Focus

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Focus

IN THIS ISSUE

"Star Wars, Russian Style" 3
"South African Crash Controversy" 5
"Still More on Aztec" 6
"The Church and the Existence of Beings" 8
"Trivia Tidbits" 9
"UFOs and the GRAND DECPTION" 10
"The Dreaded Red 'X' " 17
"Sighting Report" 17
"MJ-12 Report Near Completion" 17
"UFO's and the U.S.Government: Part IV" 18
"The Search For Extraterrestrial Artifacts" 20
"Pre-1947 UFO Crash?" 25
"Book Reviews" 25
"Back Issues of FOCUS" 26

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STAR WARS, RUSSIAN STYLE?

By Jimmy Ward

Much has been said and written about America's Star War program. Little or nothing has been said or written about Russia's efforts to create their own version. Do they even have one? Read the following and decide for yourself.

On October 19, 1968, the Russians launched Cosmos-248 into a near-circular orbit. Roughly 24 hours later, Cosmos-249 was launched into a slightly eliptical orbit. Several days later, U.S. radar showed that Cosmos-249 had broken up into dozens of fragments. Since satellites do malfunction and even explode, little attention was paid to this turn of events. Then on November 1, 1968, Cosmos-252 lifted off on its column of smoke and a few days later it, too, fragmented. Two such accidents in two weeks?

North American Air Defense Command looked into the matter. Trajectories of the remains of these two exploded satellites were tracked, and, using the data discovered, they worked backward to determine when and where each explosion had occurred. Cosmos-249 had blown up over Russia at a point in its orbit where it was only a couple of miles from Cosmos-248. Cosmos-252 was also passing close to Cosmos-248 when it exploded. This led to speculation that Cosmos-249 and Cosmos-252 had been loaded with explosives and had been detonated by remote control to determine the damage the high-velocity fragments would have on the target Cosmos-248.

Two years later on October 20, 1970, Cosmos-373 was launched followed three days later by Cosmos-374. Within hours, Cosmos-374 passed close to Cosmos-373 and it, too, exploded. A week later, October 30, 1970, Cosmos-375 lifted off and as it passed near Cosmos-373 a few hours later, another apparent explosion was recorded. These explosions continued until such activities were mentioned at the SALT-I talks, at which point they ceased until 1976 when they resumed once again. In March, 1981, the Associated Press reported that the Russians were then using infra-red sensing devices in their latest anti-satellite weapons, thus enabling them to hunt down and destroy their targets. But their latest weapon was still only a "space mine" loaded with explosives and merely equipped with a new "heat seeker" device!

This reporter finds such a story hard to swallow. The Russians were the first to put a satellite into orbit, the first to put a man in space, the first to accomplish a space-walk, the first to link-up two unmanned satellites in 1967, the first to link-up two manned vehicles, and the first to place a "sky-lab" in orbit. With all these firsts, it seems very unlikely that they would experiment for over 15 years with such primitive weapons as "space mines" and not make <u>any</u> improvements except to add a heat detector and an automatic guidance system. A closer look at this series of events is needed.

According to the original scenario, a target was sent up followed by two space mines that detonated as they neared their target. Fragments from such an explosion would indeed damage the target if they hit solar panels, the electro-optical horizon sensor (used to keep the craft pointing in the proper direction), and especially if a piece penetrated the relatively thin skin of the craft. IF is the key word here, since there seems to be no certainty that fragments from an exploding "mine" would hit the target at all. When one of these mines explodes, it naturally sends fragments off in all directions. A blast near the target would likely send a number of fragments in the right direction, and the odds of one or more of these doing significant damage would likely be quite good. As the distance between the blast and the target increased, however, the less would be the chance of scoring a damaging hit. Not a very dependable (nor likely) defense system, is it?

If we reverse the situation, it becomes much more likely. A "killer satellite" is sent up followed by two targets which are both destroyed in short order. This is the sort of defense one would expect. The repeat performances then become tests to increase range and accuracy and the testing of newer weapons through the scenario remains essentially the same. Meanwhile, anyone watching the show is left with the impression that there has been little or no advancement in technology. The Russians are

not stupid and credit should be given them for all their real firsts. Likewise, we should not ignore their potential for advancement.

What kind of weapons would these killer satellites carry? Here we can only guess. Small rocket missiles would be a "must" and were most likely used in the first tests. Lasers? Lasers are not the great weapons many people believe them to be. By the early '70s, the U.S. had developed, tested and scrapped laser pistols, rifles and even cannons mounted on half-tracks, and there is no reason to assume that the Russians were not doing the same. Any highly reflective or refractive surface would severely impare laser effectiveness, making such weaponry less than ideal for many situations. This is not to suggest that high-energy lasers do not have significant potential as a weapon; but rather to point out that such weaponry aboard Russian satellites in the early '70s is unlikely.

Particle weapons? The U.S. has been investigating charged particle beam (CPB) technology since 1959 and has found such systems to be so effective that most work done on them is still highly classified. The irony of this is that the devices are basically so simple and inexpensive that the average "tinkerer" can purchase nearly everything he needs to build one from his local Radio Shack and then can build it in his garage or basement workshop and still have a weapon capable of electrocuting someone 500 yards away and small enough to conceal in his coat or jacket pocket. Imagine what a more powerful and sophisticated version could do. They can easily penetrate 30 cm. of solid aluminum and destroy anything beyond, especially electrical or electronic components. So CPBs are very likely to have been included in the killer satellite testing programs.

Another probable weapon is the electromagnetic pulse or EMP. This is an intense, short burst of EM waves that can penetrate a satellite's shell and fuse the circuits within. While it probably would not cause a satellite to explode per se, it would play havoc with the controls and render them inoperative. Even a small jolt can cause the controls to malfunction in unpredictable ways. The Russians were again first in discovering this side effect of nuclear detonations and later were able to create an EMP without using an explosion to produce it. It is especially effective on micro-circuits and chips. Although there is no hard evidence to connect the two, consider the following:
Early in 1979, NASA launched a series of "experiments in commercial communication" satellites called Satcom. As usual, this was a half-truth. Almost immediately after Satcom I went into orbit, areas of the world previously unable to receive TV signals began enjoying such broadcasts. Satcom II roared into space on December 6, 1979 and was billed as "one thousand percent more efficient" than Satcom I and more immune to malfunctions. It functioned "like a dream" until the dream became a nightmare. A routine order was given, but Satcom II not only ignored it but did the exact opposite. It wobbled, shot upward another 10,000 miles and proceeded to shut off its solar panels, all in direct contradiction to the orders given. Orders were then given to transfer "special duties" from Satcom II to a smaller spy satellite. These orders were acknowledged and then ignored. A few hours later, all hell broke loose as Satcom II began sending *"Red Alert"* signals to the defense department saying that a nuclear bomb had exploded in South Africa. Later it said that Russia had launched a half-dozen ICBMs at the U.S. Then suddenly, a few hours later, it returned to normal operation and began obeying orders. This continued until December 10th, when without warning Satcom II mysteriously vanished without a trace!

John Lacy of the Maryland NASA tracking station was quoted as stating, "What we do know is that it's not the first time the behavior of a full-functioning satellite suddenly became incomprehensible." He could have added, "and then vanished." Two and a half months earlier, on September 22, 1979, a Vela spy satellite began reporting nuclear explosions over South Africa until they were "everywhere present". Several hours later, it cancelled this report and began reporting the explosions were over portions of the South Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Antarctic. Then it vanished! Did Russia have anything to do with this? Both CIA and DoD believe they did, but have been unable to explain how, as recently released documents show. Unconfirmed reports state that Russian satellites were also affected a couple of times. Would Russia use its own weaponry against itself? It might if it were testing its satellites for "hardening". It would be necessary to discover how effective their "hardening" really was. And to try new techniques of defense.

What else might be up there? Is this just a case of crying "Wolf!", or could it be more truth than fiction?

SOUTH AFRICAN CRASH CONTROVERSARY

One of the most widely discussed matters in the UFO field lately concerns rumors and a certain amount of documentary evidence to the effect that a UFO crash/retrieval event took place in South Africa in May of 1989, and that two live aliens were found inside the craft. As the story goes, the UFO was deliberately "shot down" by an experimental laser cannon (referred to as "Thor 2") which had been installed in one of the South African Air Force's french-built Mirage jet fighters. Both the UFO and the two live aliens were then turned over to U.S. authorities upon recovery in exchange for "nuclear technology", which is defined by some of those involved with this story as meaning "two live hydrogen bombs." Prominent in the spreading of this information throughout the UFO community has been one Henry Azadehdel, a wealthy, flamboyant and highly controversial Russian-born ex-convict (international smuggling) who holds British citizenship and who has gone to great lengths in recent years to try to sell himself as an expert on UFO abductions under a variety of aliases and a.k.a's (including "Dr. Henry" and "Dr. Victorian").

Based upon an analysis of available information, and the results of an extensive investigation which has included discussions with several confidential sources, the apparent facts of the event can be summarized as follows:

(1) *A crash/retrieval event appears to have indeed occured in South Africa around May of 1989; but all indications are that the object retrieved was not a UFO, but rather a piece of Soviet space debris— most likely the remains of a highly classified spy satellite. The U.S. may in fact have offered up some technology in exchange for the debris, but given present American policy regarding South Africa, nuclear technology would have been out of the question.*

(2) *U.S. laser weapon technology is still some distance away from perfecting anything small enough to be installed in any aircraft. Furthermore, the likelihood of America's defense establishment providing such technology to the South Africans, even if we did have it, is virtually nil. America, however, has been actively pursuing such technology for some time, and does possess at least one prototype device. The thing is ground-based, and enormous— far too huge and heavy in its present state to be lofted by any aircraft. The only "laser cannon" technology presently available to the South Africans is a laser-assisted sighting device which "paints" (or tracks) its target in somewhat the same fashion as the older radar lock-on.*

(3) *The alleged South African military documents which have been circulated with respect to this case are written in English. Most South African military and government reports use Afrikaans. The use of English in Top Secret documents is described as unusual.*

(4) *The above three points notwithstanding, the story killer in this affair is the man who was responsible for it in the first place- one Mr. James van Greunen of Johannesburg. If Azadehdel can be described as shady, van Greunen seems downright unsavory:*

His claims of being a Captain in the South African Air Force and a member of RSA Air Force Intelligence are allegedly phoney.

He is alleged to have claimed past employment in the American aerospace industry with both Jet Propulsion Lab and Wright-Patterson AFB, and to have manufactured and passed on false credentials attesting to same.

He is alleged to have used the names of prominant people without their knowledge or authorization, both in the U.S. and in South Africa, as part of a confidence scams set up to collect money. He is also alleged to have bagged several sizable chunks of cash gleaned from individuals and organizations *(Walt Andrus, Director of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network <MUFON>, is reportedly one of them and con-man Henry Azadehdel another)* to whom he made "confidential" approaches in connection with the apparently phoney South African Air Force documents mentioned above.

Those who have followed his past UFO-related activities in South Africa since he surfaced there in the middle '70s allege a sordid trail of contradictory claims and stories. Some have gone so far as to suggest that the man is mentally unbalanced.

Unlike the matter of the still controversial **MJ-12** documents (which has gone on now for more than five years with no visible payoff), the South African case has all the earmarks of a grandiose hoax: Phoney government documents (one of which even portrays an alleged alien alphabet with English translation of same); impossible circumstances (the South African military does not have laser cannon technology, nor do they possess a weapons system known as "Thor-2" as indicated in the documents); and shady characters with dubious backgrounds, the principal one of whom (van Greunen) was obviously out to turn the story into money as fast as he could before it all came apart.

We welcome any further input readers may have on this story.

STILL MORE ON "AZTEC"

The difference between misinformation and disinformation is often a very fine line. Essentially, however, misinformation is data which is false or erroneous on its face, while disinformation is a combination of both fact and fiction cleverly blended and spread by someone whose prime motive is to divert attention away from a larger truth.

One piece of misinformation that has seen considerably more play than it deserves in both UFO-oriented publications and the public press has been the so-called Hottel Memo, a one page, four paragraph FBI memorandum dated March 22, 1950, which was released under the FOIA more than a dozen years ago. The memo itself is a bona fide FBI document. It is not official disinformation. Unfortunately, the way that many writers and researchers have chosen to wave it about as "proof positive" of a UFO crash-retrieval amounts to nothing less than a blatant act of misinforming an unsuspecting public. Misinformation—pure and simple.

For those unfamiliar with it, the text reads in part:

"An investigator for the Air Force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots.

"According to Mr. (officially censored), informant, the saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the Government has a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controling mechanism of the saucers."

Since its release, numerous lecturers and researchers have waved this document in front of cameras or audiences and called it "hard evidence" of a saucer crash. One respected individual, Larry W. Bryant of the D.C. branch of CAUS, even went so far as to make a case in federal court in an effort to force the Bureau to divulge the name of its original informant on the matter-- a name which was censored out of the document at the time of its original release. He lost— the court agreeing with the FBI's argument that the name had been justifiably withheld under the sources-and-methods and the privacy provisions of the FOIA.

While seemingly sensational at first blush, in the final analysis the document turns out to be nothing more than an eighth-hand repetition of the Silas Newton - Frank Scully story, and as such, should not be cited as evidence of anything at all— except perhaps of the fact that Newton's story had a far wider circulation at the time than even most UFO researchers are aware. For those readers who require proof, the following four paragraphs are excerpted from "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in the Search for Proof", a paper which I delivered at the 1985 MUFON Symposium in St Louis. (The entire 52 page text is available from us as Publication #1258 for $12.00, and is essential reading for those who want more information concerning Mr. Newton's general unreliability as a source of information.)

"Some time during September or October, 1949, Newton began telling his crashed saucer stories to his close friend in Denver, George Koehler. The central theme in his story to Koehler was that a saucer had crashed in the vicinity of a high-powered radar site on the New Mexico-Arizona border, that the dead aliens were all about three feet in height, were dressed in garments made of metallic cloth, and that they wore no undergarments but rather had their bodies wrapped or taped. (These four points are important to remember: (1) High-powered radar site in Ariz.-N.M.; (2) 3' in height; (3) metallic cloth; and (4) taped bodies.) The die had been cast.

"Koehler, who evidently believed Newton without question, repeated the tale during early October, 1949, to a number of his friends including Morley P. Davies, a field representative for the Walter J. Thompson Co. in Denver. Davies, in turn, repeated the story to at least two of his associates, Jack M. Murphy and L.J. van Horn, who were manager and assistant manager of a local Ford Motor agency there. In mid-December, Murphy and van Horn in their turn told the tale, now fourth-hand, to Kansas City, Kansas, auto dealer Rudy Fick who was passing through Denver on his way home from Ogden, Utah. Back home in Kansas City, Fick passed along the now fifth-hand tale to the editor of the Wyandotte Echo, a weekly newspaper published in Kansas City. In the telling, the name "Koehler" had now become "Coulter", and the number of flying saucers in possession of the U.S. government had grown from three or four to "around fifty", forty of which were under study "in the United States Re-

search Bureau in Los Angeles." The bit about the high-powered radar site on the N.M.-Ariz. border remained in the story, as did the alleged three foot height of the aliens and the manner of their dress. Fick implied that "Coulter" had actually seen the disc himself.

"The story, attributed to Fick, his friends in Denver, and ultimately "Coulter", appeared in the January 6, 1950 edition of the Wyandotte Echo, and from there was picked up by a number of other papers around the country. This attracted the interest of both the FBI and (AF)OSI, the latter of which had begun investigating it as an adjunct to their case already in progress on Mikel Conrad (for more details on which, see the above referenced paper; Ed.). By early March, a whole series of communications pertaining to the matter had passed between OSI headquarters in Washington, D.C., and various field units, one of which dated 14 March, 1950 (just 8 days before the "Hottel Memo"; Ed.), stated that Newton's November 24, 1949, conversation with (Bruce) Cabot at the Lakeside Country Club (once again, see the above referenced paper; Ed.) had been witnessed by a "local KFI radio news commentator (name officially deleted) who, on a morning program, announced in effect that a party at a Hollywood country club had stated that he had information on flying discs and that the discussion took place over a round of drinks at the 'nineteenth hole' (bar)... and that the 'story got better with each drink'." (OSI had attempted to interview Newton at the time, but without success in that Newton had apparently gone off to Wyoming shortly thereafter.)

In any case, one of the agents at OSI headquarters in Washington, passed the Fick story, now seventh-hand, along to Special Agent Guy Hottel, one of his contacts in the Washington office of the FBI (with whom OSI often worked quite closely), who in turn, on March 22, 1950, generated a memo on it to J. Edgar Hoover himself...."

Proof that con-man Silas Newton, via his late 1949 conversation with George Koehler, was the source of the information in agent Hottel's now eighth-hand account to Hoover rests on the fact that both Newton's tale to Koehler and Hottel's report to Hoover contain the same four key points (i.e. High-powered radar site in New Mexico <but now without mention of Arizona>, three foot tall aliens, metallic cloth, and wrapped bodies)!

Before leaving the matter of Frank Scully, it seems appropriate to mention here that the most recent development in FWP's continuing investigation into this case was the FBI's release to us, on September 6, 1989, of 63 pages of file material pertaining mostly to Scully's alleged connections to the Communist Party and various communist front organizations in California between the late '30s and about 1960. This file presents a side of Scully that seems to have gone unnoticed in UFO research up to this point, and is quite illuminating. One of the most interesting items in this file is a fascinating memorandum, dated October 20, 1950, from agent C.E. Hennrich to A.H. Belmont at Bureau headquarters, which, after citing no less than 25 separate instances of "Scully's participation in Communist Party Front and other Pro-Communist Groups" between 1937 and 1949 (!), concludes with the following "Observation":

"It appears from an analysis of the book "Behind the Flying Saucers" written by Scully that Scully's purpose in writing the book could easily have been to undermine public morale by attempting to convince them of the possibility of attack from another planet and to undermine their confidence in the Department of Defense."

The memo went on to recommend "that this memorandum be brought to the attention of the Internal Security Section, in order that consideration be given to conducting additional investigation of Scully as a possible Security Index subject."

On November 4, 1950, Hoover ordered the Los Angeles office to conduct "a thorough security investigation of the activities of this individual to determine... whether he can be considered a threat to the security of the country...." This investigation was completed on December 9th, and resulted in an 18 page report, five pages of which were withheld from release by the Bureau under three different exemptions of the FOIA.

Interested researchers may obtain a complete copy of this 63 page file from FWP for the sum of $9.00 (about .15/pg), plus an additional one dollar for postage. Please refer to "Frank Scully FBI File" in your request.

Another crash-retrieval story which has circulated around UFOlogy for decades without explanation is that of Ray L. Dimmick, who on March 9, 1950 (note the date) told International News Service and reporters from two Los Angeles newspapers of a UFO crash near Mexico City which killed the 23" tall pilot. Dimmick, then 66 year-old sales manager for the Apache Powder Co. in Glendale, California, went on to claim that the saucer was under heavy guard at a secret military facility, and that "top brass" from Washington had viewed it. Early accounts quoted him as saying he had seen the device, but he later denied this claiming he was only repeating a story he had gotten from "a friend in Mexico".

Continued on page 9

"THE CHURCH AND THE EXISTENCE OF BEINGS ON OTHER WORLDS"

By Jesus Pavlo Tenorio

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the May 21, 1970 issue of Jueves del Excelsior, pp. 30-31, the weekly magazine of the Mexico City daily, El Excelsior. We are indebted to Michael Stacy (brother of MUFON UFO Journal editor Dennis Stacy) for his translation of the original spanish, and to subscriber Richard Heiden, who brought the article itself to our attention.)

This issue would seem to be serious. And it has now taken on a here-and-now aspect since Allen Hynek, head of Northwestern University's (Illinois) Astronomy Department, is now in Mexico to hold round-robin discussions on the possible existence of intelligent beings on other planets. It did not take long for this issue to be connected to such questions as : What would the Church think about the existence of such creatures? Would there be changes in the underpinnings of the faith? Would explanations have to be improvised if facts show there are beings on other planets?

These and many other questions have been asked on similar occasions. But what few people know is that the Church has already answered these questions in the latter part of the last century, and the answers are apparently still valid. Not from a learned point of view, since it is not the Church's task to teach the faithful about space, but from a theological point of view, which is the most important, since it is possible that these likely extraterrestrial beings will some day come into contact with the Earth.

But as we said, this issue was raised during Lent in 1889 by the Dominican theologian, Abbot Monsabre, who gave a lecture on the subject to an uncomfortable audience.

A Strange Conference

On that day in April of 1889, when the faithful gathered at the famous Notre Dame Cathedral in the City of Lights (Paris), no one dreamed that the speaker would address them on such an unusual topic. A newspaper of the day carried verbatim excerpts of the speaker's main points, which were essentially these:

"It is true that God has done great things for mankind, but it is also true that God has shared His good things with and has dominion over others in addition to us.

"It is a point of faith (understand this well) that there are other intelligent beings upon whom the Creator has also lavished His generosity. 'God,' says St. Thomas, 'has created as many of them as they are perfect. Every number that can be imagined is insufficient if it is to describe their number (i.e. angels). These pure spirits are happy both in the grace of God and in the free exercise of their own will. A huge host of their glorious army fell tragically from the heavens into the pit of ignomy and suffering, but the majority remained faithful...

"And if you come down into emptiness from heaven, where the angels enjoy nothing but eternal bliss, you will see in the emptiness thousands of spheres larger and more beautiful than our mean world, and of course, you will wonder if these spheres are trackless wildernesses, uninhabited and without sound, created only for us to wonder at and provide surprises for astronomers, and perhaps you will say to the sages who study the elements and the frameworks of heavenly bodies, 'There must be living beings up there! Why shouldn't the stars be peopled with beings less perfect than the angels but more perfect than we? There is space for other lives between the intuitive life of pure spirits and our complex rational life.'

Earth, the Hundreth Sheep?

"It is true," the Abbot Monsabre went on, "that we have experienced the Incarnation of the Word, but was this perhaps not because the Word, desiring to humble Itself and lift up the entire universe on Its humble shoulders to bring it into God's presence, chose the lowest of intelligent, rational life to achieve Its goal? Wasn't it perhaps because the Good Shepherd, being desirous of leading His entire flock to pastures of eternal joy, left the ninety-nine sheep in space that were following the right path and came to seek out the Earth, the hundreth sheep that was lost? And if these beings, who are superior to us, were in need of universal redemption, does the Church not tell us that the work done on the Cross is sufficient for all and that the river of divine blood that covered Calvary reaches even to these mysterious worlds? It has purified the Earth, the seas, the stars and the entire universe (terra, pontus, astra, mundus, quo levantur flumina, as the great liturgical hymn says).

"Why should not the inhabitants of all the spheres scattered in space, who were created by God as surely as we were and who are covered by Jesus Christ, not be instructed in the Truth and Virtue of redemption by the angels that rule those worlds or by the resur-

rected Jesus? Finally, why should God be prevented from reaching out to countless legions of the blissful in the deeps of space?

"Add to this the fact that creation as we know it cannot be the only creation that God has imagined, since He is surrounded by eternity on all sides and possesses unlimited power to expand space indefinitely and multiply those beings. He is an infinite goodness that wants nothing more than to grow, be made known and make others happy. You cannot deny, if all this is true, that it is impossible to count the number of beings that have been created."

We are not Alone

Thus ended the arguments put forth by Abbot Monsabre. After his presentation, a murmur arose, and people exchanged glances as if saying, "So we are not alone." On the subject of extraterrestrial beings, the Mexican theologian Joaquin Cardoso, S.J., tells us:

"In this regard, the Church leaves men of science totally free to exercise their intellectual faculties to find new truths in their natural order, since God Himself, as the Holy Scriptures say, has given this natural order over to the dominion of the human mind."

Cardoso emphasized the words *"new truths"* instead of mere suppositions that incite the ignorant or the elite who might claim that the Church finds itself in a "painful need" to "reconsider its position."

TRIVIA TIDBITS

Question: By its own estimate, how many "secrets" did the U.S. government officially create during fiscal 1989?

ANSWER: 6,796,501; of which about 500,000 were classed as "original secrets" and the remainder as "derivitive secrets." One thing that's not a secret is who paid for the study. You did!

According to Phillip Callahan, retired biophysicist from the University of Florida, "A lot of night sightings of UFOs are just lit-up insects riding storm fronts." If it's any comfort to you, however, even the skeptics are skeptical of this one. "Insects," opined one dour old curmudgeon, might explain "only one out of a thousand" sightings.

Edgar Whisenant, retired NASA engineer and born-again Christian, is still alive, the World Bible Society is $200,000 richer, and 4.5 million "faithful" have been left holding the bag (or is that "book"?)— all because the world didn't end on September 1, 1988 as Whisenant had predicted in his Christian bestseller "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988". Undaunted and still breathing on September 2nd, 1988, it was back to the drawing board where, lo and behold, he discovered the error of his human ways. No wonder the world hadn't come to an end! His calculations were off by one whole year! And so, it was write another book ("The Final Shout-Rapture '89 Report"), and back to the World Bible Society for another try. The new book was released in May of 1989, and did so well that by September 2nd there wasn't a copy to be had anywhere in Christendom..

"AZTEC CRASH"
Continued from page 7

Since author/researcher Len Stringfield revived interest in UFO crash-retrieval stories in the mid-'70s, Dimmick's tale has been retold in a number of articles and books, most notably the Stevens-Steinman tome UFO Crash at Aztec. All of these, however, seem to have missed two very key points which provide solid insight into the origin of this yarn:

(1) In 1950, Ray Dimmick was 66 years old and Silas Newton was around 60 (he constantly lied about his age). Both were known and respected players on the amateur golf circuit at the time, and both were members of the exclusive Lakeside Country Club in North Hollywood— a place where Newton was well known for spreading wild saucer tales amongst the members.

(2) Dimmick spilled his tale to the press in Los Angeles on March 9, 1950, only one day after Silas Newton (posing as "Mr. X") created a small sensation in Denver by going public with a similar tale about a crash having occurred at Aztec. Dimmick, in one of his statements to the press, admitted to having heard reports "that similar objects had landed in various parts of Mexico and America in the last year." Newton, for his part, is known to have begun spreading his tales of crashed saucers around Hollywood in mid-August of 1949. On November 24, 1949, according to an official AFOSI report, he told a group of friends at the Lakeside Country Club bar that there had been three such crashes. One of those present was a well-known KFI radio personality who repeated Newton's story on the air the next morning. All things considered, it seems reasonable to conclude that Dimmick, like Scully, was just another of Newton's unfortunate pawns.

UFOs AND THE "GRAND DECEPTION": WHAT'S GOING ON?

By William L. Moore

(Editor's Note: The following article is a much expanded version of the "Editorial" which appeared in FOCUS for December 31, 1989. Regular subscribers may recognize a few verbatim portions of that earlier piece which have been incorporated herein for the sake of continuity.)

When UFOs began appearing over America in large numbers during the late 1940s, most people looked to the government, the military establishment and the scientific community for answers. Organized civilian UFO research in the U.S. began in the early 1950s, only after it became clear that the government's response to the problem was going to be official secrecy, obfuscation, and persistent high-level debunking. Since that time, private-sector UFO research has grown into an incredible circus of loosely-organized individuals and small groups, each of which, by means of their own newsletters, magazines or exposure at one or more of the variety of symposia, conventions or conferences which are held each year, espouses a "political line" consistent with their own particular goals and philosophies, and rigorously defends that position against all others. The battle lines were drawn early, and today have come to form an entire political spectrum of positions and activity from UFO-bashing extremists on the one side to the paranoid fringe on the other:

DEBUNKERS	SKEPTICS	MIDDLE UFOLOGY	NEW AGE BELIEVERS	POARANOID FRINGE
Debunkers and ufo-bashers: All reports of UFOs can be easily explained in prosaic terms. Planet earth is not being visited by extraterrestrials and consequently the so-called UFO phenomenon is not worthy of legitimate scientific consideration. people who study UFOs are mosty gullible or unscientific crackpots (often referred to as "UFO Buffs") whose work is not worthy of serious consideration.	Friendly Skeptics: If more data were available, most UFO reports could be explained away as misidentifications of ordinary events. Some UFOs, however, may be a heretofore unrecognized form of natural phenomenon or the product of an elaborate psycho-sociological process at work. In either case, additional study by competent individuals is called for. the ET hypothesis, while unlikely, should not be completely ruled out until all the data is in.	Logical, scientific, evidence-oriented researchers whose work centers around the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) in one form or another, or a variety of inter-dimensionnal theories. Common ground amongst "middle ufologists" is their acceptance of UFOs as a real phenomenon which appears to be subject tosome form of intelligent control. Most agree that consideraly more research needs to be done befor any firm conclusions can be drawn. All of the major organizations and most of the prominent researchers in the U.S. fall into this middle field. Generally speaking, while there is a common willingness to weigh and sift virtually every elment of the UFO phenomenon on the basis of evidence, there is an equally common tendency to dismiss dissident elements on either the extreme left or the ultra-right as "negativists" on the one hand , or "the lunatic fringe" on the other.	Aliens are unquestionably here, but they are basically good. They want to help us save the planet and usher mankind into a new age of consciousness and self-awareness. Certain humans, (contactees, trance-channelers, abductees, and similar types) have been specially selected and programmed by the Aliens to assist with this process in one way or another.	Aliens are unquestionably here, but they are evil and want to enslave us. Sinister elements within the U.S. government know this but have been keeping it secret while trying to enhance their own position by making deals with the Aliens. Their goal is the total enslavement of mankind under a one world government. They will stop at nothing to achieve their plan.
Use of closed-minded debunking, ridicule, denial, name calling and similar propaganda techniques is common.		So-called "middle ufology" in the U.S. is often the scene of intense personal and political in-fighting amongst the various groups and individuals involved.	Most "New-Age" and moderate religious elements fall into this category.	Conspiracy theories and extreme paranoia are manifest amongst individuals who espouse these beliefs. Elements of ultra-right wing politics and extreme Christian fundamentalism are also present.

UFOs by anyone's standards are a controversial subject which, during times of high public interest such as we have seen in the past few years, are the center of considerable attention by the mass media. During these times, often referred to as "flaps", UFO organizations and individual researchers have traditionally viewed media interest in the subject as an excellent opportunity to promote either themselves or their groups as the foremost "experts" in the field. Under such circumstances, of course, individual positions, beliefs, philosophies and conclusions all become part of the package. Since anyone can be a "UFO expert" or "UFOlogist" simply by conferring the title upon themselves (there are no professional standards or ethics in this field), it was inevitable that the ability of "UFOs" to generate media attention and large crowds would be recognized and ultimately utilized by groups and individuals whose agenda included far more than just an effort to learn the truth about an elusive phenomenon. It was equally inevitable that government agents would come to recognize the inherent gullibility of certain UFO promoters coupled with their ability to gain media attention as a made-to-order opportunity for the planting and dissemenation of carefully contrived UFO disinformation designed both to perpetuate the convenient "laughter curtain" surrounding UFOs (useful if you don't want people to take the subject seriously), and to divert the attention of serious researchers away from the government's own classified efforts to examine the phenomenon.

One can study UFOs in an effort to learn more about the them, or one can use the subject as a convenient subterfuge for the accomplishment of rather different goals which may or may not be related directly to the phenomenon itself. In the latter instance, it is important to note that in spite of carefully contrived appearances to the contrary, the dissemenation of credible research (or "truth") about UFOs may have little or even nothing to do with what's really going on. Perhaps a good point of comparison here would be the manner in which the tobacco industry promotes the sale of cigarettes. What everyone sees at first glance are the large, full-color spreads depicting cigarettes as a soothing, refreshing, relaxing status symbol. The image falls apart only under careful scrutiny when one discovers and reads the almost invisible fine print of the Surgeon General's warning. A close look at some of America's current crop of UFO promoters reveals a very similar situation.

The difference between "middle-of-the-road" UFOlogists and their "believer" cousins comes down to the matter of evidence. Middle UFOlogists generally regard the gathering of evidence as foremost in the way they go about studying the phenomenon; and while their standards often fall short when compared to those of professional journalists or scientists, most are at least capable of basing their conclusions upon a reasonably good data base. In other words, information which is grossly inconsistent, largely uncorroborated, badly misrepresented or derived from demonstrably unreliable sources is almost uniformly rejected by middle UFOlogists as worthless. For such individuals, UFOs are not so much a belief system as a quest for knowledge through investigation. Conclusions must be firmly rooted in evidence and must stand up to at least reasonably logical argument.

UFO believers, onthe other hand, are generally people with a well-established "consciousness" about the nature and purpose of UFOs and the extraterrestrials who travel in them. To such people, further proof of alien reality is unnecessary. They "know" that aliens are already here, and they are fully prepared to accept as "true" without question the claims of other humans who have alleged contact with them in one form or another. From the middle-of-the-road standpoint, the biggest problem with believers is their unflagging willingness to accept and repeat bizarre, outrageous and often even phoney information with only minimal effort devoted to determining whether the material has any validity or the source behind it is credible.

The so-called "paranoid fringe" is even farther out. Like the New Age believers, these people are also convinced of an alien presence on planet earth. Unlike the New Agers, however, the "fringies" are heavily conspiracy oriented and view these aliens as inherently evil. To them, the whole UFO thing is an intricately contrived plot to take over the planet and deliver us all into slavery or worse. They see agents everywhere, their phones are tapped, their mail is tampered with, and many firmly believe that mysterious "Men-in-Black" (MIBs) can appear at any time and place to silence those who say too much or get too close to the truth. Their gatherings and their literature are loaded with tales of super secret underground UFO bases (often allegedly connected by a network of tunnels), of aliens routinely abducting humans and implanting them with control devices, of clandestine treaties between the U.S. government and extraterrestrials, and on, and on. Unfortunately, such people will believe almost anything as long as it's fed to them in a conspiratorial tone.

The ready believers and the paranoids have been a stone around the neck of middle UFOlogists from the very beginning. From the late George Adamski, who collected groups of such people around him and actively exploited them throughout the '50s and early '60s, to the Billy Meier people who are doing the very same thing today, UFOlogy has seen an endless chain of promoters come and go—virtually every one of which has played the paranoia game to the hilt. The latest wave, however, has added something of a new twist to the old game— ultra-

conservative, right-wing politics! In this particular version, however, UFOs seem to be only the magnet— the point of attraction which brings in the people so that they can be fed the word, and ultimately, so that potential supporters of the cause can be identified. Once the attention of the masses has been achieved, UFOs become only one data point in a matrix of right-wing conspiracy theories liberally laced with just enough verifiable fact so as to make the whole mixture palatable to those whose faith far outweighs their skepticism.

Ira Einhorn, hippie guru/intellectual of the '60s, once summed up the world of the paranoid in a marvelous one-liner. "Paranoia," he wrote, "is the incredible ability to create coherence out of chaos"— an excel lent description of what the paranoid fringe of UFOlogy has done with the virtual chaos of conflicting opinions and data about UFOs. To these people, it's all a crystal-clear conspiracy by the aliens, the government, the wealthy and the power-hungry to take over the planet. Once accepted, it becomes an iron-clad, unassailable reality with its own built-in defense mechanism: The paranoid is so convinced his own perception of reality constitutes "truth", that anyone who dares to either question or attack it is easily dismissed as part of the conspiracy around him. Put more simply, the paranoid perceives anyone who tries to intrude upon his own "truth" as part of a conspiracy aimed at keeping "truth" from him. It's not only convenient for the paranoid, but it's also convenient for the promoter whose goal it is to "use" the paranoid as a pawn towards achieving his own ends. To those with axes to grind who feel the need to build rapport with the masses in order to spread their messages, "UFOs" are the perfect tool. Take any conspiracy theory you want, fold in a measure of "but the real power behind it all is UFO aliens who want to enslave the planet," add just enough verifiable fact to be convincing, pump your reputation up so you will look like someone who ought to know, and UFO believers by the thousands will come out of the woodwork to hear what you have to say.

So who's doing this in the American UFO community today, and why? Let's take a look.

The current wave of UFO-conspiracy paranoia in the U.S. got off to a shakey start back in mid-1987 with a man by the name of John Lear. If John's last name had been Smith instead of Lear, few would have paid any attention to him when he began spouting wild tales of aliens feeding off the mutilated corpses of humans abducted against their will, of secret treaties between alien invaders and clandestine agencies of the U.S. government, and of hidden underground bases deep in the mountains of New Mexico and Nevada. But because John is the son of well-known aviation pioneer William Lear, and because John has acquired a certain reputation of his own as a wealthy playboy pilot and would-be politician, people listened— at first. Only much later, when it became obvious to all but a few die-hards that the stories were getting wilder and the evidence was getting thinner, did Lear's supporters begin to realize that the Emperor had no clothes. Revelations that Lear had been an apparently unwitting dupe in a government UFO-disinformation operation brought still further denouement. In the end, even Walt Andrus, International Director of the prestigeous MUFON organization, was forced to concede that "perhaps (he had been) a bit hasty" in naming John MUFON State Director for Nevada and accepting his offer to host that organization's 1989 Symposium in Las Vegas. In the midst of the wreckage of almost two year's work, John offered his resignation as Nevada State Director the day after the symposium ended. From that moment on, Lear's UFOlogical constituency would derive increasingly from the paranoid fringe,and his pronouncements on the subject would become more and more politically oriented.

In the beginning, John had a lot of things going for him. Famous name, respected pilot in his own right, holder of world aviation speed records, plenty of friends in high places and the ability to attract lots of media attention— all of which were loudly touted by those who thought (or hoped) that Lear could provide credible answers to the questions people have been asking about UFOs for decades.

UFOlogists became aware of Lear and his interest in UFOs after he bagan making phone calls to numerous researchers during the early months of 1987. Following a phone call or two, I first met him during a mid-1987 conference in Washington, D.C. I found him pushy, opinionated, darkly conspiratorial, and yet somehow hesitant as well— as if he desperately wanted to be patronizing, but wasn't quite sure it was moral. Others at the gathering saw him differently, however, and before it was over he seemed to have become socially acceptable to a number of people.

John's quest for answers about UFOs showed a marked similarity to virtually everything else he had done in life. He had to be the first and foremost— the biggest and the best. If there was a mystery here, it didn't matter to John that no one up to now had been able to solve it— he, John Lear, could do it. As he saw it, all that had to be done was to travel the country, or even the world, and get the facts from the UFOlogists and the UFO witnesses themselves. Once these data points had been collected, he would use them to confront friends in high places in an effort to enlist their assistance. Like the child's pencil game of "connect the dots", Lear began collecting data points, and then connecting them one-by-one into what would ultimately become the "John Lear Report" on UFOs— a document surrounded in controversy from the moment of its release. In it, Lear boldly asserts that the following "truths"

have been systematically withheld from the world's public over the space of the last half-century:

-Germany recovered a crashed flying saucer as early as 1939. Hitler set up a secret project to develop UFO-type weapons, but the war ended before work on them was complete.

-America's first Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal, jumped to his death from a 16th floor hospital window after learning that "ugly little creatures shaped like preying mantises... who were more advanced than us by perhaps a billion years" were trying to take over planet Earth.

-Numerous flying saucers have crashed to earth and been recovered by U.S. authorities. They are stored at a Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and at other bases near the location of the crash sites. One was so huge that it was buried where it fell and remains there today.

-"On April 30, 1964, the first communication between... aliens and the U.S. Government took place near Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. Three saucers landed at a prearranged area and a meeting was held between the aliens and intelligence officers of the U.S. Government."

-"During the period 1969-1971, ...the U.S. Government made a deal with these creatures...." The deal was that the aliens would provide us with advanced technology in exchange for our agreeing to ignore human abductions (by aliens) and cattle mutilations (also by aliens). As part of the deal, the aliens agreed to submit periodic lists of abductees to the National Security Council. Some abductees were actually killed, either because they were regarded as a threat to the security of this agreement, or because their tissues were to be used as "living sources for biological material and substances."

-The aliens are actually suffering from a genetic digestive disorder which can only be alleviated by using enzymes and hormonal secretions obtained from tissue extracted from human and animal victims.

-"Cows and humans are genetically similar. In the event of a national disaster, cow's blood can be used by humans."

-The aliens absorb nourishment through their skin and secrete wastes the same way.

-The CIA and the aliens jointly occupy and operate an underground laboratory facility near Dulce, New Mexico. There are numerous similar underground facilities all over the country, and indeed the world. One of the most important of these is under Groom Lake, a secret government lab and test facility located on well guarded government property in the middle of Nevada.

-The aliens began to filch on their agreement in 1979 and by 1984 an crisis situation had developed which, in some cases, has involved violent confrontations between U.S. troops and alien forces. A significant number of American soldiers have been killed in these operations.

-Some of America's many missing children have actually been the victims of alien abductions. Many of these have simply been killed and their body parts and fluids added to the aliens' underground storage vats.

-America's "Star Wars" (SDI) Defense Initiative is not for the purpose of combatting Soviet attack at all, but rather is being developed as a weapon to use against the aliens.

-Other prominent Americans who are privy to this information include Dr. Edward Teller, Henry Kissinger, Bobby Inman and "possibly" Admiral Poindexter.

-The whole thing is really a "Grand Deception" with the final objective being a take over of planet Earth by the aliens and the ultimate enslavement of the human race. This will occur in the very near future unless something is done to stop it.

As if all of this weren't enough, Lear, in a December 1987 pronouncement, claimed to have solved another long-standing UFO mystery as well— that of "channelling and channelors (sic.)". According to Lear, this "'Space Brother' nonsense" is "pure, unadulterated crap" created by the aliens "to appeal to a certain segment of the population who might otherwise dig for real information." This is a particularly curious conclusion in light of the fact that interest in channelling within the UFO research community is almost exclusively limited to New Age believer-types who traditionally make little if any effort to verify or substantiate anything. Such is the gist of the so-called "John Lear Report". Its contents are a mish-mash of fantasy, fact and fiction. Digested regurgitations of pet theories and information gleaned from virtually every UFO researcher and witness John visited during several weeks of travel in late '87 and early '88 can be identified in its pages— all arranged into some semblance of logical sequence by John himself. According to researcher Clifford Stone, he and Lear spent "most of a week" sitting in Stone's living room theorizing and speculating on what the UFO phenomenon might be all about. Lear then went home and proceeded to treat every one of those theories and speculations as if it were absolutely proven fact. This was what he had "learned"; this was what he "believed"; and the world had to be told so that they could believe too. After all, there was a conspiracy afoot and it had to be stopped! And to those who wanted proof— why, the proof was that John Lear believed it and you should too! From the media coverage John got and the crowds he drew, apparently some people did.

Speaking as one who figures prominently in the Lear Scenario, I can say with absolute certainty (at least on my part) that the things John has said and written about me are either patently untrue or they are grossly distorted and frequently out-of-context interpretations of conversations I have had with John or of published material I provided to him.

Inevitably, the skeptical and the just plain cautious began to do some digging. If there was

any substance behind what John was saying, they wanted to find out about it. If there wasn't— well, that was important too. Just who was this man Lear, and what was he really all about?

Naturally John had his dark side, and once discovered it was to work heavily against his credibility. There were rumors (later shown to be true) that his father, motivated by disgust and disappointment, had disowned and disinherited him; stories of problems with alcoholism; allegations of a severly troubled personality; suggestions of clandestine drug use (never proven); and disturbingly visible connections to right-wing, ultra-conservative-fringe political organizations. In the long run, Lear's excessive and largely unsubstantiated UFO claims brought both his personal credibility and his professional reliability into serious question; and in the eyes of many erstwhile supporters and at least one prestigeous employer, he lost.

In the final analysis, all that can be said of the so-called "John Lear Report" is that it rests firmly upon a foundation of John's own opinions and beliefs— and little else. Perhaps the most succinct characterization possible is to say that Mr. Lear's much touted research, sadly, comes down to nothing more than a frustrating, one-man exercise in tabloid journalism.

The decline of John Lear, however, seems to have only affected the person himself. He legacy of paranoia and conspiracy goes on, carried now by others whose theories are even more incredible and less substantiated than John's ever were. Foremost among these is one Milton William Cooper.

The UFO gospel according to saint William Cooper is an entire series of revelations, many of them borrowed directly from the "John Lear Report" (see above), and each one more outrageous than the one before:

"There is a secret pact between UFO aliens and the U.S. government. Aliens are operating with impunity from underground bases in various parts of the world and are planning to take control of the planet. The 1988 presidential election was the last free election this country will ever have... or maybe there will be one more and then that will be the last. Space aliens routinely provide the U.S. government with lists of humans they plan to abduct and use for hideous genetic experimentation— and the government routinely approves the lists! President Kennedy was assassinated by his Secret Service chauffeur because he was planning to reveal the truth about UFOs to the American public. The assassination was accomplished by means of a pneumatic pistol which shot pellets of poisoned sea shells into the president's brain causing it to implode. That's why there was no brain found in Kennedy's skull during the autopsy. A conspiracy of international bankers working together with space aliens is planning to create a one-world government and make slaves of most of our planet's population. People, especially scientists, are routinely being abducted and taken to secret bases already established on the far side of the moon and on Mars. And the public's only hope of defense against all of this is for everyone to read the Constitution and keep a gun in their closet."

What in the world (or out of it) is going on here? Can you believe that anyone in 1989 America could get up in front of a large crowd of people to spout this sort of claptrap with a straight face, and not be hooted out of the hall? Yet on the evening of November 5th, 1989, it happened right here in Hollywood when more than 1,000 people paid $15.00 a head to sit and listen to it— and most of them loved it! The event was a lecture presentation at Hollywood High given by Cooper who claims to have been a one-time member of a Top Secret "Navy intelligence briefing team" which clued the Admiral of America's Pacific Fleet into all of the above back in 1973. Never mind that the man's Navy record shows he was discharged with a rank of E-6 (four pay grades below the lowest officer rank which is O-1), and that typical "intelligence" experience for him was doing patrol duty aboard a gun boat in Da Nang harbor during the Viet-Nam war. Never mind that when asked, Cooper could not even remember the name of the Admiral that this so-called briefing was supposedly given to. Never mind also that this man has been telling his tales around the UFO community since researcher Bill Steinman introduced him to John Lear in mid-1988, and that a simple comparison of what he says now with what he was swearing to as "truth" when he first began shows that his story has undergone quite an evolution of significant, mostly sensationalistic changes.

There is one snafu in particular that can be cited as typical of Cooper's "connect-the-dots-and-modify-the-facts-as-you-go" methodology. A review of it is more than sufficient to show how the man grafts data from others and incorporates it into his own material as if it had originated with him in the first place.

This involves comparing a statement released by Cooper on December 18, 1988, with a second statement released only three weeks later on January 10, 1989. The material in question has to do with Cooper's allegations about "a secret society" known as the Jason Scholars, and their alleged involvement in the UFO cover-up. Curiously, there is no mention of the Jasons in Cooper's material prior to January 10, 1989. Following that date, they figure prominently in almost everything he has written or said. The facts are these:

-In the process of writing her self-published book Alien Harvest, Linda Howe conducted an interview with Bill Cooper. This probably took place during November of 1988, and is recorded on page 212 of Howe's book. Here we find: "

Howe: *Was there anything in the (briefing) pa pers about what the government is trying to do about it?"*

"Cooper: *It said the president, which president I don't recall, had commissioned a group to sift...."*

Note Cooper's apparent inability to recall either the group or the president involved at this

point. Furthermore, a similar statement made by Cooper as part of a public release of information dated December 18, 1988, is reproduced on page 183 of the same book; and once again neither the president is identified nor the group named.

-Just after New Years Day, 1989, Canadian UFO researcher Grant Cameron provided Linda Howe with copies of some material pertinent to the Jason Society. Included in this material was a list of 32 individuals known to be connected with the group. On the basis of this, it was erroneously assumed by Howe that the total membership of the Jason Society was 32, when in fact the society's true membership is around 55.

-On January 10, 1989, Cooper met with Howe. Later that very same day, Cooper wrote what he called his "Final Release" and began to distribute it to his followers. In it we find:

"President Eisenhower commissioned a secret society known as the Jason Society (Jason Scholars)... to sift...."

Cooper then goes on to state that "the society was made up of 32 of the most prominent men in the country...."

-When Cameron became aware of Cooper's apparent usurpation of the material he (Cameron) had given Howe (as evidenced by Cooper's use of the incorrect number 32) he decided to phone Cooper and question him on the matter. The following is Cameron's account of that conversation:

"I heard about Cooper's "independent" confirmation of the Jasons shortly after (his) Jan 10, '89 final release.... Realizing I better talk to Cooper before the Jason idea started to circulate, I phoned (him) on Jan 20, '89 and asked him questions about (the) Jasons. Cooper stated he could not remember any Jason names... even though he seemed to have recalled a number of UFO Project names and other details of the cover-up. I also asked Cooper about what universities the Jasons had come from. He mentioned Yale and a number of others. In connection with Yale, he mentioned Skull and Bones (a secret social organization) thereby implying, I suppose, the involvement of George Bush. As Yale was not one of the homes of Jason members, I had my doubts about what Cooper was stating. I also asked Cooper if MAGIC had anything to do with the cover-up, or if any of the same people were involved. I did this because Cooper was making all sorts of claims about MAJIC and the higher MAJI. Strangely, Cooper had no idea what I was talking about, even though MAGIC was the most highly classified item during World War II and was controlled mostly by the Navy. (Note: It was the Navy cryptology project which broke the secret Japanese "Purple" code.) As Cooper claimed to have a Navy background, this seemed strange....

"Cooper's sudden recollection and later errors... (such as his identification of the Jasons as "32 of the most prominent men in the country", when in fact, with one or two exceptions, they are all relatively obscure physicists)... led us to conclude (that) Cooper did not see any of this in any document, (but rather that it came directly out of the conversation he had with Linda Howe earlier that very same day.)"

Cooper's material is literally full of such convenient "borrowings". It is typical of him to latch onto some relatively obscure but readily verifiable data point (such as National Security Council item #54-12, a still largely classified 1954 intelligence directive dealing with covert operations which has been referred to in a number of books, but about which relatively little is publicly known), and build an outrageous, totally unverifiable UFO scenario around it. Those who attempt to verify his claim, of course, will discover that 54-12 did exist and that it was shrouded in secrecy. That secrecy, although intended to protect the government, also serves nicely to protect Bill Cooper, since no one can verify beyond question that 54-12 did not deal with the UFO problem as well as covert activities. At that point, either one accepts Cooper's claims on faith alone, or one shakes his head and goes away. Those willing to buy on faith are the only ones Cooper cares about. (Cooper, by the way, should know a lot about faith since he is also a fundamentalist preacher when he's not busy peddling UFO paranoia.)

Although Cooper seldom offers much in the way of evidence to support his flamboyant claims, his technique of frequently admonishing his public to check for themselves if they find his charisma less than convincing is an effective one since he knows few will bother and most of those who do will rapidly reach dead ends (as noted earlier). Those who stay with it long enough to grasp the larger picture, however, soon discover that Cooper's scenario quite literally comes apart at every seam—That it's nothing more than a hodge-podge collection of current conspiracy theories, right-wing political polemics and outright fantasy all mixed into a ball, to which has been added a more-than-liberal sprinking of virtually every crackpot rumor and morsel of government disinformation that has circulated on the lunatic fringe of America's UFO community for the past ten years. Cooper's success, of course, is rooted in the fact that he knows he is virtually unassailable. Anyone attempting to challenge him on the basis of evidence either in person or in print, is all too easily dismissed as an evil "government disinformation agent" out to stop him from telling the public the truth. It's a convenient defense which, at least up to now, has served him well.

In the final analysis, however, the Lear-Cooper scenario is only the most visible display in the

huge load of UFO-paranoia being peddled to the American public these days, and both profit and politics play a large part in the motivations of the people behind it. For example, when Mr. William Cooper first began telling his tall tales to small groups of UFO buffs, the story was free. Less than two years later, at his debut Hollywood High presentation, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, the price was $15.00 a head— even though I was informed that the cost of the hall was less than $1,000 for the evening. (Then there were the audio tapes on sale for between $15 and $30 each, and videos for between $50 and $100. No private taping was permitted.) Following his Hollywood High lecture, Mr. Cooper made similar appearances at the Showboat in Las Vegas (where 700 showed at $15/per), and at the Ramada Inn in San Diego where the going rate was a mere $20. Pyramiding upon those successes, he is presently booking nationwide appearances through a professional agent who, I am reliably informed, demands a $5,000 fee up front plus a guarantee of 50% of the gate! (In Atlanta, Georgia, he recently went so far as to charge people $50-a-plate just to have dinner with him!) In addition, a source close to one of Cooper's video tape sales operations reports that profits from tape sales alone have already climbed comfortably into the five digit range.

On the political side of things, it is important to note that virtually all of the prime movers in the Lear-Cooper scenario espouse beliefs consistent with the ultra-right wing fringe of American politics. Lear's writings, Cooper's reports, related material circulated by a strange group calling itself "Nevada Aerial Research", and similar spin-off publications by a variety of Lear-Cooper fellow travellers— all contain references which can be directly linked to the sort of paranoia-conspiracy theories that have circulated amongst America's ultra-rightists for decades. The only thing really new in all of this is the convenient addition of UFO aliens to the picture.

The political organization involved in this case is the Nevada-based "Center for Action", founded and funded to further the curious political and economic philosophies of millionaire Paul Fisher. While espousing a laundry list of right-wing, John Birch-like political agenda items, Fisher's organization also makes no secret of its open support of a revolutionary Southeast Asian "general" and his self-proclaimed "Shan Nation government in exile"; while at the same time making strong statements against the world-wide drug trade, which it claims is being illegally supported by none other than George Bush and other members of the present administration. As a curious aside, one of the writers connected to this group has published material under the pseudonym "# 7", which just happens to have been Adolph Hitler's Nazi party membership number as well as a byline occasionally used by Hitler himself during the 1920s. Whether this suggests neo-Nazi political connections is anybody's guess.

The mouthpiece for this whole movement was a show called the "Billy Goodman Happening" which ran nightly for about a year on KVEG-AM, a 50,000 watt radio station out of Las Vegas. What listeners to the "Happening" were never told, however, is that Goodman was not an employee of the station, but rather the three hour slot was time purchased from the station by the Center for Action in the same way that radio and TV evangelists purchase time for their shows. Goodman was very careful to screen negative opinions and embarassing questions so that only material favorable to his point of view got on the air. The fact that the show is no longer on the air is evidence that the cult is finally beginning to self-destruct. In March of '90 the show moved briefly to a later (cheaper) time slot (midnight to 3:00 AM), and then fizzled entirely in early April. Before the show folded, Goodman was reported looking for "friends" all over Las Vegas who might be able to offer needed "help and support". The fact that he couldn't find any will no doubt soon be offered up to hard-core followers as evidence that he was silenced by the evil forces of some obscure government conspiracy.

There's a sociological phenomenon at work here if nothing else. Why large segments of the public are willing to pay megabucks to hear this sort of thing I cannot imagine. About all that seems certain (if you're the betting type) is that once the word gets around, a lot of similar types are going to come tumbling out of the woodwork to tell (or sell) their UFO "stories" too— at which point I expect we will begin to see Mr. Cooper and his ultra-right wing friends loudly denouncing them in an effort to hang onto center stage as long as they can.

We are dealing here with people who have a mission— people who see themselves as white knights valiantly fighting to save the world from the forces of oppression. For them, it's a crusade; and anyone not with them is automatically against them. You can't fight them with facts, because they already know the truth; and you can't convince them they've been brainwashed, because they're already convinced that you have. It's not a research movement looking for "truth", it's a religious movement that believes it's already found it. UFOs are only a convenient way for them to promote their message, and nothing anyone can do or say is going to change that—at least, not for now.

THE DREADED RED "X"

First off, a BIG THANK YOU (!) to those who took the time to fill out and return the survey questionnaire which was included with the last mailing. We really appreciate the input, and will have a tabulation of results for you in the next issue.

Secondly, it appears there was something of a snafu with respect to the renewal notices (indicated by a box with a red "X" in it) which appeared at the bottom of the same form. Some people, it seems, got "X"s when they shouldn't have, and some didn't get them when they should have. The problem seems to have stemmed from a mix-up during the proccess of stuffing the mailing envelopes. We're not sure how it happened, but it did and we apologize.

In order to determine the status of your subscription, please examine the row of numbers which appears at the top of your mailing label. (Example: "005-006-0489 504") In this case, the first two sets of numbers "005-006" indicates that the subscription in question expires with Volume V, issue 6. The "0489" is the month and year (April, 1989) in which you first subscribed. (If "9999" appears here, it means you first subscribed before we began coding our records this way.) The final number "504" is your subscriber number, which by the way is a good thing to remind us of if you change your address. So, if the first two sets of numbers on the address label of this mailing are 005-003 or if the first set is less than 005, your subscription either expires with this issue or has already expired (and we decided to send you a courtesy copy anyway).

All mailing labels were updated just prior to this mailing, so the coding should reflect your current status accurately. If you renewed when it wasn't necessary (due to the red "X" snafu) and decide you want a refund, let us know. We'll be happy to adjust any problems.

SIGHTING REPORT

DATE: *11/30/89*
TIME: *Approximately 2:00 A.M. (EST)*
LOCATION: *Jeanette, PA*
DURATION: *Brief*

DESCRIPTION: My mother, two aunts and myself were returning from an evening with relatives in Irwin, PA. We made a left turn on route 30 onto Westmoreland Ave. and had gone approximately one-quarter mile when a very bright ball of white light passed over our automobile and appeared to plunge directly into the center of the town of Jeannette. The two passengers in the back seat were not witnesses to the event, however, my mother shrieked *"Oh my God... Look at that!"* My verbal response was equally intense.

I would estimate that the object was between 1,000 and 1,500 feet above us when it came into view through the front windshield. If my estimate of distance is accurate, the object would have had to have been at least 15' in diameter, or at least the bright glow surrounding the object was that size. Being more familiar with the town, my mother felt that the object had come down in the vicinity of a factory known as "the rubber works".

SUBMITTED BY: James Centi, Van Nuys, Calif. December 13, 1989.

MJ-12 REPORT NEAR COMPLETION

The Moore/Shandera Research Report on the MJ-12 Documents is well underway and nearing completion as of this writing. The final version is expected to be more than 100 pages in length and will contain a comprehensive, objective and professional presentation of the evidence at hand with respect to this very controversial situation. Copies will sell for $25.00 if purchased separately, however if you are currently a FOCUS subscriber or thinking of becoming one, you may obtain a free copy as a bonus for meeting one of the following qualifications:

(A) Become a new subscriber to FOCUS any time between April 1st and Oct. 1st, 1990. (Minimum subscription: 1 year)

(B) Renew an existing subscription for a minimum of one year between April 1st and Oct. 1st, 1990. (If you have already done so within this time frame, you qualify.)

(C) Give a gift subscription (minimum one year) to a friend or relative between April 1st and Oct 1st, 1990.

The above offer does not apply to "Exchange" or other non-paid subscribers. *(Exchange editors: A limited number of review copies will be available. Please apply if interested.)*

UFO'S AND THE U.S. GOVEARNMENT: PART IV.

By william L. Moore.

Presumably by now most of you know something about the role of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) in collecting data on UFOs while at the same time being involved in spreading disinformation about the subject. (If not, see Parts I-III of this series in preceding issues.) As far as I was able to learn, OSI's primary role was essentially limited to data collection on the one hand and maintenance of security for special projects on the other. Dissemenation of rumors and disinformation came under the latter heading.

It was fairly easy to learn that information, once collected, was passed through channels to those who had some specific need-to-know for it, and that those individuals were for the most part connected with agencies other than OSI. More importantly, those charged with collecting data or conducting counterintelligence operations generally knew only what little they needed to know in order to perform their specific functions.
Based upon what I was able to glean from a variety of sources and observations, it seemed that there were a number of "upstairs addresses" on the receiving end of OSI's UFO data collection operation. One of the functions of the mysterious Project Aquarius was reputed to be a communications umbrella through which the various interested groups could pass and receive data when necessary without revealing specifics about themselves in the process. The apex of the umbrella, I was told, was the MJ-12 group. The ribs represented the various agencies which fed information into Aquarius.

One of the ribs, I was able to learn, represented a small but effective UFO "special interest" group within the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). This group was composed of two quite distinct branches or arms, one of which lived at DIA's imagery division (DC5C), and operated out of a suite of rooms in the Melpar Building in Falls Church, Va, with an additional presence at the Digital Imagery Processing Service (DIPS) located within the Naval Intelligence Support Center (NISC) facility at Suitland, Md. The group oversaw a small "black" budget appropriation and need-to-know access was maintained by probably not more than a dozen individuals at any given time. Over a space of several years, I only ever heard three names of people reportedly associated with it. These were Col. R. "Donny" Phillips, perhaps the leader of the group; M.Sgt. Theodore Zahrodney, who I understood did some of their field work; and John W. Westerman, an imagery specialist reputed to be DC5C's liaison with Aquarius. The name David R. Kennelly also came to my attention once, but only because a certain phone number traced out to a phone in his office. All of this comes from knowledge I gained up through about mid-1985. I have been led to understand since then that the group, now referred to as a "working committee", underwent something of a reorganization in the latter part of 1986, and as far as I know, it continues to function. One of the results of that reorganization was the establishment of a computerized data base and communications net known, curiously enough, as "MJ-SETI".

The other arm or branch of the group as I knew it had evolved from a project (with a small "p") which originally operated out of Wright-Patterson AFB, but which moved over to DIA essentially intact following an administrative-level political fight in the late 1970s. There are several reasons why I consider it unwise to say anything more about this branch at this time.

Because DC5C's specialty is imagery and analysis, their interest in UFOs should be considered both obvious and legitimate. In addition, DIA's SIGINT (Signals Intelligence & Technical Sensors) unit, DC7, shares essentially the same facilities and cooperates closely with DC5C. Since at least one of the four named above, Zahrodney, held desks in both sections, it seems reasonable to suppose that DC7 contributed other members to the UFO group as well.

Now, before you go running off to compose a FOIA request to DIA for information about all of this, you should be advised first off that all you're likely to get is the old run-around, and second, that your letter may set off more of a chain reaction than you are prepared to cope with. Consider the following:

While the Freedom of Information Act may be a good tool for curious members of the public seeking information from their government, few realize that it is also an excellent way for our government to monitor who is doing what in the way of research and who may be leaking what to whom in the way of classified or otherwise sensitive information. For example, if source X quietly tells you in confidence certain details of highly classified Project Y, one of the

worst things you can do with that information if it is true is to file a FOIA request about it. Why? Because those responsible for replying to your FOIA are also trained to spot clues of potential breeches of security and report them directly to those responsible for investigating such activity. In other words, if you, a member of the public with no clearance and no need-to-know, write a FOIA letter asking for information about some classified matter, and if your letter contains enough specifics about that matter to suggest that someone in-the-know might have leaked them to you, then you may find yourself the unwitting subject of an unwanted security investigation. Under certain circumstances, mere repetition of the name of some highly classified project is sufficient to set off the alarm bells. And, if the situation is regarded as serious enough, not only will you not receive any useful information, but your action may actually result in steps being taken on the inside to identify the source of the leak and repair the damage done. If that occurs, not only do you end up with nothing, but your trusted source ends up in a heap of trouble.

This is one reason why I have little or no faith in armchair UFO research groups such as CAUS, who maintain that FOIA is the best way to conduct research, and whose leadership has little or no working knowledge of how the government and the intelligence community interact to deal with such requests.

Take the bizarre and unusual experience of Lee Graham as a case in point. Lee works for a southern California aerospace contractor and holds a Secret clearance. He is also a board member of Fair-Witness and a good friend. Over the years, both his hobby as an aircraft buff and his intense interest in UFOs have led to his writing literally hundreds of FOIA letters to virtually every agency of the government in pursuit of information.

In one such letter, written to the office of then Vice President George Bush in 1987, Graham made reference to the term "F-117a", the new and apparently still classified designator for what had been up to then the F-19 stealth fighter aircraft. He also mentioned the apparently still classified name of the stealth fighter project, which was "Senior Trend". Graham had received both pieces of information from a friend who had close personal ties with individuals in key need-to-know positions within the aerospace industry. His repetition of this information in an otherwise innocuous FOIA letter raised all kinds of hell, the end point of which was a visit to Graham by two government types (one of whom refused to identify himself) who confirmed to him that the stealth fighter program did in fact exist (contrary to official denials up to that point) and that the terms he had used in reference to it in his letter were highly classified. Graham was then asked to sign a security non-disclosure statement (which he did) and was told that further discussion of the topic in any public forum would be a violation of that agreement.

Following the public disclosure of both stealth fighter and bomber projects in 1989, Graham again wrote a FOIA letter to the office of the vice president (now Dan Quayle), in which he made reference to both the stealth situation and the question of authenticity surrounding the controversial MJ-12 documents. One of the things requested was that Quayle's office confirm or repudiate the MJ-12 documents (copies of which Graham had attached to his letter along with a copy of the text of my Las Vegas speech from July 1, 1989), and, if authentic, to officially declassify them or direct him to an agency of the government from which declassified copies can be obtained.

Graham's letter upset someone in Quayle's office enough to send copies of the correspondence to the Air Force which immediately turned the matter over to the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) Personnel Control Center in Baltimore, Maryland and insisted they take action on it. In October, 1989 DIS initiated a reinvestigation of Graham's security clearance— a process which caused considerable consternation for Graham and others at his place of work. Meanwhile, as an adjunct to this investigation, DIS Director William A. Hughes out of the headquarters office in Baltimore, initiated an S.I.I. (Special Investigations Inquiry) into the status of the MJ-12 and other documents (including the text of my Las Vegas speech) which Graham had attached to his original letter. "Attached documents forwarded for security determination," the cover sheet said.

In April, 1990 the security investigation of Graham was closed and his clearance reaffirmed by DIS. On May 24, 1990, in response to another FOIA requesting his own records, DIS released a partial copy of his file to him and indicated that documents withheld were being forwarded to AFOSI (!) for release determination by that agency. In looking through the 70+ pages which were released, Graham was surprised to discover copies of the MJ-12 documents, each one of which bore a large "Unclassified" stamp across the lower right portion of the page. Also stamped "Unclassified" was the cover of my Las Vegas text, and the retyped AFOSI document reproduced therein as page 19. Missing, and apparently forwarded to AFOSI for their determination, was page 15 of my text— the page containing the conclusions section of my speech!

What the significance of all this may ultimately be to the continuing MJ-12 controversy remains

unclear at this point, although it appears we may have a somewhat oblique confirmation of the documents' authenticity through the DIS' having submitted them for a security determination and them having been officially stamped "Unclassified" in the process. What seems important here also is the fact that nowhere in all of this is there any indication that the DIS' Special Investigations Inquiry found the documents to be bogus.

What UFO researchers prone to file FOIA requests at the drop of a hat must not lose track of here is the fact that Lee Graham came very close to losing both his clearance and his job over this matter! In addition, others he is involved with have also come under scrutiny (some having even been told to avoid getting into discussions with him), and the security officers at his place of employment have continued to keep close tabs on his activities.

In a somewhat similar situation, I made the mistake of sharing in confidence a piece of what I considered to be sensitive information with a member of the CAUS organization back in the latter part of 1982. Shortly thereafter, CAUS broke the confidence by repeating my information both in public and in FOIA requests. The result: a very promising source I had been developing suddenly broke contact and I never heard from him again!

FOIA is by no means a new thing in government. While its original purpose was to serve the public's right to know, it has been around long enough for those in government whose job it is to keep the public from knowing, to develop ways of using the mechanisms of the Act to their own advantage. (Try, for example, making a FOIA to the CIA on some sensitive topic, and invariably the first reply you receive from them will be a letter asking you to submit full details of whatever else you might know about the material you have requested. Naturally they allege that this information is needed to enable them to better fulfill your request, and of course this may be the truth—it's just not all of the truth.) Indeed, the FOIA letter you innocently write today may be kept on file by the agency of its destination for as long as 15 years.

THE SEARCH FOR EXTRA TERRESTRIAL ARTIFACTS

By Dr. Vladimar Rubtsov

This article was presented by Dr. Rubtsov at the 16th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society in Chicago in August, 1989. Dr. Rubtsov received his Master's Degree in computer science in 1972 and his doctorate in the philosophy of science in 1980. His doctoral thesis was on "Philosophical-Methodological Aspects of the Problems of Extraterrestrial Civilizations", the first of its kind in the USSR. He has been active in ancient astronaut studies since 1966, having published a book and over 40 articles on the subject of extraterrestrial intelligence. Currently Dr. Rubtsov is a senior research fellow at the Department of Philosophy, Ukranian Extramural Polytechnic Institute in Kharkov. His address is Ul. Chernishevskogo, 88, kv.66, Kharkov 310023, USSR.

The reader is asked to excuse the somewhat awkward grammar and composition, which is due to the fact that English is Dr. Rubtsov's second language.

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The Ancient Astronaut Society is a not-for-profit corporation organized exclusively for scientific, literary and educational purposes. Its objectives are to search for evidence to determine whether Earth was visited by intelligent beings from outer space in the remote past, and whether a highly developed, technological civilization existed on Earth before recorded history. Membership in the Society is open to the public. For information write to: Ancient Astronaut Society, 1921 St. Johns Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.

The search for "extraterrestrial artifacts" (ETAs) is one of the most important and worthwhile directions of investigation in paleovisitology. And yet it progresses by touch, so to speak; that is, with no serious theoretical basis. In fact, there is even no real search. There have been only a few attempts to apply rather vague ideas

of extraterrestrial artifacts to certain enigmatic finds. Here we will try to sketch some elements of a more rigorous approach to this task.

By an "extraterrestrial artifact" we imply an aritifcial object made by extraterrestrials. Of course, this is only an elucidation of this notion's meaning, not its definition. But what does the word "artificial" really mean? One believes quite often that it amounts to the expression: the object is manufactured. Yet there is another side, of no less importance: an artificial object is involved in a sociocultural system, it performs certain functions in it, or, in other words, has a certain meaning for the intelligent beings who created it. The purpose of making an artificial object is imparting some sense to it; that is why just the sense is the gist of the notion of artificiality. One may say that such an object is the unity of its meaning and its design.

An extraterrestrial artifact may be found either by chance, or as a result of an intended search. An accidental discovery may be "scientific" (if it takes place as part of some scientific research, such as geological or paleontological). What kind of ETAs may we hope to find? One can suggest the following variants; the list is certainly far from complete:

1. A whole artifact, aimed at active or passive contact with the terrestrial civilization when the latter has reached a certain level of development. It may be named a "time capsule" or a "message bag."
2. An active whole artifact, not aimed at any contact, but functioning for a purpose that was set by its creators. For example, an automatic seismograph or ecological monitor, left here by space visitors.
3. A whole, but non-functioning artifact. For instance, a deserted space rover, or an exhausted source of energy, or an extraterrestrial statue.
4. A decaying ETA, that keeps some signs of wholeness.
5. Parts of a wrecked device, void of wholeness but keeping some indications of their artificial origin.

It is easy to imagineeven the case of complete destruction of an ETA, its transition into a pseudo-natural state and mixing its substance with terrestrial ones. In this case it is not improbable that one can find such a paleovisit trace by some peculiarities of its composition, such as isotopic.

Naturally, any search requires some theoretical model of the object to be found, that is of the ETA we are searching for. But the model of an "abstract ETA" would be empty and useless for a real search; at the same time the model of a "specific artifact" (for instance, of an extraterrestrial computer) would restrict very much the field of our vision and probably miss other possible objects (say an extraterrestrial tea set). Needless to add that our conception of an ET computer, as well as of an ET tea set, may have little in common with reality. That is why the real search for ETAs ought to start from using some general criteria, not detailed models. These criteria would be worked out within the framework of a serious study of the "phenomenon of artificiality." They would allow, when scanning the information of various real objects, as well as of empirical facts from the scientific picture of the world, to select supposedly artificial ones.

At this stage of the investigation we try to single out only the objects and phenomena which deserve further exploration. In other words, we assume some (perhaps significant) likelihood of mistake. It is rather difficult to ensure wedding of the following two opposite characteristics of these criteria: they must be both highly definite (so that we would get at the "output" an amount of phenomena, considerably reduced as against that at the "input") and at the same time "broad-embracing" (to "intercept" as many "likely ETAs" as possible).

Because we are trying to find an <u>extraterrestrial</u> artificial phenomenon, we need, apart from criteria of its artificiality, some criteria of its "alienness", which would enable us to select this phenomenon against the background of similar <u>terrestrial</u> artificial phenomena. Certainly, such criteria may be just implied (if, for example, the object under investigation was found in the "pre-human" strata of the "geological chronicle" of the Earth), but it remains quite important, nonetheless. Let us remember that there are <u>two</u> alternatives to the assumption of the object's extraterrestrial artificial origin: either it is natural or artificial, but terrestrial.

If an old age of the find was not ascertained, this task is rather hard. We find ourselves before a pitfall: an object, whose technological level is only a little higher than that of known (and similar) terrestrial ones might be made in a secret laboratory here on earth. And an object, manufactured by technologies whose level far exceeds the terrestrial one, will almost certainly remain mistaken for something natural or even unrecognizable as something worthy of note.

When we have only some spoiled fragments of an ETA, we must restore their original state and then reconstruct the ETA. Whether or not this task can be fulfilled depends on the extent

of preservation of these fragments, their representativeness as regards the original ETA. the researcher's ability to build up a good theoretical model of the latter, and so forth. Certainly the result of such restoration cannot be quite unambiguous.

One can imagine a situation where it is impossible to restore the whole device from its remnants, but nonetheless we may assert: this was an ETA. It requires proving: first, a geological (or at least prehistorical) age of the find; second, its artificial origin; and third, its super-high (but intelligible to us) technological level. As a matter of fact, a preliminary selection of "possible extraterrestrial artifacts" (PETAs) is some "intuitive" analog of this situation; but, certainly, persuasiveness of the starting point of an investigation would not be the equivalent of its result.

However, only seldom may the result be considered to be fully reliable. Generally we will have several alternative hypotheses on the nature of an object under examination. It is necessary indeed for any serious scientific study. There will appear, on the basis of these hypotheses, a set of various research programs, whose development may lead us to the final answer. The chief thing at this stage of investigation is an interdisciplinary study of the object, including physical, chemical, technological, structural and other types of analysis. Their results would be brought together forming a system model (or a number of models) of the ETA.

Thus we have considered a theoretical scheme of investigation of supposed extraterrestrial artifacts. Let us compare this theory with several examples "from life." We do not know as yet any object that may definitely be referred to as an ETA. But there are some candidate objects. I will dwell here upon three cases: the "cube from Wolfsegg", the Vashka find, and the so-called "black ball."

The Wolfsegg Cube is, strictly speaking, not a cube, but something like a small metal pillow with maximum dimensions of 67x62x47 millimetres. A deep incision runs around it on all its narrow sides. It was found November 1, 1885 at a steel and file factory, situated at Schoendorf, near Voecklabruck, Austria, when a workman named Riedl broke a piece of lignite. The lignite originated in a coal pit as Wolfsegg. The German mining engineer, Dr. Fridrich Adolf Gurlt, took a great interest in that find. On June 7th 1886, he showed it to the members of the Natural History Society at Bonn, telling them that the object weighed 785 grams, had a specific gravity 7.7566 g/cm3, the hardness of steel, and contained, apart from chemically fixed carbon, a tiny percentage of nickel. Dr. Gurlt thought the "cube" to be in fact a meteorite. However some specialists believed already then that it was in reality an artificial object, though apparently quite terrestrial.(1)

The find was widely noticed because fossil meteorites are rather rare. The information about the "cube" was presented on October 16, 1886 at a session of the French Academy of Sciences, and on February 20, 1887 at a meeting of the Belgian Geological Society. Some twenty journals (including such prestigious ones as "Nature" and "L'Astronomie") published articles or short reports on this find. All the authors agreed that only a complete chemical analysis was able to solve the riddle of the nature of the "cube." Yet, for some unknown reason, such an analysis was not conducted at the time.

The find was forgotten until 1919 when Charles Fort came across the old journals and supposed the "cube" to be steel, machined at the Tertiary period by extraterrestrial visitors. Nobody paid serious attention to this supposition until 1955 when Morris Jessup, an American astronomer and historian, put it forward again in his book The Case for the UFO. Since then this hypothesis has become commonplace in ancient astronaut publications, although without additional investigation or theoretical thought.

What about the *"cube"* itself? It seems that until 1958 it was kept at the Francisco-Carolinum Museum at Lintz. Then the find got into the local museum of Voecklabruck. In 1966 it was sent to Vienna for modern detailed analysis. Its results indicated iron with no nickel, chromium or cobalt, but with a little manganese and manganese-sulphurs. This resembles rather cast-iron, not a meteorite substance. (2 and 3). To date that is all the information we have on the "cube".

What attracted the attention of researchers to this case "from the ET point of view?" First, its strange, irregular shape. Then, if the "cube" were the result of high technology, for its Tertiary Age it might almost surely be considered as extraterrestrial in origin. But the composition of the object seems to be much too ordinary for an alien artifact and this has caused doubts as to its seemingly geological age.

The second case involves the discovery of a fragment of a metallic object in 1976 near the Vashka River in the Komi Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, USSR. This object is shaped like a cylinder, or ring, about 1.2 metres (3-1/2 ft.) in diameter. When subjected to the slightest

coercion, the fragment began to sparkle. The find was cut into several pieces and studied in a number of Soviet laboratories, including the All-Union Institute of Nuclear Geophysics and Geochemistry, the S.I. Vavilov Institute of Physical Problems and the V.I. Vernadsky Institute of Steel and Alloys. It was Dr. Valdimir Fomenko, a member of the All-Union Committee on Anomolous Phenomena, who coordinated this research work. Some results were published in 1985. (4)

It is known that the Vashka fragment consists of an alloy of the following rare earths: cerium (67.2%), lanthanum (10.9%) and neodymium (8.78%). There are also small amounts of iron and magnesium, as well as uranium and molybdenum (the latter ones less than 0.04%). Researchers came to a common conclusion that the alloy was evidently of artificial origin. However, it contains no traces of calcium and sodium, which is impossible with the known technologies of making rare earth alloys. There are no traces of other rare earths either.

Judging from the data obtained by x-ray structural and electrongraphic analyses, the fragment was made of a mixture of powders with various crystalline structures. The finest particles of the powder each consist of several hundreds of atoms only. The magnetic properties of the alloy differ in various directions by more than 15 times. The concentration of the products of the thorium decay suggests that the age of the fragment hardly exceeds 30 years. It is interesting to note, however, that there is a noticeably increased concentration of lanthanum and cerium on the site of the famous Tunguska explosion which occurred in the Soviet Union on June 30, 1908. (5) Also, a line extending from one of the possible trajectories of the body beyond the explosion point at Tunguska leads exactly to the place of the Vashka find.

Researchers agree that the Vashka object is artificial but, is it terrestrial or not? It seems impossible to create an alloy having such a composition and structure, or to make such a large ring with existing technology. But, as has been noted above, it is not unbelievable that the West or the East can have some secret achievements, which the public is not aware of. The conclusion to this story is still unknown.

Finally, the "black ball", which was discovered in 1975 in Western Ukraine at a clay quarry at a depth of 8 metres (25 ft.). The age of the clay bed was about 10 million years. An excavator saw the object, picked it up and hit it on the edge of a bucket. The ball-shaped object did not split, but a piece broke away exposing a glass-like substance.

For some time the object was kept at the local village museum, but then a relative of the museum's curator arrived there from Moscow and took an interest in the find. He took the ball to Moscow where, in 1979, scientists of several prestigious institutes investigated it. A very detailed and sophisticated research program was elaborated, but only a small part of it was in fact performed, because a week later the owner of the ball demanded that it be returned to him. Nonetheless, the results which were obtained are rather interesting.

The investigation was unofficial and unexpected. I did not participate in the investigation, but I did read the final report and consider it to be of a high scientific level. The "ball" is slightly egg-shaped, with the length of the greater axis 87.5 millimetres and the diameter of the largest cross section, perpendicular to the axis. 84.7 millimetres. An x-ray study discovered within the ball an inner core, shaped like a half of an egg. Apparently the blunt part of the ball, situated over the butt-end of the core, is a hermetic lid. The core absorbs x-rays 4 times less intensively than the shell. The volume of the core is about 80 cubic centimetres, that of the entire ball 320 cubic centimetres. The ball weighs 617 grams, with an average density of 1.9 grams per cubic centimetre. The researchers did not have enough time to establish the composition of the find, but it seems to consist of quartz glass.

An attempt to determine separate weights and densities of the shell and the core led to a scandalous result: the weight of the shell was found to be 981 grams, the weight of the core minus 364 grams; the density of the shell was 4.08 b/cm3. Thus, we have to deal with a substance of a negative mass!? The attempt was repeated three times (although by the same method) and the result was the same. Unfortunately, there was no time to verify it in a different way.

On this basis the researchers proposed a number of hypothesis on the nature of the core, but since the "negative mass" result is not very reliable these suppositions are, in my view, rather premature.

Nonetheless, the ET hypothesis of the ball origin seems worthwhile. In particular, the researchers believe that one can notice the following units in the linear and angular dimensions of the ball: 3.65 millimetres and 15 degrees. Such units have never been used by any known terrestrial culture.

Regretfully the scientists still cannot continue their research work on the ball because it is private property and its owner does not wish to part with it again, even for a short time.

What can we benefit from our study of these three cases? All the finds were discovered by chance and they attracted researchers' attention by their "strangeness." Further, they rather correspond to our "intuitive" notion of artificiality and the artificial origin of one of them, the Vashka find, has in fact been proved. These objects have been studied (best of all the Vashka find; worst of all the Wolfsegg "cube") but in every case something is lacking for a definite conclusion on their being ETAs. The cube does not reveal a sufficiently high level of technology; the Vashka find is too recent in age, and the ball has not been proved to be really artificial.

Thus we see that it is first of all the "strangeness" of the real PETA that draws attention to it. It is important also not to have a convincing "normal" explanation for the object. But it is quite evident that "strangeness" in itself is only the signal to draw attention to the object to begin to determine whether it is really artificial, or really extraterrestrial. To reach an ultimate solution, we need not only experimental investigations of possible ETAs by the most sensitive devices and analytical methods, but also it is essential to have a general theory of the evolution of artifacts during the history of a cosmic civilization. A serious investigation of PETAs requires also a methodology of developing models of artifacts on the basis of studying their remnants. There exist certain rudiments of such a methodology in archaeology, but certainly, paleovisitology sets much more difficult tasks.

It should be taken into account that in the not so distant future we may depend mainly upon accidental discovering of PETAs. It is necessary to set up an efficient system for gathering and evaluating such information, as well as for promptly reacting to it. I have heard from trustworthy people that some possible ETAs were and are still being lost, mainly because of lack of interest. It is necessary to reveal and concentrate dispersed data of such kind, to accumulate a data bank and to develop systematic theoretical and experimental research in this field. Otherwise, even those possible ETAs which we happen to know of will remain nothing more than strange curiosities. But if the system of their search and investigation is well organized they may become the final proof of the reality of paleovisits to Earth..

REFERENCES:

(1) A. Gurlt, Verhandlungen des Naturhistorischen Vereins Rheinlandes und Westfalens, 1886, Band 43.
(2) The Voecklabruck Object, The INFO Journal, 1967, Volume I, Number 2.
(3) H. Malthaner, Pursuit, 1973, Number 6.
(4) I. Mossin, Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya, 1985, Jan. 27, Number 3.
(5) Editor's Note: The explosion which occurred in the Tunguska region of central Siberia in the Soviet Union (then the Russian Empire) in 1908 was of cataclysmic proportions. Seismographs around the world were activated by the blast; the sound was so great that it was heard 500 miles away and persons near the site were deafened; a searing thermal current burned an area within a 40 mile radius of the blast site; a devastating shock wave ripped up nearby villages and after shocks were felt hundreds of miles away. The accepted explanation in the scientific community is that a huge meteorite had succeeded in entering Earth's atmosphere and crashed into the Taiga near the Tunguska River. However, there are eye-witness accounts which describe watching a cylindrical object very high in the sky which was moving at a great velocity. Suddenly the object stopped and changed directions and proceeded a short distance and revrsed its course. Then the observers saw the high-altitude explosion. Many persons now believe that the object was a spacecraft from outer space which malfunctioned and its nuclear-powered propulsion unit exploded, causing devastation on the ground below, not unlike an atomic bomb explosion.

Dr. Vladimir Rubtsov spent several years in the study of the Tunguska explosion in the laboratory of Dr. A.V. Zolotov, one of the leading experts on the subject. He said that there is no crater at the explosion site, thus proving that no meteorite hit the ground. Dr. Rubtsov further advised us that the "official" explanation in the Soviet Union is that "there is no explanation!" For a detailed discussion of the Tunguska explosion, see The Fire Came By, by Baxter and Atkins, Warner paperback, 1976.

The Fair-Witness Project and the editors of FOCUS do not necessarily endorse either the conclusions or the validity of the evidence presented in the above piece. Rather, we reproduce it here, with the kind permission of the Ancient Astronaut Society, strictly for the edification of our readers. Those who have found it of interest may find similar articles published in the Ancient Astronaut Society's bi-monthly newsletter "Ancient Skies", which is available by subscription. For further details, write directly to the Society.

PRE-1947 UFO CRASH

Editor's Note: The following article originally appeared on page 10 of the July 10, 1947 edition of the Sewickley (Pennsylvania) Herald, a weekly with a circulation of about 1,000 at the time. So far as we know, our publication of it marks the first time this case has ever been referenced in UFO literature. Our thanks to subscriber Dorothy M. Moore <Mrs. William L. Moore, Sr.> who discovered this material and made it available to us.)

SPEAKING OF FLYING DISCS

"If you watch the sky patiently and persistently, you arelikely to see some queer things, it appears by current newspaper report. Mrs. Helen Crownover of 28 Thorn Street says she had a notable experience of the sort last year. Her story:

"Last summer, before any of this rocket or flying disc phenomenon had been mentioned anywhere, I was lying on a dock in Oconomowoc Lake in central Wisconsin, when directly overhead there appeared a shiny speck in an otherwise spotless blue sky. As two friends watched with me, it slowly became larger and closer. It looked like a pointed silver-colored cam and it sparkled in the sunlight as it tumbled over and over, falling faster and faster, while at the same time it was being propelled forward in the same direction as the wind.

"We very carefully watched where it fell because we intended to go and look for it, but as we watched, a column of black smoke rose from the spot. We got the car and when we reached the place about three miles away, a barn was burning. It was said to have started from spontaneous combustion; however nearby villagers from Okouchee said they had heard an explosion. I called the fire chief and several others, but they thought I was crazy, in spite of my college education majoring in Botany and Astronomy. What I saw was definitely no bird or seed.'"

(If any of our subscribers are interested in trying to research this, let us know and we'll help where we can. According to the Editors & Publishers in our reference library, Oconomowoc does have a weekly newspaper, but there is no indication of whether it was being published in 1946.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Katz, Steven L.: Government Secrecy: Decisions Without Democracy (Washington, D.C.: People for the American Way, 2000 M St., Suite 400, DC 20036), 104pp + 4 Appendices. 1987.

National security, secret presidential "laws", the systematic restriction of academic and scientific freedom, censoring of the press, and the Freedom of Information Act— all are the subject of individual chapters in this indispensible tome from one of America's foremost political action groups. For those who are into the government cover-up aspects of the UFO phenomenon, here is an excellent collection of eye-opening realities all in one volume, complete with a preface by Arthur Schlsinger, Jr. This book isn't available from your local bookseller; you have to write "People For" at the above address to get it. Send them a $10.00 donation and ask for a copy. Inside you will find discussions of "Black Budget" programs and the existence of *"Above Top Secret"* classifications, printed samples of national security nondisclosure agreements, and a listing of all presidential "National Security Decision Directives" known to exist (note all the missing numbers). How can government secrets be kept in a democratic society? Read this volume from cover to cover, and then ask yourself that question.

Levy, Steven: The Unicorn's Secret: Murder in the Age of Aquarius, (NY: New American Library), 1990. 397pp. illus. $4.95 Ira Einhorn was a '60s peacenik and New Age guru— a personal friend of Andrija Puharich, Tom Bearden and Timothy Leary. Holly Maddux, a beautiful Texas cheerleader, was Ira's lover until she mysteriously disappeared without a trace in 1977. Two years later, her mummified body was found stuffed inside a trunk in Ira's apartment. Charged with murder, Ira first claimed he had been framed by the CIA because he was getting too close to the truth about UFOs and government ESP projects. Later, following his release on a ridiculously low bail bond, he fled the country and remains at large today. Could a man so visibly devoted to peace, love and nonviolence have committed such an act, or was it, as he alleged, all part of a sinister and carefully organized plot to frame him and get him out of the way? This is not a fictional story, but a painstakingly constructed, carefully thought out and researched piece of investigative journalism. Steven Levy is to be congratulated on a work well done.

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#3: "New Data on the Swedish Ghost-Rocket Phenomenon of 1946

#4: "Booms, Bangs & Balls of Fire" (Strange happenings on Bell Island, Canada, in 1978.)

#5: "Another Crashed-Saucer Rumor Bites the Dust" (A great yarn turns out to be a hoax.)

#6: (1)"Highlights of A.F. Intelligence Files"; (2)"A.F. Calls Ft. Dix-McGuire Case a Hoax"

#7: "Senator Richard Russell's Top Secret UFO Sighting"; +More A.F. Intelligence Files

#8: "The Adamski Photos: Models, or Scout Ships from Venus?"; and T. Townsend Brown Obituary

#9: "The AVRO-CAR Project: Dead Issue or Convenient Cover?"; +More A.F. Intelligence Files

#10: "Alternative Energy? What About those Little Green Granules?" +More A.F. Intelligence Files

#11: (1)"Blue Book's Real Purpose" (from an A.F. document); (2) Can Weather Make you Psychic?"

#12: (1)"Saratoga (Tex) Ghost Light"; (2)"Blood Research Reports"; (3)"NORAD Surveillance Net"

VOLUME II: March 1986- December 1987

#1: (1)"The Lost Crew of the USN's L-8"; (2)"Bigfoot & the Skunk Ape."

#2: "UFOs, Stalled Cars, and Other 'Oddball' Effects"

#3: (1)"Faster-than-Light Travel"; (2)More "Oddball Effects"; (3)Editorial on N.Y. Sightings

#4: "Project 1946: The Ghost Rocket Documents and the Swedish Defense Staff"

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#11:(1)"The Law & ETs"; (2)"Mystery Object Found in Chromosomes"; (3)"Reagan & the Alien 'Threat'"

#12:"Who Stands Behind Billy Meier? An Open Letter on the 'Genesis III Bunch'" by Hal Starr

VOLUME III: January 1988 - May 1988

#1: "MJ-12: Debunking the UFO-Bashers"(Part I);"Facts About MJ-12 the UFO-Bashers Never Mention"

#2: "MJ-12 Document IS Real, Says Expert"; "More on the Vatican and E.T."; Report on Australian Close Encounter Case

#3: "MJ-12: Debunking the UFO-Bashers"(Part II); "A Verdict on Adamski"; "Cure for Common Cold"

#4: "New Look at Robertson Panel"; "The Truth about Alternative-3" "The Green Fireball Phenomenon"

#5: "William L. Moore's SECRET FBI File" (w/ Documents)

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STANTON T. FRIEDMAN;S Final Report on MJ12 (an adjunct to the Moore-Shandera, Advertising Herin) is now available for $12.00 from S.T.F. at P.O. Box 958 Houlton, ME 04730. App. 59 pp. & Bibliography and appendices.

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The Fair-Witness Project, Inc. wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Richard Stingel for his three years of generous service both as member of the Board of Directors and as our office manager. Mr. Stingel resigned both positions effective April 2, 1990 citing personal and medical considerations. All the best, Richard!

Focus

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