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Jan. 8, 1988

Mr. S. Terry Friedman
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Dear S. Terry Friedman

This is in further response to your article on the "MJ-12 papers" in the recent (Sept./Oct. 1987) issue of International UFO Reporter and your attempted defense of the authenticity of the (alleged) Truman memorandum of Sept. 24, 1947, to Defense Secretary Forrestal.

In view of what you characterize as your "considerable effort to determine the validity" of these papers, it is surprising that you did not obtain from the Truman Library copies of authentic Truman memoranda, written during the same time period, to compare their format with that of the Sept. 24, 1947 memo.

I have done so and urge you to carefully examine the enclosed composite document which compares authentic Truman memoranda of Jan. 11, 1947, Jan. 21, 1948 and April 22, 1948, with the one found in the "MJ-12 papers." You will note that the three authentic memoranda use the same format, which differs from the format used in "MJ-12" papers.

In your article, you suggest a possible explanation for the fact that the Sept. 24, 1947, document uses a different typeface from that used in other Truman letters of that era. You suggest that the memo might have been written in the offices of Vannevar Bush using White House stationery.

Apparently your "considerable effort" has not made you aware of the important fact that on June 5, 1946--more than a year before the date of the Sept. 24, 1947 memo--President Truman's secretary, William D. Hassett, sent out a memorandum to the heads of all departments, agencies and "independent establishments" which terminated the prior practice of their writing letters on White House stationery for signature by the President?

This letter, copy of which is enclosed, states: "Whenever drafts are submitted for the signature of the President or his Secretariat, they may be submitted on plain paper and they will be prepared for signature in this office." The memo continued: "...please see to it that all unused White House stationery of any description now in the possession of your department or agency is returned to us." (Some emphasis supplied.)

S. Terry Friedman:

-2-

Jan. 8, 1988

Surely Dr. Bush would not openly violate this standing White House policy by typing the Sept. 24, 1947, letter in his own office and bringing it in for Truman's signature--especially since the memo was so brief that the President's own secretarial staff could type it in less than five minutes.

Finally, on page 19 of your article, you refer to "three errors in the [briefing document]" which must be reviewed very carefully to discern."

QUESTION #1: Which three "errors" are you referring to?

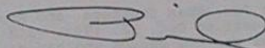
Your article comments: "This last is standard practice for highly-classified documents to enable a follow-up on any reproduction on [or?] unauthorized production of those documents."

QUESTION #2: Are you claiming that errors are intentionally introduced into the contents of all, most, or some "highly classified documents" as a security measure?

QUESTION #3: Can you explain how such a procedure could possibly be used to prevent or trace "unauthorized production of those documents"?

For your convenience, I will make a photo-copy of your response and mail it to persons shown below.

Sincerely,



P. Julian Klass

cc: Mark Rodeghier
Barry Greenwood
Dennis Stacy
Jim Moseley