



The Monthly Newsletter of the Fair-Witness Project, inc.

4219 W. Olive St., Suite 247 Burbank, CA 91505 (818) 506-8365

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DEBUNKERS IGNORE KEY EVIDENCE ABOUT GOVERNMENT UFO DOCUMENTS !

LOS ANGELES, CA: The controversy over alleged "Top Secret" government UFO documents which were released to the news media in late May, 1987, continues. On the one hand, a considerable body of hard evidence has been amassed by independent researchers who contend that these documents may very well be authentic. On the other is a recent (August 20th, 1987) news release by a group of well-known debunkers calling themselves "The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal", which contends that this story "represents one of the most deliberate acts of deception ever perpetrated against the news media and the public." Both claims have been widely publicized in the U.S. and world media, including the New York Times, Washington (D.C.) Post, London (U.K.) Observer, and ABC Television's popular "Nightline" program.

At issue is whether the U.S. government secretly recovered a crashed UFO (or "flying saucer") and the bodies of dead alien occupants near Roswell, New Mexico, during the summer of 1947; and whether President Truman, by secret executive action, undertook to create a covert, high-level panel of scientific consultants and military intelligence experts, known as Majestic 12 (or MJ-12) to take charge of the matter.

According to a team of independent researchers comprised of author William L. Moore of Los Angeles (The Roswell Incident, NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 1980), nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, and TV producer-director Jaime Shandera, also of Los Angeles, there is overwhelming evidence to suggest that such an event did in fact occur in 1947. There is also compelling evidence to suggest that a set of anonymously sent documents (on 35mm. film) which purport to be Top Secret 1952 White House briefing papers on the Majestic 12 subject for then President-elect Eisenhower, may well be authentic. In

support of their position, they point to nearly ten years of research by Moore and Friedman (Shandera joined the team in June of 1982) on the 1947 crash near Roswell, New Mexico, and over two and one-half years of work on the purported Eisenhower briefing documents. Included in this body of research are interviews with over 100 individuals (31 of whom were first-hand witnesses to events surrounding the 1947 Roswell crash), a large number of declassified government documents, and a considerable amount of peripheral information both documentary and testimonial in nature. (All of this is totally ignored by Mr. Klass in his recent press release.)

According to Moore, "THESE DEBUNKERS HAVE FAILED TO RAISE A SINGLE ISSUE WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE AT HAND. THEIR CHARGES OF "HOAX", "FORGERY" AND "DECEPTION", ARE NOT ONLY PREMATURE, BUT, IN MY OPINION, CONSTITUTE AN UNSCIENTIFIC, HIGHLY EMOTIONAL APPROACH WHICH SEEMS COMPLETELY UNWARRANTED AT THIS POINT IN TIME. Mr. Philip J. Klass (chief spokesman for the debunkers) and his supporters have spent only a few short weeks in their assessment of this matter, have reviewed only a small fraction of the evidence available, and have spoken to exactly NONE of the many witnesses to the 1947 Roswell crash. Indeed, Mr. Klass began making disparaging statements about the authenticity of the purported Eisenhower briefing documents even before he had been supplied a complete copy of them. Their so-called investigation has consisted of a few phone calls and a series of letters to government archives and presidential libraries."

Furthermore, Mr. Klass has stated publicly that he has made no effort whatsoever to attempt to authenticate the documents in question, but rather has proceeded from the

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FOCUS

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Editor: Jimmy Ward & W. Moore

Fair-Witness Reporters:

D. Branch	K. Korff
S. Friedman	N. Magnuson
	B. Moore

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THE MYSTERY OF FLIGHT 19... CONTINUES!

On Dec. 5, 1945, five TBM-3 Avenger bombers left a World War II training field at Ft. Lauderdale on a routine training mission. Each carried a pilot and a radio operator, most of whom were old hands at these "practice runs". What began as an ordinary flight, however, soon turned into an unsolved mystery when all 5 planes and 10 crewmen disappeared without a trace. The next morning, a Martin Mariner flying boat with 13 on board left the Banana River Air Station near Cocoa Beach, in search of the lost planes. It too vanished.

The "Mystery of Flight 19" has become a staple in the lore of the Bermuda Triangle's missing ships and planes. Rarely has anything been produced on the subject that does not at least mention it. Explanations have ranged from the truly ridiculous to the sublime-- everything from space warps to simple human error have been offered.

From time to time since the incident, reports have been made of what appeared to be plane wreckage off the coast of Florida. No one, however, bothered to verify the reports; nor did the spotters want to expend the time and money to send scuba divers down to see what really was there. That is until February, 1987.

Don Kincaid, of Treasure Salvors, Inc., stated that they had "stumbled across" some wreckage in 1971 while looking for a galleon. "We ran across it again on a whim.... We're not in the business of looking for Bermuda Triangle wreckage. Mel just wanted to pull it up out of curiosity." Mel is Mel Fisher, who has made millions salvaging treasure off the Florida coast. He believed that the wreck could be part of the missing Flight 19 Avengers and he finally gave in to his whim.

On Feb. 24, 1987, the craft was finally pulled from the mud in water 33' deep about 20 mi. west of Key West. When the fuselage was hoisted from the water, an open parachute spilled out, but no human remains were found. It was brought to Key West for identification.

At this juncture, the story enjoyed considerable coverage in the media and many openly speculated that the mystery of Flight 19 had finally been solved. Conclusive proof that the plane was in fact part of the ill-fated flight however was lacking, & interested readers were left hanging.

When the rest of the story finally did come out some time later, it received almost no coverage-- probably because it just wasn't sensational enough. The truth was that this particular aircraft, identified by its serial numbers, had crashed nearly three months prior to the Flight 19 incident. The identification was further confirmed by a survivor who had bailed out just before the crash and who, after more than 40 years, was still able to recognize his plane.

The mystery of Flight 19 lives on! (JW)



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"Debunkers Ignore Key Evidence": Continued from Page One.

beginning on the assumption that they were forgeries.

In Friedean's words, "There is no basis whatsoever for the claims by Klass and his associates that the Operation Majestic 12 (Eisenhower) documents are 'bogus' or 'clumsy counterfeits'. I am dismayed but not surprised by these irrational attempts to discredit these items before having properly examined them. Mr. Klass does a disservice to science, which he purportedly serves though he is not a scientist himself, and to journalism with his inadequate research and totally incomprehensible failure to deal with the relevant data at hand with regard to these matters. It is very easy to claim any documents are bogus. It is quite another matter to establish the validity of those claims."

Mr. Shandera commented that "In finding truth, one must remain open enough to diligently examine all available evidence and sources. Mr. Klass' pre-conceived conclusions make him subject to the grievous mistake of seeing only that evidence which, on the surface, seems to support his position-- a pitfall normally avoided by most serious researchers. Certainly, there is a great deal more work which needs to be done to uncover the truth of this matter; but at this point, evidentiary support for the authenticity of the documents in question far outweighs the objections which have been raised thus far. In the words of Herbert Spencer, "There is a principle...which cannot fail to keep man in everlasting ignorance-- That principle is condemnation before investigation."

One of the key points in the dispute over the authenticity of these documents is a 1954 memorandum from presidential assistant Genl. Robert Cutler to then Air Force Chief of Staff Genl. Nathan Twining. This memo, which points out a slight change of plans in a briefing scheduled for two days later, was found in the National Archives in July of 1985 by Moore and Shandera.

According to Klass, his research indicates that this memo, which is an onionskin carbon copy of an original, is "phony" for the following reasons:

- The memo is unsigned.
- Cutler was out of the country at the time the memo was generated, and thus could not have written it.
- It is a "typed original", and not a carbon at all.
- It does not bear a Top Secret registration number.
- It carries the classification "Top Secret Restricted Security Information", a terminology which, according to Klass, "did not come into use until more than a decade later."
- The typeface on the document was not the same as that on other Cutler memoranda obtained by Klass.

-The onionskin paper did not bear the "characteristic Eagle watermark" which Klass claims is found on "all government onionskin paper."

According to Moore, "None of these arguments hold water upon careful examination." The facts are these:

-Cutler was indeed out of the country at the time. He had, however, (according to a memorandum located in the Eisenhower Memorial Library) left careful instructions to his staff to keep material moving out of his "in basket". Since this memo is only a notification slight change of plans for a classified briefing on the "MJ-12 Special Studies Project", it certainly would have been handled by Cutler's staff in response to any request by Eisenhower. Naturally the memo is unsigned since Cutler was not there to sign it. (Unsigned memoranda-- especially carbons-- are quite common among government documents of this era. That Cutler was no exception is borne out by the discovery of one other unsigned memorandum from him in the files of the Library of Congress, this one classified "Top Secret Security Information", and bearing a date in 1953.)

-Klass' statement that the memo is a "typed original" and not a carbon is based solely upon the fact that impressions of the typewriter keys can be seen on the reverse side of the document. This is a perfectly normal circumstance with onionskin carbons, and can be tested by anyone with a manual typewriter-- a fact that Klass apparently did not bother to check for himself. Klass has also seen fit to totally ignore the fact that the type on the memo is blue, not black, and is clearly consistent with the sort of reproduction produced by a worn blue carbon.

-The memo does not in fact bear a Top Secret registration number. Neither do two other Top Secret Cutler memoranda from the same era (one of which is also Cutler to Twining) which were located among General Twining's papers on file with the Library of Congress. One of these contains language very similar to the memo in question.

-The memo does carry a two-line classification caveat which reads "Top Secret Restricted" on the first line, and "Security Information" on the second (See copy attached.) However, Klass' argument that this caveat was "not in use until more than a decade later" is not based upon his own research into the matter, but rather stems from a statement made by the National Archives in a "Reference Report on MJ-12" letter dated July 22, 1987. This letter makes reference to the fact that the caveat "Top Secret Restricted Information" did not come into use at the National Security Council until the Nixon Administration", and goes on to state that information from the Eisenhower Library "confirms that this particular marking was not used during the Eisenhower Administration."

Independent research by Moore, Friedean and Shandera however, shows that the caveat "Top Secret Security Information" (on two lines) was quite commonly used throughout the early '50s. In addition, the caveat "Top Secret Restricted Data" had been in use since 1946 for certain types of information connected with atomic energy. (Genl. Twining, in a September 23, 1947 letter about UFOs, had clearly indicated a nuclear connection.)

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The issue, therefore, centers around the unusual use of the word "Restricted" following "Top Secret". Close reading of the National Archives' statement on this matter shows that it ignores two key points: (1) It limits itself to caveats in use at the time only by the National Security Council (MJ-12, as a "black" project, may have had some special caveat of its own); and (2) It addresses itself to the alleged non-use of the caveat "Top Secret Restricted Information". The word "Information", however is not a part of the caveat on the Cutler-Twining memo.

Some confusion has also been generated by the fact that "Restricted" had been a separate classification in itself until it was phased out in 1953. "Restricted" (as opposed to "Top Secret Restricted") documents fell in between Unclassified and Confidential on the security scale, and should have no bearing on the matter of the Cutler-Twining memo at all. Unfortunately, however, some individuals (apparently Mr. Klass included) have mistakenly confused the two terms, thus fueling what should not be a controversy in the first place.

One other point to be considered here is the distinct possibility that the word "Restricted" is meant to apply to the distribution of the memo (i.e. not through the usual channels) rather than to the classification of the actual data contained therein.

As far as Moore, Friedman and Shandera are concerned, the evidence presented on caveats to date remains insufficient to resolve the matter.

-Preliminary examination of the typeface on the Cutler-Twining memo indicates it was typed with a manual Remington-Rand typewriter of proper vintage. Such machines were commonly used by government offices of the time. An examination of various other declassified Cutler memoranda from the same era shows a variety of type styles. In such a situation, pronouncements about typefaces which are based upon comparison of the Cutler-Twining memo to only a few of the many thousands of documents generated by such offices is neither scientific nor acceptable.

Research on typewriters and typefaces is continuing and results will be released at a later date.

-The absence of an "Eagle" watermark on the onionskin paper is also not unusual. Government offices at that time used a number of different types of onionskin, some of which bore no watermark at all. Indeed, Jo Ann Williamson of the National Archives staff in Washington, DC, has stated that the Archives has "only a fraction of the documents from the 1953-54 time period", and that she "know(s) very well that they cannot make the statement that all government documents from that time bear the Eagle watermark, or that Mr. Cutler's office prepared correspondence only on Prestige Onionskin when Mr. Cutler was away (as was inferred by the Archives report of July 22, '87).

Mr. Klass chooses to interpret further comments by the National Archives and both the Truman and Eisenhower presidential libraries to the effect that they were unable to find any identifiable record concerning either "Majestic 12" or "MJ-12" as meaning that no such files exist. Mr. Ed Reese of the Military Reference Branch of the National Archives, however, has stated to Moore that "We only have records here that have been retired to us by various government agencies. No doubt there are a large number of files and records pertaining to the so-called 'black projects' and other highly-classified programs that we have never heard of because they are still in custody of whatever office or agency is responsible for them. This could well be the case with your Majestic 12 group."

Equally, Mr. James Layerzopf of the Eisenhower Library told us that the library staff has "found numerous indications of selected material having been pulled from files before we assumed custody of them."

Another key document released by Moore, Friedman and Shandera is a September 24, 1947 executive memorandum purportedly written by (and bearing the signature of) President Harry Truman. This short, two paragraph document, stamped "Top Secret Eyes Only", is an authorization by Truman to then Secretary of Defense James Forrestal to undertake "Operation Majestic 12", in concert with Dr. (Vannevar) Bush and "the Director of Central Intelligence", who was then Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter. (Hillenkoetter subsequently went on public record a number of times with allegations that the U.S. government should tell all it knows about UFOs.)

Mr. Klass, in his rush to judgement, has alleged that this document is a "forgery created by superimposing a fake message on a photocopy of an authentic Truman letter." Klass, however, offers no evidence whatsoever in support of this claim, and in fact there is none. A print made from the original negative of the briefing document which included this short memorandum as "Attachment A", shows no sign of any superimposition. The document bears an authentic appearing Truman signature and is in correct form for such memoranda.

A slight difference in the contrast of the heading of the document (which was typed all in capital letters) as compared to the body of the memorandum can easily be explained by the fact that manual typewriters frequently type lighter impressions for capitals than for lower-case letters-- especially when the ribbon becomes worn. A cursory examination of all of the capital letters in this document shows that they all appear lighter than their lower-case counterparts.

Klass has also tried to dismiss the document as a "counterfeit" because it does not fit the correct format of an authentic Truman letter", which, according to Klass, would contain the name and address of the recipient in the lower left corner. The document, however, is not a "letter", but rather an executive memorandum, the style and format of which, according to one expert who claims to have handled virtually all of the unclassified and declassified Executive

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Orders from that era, "looks absolutely authentic." Indeed, there is absolutely nothing about this document which would suggest that it is not authentic-- including the date of the memorandum and the typeface used. Moore, Friedman and Shandera have indicated that they have strong additional evidence concerning the authenticity of this memorandum which they will publish at a later date.

A third item which the debunkers attempt to explain away is the entire seven page "Top Secret Eyes Only" Eisenhower briefing paper to which the Truman document was attached. Klass claims that it describes a 1947 UFO crash in New Mexico as if Eisenhower had never heard of it. That judgement cannot be reached on the basis of the data in the document, especially if, as was the case, the primary custody of these materials resided with the Office of the President. Even if Eisenhower had been informed of the crash, he would not have known all the details. Eisenhower had already made a public announcement (with presidential approval) in June of 1947 (prior to the crash-retrieval) stating that he would assume the presidency of Columbia University around the end of the year. The named members of the Majestic 12 group were all high-ranking scientists, intelligence officers and technology experts. There is no reason at all why General Eisenhower, despite his many military achievements, would have been considered for membership in such a group. To suggest that the document is "phoney" on this basis, instead of the basis of any mistaken information in it (there is none), certainly violates all the rules of science and journalism.

It is interesting that the Klass press release makes no mention whatsoever of the detailed investigation conducted well before this document was either received in December of 1984, or released. This effort by Stanton T. Friedman and William L. Moore clearly established on the basis of interviews with nearly 100 different people coupled with extensive travel, documentation, etc., that indeed a UFO had crashed outside of Roswell, New Mexico in July of 1947; that an announcement to this effect was made by the government; that a cover-up was instigated within 24 hours of that announcement; that alien bodies were found; that material was sent to Wright Field for analysis; and that civilians were debriefed with strong persuasions to change their stories as appropriate. Mr. Klass makes no mention of the fact that five people have been found who described strange symbols seen on portions of the crashed saucer. Strange symbols are mentioned in the document. Mr. Klass makes no mention of the fact that the twelve people named as being members of Majestic 12 all had very high-level security clearances and close interlocking of past activities.

Of special importance in this regard is the inclusion of Dr. Donald Menzel. Menzel was a famous astrophysicist at Harvard University and, beginning in 1953, wrote three strongly anti-anti-UFO books. It would have seemed totally illogical for Dr. Menzel to have been named a member of the MJ-12 team. However, detailed research by Friedman clearly established that Menzel had the right levels of security clearances,

close association with various intelligence agencies, especially NSA and the CIA, and a close association with Dr. Vannevar Bush, Dr. Lloyd Berkener and Dr. Detlev Bronk, all of whom are named as having been members of Majestic 12. Dr. Menzel was known for his discretion with regard to classified matters, was an expert on cryptanalysis, had learned Japanese and would have been an appropriate person to have looked at the symbols. Furthermore, a close friend in his later years, a psychiatrist, has indicated that Menzel certainly would have called to work on such a project. He doesn't think Menzel was because the friend felt that there would have been no reason for keeping security past the first few months. That notion is equally absurd. Clearly if there were two crash-retrievals in three years, there may have been more later. Clearly there was no way to learn all the technological secrets of a very advanced vehicle and strange beings in just a few years. Clearly there were national security implications with regard to the possibility of duplicating the technology or of the Soviets possibly duplicating the technology, of learning that the investigations by the aliens were not necessarily to the benefit of mankind. There was also a great concern, expressed in the memo, with public panic as a result of any disclosures that might be made.

In summary, NONE of the many questions raised thus far concerning the alleged Eisenhower briefing papers and accompanying documents has been of sufficient weight to label them either counterfeits or hoaxes. At least one former U.S. senator (and presidential candidate), Barry Goldwater of Arizona, has gone on record as saying that when he attempted to find out the truth about UFOs, he was "denied this request" and that the matter "is still classified above Top Secret." (Copy of letter attached.) The senator went on to say that he had heard that a plan was underway "to release some, if not all, of this material in the near future." Perhaps the anonymous transmission of these documents to Moore, Friedman and Shandera is an indication that the time has come.

UFOLOGIST TOMMY R. BLANN RETIRES!

In a general circulation "To Whom it may Concern" letter dated August 18, 1987, longtime UFOlogist Tommy Roy Blann of Arlington, Texas has announced his retirement from the field. According to Blann, his thirty-year search for truth has now ended and his "life must now take on new meaning" as a result of it.

Blann's "truth" appears to be semi-religious in nature and he says he hopes that someday he can write a book about it.

WLM



The following "raw data" UFO report was received in our office recently from Project board member Stanton T. Friedman. We reprint it here (unedited) for the information of our readers. Those wishing to do follow-up research are urged to coordinate directly with Stan at (506) 457-0232.

To File May 26, 1987

UFO Observation by Pilot, first officer and stewardess of Canadian Air International flight 157 enroute between Toronto and Winnipeg, May 16, 1987, radar only observation

Background

Chris Rutkowski a friend and very knowledgeable about UFOs called May 26, after 10AM to inform me that he had noted an interesting but very brief report in the NRC UFO files during a visit to Ottawa last week. There was a radar observation from a CAI plane piloted by an R. Olsen. Chris had done some checking leaving word without mentioning UFOs. Supposedly the flight had originated in Halifax which might make it easier for me to check. The sighting was by radar, involved something moving at 5000 mph observed for about 4 minutes on the plane's radar. I called Halifax which referred me to personnel which referred me to crew scheduling at 416-675-8295 or CAI HQ 604-270-5211.

Information

The respondent at crew scheduling checked her files, actually called R. Olsen to get his permission to give me his number and then got back to me with his number upon his granting permission. I called him at 705-458-4807. His address is RR5, Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0...just north of Toronto not far from Barrie.

Rick Olsen was very cooperative, not defensive but careful. He had made notes the evening of the sighting and drawn some sketches as well and had the materials at hand. On May 16, a Saturday, he had flown from Toronto to Halifax, back from Halifax to Toronto and was on his way from Toronto to Winnipeg when the event occurred. The plane is a Boeing 737 with a Primus 90 weather radar system. The radar was on because their flight was a bit bumpy at 31,000 feet and they were looking for storms and possibly a slightly changed flight path to reduce passenger discomfort. The first officer noted a strong return on the radar at about 50 miles which is very unusual because the radar is designed for storms not aircraft and normally they will only see jumbos (747s, DC-10s, L-1011s at short range (under 20 miles) and then giving a very tiny return on the screen. His rough estimate was that the return was perhaps 5-6 times that expected from a 747 at closer range. It was bright red in the middle with "wings" of green indicating less strong return. The object was at approximately the same altitude and moving in roughly the same direction as was his flight. He timed the sweep speed of the radar as once every 6.0 or so seconds. The object moved 9 miles per sweep using the grid on the scope. They kept increasing the range to 100, then 200 and finally 300 miles. In each case it was found to be moving 9 miles per 6 seconds. This would mean about 90 miles in one minute which is 5400mph!

The UFO flight path was about 15° to the right of the 737. They were 30 miles North of Thunder Bay. Shortly after the object went off scope they picked up an Air Canada 1011 at 12 miles heading towards them and overhead. It was a small green dot on the scope. They made various adjustments to the scope to ensure it was operating properly. They had notified Toronto Air Control and asked if there was any traffic and mentioned the radar target. Apparently Toronto contacted NORAD which asked if there were a visual observation. The answer was no because it was quite hazy (0024 Zulu or about 7:25PM Toronto time). No report was made to CAI or NORAD though as noted sketches were made. The First officers name was Mark _____ and the Stewardess was Carol _____. Rick has no objection to his name being used. He will check with Mark and Carol about theirs.

Rick is 37, has been a pilot since age 16 and a commercial pilot for the old CP for 15 years. Now a Captain. Flight Speed was 380 Knots (ground) 445 True air--head wind)