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UFO paper disputed

'No smoking gun,' researcher declares

■ Second of two parts
By LEE FORST

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Credibility is important to any controversial topic. In UFO research it's everything, and even then it might not be enough.

"This subject is a mine field," according to UFO researcher Barry Greenwood.

Recent disclosure of an alleged top secret document that describes the recovery of a crashed spaceship has made the footing even more treacherous.

The six-page document was made public this spring by author William L. Moore, who says he received it anonymously in 1984.

The document, dated 1952, allegedly was sent from Adm. Roscoe Hillebrand to President-elect Dwight Eisenhower. It describes a covert operation — called Majestic-12 — to retrieve and study a "flying disc" that crashed in July 1947 near Roswell, N.M.

The document, written as a briefing paper for Eisenhower, also details the discovery of four dead aliens.

Operation Majestic-12, according to the document, was directed by a 12-member panel created by President Harry Truman in September 1947. The members were scientists and top government and military officials.

Now, 3 1/2 months after its release, the authenticity of the Majestic-12 document is being questioned and doubts are forming about two other papers that have been produced as supporting evidence.

David M. Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University who is considered the leading UFO historian in America, says he is "gun-shy" about the Majestic-12 papers.

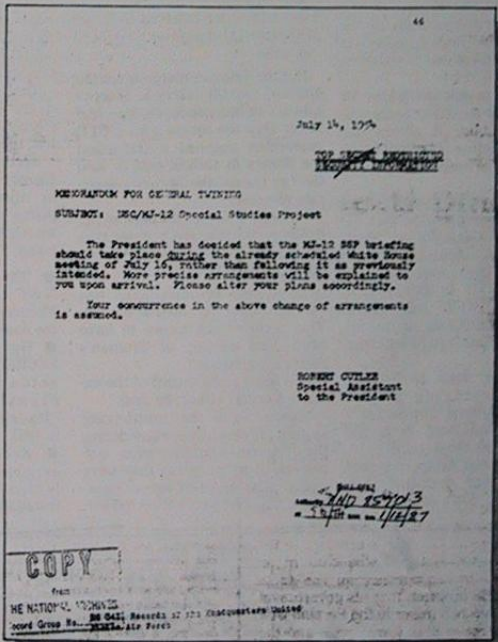
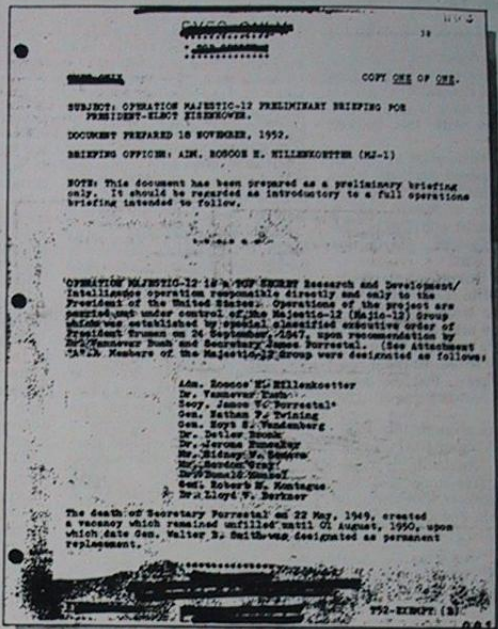
"It's intriguing. It's interesting. Let's wait and see," Jacobs said in a telephone interview.

Greenwood, a Massachusetts resident who heads a group called Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, would like nothing more than to have the papers proved authentic. But for now, he says, there are too many unanswered questions.

"I'm squarely in the skeptics' camp," Greenwood told the Daily News. "My bottom line in the whole affair is who the source is. Where does it come from? What we're looking for is positive proof this group (the Majestic-12 panel) existed. I see no smoking gun."

Even those who believe the

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DISPUTED DOCUMENTS

At top is a page from the Majestic-12 document. At bottom is a White House memo that refers to "MJ-12." Even though the memo was found in the National Archives (see stamp at lower left), its authenticity is questioned.