised new releases by year's end. We are still waiting.

On another matter, we note the increasing demise of the Freedom of Information Act. What had started as a tool for the public to learn about their government has turned into a bag of wet oatmeal! Through persistent attacks by the Reagan administration, the FOIA has been rendered almost useless by high search fees, massive delays and bureaucratic bungling. It is obvious that this administration prefers a populace ignorant of even the most mundane of government activities. It is a sad trend that will make it more difficult for us to bring you

news about government UFO activities, past and present. Some UFO-logists have attacked the FOIA, saying that it was always useless for gaining access to very important UFO data anyway. This is true of course, but without it we would not even have the 7000+ pages we have obtained, there would have been no CLEAR INTENT and CAUS would never have been born. We know sensitive files continue to be withheld and FOIA is still quite useful in authenticating things which are released so we will have to deal with the present situation until a change for the better comes about. Write to your Congressman or Senator about the debasement of FOIA. You do have a right to know!

THE APOLLO 15 STORY - AN UPDATE

The lead story in our March 87 issue dealt with the sighting (on television) of an unidentified light over the moon during the Apollo 15 mission in 1971.

In response to that article we have received two signed letters via well-known science writer and UFO researcher James Oberg. Oberg has worked at Mission Control in Houston for many years and is close to people involved in the Apollo missions. The letters he sent were from Ed Fendell, the Instrumentation and Communications officer at Mission Control during the Apollo 15 flight, and Astronaut Joseph Allen, the CAPCON during all of the mission's EVAs.

Fendell: "I have read the article you sent me and I can honestly say I do not remember seeing anything unusual as they mention. It should be noted that the TV networks showed in real-time 100% of the lunar surface TV. NASA has tapes of it all and I am sure if anyone thinks NASA would delete tape footage they can obtain the tapes from the TV networks. I cannot believe any crap about 'getting your ____ out of here' or 'keeping your ____ mouth shut.'"

Allen: "I recall nothing even vaguely resembling an artifact in the images we were getting from the Rover camera during these times. Of course, the camera could be remotely operated by ENCO during, between, and after the EVA exercises, and often was. However, as we both well know, everything returned from the moon was carefully recorded. Given that, and NASA's total compulsion to tell all, my personal opinion is that the chances of something strange having happened in front of hundreds of Building 30 people on shift at the time, then being kept quiet (even if CCK had ordered it) is zero, in the exact mathematical sense of that digit."

We have passed Oberg's skeptical opinion of what happened, along with the two letters, to our witness, Bill Davis. He remarked, "All I have to say is that the incident happened! Not only happened, but with enough witnesses to vouch safe what I told you." Unfortunately, his companion is now dead and the people who were on duty and are available to us have rejected the claim.

Davis' conviction on this is firm and he included a sketch of

his and others' positions within the room at the time of the sighting. We will forward this to Oberg for comment.

This editor's version of the incident, if video were available, would confirm a round, undetailed bright light moving across the lunar sky, but that is all.

We are trying to encourage Davis to resolve the conflicting stories by direct contact with Oberg and others. Our thanks to both sides for their efforts. We are taking no position on what the light was until a video record is located.

ASSORTED MATTERS

Levitation Experiments - Our thanks to Lucius Farish and Vincent White for this information. In the current best-seller THE FBI-KGB WAR by Robert Lamphere, a former FBI special agent, a curious reference appears. After discussing the 1950s case of atom spy David Greenglass, Lamphere alludes to the four major items of U.S. information which Greenglass had passed to the Soviet Union. One was described as, "the faulty and incomplete description of certain experiments called 'levitation': These latter experiments were a major secret of the postwar era, and are still classified today." Intrigued, because of the possibility that these experiments related to early attempts to duplicate flying discs, we filed a request with the FBI for a copy of their investigation. We received a reply on November 23, indicating that no records could be located on this subject. We find it hard to believe that "no records" exist after a principle in the atomic spy investigation of the 50s, Lamphere, indicated such in his history book. We will keep you updated.

Delta Airlines Incident - Our thanks to Stan Gordon for this. An FAA file has been located regarding the sighting of a UFO by the crew of a Delta 737 en route from Pittsburg, Pa., to Atlanta, Ga. on June 25, 1987. An extract from the file describes the incident:

"Reported a missile approached them from head on and passed approximately 500' - 600' below them. Delta flight 1083 was, at the time, on the 041 radial of the Charleston, West Virginia, VOR (HVQ) at 31.5 miles, tracking inbound to the VOR. The Captain reported the missile had a short 4' squatty 'Homemade' appearance. He described the projectile as approximately 4 - 6 feet long with large fins attached which ran halfway up it's length. The main body of the missile was a white to yellow color and the fins were a beige to brown color. He said it appeared to be descending and unpowered when it passed below him."

We entertain the possibility that this could have been a loose balloon, much like the ones you often see over car dealerships. The pilot's reference to it being unpowered supports this. However, it is unlikely we will ever find out for sure.

NASA and ETs - In response to a request by CAUS Director Peter Gersten for all records pertaining to NASA's plan for controlling information pertaining to the discovery of, or contact with, extra-terrestrial life, NASA stated in an August 9 letter: "We are in the process of developing a protocol that specifically addresses the mechanisms for distribution of information should any discovery be made." They also emphasized that, "... detection of extraterrestrial life is a discovery with such profound implications that it transcends national boundaries." It should be said that this statement does not

represent a change in NASA's attitude toward UFOs, which is much the same as the Air Force's. We will advise CAUS readers when the report is available.

FTD UFO Papers - Our thanks to William Sullivan for this news story. After researching computer data bases for UFO documents from 1975 to date, Mr. Sullivan has located two translations of Chinese UFO articles from the Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. They are:

"The 'UFO' of July 24, 1981 - A Discussion with Comrade Zhang Zhousheng" by Liu Yan. (FTD-1D[RS]T-0231-83)

"First UFO Incident for Our Country" by Long Ruyi.
(FTD-1D[RS]T-1019-83)

It is rather interesting to see the FTD turn up in connection to UFOs again, considering it's long affiliation with Project Blue Book. Both reports were translated and available in 1983. Both also deal with the same incident; a sighting by several million people (!) in numerous provinces on July 24, 1981. Features of the sighting remind us of rocket launches and booster separation events in several IFO reports. Basics: A flying luminous body with a spiral shape. The central portion spun and moved slowly in an east to west direction. Most of the articles deal with possible explanations.

Flying Wing Documents - CAUS Director Peter Gersten has recently acquired two early documents which discuss experiments with "flying wing" aircraft design. They are:

"German Flying Wings Designed by the Horten Brothers"
(Air Materiel Command, 5 July 1946).

"Ten Years Development of the Flying Wing High Speed Fighter"
(Chance Vought Aircraft Report No. LGB 164).

We believe that these reports are particularly interesting, considering the wave in recent years of flying wing or boomerang-shaped UFOs. Could some early UFO incidents have been government experiments with such aircraft? Maybe some, but we would have to establish that the experiments went far beyond what we thought was technically feasible at the time, or even now! Instantaneous right-angle turns and 180s are not common events in aviation, and this editor has strong doubts that the flying wing experiments could have progressed to that point so quickly, yet not see evidence of it in contemporary aircraft. However, it is another area to explore.

Reagan's "Alien" Comment

The accompanying text is the full context of President Reagan's remarks about alien life, given in a speech at Fallston High School in Maryland on December 4, 1985. The remarks generated newspaper interest and threw some UFOlogists into a frenzy over the thought of his statement being a masked reference to UFOs.

(Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1985, page 1453.)

Our thanks to Ronald Anstee for a copy of the speech.

I couldn't help but—one point in our discussions privately with General Secretary Gorbachev—when you stop to think that we're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species, from another planet, outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together.

Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us, but I think that between us we can bring about that realization.

Thank you all. God bless you all.