

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.

Klass has 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 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.