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Registered file number 9/Sec(AS)12/14

Part No. A

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.
2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRAN
Sec(AS)2a

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBE

SUBJECT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJ
UFO's
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
AND ENQUIRIES

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RD OF KEYWORDS:

CLOSED

ferred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRA

Sec(AS)2a

12/14

A

RECEIVED 17 SEP 2002

Part No. 1

SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objec
UFO's

Parliamentary questions & Enquiries

Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date

12/14 PART A

CLOSED

No Further Action to be taken In this FILE PART

Continued on PART B

Last enclosure 143

Section 40

[redacted] A82-2812-7-4

File Ref: SEC(AS)/12/4

Part: A

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file 12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Sec(A5)2

A diamond I attach a copy of the Hansard extract for the debate on Tuesday 19 June about UFOs. Lord T would like to say that his view remains the same.

Section 40

3/6

public. Finally, I should like to thank your Lordships for your kind attention, and I beg to move for Papers.

7.29 p.m.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, I am bound to say that I face making this speech with some trepidation. I had wondered whether we could justify the holding of what is in effect a full debate on this matter; but having seen the audience we have tonight, and indeed having heard the speech of the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, I can see that that sort of thought would not go down too well. I may well be shouted down before I finish anyway, but let us see if we can avoid that right at the start.

The noble Earl asked us in his Motion to support a proposal particularly for an intra-governmental study—I suppose he means, as indeed he has described, between Governments. No doubt he would wish to see the co-operation of the United States. But I should not want to support that kind of proposal. I do not think the time has yet come when we can view this matter with sufficient certainty to justify the expenditure of public money on it.

I certainly agree that the numerous voluntary bodies, including those with which the noble Earl is associated, ought to be encouraged, and indeed I should not be opposed to informal links between those bodies—or, at least the responsible ones—and others, such as the Ministry of Defence. But I am ashamed to say, in the midst of all this faith, that I am not myself a believer in UFOs described, as I believe they are, as objects or vehicles from another planet or from another universe.

I have some 2,500 hours as a pilot. I have flown across the Atlantic a few times as a pilot. But, unlike with the aircraft reported by the noble Earl, I have never seen one. I presume—indeed, I believe—that a good many of the sightings can be explained by logical scientific theory and I am, so far at least, convinced that those that cannot so far be so explained could be, if our knowledge were more advanced or if we had more information about the sightings in question. It is these unexplained sightings upon which ufologists rely so heavily in asking us to accept their theories. But I believe, as I say, that these unexplained sightings could be—and, indeed, would be—explained, if we had more knowledge about them; for example, better photographs. How many clear photographs of UFOs have your Lordships seen? All I have seen are hazy, fudgy photographs which could, or could not, be genuine.

Ufologists often rely upon radar information for evidence in their case, but I must tell your Lordships that radar plays more tricks even than the camera, and I do not believe that radar information, in this context, is valid. For example, the recent sightings in New Zealand, which were widely reported just before Christmas, including some rather strange-looking photographs which appeared on television, were also said to have been confirmed by radar information which was available to the aircraft in question. But I know from my own experience that radar is frequently used, and, indeed, is so designed, for detecting anomalies in atmospheric conditions and in weather patterns, and I am not persuaded that radar is a valid supporting argument in this case.

Since time immemorial, man has ascribed those phenomena that he could not explain to some supernatural or extra-terrestrial agents. Eventually, as scientific wisdom has advanced, these phenomena are understood more fully, until now, today, no one takes witchcraft seriously and there are no fairies at the bottom of my garden. It is not so long ago that magnetism, as it occurs naturally in the form of lodestone, was thought to be the work of the Devil, as indeed were some of the hot springs found in Iceland, Australia and elsewhere.

An eclipse of the sun or the moon, now fully understood, was once thought to be an expression of the Almighty's displeasure. Perhaps this derives from the description in the Gospels of the events following the Crucifixion. I recall the 44th and 45th verses of the 23rd chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, and I shall read it if I may:

"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst".

St. Matthew described it rather well also:

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent".

[Lord Trefgarne.]

No one would now seriously doubt that those happenings were, in fact, an eclipse of the sun and an earthquake respectively. I would not deny that there may have been divine intervention in respect of the timing of those events, but certainly I would say that they were caused by terrestrial forces which we now fully understand.

Without wishing to pre-empt anything that the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich may say, perhaps I may pose the question as to whether the existence of another race or races outside our universe is compatible with our Christian principles. I speak only as a simple member of the Christian faith, but I think I believe that He loves us and us alone. I am not aware that there is any suggestion in the words of Christ or in the words of the Almighty, as recorded that we must share his goodness with people from another universe. There is no suggestion that there is, indeed, any other such people. I acknowledge, however, that, for example, the works of Darwin were once thought incompatible with the Christian faith, and so perhaps my view of the credibility of these things, from a Christian point of view, is open to correction. Perhaps the right reverend Prelate will be able to help us when he comes to speak.

I emphasise that I do not for a moment doubt the sincerity and conviction of those who believe in these objects, who believe that they are visitors from another universe or, at least, some supernatural force beyond our reason. I simply do not happen to agree with them. I certainly do not agree with the learned professor, speaking on the radio the other morning, who said: "Anyone who believes in UFOs is a loony". But as for the suggestion that an international study group should be set up, I do not think that I could countenance that as a serious proposal at this time. I emphasise, however, that I would be happy to encourage informal links between, for example, the RAF and the very worthy groups who believe differently from the way I do.

Before I sit down, I should just like to say how much I am looking forward to the maiden speech of my noble friend Lord Oxfuird, who is to speak later in the debate. His name has, of course, appeared on the Order Paper before today, and I hope that it appears on the list of speakers a good many times in the future. The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, has done us a service by bringing this matter forward, but I would counsel caution and care.

7.38 p.m.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY: My Lords, as the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, has said, the majority of noble Lords in this Chamber will be greatly indebted to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for raising this fascinating and controversial subject this evening. Before I begin, perhaps I should say that I have an interest in it, because I am a director of a company which is to make an identified flying object—a thermo skyship, which is saucer shaped. I shall not get that muddled up. But in spite of sceptics, such as the noble Lord, Lord Wigg, the other day in a newspaper, and Sir Bernard Lovell from Jodrell Bank, who says that UFOs do not exist, we must agree that they do, because otherwise there would be no unidentified flying objects. Furthermore, we should not have throughout the world radio telescopes listening to try to pick up signals from intelligences in outer space.

As the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, said, UFOs are not products of the 20th century imagination. They have been observed here for years—by the North American Indians, by the monks of Byland Abbey in 1290, who were terrified by the appearance of a huge silver disc. Right through history up to today, millions of people have seen UFOs, and I will go so far as to say that I am the first to admit that the very large majority of them can be explained as natural or man-made phenomena—meteorites, satellite débris, weather balloons, military flares, *et cetera*. But there are still many which are completely unexplained.

It has been reported that the United States and the USSR signed a pact in 1971 to swop UFO information, but the pact stated that they were to keep the rest of the world in the dark. I believe that the pact was signed so that neither super-Power would make mistakes about UFOs being atomic missiles. I am also led to understand that quite recently the three United States balloonists who crossed the Atlantic were followed for up to 12

[The Lord Bishop of Norwich.]

which can cause serious distress to them and to their personal life. That is my anxiety. I may be wrong, but I put it forward with some care, having thought about it and studied it a good deal. Therefore, my third anxiety—and I am sorry to be negative but it is important to share both the light and the dark sides—is the danger of the religious aspect of the UFO situation leading to the obscuring of basic Christian truths. When all is said and done, Christ himself is the agent of God in the creation of the world. I quote from *Colossians*:

"Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation: for in Christ all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible—whether thrones or dominions, or principalities or authorities . . . All things were created through Him and for Him".

This fascinating chapter in *Colossians*, which is perhaps one of the highest levels of Christological teaching, speaks of Christ being before all things: "by him all things consist", as the Authorised Version put it. All things hold together; He is the great unifying, holding-together principle of God's universe.

I say this in this debate recognising the danger of, as it were, preaching a sermon. However, I do not think that is true in this case because the very subject we are debating is helping to widen our horizons—and the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfuird, stressed this point of looking far out in his maiden speech. I believe that Christ has not only a terrestial, not only a cosmic significance but literally a galactic significance. I believe that He is God's vice-regent concerning His great creative world. It is good that our minds and eyes should be stretched further out because I do not believe that at any point of the universe we get beyond the hand of God. Therefore, it helps us to understand the majesty of the Godhead when we begin to stretch our minds to reach out to the far corners of creation.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, will the right reverend Prelate allow me to intervene? Is he actually offering ecclesiastical authority for the existence of another race of people in another universe? Is he saying that the existence of UFOs, together with their inhabitants such as are so often described to us, is compatible with Christian faith?

The Lord BISHOP of NORWICH: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord, Lord Tregfarne, for his interjection because it shows that he must have been listening carefully, because the next thing on my notes is, "Say something about Lord Trefgarne's remarks". However, there are about 20 seconds to go before I get to the noble Lord. Perhaps in the meantime he can have a glass of water from Lord Davies of Leek, or something, but I am almost with the noble Lord. I am glad for that interjection because I obviously was not getting right what I was trying to say. I believe that all the far corners of the creative world, right out further than we can ever see or even know by radio, are within the plan of the Creator. I believe they are within the majestic purposes of God. I believe that Christ, as Creator under the Godhead, is concerned with it all.

Now may I come to the noble Lord's particular question a few minutes ago. His question went something like this: "Do we believe in the existence of another race? Is it possible that there is another race further afield?" I must say that I do not know. I believe there is a place for reverent Christian agnosticism concerning what is not revealed to us in scripture and by our Lord. Having said that, I believe that God may have other plans for other worlds, but I believe that God's plan for this world is Jesus. That at least is how I view the question. The emphasis in scripture is most interesting on the fact that there never seems a point beyond the revelation of scripture where there is not God.

I quote, if I may follow Lord Trefgarne once more before finishing what I had to say, from the most majectic opening letter to the Hebrews.

"In these last days, God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. He reflects the glory of God. He bears the stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power".

My point is that the danger of getting the UFO thing linked with the religious thing is that it obscures the fact that Christ is the image of the invisible God, and that all God's purposes and plans for humanity are in and through his Son, our Lord.

This is not popular. This is not agreed by dozens of people. Plenty of people

[The Earl of Cork and Orrery.]

of it. If this represents all that the Conservative Party can produce in the way of thinking on what is undoubtedly a serious subject, whatever your opinion about it may be, then this is deplorable.

If the noble Lord really thinks that there is no serious interest or belief taken nowadays in witchcraft, perhaps he does not read the right newspapers, but I can assure him that this is far from true. He is not a believer in unidentified flying objects. "I am no believer in UFOs", he said. I do not know how you can not believe in UFOs. You can take it for granted, if your mind takes a leap ahead, that by an unidentified flying object something is intended that is supposed to have originated in outer space, and you can say you do not believe in that. But I do not know what it implies to say that you do not believe in an unidentified flying object. You do not believe in the object? You do not believe in its flying? You do not believe it is unidentified? There are things that are unidentified. Perhaps we are not trying. I do not think it is reasonable to say that they do not exist. Nobody, except my noble friend Lord Hewlett, has seriously contended that they do not exist. The question is, what are they?

Lord TREFGARNE: I am pleased my noble friend has allowed me to intervene, my Lords, because he has been very caustic about what I had to say. I do not deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. I simply say that most of them are identifiable, that some are not objects at all but simply a trick of the light or a meteorological phenonemon—I think that is so in many cases—and that I agree one cannot deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. It is simply a question of how we identify them.

The Earl of CORK and ORRERY: My Lords, I take my noble friend's point. I am anxious not to misquote him, but he also said that ufologists—it is difficult not to use that word—referred to unexplained sightings which would be explained if only we had better evidence; that was the gist of one part of my noble friend's argument. In other words, if we had better evidence we should be able to explain those sightings. That is the sole point on which the noble Earl initiated this debate. That is what he is asking for: he wishes evidence to be collected, collated, examined, evaluated and reported on as to what these things are, and it is notable that he himself did not say what he thought they were. Other noble Lords have spoken as though he had said they were fairies or I do not know what, when in fact he said no such thing. I believe he is a leading authority on these matters—certainly he has studied them more closely than anyone else of whom I have heard—and he must have exercised very great restraint in this matter, and he is to be congratulated on that as well as on initiating the whole debate.

I once had an ancestor—I still have him in a sense, in that he is still my ancestor although he is dead—called Robert Boyle who founded a society called the Royal Society. I feel that if he returned to the rooms of that enormously prestigious society now and found that the present Royal Society contained Fellows of such erudition and charm as the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, he would feel entirely at home; a man of the most agreeable and totally non-sceptical nature, even if he did write a book called *The Sceptical Chemist*.

The noble Earl has done a service by displaying before our very eyes the scientist-philosopher who knows precisely the limits of science and makes no effort to go beyond them. Nor does he point the finger of scorn at anyone else. He must know, as others know, that it is impossible to prove anything by negative evidence. If you wish to prove that something is not so you can do it only in logic—by proving the existence of something that is so that makes that first premise impossible. Thus, you cannot prove that any particular type of flying object does not exist, and with respect to my noble friend, the fact that the Jodrell Bank telescope has not seen something not only does not prove, but is not even particularly good evidence, that it was not there. I am prepared to accept, if told, that the Jodrell Bank telescope has been operating on a frequency suited to the observation of UFOs of one kind or another for the last 30 years, but, until I am told that, I shall be sceptical in that matter.

Lord HEWLETT: Let me be quite clear about this, my Lords. I did not say other than that Jodrell Bank had made

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

2 Jul 85

APS/US of S(AF)

UFOs: LORD HILL-NORTON

In the light of Lord Hill-Norton's response to US of S(AF)'s letter of 19 June you may consider it prudent to have the attached additional note on UFOs for the Second Day of the House of Lords Defence Debate.

Section 40

[redacted]

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

[redacted]

UFOs: RAF WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT - 27 DEC 80

Our concern, naturally, is the defence of the UK and more specifically any possibility of infringements of UK airspace. In this particular incident the report, received 2 weeks after the event, was carefully examined and as I have previously said, it was concluded that there was no Defence interest.

[Indeed the high visibility of the phenomenon reported - multi-coloured bright lights - is totally inconsistent with a covert entry into the UK.]

I can assure Noble Lords that sightings of unidentified objects are not a matter [the Ministry of Defence][we] take lightly. I am however confident that the judgement of the time was correct. Nothing since casts doubt on that assessment.

That is not to say, however, that Colonel Halt and the other personnel mentioned in the report were suffering from hallucinations. Speaking personally, I can accept that people do from time to time see things in the sky which they find difficult to explain. I am sure your Lordships will agree that in many cases normal explanations come to light, such as falling meteorites or satellite debris, unusual cloud formations or aircraft lights. The press has carried the results of a good deal of investigative journalism which turned up rational and down-to-earth explanations for what was seen. What the true explanation is, I do not know; MOD does not attempt to investigate reports to the point at which a positive identification can be made. I can assure Noble Lords, however, that there is no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge.

Brief for H. of Lords Defence debates.
Provided for US of S (AF) 19/6.

File 12/4

UFO's

Noble Lords may recall that this subject was discussed in detail during a debate in this House on 18 January 1979. I have seen nothing, since that time, to alter my views.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The sole interest of HMG in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the MOD appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. Reports are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine them as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena.

RAF Woodbridge incident 27 Dec 80. We have nothing to add to what has already been said. We were satisfied, at the time, that there was no Defence significance to the report and we have seen nothing to alter this view.

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S RMC _____

Sec(AS)2 → 12/4

INR Section 40 [redacted]



A copy for your information.

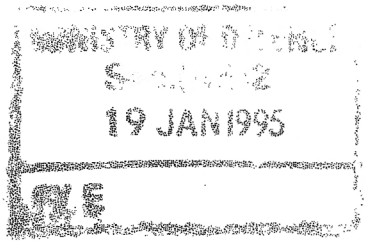
for PS/US of S

Section 40 [redacted]

Date:

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Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/OH 0074/95

18 January 1995

Dear Ralph

Thank you for your letter of 4 January to Malcolm Rifkind enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about alleged alien abductions.

I should first like to correct the misconceptions on which the Press article which Section 40 [redacted] encloses are based. First, the Ministry of Defence has not agreed to formal discussions with Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had expressed a wish to meet staff to discuss information he had with respect to "UFO" sightings, but he was advised that whilst a meeting would not be appropriate he could if he wished drop any information he had in connection with "UFO" sightings at the foyer of the MOD Main Building, whereupon it would be staffed in the normal way.

Secondly, no discussions with respect to alien abductions have taken place between my officials and either Section 40 [redacted] or Section 40 Section 40 the author of The People article. The subject of alleged alien abductions falls outside this Department's responsibilities. I should perhaps at this point explain that the Ministry of Defence has only a limited interest and role with respect to reports of unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the United Kingdom's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena. In pursuing this Department's responsibility in this respect, we are not aware of any evidence which would substantiate the existence of lifeforms or craft of extraterrestrial origin.

Sir Ralph Howell MP

Recycled Paper



In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that there has been no agreement to a formal meeting between my officials and Section 40 Section 40 and that my officials have received no information or 'evidence' from Section 40 with respect to 'Rebecca', or alien abduction generally.

Yours ever

LORD HENLEY

Recycled Paper

ENCL NO 142

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

18 Jan 95

APS/US of S

D/USofS/0H/0074/95; SIR RALPH HOWELL, MP - UFOs/ALIEN ABDUCTIONS

1. The background to the newspaper article in question, and its references to the MOD, is important and is therefore set out below.

2. My staff were contacted by Section 40 in early November. He requested a meeting in the New Year - when it was his intention to make a trip to London - to discuss some information he had with respect to various "UFO" sightings. He was advised that it would not be appropriate for such a meeting to take place, but that if he wanted to call in at the Main Building Foyer he could hand in any evidence he wished us to look over, and that this would be taken away and staffed in the normal way. Section 40 followed up his telephone call with a letter in which he expressed the hope that early in the New Year he could make an appointment to discuss his findings of reported objects near military bases.

3. My staff heard nothing further until we received a call from Section 40 of The People, asking if there was any truth that the MOD had agreed to hold formal discussions with Section 40 Section 40 on the subject of "UFOs". My staff explained the situation to Section 40 and this was reaffirmed, I understand, in a conversation he had with the Press Office. Whilst speaking to my staff Section 40 made no reference to the alien abduction aspects of Section 40 story.

4. In the light of the fact that Section 40 appeared to be touting his story to the Press, we wrote to him expressing our surprise that he had chosen to represent his discussion with my staff as agreement to hold formal talks when this was clearly not the case.

5. The story subsequently appeared concentrating solely on alien abduction claims - a subject we have never discussed with Section 40 or Section 40 nor would we as the subject quite clearly falls outside our remit - and even alleging that the

MOD were looking at the evidence relating to 'Rebecca', when no such evidence has ever been discussed or submitted. The article in The People is, therefore, a fabrication. To date Section 40 Section 40 has not contacted this office again to advise when he will be dropping off his alleged evidence of "UFO" sightings.

6. I attach a draft reply to Sir Ralph Howell's letter.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0074/95 January 1995

Thank you for your letter to Malcolm Rifkind of 4 January enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] concerning alleged alien abductions. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should first like to correct the misconceptions which underly the Press article which Section 40 [redacted] encloses. First, the Ministry of Defence has not agreed to formal discussions with Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had expressed a wish to meet staff to discuss information he had with respect to "UFO" sightings, but he was advised that whilst a meeting would not be appropriate he could if he wished drop any information he had in connection with "UFO" sightings at the Foyer of the MOD Main Building, whereupon it would be staffed in the normal way.

Secondly, no discussions with respect to alien abductions have taken place between my officials and either Section 40 [redacted] or Section 40 [redacted] the author of The People article. The subject of alleged alien abductions falls outside this Department's responsibilities. I should perhaps at this point explain that the Ministry of Defence has only a limited interest and role with respect to reports of unexplained aerial phenomena. We

Sir Ralph Howells MP

look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the United Kingdom's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena. In pursuing this Department's responsibility in this respect, we are not aware of any evidence which would substantiate the existence of lifeforms or craft of extra-terrestrial origin.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that there has been no agreement to a formal meeting between my officials and Section 40 and that my officials have received no information or 'evidence' from Section 40 with respect to 'Rebecca', or alien abduction generally.

I hope this is helpful.

THE LORD HENLEY

Section 40 [redacted]

for action please!

Section 40 [redacted]



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 0074/95 **(to be quoted in all correspondence)**

For action by: Hd Sec (AS)

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 20 January 1995

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 [redacted] Please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

for the Private Secretary

06 JAN 1995

0074

Sir Ralph Howell, M.P.

PE: Sec (AS) US&S.

House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

Tel: Section 40
Secretary: Section 40

4 January 1995

Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Dear Malcolm

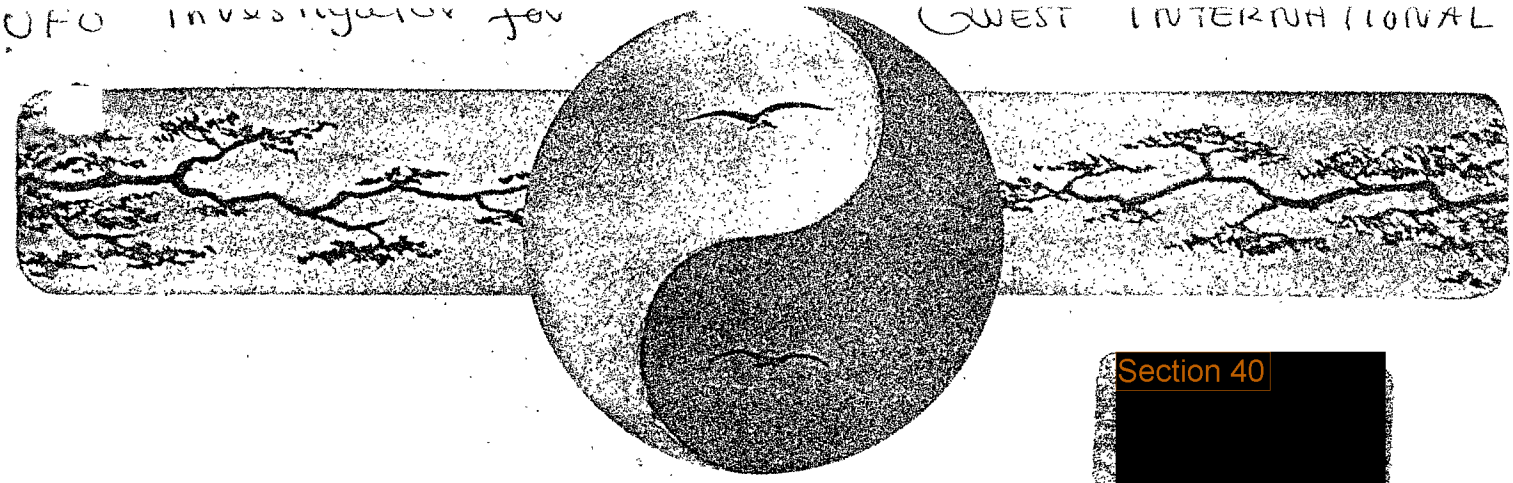
I am enclosing copy of a letter and press report which I have received from a constituent, Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 regarding alleged alien abductions.

According to the press report, this matter is being investigated by the Ministry of Defence. If this is the case, I would be most grateful for any information you can give me which I can pass on to my constituent.

Yours ever

Ralph

UFO Investigator for QUEST INTERNATIONAL



Section 40 [redacted]

Dec 12 1994

Dear Ralph Howe,

Could you please let me know if there is any truth in the content of the enclosed cutting. I am of course aware that tabloids are notoriously 'innacurate'.

I want to know if there is any truth in the fact that the M.O.D. are enquiring officially into the weird scenario of 'Alien Abductions'.

I hope they are and I hope they will tell us quickly what is happening, even if the news is not too good for us humans.

© All

I have on my books four women who live in Norfolk who are confused. They have come to terms with their experiences of being taken aboard spaceships and being experimented on by small slant eyed beings who have total control over them. But they want to know what is happening and so do I and my husband Section 40.

Is this a world wide mass hallucinatory nightmare that thousands of men and women are having? The stories are monotonously similar and points to a creation of Alien Hybrids using human eggs and sperm.

Could this be mass hysteria? If so the human race is going through a very unstable stage of evolution.

The only thing I can say for sure is that the "Abductees" are not lying or hoaxing. They are frightened & confused and want an answer.

Please please make a few phone calls to the MoD and let me know their answer

THANK YOU

Section 40 & Section 40

'ALIENS WANT MY BABY' PROBE BY MoD

ASTONISHING claims that alien creatures are breeding with humans in a bizarre experiment to save the planet are to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

UFO watchers have carried out lengthy interviews with "victims" of alien kidnaps. Their findings are to be examined by Government officials.

Eric Morris, director of the British UFO Studies Centre, said last night: "The MoD has agreed to look at our evidence next month. It's very rare to be granted a meeting like this, and shows how impressive our case really is." One of the people in Eric's dossier has told The People about her amazing experience.

By MIKE SMITH

Rebecca, a 39-year-old professional woman from Cheshire, claims to have had contact with aliens since she was a child.

My abductions started with me passing down a long tunnel and falling into an open hands, she said.

I saw lots of other people walking out of their bodies and a series of tunnels that lead off it. At the end of each tunnel was a different room where the alien entities conducted experiments on people.

"At the end of one tunnel was a kind of tram that took me through pitch dark into a vast area – so big it seemed I was out in the open.

"It was a kind of artificial space with a gigantic black object in the middle, the size and shape of an aircraft carrier. That's where the aliens' experiments on humans and animals went on."

Rebecca is too traumatised by the sexual nature of the tests to describe them in detail, but she believes eggs have been taken from her which the aliens will try to cross-fertilise with.

Rebecca added: "I know they are not here to harm us. We're like children to them. They've been interested in us for thousands of years.

"They want to breed with us and they have got a very important message for everyone. 'Don't destroy your planet with materialism'."

Rebecca says the aliens look human. "But they have very high cheekbones and large pupil-less eyes which stretch from the front of their face to their temples," she added. "They are beautiful with long, blond hair and perfect figures. They wear tight one piece outfits with bands around the neck and wrists and communicate by telepathy.

"Even now I find it hard to accept that I've been abducted. I'm afraid I will have fun poked at me if I go public.

"But I do feel I'm beginning to find out why they are here."

Eric Morris, who has conducted hours of interviews with Rebecca, is convinced her story is true. "I've been a psychiatric nurse for years," he said. "I can quickly tell if someone is lying or is suffering from delusions. Rebecca is for real."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said to be dealing with Rebecca's claim was unavailable for comment.

D/US of S RMC

12/4

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

A copy for your information

EMOL No. 140/11

for PS/US of S

Section 40

Date:

Copied to:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
16 JAN 1995
SY E

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

D/US of S/OH 0058/95

16 January 1995

Dear Stephen

Thank you for your letter of 17 December to Roger Freeman enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] concerning unidentified flying objects.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence has a limited interest and role with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the UK's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence, we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

From the reports which we receive it is quite clear that there are many sights in the sky which are not immediately identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. Nevertheless, we do accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these as essentially it is outside the Department's remit to investigate further.

I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin. That said, the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

Stephen Dorrell Esq MP

Recycled Paper

Finally, Section 40 asked for a point of contact in this Department with whom he could correspond with any further enquires he has on this subject. The MOD focal point which looks at reports of unexplained aerial phenomena, for the reasons I have explained above, is as follows:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure Section 40 Section 40 that there is certainly no attempt to cover up information on this subject.

LORD HENLEY

Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

12 Jan 95

APS/US of S

LETTER FROM STEPHEN DORRELL MP

1. A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Dorrell's letter of 17 December is attached.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0058/95 January 1995

Thank you for your letter to Roger Freeman of 17 December enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] concerning unidentified flying objects. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence has a limited interest and role with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the UK's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence, we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

From the reports which we receive it is quite clear that there are many sights in the sky which are not immediately identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. Nevertheless, we do

accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these as essentially it is outside the Department's remit to investigate further.

I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extra-terrestrial origin. That said, the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

Finally, Section 40 asked for a point of contact in this Department with whom he could correspond with any further enquires he has on this subject. The MOD focal point which looks at reports of unexplained aerial phenomena, for the reasons I have explained above, is as follows:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure Mr Barker that there is certainly no attempt to cover up information on this subject.

Stephen Dorrell Esq MP

THE LORD HENLEY

ENCL No 139

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 0058/95 **(to be quoted in all correspondence)**

For action by: Sec (AS) 2a

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 18 January 1995

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 Please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

for the Private Secretary

6058

-5 JAN 1995

Stephen Dorrell, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

MINISTER (DP)
RECEIVED
03 JAN 1995
ACKNOWLEDGED

17th December, 1994

The Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman, M.P.,
Minister of Dtate,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HB

Dear Roger

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of UFOs.

I would be grateful for your comments on the points raised in Section 40 [redacted] letter.

Yours

Stephen

Stephen Dorrell

Enc.

-6 DEC 1994

Section 40

5th Dec 1994.

Dear Mr Dorrell,

As an individual who has been very interested in the UFO phenomena for a number of years, it is a well known fact that the British government and the intelligence-military authorities, take this matter very seriously indeed, if only from a defence point of view, which has been the case since the dawn of the modern UFO enigma, the 1930's-40's onwards to the present day. Exactly the same situation applies to the US government / intelligence and military authorities today, and its predecessors, as well as a number of others around the world.

As you may be aware of, this matter is one which has always been considered a very sensitive issue, and as in the U.S.A., is very much covered-up, presumably on the grounds of national security, and in public it is treated with the time honoured ridicule and outright scepticism. Basically, in a nut-shell, the

politicians (in general) laugh at it, the intelligence service stay quiet and the military always have an explanation and that it does not really exist. Hundreds of people right around the world know the opposite is true.

People the world over have the right to know the truth about the UFO phenomenon, despite the most incredible impact that the acknowledgement of the existence of intelligently controlled vehicles/craft and people originating from worlds other than our own, would have on our very existence and cultures etc.

I know that the human race has plenty of its own problems and issues which have to be dealt with and you will say that the UFO phenomena is not on the list of priority. That would be a fair point, but nonetheless it is an issue which should not be treated with the usual "little green men syndrome".

You will have said by now, what has all this got to do with me? Well the point of this letter is to ask if you could possibly probe into this matter yourself if you have any spare time at all, although I realize you are busy with other more urgent matters. Or

can you possibly put me touch with individual ministers and/or any ministerial bodies which deal with this subject and enquirers like me. Are there any individuals and/or departments within the intelligence service and/or military whom I could get in touch with to take my enquiries further, or simply a contact point in order to glean information of this kind.

Anyway, may I thank you for your time and patience in reading this letter. Let me assure you that this IS NOT a prank letter. I am a person who is just genuinely interested in all aspects of the UFO enigma as I have been since I became aware of it whilst still at school. I am one amongst literally thousands of other like-minded people. The sheer weight of objective evidence is so great now that it simply can not be brushed under the "doesn't exist" carpet any more.

Thank you once again, and I do hope you will write back to me. Any help would be very much appreciated,

Yours faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS/LORDS

For answer on ..... by .....PQ No.

Draft reply required by 4968G

FILE

ACTION DIVISION:	SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)		
Draft approved by	Signature or initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to
Section 40	Section 40	Section 40	ENC 138
Section 40		Section 40	
Secretary of State			Answer copied to:- As above plus:
Minister(AF)			AUS(C) PSO/ACAS
Minister(DP)			
US of S			

Type of Question:- First Order Oral (No.....); Non Priority Written; Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

LORD MASON OF BARNSLEY, Lab; To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent official records are kept of sightings of unidentified flying objects, especially those sightings that may have a bearing on the Air Defence of this country; whether units of the Ministry of Defence, especially RAF units have standing instructions to report sightings of unusual flying objects; whether reports are logged; and whether these can now be made public.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Ministry of Defence evaluates reports of unexplained aerial phenomena solely in order to establish whether they may have any defence significance. Reports are received from a wide range of sources, including the police and general public, as well as the RAF, which in the context of its air defence responsibilities has standing instructions to report all sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena to the MOD. All such reports are placed on departmental files in the normal way and are therefore subject to the Public Records Act. Several files on this subject are however available for viewing at the Public Record Office.

PQ4968G - Unidentified Flying Objects

Background

There are commonly held misconceptions regarding the MOD's role and responsibilities with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We have a very limited interest - our only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence of a threat to our air defences.

Generally reports of sightings are made to police stations, RAF bases and air traffic control centres. These establishments are required to forward details of the reports to the MOD. The MOD focal point, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, in consultation with RAF air defence colleagues, consider all available information and decide if there is any evidence a threat.

With regard to our records, unfortunately most of the "UFO" files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in public interest, files have been preserved. These, however, in line with all government files, fall under the terms of the Public Records Act which states that government files should generally stay closed for 30 years after the date of the most recent paper. However, a few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office in Kew.

If we are asked about specific sightings we can and do provide details, such as a copy of the report (which would be sanitized to protect the witness's personal details). We would not however wish to advertise this too widely, as we would risk inundation by such requests from the extremely active 'ufology' community.

Sent by CHOTS to US of S Typist 1

ENCL No 13

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

23 Nov 94

APS/US of S

LETTER FROM NICHOLAS WINTERTON MP

1. A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Winterton's letter of 4 November is attached.

2. I attach for your information a copy of the Hansard Extract which is referred to in the draft.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

1. Hansard Extract: 13 Mar 84 (Coloumns 132 and 133). (Walked down)

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0902/94 November 1994

Thank you for your letter of 4 November enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] concerning unidentified flying objects.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence's interest and role with respect to unexplained phenomena relates solely to the identification of any potential threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Once we are content that a reported sighting does not represent a threat, or suggest that our security has been compromised, we do not pursue the matter further or seek to establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

In his letter Section 40 [redacted] makes specific reference to the Parliamentary Question posed in March 1984 by Sir Patrick Wall MP. Section 40 [redacted] clearly misrepresents the answer given to Sir Patrick by the then Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, Mr John Lee (Hansard 13 Mar 84 Cols 132 & 133). As the answer states, the figures relate to reports of aerial sightings for which the observer had no explanation, received by the MOD in the years in question. They do not relate to reports of alleged landings, and they should in no way be taken

to represent sightings of alien spacecraft of extra-terrestrial origin.

Section 40 goes on to misconstrue the comments of the MOD division responsible for these matters, Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, regarding reports which remain unexplained. Whilst we believe that for the majority of reported sightings a simple and mundane explanation could be found, we do accept that a few cases, perhaps 10%, defy immediate explanation. However, once we are satisfied that nothing of defence significance has occurred, our interest in the sightings ends. As it is outside my Department's remit to investigate further, we remain open-minded on these.

As such, and contrary to Section 40 assertions, the Ministry of Defence does not conduct formal research into 'UFO sightings'. I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extra-terrestrial origin. That said, the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

With respect to our records, which relate to reported sightings and not 'UFO' research, unfortunately most of our old files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in

public interest, files have been preserved. These, however, in line with all government files, fall under the terms of the Public Records Act which states that government files should generally stay closed for thirty years after the date of the most recent paper. A few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/9321	PREM 11/855
AIR 20/9322	

I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure you that there is certainly no attempt to cover up any information on this subject.

Nicholas Winterton Esq MP

THE LORD HENLEY

file: 12/4.

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 0902/94 **(to be quoted in all correspondence)**

For action by: Sec (AS) 1 - Please Retain this Folder

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 24 NOVEMBER 1994

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 Please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension Section 40 [redacted]

for the Private Secretary

NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON, M.P.
(Macclesfield)

Private office: Section 40
Secretary:
Assistant:

The Lord Henley,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

4th November, 1994

Dear Oliver,

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

I enclose, for your attention, a letter which I have received and upon which I shall be most grateful to have your comments.

Your acknowledgment of receipt of this correspondence would be appreciated.

Section 40 [redacted]

Nicholas Winterton MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A OAA

2 November 1994

Dear Mr Winterton

I am writing to you concerning, in my opinion, an extremely important subject that has, alas, been severely abused and discredited by the popular press. I do hope you will read my letter before dismissing it out of hand.

On 9th March 1981 Sir Patrick Wall MP, asked the Secretary of State for Defence "How many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively?[1]" John Lee, Defence Under Secretary for Procurement replied five days later in the House of Commons: "350, 600, 250 and 390 respectively."

The standard government response released by the M.o.D. and Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a is that approximately 10% of sitings cannot be explained due to insufficient information. This means that between 1980 and 1983 there were an average of 39 breaches of air security per year that could not be explained. Relevant research by Timothy Good in 'Above Top Secret' (Harper Collins - 1993) suggests that the M.o.D. has spent large amounts of money and time studying these cases without resolution. Furthermore, in many of these cases the information gathered suggests that these sitings cannot be anything else but a manifestation of the activities of extra terrestrial visitors.

This seemingly fantastic conclusion is confirmed by people such as: Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hill Norton GCB Chief of Defence Staff 1971-73 amongst others; and suggests that there is an official cover up of all information relating to extraterrestrial life. This cover up is in place, suggests Lord Norton "because Governments believe this (UFO confirmation) would cause such public alarm and

1 Good, Timothy: 'Above Top Secret' ; Harper Collins 1993; p.100

despondency as to have far reaching social and political effects" [2]

I am hoping that you can clarify the position of the M.o.D. relating to the existence of Extraterrestrial life and current U.F.O. research; and could you confirm any date that the M.o.D., will be releasing files to the public concerning this research . I would also appreciate it if you could bring the topic of this alleged cover up to the attention of your peers in the House of Commons.

I would also be grateful if you can supply me with the names and addresses of any relevant people concerned with this topic you think I should contact.

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

2 Good, Timothy: 'Above Top Secret'; Harper Collins 1993 p10

COPY TO · E135

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 9/18G

14 July 1994

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26th June to the Secretary of State for Defence, concerning UFO sightings over Belgium. You have asked two specific questions, both of which have been answered before, however I will try to answer them again as fully and clearly as possible.

First, why were we not advised of the sightings. It remains the Ministry of Defence's view that the Belgian authorities were best placed to make a judgement on these reported UFO sightings. In view of their location and the lack of any indication that any threat was posed, the Belgians decided not to notify any other countries. It is correct therefore that the UK was not made aware of these detections. They occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region and there is no record of detections having been made on any British system. The Belgians took the decision that, in the light of the circumstances, there was no threat to the UK. The relevant British authorities are content that this decision was correct.

Second, why are we not concerned at the lack of a radar detection by our own radar defence system. There is no evidence that any sightings or radar contacts occurred within the expected coverage of our own systems. We would not, therefore, have expected to detect anything and were neither surprised nor concerned at the fact that no contacts were detected.

Section 40

[redacted]

Recycled Paper

The sequence of events has been explained in previous letters, and the various questions which you have raised on this issue have been dealt with at some length. I do not therefore see any useful purpose in a continuation of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Commander Royal Navy
Private Secretary

E154

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

13 Jul 94

APS/S of S

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S

LETTER FROM Section 40 **- BELGIAN UFOS**

Reference: MO 9/18 dated 4 July 94

1. At Reference you asked us to draft a PS reply to Mr Section 40 latest letter on UFO sightings over Belgium, and I have attached a draft.

Section 40
pp
Sec(AS)2
Section 40

DRAFT REPLY FROM PS/S OF S TO Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June to the Secretary of State for Defence, concerning UFO sightings over Belgium.

The Belgian authorities were best placed to make a judgement on these reported UFO sightings; in view of the location, and the lack of any indication that any threat was posed, they decided not to notify any other countries. While it is correct therefore that UK Air Defence was not made aware of these UFO sightings which occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, they have confirmed that in the light of the circumstances there was no threat to the UK.

The sequence of events has been explained in previous correspondence, and the various questions which you have raised on this issue have been dealt with at some length. I do not therefore see any useful purpose in a continuation of this correspondence.

E133

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

CLASSIFICATION: U/C

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: MO 9/18

Head of Sec (AJ)

Section 40 [redacted]

BELGIAN UFO.

1. I should be grateful for your advice on the attached communication from Section 40 [redacted] dated 28th June 94, together with a draft reply, if appropriate. Other Departments or MOD Divisions should be consulted as necessary and the attachment should be placed on a Departmental Registered file.

2. Please submit your advice by no later than 14 July 94. In addition to the hard copy, drafts should, where possible, be prepared on CHOTS and sent by electronic mail to S of S PA Group Role.

3. I am sending copies of this minute, together with the attachment, to:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd Sec(AS) 6d
5 JUL
FILE

4. The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4th April 1994. You should ensure that all replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with the procedures as set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 112 /94; further information is available from Man S(Org)1 telephone extension MB86081.

5. Could you have a go at a PS reply which might terminate this exchange, thanking Section 40 [redacted] for his interest and concern, reiterating our view that there was no threat to UK and suggesting an end to the correspondence?

Date: 4/7/94

APS/S of S Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

Section 40
[redacted]

Dear Mr Rifkin. 26th June 1994.

Admiral Lord Hill-Norton has advised me of your reply to his letter of the 17th May.
The actual presence of flying objects above Belgium in 1989/90 is not in doubt: neither is the fact that they were unidentified. These facts were confirmed to me by Guy Coeme the Belgian Minister of Defence at that time, and endorsed by Leo Delcroix the present Belgian Minister of Defence.
This being so - and the actions of the Belgian armed forces would confirm their apprehensions - as they did not know what these flying objects were, how could they possibly state that they did not constitute a threat?

There now also seems to be a subtle alteration to the chronology of these events that I do not understand.

On the 26th November 1993, in a letter Ref D/Sec(AS)12/3, Section 40 [redacted] of the Ministry of Defence stated in his last paragraph *'In answer to your specific question, Air Defence experts concluded that the Belgian UFO sightings posed no threat to the UK because there was no evidence of any such threat.* Section 40 [redacted] does not say that the reason that there was no evidence of any threat *was because our Air Defence experts were not aware of these detections at the time.*
Your letter Ref MO 9/18M of the 11th June 1994 to Admiral Lord Hill-Norton confirms this fact by stating that *'our Air Defence experts were not notified at the time of the Belgian radar detections'*: in fact you state that they only became aware of these sightings through UFO literature and approaches by members of the public.'

This establishes beyond doubt that our Air Defence experts could not possibly have been in any position to ascertain the nature of these phenomena at the actual time of these detections.

FIVE radar stations (a mixture of Array type and Multi-purpose impulsion systems): four in Belgium; Glons, Bertem, Semmerzeke, St Hubert - and one at Vedem in Germany - all established confirmed radar detections by highly skilled operatives over Wavre SW of Brussels. These unidentified detections - possibly hostile - although 100 miles from our national boundary, were closing on our air-space at speeds in excess of 1000 kts. This represented a contact time of only six minutes.

It is obvious that we do not wait until an unidentified intruder is only six minutes from our national boundary to be advised by another country if they consider this intrusion to be a threat to our national security!
This being so - and the observations of Admiral Lord Hill-Norton (who held the highest military office in the UK and NATO) that *'it was inconceivable that we were NOT informed through NATO of these radar detections'* - I would ask again WHY we were not advised of these detections and WHY you were not concerned at this lack of radar detection by our own radar defence system?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

E192

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S RMC 6488

5 July 1994

Dear Mr. Cann,

Thank you for your letter of 8 June to Malcolm Rifkind, in which you asked about the UFO sightings that occurred near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. As the responsible Minister I have been asked to reply.

I think it would be helpful if I began by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen. It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

The details of the UFO sightings in Rendlesham Forest are set out in a report submitted by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, and I have attached a copy of this for your information. I am aware that a number of strange claims have been made about these sightings in subsequent years, but have to say that the report was examined carefully at the time; no evidence of any threat was found.

Yours sincerely

Robert Cranborne

The Viscount Cranborne

Jamie Cann Esq MP

Recycled Paper

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

E131

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Jamie Cann MP.

2. Although RAF Woodbridge does not fall within Jamie Cann's constituency, it is only a few miles away. The UFO sighting that occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, still fascinates UFO researchers; it has been highlighted in a number of books and magazines, and we still receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The draft reply reflects the standard approach, including the release of Lt Col Halt's report, which is taken in responding to this correspondence.

3. It is not known what has prompted this specific enquiry, although we are aware that Central TV's forthcoming documentary on UFOs will focus on the Rendlesham Forest sightings; they have done some filming and interviewing in the area, and it is possible that this has led to some local press reports.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

23 June 1994

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S RMC 6488

Thank you for your letter of 8 June to the Secretary of State for Defence, in which you asked about the UFO sightings that occurred near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. As the responsible Minister I have been asked to reply.

I think it would be helpful if I began by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen. It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

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I hope this is helpful, and has explained the position.

THE VISCOUNT CRANBORNE

Jamie Cann MP

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

JAMIE CANN MP FOR IPSWICH

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

PE → Sec (AS) Σ

In correspondence, please quote ref: JCC/GD/346C

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind QC MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
The Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB.

LETTER A
U S of S

8th June 1994.

Dear Mr Rifkind,

RE: POSSIBLE U.F.O. INCIDENT IN RENDLESHAM FOREST - 28/12/80

Queries have been raised recently regarding the above.

It would be helpful if you would let me have full details of precisely what was seen on 28/12/80 in the vicinity of the Woodbridge Air Base.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

JP. JAMIE CANN MP

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S
DDGE/AEW
Sec(AS)2

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Sec/S's office have added somewhat to our draft, but looks OK to me

Section 40

this is all very well. The fact is we are badly let down, and have misled Lord H-N's position

/ June 1994 onwards

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 9/18M

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) 1
14 JUN 1994
FILE

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May concerning the UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in March 1990.

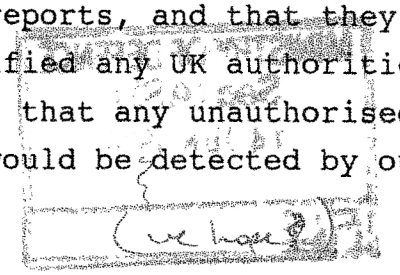
I am grateful to you for alerting me to this problem, and I am aware that Section 40 may attempt to create a public fuss. However I am satisfied that correct procedures have been followed, that all relevant information has been passed to Section 40 and that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him.

You will know that our sole reason for examining reports of UFO sightings is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. The Belgium authorities have indicated that they did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat, and because they occurred over the central part of Belgium. I should add that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators, and does not occur automatically.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB
Section 40

Recycled Paper

We subsequently became aware of these sightings through the UFO literature and through approaches from members of the public such as Section 40 Section 40 On the basis of the information now available our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that they would not have been concerned with these UFO reports, and that they saw no reason why the Belgians should have notified any UK authorities. I am sure it goes without saying, however, that any unauthorised penetration of the UK Air Defence Region would be detected by our Air Defenders, and dealt with as appropriate.



It is clear to me from the papers I have seen that the position has been explained in great detail to Section 40 I am aware of one television programme on the subject, a Central TV production to be shown on 18 October. The MOD desk officer responsible for UFOs was interviewed for this programme and was able to set out the MOD's policy on UFOs.

I hope this has explained the situation satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Rifkind

Malcolm Rifkind

E129

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Sir Teddy Taylor MP.

2. It is possible that this Parliamentary Enquiry was prompted by the document that each MP received on May 23 from a UFO lobby group, as notified to Ministers in our D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 10 May 1994.

3. Sir Teddy Taylor mentions the involvement of an EC Committee; this is a reference to a report considered by the European Parliament's Energy, Research and Technology Committee last year; some of the Committee's members had wanted a study carried out into UFO reports, but this proposal was not accepted. Sir Teddy Taylor raised a PQ about this with the Department of Trade and Industry last year.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

14 June 1994

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S RMC 6382

Thank you for your letter of 26 May, in which you asked about UFOs.

I should explain first of all that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

We are, of course, aware of some of the more exotic stories that circulate about UFOs, but most of the reports that we get refer to little more than a vague light or shape in the sky. We are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life, and we are not covering up any information on this subject.

I hope this is helpful, and has explained the position.

THE VISCOUNT CRANBORNE

Sir Teddy Taylor MP

Sir Teddy Taylor M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1

US of S

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, QC., MP.,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

26 May 1994

Dear Malcolm,

There seems to be an increase in the number of people writing about flying saucers and alleging that there is a great issue here which the Government is keeping quiet about.

It is not something which worries me personally but I sometimes wonder if in fact there have been genuine reports about UFOs. I know that there was an E.C. Committee that wanted to look into the whole issue but I think that this would be an error because we would inevitably have a mountain of UFOs in consequence. Is there really an issue here at all.

Yours sincerely,

Teddy

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

8 Jun 94

PS/Minister(AF)

Copy to:
APS/S of S
APS/US of S
PS/CAS
DA Brussels

BELGIAN UFOS

Reference: D/MIN(AF)/94/94 dated 6 Jun 94

1. Thank you for your Minute at Reference.

2. The quote attributed to Colonel DeBrouwers is correct, although it should be noted that he was not the Belgian CAS but the Chief of Operations in the Belgian Air Staff.

3. The quotation was made at a press conference dealing with the wave of UFO sightings reported over Belgium in 1989/90, particularly on 30/31 March 1990, and was simply stating the facts as known. We understand informally that although it is possible that the radar returns were spurious, the Belgians do not consider that to be the case, and believe that a craft of some sort was involved.

4. Given that the Belgians found no evidence of any threat, when media coverage of these UFO sightings became too intrusive they decided to pass all the information to a civilian research group, and not to answer any further questions on the subject. The sightings remain unexplained, and the Belgians remain open-minded as to what occurred.

5. In the absence of any identified threat, and given that the sightings did not occur close to the UK Air Defence Region, the Belgians saw no requirement to notify UK Air Defence authorities of these events. They have confirmed this in writing (copy attached). Our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that under these circumstances there would have been no reason for the Belgians to have informed them of the sightings.

6. Given the formal Belgian position, and our clearly stated policy that our sole reason for examining UFO reports is to ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the defence of the UK, I believe that we should maintain our line on these sightings. They are a matter for the Belgian government, not for us.

pp Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

10. 02 94

N° VSRP 514.

FORCES ARMEES

ETAT-MAJOR GENERAL
Etat-Major de la Force Aérienne
Section Relations Publiques

Quartier Reine Elisabeth
Rue d'Evere - 1140 BRUXELLES
Tél. Section 40
Fax.

Reference: Your D/Sec (AS) 12/3 dated 12 November 1993

Dear Sir,

Your letter in reference concerning unusual sightings over Belgium was received, through the office of Group Captain Section 40 *on 25 January 1994.*

Relating to your questions I can confirm that 2 F-16 have been scrambled on 30 March 1990, as a reaction to both visual and radar observations. The scramble was co-ordinated with and authorised by the Sector Commander of the NATO Air Defence System.

Reports to other agencies or adjacent countries have not been made since the events took place in the central part of Belgium and no presumed activities of any hostile or aggressive nature were registred.

A press conference on the findings of the radar observations has been given in July 1990. At a later stage, since no more additional military interventions took place and with the intend to contain the growing aggressiveness of the media, the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the General Staff decided on an information stop on the subject.

I hope that the above information will be helpful to answer the question on the non-involvement of the UK Air Defence System.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Lieutenant-Colonel
Chief Public Affairs

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 a, Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
UNITED KINGDOM

Section 40 - through Section 40 Section 40

I have now received advice on the questions posed by Minister(AF) from DA Brussels, Gp Capt Section 40

The quote attributed to Colonel DeBrouwer is correct, and was made at a press conference dealing with the wave of sightings. He was not, however, the Belgian CAS, but Chief of Operations in the Belgian Air Staff.

Gp Capt Section 40 has spoken to DeBrouwer, Lt Col Section 40 (an expert on the sightings, and the one who wrote to me on the subject) and the pilots who were involved in trying to intercept the object. The consensus is that they think it very unlikely that the radar returns were spurious. They do believe that there was a craft of some sort involved, and they have no explanation.

Media pressure led to the Belgians refusing to answer any further questions; all information was passed to the civilian group SOBEPS.

I have attached a draft response to PS/Minister(AF), which answers the specific questions posed, and deploys the basic lines about there being no indication of any hostile activity, and about the distance from the UK Air Defence Region. Clearly we will have to be very careful about suggesting to anybody that the radar returns might have been spurious. We might need to consider the Hill-Norton background note in the light of this.

Section 40

E126

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

6 June 1994

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:

PS/CAS
DA Brussels - fax

BELGIAN UFOs

You have kindly provided draft replies on a number of occasions in response to letters from a Section 40 (forwarded through Sir Keith Speed). I attach (for you only) the PE folder for convenience.

2. Mr Hanley has received the attached handout about UFOs (it has been sent to all MPs). You will see that on page 1 the handout prays in aid a statement alleged to have been made by the Belgian CAS about the sightings over Belgium between December 1989 and April 1990.

3. The Minister would be grateful if you could investigate whether the quote ascribed to the Belgian CAS is accurate, and if so what his purpose was in saying this.

Section 40

PS/Minister(AF)
Section 40

Recycled Paper

Sent to all MPs

ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

Section 40

ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, Section 40

Operation Right to Know - joint UK/USA
May 23rd 1994 End UFO Secrecy Protest

Noon UK - The Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London
Noon USA - The Pentagon, Washington DC
2:00pm UK - The House of Commons, London

Can you check the veracity of the Belgian CAS quote

'We call on the military in the United States and Britain to tell the truth about UFOs. And we call on the US Congress and the British Parliament to go after the truth.'

Circulation - hand delivery to MOD Buildings and House of Commons (every UK member of Parliament) on May 23rd. To all UK National Press, Radio and TV representatives.

ARE YOU AWARE

That in excess of 3500 documented reports from military and civilian pilots world wide, have confirmed the operation in the Earths atmosphere of intelligently guided UFOs, of a nature and technology clearly non-human.

That UFOs have now left over 4000 documented landing traces world wide, and in addition have generated hundreds of reports of electromagnetic interference of car engines, radios and other electrical devices.

That on the night 30th/31st March 1990, the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F16 interceptors in response to radar images of a UFO and visual observations of the UFO reported by civilians and confirmed by the Police, This documented interception of a purposely operated structured UFO was one of several such encounters which occurred over Belgium between December 1989 and April 1990,0n July llth 1990, Colonel W DeBrouwer, Chief of the Belgian Air Staff made this statement:

''On the night 30th and 31st March, we had an observation on the radar and in addition a visual observation on the ground by the Police - What the pilots detected was well outside the normal flying envelope of an aeroplane. Sometimes they had what we call lock-ons, which gave a parameters varying from speeds between 150 knots to 990 knots, an acceleration which occurred in a few seconds. The speeds would be impossible to tolerate for a human being, that's the first point. The second point is, the visual observations always describe a system, a machine, which hangs and hovers above the surface at quite a low altitude without making any noise. Now with the current technology that would be impossible''

And in the European Parliament document 'Report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology - On the proposal to set up a European centre for sightings of unidentified flying objects' (DOC EN/RR/241/241196) Rapporteur Mr Tullio Regge had this to say in his paragraph titled 'Military Secrets' (Page 5)

''However, the Belgium Air Force says that the Stealth Bomber was not involved in the spate of sightings which have taken place in Belgium''

On page 7 he also had this to say.

"It is not the job of Parliament to pass judgement on UFOs. on the other hand. Parliament must take prompt steps to ensure that the information imparted to the public is correct"

That in Mexico City on July 11th 1991. during the total eclipse of the sun. tens of thousands of witnesses observed a UFO. and 17 independently operated camcorders. at varying locations. recorded the event for a total of 25 minutes. Upon enhancement each camcorder had recorded the same silver disc-shaped object At a time when all eyes would be focused on the sky. this was undoubtedly an attempt to raise human awareness to the reality of the UFO.

That there are over 200 primary and secondary witnesses to the retrieval of a craft evidently of non-human origin. from the New Mexico desert. near Roswell. in 1947. Many of these witnesses gave testimony to having seen alien bodies recovered from the crash site Because many new witnesses are coming forward. the General Accounting Office has recently launched a full investigation. GAO spokeswomen. Laura Kopleson said Congress Investigator Rep. Steven Schiff has asked the GAO

"to see if there is any evidence that information regarding UFOs had been suppressed." following the Roswell incident.

That documentation exists on a world wide phenomenon commonly known as 'animal mutilations' involving the surgical removal of genetically relevant tissues. Veterinary surgeons have confirmed that the procedures, carried out in the fields. are un-reproducible by any known technology. Farmers and ranchers have testified to the existence of UFOs over fields where such incidents have occurred. In the USA it is known that investigations into these on-going UFO animal interactions have been conducted by the FBI and the Governor of Colorado has spoken publicly and officially on the matter.

These six points constitute only a small fraction of the currently available evidence, which wholly suggests the presence of alien beings.

The public have a right to know the truth about the UFO/Alien reality. The public now have a right to be made aware of this truth through their representatives.

<u>It is now time to act.</u>

AAC AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Contact International (UK). Andover Unexplained Phenomena Investigation Network. South Wales UFO Group. Mansfield UFO Group. The Organisation for Scientific Research into Peripheral Information. Centre for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence - Nottingham & Yorkshire.

AAC/ORTK - UK Contact Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

8 Jun 94

APS/S of S

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S
DDGE/AEW

LETTER FROM LORD HILL-NORTON ON UFOS

References:
A. MO 9/18 dated 23 May 94
B. D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 10 May 94

1. At Reference A you asked for advice on the letter from Lord Hill-Norton concerning UFO sightings over Belgium, together with a draft reply.

2. Lord Hill-Norton is raising concerns put to him by Section 40 Section 40 a UFO researcher who is very well known to this division. Section 40 first approached us in January 1993, and my staff have now written ten letters to him. I have attached (NOTAL) copies of this correspondence, together with copies of the three Parliamentary Enquiries that have been generated by Section 40 Section 40 approaches to Sir Keith Speed MP. I think it is clear that although we have done our best to answer all Section 40 questions, the correspondence had reached the point where nothing could usefully be added.

3. A detailed summary of the case is set out in D/MIN(AF)/94/94 dated 14 March 1994; essentially, a wave of UFO sightings was reported over Belgium on 30/31 March 1990. As well as visual sightings, some radar returns were noted, and as a result the Belgians decided to launch two of their aircraft to investigate. These aircraft did attain some radar lock-ons. As with the returns recorded by ground based radar, this does not necessarily mean that any structured craft was present, although we understand, informally, that the view of the Belgian Air Force is that a craft of some sort was involved and that they maintain an open mind on the sightings, which remain unexplained.

4. The key point in all this is that the MOD's only role as far as UFOs are concerned is to ascertain whether there is evidence of any threat to the defence of the UK. The Belgians have confirmed to us in writing that they found no evidence of any threat, and that as a result they saw no requirement to inform any other countries or agencies. Given this, and given that these sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, the whole question goes beyond our remit.

5. Notwithstanding Lord Hill-Norton's comments, it is not the case that the UK would necessarily be informed of unidentified

returns picked up on NADGE radars in Belgium. Only if radar operators believed there was evidence that a unidentified craft was moving towards the UK would such action be taken.

6. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in UFOs, and has approached the Department on this subject before, in 1985, when he wrote to the then S of S about a well-known UFO sighting. He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party UFO Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject.

7. Section 40 is writing a book on these Belgian UFO sightings, and is doubtless keen to build up a large file of correspondence to be used as part of this enterprise.

8. We believe that Lord Hill-Norton's comments about a public uproar seriously overstate any likely reaction. The Belgian sightings are well-known among UFO researchers, and while they are likely to be mentioned in any documentary on UFOs, they are, effectively, old news. Lord Hill-Norton mentioned the demonstration against perceived government secrecy about UFOs, held outside Main Building and Parliament on 23 May (notified to Ministers at Reference B). This was a low key affair; there appeared to be only around a dozen protesters, and there was little media coverage of the event. Although every MP was given a document, which among other points mentioned the Belgian sightings, we have only received one Parliamentary Enquiry since then, and it is not clear whether this was prompted by the lobbying. I should add that in informal contacts with my staff a number of UFO groups and researchers have disassociated themselves from the group which arranged the demonstration.

9. Lord Hill-Norton also mentions two television programmes on the subject. One of these is a Central TV production, due to be shown on ITV on 18 October. The desk officer responsible for UFO matters was interviewed for this programme, and was able to set out the MOD's policy with regard to UFOs. The Belgian sightings were briefly raised during the interview. We understand that Lord Hill-Norton has also given an interview. We cannot positively identify the second programme, but it may be either the James Whale show (whose recent request for an MOD representative to appear in an item on UFOs was declined), or a programme in LWT's Strange but True series.

10. The attached draft reply is self-explanatory, and has been cleared with D Air Def's staff. Given Lord Hill-Norton's familiarity with our policy on UFOs and with the specifics of this particular exchange of correspondence, I have kept the draft reply short, and avoided going into detail over points which have already been explained in previous letters.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May concerning the UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in March 1990.

You will know that our sole reason for examining reports of UFO sightings is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. The Belgian authorities have indicated that they did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat, and because they occurred over the central part of Belgium. I should add that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators, and does not occur automatically.

We subsequently became aware of these sightings through the UFO literature and through approaches from members of the public such as Section 40 [redacted] On the basis of the information now available our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that they would not have been concerned with these UFO reports, and that they saw no reason why the Belgians should have notified any UK authorities. I am sure it goes without saying, however, that any unauthorised penetration of the UK Air Defence Region would be detected by our Air Defenders, and dealt with as appropriate.

It is clear to me from the papers I have seen that the position has been explained in great detail to Section 40 [redacted], and I share the view that there is nothing further to be said on the subject.

I hope that this has explained the position

Head of Sec (AS) Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

I have attached the Hill-Norton letter (I've negotiated a 24 hour extension to the deadline) together with the advice to Min (AE) re the Belgian position on these sightings.

Section 40 is ill, and will not be in today, but he cleared both drafts yesterday, and made a couple of additional points on the 'phone (as normal), which I've incorporated.

Happy to discuss further as necessary.

Section 40

6173

CLASSIFICATION: U/C

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: MO 9/18

Head of Sec (AS)

UFOs

Section 40 Please produce a first draft, after consulting DAS as necessary, & let me see it, with all the past papers.

Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

I should be grateful if I could have a personal briefing on this correspondence & the reply as soon as possible. I would be grateful for a recall - perhaps a technical briefing on a recall - perhaps I am mistaken checking on Lord Hill-Norton's comments.

1. I should be grateful for your advice on the attached communication from ...Lord Hill-Norton..... Section 40 dated .....17 May 94....., together with a draft reply, if appropriate. Other Departments or MOD Divisions should be consulted as necessary and the attachment should be placed on a Departmental Registered file.

2. Please submit your advice by no later than ...7 June 94... In addition to the hard copy, drafts should, where possible, be prepared on MOAST and sent by electronic mail to "SofS_PA2".

3. I am sending copies of this minute, together with the attachment, to:

.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
..... 24 MAY 1994	.....	.....
..... 520	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
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4. The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4th April 1994. You should ensure that all replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with the procedures as set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 112 /94; further information is available from Man S(Org)1 telephone extension Section 40

Section 40

Date: 23/5/94

APS/S of S

Section 40

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

Previous Papers please

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

PERSONAL

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW14 2HB

17 May 1994

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been approached by a Section 40 [redacted] who has asked me to help him to obtain a satisfactory response from your Ministry to an enquiry he initiated a year or more ago. I enclose a copy of his letter to me dated 16 March 1994, which sets out his request and his complaint. This is a small part of a quite lengthy correspondence.

He had earlier approached his Member, Sir Keith Speed, and I have seen several letters which have been exchanged between Sir Keith and Mr Hanley and also your officials. These letters do not answer Section 40 [redacted] enquiries, and he finds them unsatisfactory. I am bound to say that I share that view, in the light of all the circumstances.

There is no need for me to rehearse all that has already been written in these exchanges. In short, detections were made by three NADGE radars in Germany and Belgium in March 1990, air defence aircraft of the Belgian Air Force were scrambled to intercept but although the objects were detected and held on the radar of these aircraft as well, no identification, or visual contact was made. There is no dispute about these facts, which have been confirmed by the Belgian Minister of Defence in public statements, repeated in writing to Section 40 [redacted] I have advised Section 40 [redacted] that, unless the procedure has been changed since I was Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it is inconceivable that the UK would not be informed (probably automatically) of a possibly hostile, certain unidentified, detection by NADGE radars.

Section 40 [redacted] has been brushed off with the standard MOD response to all reports (of which I have seen a great many) of UFO activity, which briefly put amount to *"..... no threat was perceived to the UK so no notice was taken or record made of the incident ....."*. In this instance this has, in separate letters, been complicated by written statements by your Ministry that no report of the Belgian detections was ever received in the UK.

Section 40 [redacted] asks, reasonably enough, *"If, as Ministers assert, they had no knowledge of the Belgian events how could their Air Defence experts possibly conclude that the phenomenon did not constitute a threat, as they had no knowledge of it?"*

I fear that Section 40 may well make a damaging public uproar about all this. He has already had a petition to the European Parliament upheld, and his dossier has been formally remitted to the relevant Euro Committee. A public demarche, so he tells me, is planned for the MOD, the House of Commons, and simultaneously at the Pentagon on 23 May. At least two television programmes in this country will carry his story within the next few months, and this may well not be the end of it.

I strongly recommend that you should take a personal interest in having the whole matter re-examined, so that a more satisfactory and convincing reply may be given to Section 40 question, before the matter gets out of hand.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

16th March 1994.

Dear Admiral Lord Hill-Norton

I have been informed of the following facts in a letter dated 26th May 1993 from Leo Delcroix the Belgian Minister of Defence.

That on the 15th and 16th December 1989, radar detections were made by Semmerzeke(Belgium) and Vedem(Germany) of flying objects over Eupen in Eastern Belgium.
On the night of 30/31st March 1990, detections were made by Semmerzeke and Glons CRC(NADGE) radars of the Belgian Air Force, and Vedem in Germany, of an apparent airbourne intruder in the vicinity of Brussels in Belgium. Aircraft of QRA J Wing of the Belgian Air Force were involved. These detections followed visual observations by many thousands of witnesses, of whom 75 were members of the Belgian Gendermerie.
A report was received dated 15th August 1993. It was made by Major Section 40 [redacted] VS/3 Ctl-Met 1 of the Belgian Air Force. It states that the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F-16 interceptors (Nos AL 17 and AL 23) from the base at Bevekom.
These fighters were vectored to their targets by Glons CRC NADGE radar. This incident caused a major security alert. It lasted for over 1 hour. At 22h 39m an interception occurred during which radar 'lock-on' was acheived by both aircraft. This lasted for 45.9 secs.
At this time the target was travelling on a Westerly heading towards UK airspace at speeds in excess of 1000 knots.

The Belgian Minister of Defence at that time Guy Coeme, stated in the Belgian Parliament on the 21st December 1989 that;- 'All hypotheses can be excluded, the Minister could not tell what these flying objects were.'

A report has been submitted to the European Parliament for an enquiry into these incidents. It is No 990/93. It has been accepted for consideration by the Petitions Committee.

NATO and the Belgian agencies have provided conclusive proof of these detections. How is it that I was informed by Section 40 [redacted] of the Ministry of Defence in a Letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 13th October 1993, that there is no record in the UK of this incident and, despite the track having come to within six minutes of Kent, it could not therefore have been considered a threat to the security of the UK?

Your comments would be appreciated

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

E122/1

Section 40
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Section 40
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Copy to: Sec(AS)2

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)94/94

21st April 1994

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40 of Section 40.

The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

In the circumstances, I am afraid that there is little else that I can say in this subject.

I really believe this correspondence should end.

Yours ever,

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

Recycled Paper

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd April, 1994

Dear Jeremy,

I enclose a further letter from [redacted] regarding the UFO sightings declared over Belgium some 4½ years ago. Could you please answer the question in his last paragraph.

Yours sincerely,
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

[redacted]

Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

ACKNOWLEDGED 6/4

PE FL 94/44
Sec (AS) 2

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

Ack 2-4-94

[redacted] Section 40

23rd March 1994.

Dear Sir Keith

Thank you for your prompt reply and the enclosed letter D/MIN(AF)/94/94 from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

The Minister makes an itemised reply of the 9 letters sent to his Department. He does not comment that his ministry were evasive on the issue of radar detection. Five letters were written before his Department would admit that radar would only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance. I would suggest that for your interest, you request copies of replies sent to me by the Ministry and form your own conclusions. On the question of false radar signals, the Ministers Department confirmed (D/Sec(AS)12/3 29th September 1993) that skilled radar operatives could easily distinguish between true radar signals and false ones.

Taking both of these facts into account, it would seem that detections by skilled NADGE radar operatives at Semmerzeke (Belgium), Glons CRC (Belgium), and Vedem (Germany) were definate detections of objects of opacity and substance.

The Minister states that the Belgians did not consider these sightings as posing any sort of a threat. This is not commensurate with the facts.

The Belgian Minister of Defence confirmed Belgian Air Force radar detections, by admitting the presence of flying objects over Liege (Leo Delcroix 9/IM-RT/16 26th May 1993) and stating that 'all hypotheses could be excluded, the Minister could not tell what these flying objects were.'

The ground rules for the Belgian Air Force are quite clear. Visual sightings by individuals, of intrusions into Belgian air space must be confirmed by the State Police. These must be confirmed and coordinated by

Belgian radar. If positive radar detections are not identified, the detection is classified as hostile. The Belgian Air Force is alerted.
I can assure the Minister, that two fully armed F-16 interceptor aircraft, vectored to their targets by positive detections of three main NADGE radar stations, achieving radar 'lock-on' on fifteen occasions over a period of an hour, did indeed constitute a major security threat. It was considered so by the Belgian armed forces.
The Ministers comment that the Belgians did not notify any other countries of these detections would again appear to be wrong. Apart from the fact that German radar at Vedem had also registered these phenomenon, I understand from a NATO source that under the NADGE defensive system, it would have been inconceivable that UK radar would not have been advised of these detections.
Bearing in mind the discrepencies in the Ministers comments, I would once again, for the third time, reiterate the simple question that the Minister and his Department still continue to evade:- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATO AND BELGIAN DETECTIONS OF THIS PHENOMENA, IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30-31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY, AT 22h 39m ON THE 30TH MARCH 1990, WITH THIS PHENOMENON ONLY SIX MINUTES FROM UK AIR SPACE, DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

*Note. I wrote to the Belgian Embassy one year ago. On their advice I contacted the Belgian Air Force. They supplied me with all the information that I have.

E122

Section 40 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Section 40 Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Copy to: Secy(AS)2

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)94/94

21st April 1994

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted].

The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

In the circumstances, I am afraid that there is little else that I can say in this subject.

I really believe this correspondence should end. Quite right!

Yours ever,

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

Recycled Paper

£121

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/RMC 5690

22 April 1994

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had expressed some concerns about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that our involvement with this subject is limited; while we do receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, weather balloons, satellites in orbit or satellite debris entering the atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. We accept, however, that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these.

We are aware from UFO literature and from the media of some of the claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life. I hope this is helpful, and has explained our position.

Yours ever,
Robert

The Viscount Cranborne

David Faber Esq MP

Recycled Paper

E120

M8

APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the latest letter from Sir Keith Speed MP.

2. Just as was the case with our own correspondence with Section 40 I fear this correspondence is now going round in circles. We understand that Section 40 is writing a book on these Belgian UFO sightings; doubtless the exchanges of correspondence provide a useful way to fill some space.

3. I have attached, for your information, an exchange of correspondence that we had with the Belgians on this subject.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

15 April 1994

Section 40

D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted]

The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

I hope this has explained the position.

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

N° VSRP 577

FORCES ARMEES

ETAT-MAJOR GENERAL
Etat-Major de la Force Aérienne
Section Relations Publiques

Quartier Reine Elisabeth
Rue d'Evere - 1140 BRUXELLES
Tél.: Section 40
Fax.:

Reference: Your D/Sec (AS) 12/3 dated 12 November 1993

Dear Sir,

Your letter in reference concerning unusual sightings over Belgium was received, through the office of Group Captain Section 40 *on 25 January 1994.*

Relating to your questions I can confirm that 2 F-16 have been scrambled on 30 March 1990, as a reaction to both visual and radar observations. The scramble was co-ordinated with and authorised by the Sector Commander of the NATO Air Defence System.

Reports to other agencies or adjacent countries have not been made since the events took place in the central part of Belgium and no presumed activities of any hostile or aggressive nature were registred.

A press conference on the findings of the radar observations has been given in July 1990. At a later stage, since no more additional military interventions took place and with the intend to contain the growing aggressiveness of the media, the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the General Staff decided on an information stop on the subject.

I hope that the above information will be helpful to answer the question on the non-involvement of the UK Air Defence System.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Lieutenant-Colonel
Chief Public Affairs

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 a, Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
UNITED KINGDOM

FROM: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Col Section 40
Defence Attaché
British Embassy
Rue d'Arlon 85
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
12 November 1993

Dear Col Section 40,

I understand that during 1989 and 1990 there was a wave of sightings of unusual objects in the sky over Belgium. I have also been told that as a result of a wave of sightings on 30/31 March 1990, F-16 aircraft were scrambled and vectored towards the area concerned. Apparently there were a number of strange radar returns, involving ground-based radar and radar systems on the F-16s.

We have received a number of letters about this, and although our basic position is that this is a matter for the Belgian authorities, we have been drawn into a debate about whether there was a potential threat to the UK, and whether or not the Belgians would have notified UK Air Defenders about what was happening in their airspace.

I would be grateful if you could give me some indication of the official Belgian position on this matter, together with any other background information that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd April, 1994

Dear Jeremy,

I enclose a further letter from Section 40 regarding the UFO sightings declared over Belgium some 4½ years ago. Could you please answer the question in his last paragraph.

Yours sincerely,
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

Section 40

Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

ACKNOWLEDGED 6/4

PE FL 94/44
Sec (AS) 2

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

Acy 2-4-94

[redacted]
Section 40

23rd March 1994.

Dear Sir Keith

Thank you for your prompt reply and the enclosed letter D/MIN(AF)/94/94 from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

The Minister makes an itemised reply of the 9 letters sent to his Department. He does not comment that his ministry were evasive on the issue of radar detection. Five letters were written before his Department would admit that radar would only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance. I would suggest that for your interest, you request copies of replies sent to me by the Ministry and form your own conclusions. On the question of false radar signals, the Ministers Department confirmed (D/Sec(AS)12/3 29th September 1993) that skilled radar operatives could easily distinguish between true radar signals and false ones.

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The ground rules for the Belgian Air Force are quite clear. Visual sightings by individuals, of intrusions into Belgian air space must be confirmed by the State Police. These must be confirmed and coordinated by

Belgian radar. If positive radar detections are not identified, the detection is classified as hostile. The Belgian Air Force is alerted.
I can assure the Minister, that two fully armed F-16 interceptor aircraft, vectored to their targets by positive detections of three main NADGE radar stations, achieving radar 'lock-on' on fifteen occasions over a period of an hour, did indeed constitute a major security threat. It was considered so by the Belgian armed forces.
The Ministers comment that the Belgians did not notify any other countries of these detections would again appear to be wrong. Apart from the fact that German radar at Vedem had also registered these phenomenon, I understand from a NATO source that under the NADGE defensive system, it would have been inconceivable that UK radar would not have been advised of these detections.
Bearing in mind the discrepencies in the Ministers comments, I would once again, for the third time, reiterate the simple question that the Minister and his Department still continue to evade:- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATO AND BELGIAN DETECTIONS OF THIS PHENOMENA, IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30-31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY, AT 22h 39m ON THE 30TH MARCH 1990, WITH THIS PHENOMENON ONLY SIX MINUTES FROM UK AIR SPACE, DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

*Note. I wrote to the Belgian Embassy one year ago. On their advice I contacted the Belgian Air Force. They supplied me with all the information that I have.

E119

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from David Faber MP.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

15 April 1994

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S/RMC 5690

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 had expressed some concerns about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that our involvement with this subject is limited; while we do receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, weather balloons, satellites in orbit or satellite debris entering the atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. We accept, however, that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these.

We are aware from UFO literature and from the media of some of the claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.
I hope this is helpful, and has explained our position.

The Viscount Cranborne

David Faber MP

DAVID FABER MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th March 1994

Dear Robert

RE: Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40

I have received the enclosed letter from my constituent, Section 40
Section 40 who has recently joined the British Unidentified Flying Research Association.

He believes in extra-terrestrials and is particularly concerned about a Sunday newspaper report of an incident in Dartford where a woman was abducted and raped allegedly by such creatures.

Section 40 wishes to know the Government's position and feels that the UFO issue should be debated in Parliament to allay any fears the public may have.

I would be most grateful for your authoritative reopens to my constituent's concerns.

Yours ever

David

Viscount Cranborne
PUSS
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Section 40 [redacted]

23 February 1994

Dear Mr Faber

May I begin by belatedly congratulating you on your success on becoming Westbury's MP in the last General Election.

I am very much interested in the ever increasing reports of local, national and international sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects(UFOs). So much so that I recently became a member of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association(BUFORA) to learn more.

I personally believe that extra-terrestrials (ufonauts) do visit Earth, for various reasons, make contact and abductions take place. Recent revelations in a Sunday newspaper regarding the abduction, terrifying abuse and rape of a women from Dartford, Kent (my neighbouring home town) has finally caused me to write and ask whether this topical and emotional subject is likely to be debated in the House of Commons? This would go some way to allay the fears of the general public to hear that this disturbing phenomenon is being taken seriously and fully investigated by the appropriate authorities. I recall that the House of Lords debated UFOs many years ago.

It is understood that Ministry of Defence experts are responsible for investigating UFO sightings and abductions. I appreciate that this subject very much impacts upon national security and therefore any positive findings are likely to be shrouded in secrecy.

I would appreciate your assistance in raising my views with fellow members of the House and in obtaining the official view on the UFO phenomenon.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

David Faber MP
House of Commons
London SW1

→ Sec(AS)2

E118

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/RMC 5649

11 April 1994

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 had raised a number of points about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that while the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify what might have been seen.

We are aware from UFO literature of some of the bizarre claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Most of the points that your constituent raises are of course matters for the Americans. It would not be proper for me to comment on the official US position, although I suspect it is similar to our own.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,

Richard

The Viscount Cranborne

The Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP

Recycled Paper

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from the Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman MP.

2. We are not aware of the television programme that Section 40 mentions, but there are many bizarre claims made about the US government's role in relation to the UFO phenomenon. There are a number of colourful characters involved in UFO research, some of whom are scientists, and some of whom claim to have links with the intelligence community.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

30 March 1994

Section 40

D/US of S/RMC 5649

Thank you for your letter of 21 March, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 had raised a number of points about the UFO controversy, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that while the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

We are aware from UFO literature of some of the bizarre claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Most of the points that your constituent raises are of course matters for the Americans. It would not be proper for me to comment on the official US position, although I suspect it is similar to our own.

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

The Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman MP

23 MAR 1994

THE RT. HON. ROGER FREEMAN M.P. FOR KETTERING

PE: Sec (94)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Section 40

Viscount Cranborne
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
WHitehall
London SW1A 2HB

15.
March 21st, 1994
Ref: RNF/11,184

Dear Robert,

Section 40

I enclose a recent letter which I have received from my constituent, Section 40 about unidentified flying objects.

Before I respond, I would much appreciate your kind advice and comments.

Yours ever,

Roger Freeman, MP

Enc.

14·3·94.

17 MAR 1994

Section 40 [redacted]

ROGER FREEMAN. M.P. KETTERING.

Section 40 [redacted] No reply ?

Dear Sir.

I would like your comments on the following?

On January 4th a documentary entitled "UFO SENSATION" was shown by BBC 2, from 2pm and lasting fifty five minutes, based upon American classified material released at a thirty year period much involving American Air Force! This film was presented by Americans from CIA officials, nuclear physicists, and scientific personalities not UFO amateurs, and detailed facts kept from the American public and the Planet at large - showing that Planet Earth has been for about fifty years visited by Beings from other Galaxies - the Americans having at least five Space-ships in their possession, - on which no doubt they have developed their Spy plane - 'Stealth' which is at present causing devastation in weather patterns all over Planet Earth. The story that it is painted with a Special paint which makes it invisible to RADAR is pathetic.

Can you answer me as to why, neither your Party - Labour or Liberal have asked one question in the So-called Houses of Parliament, about this matter - or is like the other revelations now seeing the light of day - 'Against the Public Interest'?

Since we have to bear the catastrophic results of these in power who they think have a divine right to lie to us, then as an ordinary Citizen of Pathetic Britain - I am entitled to an answer?

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

E116

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

14th March 1994

COPY TO SECTION 22

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] first letter was forwarded to us in January 1993. He asked what we knew about a wave of UFO sightings that had occurred over Belgium in late 1989 and early 1990. My official explained that our involvement with the subject of UFOs is very limited, our only interest being to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. They also pointed out that this was, of course, a matter for the Belgians and not for us. In an attempt to be as helpful as possible, it was suggested that Section 40 [redacted] contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of UFO societies who were actively researching these UFO sightings.

Over the next few months Section 40 [redacted] wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. Section 40 [redacted] continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is note necessarily so. Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. Section 40 [redacted] asked whither the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.

Recycled Paper

I can assure you that every effort was made to be as helpful as possible to Section 40 [redacted] However, by the time he wrote his tenth letter in December 1993 it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received.

Clearly these sightings were very interesting for UFO researchers. However, given that there was no evidence of any threat, and given that the sightings occurred outside the UK this is not a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

I hope this is helpful, and has explained the situation.

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

E115

M5

APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Sir Keith Speed MP.

2. Although the draft reply provides, as was requested, a synopsis of our dealings with Section 40 I have attached copies of all the previous correspondence - ten letters, as opposed to nine, as originally advised. I think this makes it abundantly clear that we have done our best to be as helpful as possible to Section 40 , but that we have long passed the point where there is anything else that could usefully be said to him. I leave it up to you whether or not you pass this correspondence to Sir Keith Speed MP.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

14 March 1994

Section 40

D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] first letter was forwarded to us in January 1993. He asked what we knew about a wave of UFO sightings that had occurred over Belgium in late 1989 and early 1990. My officials explained that our involvement with the subject of UFOs is very limited, our only interest being to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. They also pointed out that this was, of course, a matter for the Belgians and not for us. In an attempt to be as helpful as possible, it was suggested that Section 40 [redacted] contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of UFO societies who were actively researching these UFO sightings.

Over the next few months Section 40 [redacted] wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. Section 40 [redacted] continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. Section 40 [redacted] expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. Section 40 [redacted] asked whether the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The

fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.

I can assure you that every effort was made to be as helpful as possible to Section 40 Section 40 However, by the time he wrote his tenth letter in December 1993 it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received.

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I hope this is helpful, and has explained the situation.

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed MP

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

0068 91

1st March, 1994

Your Ref: D/MIN(AF)/94/94

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 20th February about my constituent Section 40 and his query on UFO sightings over Belgium. While I appreciate your Department's patience may have run out after 9 letters, I myself would appreciate a synopsis of the replies, since I have no idea, apart from your letter, what your Department's view about this matter is. Perhaps you could let me have such a synopsis as soon as possible, so that I may reply fully to my constituent.

You refer to my letter of 31st January, this was of course a follow up to my original letter of 16th November, which apparently went astray in your Department.

Yours sincerely,
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP, Acknowledged 3/3
Minister of State for theArmed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

PE FL 94/94
SEC AS 7

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

14th March 1994

COPY TO [redacted]

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] first letter was forwarded to us in January 1993. He asked what we knew about a wave of UFO sightings that had occurred over Belgium in late 1989 and early 1990. My official explained that our involvement with the subject of UFOs is very limited, our only interest being to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. They also pointed out that this was, of course, a matter for the Belgians and not for us. In an attempt to be as helpful as possible, it was suggested that Section 40 [redacted] contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of UFO societies who were actively researching these UFO sightings.

Over the next few months Section 40 [redacted] wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. Section 40 [redacted] continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is note necessarily so. Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. Section 40 [redacted] asked whither the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.

Recycled Paper

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Clearly these sightings were very interesting for UFO researchers. However, given that there was no evidence of any threat, and given that the sightings occurred outside the UK this is not a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

I hope this is helpful, and has explained the situation.

Yours sincerely,

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

0068 91

1st March, 1994

Your Ref: D/MIN(AF)/94/94

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 20th February about my constituent Section 40, and his query on UFO sightings over Belgium. While I appreciate your Department's patience may have run out after 9 letters, I myself would appreciate a synopsis of the replies, since I have no idea, apart from your letter, what your Department's view about this matter is. Perhaps you could let me have such a synopsis as soon as possible, so that I may reply fully to my constituent.

You refer to my letter of 31st January, this was of course a follow up to my original letter of 16th November, which apparently went astray in your Department.

Yours sincerely,
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

Section 40

Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP, Acknowledged 3/3
Minister of State for theArmed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

PE FL 94/94
SAC AS7

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

20th February 1994

Copy to:
Sec(AS)2

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing correspondence from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had asked about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990, and you asked for my views on this.

My officials have already exchanged a number of letters with Section 40 [redacted] on this subject over the past year, and wrote most recently to him on 9 December 1993. There really is little that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware that there were some unusual occurrences, as your constituent says, this is a matter for the Belgians and not for us. There is no evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence of the UK.

Furthermore - 9 letters should be enough.

Yours ever,

JEREMY HANLEY

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

Recycled Paper

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

17/2/94

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January, 1994.

006772

Dear Private Secretary,

radar detections and airborne interceptions in 1990.

Sir Keith wrote to Mr Hanley on the 16th November sending a copy of a letter he had received from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] is in constant touch with Sir Keith on this matter and annoyed that he has not received a reply yet. Sir Keith requests that an answer is sent as soon as possible please.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Keith Speed

private Secretary to
Jeremy Hanley Esq., MP.,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall.
London.
SW1A 2HB.

Acknowledged 9/2

PE 94/94
Sec (AS)

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

4 FEB '94 12:41

Letter dated 7th November. c.c. Robert Ramsay, DG, European Parliament. On 30th March, 1990 there was a major security alert over Belgium when interceptor aircraft went after unidentified flying object. Object was heading west towards British air space at speeds in excess of 1000 knots! Wants to know were MoD aware of this, did our armed forces or those of NATO deem there was no security risk, and if so on what premise was this decision made.

16th November, 1993

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your recent letter about airborne interception of unidentified objects over Belgium. The questions you pose are not suitable, for technical reasons, to be tabled, and in any event they cannot be tabled before 25th November. I have, however, written to the Minister at the Ministry of Defence, with a copy of your letter, and as soon as I receive a reply I shall be in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Keith Speed

[redacted]

PAGE.002

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

Please reply to:

Strood House,
Rolvenden, Cranbrook,
Kent, TN17 4JJ

16th November, 1993

Dear Minister,

[redacted]

Yours,
signed for Sir Keith in his absence

[redacted]

Private Secretary

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6/12/94

FOR THE ATTENTION/PLEASE OF THE assistant Private Secretary Section 40
from Private Secretary to Sir Keith Speed. Fax Section 40 (Three pages).

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your telephone call. Section 40 has sent a number of letters mainly about tabling questions, and I have tried to condense the relevant parts. As you know his original letter was forwarded on the 16th November.

Hope this is helpful Thank you

Section 40

Section 40

Please send this over as a PS ; treat this as a letter from Sir Keith Speed.

As the follows on Sir Keith's original letter of 16 Nov - I'm not sure we can find - there is some urgency to get a prompt response. I would recommend you ask MAFF Secretary have any idea should answer - it might be them!

Section 40

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ. Tel. Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 has corresponded with MOD at D/SEC(AS) 12/3.

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

26th December 1993.

Reference: Question to Minister of Defence - CC European Parliamentary Petitions Committee.

Dear Sir Keith

I apologise for a degree of persistence.

I specifically requested a question to be tabled in the House because I am not satisfied with the obvious evasions that I am getting from the Ministry of Defence.

It is obvious that any answer from the Minister will be as a direct result of consultation with the Ministry of Defence whose answers are not commensurate with the facts.

I attach uncorrected pages 114/115/116 of a book manuscript that I am writing on the Belgian Phenomena: this is a copy of a letter written on the 6th December 1993 to the Ministry of Defence.-*

Their contradictions form part of this book.
I trust they will give you some idea of the complexity of the situation.

If the reply given by the Minister is as indicated, I would then request a tabled question as originally sought.

It is essential in my application to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament that I obtain a clear and detailed explanation on the positive NADGE major alert in Belgium and the opinion of the British Ministry of Defence Air Defence Experts that there was no risk to our own national security.

Could you please advise me what the *'technical reasons'* are for not raising a question in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
9 December 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December.

I am afraid that there is nothing that can usefully be added to the replies you have already received on the points that you raised.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Section 40 [redacted]

6th December 1993.

Reference: Your ref D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26th November.

I note your observation that I am being selective with quotes from your letters. On the contrary, I would suggest that in your last letter, the selectivity is yours.

Allow me to refresh your memory. Whilst you have previously stated all the reasons quoted in your letter to illustrate that a radar return does not necessarily indicate the presence of a structured craft, you have omitted to say that you qualified these reasons at the conclusion of the paragraph by stating (your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3, 18/2/93) *'it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns, and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.'*

As the very first line of your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 29/9/93) states *'I agree that radar will only detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance,'* I can hardly be accused of selectivity, these words are yours and not mine.
The detections made by the NATO Air Defence Ground Environment radars at- not one, BUT THREE!- radar stations at Semmerzeke and Glons CRC in Belgium, and Vedem in Germany, were made by highly skilled operatives well able to distinguish between the anomalies that you quote and true radar reflections. Indeed two F-16 interceptors of the Belgian Air Force would hardly have been scrambled on fifteen seperate occasions if the radar operatives had not been SURE of their detections (these were also confirmed on 13 occasions by radar lock-on by the persuing aircraft.)

The overwhelming evidence of the NADGE detections prove your point *that skilled operators are able to distinguish between false and true returns and must be taken as positive confirmation of the presence of unidentified flying objects of opacity and substance.*

In view of the above, I do not understand your consequent retractions which are not commensurate with the facts.

The fact that these radar detections were confirmed by NATO, the Belgian Minister of Defence and the Belgian Air Force, would prompt me to ask *'IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30/31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?*

Cont;

In view of the conclusive proof now obtained from the NATO and Belgian Agencies, the answer from your Air Defence experts that *'there was no threat to the UK because there was no evidence of any such threat'* simply will not suffice. NATO and the Belgians say that there was a threat, and your Air Defence experts say that there was not.

I would request a detailed answer that takes into account the NATO and Belgian detections and observations.

Your statement in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 12th November 1993 that *'Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK,'* is your comment and not mine.
I would refer you to the whole context of your letter which discusses why your ministry did not know of the Belgian sightings, it quotes *'that they did not occur within UK airspace. Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK, we would not have been notified unless the Belgians believed there was a threat.'*

As stated at the beginning of this letter, the question of selectivity does not arise, I am only able to comment on the words that you have written. The wording of your letter could only be interpreted by the world at large as a clear indication that there was a detection of an entity of opacity and substance in the skies above Belgium; if you now choose to amend them, then that is your prerogative, but this now strongly implies evasion on the point at issue.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: [redacted] Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) [redacted]
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

[redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
26 November 1993

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November.

I have to say that the extracts that you quote from my letters are selective; for example, you will recall that I have explained to you on a number of occasions that a radar return does not necessarily indicate the presence of a structured craft; radar returns can be caused by clouds, computer error, interference between two radar systems, Anomalous Propagation, or even by flocks of birds.

In view of the above, your assumption that we have accepted the Belgian UFO sightings as being "unidentified flying objects that are of opacity and substance" is not correct.

In answer to your specific question, Air Defence experts concluded that the Belgian UFO sightings posed no threat to the UK because there was no evidence of any such threat.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Recycled Paper

Section 40
[redacted]

Reference: Your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 12/11/93.
Dear Section 40
Thank you for your letter dated 12th November.

I note your observation that we have now reached the point where there is little more that you can provide on the questions that I have posed to date.
I suppose that to a degree you are correct. We have come a long way since your original letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 24th February 1993 in which you stated *'the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sightings cannot be positively identified'*

Your admission in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 29th September 1993 that *'radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance'* confirms that the NADGE radar detections above Belgium in 1989/90 by Semmerzeke, Glons, and Vedem radars, were indeed confirmation of an unidentified aerial phenomena of opacity and substance. A simple telephone call to NATO would confirm that fact.

Your recent statement in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 12th November 1993 that *'Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK'* finally qualifies the fact that the Ministry of Defence-when these two statements are taken in conjunction-have now accepted (as have the Belgian government), the authenticity of the Belgian phenonena as being unidentified flying objects that are of opacity and substance.

Having, by a slow process of reason, finally reached this conclusion-and as I am quite sure that this is not a question that would contravene national security-I would ask my penultimate question.

It is simply *'By what premise have your specialist Air Defence advisers reached the conclusion that these phenomena are NOT a threat to national security?'*

I would advise that you should inform the Secretary of State for Defence of this correspondence. I have requested Sir Keith Speed MP to table this same question to the Minister in the House of Commons.

For your interest; I have been advised by Egon Klepsch, President of the European Parliament, that my report asking for an enquiry into the Belgian phenonena has now been forwarded to the Petitions Committee for their consideration.

Your reply would be appreciated.
Yours sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
12 November 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October.

You asked why the Ministry of Defence did not know about the Belgian UFO sightings, and had not seen any official documents relating to them. The simple answer is, as I have explained before, that they did not occur within UK airspace. Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK, we would not have been notified unless the Belgians believed there was a threat. For obvious security reasons, I will not enter into any discussions about the range and capabilities of our Air Defences. What I can tell you is that I have sought specialist Air Defence advice when answering your letters, and have been assured that there is nothing that you have described that would be regarded as a threat to the UK.

Although I would be happy to answer any new questions you may have, I think we have now reached the point where there is little more that I can provide on the questions that you have posed to date.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Section 40 [redacted]

23rd October 1993.

Reference: Your letter D/Sec (AS) 12/3 of 13th October 1993.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your reply of the 13th October on behalf of yourself and the Secretary of State for Defence.

I would like to comment on the main paragraph of your letter.

I wonder why the Ministry of Defence did *NOT* know of the Belgian sightings when they were so widely reported in the continental press?

I also wonder *why* the Ministry of Defence have not seen any official documents relating to these incidents? I have obtained an abundance of these withoiut any problems from the Belgian Defence Minister, the Belgian Ministry of Defence, and the Belgian Air Force.

I find the fact that the Ministry of Defence have not been passed any information relating to these detections as extremely odd.
Glons CRC (NADGE) radar was on a major alert involving F-16 interceptor aircraft. *WE ARE PART OF NADGE (NATO Air Defence Ground Environment).* This object was six minutes from our air space and closing at + 1000 kts. Not only would I have thought that notification of some kind was obligatory, but I wonder why the Ministry of Defence do not *NOW* query this omission?

Although a NADGE detection was involved in a full alert only six minutes away, by what premise was it that NATO considered that there was *NO* threat

to the UK?.
It would seem that NADGE considered the detection serious enough to involve military persuit aircraft in Belgium, but not serious enough to inform either the RAF or the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom.

Your statement that;- 'I can only assume that the appropriate military authorities did not believe that there was any threat to the UK' causes me some apprehension. Do you not KNOW whether this is so?. This would indicate that you are *NOT* advised on all radar detections unless they are considered a threat to the UK by *the military authorities?*

Whilst I have no grounds whatsoever to doubt your honesty, I sincerely trust that you will accept my observation that *your statements simply do not fit the facts.*
It would seem that your position as a Ministry of Defence spokesman on radar matters is seriously compromised by other organisations.

One wonders whether the Nato Air Defence Ground Environment is more involved in this situation that they would care to admit?

Your comments would be appreciated,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
13 October 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October, copied to the Secretary of State for Defence. Please treat this reply as the response to both letters.

I was interested in the information that you provided, but I have yet to see any official documents relating to these UFO sightings. We have no record that the Belgians (or anybody else) passed us any information relating to these sightings, and I can only assume that the appropriate military authorities did not believe that there was any threat to the UK.

I can assure you that the Air Defence of the UK is taken very seriously; you may recall from the days of the Cold War that Soviet aircraft used to test our defences on a regular basis, by attempting to penetrate the UK Air Defence Region. You may also recall the very effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted these aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Copy to Minister of Defence.

Section 40 [redacted]

2nd October 1993.

Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 29th September 1993.

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your very welcome letter of confirmation that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance.

This is also the opinion of the Belgian Air Force and the Belgian Minister of Defence.

As you apparently have no knowledge of the Belgian incidents, I trust that you will not think it patronising if I give you details of one of these.

On the night of the 30/31st March 1990 at 23h.00.(local time) in the vicinity of Wavre(SW of Brussels), many witnesses reported a configuration of lights in the sky.
As a result of these reports and their confirmation by members of the Belgian Gendarmerie, the Belgian radar stations at Semmerzeke and Glons were alerted. They confirmed a strong signal where indicated by witnesses. This was also confirmed by the German radar station at Vedem.
These confirmations by three main radar stations were considered to be a threat to Belgian national security.
The Belgian Air Force were alerted to scramble two F-16 aircraft to intercept these targets.
These two aircraft were vectored to their targets by the two Belgian radar stations involved.
13 interceptions were made. Radar lock-on was acheived on each occasion, times varying from 0.1 sec to 45,0 secs.
Video film is available of on-board radar confirming these interceptions.
Accleration figures were recorded of this object from 150kts to 1000kts in +/- ½ sec, and a rate of decent from 10,000ft to 4000ft in 2 secs.
Persuit and interception continued for over 1 hour.

2600 witnesses provided statements. 75 of these were Belgian Police officers.

The Belgian Minister of Defence Guy Coeme, admitted the existence of these flying objects; he stated in the Belgian Parliament that ALL hypotheses could be excluded-he did not know what these flying objects were. This was confirmed on the 26th May 1993 by Leo Delcroix the present Belgian Minister of Defence.

At one period of interception, both F-16 aircraft were in persuit of this unidentified object which was on a Westerly heading towards UK airspace at speeds of +1000 knots per hour.
This incident was regarded by the Belgian authorities as a major alert

Actual time to infringe UK airspace would have been less than six minutes.

I note your observation that because the Belgian detections were outside UK airspace they were beyond your area of remit.
Whilst I acknowledge that this was so, I do not see how it is possible to ensure UK security by such rigid parameters.

When an unknown object of some substance-treated as a threat to national security by the armed forces of a fellow member state-is only six minutes from our national boundary and is being persued at speeds in excess of 1000 kts per hour by two interceptor aircraft, then it is not practicable or possible, in the interests of security, to impose statutary limits involving national boundaries.

I have discussed your observations with a NATO colleague, and find it difficult to accept that-as you say in your letter-even though we are part of NATO Air Defence Ground Environment and are covered to some extent by AWAC aircraft, that there are occasions when we are not advised by the NATO 80 radar station complex, of possible intrusions into our airspace.

It would seem however, that because this incident was regarded by the Belgian military as a major alert, that we should have been notified by Glons CRC(NADGE) of their radar detection.
There would seem little point of a radar defence system that did not do this.

It would seem incredible that the Ministry of Defence were not aware of this imminent infringement of our national security, particularly when an event of such magnitude was being enacted only six minutes away.

Your comments would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
29 September 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 September.

I agree that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance, although it is important to remember that a radar blip does not necessarily correspond to the location of an object; as I explained in my letter dated 18 February, the phenomenon of Anomalous Propagation can give an indication that an object of some sort is in the air, when in fact there is no such object; the radar will be picking up a natural feature such as a coastline.

I am not aware of instances where radar operators have detected an object, judged it to be solid, and not been able to identify it; if there have been such cases then they probably relate to weather balloons. The point I was trying to make in my 18 February letter was that we have never detected a structured craft flying in UK airspace, that has remained unidentified.

Although, as you point out, there is a chain of radar stations stretching across NATO, it is not the case that they all automatically exchange data, so it is not correct to say that the Ministry of Defence must have been aware of radar detections that occurred during the 1989/90 UFO sightings in Belgium. When I said, in my letter dated 24 February, that I remembered only one reference to radar sightings, I made it quite clear that this was a personal recollection of comments made in Timothy Good's book, "Alien Liaison".

I really must stress again that while the sightings that you are researching are doubtless very interesting, they occurred outside UK airspace, and as such lie outside our remit.

I wish you the best of luck with your continuing attempts to get to the bottom of this mystery.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Section 40
[redacted]

27th September 1993

Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

Ministry of Defence,

Main Building,

Whitehall,

London SW1A 2HB.

Dear Section 40

You may remember that earlier in the year we had some correspondence concerning unidentified radar returns.

Your observations refer; 'There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified' (Ref;D/Sec(AS)12/3) and on the subject of Anomalous Propagation of radar 'it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns,and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.'(Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3)'

I was recently invited by BBC radio,to discuss an application that I have made to the European Parliament for an enquiry into the Belgian incidents of 1989/90.

A direct result of that broadcast were several letters and telephone calls from airline pilots,who had indeed been alerted by radar stations,of objects that had been detected on converging courses,and who had witnessed

together with other crew members, the detected object/objects passing where indicated. A telephone conversation with a radar operator also confirmed similar incidents.

A conversation with a radar technologist also confirmed that 'radar will act in much the same way as a wavelength of light. It will only detect another radar signal or its own reflection from an object of reflectability in the latter case an object of some substance or opacity'

Note* This must be the case-or there would be no point in radar detection.

I have had considerable correspondence with the Belgian Air Force, the Belgian Minister/and Ministry of Defence, and the Belgian Prime Minister. Their comments are, that because the credibility of the Belgian armed forces and Ministry of Defence are involved, that my report be forwarded to:

Egon Klepsch.

President of the European Parliament,

Belliarstraat 97-117,

1047 Brussels, Belgium.

I have also been informed that detection was made by Belgian-Semmerzeke radar(array type-military), Belgian-Glons radar(multipurpose impulsion type) and German-Vedem-radar. All observations were made by skilled operatives.

These radar stations are part of an 80 station radar complex that extends throughout Europe and are part of the North American Treaty Organisation Air Defence Ground Environment.

All of the detections of these radar stations are coordinated.

We are part of the North American Treaty Organisation Air Defence Ground Environment and of the same radar complex.

The Ministry of Defence must therefore have been aware of the many radar detections by these three radar stations, and of the 13 contacts made by the F-16 interceptor aircraft which were vectored to their targets by the three main radar stations involved.

In view of:- 1) the statement by the radar technologist involved stating that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance.

2) The statement concerning - on two occasions - prior warning by radar to a civil airliner, of an object that was witnessed by three aircrew menbers

3) I would be interested in your observations as to whether you agree with statement 1). Whether you will confirm that the MOD have never had an unidentified radar return as advised in statement 2) And how you would qualify your comments in your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 24/2/93) that-concerning the Belgian incidents and the detections by three NATO radar stations that -*'there was only ONE reference to radar'*

Your comments would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
4 March 1993

Dear Section 40 ,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February. The answers to your nine specific questions are as follows:

1. Yes.

2. We actually co-ordinate UFO reports. Radar returns may or may not be a feature of this, although in my time in this job (over a year now) they have not been.

3. Yes.

4. Yes, although you will wish to bear in mind the factors that I listed in the third paragraph of my letter dated 18 February.

5. Yes, although the only security angle to this question is the fact that we do not want to give out any information relating to the range and effectiveness of UK radar systems.

6. Yes.

7. No UFO sighting to date has been judged to present a threat to national security. We look at sightings on a case by case basis, and the situation is therefore kept under constant review.

8. Yes, with the exception of the files that I told you about in my last letter. The Public Records Act does not require files to be kept; it lays down the rules relating to public access to files that are kept. There was a wave of UFO sightings in 1967, and this led to increased public interest in the subject. I suspect that prior to 1967, due to the low level of interest in UFOs, it was felt that retaining these files was not justified.

9. Yes.

Finally, you mentioned Viscount Long's decision about releasing UFO reports. I have managed to track down the Hansard extract relating to the comments that Viscount Long made about UFO reports during questions raised in the House of Lords in 1982 - I apologise for the poor quality of the photocopy. The position

Recycled Paper

with regard to the files is as I described in my previous letter. We are able to respond to specific requests from individuals or UFO societies about particular UFO incidents (if we have the files in this office - ie files from approximately 1985 onwards) and to offer them such information as we have on these incidents.

I hope this is helpful, and has answered your questions.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

House of Lords

Thursday, 4th March, 1982.

The House met at three of the clock (*Prayers having been read earlier at the Judicial Sitting by the Lord Bishop of Derby*): The LORD CHANCELLOR on the Woolsack.

Unidentified Flying Objects: Sightings

3.4 p.m.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports have been received by the Ministry of Defence on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in each of the last four years, and what action has been taken in each case.

Viscount Long: My Lords, in 1978 there were 750 sightings; in 1979 there were 550 sightings; in 1980, 350 sightings; and in 1981, 600 sightings. All UFO reports are passed to operations staff who examine them solely for possible defence implications.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, while thanking the noble Viscount for that Answer, may I ask him whether or not it is true that over 2,000 authenticated UFO reports were published last year in the national press? If so, were they accepted or passed on to the Ministry of Defence? And what happened to them?

Viscount Long: My Lords, they did not all get to the Ministry of Defence. I have just informed your Lordships of the numbers sighted. If the noble Earl is suspicious that the Ministry of Defence is covering up in any way, I can assure him that there is no reason why we should cover up the figures which he has mentioned if they are true. The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest—for example, a Russian aircraft or an unidentified aircraft—which might have breached our security systems. That is the sole reason why we are interested in the reports.

Lord Wynne-Jones: My Lords, does the Answer given mean that since there has been a Conservative Government the UFOs have done a U-turn and departed?

Viscount Long: Not according to my reading, my Lords.

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, as my noble friend said that 600 UFOs had been officially reported or acknowledged by the Ministry of Defence in 1981, may I ask him how many of those sightings still remain unidentified and were not subject to security, or were Russian aeroplanes, or anything like that?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I do not have those figures. They disappeared into the unknown before we got them.

Lord Strabolgi: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether the present Government adhere to the view of the previous Government which I put forward when I replied to the debate three years ago in your Lordships' House, that most of these so-called sightings can be accounted for as natural phenomena?

Viscount Long: Yes, my Lords, they can be. Many of them are accounted for in one way or another, but nobody has got a really constructive answer for all of them.

Lord Hill-Norton: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether or not it is true that all the sighting reports received by the Ministry of Defence before 1962 were destroyed because they were deemed "to be of no interest"? And if it is true, who was it who decided that they were of no interest?

Viscount Long: My Lords, my reply to the noble and gallant Lord—I was wondering whether he was going to say that the Royal Navy had many times seen the Loch Ness monster—is that since 1967 all UFO reports have been preserved. Before that time, they were generally destroyed after five years.

Lord Paget of Northampton: My Lords, can the noble Viscount tell us whether, out of these thousands of sightings which he has mentioned, there has been a single one which suggested any menace to our defences? In the circumstances, is not an awful lot of time being wasted on this nonsense?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I think Her Majesty's Government are waiting for an invitation from them to discuss these problems.

Mr. Anatoly Shc'

3.9 p.m.

Lord Renton: My Question which star Paper.

The Question was

To ask Her Ma are aware that Ana 15 months been frequently placed i 1981 had his prisc for his refusal to j he has always mair they will request whether they inten conditions until he

Lord Trefgarne: M ment remain gravely Anatoly Sheharansky reports of his ill-treatme with the Soviet authoritie

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)
Vol. 427 No. 51
Thursday 4 March 198

Section 40 [redacted]

28th February 1993.

Your reference D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 24th February 1993.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your explanatory letter of the above date and the helpful information contained therein.

It would be of great assistance to me to summarising your previous correspondence, and I would ask for your confirmation of the following facts:-

1) That the Ministry of Defence does recieve and co-ordinate reports of UFO sightings; there were 147 such reports in 1992 of which there were a small percentage that would seem to defy explanation.

2) Although you co-ordinate unidentified radar returns, you do not have any figures on these.

3) There have been instances of ghost returns where blips have appeared on screens for short periods of time but it is easy for a skilled radar operator to distinguish between these and true readings.

4) That radar, as a general rule, behaves as a wavelength of light and will only provide a return from an object of some opacity.

5) You are not able to state, because of the time factor and for security reasons, whether the spate of UFO sightings over Northern Belgium in 1989/90 were detected by British radar.

6) On the subject of national security, the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sighting cannot be positively identified.

7) As Unidentified radar blips, unidentified objects, unidentified lights in the sky, cannot be classed as evidence, then there cannot possibly be a threat to national security.

8) Despite the Public Records Act which ensures that public records are protected for 30 years after their last use, all UFO files prior to 1967 were apparently destroyed.

9) Some files from the fifties apparently were not destroyed and seven of these are held at the Public Record Office at Kew.

As these above factors now confirm that these phenomina are NOT a matter of national security and are consequently NOT classified, could you please answer and comment on my enquiry, that a decision to release MOD files on UFO reports was made by Lord Long in 1982, but implemation of this was delayed by the Falklands war. This war has now been over for some years and I would enquire if it would now be possible for me to have access to any files that I would require from 1967 onwards?

Thank you for your help,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

E65
+1

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
24 February 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 February.

In answer to your question about national security, the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sighting cannot be positively identified. It is not our practice to name or give details of those individuals or departments involved in looking at UFO reports.

You mentioned sightings that took place at RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters in 1956. I am unable to comment on the point you make because, while I recall reading about this in Timothy Good's book, "Above Top Secret" I am not aware of any official papers concerning this alleged incident. This ties in with your point about access to our UFO files; it was generally the case that before 1967 all UFO files were routinely destroyed. After this date, files were kept, but - like all government files - they are covered by the terms of the Public Records Act, and remain closed for 30 years after the last action. A few files from the Fifties did escape the destruction process, and are available for viewing at the following address: Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DV. The references of these surviving UFO files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9322
AIR 20/7390	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/9320	PREM 11/855
AIR 20/9321	

I think we will have to agree to disagree about detecting the Belgian sightings on radar; from what I recall reading about this in Timothy Good's book, "Alien Liaison", there were many visual sightings, but only one reference to radar. The definitive position on this will have to come from the Belgian government.

With regard to any questions about civil aircraft's radar returns, I suggest you write to the Civil Aviation Authority, at the following address: CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TE.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Section 40 [redacted]

21st February 1993.

Ref: Your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 18th Feb.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative letter and various enclosures.

I appreciate and agree with your comments that the vast majority of UFO reports may be attributed to natural phenomina. I am however, interested in those that are not. I am pleased to note that you do have on record instances that appear to defy explanation.

I would appreciate a reply to my question(e) in my letter of the 7th. I would repeat this question; 'I am most interested in your comments on national security. As to date it would appear that there is a general admittance that although a phenomenon of some kind exists, nobody knows what it is(Your letter 1/2/93 'Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that seem to defy explanation') This being so, how can this phenomenon be assessed as to national security, when it is not known what it is?

I would like to add a further question on this point. Who and what department is it that-on this matter-would presume to issues dictates on matters of national security?

Your comment that 'There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified' I would draw your attention to the RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters incident on the 13th and 14th of August 1956 which would seem to contradict your statement.

I would query your observation on whether the Belgian sightings were detected on UK radar. You say that it is not possible to say, this long after the sightings! These occurred less than three years ago and continued for a period of six months! ! They were witnessed by thousands, were recorded on Belgian radar, were shown by the media and were discussed in the Belgian parliament. I find it difficult to relate your comments to sightings of this magnitude.

Would you please give me your comments on the above queries and advise me if records of on-board radar returns on civil aircraft are recorded by any civil authority?

I have been advised that a decision to release MOD files on UFO reports was made by Viscount Long in 1982, but implementation of this was delayed by the Falklands war. This war has now been over for some years and I would enquire if it would now be possible for me to have access to any files that I would require?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
18 February 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February in which you asked some further questions about UFOs and unidentified radar returns.

Firstly, you asked if I could let you have details of some UFO reports that do not appear to be easily explainable. I have attached a few examples from our files, which should give you an indication of the sort of reports we get. Most of the reports we get do relate to little more than a light in the sky. Many of these reports would appear to have fairly simple explanations: sightings involving green and red flashing lights, for example, will almost certainly be attributable to aircraft lights. Even when a report would appear to defy explanation, it does not of course follow that what was seen was anything other than an ordinary object or phenomenon, perhaps seen from an unusual angle. It is simply that it is not possible to be certain what was seen. While all UFO reports are looked at, we do not attempt to investigate sightings in the absence of any evidence of a threat to the defence of the UK.

With regard to your second question in which you asked for examples of unidentified radar returns, I am not able to provide any data. There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified, although there have been instances of "ghost returns" where blips have appeared on screens for short periods of time. This phenomenon is known as Anomalous Propagation (ANAPROP). These blips can be caused by a number of factors: some result from changes in air density which can result in an object outside the usual range of the radar being seen. An aircraft, or even a natural feature such as a piece of coastline, can therefore produce a situation where a blip is seen which does not correlate with the position of an object. Clouds, under some circumstances, can also give a return, and on some occasions a return can be caused when two or more radar systems interfere with each other. Having said this, and in answer to your third question, it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns, and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.

You asked whether the Belgian UFO sightings were detected on UK radar. It is not possible to say, this long after the sightings, whether or not anything was detected. Radar tapes are routinely wiped and re-used, and any tapes dating from the same time as the Belgian sightings will not have survived.

Recycled Paper

In response to your final question, the only point that I had made about security is that I did not want to get into any discussion about the range and capability of the UK's radar systems. There is certainly no national security angle to the UFO controversy, and I apologise if I have given this impression.

I hope this has clarified our position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Monday 11th Jan, approx 9·50 pm, 3-5 seconds
B. Desciption of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	One pale green light, which then split into three. He'd first thought it was a meteorite or flare.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Outdoors. Stationery.
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Witness looking ESE, saw object heading west. Ultimately disappeared into clouds, heading out to sea.
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	15/20°. No idea of height.
G Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	N/k
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Speed seemed constant, but impossible to judge. After splitting, 3 lights twirled around - definitely 3 distinct objects.
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Some cloud, height N/k. Free 3 wind - objects heading into direction of wind.
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Not stated. Witness was by the sea.

K.	To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Sec (AS) 2a REDACTED ON ORIGINAL
L.	Name & Address of Informant	[redacted]
M.	Background of Informant that may be volunteered	Nmc
N.	Other Witnesses	Nmc
O.	Date, Time of Receipt	121313Z Jan 93
P.	Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	Nmc
Q.	Remarks	REDACTED ON ORIGINAL Gave [redacted] details of UFO groups, and undertook to write to him if we received any reports that might be in.

Section 40

[redacted]

Sec (AS) 2a

FEED DIRECTION

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CBJ051 26/1222 026C0686

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 260810Z JAN 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON
TO MODUK AIR

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
27 JAN 1993
FILE

U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC Z6F
SUBJECT AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 251900Z JAN 93 ONGOING
B. SINGLE VERY BRIGHT LIGHT ABOVE GATWICK AIRPORT, NOT A STAR
C. INDOORS AND OUTDOORS STATIONARY
D. NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS
E. TO THE SOUTH WEST
F. APPROX 10000 FEET (HEIGHT)
G. SEVEN MILES
H. STILL
J. CLEAR
K. NOT KNOWN
L. GATWICK AIRPORT
M. [redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

PAGE 2 RBDAID 0001 UNCLAS
N. WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPLANATION
O. DAUGHTER
P. 251905Z JAN 93
BT

FEED DIRECTION

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWB088 09/1225 040C0995

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 090835Z FEB 93

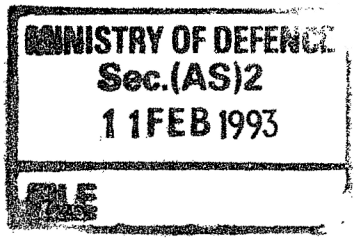
FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC Z6F
SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 312130Z JAN 93, 20-30 MINUTES
B. 1, HALF EGG SHAPED, BLUE AND DULL
C. OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
D. NAKED EYE
E. N/K
F. N/K
G. N/K
H. STEADY
J. CLEAR
K. N/K
L. POLICE
M. [redacted]
N. NIL

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

1993

PAGE 2 RBDAID 0001 UNCLAS
O. NIL
P. 081955Z FEB 93
BT



Section 40

7th February 1993.

Your Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your interesting reply to the four parts of my previous letter.

Whilst in the first instance I am particularly interested in actual unidentified Radar returns, your observation that you have some UFO reports that would seem to defy explanation are of great interest to me.

a) Would it be possible for me to obtain details of these?

As you apparently take appropriate action on any unidentified Radar return of potential significance,

b) would it be possible for you to quote/send me an example, of where an actual Radar return has not been identified and defies explanation?

We must agree to differ on my observation that Radar will only detect something of substance. As Radar is purely an ultra short radio wavelength of either an orbital or linear origination, it will behave in much the same way as any wavelength of light and will not reflect back from any object that is transparent-glass being an example. Other anomalities that could be construed as false signals is the scatter induced from inclined surfaces as with the stealth aircraft and false returns from other extraneous sources.

. c) Would you agree that any normally proficient Radar operator could easily distinguish between a true return and a spurious one?

I feel that my question as to whether the Belgian phenomina were detected on our Radar is not really a matter of national security and purely a simple 'yes' or 'no' would suffice, particularly as Radar returns could have been registered by any civil aircraft in the near vicinity.

d) Do you have any further observation to add to this?

I am most interested in your comments on national security. As to date it would appear that there is a general admittance that although a phenomina of some kind exists, nobody knows what it is(Your letter 1/2/93 'Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that seem to defy explanation'.

e) This being so, how can this phenomenon be assessed as to national security, when it is not know what it is?

As it is important that I have true and accurate information for my book, whilst I am most appreciative for your kind consideration and prompt replies, I trust that you will not take offence if I feel that in order to attain these ends I must persue these points through the Minister and my local member of parliament.

Thank you for your help,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
1 February 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your recent letter in which you asked a number of questions about radar and our handling of UFO reports. I will answer your questions in the order in which they were posed.

The Ministry of Defence does receive reports of UFOs; last year, for example, we received 147 reports. Having said this, we believe that nearly all of these sightings can be explained in terms of known objects and phenomena. Examples that spring to mind include aircraft lights, lasers or searchlights reflecting off clouds, meteorites and satellite debris entering the atmosphere. Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that would seem to defy explanation; we hold no definitive view on these.

I do not have any figures concerning unidentified radar returns, but any return of potential significance is looked at, and the appropriate action taken. I am sure that you are aware that from time to time aircraft have flown towards UK airspace, and have been intercepted by the RAF.

It is not strictly true to say that a radar will only detect something of substance, because there will always be spurious returns.

Any questions that you have about radar systems should be directed to this department. I am sure you will understand, however, that for security reasons we are not able to go into much detail about the range and capability of our equipment.

All UFO reports are examined carefully by us and by departments responsible for the air defence of the UK. Sightings are then assessed on the basis of military expertise and an analysis of the available information. To date, no reports that we are aware of have been judged to present a threat to the defence of the UK.

I hope this has answered your questions, and helped explain our position on the subject. If you require anything further, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Recycled Paper

Section 40 [redacted]

Your Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for prompt and most helpful letter of the 26th instance.

I have already been in contact with the Belgian Embassy and-through them-am in contact with a Belgian press agency to obtain all information on the sightings as discussed.

Your suggestion that I contact SOBEPS(who have produced a lengthy report on the wave of sightings) is particularly helpful and I will be writing to them shortly.

I find your letter intriguing and would request clarification on several points.

a) The fact that your office has been established in the Ministry of Defence to co-ordinate sightings would imply that there are in fact sightings to co-ordinate,would you confirm this?

b) I wonder if you could give me some general indication as to the number of genuine UNIDENTIFIED radar detections over the last five years?

c) Would you confirm that Radar will only detect something of substance?

d) The actual distance to the area of the Belgian sightings is only 130 miles. As our radar would seem able to detect incoming intercontinental missiles,could you please advise me of the appropriate department in the Ministry of Defence who could give me the appropriate information that I require?

e) As the MOD's only interest in unidentified flying objects is to insure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK,I would be interested as to how this is ascertained?

Your kind assistance on the above five points would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
26 January 1993

Dear Section 40 ,

Your letter to RAF West Drayton concerning the wave of UFO sightings over Belgium in 1989/90 has been passed to this department, as we receive and co-ordinate sightings and enquiries about UFOs.

I am afraid that we do not have any relevant information, as we are only concerned with UK sightings - the MOD's only interest in UFOs is to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. I would think that your best course of action in trying to obtain an official view on the sightings would be to approach the Belgian Embassy for advice; their address is as follows: 103 Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9AB.

I am aware that a Belgian UFO group, SOBEPS, has produced a lengthy report on the wave of sightings. Their address is Section 40 Bruxelles, Belgium.

You might also like to contact some of the UFO groups in this country, who may have some information. I suggest the following organisations:

British UFO Research Association
Section 40

Tel no. Section 40

Contact International (UK)
Section 40

Tel no. Section 40

Recycled Paper

Quest International
Section 40

Tel no. Section 40

I am sorry not to have been able to provide you with any material myself, but I hope that the addresses I have given you will prove useful. I wish you the best of luck with your project.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
[redacted]

17th January 1993.

Dear sirs,

I am an established author and at present am in the process of compiling data with a view to writing an account on the Belgian sightings of unidentified flying objects that took place throughout Eastern Belgium during the period from November 1989 to April 1990.

I am anxious to obtain a complete record, not only of actual newspaper cuttings but of television reports and details of the statement made by the current Belgian Minister of Defence to the Belgian government at that time.

It would appear that these objects were registered on Belgian radar, both onboard and ground based. I would like to enquire whether you had any radar tracings of these sightings (either onboard or ground based), if not I would appreciate details of either the correct government department for me to contact obtain this information, or any agency that could fulfil these requirements.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40
[redacted]

→ Sec(AS)2

E113

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/RMC 2547

17 February 1994

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 had copied you some correspondence with one of my officials, and you asked for my comments.

As I explained to you in my letter dated 10 March 1993, our involvement in the subject of UFOs is very limited. There is, therefore, little that I can offer, other than to assure you that we are not covering up information on this subject. I am aware that your constituent is corresponding with my officials on this subject, and I can assure you that they will continue to do their best to answer any further points he may have.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever

Robert

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry Esq MP

Recycled Paper

E112

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

20th February 1994

Copy to:
Sec(AS)2

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing correspondence from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had asked about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990, and you asked for my views on this.

My officials have already exchanged a number of letters with Section 40 [redacted] on this subject over the past year, and wrote most recently to him on 9 December 1993. There really is little that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware that there were some unusual occurrences, as your constituent says, this is a matter for the Belgians and not for us. There is no evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence of the UK.

Furthermore - 9 letters should be enough.

Yours ever,

JEREMY HANLEY

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

Recycled Paper

E111

M4

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from David Curry MP.

2. Since the Parliamentary Enquiry at E1, we have dealt with one official action letter from Section 40 and another addressed directly to the UFO desk officer (copies placed opposite).

3. We know very little about ORTK Britain, and it is entirely possible that Section 40 is the only person involved. In the US, Operation Right To Know is a somewhat militant campaign, run by people who are convinced that the US government is aware of the existence of extraterrestrial life, but is not informing the public. They have organised a number of demonstrations outside the White House and NASA headquarters.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

17 February 1994

Section 40

D/US of S/RMC 2547

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 had copied you some correspondence with one of my officials, and you asked for my comments.

As I explained to you in my letter dated 10 March 1993, our involvement in the subject of UFOs is very limited. There is, therefore, little that I can offer, other than to assure you that we are not covering up information on this subject. I am aware that your constituent is corresponding with my officials on this subject, and I can assure you that they will continue to do their best to answer any further points he may have.

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry MP

07 FEB 1994

DAVID CURRY MP

PE: Sec (AS) 2

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd February 1994

Our Ref:DC/am/feb3.

Dear Robert,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40

I would be grateful if you could let me have any advice regarding his points about secrecy which I might be able to pass on to Section 40 [redacted] Section 40

Yours ever,
David

DAVID CURRY

Viscount Cranborne
Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB



ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, Section 40

Mr David Curry MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A OAA

February 2nd 1994

Dear Mr Curry,

I enclose copy of a letter received from Section 40 in reply to my letter to the Viscount Cranborne of Dec.12th 1993.

To keep you updated and informed I enclose a copy of my reply to Section 40 and would be very grateful for any comments or suggestions as to how the AAC/ORTK aim of ending UFO secrecy can be realized.

Thank you for your reply of Dec.15th 1993

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(AAC convener - ORTK Britain contact)

E110

M3

APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Keith Speed MP.

2. Section 40 has been a persistent questioner on the subject of a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990. My staff have already written him nine letters on this subject, and our final response said simply that there was little that could be added to the points that we had already made. Section 40 has written one book about extraterrestrials, and is writing a further one on the Belgian sightings.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

17 February 1994

Section 40

D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing correspondence from your constituent [redacted] had asked about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990, and you asked for my views on this.

My officials have already exchanged a number of letters with [redacted] on this subject, and there really is little that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware of the events to which your constituent refers, this is a matter for the Belgians, and not for us. There is no evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence of the UK.

JEREMY HANLEY

Keith Speed MP

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

17/2/94

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January, 1994.

006772

Dear Private Secretary,

radar detections and airborne interceptions in 1990.

Sir Keith wrote to Mr Hanley on the 16th November sending a copy of a letter he had received from [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] is in constant touch with Sir Keith on this matter and annoyed that he has not received a reply yet. Sir Keith requests that an answer is sent as soon as possible please.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted] Section 40

Keith Speed

private Secretary to
Jeremy Hanley Esq., MP.,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall.
London.
SW1A 2HB.

Acknowledged 9/2

PE 94/94
Sec (AS)

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4/2/94

FOR THE ATTENTION/PLEASE OF THE assistant Private Secretary Section 40
from Private Secretary to Sir Keith Speed. Fax Section 40 (Three pages).

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your telephone call. Section 40 has sent a number of letters mainly about tabling questions, and I have tried to condense the relevant parts. As you know his original letter was forwarded on the 16th November.
Hope this is helpful Thank you

Section 40

Section 40

Please send this over as a PS ; treat this as a letter from Sir Keith Speed.
As this follows on Sir Keith's original letter of 16 Nov - I'm not sure we can find - there is some urgency to get a prompt response. I would recommend you ask MAFF whether they have any idea should answer - it might be them!

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ. Tel: Section 40 0580/2

Section 40

4 FEB '94 12:41 PAGE.001

4 FEB '94 12:41

Letter dated 7th November. c.c. Robert Ramsay, DG, European Parliament. On 30th March, 1990 there was a major security alert over Belgium when interceptor aircraft went after unidentified flying object. Object was heading west towards British air space at speeds in excess of 1000 knots. Wants to know were MoD aware of this, did our armed forces or those of NATO deem there was no security risk, and if so on what premise was this decision made.

16th November, 1993

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your recent letter about airborne interception of unidentified objects over Belgium. The questions you pose are not suitable, for technical reasons, to be tabled, and in any event they cannot be tabled before 25th November. I have, however, written to the Minister at the Ministry of Defence, with a copy of your letter, and as soon as I receive a reply I shall be in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Keith Speed

[redacted]

PAGE.002

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

Please reply to:

Strood House,
Rolvenden, Cranbrook,
Kent, TN17 4JJ

16th November, 1993

Dear Minister,

[redacted]

Yours,
signed for Sir Keith in his absence

[redacted]

Private Secretary

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

Section 40 has corresponded with a Section 40 at MOD ref. D/SEC(AS) 12/3.

Section 40

26th December 1993.

Reference: Question to Minister of Defence - CC European Parliamentary Petitions Committee.

Dear Sir Keith

I apologise for a degree of persistence.

I specifically requested a question to be tabled in the House because I am not satisfied with the obvious evasions that I am getting from the Ministry of Defence.

It is obvious that any answer from the Minister will be as a direct result of consultation with the Ministry of Defence whose answers are not commensurate with the facts.

I attach uncorrected pages 114/115/116 of a book manuscript that I am writing on the Belgian Phenomena: this is a copy of a letter written on the 6th December 1993 to the Ministry of Defence.*

Their contradictions form part of this book.
I trust they will give you some idea of the complexity of the situation.

If the reply given by the Minister is as indicated, I would then request a tabled question as originally sought.

It is essential in my application to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament that I obtain a clear and detailed explanation on the positive NADGE major alert in Belgium and the opinion of the British Ministry of Defence Air Defence Experts that there was no risk to our own national security.

Could you please advise me what the *'technical reasons'* are for not raising a question in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

E109

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 ..... (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
10 MAR 1993

D/US of S RMC 2547

10 March 1993

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter (reference DC/dt/Mar2.11) of 2 March, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had written a paper about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I am afraid that the Ministry of Defence's only interest in the UFO phenomemon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present such a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Given this very limited involvement with the subject there is really no comment that I can make on Section 40 [redacted] paper.

I hope this is helpful, and I wish your constituent luck with his research.

Yours ever

Richard

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry Esq MP

Recycled Paper

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from David Curry MP.

2. The points that the MP's constituent makes about UFOs are really not for the Ministry of Defence, and the draft reply simply sets out our very limited involvement with this subject.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

5 March 1993

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S/RMC 2547

Thank you for your letter of 2 March, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 had written a paper about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I am afraid that the Ministry of Defence's only interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present such a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Given this very limited involvement with the subject there is really no comment that I can make on Section 40 paper.

I hope this is helpful, and I wish your constituent luck with his research.

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry MP

Rec 3/3

DAVID CURRY MP

E1.

RMC 2547

PE - Sec(93) 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd March 1993

Our Ref:DC/dt/Mar2.11

Dear Robert,

I enclose a copy of a letter and paper I have received from my constituent Section 40 [redacted]

I should be grateful for your comments to pass on to my constituent.

Yours ever,
David.

DAVID CURRY

The Viscount Cranborne
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Defence
Ministery of Defence
Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB

Section 40

Section 40

- WRITER @ INVESTIGATOR

David Curry MP
House of Commons

February 17th 1993

Dear Mr Curry,

Attached to this letter is a short paper on certain aspects of the ufo issue and as a very concerned member of your constituency I trust you will find the time to read it.Your views on the subject matter would be appreciated.I shall understand if you require time to do this.I will not accept a denial or 'do not know' there is just to much going on both in the UK and the world for any denial to be justified.I am not pretending that my ideas are representative of the entire subject or that I am necessarily right,but I have studied the ufo issue for a long time and have come to certain conclusions.

As I look at the crumbling morality shown by an escalating percentage of the UK populace (and indeed the world) I am becoming increasingly concerned over who is in actual control.I do not subscribe to or support any one particular religious doctrine,although I do believe in a divine spirit or essence.Mankind appears to be sinking into darkness,the force of violence now intruding into the thoughts and lives of the UK population goes beyond mere violence.I have children myself and I am deeply worried.

I do understand why the subject of the ufohas been ignored,distorted and ridiculed,but the escalating pattern of physical interactions between mankind and some of the forces involved are making this position totally unacceptable. I would suggest that the inherent public disorder in any authoritative admission of the ufo reality is now preferable to what may result if this position of denial is maintained.I do not think this problem will just go away,the whole ufo issue has to be acknowledged and openly debated.It is not the mere'national defence' of the UK that is at stake,it may turn out to be the very soul of mankind that is in the balance.If you have any doubts over the importance of this issue just take the time to study the facts.

I await your comments.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT DAY HUMAN CONDITION AND THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS FROM EARTH [redacted] February 1993

Never has so much been believed by so few and denied by so many,such is the problem presented by the ufo.

I offer these thoughts on the ufo subject for discussion.They are by no means written as representative of the entire problem.

It would seem apparent that there is 'something' about this subject,the implications of which,far surpass any thoughts centred on a belief or denial. Those who deny the existence of the ufo often do this vehemently.I suggest that they do this because in reality they are believers also,and therefore only one option is really applicable.What exactly are both groups of people believing in ? To generate such fierce denials this covert belief must surely extend beyond the simple interpretation of the ufo as an extraterrestrial vehicle.If this was all the ufo represented,and quite clearly it does not, there could be no purposeful arguments for its nonexistence.Mankind is merely scratching at the surface of the observable universe,who knows what manner of beings populate it.There cam be no justifiable arguments against the idea that some of the more complex varieties have been and are visiting the earth.

Many of those who deny the ufo reality are perhaps doing this through fear of a subordinate human position.They presuppose the ufo operates from applications of a super human technology,the power of which could be set against mankind. This in itself may be a justifiable fear,but I suggest that these denials stem from an even greater fear.This 'something' of the ufo issue appears to have connections with human ancestry.I believe we may possess an inherited race memory of some past and awful time and the ufo is the trigger for its recall.

The idea that the ufo may be as old as recorded history is still open to argument,but my contention includes a notion that it is in fact older.I am certainly not on my own in suggesting that the forces which the ufo represent pre-date mankind.As a consequence of this notion the ufo as being representative of a purely extraterrestrial artefact becomes a little less attestable.The ufo now becomes considerably more influential than mere visitations by beings from another planet.We perhaps wrongly assume two things,that mankind is able to see all there is of the world and we are its masters.I believe the trigger has been fired,our memories are beginning to recall some hard,disturbing but vital truths. Perhaps it is this evolving memory that is responsible for the fierce denials, the reluctance to even look at the facts,and why the whole ufo problem is being played down.

If the problem has potentially always been present are our current fears justified,after all these forces could presumably have chosen any time in the past to rid the earth of its parasitic human population.It would seem improbable that they should choose to do this now when the worlds population is so much greater.Perhaps our fear is not so much one of extermination but one of outside control.It is possible that in time each and everyone of us will come to realise that our world is indeed under the influence of nonhuman forces.An expanding awareness to this fact makes immediate sense of the distortion and denials of the problem.

The fact remains that whether we like it or not the ufo is a reality and it would appear on the surface that we are being visited by many diverse forces. Those who still persist in ignoring this fact will have to understand that the ufo is escalating its numbers and at the same time it is reinforcing its controlling position.These forces are doing this by leaving real and observably lasting traces of their existence.It would appear that they have chosen this time to re-exert their seemingly superior nature to outwit mankind.Can we really afford to ignore what is so obviously taking place ?

What are the aspects of humam behaviour deemed necessary to be controlled and how might this be achieved ? I suggest the following as a possibility.

I realize that the interpretation of the ufo as a mechanism of human control has been suggested by many other writers and I acknowledge them for this.

A part of the current ufo problem,and I emphasize a part and not all,appears to be building upon some of our worst fears.The forces involved are doing this by presenting us with lasting physical evidence of what outwardly seem to be malevolent actions.There is much dispute as to whether our interpretation of hostile intent is correct.I suggest that these forces are in fact play acting and throwing back at mankind demonstrations of our own malpractices.They are responding to our weakening morality by adopting patterns of behaviour symbolic of our own fall into darkness.In this sense we have only ourselves to blame for their actions and our own two edged predicament.They are perhaps masquerading as the forces of darkness to show us our own fallen condition,the dark side of ufology is really the light,their meaning are the same and the real demons are to be found within humanity.If we dream of conquering the heavens them they will do it for us,if we aspire to great and wonderful things then they will do this also.If this be so they will continue in this vogue until we recognize our condition and in a very real sense these forces become our masters,our controllers and our measure of morality.At the same time the aggressor now becomes the saviour and our worst fears are transformed into humility.In effect real contact is established between mankind and a nonhuman intelligence.We look at the ufo problem with fear in our eyes because we see a reflection of our own condition.

Nature always reveals its other side,there exists within the ufo issue forces that seemingly do not hide behind the mask of darkness.These forces appeal directly to mankinds sense of correctness and wonder and these forces are also leaving lasting impressions.These impressions are indeed wondrous and magical to behold.We seem to have two options,a clear choice between the light and the dark,perhaps this duality is really shades of the same control,a control of liberation and not one of subjugation.The ufo and its effects are showing us our worst and best,they are here to damn our present condition,not to drive us into submission to dark and evil forces.

If these forces are the same forces that pointed the way in previous epochs then perhaps they are somehow intrinsically bound to mankind.There must be a connecting thread,a commonality,between us,this control must be necessary for both our destinies.These forces have to be escalating their interactions with mankind because it is required at this time.Our continual apathy towards their existence is most certainly a factor as must be our apathy towards our condition. It would seem clear that this escalation is an attempt to spread this control, and whether we like it or not this problem is ours and of our own making.Those who take the time to look at this issue realize its importance,the ufo and its effects are reinstating many of our old and necessary doctrines,and in so doing we are being brought face to face with some of our most vital and urgent questions.These forces appear to have coloured our most distant past and are now presenting us with a new interpretation of reality in which our present evils can have no part.

I suggest that these are some of the reasons for the never ending denial, distortion and ridiculing of this most important subject.Should we really be ignoring what is so obviously taking place ?

E107

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/117/93

8 February 1993

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 12 January to Robin Ferrers enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 about the Comet Swift-Tuttle. As you know this has been passed to me for reply.

I understand that latest estimates indicate that Comet Swift-Tuttle will not return to the inner Solar system until the year 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be. I understand that NASA are looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever
Archie

ARCHIE HAMILTON

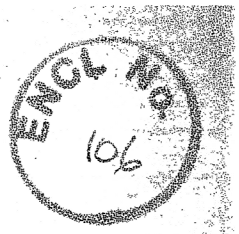
David Shaw Esq, MP

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)2
- 9 FEB 1993
FILE

Copy to SEC(AS)2

Section 40 9/2.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

2 Feb 93

APS/Minister(AF)

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY FROM THE RT HON DAVID SHAW MP

1. The attached correspondence from the Rt Hon David Shaw MP was sent to us for official reply by S of S's office. As agreed, however, I have attached a draft reply for Minister(AF) to send.

2. As you will recall, we have recently answered a similar enquiry about Comet Swift-Tuttle - D/MIN(AF)/30/93. While the MOD has no specific responsibility for the subject, and are simply replying in the absence of anyone else better placed to respond, the substance of the draft has been cleared with the Emergency Planning Division at the Home Office, and with the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

You wrote to the Lord Ferrers on 12 January 1993 about your constituent Section 40 Section 40 who has read that Comet Swift-Tuttle is on collision course with the Earth. This has been passed to us for reply.

I understand that latest estimates indicate that Comet Swift-Tuttle will not return to the inner Solar System until the year 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Finally, Section 40 may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Archie Hamilton MP

The Rt Hon David Shaw MP

F105

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

PO Ref 1433/93

21st January 1993

DAVID SHAW ESQ MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Shaw

Thank you for your letter to Lord Ferrers of 15th January 1993 on behalf of Section 40 [redacted].

After consideration, it appears that the matters raised are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, so I have sent your letter there with a request that a reply be sent to you direct.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)1
31 FEB 1993
RLS

Section 40 [redacted]

PRIVATE OFFICE

Section 40

RF

1433/92

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PRIVATE SECRETARY
15 JAN 1993
RECEIVED BY

Rt Hon the Lord Ferrers
Minister of State
National Disaster and
Emergency Planning Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1

12 January 1993

Dear Robin

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from Section 40 Section 40 regarding the Swift-Tuttle Comet. I would much appreciate your comments on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 and writes to me on many and varied subjects which have covered Section 40 to his books. He has written one of the authoritative studies on Section 40 I hope you can do a reply which the local newspaper can use — Section 40 often writes letters to them.

Section 40 [redacted]

January 1st 1993

The Right Honourable David Shaw MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A OAA

Dear David,

I have read one or two short and casual items about the Swift-Tuttle Comet which is said to be on a collision course with Earth.
There was a brief reference to it on the BBC Channel 4 radio which described it as a seven mile wide chunk of ice.
It is supposed to hit us in 2001 (I think).
The whole thing sounds as if it came from Emanuel Velikovsky's book 'Worlds in Chaos'.
Does the present government give any credence to this matter?
With all best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

1992 ?

D/MIN(AF)/30/93

26 January 1993

Dear Roger

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 1992 to Thomas Strathclyde about your constituent Section 40 who had read that a comet was on collision course with the Earth, and asked what precautions are being taken. As you know this has been passed to me for reply.

I understand that the comet to which Section 40 refers is Comet Swift-Tuttle, which, it is estimated, will return to the inner Solar System in 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Finally, Section 40 may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever

Archie

ARCHIE HAMILTON

Roger Knapman Esq, MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING
26 JAN 1993
PIS

Section 40

copy to Hd of SEC(AD)

Recycled Paper

APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from Roger Knapman MP.

2. We are not aware of any previous enquiries about comets, and have no responsibility for the subject, but are replying in the absence of any other division better placed to respond.

3. This draft has been cleared with the Emergency Planning Division at the Home Office, and with the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)

20 January 1993

Section 40

D/MIN(AF)30/93

Your letter to Lord Strathclyde of 17 December 1992 has been passed to this Department for reply. Your constituent, Section 40 had read that a comet was on collision course with the Earth, and asked what precautions are being taken.

I believe that the comet to which Section 40 refers is Comet Swift-Tuttle, which, it is estimated, will return to the inner Solar System in 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Section 40 may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Archie Hamilton MP

Roger Knapman Esq MP

E102

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 ..... (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S RMC 2101

13 January 1993

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter to The Earl Howe of 16 December 1992, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] which has been passed to this Department for reply.

I can confirm that, contrary to the article referred to by Section 40 Section 40 no ministerial meeting has taken place to discuss the subject of crop circles. The Government's role in this subject is very limited; as the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information relating to UFO sightings, and because of the perceived link in some quarters between UFOs and crop circles, members of the public will occasionally ask for our views on crop circles. As is the case with UFOs, however, we take no definitive position and hold no fixed views on the phenomenon.

If Section 40 is interested in this subject, he may wish to know that there are a number of organisations who are actively involved in crop circle research. If he wishes to contact any of them, their addresses are as follows:

British UFO Research Association
Section 40
[redacted]

Centre for Crop Studies
Section 40
[redacted]

Mrs Ann Winterton MP

Recycled Paper

Quest International

Section 40

[redacted]

Contact International (UK)

Section 40

[redacted]

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,

Robert.

The Viscount Cranborne

Recycled Paper

M2

APS/US of S

Copy to:
DI55c

101

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from Ann Winterton MP.

2. We are not aware of any meeting having taken place to discuss crop circles, as has been alleged. The Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have confirmed that they are also unaware of any such meeting.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

11 January 1993

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S/RMC 2101

Your letter to The Earl Howe of 16 December 1992, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 has been passed to this Department for reply.

I can confirm that, contrary to the article referred to by Section 40 no ministerial meeting has taken place to discuss the subject of crop circles. The Government's role in this subject is very limited; as the Ministry of Defence receives and coordinates information relating to UFO sightings, and because of the perceived link in some quarters between UFOs and crop circles, members of the public will occasionally ask for our views on crop circles. As is the case with UFOs, however, we take no definitive position and hold no fixed views on the phenomenon.

If Section 40 is interested in this subject, he may wish to know that there are a number of organisations who are actively involved in crop circle research. If he wishes to contact any of them, their addresses are as follows:

British UFO Research Association
Section 40

Centre for Crop Circle Studies
Section 40

Quest International
Section 40

Contact International (UK)
Section 40

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

Ann Winterton MP

E10

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)ADG 6832

6 December 1991

Dear Fergus,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Michael Heseltine, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] who is enquiring about the origin of a "fireball" he witnessed in the skies above his home. I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Section 40 [redacted] may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbiting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of space debris, and of these, 6 or 7 re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

Turning specifically to the night in question, there are no indications that any debris came down over Lancashire, or indeed anywhere in the UK. It is possible, however, that Section 40 [redacted] may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

I hope this is helpful.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec. (AS)2
- 6 DEC 1991
FILE

The Earl of Arran

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

100% Recycled Paper

E99

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

19 November 1991

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach correspondence including a letter from Sir Fergus Montgomery MP to the Secretary of State for the Environment, covering one from his constituent Section 40 reporting that he had sighted a "fireball". This was passed to the Home Office, whence it was passed to MOD.

2. A draft letter for US of S(AF) to send to Sir Fergus is attached. This has been prepared in consultation with DI55. MOD's interest in a matter of this kind is limited to the requirement to monitor objects in orbit (particularly satellites) passing over the UK.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

Your letter of 25 September 1991 to Michael Heseltine, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 was passed to my Department for consideration. I am responding to your request for a reply you might pass on. Section 40 had seen a "fireball", and wondered whether what he saw could have been a satellite, or a portion of one.

Section 40 may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbiting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of space debris, and of these, six or seven re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

Turning specifically to the night in question, there are no indications that any debris came down over Lancashire, or indeed anywhere in the UK. It is possible, however, that Section 40 may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

I hope this is helpful

The Earl of Arran

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Our Ref: PO 24525/91

Thank you for your letter to Michael Heseltine of 25 September on behalf of Section 40, passed to this department by the Department of Environment.

After consideration, it appears that the matters raised are not for the Home Office but for the Ministry of Defence to whom your correspondence has now been passed. I apologise for this inter-departmental buffeting.

Passed correspondence to DTSS(
to see if satellite re-entry could
have been the cause of this.

Section 40
30/10

Section 40

Private Office

MINISTRY OF DEF
Sec. (RCS)
30 OCT 1991
FILE

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

Private Office
Correspondence Section

MINISTER'S CASE

The attached Minister's case is not one for G2 Division. We are not sure if it is even for the Home Office. Maybe the Meteorological Office can be of assistance?

Section 40 [redacted]

JNO
G2 Division

7 October 1991

Enc

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
Section 40

My ref

Your ref 7425

22 OCT 1991

2452/91

Acapiac by MOD.

Dear Sir Fergus

You wrote to the Secretary of State on 25 September enclosing a letter from Section 40 about a fireball fall from the sky.

However, as the matter seems to be primarily for the Home Office, I am passing your letter to that Department asking them to reply to you direct.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Private Secretary

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

recycled paper

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

XHO



DEPARTMENT OF [illegible]
RECEIVED
26 SEP 1991
PRIVATE

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ref: 7425 25 September 1991

Dear Michael,

i enclose a letter I have had from [redacted] Section 40 who as you can see witnessed a fireball fall from the sky but has read nothing in any of the papers since then. He seems to feel that it landed somewhere in the Lancashire area. I wondered if you could let me have a reply to pass on to him.

Yours,

Fergus

RECEIVED BY
- 3 OCT 1991
PRIVATE SECRETARY

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP

Section 40 [redacted]

Sir Fergus Montgomery. M.P.
House of Commons.
London.

15th Sept 91

Dear Sir Fergus.

Last evening, whilst watching T.V. at 12"29 pm. I witnessed a fireball fall from the sky. it was visible for between 5 & 10 seconds & the bearing from my home was approx 245° N.NW.

I had'nt drawn the curtains & it was quite the most spectacular thing I've seen. It was too slow for a meteorite & too fast for a Navy Light. (in case it was a horse) so my belief is that it was a satellite & portion of one. I haven't heard anything on the news this morning, my guess was that it would have landed somewhere in the Lancashire area. Any thing North of this & I reckon it would have been a very large object indeed.

I am at a loss as who to inform, hence this letter to you.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

E 98

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

DEFENCE
12
1991

D/US of S(AF) ADG 6184

21st October 1991

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September to Tom King, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] had asked about the investigation of UFOs, and you asked for some information about this.

The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. The reports of sightings that we do receive are referred to our staff in the departments which are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. They examine the reports as part of their normal duties, to determine whether or not they present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and no reports received to date fall into this category, no attempt is made to investigate or identify what was seen.

I hope this is helpful.

John Arran

Tommy Arran

The Earl of Arran

David Atkinson Esq MP

100% Recycled Paper

E 97

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF) ADG 5597

17 October 1991

Dear Paul.

Thank you for your letter of 5 September, in which you raised further questions about the air incident over Kent on 21 April 1991.

Firstly, I can confirm that whatever was seen was not connected with any USAF activity. With regard to the criteria used to judge if such sightings represent a threat, the staff in my Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom assess such sightings based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does represent a threat, and I can confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to identify what was seen. You also asked about warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered. The UK operates a range of warning systems, but there are, of course, sophisticated operating procedures and safeguards to ensure that any response is appropriate to the circumstances. I can confirm that the incident over Kent did not result in any response.

As far as a review of UFO sightings is concerned, I am afraid that I simply could not justify the use of defence funds on such an investigation, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified, and as I have already said, no reports received to date fall into this category. Any air safety implications are, as I have already indicated, a matter for the CAA.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Tommy Arran

The Earl of Arran

Paul Murphy Esq MP

100% Recycled Paper

M2 file 5/2/4

96

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach at E2 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E1.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

3 October 1991

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 6184

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 1991 to Tom King, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] had asked about the investigation of UFOs, and you asked for some information about this.

The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. The reports of sightings that we do receive are referred to our staff in the departments which are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. They examine the reports as part of their normal duties, to determine whether or not they present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and no reports received to date fall into this catagory, no attempt is made to investigate or identify what was seen.

I hope this is helpful.

The Earl of Arran

David Atkinson MP

M4

APS/US of S(AF)

Copy to:
D Air Def
SRAFLO
DI55c
Sec(AS)1a

1. I attach at E6 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E5.

2. Given that a three metre long object seen from a distance of 1000 feet would have appeared very small to the naked eye especially at 9 o'clock in the evening when the light would have been failing. The estimated length of the object must also be treated with caution as, despite the undoubted experience of the crew, it is notoriously difficult to assess dimensions when no references are available. Hence it is probable that the object was not a missile; indeed it may have been another aircraft which, incidentally, would not have required Air Traffic Control clearance to fly at that height if it was clear of controlled airspace such as airways.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

30 September 1991

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 5597

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 1991, in which you raised further questions about the air incident over Kent on 21 April 1991.

Firstly, I can confirm that whatever was seen was not connected with any USAF activity. With regard to the criteria used to judge if such sightings represent a threat, the staff in my Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom assess such sightings based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I can confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to identify what was seen. You also asked about warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered. The UK operates a range of warning systems, but there are, of course, sophisticated operating procedures and safeguards to ensure that any response is appropriate to the circumstances. I can confirm that the incident over Kent did not result in any response.

As far as a review of UFO sightings is concerned, I am afraid that I simply could not justify the use of defence funds on such an investigation, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified, and as I have already said, no reports received to date fall into this category. Any air safety implications are, as I have already indicated, a matter for the CAA.

I hope this is helpful.

The Earl of Arran

Paul Murphy Esq MP

E94

LOOSE MINUTE

D/D Air Def/111/6/4 -664

19 Sep 91

Sec (AS) 2a

AIR INCIDENT OVER KENT

Reference: D/Sec (AS) 12/4 dated 17 Sep 91.

1. At the Reference, you asked for unclassified background on the questions raised by Mr Murphy concerning the 'Alitalia Incident'. The following may be of use in your reply:

"At the time of the incident, there were no other sighting reports and no reports of any impact with the ground or the busy waters of the Channel which might have corroborated the missile theory. In addition, a three metre long object seen from a distance of 1000ft would have appeared very small to the naked eye especially at 9 o'clock in the evening when the light would have been failing. Moreover, the estimated length of the object must be treated with caution as, despite the undoubted experience of the crew, it is notoriously difficult to assess dimensions when no references are available. Hence, it is probable that the object was not a missile; indeed, it may have been another aircraft which, incidentally, would not have required ATC clearance to fly at that height if it was clear of controlled airspace such as airways.

Turning to the twin questions of warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered by an unidentified object, the air defence radar system provides 24 hour radar cover over the mainland of the United Kingdom, but its primary function is to monitor and safeguard the approaches to the UK. You will appreciate that we do not expect an air threat to originate from the landmass itself. The RAF also maintains a Quick Reaction Alert force of fighters to intercept unidentified aircraft approaching the airspace around the UK and operates the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) which is designed to detect, identify and track ballistic missiles. In both cases, sophisticated operating procedures have evolved over many years to ensure that, whilst response can be rapid, it is neither precipitate nor without appropriate safeguards, and exercises are regularly carried out across the spectrum of possible scenarios to practise and perfect the procedures that are used."

Section 40

Air Cdre
D Air Def

Section 40

MEMO TO: DOT
SRAFLO
IN TURN

19 Sept 91

Subject: Air [illegible]ent over

Ref: SRAF [illegible] Sep 91 package.

1. I have checked our records and we did not have any fighter aircraft airborne on 21 April 91. We also did not have anyone airborne at [illegible]Z during the week. It was the week of Elder J[illegible]st 91-1 A[illegible] our F-111s were not night flying that week. A-10s [illegible]t regularly fly at night. Night flying time started at 1[illegible] [illegible] week. We have no aircraft or [illegible]ailes that color in the UK. So we don't see any USAF involvem[illegible] this incident.

2. I also spoke to Sqn Ldr Section 40 at the Joint Air [illegible] Section about this incident. Th[illegible] unable to trace anything from radar or flight plans to th[illegible] He surmises that it is probably a Met Balloon that had [illegible]y burst.

Section 40

Major, USAF
Chief, Fighter Operations

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS THIRD AIR FORCE (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09127-5002

WING COMMANDER Section 40
SENIOR RAF LIAISON OFFICER

Telephone: Section 40 FAX No. (0638) 512871

FAX TO ATTN: NAME NUMBER Section 40

BRANCH/FLIGHT/UNIT See (A5) 2a

FOR THE ATTENTION OF Section 40 Ext: Section 40

MESSAGE (IF ANY): AIR INCIDENT OVER KENT

Please see attached report in response to your query

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (INCLUDING THIS ONE) 2

FROM: Wing Cmdr Section 40 (NAME)

DATE 19 Sep 91 SIGNED: Section 40

E92

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

17 September 1991

D Air Def
SRAFLO

Copy to:
Sec(AS)1a
DI55

AIR INCIDENT OVER KENT

1. I attach a copy of a Parliamentary Enquiry that we have received from Paul Murphy MP.

2. Some addressees may already be aware of the "Alitalia incident", in which the pilot of an Alitalia aircraft reported a near-miss with a missile-type object on 21 April 1991, over Lydd in Kent, at a height of approximately 22000 feet. I have attached a copy of the pilot's report and a newspaper article about the incident for ease of reference.

3. Although an object was seen on radar, subsequent enquiries were not able to identify it.

4. Could SRAFLO confirm that the object was not connected with any USAF activity.

5. I would be grateful if D Air Def could supply some unclassified sentences to cover the MP's point about a response from warning systems, and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered.

6. In order to meet our Parliamentary deadline, can I ask for responses by cop Wednesday 25 September.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

Desk Phone Section 40
Messages
Pontypool Office
(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers: LONDON Section 40
PONTYPOOL

5 September 1991

The Earl of Arran
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Lord Arran

Thank you for your letter regarding the subject of an air incident over Kent, and the reply sent to my constituent, Section 40 I am still very concerned that the Ministry of Defence does not know what the UFO was, and I believe that the matter raises the following:-

Can you state with equal certainty that the 'missile' did not originate from USAF aircraft or bases in Britain?

If, as stated, you have no idea what the objects are, what criteria is used to judge whether they are a threat, have any to date been regarded as a threat?

Did the Alitalia incident produce any response from these warning systems? Is it not a grave dangerthat one of these unidentified objects will trigger a hostile response with potentially disastrous consequences?

cont...../2

The Earl of Arran 5 September 1991

Every one of the thousands of reports has been dismissed by the MoD as no threat. Surely, whatever criteria are used to judge them individually, the large accumulation of reports that the MoD now possess, demands a review of this phenomenon, its implications for air safety and the defence of the United Kingdom.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

PAUL MURPHY, MP

pp

cc: Section 40 [redacted]

NEAR COLLISION - AIR TRAFFIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

NOTE: 1°) To be filled in printed characters and in english language.
2°) Shaded boxes contain items to be included in an initial report by radio.
3°) Items marked this * must be deleted as appropriate.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

TYPE OF INCIDENT	A	INCIDENT (NEAR COLLISION) PROCEDURAL / FACILITY *
NAME OF PILOT-IN-COMMAND	B	Section 40
OPERATOR	C	ALITALIA
IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS OF AIRCRAFT	D	I - DAWC
AIRCRAFT TYPE	E	MD 80
RADIO CALL SIGN - IN COMMUNICATION WITH - FREQUENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT	F	Section 40 - LON 124.1 - AT ~ 2000 Z
AERODROME OF DEPARTURE	G	MILAN - LINATE
AERODROME OF FIRST INTENDED LANDING AND DESTINATION, IF DIFFERENT	H	LONDON - HEATHROW
TYPE OF FLIGHT PLAN	J	IFR
POSITION AT TIME OF INCIDENT - HEADING OR ROUTE - TRUE AIRSPEED	J	~ 30 NM SOUTH BIGGIN VOR - HEADING 320° - TAS 380
FL, ALTITUDE OR HEIGHT - ALTIMETER SETTING - ATTITUDE	K	LEVEL FLIGHT / CLIMBING / (DESCENDING) / TURNING * FL 222 - ALT 1013 - RATE 2000 Section 40
FLIGHT WEATHER CONDITIONS AT TIME OF INCIDENT	L	IMC, VMC: VMC Distance above / below cloud / fog / haze: 30 Km / (NM) * Distance horizontally from cloud / Between cloud layers / In cloud / rain / snow, sleet / fog / haze / Flying into / out of sun / Reported estimated flight visibility: 30 Km / (NM) *
DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT IN GMT	M	REPORTED BY RADIO TO LON 127.1 AFIS / TWR / APP / (ACC) / FIC * AT 04/21/91 ~ 2000 Z (date / time)

SECTION 2 - DETAILED INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER AIRCRAFT, IF RELEVANT: Type, high / low wing, N. of engines; Radio call sign, registration; Markings, colour, lighting; Other available details	N	OBJECT SIMILAR MISSILE - WITHOUT EXHAUST FLAME - UNKNOWN LIGHT BROWN - SIMILAR DESERT COLOUR ABOUT 3 METERS LENGTH - ROUND SHAPE -
DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: If desired add comment or suggestion, including your opinion on the probable cause of the incident. (In case of near-collision give information on respective flight paths, estimated vertical and horizontal sighting and miss distances between aircraft and avoiding action taken by either a c)	O	DURING DESCENT, AT FL 222 I SAW FOR ABOUT 3-4 SECONDS A FLYING OBJECT, VERY SIMILAR TO A MISSILE, LIGHT BROWN COLOURED, WITH A TRACK OPPOSITE THEN MINE WHICH WAS 320° - IT WAS HIGHER THAN US ABOUT 1000 ft. AT ONCE I SAID "LOOK OUT - LOOK OUT" TO MY COPILOT WHO LOOKED OUT AND SAW WHAT I HAD SEEN - AS SOON AS THE OBJECT CROSSED US I ASKED TO THE ACC / OPERATOR IF HE SAW SOMETHING ON HIS SCREEN AND HE ANSWERED "I SEE AN UNKNOWN TARGET 10 N.M. BEHIND YOU" -

DATE 04/22/91 TIME 8 P.M.	FUNCTION AND SIGNATURE OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT CPT Section 40 Section 40	FUNCTION AND SIGNATURE OF PERSON RECEIVING REPORT
PLACE OF COMPLETION OF FORM LONDON		

SECTION 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

by ATS unit concerned (not for pilot's use)

HOW REPORT RECEIVED	P	RADIO / TELEPHONE / TELEPRINTER * AT ARO AFIS / TWR / APP / ACC / FIC *
DETAILS OF ATS ACTION: Clearance, incident observed on radar, warning given, result of local enquiry, etc.	Q	

* Delete as appropriate

SIGNATURE OF ATS OFFICER _____ DATE / TIME GMT _____

Mod. (6924) NAV UNI A4

ICAO - PANS RAC (DOC 4444 - RAC / 501 / 10

39
+1

Inquiry into pilot's sighting of missile

THE CIVIL Aviation Authority has launched an investigation into a reported near-collision between a passenger airliner and a missile in civilian airspace over Kent.

But the Ministry of Defence said it could not have been a British missile. The CAA says that there were no other aircraft under its control there and that it has still failed to explain the sighting.

Captain Achille Zaghetti, pilot of the McDonnell Douglas MD80, operated by the Italian airline Alitalia, was flying from Milan to Heathrow at 22,200ft, with 57 people on board, on 21 April when he reported to British Air Traffic Control that a missile had flown less than 1,000 feet above him in the opposite direction.

It was 9pm, still light in the air, and the local air traffic controllers at Lydd airport said the visibility was exceptionally good.

Capt Zaghetti said the missile was light brown and about 3 metres long. His co-pilot confirmed the sighting. Their descriptions are consistent with a target missile used for artillery or air defence practice, but the Ministry of Defence insisted yesterday that none were in use on 21 April.

Although it has taken the report of an experienced pilot at face value, in a public statement yesterday the CAA attempted to imply that he had seen a drifting object, perhaps a stray balloon.

By Stephen Ward

The statement said: "The pilot said the object was light brown, round, 3 metres long, and did not describe any means of propulsion. The aircraft was under the control of the London air traffic control centre who had no other aircraft in the vicinity but consistent with the pilot report, a faint radar trace was observed 10 nautical miles behind the Alitalia aircraft.

"The air traffic controller submitted an occurrence report and investigatory action began immediately. Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday: "Whatever he might have seen might have been something that was flying, but was certainly not anything that was fired. It was a Sunday. The only ranges we have in the Kent area are Lydd and Hythe, and they are concerned with small arms only."

Asked if target missiles were used, he said: "It's absolutely in the middle of the busiest air traffic area. People just don't fire missiles there, but of course, we do have quite a few UFO reports and often people who see these things describe them as missile or cigar-shaped, or else round, and sometimes they do appear to be travelling with no means of propulsion."

'The Independent' 6 May 1991

E71

E5

PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

Desk Phone Section 40
Messages
Pontypool Office
(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers: LONDON
PONTYPOOL Section 40

5 Sep 91

5 September 1991

Sec(AS) - Pe

The Earl of Arran
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Lord Arran

Thank you for your letter regarding the subject of an air incident over Kent, and the reply sent to my constituent, Section 40 I am still very concerned that the Ministry of Defence does not know what the UFO was, and I believe that the matter raises the following:-

Can you state with equal certainty that the 'missile' did not originate from USAF aircraft or bases in Britain?

If, as stated, you have no idea what the objects are, what criteria is used to judge whether they are a threat, have any to date been regarded as a threat?

Did the Alitalia incident produce any response from these warning systems? Is it not a grave dangerthat one of these unidentified objects will trigger a hostile response with potentially disastrous consequences?

cont...../2

The Earl of Arran 5 September 1991

Every one of the thousands of reports has been dismissed by the MoD as no threat. Surely, whatever criteria are used to judge them individually, the large accumulation of reports that the MoD now possess, demands a review of this phenomenon, its implications for air safety and the defence of the United Kingdom.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

PAUL MURPHY, MP

pp

cc: Section 40 [redacted]

E90 ~~Eloc~~

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 .....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)ADG 5597

26 August 1991

Dear Paul,

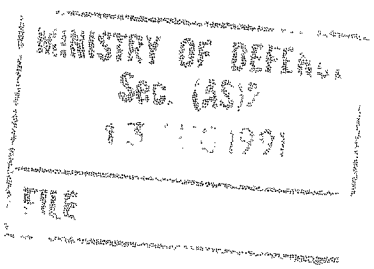
Thank you for your letter of 5 July 1991, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of an air incident over Kent.

My officials have replied to Section 40 [redacted] letter pointing out that the report of the alleged air incident over Lydd was made in the first instance to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who are responsible for examining such reports to determine whether there are, inter alia, any air safety implications. Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] may wish to contact the CAA direct regarding the report of the air incident and their conclusions.

As far as the MOD is concerned, we have been able to rule out the possibility that what was seen was a missile from Army firing ranges in the Lydd area. Additionally, we have no reports of any space-related activity which could be used to provide an explanation for what was seen, and the description of the object given by the Al Italia captain does not correspond with what would be expected if the object had been a meteorological balloon.

The MODs only other interest has been to determine whether or not the incident presented a threat to the security and the defence of the United Kingdom. In this instance my Department do not consider that such a threat was presented and, as is the case with other similar reports of Unidentified Flying Object, it is not our policy to undertake further investigation.

I hope this is helpful.



The Earl of Arran

Paul Murphy Esq MP

100% Recycled Paper

File copy E89

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

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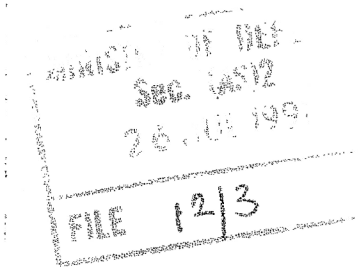
GE3(RAF)
DI55c

1. I attach at E3 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E1.

2. A copy of our response to Section 40 [redacted], mentioned in E3, is also attached at E2.
(dated 8 July 1991)

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
Section 40 [redacted]

26 July 1991



E3

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 5597

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 1991, enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of an air incident over Kent.

My officials have replied to Section 40 [redacted] letter pointing out that the report of the alleged air incident over Lydd was made in the first instance to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who are responsible for examining such reports to determine whether there are, inter alia, any air safety implications. Section 40 [redacted] may wish to contact the CAA direct regarding the report of the air incident and their conclusions.

As far as the MoD is concerned, we have been able to rule out the possibility that what was seen was a missile from Army firing ranges in the Lydd area. Additionally, we have no reports of any space related activity which could be used to provide an explanation for what was seen, and the description of the object given by the Alitalia captain does not correspond with what would be expected if the object had been a meteorological balloon.

The MoD's only other interest has been to determine whether or not the incident presented a threat to the security

and defence of the United Kingdom. In this instance my Department do not consider that such a threat was presented and, as is the case with other similar reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, it is not our policy to undertake further investigation.

I hope this is helpful.

THE EARL OF ARRAN

Mr Paul Murphy MP

File Copy

PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

Desk Phone Section 40
Messages
Pontypool Office
(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers: LONDON Section 40
PONTYPOOL

ENCL No. 1

5 July 1991

Rt Hon T King, MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

Section 40

I would be most grateful for your comments on the enclosed correspondence from my constituent named above.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

PAUL MURPHY, MP

Enc

Section 40 [redacted]

10th June 1991.

Mr Paul Murphy M.P.,
The House of Commons,
Westminster, London.

Dear Mr Murphy,

I enclose a copy of a letter that I have written to the Secretary of State for Defense, along with a copy of the Sunday Times article which I refer to in the letter. I am sure that you will share my concern about this matter, it occurs to me that Parliament and the Public should be informed of the circumstances surrounding this incident. A simple denial of responsibility by the Ministry of Defense is not sufficient, I would be grateful therefore if you would pursue this matter, and if possible question the Government in the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

COPY

Section 40

10th June 1991.

Mr Tom King M.P.,
The Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London.

Dear Mr King,

I refer to an incident reported in 'The Sunday Times' dated 5th May 1991, in which it was alledged that an unidentified 'missile' almost collided with an Alitalia passenger airliner en route from Milan to London. It was also reported that the near miss occurred almost directly above a Ministry of Defence firing range. I understand, however, that the Ministry of Defence has stated that the object had not originated from any British armed forces. The corollary of this statement is that some (assumedly unauthorised) agency is launching projectiles in British airspace, thereby creating a very serious threat to civilian air traffic.

I have conducted some personal research into reports of such unidentified incursions into our airspace and it appears that this is by no means an isolated incident.

I should like to know the findings of investigations into this matter carried out by the Ministry of Defence, and what actions Her Majesty's Government intend to take to ensure the safety of aircraft. I urge you to authorise a public enquiry into this and the many similar cases of such intrusions into British airspace.

A copy of this letter has been sent to my member of Parliament, Mr Paul Murphy M.P.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Jet in near miss with 'myste

THE mystery of how a passenger jet almost collided with an unidentified missile over Kent is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The incident occurred as the Alitalia jet carrying 57 people crossed the Kent coast en route from Milan to London two weeks ago.

The pilot, Captain Achille Zaghetti, said he saw an object, which he described as a missile, travelling in the opposite direction, less than 300m away. At the same time an image was detected on radar at London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton.

A CAA spokesman said: "Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been." The Ministry of Defence said the missile had not originated from any British armed forces.

The Alitalia jet, a McDonnell Douglas MD80, was travelling on one of the busiest air lanes in the world, which carries holidaymakers and business travellers from the Continent to London and North America.

The pilot described the missile as "light brown and three metres long". His report was logged by air traffic controllers at West Drayton, the control centre for flights into London, on Sunday, April 21, at 9pm. Radar operators simultaneously observed a trace 10 nautical miles behind the plane, consistent with the pilot's report.

Duncan Lennox, editor of Jane's Strategic Weapons Systems, said the description fitted that of a target missile or "drone," used for artillery and air defence practice. Target missiles are typically 3.5m long, turbojet powered and fly at about 400mph.

The reported near miss occurred almost directly above Lydd Ranges, a Ministry of Defence firing range in Kent. The area, marked on navigational charts as danger zone D044, is run from Shorncliffe Camp, 10 miles away.

Air traffic controllers at Lydd airport confirmed that weapons testing was carried out at the Lydd range directly under the flight path.

"The MoD notify us when they're firing up to 6,500 feet with live stuff. We're never told of any missiles. It's all top

INSIG

(Incomplete photocopy of article sent in by member of public)

tery missile' over Kent coast

IGHT

secret," said Cleo Proctor, duty controller.

But an MoD spokesman denied there were any military operations in the area. "The area in question, because it's a very busy civilian route, is not somewhere we are allowed to exercise," he said.

According to Lennox, a target missile, although it does not carry a warhead, could destroy an aircraft. "If it hit the cockpit, it would kill the crew and bring down the airliner."

A rogue missile was the suspected cause of the mysterious crash of an Aer Lingus Viscount, which plummeted into the Irish Sea from 17,000ft, with the loss of 61 lives, in 1968.

New light was shed on the mystery when in 1974 fisherman trawled up fragments of a target missile or pilotless aircraft. The Viscount was on a flight path south of the military rocket testing range at Aberporth, on the Welsh coast.

The CAA publicly confirmed the sighting over Lydd only last Friday. It said the pilot had described a "missile-shaped" object. But Zaghetti was specific in his account to air traffic controllers that what he had seen was a missile.

CAA experts first thought the object might have been an optical illusion. But a radar recording confirmed that the object had left a distinct trace. No other aircraft were in the area.

Al Reid, the operations supervisor at London air traffic control who interviewed Zaghetti after he landed at Heathrow, said the sighting was confirmed by the plane's co-pilot. Both saw it for two or three seconds.

Reid said it was conceivable that the pilot might have seen an optical illusion and that the radar trace could have been a cloud. "We're really flummoxed," he said.

In 1980 an Italian DC9 vanished into the sea near Sicily with the loss of all 81 people aboard. A radar recording showed an unidentified flying object on collision course with the plane just before it disappeared from the screen.

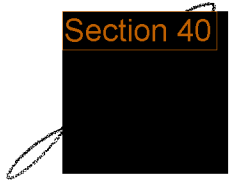
Two years later another Italian DC9 was flying at 27,000ft when it was narrowly missed by a mystery object that exploded close by. Passengers said they saw a "fast-moving projectile, like a missile".

File: 12/4

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1542

Sec(AS)2A aom

A copy for your information.



for PS/US of S(AF)

Section 40

Date: 20/2/90

Copied to:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho[redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

ENCL No 88

D/US of S(AF)ADG 1542

26 February 1990

Dear William,

Thank you for your Private Secretary's letter of 29 January which enclosed a letter from you constituent [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or nor reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs and we have no staff employed full time on the subject. This being so, we do not have the resources to undertake any detailed research or general survey. The sighting reports we receive, which are usually limited to the brief details of the incident passed on to us by those who witnessed them, are referred to the appropriate staff including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

Moving on to [redacted] request for information, I feel it would be appropriate to make the point that, like any other Government Department all Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act which states that official files generally remain closed from public view for thirty years after the last action has been taken, and therefore the Ministry of Defence cannot release material "en bloc" prior to the thirty year point. Although any related material over the age of thirty years is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew, the material currently available does not include UFO reports themselves since, as was stated in the House of Lords by Viscount Long in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after five years.

The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP

However, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever

Donald

The Earl of Arran

ENCL 87

1 x 4 sheets

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Head of Sec(AS)

1. I attach at E2 a straightforward draft reply to William Waldegrave's letter of 29 January 1990.

2. The draft reply follows the standard line on the Department's interest in UFOs and explains the position on public access to reports.

13 Feb 90

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1542

Thank you for your letter of 29 January to Tom King enclosing a letter from your constituent [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). As this subject falls within my area of responsibility, I have been asked to reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

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appropriate staff including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

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I hope that you will find this helpful.

A D G

The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP

Section 40 [redacted]

Mr. William Waldegrave MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London W1A 0AA.

22nd January 1989

Dear Sir,

I am an active member of Quest International,a worldwide organisation concerned with the investigation of UFO sightings and all such related phenomena.

As my local MP,I am requesting your help into obtaining government documents relating to sighting reports and all other information on unidentified possible alien-controlled craft. I am aware that such documents exist and see no reason why they should not be made public.I assure you that any reply you make to the contrary will be met by further correspondence until a satisfactory reply is received.

I trust my request is not unreasonable and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1010.

Sec (AS) 2a

A copy for your information.

[redacted]
for PS/US of S(AF)
MB [redacted]

Date:
29 DEC 1989

Copied to:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)ADG 1010

30 December 1989

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 1989 enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or nor reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally be explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope Section 40 will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sightings beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. Section 40 may be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

Moving now to Section 40 request for information, I would like to confirm that, as is the case in all Government Departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. There is no UK equivalent to the US Freedom of Information Act. Although the Public Records Act does not allow for the release of material "en bloc" before the thirty year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. The material currently available in the Public Records Offices does not include UFO reports themselves since, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy

Michael Stern Esq MP

of destroying UFO reports after five years but reports since then have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Arran

The Earl of Arran

ENCL 2
85

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Michael Stern's letter of 28 November 89.

2. The draft reply follows the standard line on the Department's interest in UFOs and explains the position on public access to reports.

21/12/89

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1010

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I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

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Moving now to [redacted] request for information, I would like to confirm that, as is the case in all Government

Departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. There is no UK equivalent to the US Freedom of Information Act. Although the Public Records Act does not allow for the release of material "en bloc" before the thirty year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. The material currently available in the Public Records Offices does not include UFO reports themselves since, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after five years but reports since then have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

A D G

Michael Stern MP

Michael Stern, MP.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sec AB

ENCL No 1

ENCL 1

The Earl of Arran
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall, London SW1 2HB

28th November 1989

Dear Lord Arran

QUEST INTERNATIONAL - Section 40 [redacted]

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from the above constituent regarding UFO's. I would be very grateful if you could send me a reply suitable to forward to Section 40 following his request for information on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL STERN

eNC

acknd 6/12/89.

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Quest International

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Area Regional Co-Ordinator.

The number of persons who appeal against the decision to disqualify unemployment benefit because they were considered to have left their employment voluntarily without just cause are not separately identified from other claimants who appeal against the decision of an adjudication officer.

DEFENCE

Kurt Waldheim

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will publish the results of the review of the 1986 investigation into the fate of captive British servicemen and the possible involvement of the then Lieutenant Waldheim.

Mr. Archie Hamilton: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 16 February 1988 that a review would be undertaken of the results of the investigation carried out in 1986 by the Ministry of Defence into the fate of British servicemen and the possible involvement of the then Lieutenant Waldheim. This was in the light, of both the report of the Commission set up by the Austrian Government, which had access to a wider range of sources than those available for the 1986 investigation, and of the continued questioning of Lieutenant Waldheim's role. Her Majesty's Government have now conducted most thorough inquiries into the allegations concerning his role in areas of specific British interest. The results of this review have been recorded in a report, which I have placed to-day in the Library of the House, and which is being published by HMSO.

The review has been solely concerned with areas of British interest and has centred on the cases of British servicemen, mostly members of the special forces, captured between October 1943 and October 1944 in Greece and the Greek islands under the control of the German Army Group E, in whose headquarters Lieutenant Waldheim was then serving as a junior staff officer. These cases, covering over 80 British servicemen, include both those brought to the attention of the Ministry of Defence and others identified during the research for this review. The review has not looked at other allegations concerning Lieutenant Waldheim's involvement in areas not related to British interests.

The review has involved long and painstaking research. The historical evidence and the documents gathered have been examined and analysed by the director of Army legal services who is well versed in the laws of war and who retains a residual responsibility for the prosecution of war crimes. His duty is to examine the evidence that has been put before him and advise whether, on that evidence, there is a case for a potential accused to answer. After very careful consideration his conclusion concerning the then Lieutenant Waldheim is that there is no evidence from which guilt of a war crime might be inferred.

The report indicates that Lieutenant Waldheim knew of the capture of the British service men and the possible fate of "Commandos", but no evidence has come to light to indicate that as a junior staff officer he had the power either to order or to prevent that fate or indeed to affect the outcome in any way. Knowledge in such circumstances is not itself a crime. Her Majesty's Government have accepted the findings of the report.

The report also deals with British knowledge of Lieutenant Waldheim's wartime role and the post-war handling of relevant records. Allegations that records were altered, destroyed or withheld to protect President Waldheim are shown to be unfounded. He was not wanted by the United Kingdom either as a "top Nazi" or as a war criminal. In order to clarify these issues virtually all the most relevant papers have been included as annexes to the report. A very few documents have either not been published or not in full, on the ground of security or personal sensitivity. All these documents have been examined by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, lately the Master of St. John's college, Cambridge, who agreed to scrutinise the results of the review in order to ensure its objectivity and thoroughness. I draw the House's attention to his statement in the report, in which he vouches for the validity of the conclusions drawn from these documents. On the question of President Waldheim's alleged post-war involvement with foreign intelligence services and his election to the United Nations, I do not intend to break the practice of successive Governments by commenting on such matters but I commend detailed consideration of the report.

Research has concentrated on the main archives in this country, in Germany and America, but other archives were consulted, as well as individuals whose wartime service was of relevance or who had some other expertise to offer. Although it can never be said that any historic report is definitively the last word, I am satisfied that the investigation has produced, from the thousands of documents examined, what we believe to be the main relevant records. These have established a pattern showing the events, and the responsibilities of the German headquarters' officers involved in those events. We therefore feel justified in bringing this long exercise to a conclusion now, and publishing the results.

A factor in this decision has been the need to consider the feelings of the relatives of the missing service men. I very much regret that it has not been possible to resolve all the outstanding questions about what finally happened to the missing service men, although I should like to assure the House that any further information that may come to light will be passed on to the families.

Cornfield Circles

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any official assistance has been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of cornfield circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Archie Hamilton: I am not aware of any official assistance having been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of crop circles.

Defence Technology Enterprises Limited

Mr. Sillars: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many licences have been arranged by Defence Technology Enterprises Ltd.; and how many recipients are companies registered in Scotland.

Mr. Neubert: Defence Technology Enterprises Ltd. has arranged 38 licences. Two are with companies registered in Scotland.

answer on .....Tues...17.Oct... by ..... PQ No.

ft reply required by .....12.00.....FRI...13...OCT..... 6834E

Sec(AS)2

CTION DIVISION:

raft approved by	Signature or Initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to
[redacted]			
ecretary of State			Answer copied to:- As above plus: GS Sec
inister(AF)			
inister(DP)			
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S of S(DP)			

ype of Question:- First Order Oral (No .....); Non Priority Written; upplementary Questions are not required.

lease type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether any official assistance has been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of cornfield circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER

My department is not aware of any official assistance having been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of crop circles.

BACKGROUND NOTE PQ 6834E

1. There has been considerable media coverage recently of the phenomenon of "crop circles" and various suggestions have been put forward by groups, including the British UFO Research Association, and individuals as to the most likely origins. These suggestions range from UFO landings, to unusual meteorological effects and include the possibility that at least some of the circles are the work of hoaxers.

2. Enquiries have not revealed any official assistance from service personnel to those investigating the phenomenon. A Written Answer to Teddy Taylor MP on 11 July (copy attached) confirmed that the MoD is not carrying out its own enquiries and is satisfied that the circles are not the result of damage caused by service helicopter activity.

Helicopters

88. **Sir Michael McNair-Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what low-flying restrictions are imposed on service helicopters.

Mr. Neubert: The general regulations governing the use of the United Kingdom low flying system by fixed-wing aircraft apply also to rotary wing aircraft but with appropriate modifications to take account of their different capabilities.

Railgun

90. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will report on the progress of the Railgun project.

Mr. Sainsbury: I refer to the replies that I gave to the hon. Member for Clackmannan (Mr. O'Neil) on 28 June, column *456*.

Independent European Programme Group

92. **Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made through the Independent European Programme Group in achieving a more open defence market among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies.

Mr. Sainsbury: Significant progress is being made by the Independent European Programme Group towards the creation of an open European defence equipment market, based on measures set out in the action plan approved by Ministers at the Luxembourg meeting in November 1988. At their subsequent meeting in Lisbon on 28 June this year, Ministers reviewed the steps being taken to achieve the key objectives. The central feature of the open market is the dissemination to potential suppliers of information about bidding opportunities. To this end, Governments have now nominated one or more focal points to which companies in other Independent European Programme Group countries can register interest in bidding for defence contracts. Countries have also agreed to publish contracts bulletins by the turn of the year. The bulletins will be similar to those already issued by the United Kingdom and France. This more open market will bring benefits to all participating states. It will also be of considerable value to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as a whole by enhancing efficient procurement and thereby strengthening the European contribution to the Alliance. With this in mind the Independent European Programme Group will continue to discourage any protectionist tendencies on either side of the Atlantic. Another important initiative which complements the open market is the creation of a European technology plan—to be known as Euclid—which will foster co-operation in research among Independent European Programme Group nations. During its current chairmanship of the Independent European Programme Group, the United Kingdom's aim will be to ensure that the work of the group is taken forward effectively in the best interests of all the allies.

Toxic Waste

Dr. Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if, pursuant to his reply to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Mr. Flynn), *Official Report*, 19 June, column *60*, on toxic waste at Ministry of Defence premises, he will give the reason why it is not the practice to release details of such materials; and if he will consider revising his policy towards publication in line with the practice adopted by United States military facilities.

Mrs. Wise: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the basis for his policy not to disclose details of radioactive and toxic waste stored or disposed of at Ministry of Defence premises.

Mr. Sainsbury: Disclosure of such information could indicate the scale and nature of operations in certain programmes on which detailed revelation would not be in the national interest.

Fuel Containers (Devon)

Mr. Speller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances in which two 10ft x 2ft fuel containers were dropped at Stowford Cross in North Devon on Thursday 29 June; and what steps he is taking to prevent this happening in the future.

Mr. Neubert: The fuel containers in question were jettisoned by a Royal Navy Sea Harrier operating from the Royal Naval air station at Yeovilton, while the aircraft was on an air combat training exercise. The aircraft unintentionally went into a spin and the pilot, following the correct procedures, released the fuel tanks as part of his spin recovery action. The fuel tanks were empty at the time. A local investigation has established that the pilot was not in breach of any regulations.

To minimise the risk to the public, air combat training is carried out over the least populated areas available and always well away from towns and cities. It is also very rare for a Sea Harrier to enter into a spin in this way. The risk therefore of a repetition of this incident or of any consequent injury to persons on the ground is considered to be remote.

Cereal Fields

Mr. Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the inquiries initiated by Army helicopters based in the south-west in investigating the origin of flattened circular areas of wheat; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Neubert: The Ministry of Defence is not conducting any inquiries into the origins of flattened circular areas of crops. However, we are satisfied that they are not caused by service helicopter activity.

Service Children Education Authority

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children currently attend schools run by the service children education authority in *(a)* north-west Europe, *(b)* Gibraltar, *(c)* Hong Kong, *(d)* Cyprus and *(e)* elsewhere.

Mr. Neubert: Figures at summer term 1989:

	Number
North West Europe	23,880
Gibraltar	679
Hong Kong	1,610

12/6
ENCL. No. 81
E3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1754

2nd August 1989

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Virginia Bottomley, enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Contrary to the advice given by the House Library this subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all clarify the Ministry of Defence's involvement with the UFO phenomenon. As Section 40 [redacted] correctly mentions, our sole interest with the subject is to ensure that reported sightings do not present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom. However, I can not agree, with your constituent that such an interest indicates that the Department is therefore necessarily involved with the investigation of reported sightings. Indeed Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] may be assured that, unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen. As far as establishing whether or not a sighting can be considered to be a threat, we take a pragmatic view and determine whether there is any possibility that the report could have been related to an incoming intruder into UK air space such as a Soviet BEAR or BADGER aircraft.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope Section 40 [redacted] will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. As a rule, the only sightings that are positively identified are those which can be clearly attributed to a well known natural occurrence or those which are evidently the result of misidentification of RAF aircraft known to be operating at the time and in the location of the sighting.

Moving now to Section 40 [redacted] last point, I would like to confirm that like all Government departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. Although this does not allow for the release of material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. However, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after 5 years. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Neubert

Alan Meale Esq MP

ENCL. No. 80 E3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1763

2nd August 1989

Dear Stan,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to The Lord Brabazon of Tara enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Rotherham, on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). This subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope Section 40 [redacted] will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remains by definition, unidentified. Section 40 [redacted] may therefore be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

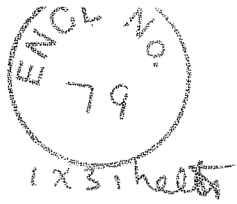
Moving now to Section 40 [redacted] points about the alleged UFO sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, I would like to confirm that the only information we have on this matter is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance and once again I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Neubert

Michael Neubert

Stan Crowther Esq MP



M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through [redacted]

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Stan Crowther's letter of 3 July 89.

2. The draft reply refutes the suggestion that the Department is in some way covering up or concealing the truth about UFOs and reiterates our view that the Rendlesham Forest "sighting" is of no defence significance.

28 July 1989

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2a
[redacted]

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1763

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to The Lord Brabazon of Tara enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). This subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope Section 40 [redacted] will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. Section 40 [redacted] may therefore be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

Moving now to Section 40 points about the alleged UFO sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, I would like to confirm that the only information we have on this matter is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance and once again I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attemting in any way to obscure the truth.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

M J N

Stan Crowther MP

ENCL No. 78

1 as sheet

file copy

M3

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Alan Meale's letter of 30 Jun 89.

2. Although Section 40 constituent has not corresponed with us directly is nevertheless clear that he has obtained a copy of one of our replies to the public through the UFO Society network.

3. The draft reply endeavours to answer his questions and concentrates on correcting Section 40 erroneous view that the Department involves itself with the investigation of UFOs.

24th July 1989

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1754

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Virginia Bottomley, enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Contrary to the advice given by the House Library this subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therfore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all clarify the Ministry of Defence's involvement with the UFO phenomenon. As Section 40 Section 40 correctly mentions our sole interest with the subject is to ensure that reported sightings do not present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom. However, I can not agree with your constituent that such an interest indicates that the Department is therfore necessarily involved with the investigation of reported sightings. Indeed Section 40 [redacted] may be assured that , unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen. As far as establishing whether or not a sighting can be considered to be a threat, we take a pragmatic view and determine whether there is any possibility that the report could have been related to an incoming intruder into UK air space such as a Soviet BEAR or BADGER aircraft.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope Section 40 will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. As a rule, the only sightings that are positively identified are those which can be clearly attributed to a well known natural occurrence or those which are evidently the result of misidentification of RAF aircraft known to be operating at the time and in the location of the sighting.

Moving now to Section 40 last point, I would like to confirm that like all Government departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. Although this does not allow for the release of material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. However, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after 5 years. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

M J N

Alan Meale MP

Sec AS-

1 & 4 sheets

77

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Section 40

My ref:

Your ref:

13 July 1989

Dear Mr Meale

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Mrs Bottomley enclosing one from Section 40 about UFOs.

This is a matter for which the Ministry of Defence has responsibility. I am therefore passing your letter to them for reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Private Secretary

Alan Meale Esq MP

This is 100% recycled paper

ALAN MEALE, MP

LABOUR

MANSFIELD

Tel: Section 40

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2 West Hill Way,
Mansfield,
Notts.
Tel: Section 40

30th June 1989

Rt Hon V. Bottomley MP
Dept. of the Environment
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Virginia,

I have been advised by the Library that you have recently taken on responsibility for UFOs, something I suspected would have been granted elsewhere. Recent questions I suspect.

I therefore enclose a copy of a detailed letter which I have received from a constituent on the matter.

I would therefore be grateful for your opinion on this.

Yours sincerely,

Alan

Alan Meale MP
House of Commoms
LONl
SWIA OAA

17 JUN 1989

Section 40 [redacted]

June I2 I989

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (U.F.O.s)

Dear Alan,

I am writing to ask if you can please obtain answers to the questions contained herein. Prior to these questions, I would like to bring your attention to the following comments made by the Ministry of Defence:-

I. The M.O.D. claim that their "sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the U.K. using judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information"

2. The M.O.D. also claim that they "cannot justify the use of Defence Funds on scientific research and investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the U.K. has been established".

3. It is also claimed by the M.O.D. that "our experience is that most sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of natural occurances such as satellite debris, meteorological balloons and aircraft lights to mention just a few".

4. The M.O.D. also claim that "like all Government Departments, their files are subject to the Public Records Act which, as you may know, states that official files generally remain closed from public view for 30 years after the last action has been taken".

5. The M.O.D. claim also that "the vast majority of information we have on the subject is limited to sighting reports we have received from the public and that this material is not classified".

After considering the above comments, I would like answers to the following questions:-

(a) The comments of "using military expertise" and the process to analise "available information" must obviously indicate the M.O.D. is involved with UFO investigation. What military expertise can be called upon whilst still justifiably using Defence Funds? What is the process used to analise the "available information", especially as it is not classified? — Many to establish that the sighting could not be considered to be a threat to UK

(b) The M.O.D. claim that MOST sightings they refer to can be adequately and rationally explained. What about the remainder of the sightings? we do not investigate ∴ by definition all sightings remain explained, except in those cases that we know were caused On average, statistics based upon civilian UFO investigation organisations records by UK indicate 95% of sightings can be identified. The remaining 5% still defy explanation.

The M.O.D. claim that between I978 and I988 they received 3960 UFO sighting reports. Applying the same percentages, and disregarding 95% as explainable cases, that still leaves I98 cases unidentified.

(c) Are "most sightings" referred to by the M.O.D. the 95%, whilst the 5% are the rest? ✗

(d) If so, what is the M.O.D.s explanation for the remainder of the sightings, after "most" have been identified and explained away? — we do not investigate

(e) As you are doubtless aware, during the I950s there were many thousands of UFO sightings worldwide. Many of these are on file at the various UFO organisations in the U.K. Undoubtably, the M.O.D. would have also received UFO sighting reports during these years.
Is it now possible, in I989, more than 30 years later, to open those files to public view, and if not, what legislation under the Public Records Act prevents this?

(f) If there is no legislation under the Act preventing them being seen, can an explanation be given as to why the files cannot now be seen?

Yes but regretfully files destroyed in 1960s

I hope that you will be able to obtain answers to my questions on this particularly intriguing subject. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

12/3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

ENCL No 76

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF) MJN 0412

25th April 1989

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April enclosing a letter about satellite debris from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Although there is little more that I can add to my letter of 28 February I think it would be useful if I reiterate that we have no knowledge of any satellite or spacecraft debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire, or indeed the British Isles as a whole, on the night of 21/22 December. We are, nevertheless, aware of approximately 9 re-entries of debris worldwide which occurred during the two day period in question but can reassure your constituent that it is highly likely that any debris which did not burn up during re-entry would have fallen into the sea.

An investigation beyond our usual monitoring is most unlikely to reveal anything more than we already know. Additionally, I am sure your constituent will understand that it is likely that any significant items of debris which may have landed would have been discovered by those in the locality and that a full scale search of the United Kingdom would not be practicable.

Section 40 [redacted] suggests that the Lockerbie disaster may have been caused by space debris hitting the aircraft. I can, however, assure him that, having had the opportunity to examine the disaster site, the Government have conclusive evidence that the Lockerbie air crash was caused by internal bomb damage.

I am sorry that I can not be more helpful.

Yours ever,
Michael

Michael Neubert

Edward Leigh Esq MP

Section 40

3/5 12/9

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

ENCL NO 75

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF) MJN 0809

19th April 1989

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March with the enclosed from your constituent Section 40 on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Section 40 letter covers a lot of ground and I will endeavour to answer his questions in order. Nevertheless, before I do so, I should say that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomenon.

Moreover, I am sure you will appreciate that we do not have the resources to undertake in depth studies and that we could not justify the use of Defence Funds on scientific investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified. This necessarily limits the amount of information we are able to provide.

Moving now however, to points raised in your constituent's letter, I regret that it would be impossible to establish the number of UFO sighting reports that the MOD has ever received but can give an idea of the number received over the last ten years. These figures are attached. As the MOD's involvement with the subject only extends to these sightings which may present a threat to the air defence of the UK, we do not have details of sightings witnessed outside of this country nor can we qualify how many reports could be considered to be misinterpretations or hoaxes. Nevertheless, our experience is that most sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of natural occurences such as satellite debris, meteorological balloons and aircraft lights to mention just a few.

The MOD does not possess any positive evidence to suggest that "alien" spacecraft have landed or crashed on the planet nor are we aware of any form of communication with extraterrestials. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to comment on the official US position with regard to UFOs.

Andrew Mitchell Esq MP

Your constituent is indeed correct to say that the department's Air Staff Secretariat, in addition to its other duties, act as our focal point for those members of the public who wish to correspond about UFOs. Reports are referred to the staffs responsible for the air defence of the UK who examine them as part of their normal duties.

I was interested to read the account of Section 40 [redacted] experiences on the night of 12 August 1983 but would like to confirm that we did not receive any reports which might have supported his story, and because no threat to national defence had been demonstrated, the MOD did not investigate the incident.

The only information we have on the usual display of lights witnessed at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt of the United States Air Force, which drew no firm conclusions and, significantly, did not recommend further investigation. Our own view corresponded with this and we are satisfied that the events described were of no defence significance.

Section 40 [redacted] last question asks about the possible release of information on UFOs in order that any public concern can be dispelled. Firstly, and as I mentioned earlier, I must stress that the vast majority of information we have on the subject is limited to sighting reports that we have received from the pubic and that this material is unclassified. The second point I would like to make is that, like all Government Departments, MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act which, as you may know, states that official files generally remain closed from pubic view for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Obviously, this does not allow the MOD to release material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, although we will be happy to try to anwser any specific queries individuals may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can advise whether we have received a report on the incident and if so what it contains.

Lastly, I can assure your constituent that the MOD is not trying in any way whatsoever to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public nor do we attempt to cover up any incident.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Neubert

NUMBER OF UFO SIGHTING REPORTS RECEIVED BY MOD OVER PERIOD 1978-1988

1978	750
1979	550
1980	350
1981	600
1982	250
1983	390
1984	215
1985	180
1986	120
1987	155
1988	400

ENCL No. 74

M4

APS/USofS(AF)
through Section 40

lib copy 12/4

1. I attach at E6 a fairly straightforward draft reply to Edward Leigh's letter of 4 April 1989.

2. There is little that we can add to the Minister's letter of 28 February, and as such our draft concentrates mainly on restating our earlier points. Given the lack of any conclusive evidence of satellite debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire and the findings of the agencies involved with establishing the cause of the Lockerbie disaster, we do not believe that an investigation into re-entering satellite debris is necessary nor warranted.

3. The draft has been cleared with the Department of Transport.

17 April 1989

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

original 12/4

File copy

D|US of S(AF) MJN 412 April 1989

1 of 2 pages

ENCL No. 73

Thank you for your letter of 4 April enclosing a letter about satellite debris from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Although there is little more that I can add to my letter of 28 February I think it would be useful if I reiterate that we have no knowledge of any satellite or spacecraft debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire, or indeed the British Isles as a whole, on the night of 21/22 December. We are, nevertheless, aware of approximately 9 re-entries of debris world wide which occurred during the two day period in question but can reassure your constituent that it is highly likely that any debris which did not burn up during re-entry would have fallen into the sea.

I should say that an investigation beyond our usual monitoring is most unlikely to reveal anything more than we already know. Additionally, I am sure your constituent will understand that it is likely that any significant items of debris which may have landed would have been discovered by those in the locality and that a full scale search of the United Kingdom would not be practicable.

Section 40 [redacted] suggests that the Lockerbie disaster may have been caused by space debris hitting the aircraft. I can, however,

assure him that, having had the opportunity to examine the disaster site, the Government have conclusive evidence that the Lockerbie air crash was caused by internal bomb damage. On a more general note, Section 40 may also be interested to know that we have been advised by the Department of Transport that the chances of an aircraft being hit by a particle of space debris is assessed as being once in every eight hundred years.

I am sorry that I can not be more helpful.

Edward Leigh Esq MP

Michael Neubert

EDWARD LEIGH, M.P.

E5.

Sec AS2a - PE
With PPS

ENCL No. 72

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Section 40
[redacted]

Mr Michael Neubert
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
SW1

4 April 1989

Dear Michael,

I am sorry but there is a follow-on letter from Section 40
Section 40
[redacted]

If your office think this claim is rubbish it would be better to say so.

Thank you for your courtesy in sending such a long detailed letter in response to my earlier letter about him.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Leigh

ackd 7/4/89

ENCL No. 71

Section 40 [redacted]

1st April 1989.

Dear Mr Leigh,

Thank you for your letter dated 14th March 1989, with the enclosed letter from Michael Neubert MP.

I appreciate the trouble you have gone to and I agree with you that Mr Neubert's letter was most interesting, particularly his reference's to the Cosmos 1900 and the re entry of the satellite of the 21/22 December 1988.

His reference to ~~one~~ one aspect of the Cosmos 1900 seems to conflict with other information I have in my possession .

Regarding his confirmation that a satellite did actually re enter on the 21/22 December 1988 (although he refers to it landing in Russia) leads me to ask you Mr Leigh to request that Mr Neubert carry out an investigation into space debris re entering the earths atmosphere over Britain for the period of the 21/22 December 1988 because I have personal evidence and other strong evidence that a large amount of space debris could have re entered the atmosphere spread over a large area of Britain during this period (ion include Lincolnshire).

I repeat, as I did in your office that I believe strongly that this could hold an important question over the Lockerbie disaster and that I believe the said plane could have been hit by space debris and an investigation would prove valuable either way.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Mr Edward Leigh MP.,
House Of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA.

12/4

File Note

[redacted]

18/4

Pls appr re 800 yrs.

Ja

[redacted]

J,

We quote. 800 yrs was deleted. May I have your initials pse?

[redacted]

8/4

D1/1

2/4

ENCL NO. 69

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through J S Wright

hide copy

1. I attach at E2 a draft response to Andrew Mitchell's letter of 20 March.

2. Given the MP's understanding that Section 40 has an academic interest in the subject of UFOs, we have endeavoured to answer his questions comprehensively. Consequently the draft reply is rather longer than usual. Nevertheless the majority of questions posed by the constituent are fairly straightforward and have largely been covered before in correspondence with the public. Those which we have not answered are, as far as we are aware, unanswerable; certainly we do not have the information to answer them and any answers would only be speculative.

12 Apr 89

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

D1/1

ENCL No 68

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/MJN 809 April 1989 (1 of 4 PAGES)

Thank you for your letter of 20 March with the enclosed from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Section 40 [redacted] letter covers a lot of ground and I will endeavour to answer his questions in the order received. Nevertheless, before I do so, I should say that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomenon. Moreover, I am sure you will appreciate that we do not have the resources to undertake in depth studies and that we could not justify the use of Defence Funds on scientific investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified. This necessarily limits the amount of information we are able to provide.

Moving now,however, to points raised in your constituent's letter, I regret that it would be impossible to establish the number of UFO sighting reports that the MOD has ever received but can give an idea of the number received over the last ten years. These figures are attached. As the MOD's involvement with the subject only extends to these sightings which may present a threat to the air defence of the UK, we do not have details of sightings witnessed outside of this country nor can we quantify how many reports could be considered to be misinterpretations or hoaxes. Nevertheless, our experience is that most sightings can be adequately and

rationally explained in terms of natural occurrences such as satellite debris, meteorological balloons and aircraft lights to mention just a few.

The MOD does not possess any positive evidence to suggest that "alien" spacecraft have landed or crashed on the planet nor are we aware of any form of communication with extraterrestials. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to comment on the official US position with regard to UFOs.

Your constituent is indeed correct to say that the department's Air Staff Secretariat, in addition to its other duties, acts as our focal point for those members of the public who wish to correspond about UFOs. Reports are referred to the staffs responsible for the air defence of the UK who examine them as part of their normal duties.

I was interested to read the account of Section 40 [redacted] experiences on the night of 12 August 1983 but would like to confirm that we did not receive any reports which might have supported his story, and because no threat to national defence had been demonstrated, the MOD did not investigate the incident.

The only information we have on the unusual display of lights witnessed at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt of the United States Air Force, which drew no firm conclusions and, signficantly, did not recommend further investigation. Our own view corresponded with this and we are satisfied that the events described were of no defence significance.

Section 40 [redacted] last question asks about the possible release of information on UFOs in order that any public concern can be dispelled. Firstly, and as I mentioned earlier, I must stress that the vast majority of information we have as the subject is limited to sighting reports that we have received from the public and that this material is unclassified. The second point I would like to make is that, like all Government Departments, MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act which, as you may know, states that official files generally remain closed from public view for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Obviously, this does not allow the MOD to release material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, although we will be happy to try to answer any specific queries individuals may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can advise whether we have received a report on the incident and if so what it contains.

Lastly, I can assure your constituent that the MOD is not trying in any way whatsoever to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public nor do we attempt to cover up any incident.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Michael Neubert

Andrew Mitchell Esq MP

D1/1a

NUMBER OF UFO SIGHTING REPORTS RECEIVED BY MOD OVER PERIOD 1978-1988

1978	750
1979	550
1980	350
1981	600
1982	250
1983	390
1984	215
1985	180
1986	120
1987	155
1988	400

ANDREW MITCHELL, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ENCL 1
Sec (A)
PIECE NO. 1967

20 March 1989

Section 40

One for you

Dear Michael,

I enclose an interesting letter, together with its enclosures, from my constituent, Section 40, on the subject of UFO's.

I should be most grateful if you would let me have a response, which I could pass on to Section 40 in respect of the specific questions raised in his letter.

I understand my constituent to have an academic interest in these matters; his letter has no direct connection with the proximity of April 1st!

Yours ever,

Andrew

Michael Neubert Esq MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1 2HB

acknowledged 20/3/89

Telephone Section 40 Secretary Section 40
Constituency Office Nottingham

ENCL No 66

(1 of 2 PAGES)

Section 40 [redacted]

Andrew Mitchell,MP
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

10th March 1989

Dear Andrew,

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (U.F.O's)

Thanks for your letter,dated 7th March 89,regarding the advice session in Arnold Library on Saturday 4th March 1989 . I am writing to ask if you can obtain answers to the following questions , please :-

1. How many U.F.O's have been seen :- a. in this country?
b. throughout the World?

2. What percentage of those reported can be explained as misidentifications , hoaxes , hallucinations or delusions?

3. Of those remaining , which cannot be included in the above,are there some which are beyond our comprehension with our current scientific and technological knowledge?

4. Have any unidentified craft crashed in this country or elsewhere in the World? If so , were the craft and any occupants recovered for examination? Please see the enclosed photocopies of released American documents concerning the alledged recovery of alien bodies and the wreckage of their disc-shaped craft from near Roswell Army Air Base in New Mexico during July 1947.

5. Do we have any idea why U.F.O's visit our World and do we think that they will be friendly towards us when greater contact is made?

6. Has any contact been made with extraterrestrials either by means of remote radio communication (or other similar method) or by close encounter at a meeting with representatives from our planet?

7. Is there a department within the Ministry of Defence ie " Air Staff 2" which studies the most interesting / promising sitings of U.F.O's?

8. Have any U.F.O's been tracked on radar and if so do we have any estimates of the speeds attained within our atmosphere?

9. One of the most impressive alledged close encounters was that experienced by Section 40 in the early hours of 12th August 1983,beside the Basingstoke Canal,in Aldershot,Hampshire.Section 40 claimed to have been led,along the tow path,from his fishing site by the "forms" and taken to their craft which he described externally and internally.Luckily for Section 40perhaps,he was told by the "forms" that he was too old and infirm for their purpose - whatever that might have been! Please see the enclosed photocopies of that account. Was this case investigated by the authorities and if so what conclusions were reached?

10. What is the true story concerning the alledged landing of a U.F.O in Rendlesham forest, just outside the perimeter of RAF/USAF Woodbridge,near Ipswich,Suffolk on the 27th December 1980?

11. Is Britain likely to introduce a Freedom of Information Act,as the Americans have done?

12. Will some information on U.F.O's be released to the public soon? This would,I am sure,confirm what a lot of people have suspected is happening in recent years - even if those people "in the Know" don't yet have all the answers regarding the phenomenon.

13. Do we know about,or have any ideas on,the nature of the propulsion system(s) used by the U.F.O's?

14. Do we know from which planet(s),the extraterrestrials,might be from or how they manage to travel such vast distances so quickly?

15. Despite any apparent cover-up/debunking of information on the subject of U.F.O's,sitings still occur.The phenomena refuses to give up despite the doubters! Too many intelligent people with highly responsible jobs report incidents that defy explanation by the experts.They do this despite the embarassment or worse that they will suffer as a result of their reports.Would it be possible for the information gathered on U.F.O's to be released gradually so that the public is better educated on this topic and is therefore more able to adapt?

I thoroughly recommend the book "Above Top Secret - The Worldwide U.F.O Cover-Up" by Timothy Good which was published by Sidgwick and Jackson Limited in 1987.

I hope that you will be able to answer my questions on this very intriguing subject.Thanks,in anticipation,

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

3 ENCLOSURES)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

12/2 ENCL. NO. 365

D/US of S(AF)MJN 0765

22 March 1989

Dear John.

Thank you for your letter of 27 February to George Younger, enclosing a letter from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

First of all, I should say that the Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time.

The Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom, using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomena, nor could we justify the use of defence resources for this purpose, although the reports that we receive are referred to the appropriate staff, including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

It is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been and are being observed in the sky, although we believe that natural phenomena such as ball lightning, satellite debris, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, or many others may explain many such incidents.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever
Michael

Michael Neubert

Sir John Stradling Thomas MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho[redacted] (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

ENCL NO. 64

(1 of 2 PAGES)

D/US of S(AF)MJN 0412

28th February 1989

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letters of 9 and 15 February which were prompted by an approach by your constituent [redacted] saying that a Russian satellite descended over Lincolnshire on the night of 21/22 December 1988. Your later letter mentioned that he believed the incident was associated with the satellite Cosmos 1900.

Taking the subject generally, I think your constituent may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbiting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling inexorably back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of "space junk" and of these 6 or 7 re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

More specifically, your constituent asked if the sighting he witnessed could have been Cosmos 1900. However, although I can confirm that this particular Russian Ocean Reconnaissance satellite did return to earth recently, I fear that your constituent has his dates muddled as COSMOS 1900 broke up and re-entered the atmosphere on 1 October last year. As you may know, this particular re-entry gave rise to considerable media interest worldwide, mainly because its ultimate fate was uncertain. In the event, the satellite's debris burnt up without incident over the Indian Ocean, although, in common with many other parts of the World, the debris passed over the United Kingdom during its final orbits. No articles of debris were known to have survived re-entry.

Nevertheless, as far as the night of 21/22 December is concerned, I would like to assure [redacted] that although a Russian satellite did re-enter the atmosphere, we know this to have landed in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, as far as we are aware no satellite debris, Russian or otherwise came down over Lincolnshire, or indeed the Western Hemisphere at that time although it is possible your constituent may have witnessed the tell-tale bright light associated with the re-entering satellite as it crossed the

Edward Leigh Esq MP

night sky. Alternatively he may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

I hope that you and your constituent will find this helpful.

Yours ever,

Michael Neubert

D6/11

12/4

ENCL No. 63

M2

hite copy

APS/Minister(AF)
through Section 40

I attach at E2 a fairly straightforward draft response to Sir John Stradling Thomas' letter of 27 February 1989. However, you may wish to be aware that US of S(AF) usually answers letters concerning this particular topic and as such it might be more appropriate to pass it to his office for signature.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

Section 40 1989

D6/11

DRAFT

ENCL No. 62

(1 of 2 PAGES)

D/Min(AF)69/89 March 1989

Thank you for your letter of 27 February to George Younger enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). As this subject falls within my area of responsibility, I have been asked to reply.

First of all I think it would be helpful to say that the Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time.

I feel it would also be beneficial if I explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom, using our judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available to us. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomena, nor could we justify the use of defence resources for this purpose. Instead, such reports as we receive, are referred to appropriate staff including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

Nevertheless it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been and are being observed in the sky, although we believe that natural phenomena such as ball lightning, satellite debris as well as meteorological balloons, aircraft lights amongst many others may explain many such incidents.

I hope that your constituent will find this helpful.

Rt Hon Sir John Stradling Thomas MP

SIR JOHN STRADLING THOMAS, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 Mar 89
Minister (AF)

ENCL No 61

27th February 1989

Dear George,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent Section 40 [redacted]

I should be most grateful for your response to the second question posed by Section 40 [redacted].

Yours ever

John.

The Rt Hon George Younger TD MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall SW1 2HB

22ND FEB 1989

Section 40 [redacted]

F.A.O. RT HON JOHN STRADLING THOMAS MP.

DEAR SIR,

Can You please advise me on a few queries 9 have:

(A) With all these I.R.A murder attempts etc etc etc, we all Know that the likes of Gerry Adams and Martin Mguim are their leaders and advise and plan all these atrocities etc – Why aren't they arrested! Why isn't the Goverments Security forces acting unless this is acted on it will never, never die down.

(B) Please enquire with Your fellow Members in the M.O.D. and please Confirm that the M.O.D. as a U.F.O. dept and investigates Sightings and reports to high Security as and when Neccessary.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

D5/37

ENCL No. 59

hide copy

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40

I attach at E2 a fairly straightforward draft response to Edward Leigh's letter of 9 and 15 February 1989.

Section 40

27 Feb 89

Sec(AS)2
Section 40

D5/37

ENCL No. 58

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)MJN 412 February 1989 (1 OF 2 PAGES)

Thank you for your letter of 9 and 15 February which were prompted by an approach by your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] saying that a Russian satellite descended over Lincolnshire on the night of 21/22 December 1988. Your later letter mentioned that he believed the incident was associated with the satellite Cosmos 1900.

Taking the subject generally, I think your constituent may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbitting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling inexorably back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of "space junk" and of these 6 or 7 re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

More specifically, your constituent asked if the sighting he witnessed could have been Cosmos 1900. However, although I can confirm that this particular Russian Ocean Reconnaissance satellite did return to earth recently, I fear that your constituent has his dates muddled as COSMOS 1900 broke up and re-entered the atmosphere on 1 October last year. As you may know, this particular re-entry gave rise to considerable media interest worldwide, mainly because its ultimate fate was uncertain. In the event, the satellite's debris burnt up without incident over the Indian Ocean, although, in common with many other parts of the World, the debris passed over the United Kingdom during its final orbits. No articles of debris were known to have survived re-entry.

Nevertheless, as far as the night of 21/22 December is concerned, I would like to assure Section 40 that although a Russian satellite did re-enter the atmosphere, we know this to have landed in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, as far as we are aware no satellite debris, Russian or otherwise came down over Lincolnshire, or indeed the Western Hemisphere at that time although it is possible your constituent may have witnessed the tell-tale bright light associated with the re-entering satellite as it crossed the night sky. Alternatively he may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

I hope that you and your constituent will find this helpful.

Michael Neubert

Edward Leigh Esq MP

EDWARD LEIGH, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ENCL No. S7

Michael Neubert Esq MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

Section 40

15 February 1989

Dear Michael,

Further to my letter of 9 February concerning [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], who visited me at my surgery and told me that a Russian Satellite had come down over Lincolnshire! He has this week telephoned my secretary with further information. He told her that the space debris was cosmos 1900 -'nuclear device'. He wants to know where it came down and when it separated from the 1900 and where it is now!

My secretary asked him whether other people had commented on this - he said "I am not wasting Mr Leigh's time - other people know of this".

I have to pass this on to you as he telephoned especially from Lincolnshire to inform me.

Yours sincerely,

Edward

Edward Leigh

EDWARD LEIGH, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ENCL No. 56

ENCL No. 1

Michael Neubert Esq MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

9 February 1989

Dear Michael

I have to write this letter to you! I can assure you it seems most strange to do so!

A constituent Section 40 Section 40 near Market Rasen visited me at my surgery last Saturday. He claims that on the night of 21/22 December a Russian Satellite came down over Lincolnshire. Can you comment please.

Yours

Edward

Edward Leigh

Section 40 Section 40 He claims that he saw 'bits falling'.

Acrd 15/2/89

12/3

ENCL No 55

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)17/6/1

18 November 1988

Section 40 21/11 22/11

APS/Minister(AF)

Copy to: APS/S of S
SO/ACAS
D Air Off
DPR(RAF)
Head of Sec(NATO/UK)(C)
Sec(AS)2
SRAFLO - RAF Mildenhall
Section 40

PQs FROM MR TEDDY TAYLOR MP

1. Mr Taylor's questions seem to relate to the recent media speculation that the USAF "Stealth" aircraft has been exercised in the UK (see Annex A). In fact, the F-117A has not flown outside the United States. Any USAF plan to deploy this aircraft to the UK would most certainly have to be cleared with MOD Ministers. (This has been confirmed by the US Embassy and by HQ 3AF.)

2. The draft reply at Annex B is self-explanatory.

Section 40

Sec(AS)1

Section 40

THE INDEPENDENT

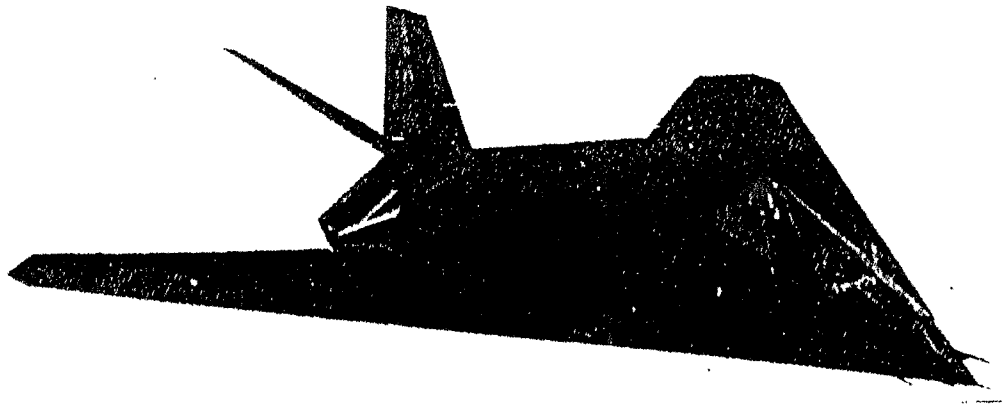
RAF pilot flies Stealth fighter at Nevada base

From Marc Champion
in Washington

THE US Air Force has acknowledged that dozens of Stealth fighter aircraft, whose existence was top secret until now, have been operating since 1983, and that a British pilot is attached to the squadron which flies them.

In a terse statement, the Air Force said it had chosen to lift the veil of secrecy which has surrounded the fighters, so that they can be stretched to their full potential in daytime flight exercises. Although they have flown regularly from the Nellis Air Force base in Nevada, the nominally classified aircraft have operated only at night.

The aircraft have been an open secret for several years. There were reports that one had been sighted in 1986 at the RAF Lossiemouth base in Scotland. A US Air Force spokesman, Major Pat Melaney, declined to comment on whether the Stealth fighter has made test flights to Britain, but he confirmed that an RAF pilot is attached, as part of an exchange programme, to the 450th squadron in Nevada where the aircraft is deployed, and that he does fly the aircraft.



The first photograph of the hitherto secret Stealth fighter, released by the Pentagon this week.

Manufactured by the Lockheed Corporation in California, the twin-engined Stealth fighter, officially named the F-117A, uses similar technology to the B-2 Stealth bomber, to be unveiled later this month. Both are made from a collection of substances known as RAM (Radar Absorbent Materials), and are designed to penetrate enemy defences undetected by radar. US aviation experts speculate that the F-117A is a relatively slow attack plane, which would be used to strike strategic command posts by hugging the ground and evading detection until it was too late to retaliate.

Stealth fighters have crashed twice — in July 1986 and October 1987. Both times the Air Force was forced to acknowledge the accidents, but refused to confirm the existence of a Stealth fighter.

The programme to build the aircraft began in 1978, during President Carter's administration, and has cost $7bn so far. The Air Force has ordered 59 F-117A's — 52 in operation and seven more under construction. Workers at the construction plant in California have filed suit against the Lockheed Corporation, claiming to have suffered from unexplained health problems, including cancer, which they attribute to the aircraft's unusual materials.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1

ANNEX A
ENCL NO 574
(1 OF 2 PAGES)

12

Daily Mail

Stealth bomber to be based in Britain

From WILLIAM LOWTHER in Washington

THE Pentagon's secret new fighter bomber is to be based in Britain.

Up to 30 of the Stealth planes are ultimately expected at U.S. bases here.

Defence sources in Washington believe one may be housed in this country already.

At least four have been flown over remote areas of Britain at night. It is understood that they were dismantled and shipped in crates to avoid detection by Soviet spy satellites.

A senior RAF pilot is currently assigned to the U.S. Air Force squadron flying the fighters from a remote desert base in Nevada.

Targets

Military analysts said last night the only reason for involving Britain so closely in the most clandestine of Pentagon projects was that the plane is destined to use this country as its take-off point for Soviet targets in time of war.

The Stealth first flew in 1981 and has been ready for combat since 1983 but the Pentagon has kept it so secret that a first photograph was released only this week.

Although called a fighter, the Stealth is primarily a strike plane that uses highly classified technologies that make it invisible to all detection devices.

Its job is to penetrate enemy territory and destroy selected important targets, such as command posts.

Officially known as the F117a, the Stealth is a slow-flying single-seater capable of manoeuvres at low altitude.

Some 52 of the angular, black planes are in operation and seven more will be completed by the Lockheed Corporation in the next few months.

EXPRESS

NEWSLINE

Soldier in IRA terror attack shot by mates

AN off-duty soldier who ran out of his base to help a patrol under IRA attack was shot by his comrades, it was disclosed yesterday.

The 23-year-old soldier was in plain clothes when he went out with his rifle to tackle IRA terrorists attacking his base in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

He was mistaken for a sniper firing on the Rosemont army base from the Creggan part of the city.

The soldier, who has not been named, was hit twice by a quick-response Army unit and needed emergency operation.

A joint police and Army statement said: "The soldier reacted with initiative and courage by taking his weapon and going out into the Creggan Road after a number of high-velocity rounds had been fired at the base."

THE INDEPENDENT

Soldier is shot by Army

A soldier injured during an IRA attack in Londonderry on Thursday night was hit by shots fired by another soldier, the RUC said yesterday. He was seriously ill last night.

Police said the 28-year-old soldier was off duty when a number of high-velocity shots were fired at the Rosemount RUC-Army base, which stands between the Bogside and Creggan housing estates. He took a gun to investigate the source of the shots.

He was hit twice by shots fired by an army patrol which believed it was firing on the IRA. Police denied a claim that the injured soldier had been shot by the IRA.

■ A university student from West Belfast became the 22nd person to be charged in connection with the murders of two army corporals at an IRA funeral last March. Paul Magee, 24, from Tullagh Park, Andersonstown, was remanded in custody.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Patrol shoots soldier

An off-duty British soldier was seriously injured in Northern Ireland after an army patrol mistook him for an IRA gunman and shot him.

The Guardian

Soldiers shoot officer

An off-duty officer was shot and seriously wounded by fellow soldiers in a British Army patrol yesterday after they mistook him for a gunman whom they had both been pursuing.

THE Sun

Pals shoot squaddie

A YOUNG British soldier was seriously ill last night after comrades mistook him for an IRA terrorist and shot him **TWICE.**

The accident happened during a shootout between troops and terrorist snipers who were attacking a Londonderry police station.

ANNEX B



DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO T TAYLOR ESQ MP

You tabled the attached Parliamentary Questions to the Secretaries of State for Transport and the Environment. As these both seem to relate to matters which are covered by the Ministry of Defence, I have agreed to answer them.

Taking first your question about "streak" aircraft, I assume that you are referring to the United States Air Force F-117A "Stealth" aircraft, which has been the subject of much media speculation. I can assure you that this aircraft has not flown in the United Kingdom. Should the US authorities wish to deploy the F-117A to this country in future, a request for approval would be submitted to MOD Ministers in the usual way.

Turning now to your second question, during the past four weeks 9 reports have been received from witnesses in the South East of England about flying objects emitting blue lighting, 4 suggesting a particularly bright blue light. Reports referring to blue lights are not uncommon. Indeed, in certain meteorological conditions the bright white - sometimes strobe - anti-collision lights on civil aircraft often appear blue on refraction. We have no reason to suspect that these reports indicate anything which could be considered a threat to national security. In view of this no specific investigations to identify

the source of the various reports have been initiated, and none are considered necessary.

I hope that this is helpful.

Section 40 Info

The final draft was sent by (1 or 2 pages)

INCOMING No. 52

input to draft reply from Minister (AF) to Teddy Taylor MP

You also asked what reports my department received from the South East about flying objects ing strong blue lighting. I should explain, of all, that our interest in unidentified ing objects is to determine whether or not they ent a threat to the security and defence of United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they , and this is not usually the case, we not attempt to investigate or identify whatever t have been seen.

During the four week period from 18 October to November we received nine UFO reports from witnesses ns locations in the South East which mentioned blue or blue/white s. Reports of flying objects emitting bright blue white lights are however not unusual are not confined to the South East of land. One explanation for the phenomenon is the reflection of bright white light from the anti-collision lamps on aircraft. Under rain meteorological conditions this reflection occurs s the blue wavelength and can cause white to appear blue to observers. [I regret however, I have no definite information as to the origins the objects reported but can confirm that no ilitary aircraft were operating in the vicinity of the witnesses at the ed on various dates times in question.]

Section 40

enquired whether we would be
a position to make an input to the
reply to Teddy Taylor later today. I
indicated that we would.

I have spoken to CAA and DISS
ning possible explanations for blue lights and
e the most probable to be aircraft anti-
ision strobe lights which can appear blue
ough refraction effects.

I have yet to receive any advice from
e Manor regarding a/c operations in the
ity of our nine reported sightings. However,
ief to this confirming the presence of
itary aircraft or confirming that no
itary aircraft were operating at the times
question, I believe we should offer a
dard line on the possible explanation for the
hings. If no military aircraft were operating
en the sightings were made perhaps we can
ay so.

I stand ready to discuss further
n from the ECO meeting on the Soviet visit

Section 40

K/11

Ministry of Defence
DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF
DIRECTORATE GENERAL of SCIENTIFIC
& TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE
METROPOLE BUILDING LONDON WC2N 5BL

DI55c1

Memorandum

ENCL NO. 51

From Section 40

Tel

Our ref

To Section 40
SEC(AS)2

Date 15 NOV 88

Your ref TELECON

Dear Section 40

I hope you manage to sort this lot out.

Don't forget 99 means unknown

Best of luck

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec. (AS)2
16 NOV 1988
FILE

Talk to DI55

1. — are reports of Blue Lights usual?

2. Any views on the reports from the past few weeks?

3. A/C Lighting patterns — do blue/white lights feature?

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

1. copy immediate to D Air Off Sec(AS) 2

ENCL No 50

Section 40 [redacted]

2. return to Section 40 [redacted] 16/11

Section 40 [redacted] 16/11

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] spoke to Section 40 about X below. We have called for a record of reports for the past 4 weeks. We should be able to give a factual answer on the number of reports received and offer the usual line on the question of "origins".

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MIN(AF)/AH/1/1

15 Nov 88

Head of Sec(AS)

Copy to:
APS/SofS

PQs FROM MR TEDDY TAYLOR ABOUT US STEALTH AIRCRAFT

Section 40 [redacted] 16/11

1. We spoke about two Parliamentary Questions which Mr Teddy Taylor has tabled. You kindly agreed to take them on.

2. I attach a copy of the one he originally tabled for the DTp. We agreed that he probably meant "Stealth" rather than "streak". The other question, to which the DoE have given a holding answer but which will be transferred to us, is as follows:

> "What reports he has received within the past four weeks from the South East about flying objects omitting strong blue lighting; and if he has any information on the origins of the objects".

Reply to 15 Nov 88 X

3. These questions will have to be answered in a letter to Mr Taylor and, in order to fit in with the Minister's travel arrangements, I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft by 1500 on Friday, 18 November. Please let me know if there is any difficulty in meeting this deadline.

Section 40 [redacted]

APS/Minister(AF)
Section 40 [redacted]

[illegible] 1946



TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1988

MR TEDDY TAYLOR (CONSERVATIVE)(SOUTHEND EAST)

111 Mr Taylor — To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make a statement on the routes covered by the experimental United States Streak aircraft in the United Kingdom in recent weeks; and if any of these involved journeys over the South East of England

A N S W E R

(Mr Archie Hamilton)

I have been asked to reply.

I shall write to my hon Friend

Ministry of Defence

15 November 1988

ENCL No 48

Since 1st October - 9 reports received which refer to presence of blue light.

Four of these were over the period 26/27 October in Aylesford, Biddenden, West Hampstead and Wickford.

Two of these occured on 14 October at Seaford and Lavender.

Two of these occured on 19 October and were clearly the same event.

Blue lights are not an unusual phenomenon to be observed in connection with UFOs. They are viewed fairly regularly.

Main reason for blue light being observed is reflection of bright, white landing lights, (strobes) across blue wavelength in certain meteorlogical conditions.

Reports around 26/27 October may relate to events especially the two from Aylesford which relate to a travelling object like a star or flare.

Similarly the Biddenden sighting was of an object going to earth.

1/10 – passed date.

9 reports of blue light
42 reports in total.

ENCL NO. 47

Record#	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	DURATION	PROFESSION	*
* 446	A127 SOUTHEND	14/11/88	0515	20.00	BRIT AEROSPACE	– one steady light
432	AYLESFORD	27/10/88	2306	0.00	UNKNOWN	– bright blue white flame
438	AYLESFORD	27/10/88	2306	0.02	UNKNOWN	– v bright blue/white flame
440	BEDDENDEN KENT	23/10/88	1950	5.00	UNKNOWN	
433	BIDDENDEN	23/10/88	1950	2.00	UNKNOWN	
* 439	BIDDENDEN	28/10/88	0505	0.00	LORRYDRIVER	– Bluish light bright ball
450	BISHOPBRIGGS	01/11/88	0400	5.00	UNKNOWN	
415	CILIAU AERON	21/10/88	1900	0.02	UNKNOWN	
412	DUNSTABLE	19/10/88	1930	0.00	UNKNOWN	– Wind blue/green very
428	DUNSTABLE	19/10/88	1930	0.03	UNKNOWN	– " " " "
451	EAST GRINSTEAD	31/10/88	2235	5.00	POLICE SGT	
423	GLASGOW	01/11/88	0400	5.00	UNKNOWN	
447	HANWORTH	12/11/88	2105	0.06	UNKNOWN	
* 416	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	27/10/88	0345	0.05	UNKNOWN	– Blue oblong object
424	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	29/10/88	0304	1.00	UNKNOWN	
435	HULL	02/11/88	1405	4.00	UNKNOWN	
442	HULL	02/11/88	1405	4.00	UNKNOWN	
405	ISLE OF MAN	01/10/88	0614	3.00	UNKNOWN	
419	ISLEWORTH	27/10/88	1745	75.00	UNKNOWN	
* 445	LEAVESDEN	14/11/88	0045	1.00		– Kite shaped, blue
429	LEICESTER	24/10/88	2155	63.00	UNKNOWN	
421	LONDON	27/10/88	0345	0.05	S/LDR RAF	
434	LONDON	29/10/88	1845	15.00	ASTROLOGY	
431	MARGATE	29/10/88	2300	0.00	UNKNOWN	
441	MARGATE	29/10/88	2300	4.00	UNKNOWN	
414	MOGGERHANGER	25/10/88	1150	3.00	UNKNOWN	
422	NEATH	01/11/88	1730	5.00	UNKNOWN	
436	NEATH	01/11/88	1730	5.00	UNKNOWN	
449	NEW CROSS	10/11/88	1730	5.00	UNKNOWN	
448	PETWORTH	13/11/88	1810	0.00	UNKNOWN	
413	RAMSGATE	19/10/88	2355	0.00	UNKNOWN	
418	RAMSGATE KENT	27/10/88	0345	0.00	POLICE SERGEANT	
444	READING	04/11/88	1920	15.00	UNKNOWN	
426	READING	30/10/88	1740	40.00	UNKNOWN	
427	READING	30/10/88	1645	240.00	UNKNOWN	
443	READING	30/10/88	1915	75.00	UNKNOWN	
425	SALISBURY	01/11/88	2017	0.20	UNKNOWN	
437	SHEWSBURY	31/10/88	2000	60.00	UNKNOWN	
410	SLOUGH	06/10/88	2315	0.06	SECURITY GUARD	
417	WICKFORD	26/10/88	1815	0.00	UNKNOWN	One, big, blue light
420	WIMSLOW	27/10/88	1730	2.00	UNKNOWN	
430	WORTHING	29/10/88	1900	0.30	UNKNOWN	

MATO asked for any reports of military a/c operations

446, 445 } both on 14/11 different locations

432, 438, 416, 417 } on 26/27/28/10 different locations

424, 428 } both on 19/10 same location

Section 40

ENCL No. 46

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 ..... (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

(1 of 2 PAGES)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278

19th September 1988

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letters of 15 June and 4 July on behalf of a number of your constituents, about unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

As you may know, the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), usually in the form of brief reports of the sightings which have been passed onto us by those individuals who witnessed them. Our sole concern is then to establish whether or not the sightings present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, we do not usually attempt any further investigation.

As far as the 16 May sightings are concerned, I can confirm that we received a number of reports from members of the public, which appear to correspond roughly with the details given by your constituents and I enclose copies of these, which your constituents may find of interest. In order to maintain the privacy of the report originators, you will see that some details have been obscured.

Although as I have said above, we do not normally find it necessary to investigate specific sightings, and could not justify the use of scarce MOD resources to this end, I am advised by my staff that the reported phenomenon is quite likely to be connected with civil air traffic going into Birmingham Airport, which was exceptionally busy at the time in question. The differing times of the sightings could thus correspond to aircraft following a holding

William Cash Esq MP

pattern around the airport, and the descriptions could relate to a modern jet aircraft. Our experience is certainly that most sightings can be adequately explained in term of natural occurrences such as aircraft observed at unusual angles, satellite debris, meteorological balloons to mention just a few.

I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

I apologise for the delay in replying but hope this letter is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Roger

Roger Freeman

Encl:
UFO Reports

File E45

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278 September 1988

Thank you for your letter of 15 June and 4 July on behalf of a number of your constituents, about unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

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I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

Roger Freeman

William Cash Esq MP

Encl:
UFO Reports

12/4

ENCL No 44

M2

file copy

(1 of 7 PAGES)

APS/US of S(AF)

I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft response to William Cash's letter of 15 June 1988. I also enclose copies of the sighting reports we received that relate to the details given by Mr Cash's constituents, which US of S(AF) may wish to send with his reply. In line with our usual policy of maintaining the privacy of the report originators, identifying details have been obscured.

12 September 1988

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

D15/20

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278 September 1988

Thank you for your letter of 15 June on behalf of a number of your constituents, concerning unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

As you may know, the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), usually in the form of brief reports of the sightings which have been passed onto us by those individuals who witnessed them. Our sole concern is then to establish whether or not the sightings present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, we do not usually attempt any further investigation.

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I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

Roger Freeman

William Cash MP

Encl:

UFO Reports

ALL REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

REPORT FORM

12/2

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. 16/05/88 2150 10 MIN

B. TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE. TWO OBJECTS IN FORMATION, WHITE LIGHT AT FRONT OF EACH ONE. THE TWO OTHER CORNERS OF THE OBSECTS WERE REDDISH ORANGE IN COLOUR.

C. OUTDOORS. [redacted] CANNOCK STATIONARY.

D. NAKED EYE.

E. IN THE DIRECTION OF PENKRIDGE FROM POSITION OF THE OBSERVER.

F. 30°

G. UNCERTAIN

H. THE TWO OBJECTS MOVED IN FORMATION KEEPING SAME DISTANCE APART HEADING NORTH TOWARDS CANNOCK CHASE.

J. CLEAR, FINE AND DRY.

K. HOUSING ESTATE.

L. CANNOCK CHASE POLICE.

M. [redacted]

N. NONE.

O. [redacted]

P. 16/05/88 2325 UTC.

Q.

Copy sent to MAIS 17.00257 date/time

from ATC Civil Watch Supervisor.

ALL REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

REPORT FORM

12/2

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. 16/05/88 2150 10 MIN

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J. CLEAR, FINE AND DRY.

K. HOUSING ESTATE

L. CANNOCK CHASE POLICE.

M. [redacted]

N. NONE.

O. [redacted]

P. 16/05/88 2325 UTC.

Q.

Copy sent to MAIS 17.00.25/7 date/time

from ATC Civil Watch Supervisor.

[redacted] E72 Section

12/5

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB022 17/0858 1360ø6Z

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 17ø612Z MAY 68

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON
TO MUZUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC ZOF
SUBJECT: MORTAR PHOTOGRAPH
A. ZOD1ø8 MAY 68. 10 MINS
B. 1:25,000 [illegible] YELLOW AND GREEN
SHORT. NIL
C. JABO STRIKE BY MUSUK AIRCRAFT
D. MARKED BTL AND BINOCULARS
E. NORTH WEST FROM LODLOW
F. 30 TO 40 DEGREES
G. JANUARY
H. CHANGING
J. SKY CLEAR
K. HOUSES AND TREES
L. BARDO.
M. [redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

PAGE 2 RORAIA 692 UNCLAS
N. NIL
O. [redacted]
P. 1ø214ØA MAY 68
ST

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Secretariat
17 MAY 1968
FILE 12/2

[redacted]

E71 Section 40

[redacted]

1/5

U N C L A S S I F I E D

[redacted]

FCR 1AS

ROUTINE [redacted]

FROM [redacted]
TO [redacted]

U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC Zór
[redacted]
A. [redacted]
B. TWO [redacted]
C. OUTDOORS SIMULTANEOUSLY [redacted] BROMSGROVE
D. ARMED BTE
E. [redacted]
F. 45 [redacted]
G. NONE GIVEN
H. STEAM
J. SKY CLEAR
K. [redacted]
L. WEST MERCIA [redacted]
M. [redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

[redacted]
M. MIL
O. [redacted] REDACTED ON ORIGINAL
[redacted]
BT

[redacted] REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

[redacted]

FILE 12/2

WILLIAM CASH, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ENCL No 1

Sec (A) (3)

ENCL No (A) 3

Section 40 [redacted]

4 July 1988

Dear Roger

I enclose some eye witness reports on the question of the unidentified flying objects in the vicinity of Stafford which you may wish to consider when replying to my letter to you on this matter.

Yours ever,

Bill

Roger Freeman, Esq., MP
Under Secretary of State for
the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

ACTION 5/7/88

MR B. CASH. MP.
CASTLE STREET,
STAFFORD.

Section 40

ENCL NO. 42

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply to the plea in the Newsletter regarding the object seen in the sky on approximately 16 May this year. I too saw this object for a good four minutes from start to finish.

My house is situated at the front of Section 40 with an unrestricted view over Moss Pitt, Highfields and across to the castle. Sitting by my lounge window, I observed two bright lights at approximately 9.40pm approaching from the Acton Trussell / Penkridge direction. At first my thoughts were of a low flying plane, (very low) with lights on the wings coming towards my direction. The lights were at first horizontal to each other but after about one minute they very steadily moved in an arc from horizontal to vertical and then climbed up verticaly. (see sketch)

On seeing this I was intrigued as to what manoeuvre this "plane?" was taking and wanted to get a better view. I walked out on to the lawn and after a further minute or so the two bright lights started to dim, I could see the object was to come overhead. By now I could make out numerous coloured lights but no shape. As it flew overhead I started to make out two perfect triangles, but in line not one over the other as stated in the Newsletter. However, the lights were as stated but still none flashing as conventional lights do on aircraft. There was sound but very very faint. The sound was of a very high aircraft, 30 - 40 thousand feet but the object was nowhere near this altitude, if it was it would have been very big.

It moved overhead in the direction of Baswich House and out of view. I cannot beggin to explain what it was but I know of no plane that can manoeuvre in this manner at such a slow speed. The triangles were equal in size and the distance apart did not fluctuate at all. If it had not been in the air I would have said that it could not fly at all.

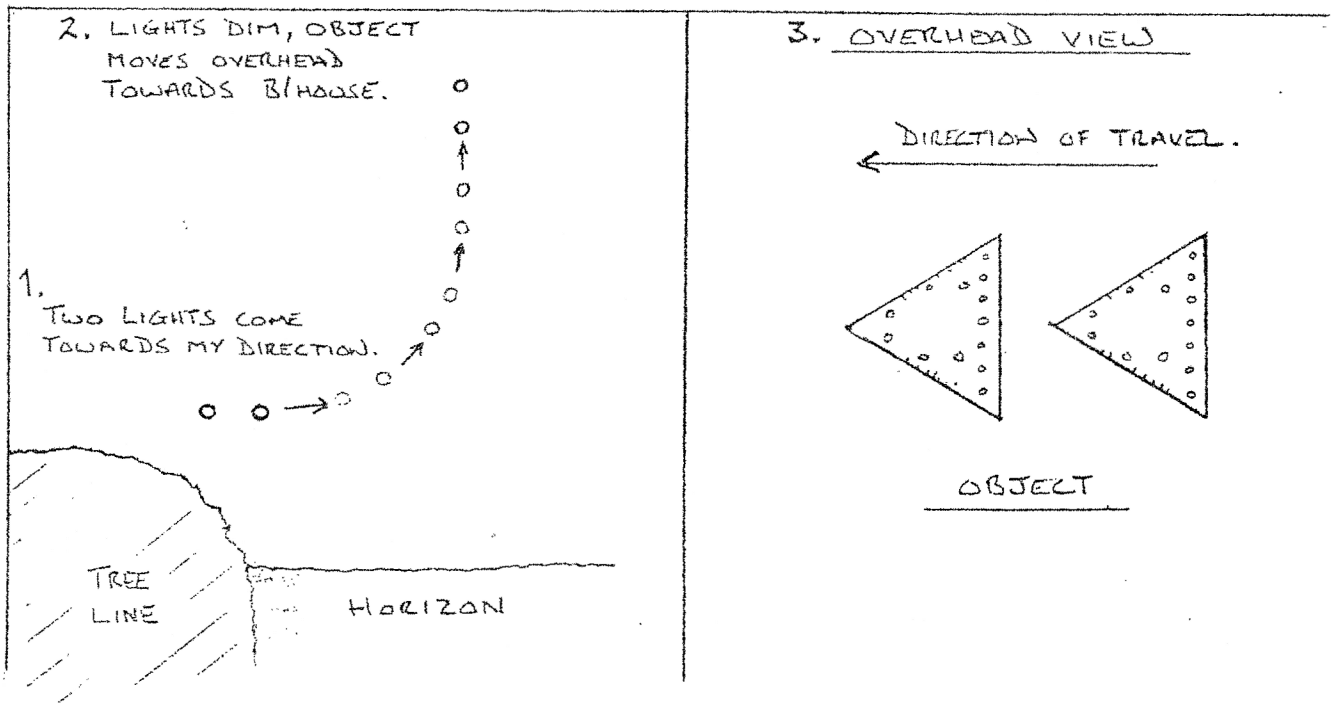
A real eye opener, lets hope for more! I hope this has been of some use to you,

Regards.

Section 40

25.6.88

Section 40



Section 40 [redacted]

She was mentioned in one of the Newsletter articles. She was standing in a front garden with 5 other people and the objects were seen in a northerly direction over the town. They were below the height that a microlight would fly. There was no noise. They moved slowly towards them and then banked round. She said a normal plane would not have banked in the same way. She phoned Shawbury RAF Station who told her that there were no movements that they knew of.

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted] Not a constituent.

9.45 pm was in the garden and saw two lights in the shape of a cross. There was no noise and they came over where she lives in went off in the direction of Uttoxeter. She ran into the house to phone her sister and when she came out again they had gone.

Section 40 [redacted]

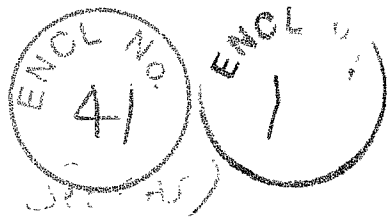
Section 40 knows her and says she is perfectly sane. She was out walking with her son in law who is a policeman at 9.30. It looked like 2 headlights coming towards them, no sound. When it came overhead there was a mass of lights underneath. Moved very slowly and appeared to go in an eastward direction.

Section 40 [redacted]

They were sitting in their lounge approx 10pm. Suddenly saw two delta shaped objects coming from the south, which then turned southeast before Stafford. They were at about 5,000 ft, close together and silent.

WILLIAM CASH, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



15 June 1988

Dear Roger

I have been requested to write to you by constituents of mine regarding reports in my constituency of sightings of unidentified objects and lights in the vicinity of Stafford on 16th May at 9.45 pm.

I have to confess to being highly sceptical about UFOs but apparently a number of people who saw these things were very emphatic and, therefore, I feel it is right to raise this matter with you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

Bill

Roger Freeman, Esq., MP
Under Secretary of State for
the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

rcvd 20/6/88

[redacted] - sorry haven't had time to study.

E401

FILE COPY
12/4

[redacted] 1/7.

D RE FROM BILL CASH MP

attach a draft reply for us & s (AF). we have several reports on file ich correspond (approximately) to the details given by cash. I intend , send copies with the reply.

have tried to find a definitive answer for the sightings but can't. e three reports do not correlate easily with each other on either description or direction of flight. It is likely therefore that they could be coincidental sightings of seperate a/c.

My reply suggests that the sightings could possibly be a/c going int Birmingham Airport — who have confirmed that they were particularly busy at the time. (20 movements during period 2100 — 2200 hours.) They also confirmed that a/c come in from all directions and "stack" prior to entry into the airport. I have also spoken to ATSS who agree that an a/c using B'ham airport is a possibility. Also spoke to the Police Flying Unit based at B'ham airport — but they said that they were not flying at the time.

[redacted] 30/6

O/C [illegible]

file

ENCL No. 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)RNF 4651

20TH June 1988

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 13 April enclosing a further letter from Section 40 [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects.

I was sorry to learn that Section 40 [redacted] was disheartened by my earlier reply, although I believe that it explained the Ministry of Defence's position and the extent of our interest in UFOs quite clearly.

Section 40 [redacted] said that he failed to elicit replies from MOD officials about specific incidents. I am afraid that we can find no record of any previous communications from Section 40 [redacted] (other than his earlier letter to you). My officials do however correspond with a number of UFO Groups fairly regularly and should Section 40 [redacted] require any further assistance, within the provisos given in my letter of 9 March, he should write to the following address:

Ministry of Defence
Sec(AS)2a
Room Section 40
Whitehall SW1A 2HB

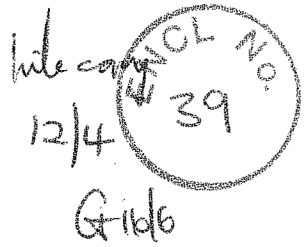
I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours ever
Roger.

Roger Freeman

Martin O'Neill Esq MP

D14/52



Inte copy
12/4
G1bb

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

Section 40

I attach at E4 a self explanatory draft response to Martin O' Neill's letter of 13 April 1988.

Section 40

16 June 88

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

'D14/52

DRAFT



D/US of S(AF)/RNF 4651 June 1988

Thank you for your letter of 13 April enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects.

I was sorry to learn that Section 40 [redacted] was disheartened by my earlier reply, although I believe that it explained the Ministry of Defence's position and the extent of our interest in UFOs quite clearly.

Turning to his suggestions that he failed to elicit replies from my officials regarding specific incidents, I am afraid that we can find no record of any previous communication from Section 40 [redacted] (other than his earlier letter to you). My officials do however correspond with a number of UFO Groups fairly regularly and should Section 40 [redacted] require any further assistance, within the provisos given in my letter of 9 March, he should write to the following address:

Ministry of Defence
Sec(AS)2a
Room Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall SW1A 2HB

I hope you will find this helpful.

[PS. Perhaps you would also explain my credentials to Section 40 [redacted].

FROM: MARTIN O'NEILL, M.P.

ENCL No. 3

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
01- 219 4548 / 5059

13th April 1988

Dear Roger,

I am enclosing a further letter from Section 40 [redacted] about UFO sightings.

I should be most grateful if you could give consideration to the further points which have been raised so that I may send your comments on to Section 40 [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Martin O'Neill

Martin O'Neill

Mr. Roger Freeman, MP,
Parliamentayry Secretary,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1 2HB.

Ackd 21/4/88

Strange Phenomena
INVESTIGATIONS

ENCL NO. 36

"We must seek to answer that which at present eludes us."

Telephone Section 40

Section 40

21st March 1988.

(1 OF 2 PAGES)

Dear Martin,

I thought I would write to you and thank you for taking the time to seek further Information relating to UFO Sightings in the U.K. from the Ministry Of Defence. I received your letter and enclosed letter from a Mr Roger Freeman. Do you happen to know who exactly this Mr Freeman is ? Is he a MOD spokesman or what ?

The letter was somewhat disheartning, and it contained the usual remarks issued from the MOD. Honestly Martin, myself and many others included, do know, and evidence has been forthcoming, that the MOD do take this seriously and do have researchers Investigating certain cases. Their statement that, " we only Investigate UFO cases if they prove a threat to the defence of the realm", is true to a point. But they DO research a lot more further than that.

A glaring contradiction was seen in Mr Freeman's letter when he mentioned, (quote), "we are thus able to respond to specific requests from individuals or UFO societies about particular incidents, and to offer them such information as we have on these incidents", (unquote). Im afraid this is not so. For I have tried time and time again to seek Information on a particular case, and they did not even have the courtesy to reply; (this is why I contacted you).

It looks now though, as if we, (UFO Groups), will have to wait the alloted time to 1997, in which all these records (I hope so), will become available. Maybe then we can begin to grasp an understanding on what is being reported throughout the skies of our world. And maybe then we can give answers to the many puzzeled people from all walks of life and nationalities, who have reported these things.

I would ask Martin for you to return all the documents I gave you, and also the book, 'UFO Conspiracy' of which I loaned you to familiarise yourself with the data. Could you see to this ?

.... Finally. SPI extend their great felt appreciation for you taking the time to assist in this matter. Some may think that its all nonsense, but they said that about other people who were trying to uncover mysteries behind things in, medicine, early flight, early T.V. & Radio, Space Exploration, etc etc. Man can only uncover things if he seeks them. For to think that man has uncovered or explained everything, would be foolish.

There are still many wonders out there but of which we may not as yet have the technology to uncover. The search must go on.

Thank you again.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

President SPI,
& BUFORA RIC Scotland.

Section 40

Section 40 21/4

NOTHING

Would you please look through our correspondence files - go back to mid-35 years - and see if we have had any letters from Section 40 in the past. Section 40 21/4 By 2284 pm.

Section 40

Pl check to make sure that we haven't rec'd any enquiries from Section 40 (or from SPI/BUFORA Scotland) before drafting a response. To me by 4 May pl.

Section 40

* (or from Strange Phenomena Investigations 21/4 or BUFORA Scotland)

12/14 E34 (1 of 2 PAGES)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephon[redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 5084

18th April 1988

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 1988 to Tim Sainsbury enclosing a letter from your constituent [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects(UFOs). As this subject falls within my area of responsibility, I am replying.

First of all I would like to assure [redacted] that there is no question of the Government attempting to hide any information about UFOs from the general public, or participating in a "worldwide conspiracy" to this end.

I think it would be helpful to [redacted] if I explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom, using our judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available to us. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomena, nor could we justify the use of defence resources for this purpose. Instead, such UFO reports as we receive, are referred to appropriate staff including those responsible for intelligence matters and air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

This enables us to respond to specific requests from individuals or UFO Societies about particular incidents, by offering whatever information we have on those incidents, but we do not however have the resources to respond to more general enquiries or to undertake surveys of UFO data.

We are of course aware of the views of UFO societies and others which are often given prominence in the media, but our own experience suggests that rational explanations could probably be found for most UFO sightings, and that natural phenomena such as ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, satellite debris re-entering the earth's

The Hon Sir Charles Morrison, MP

atmosphere as well as meteorological balloons and aircraft lights may explain many such incidents. I can certainly assure you that we have no evidence whatsoever to suggest that intelligent life from outer space or alien spacecraft have landed on our planet.

It would not of course be appropriate for me to comment on the official US position with regard to UFOs although I suspect it is in fact similar to our own. I hope your constituent will find this helpful.

Yours ever
Roger.

Roger Freeman

- 14 /

(Hale) (E33)

(1 OF 5 PAGES)

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

I attach at E2 a fairly straightforward draft response to The Hon Sir Charles Morrison MP's letter of 10 February 1988.

Section 40 [redacted]

19 Apr 88

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 5084 April 1988

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 1988 to Tim Sainsbury enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about Unidentified Flying Objects(UFOs). As this subject falls within my area of responsibility, I am replying.

First of all I would like to assure Section 40 [redacted] that there is no question of the Government attempting to hide any information about UFOs from the general public, or participating in a "worldwide conspiracy" to this end.

I think it would be helpful to Section 40 [redacted] if I explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom, using our judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available to us. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomena, nor could we justify the use of defence resources for this purpose. Instead, such UFO reports as we receive, are referred to appropriate staff including those responsible for intelligence matters and air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

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We are of course aware of the views of UFO societies and others which are often given prominence in the media, but our own experience suggests that rational explanations could probably be found for most UFO sightings, and that natural phenomena such as ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere as well as meteorological balloons and aircraft lights may explain many such incidents. I can certainly assure you that we have no evidence whatsoever to suggest that intelligent life from outer space or alien spacecraft have landed on our planet.

It would not of course be appropriate for me to comment on the official US position with regard to UFOs although I suspect it is in fact similar to our own. I hope your constituent will find this helpful.

Roger Freeman

The Hon Sir Charles Morrison, MP

The Hon. Sir Charles Morrison, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th February, 1988.

I should be grateful for your comments on the enclosed letter from my constituent,

Section 40

The Hon Timothy Sainsbury, MP.,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Mr. CHARLES MORRISON M.P.
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON.

30/01/88.

Dear Sir,

I have been wondering recently how long it will be before the Government makes a public announcement concerning U.F.O's. (Unidentified Flying Objects).

For years now sightings have been reported in the newspapers and on television and yet all we have had is silence from our governing body.

It seems strange that this should be so.

Could the truth be that the Government has already documented proof concerning the existence of U.F.O's. and hence proof that our planet is being regularly visited by intelligent life from outer space?

If this is so I believe that we the public have the right to know.

Is there a worldwide conspiracy to keep us in the dark?
Would the population really panic if they found out the truth?

In America people who have persisted with their claims of sightings and meetings have been visited and told to keep quiet.
Why?

What is the real truth behind the U.F.O. sightings?
Are they from outer space or, is there a more sinister explanation?

Thankyou for finding time to read this letter.

I would be most grateful if you could find time to reply.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

file E32

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 4651

9th March 1988

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 1987, prompted by an approach from the Scottish UFO Society. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

I have no reason to doubt that your informants are correct in saying that a great deal of information on UFOs is available in the United States under their Freedom of Information Act. In the UK however, as Viscount Long explained on 4 March 1982 (Hansard: House of Lords columns 1370/1371), records are only available from 1967, and, in common with all other Government records of that period will, under the Public Records Act, remain closed from public viewing until at least 1997, ie 30 years later.

I can also confirm that the sole interest of the MOD in these matters is to establish whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using our judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available to us. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by the MOD to investigate or identify the objects and we could not justify the appointment of trained observers as you suggest. Instead such UFO reports as we receive are referred to appropriate staff including those responsible for intelligence matters and air defence, who consider the reports as part of their normal duties.

We are thus able to respond to specific requests from individuals or UFO Societies about particular incidents, and to offer them such information as we have on those incidents. We do not however have the resources to respond to more general enquiries or to undertake surveys of UFO data.

I hope you and the Scottish UFO Society will find this helpful.

Yours ever
Roger

Roger Freeman

Martin O'Neill Esq MP

D14/38

12/4

E31

file copy

(1 of 5 pages)

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach at E3 a fairly straightforward draft response to Martin O'Neill MP's letter of 2 December 1987.

2. The Hansard extract referred to appears to be a Lords extract dated 4 March 1982 rather than a Commons extract dated 25 January 1984 as originally suggested. A copy of the Lords extract is attached at E2.

Section 40 [redacted]

1 March 1988

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNP 4651 March 1988

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House of Lords

Thursday, 4th March, 1982.

The House met at three of the clock (*Prayers having been read earlier at the Judicial Sitting by the Lord Bishop of Derby*): The LORD CHANCELLOR on the Woolsack.

Unidentified Flying Objects: Sightings

3.4 p.m.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports have been received by the Ministry of Defence on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in each of the last four years, and what action has been taken in each case.

Viscount Long: My Lords, in 1978 there were 750 sightings; in 1979 there were 550 sightings; in 1980, 350 sightings; and in 1981, 600 sightings. All UFO reports are passed to operations staff who examine them solely for possible defence implications.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, while thanking the noble Viscount for that Answer, may I ask him whether or not it is a fact that over 2,000 authenticated UFO reports were published last year in the national press? If so, were they accepted or passed on to the Ministry of Defence? And what happened to them?

Viscount Long: My Lords, they did not all get to the Ministry of Defence. I have just informed your Lordships of the numbers sighted. If the noble Earl is suspicious that the Ministry of Defence is covering up in any way, I can assure him that there is no reason why we should cover up the figures which he has mentioned if they are true. The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest—for example, a Russian aircraft or an unidentified aircraft —which might have breached our security systems. That is the sole reason why we are interested in the reports.

Lord Wynne-Jones: My Lords, does the Answer given mean that since there has been a Conservative Government the UFOs have done a U-turn and departed?

Viscount Long: Now according to my reading, my Lords—

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, as my noble friend said that 600 UFOs had been officially reported or acknowledged by the Ministry of Defence in 1981, may I ask him how many of those sightings still remain unidentified and were not subject to security or were Russian aeroplanes, or anything like that?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I do not have those figures. They disappeared into the unknown before we got them.

Lord Strabolgi: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether the present Government adhere to the view of the previous Government which I put forward when I replied to the debate three years ago in your Lordships' House, that most of these so-called sightings can be accounted for as natural phenomena?

Viscount Long: Yes, my Lords, they can be. Many of them are accounted for in one way or another, but nobody has got a really constructive answer for all of them.

Lord Hill-Norton: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether or not it is true that all the sighting reports received by the Ministry of Defence before 1962 were destroyed because they were deemed "to be of no interest"? And if it is true, who was it who decided that they were of no interest?

Viscount Long: My Lords, my reply to the noble and gallant Lord—I was wondering whether he was going to say that the Royal Navy had many times seen the Loch Ness monster—is that since 1967 all UFO reports have been preserved. Before that time, they were generally destroyed after five years.

Lord Paget of Northampton: My Lords, can the noble Viscount tell us whether, out of these thousands of sightings which he has mentioned, there has been a single one which suggested any menace to our defences? In the circumstances, is not an awful lot of time being wasted on this nonsense?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I think Her Majesty's Government are waiting for an invitation from them to discuss these problems.

Mr. Anatoly Shc

3.9 p.m.

Lord Renton: My Question which stan Paper.

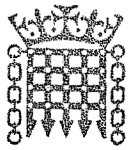
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)
Vol. 427 No. 51
Thursday 4 March 1982

FROM: MARTIN O'NEILL, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Section 40

2nd December 1987

Sec (AS) 2

Dear Roger,

I have been approached by the Scottish U.F.O. Society.

I have been informed that a great deal of data on this subject is available in the United States through the Freedom of Information legislation operating there. However, I am told that very little is made public of data gathered in Britain and therefore I should be most interested to know if you would be prepared to expand on replies given on the 25th January 1984, Col. 1370/71 in the House of ~~Commons~~. Lords. *

My constituents would also be interested to know what plans the Government has to appoint trained observers to investigate these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Martin O'Neill

Martin O'Neill

* Telecon Section 40 of 21/
refers.

Section 40

Mr. Roger Freeman, MP,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1 2HB.

ACK 7/12

Section 40 E30

12/1

Hansard Extracts : No record of COI 1370/71 in either Lords or Commons Hansards for 25 January 1984. Rang Section 40 about this perpecic prosecn and asked him to look into this after New Year bearing in mind the 21/12 deadline.

Section 40 23/12

Section 40 on 5/1 to see how far they had got. Apparently, Martin O'Neill has not been in his office during the Christmas break so HSofS's office have been unable to contact him. They will try again today

Section 40 5/1

Section 40 on 13/1 and asked if he had managed to contact Martin O'Neill his secretary. So far no luck. I asked if he would keep on trying and let me on the correct Hansard reference as soon as possible.

Section 40 13/1

Spoke Section 40 19/1
He is trying to get hold of O'Neill's secretary. No luck so far. We're not to worry about the deadline having passed - Section 40 will be in touch asap.

Section 40 19/1

Section 40 on 28/1

Unfortunately Section 40 has been unable to contact Martin O'Neill's secretary, he has been rather elusive. He said that he would continue trying to contact her. In the meantime, he asked for the papers back, although I did maintain that the draft reply couldn't be used yet as it needed to be tied into what the Hansard (if that is what it is) has to say.

Section 40 25/1

Section 40 rang on 2/2 : The Hansard to which Martin O'Neill refers is 4 Mar 82 Lords Hansard Column 1370/1371. Section 40 will pass up a copy of the relevant pages.

Section 40 2/2

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)
Vol. 427 No. 51
Thursday 4 March 198

Section 40 [redacted] p/3 ② file 12/4 (E28)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 3723

3rd September 1987

Dear Stan,

Thank you for your letter to Ian Stewart of 3 August with the enclosed from Section 40 [redacted] I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] did not receive a reply to his letter to DI55 of 7 June and hope he will accept this as a reply to both.

I think it would be helpful if I explain first that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings which are passed on to us by those who witnessed them. After receiving the reports, we pass them to the MOD staff who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties but do not undertake any further investigations or general surveys.

As for Section 40 [redacted] requests for information about the so called operation Majestic 12, I am afraid the only information we have on this subject is that provided to us by Section 40 [redacted] and contained in Section 40 [redacted] book and related press articles. If the operation exists it would appear to have been a US national one, of which we in the UK had no knowledge. I can therefore only suggest that if Section 40 [redacted] wishes to find out more on this subject, he should contact the American Authorities through the Information Section of the US Embassy in London.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Yours ever
Roger

Roger Freeman

Stan Crowther Esq MP

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E27

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/4

3 September 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 8 June to the Secretary of State for Defence. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

You might find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate information about Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings which are passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena. After receiving the reports, we pass them to MOD staff who are responsible for the air defence of the UK and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties but do not undertake any further investigations or general surveys.

As for your request for information about the so-called operation Majestic 12, I am afraid the only information we have on this subject is that provided by yourself and fellow ufologists, and that contained within Section 40 book and related press articles. If the operation existed, it would appear to have been a US national one, of which we in the UK had no knowledge. I would therefore suggest that if you wish to find out more on this subject, you should contact the American authorities through the Information Section of the US Embassy in London.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 1/9

E26

Ms asked me to re-write the letter to Section 40 on the lines of our letter to Section 40 - those of it.

Section 40 21/2

Section 40 draft reply to Section 40 attached, based on the PE we did last week. OK.

Section 40 1/9

Section 40 [redacted]

EZS

Pse prepare a draft reply.

We'll obviously need to check the facts, but something along lines of we have heard about the incident before, mainly from UFO specialists.

Neither we nor DISS have seen copies of the 2 papers.

Suggest he writes to Americans.

Also, pse find out when we + DISS started collecting info on UFOS.

There is another o/s reply on MJ12 I think.

Weren't you Section 40 going to make absolutely sure we haven't other info on MJ12.

Section 40 [redacted]

13/8.

Section 40

Reference: MJ 12 – letter from Section 40 Project Diss

E24

Please see attached letter to SofS from Section 40 asks for comment on MAJESTIC-12. The only information we have on MAJESTIC-12 is that found in the national press (see cuttings). This presumably is the same source that Section 40 used. The letter to SofS was copied to AHB(RAF). I spoke to Section 40 about this today and he can find no reference to MJ-12 in his records. The only reference he can find for MAJESTIC is a WW2 operation in Japan area. Section 40 has replied to APS/SofS with his findings. Bearing this in mind, I suggest that we write a short letter to

(EZ3)

(1 OF 3 PAGES)

Section 40

CLASSIFICATION:

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: MO 26/19

Section 40

Head of Sec (AI)

UFOs

1. The attached communication from

... Section 40 ..... dated ..16th June.....

is referred to you for information and any necessary action.

It must be placed on a Departmental registered file.

2. I am copying this minute, with the attachment, to:

AMB (RAF) ....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

Section 40

14/7

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
11 JUN 1987
FILE 12/4

Section 40

Date: 16th June 1987

APS/S of S

Section 40

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH "PROJECT O.R.I.O.N."

Section 40 [redacted]

TO: MR GEORGE YOUNGER DEFENCE SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, WHITEHALL

8th June 1987

SUBJECT: MAJESTIC TWELVE (MJ12)

SOURCE: The Observer - Sunday 31st May 1987

Dear Mr Younger,

In respect of the above named subject & source.

Many members of the general public viewed this article with interest. Many were of course extremely disturbed.

Is there any truth in the matter, and has the Ministry of Defence any knowledge of such an organisation. Several members of PROJECT O.R.I.O.N. have indeed seen such documentation acquired by Section 40 [redacted]. There is much evidence to suggest the papers are authentic and revealing.

If these documents are genuine, they would suggest that a covert operation was in hand to conceal the existance of dead alien bodies, and an advanced craft, from the public in America. Since this is the case, it would suggest that perhaps Winston Churchill had at least some facts kept from him.

We feel it is in order for the British Government to comment upon this information. An explanation or denial would be in order.

MAJESTIC 12, is a very real organisation, which probably exists under another code name, perhaps '54-12'. Can you assist in any way?

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

Ref. ØØ3/87

SUNDAY 3 MAY 1987

OBSERVER

And now ... if you've read enough about the election, here's news from another world

Close encounters of an alien kind

by MARTIN BAILEY

BODIES of four 'aliens' from a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) were recovered and examined by a special American Government team 40 years ago, according to a top-secret 'document' obtained by a British researcher.

A bitter debate is now likely to develop among UFO experts over the existence of a mysterious committee, code-named Majestic-12, which is supposed to have examined the aliens.

The highly classified briefing paper claims that the then head of the CIA, Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, reported that 'although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development have apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in *homo sapiens*.'

The document, which has been shown to *The Observer* by Timothy Good, Britain's leading UFO researcher, purports to be a briefing paper for President-elect Eisenhower on Operation Majestic-12, also known as MJ-12.

In his book, 'Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up,' to be published by Sidgwick & Jackson on 9 July, Mr Good claims that MJ-12 was a committee of senior US officials which investigated and then covered up news of flying saucer crashes.

Other UFO experts believe the story could be a hoax involving the planting of a fake supporting White House memo in the files of Air Force Intelligence and then getting the National Archives officially to declassify a forged document.

The Eisenhower briefing paper, dated 18 November, 1952, claims the MJ-12 committee had been set up by his predecessor, President Truman, on 24 September, 1947, as a 'top secret research and development/ intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States.'

The document reports that on 24 June 1947, 'disc-shaped aircraft' were sighted in the United States.

'Little was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico, about 75 miles north-west of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

'On 7 July 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site.'

According to the briefing paper: 'All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week of time which had elapsed before their discovery.

'A covert analytical effort resulted in a preliminary consensus (19 September 1947) that the disc was most likely a short-range reconnaissance craft . . .

The Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that imposition of the strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new Administration.'

Inquiries by *The Observer* at the National Archives, the archives of former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and the National Security Council archives, have been unable to authenticate the briefing paper. They all say that extensive searches have failed to locate copies of the document.

There is, however, new evidence from the files of US Intelligence that a secret group called MJ-12 did exist. This is a White House memorandum to General Twining informing him about an 'MJ-12' briefing for President Eisenhower. It was declassified on 12 January 1987.

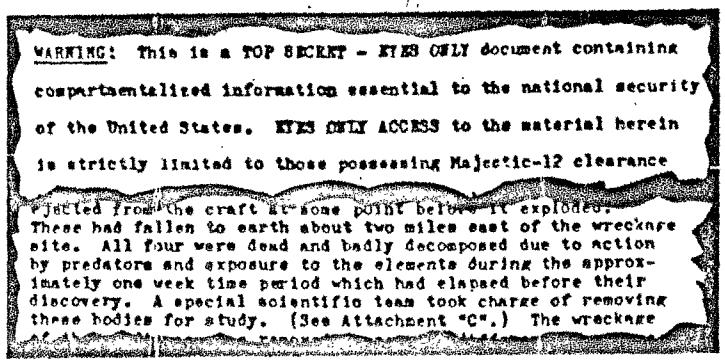
The White House memorandum was described by the National Archives last week as 'a very strange document.'

Archivist Joanna Williamson said: 'It was found in the files of the US Air Force's Director of Intelligence and is certainly genuine, but we have found no minutes of the MJ-12 meeting, which was scheduled for just two days later. It is very surprising that there are no other papers on MJ-12, and we have no idea what it was.'

If the White House memorandum is genuine, this proves the existence of an MJ-12 group whose responsibility could have covered UFOs. This would then strengthen Mr Good's view that there was a cover-up of the discovery of dead aliens. However, US UFO writer Mr Bary Greenwood has raised an intriguing question suggesting that there could have been a very sophisticated fraud.

'There are some things that look wrong with the White House memo. For example, it is unsigned. It is just possible that it was manufactured by someone wanting to prove the existence of MJ-12 and then inserted into Air Force Intelligence records which had recently been opened up to the public.

'The hoaxer could then have ordered a copy from the National Archives which would carry the official declassification stamp. MJ-12 may well have existed but more research is needed to authenticate the documents,' he said.



WARNING: This is a TOP SECRET - EYES ONLY document containing compartmentalized information essential to the national security of the United States. EYES ONLY ACCESS to the material herein is strictly limited to those possessing Majestic-12 clearance

ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage

Extract from the Majestic-12 'document.'

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS July 12 1987

Did the aliens warn Nei Armstrong off the Moon

HE Americans have captured a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) with four dead aliens inside it, claims the author of a startling new book about flying saucers, Timothy Good.

American spaceships have constantly been shadowed by UFOs, he says, but astronauts have been forbidden to talk about it. And when astronauts Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin stepped on to the Moon in 1969, he claims they were watched by two huge UFOs that were sitting on the edge of a crater.

Just another flying saucer crank?

Not at all, says Admiral of the Fleet and ex-Chief of Defence Staff Lord Hill-Norton in a powerful foreword to the book.

Lord Hill-Norton denies that Mr Good is "a nut-case" and says he is a thorough researcher whose book is based "soundly upon fact and a great deal of most convincing evidence which I have not seen in print before."

DOCUMENT

Mr Good's claims are so sensational that even he admits at one stage that many readers may "wonder if I have taken leave of my senses." He claims:—

- That he obtained early this year a top secret 1952 American Government document confirming that a UFO crashed in New Mexico in 1947 and that the Americans retrieved the saucer itself and the corpses of "four small human-like beings."
- That each American President is briefed about a secret intelligence group—Majestic 12—that investigates reports of UFO sightings, then covers them up to prevent public panic.
- That although Neil Armstrong continually denies the report about UFOs on the moon, he has privately confessed that the Americans "were warned off" the Moon by the UFOs and that "there was never any question then of a space station or a Moon city" because "their ships were far superior to ours."
- That in Britain there are so many hundreds of UFO sightings each year that a secret 30-man Ministry of Defence UFO tracking station and research centre at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire is manned 24 hours a day—and that he was arrested at midnight when he started nosing around the area.
- That Prince Philip believes in UFOs and has told him: "There are many reasons to believe that they do exist. There is so much evidence from reliable witnesses."

Prince Philip is so interested in the subject, says Mr Good, that he regularly receives the magazine *Flying Saucer Review* and ordered a copy of Mr Good's previous UFO book *George Adamski—The Untold Story*.

His uncle Lord Mountbatten was also fascinated by UFOs and seems to have been convinced that a flying saucer landed on his estate at Broadlands in Hampshire in 1955.

SURVIVE

Mountbatten, yet another Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of the Defence Staff, even said of UFOs: "If they really come over in a big way, that may settle the capitalist-communist war. If the human race wishes to survive they may have to band together"—a point that was reiterated two years ago by President Reagan in a conversation with Russian leader Gorbachev at Geneva.

Does Reagan know something sensational about UFOs? Does Gorbachev? Are our leaders hiding something from us all?

Timothy Good insists they are—and the wild, weird case he argues in **ABOVE TOP SECRET: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up (Sidgwick, £14.95)** includes scores of stories of world wide UFO sightings and contacts (by ordinary mortals, Russians, Chinese, even Pre Jimmy Carter) th sometimes difficult to —like the 1984 sightin Stanmore in Middlese fewer than eight poli for as long as two hou

What to make of it a

I'm still sceptica millions aren't. Even A Marshall Lord Dowdin said of UFOs: "I am con that these objects do ex that they are not ma tured by any natio Earth."

And as recently as 19 Zimbabwe air force a led two Hawk jets to intercept, in vain, a UF was tracked on radar Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe Air Comm David Thorne told Mr "As far as my Air Sta concerned, we believ plicitly that the unexp UFOs are from some o tion beyond our planet."

Books by GRAHAM LORD

aps for liers

VE to charges that its are jeopardising their , those of people on nd and their multi- und fighter aircraft by below the 250 foot limit, the RAF has police the skies with ps."

ve heavy with irony, try of Defence has e deployment of four portable radars which contact with RAF air- the hands of the es during the s war when they e fire control system likon 35 mm anti-air-

iss-built radars, each illion, were captured fall of Port Stanley. e brought home as war and refurbished ing based at RAF n near Lincoln.

: Skyguards will be und designated low- s, including the Scot- lands, North Wales ria where pilots are to fly under 250 feet are exercises. Up to AF police, mounting atches, have moni- mit by eye.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
16 JUL 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40 [redacted]

1. Section 40 2. file 12/4 (E21)

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40 [redacted]

1. I attach a draft reply to Mr Crowther MP.

2. Although Mr Crowther's constituent, Section 40 [redacted] has not written to us before, the organisation he represents, the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS), is well known to us. Section 40 [redacted] asks about "Majestic 12" an allegedly secret US operation informing US presidents of UFO activity. We have now had a number of inquiries about Majestic 12, which was referred to in his book, "Above Top Secret", published recently by UFO writer Timothy Good and picked up in the UK national press a few months ago (example at E1/2). According to Section 40 [redacted] the Majestic 12 documents were obtained from the US using the US Freedom of Information Act.

3. Neither we nor DI55 were aware of Majestic 12 until it was raised by ufologists, and we had not previously seen the "US documents" which Section 40 [redacted] enclosed. Nor do we know if they are genuine or not. If they are the operation would appear to be a US national operation, which the UK would not necessarily know about. We can therefore only suggest that if Section 40 [redacted] wishes to find out more on Majestic-12, he should contact the Americans through the Information Section at the US Embassy in London. The FCO have been consulted and are content with this line.

Section 40 [redacted]

26 Aug 87

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

(E20)
(1 OF 2 PAGES)

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 3723 September 1987

Thank you for your letter to Ian Stewart of 3 August with the enclosed from Section 40 [redacted] I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] did not receive a reply to his letter to DI55 of 7 June and hope he will accept this as a reply to both.

I think it would be helpful if I explain first that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings which are passed on to us by those who witnessed them. After receiving the reports, we pass them to the MOD staff who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties but do not undertake any further investigations or general surveys.

As for Section 40 [redacted] requests for information about the so called operation Majestic 12, I am afraid the only information we have on this subject is that provided to us by Section 40 [redacted] and contained in Section 40 [redacted] book and related press articles. If the operation exists it would appear to have been a US national one, of which we in the UK had no knowledge. I can therefore only suggest

that if Section 40 wishes to find out more on this subject, he should contact the American Authorities through the Information Section of the US Embassy in London.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Roger Freeman

Stan Crowther Esq MP

Job No 2a1-18

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

E19

Mr Ian Stewart MP,
Minister of State
for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1 2HB.

3 August 1987

Dear Ian,

I should be pleased to have your comments on the enclosed correspondence from my constituent, [redacted] Section 40

I must confess I do not really know how seriously to take it.

Yours sincerely
Stan

Stan Crowther

0 5 AUG 1987

PS/USofS(AF)

Sec(AS)2

The attached letter from Stan Crowther MP to Minister of State (AF), is forwarded for your action and reply direct as necessary.

This correspondence has not been acknowledged.

[redacted] Section 40

for APS/Minister of State (AF)
Ext. [redacted] Section 40

4 AUG 87

FOUNDED IN 1981

Quest

THE JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION

A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATION

E18
1 OF 2 PAGES

Mr Stan Crowther.
C/O The Houses Of Parliament.
London.

Section 40
Overseas Liaison Officer,
Section 40
[redacted]
England

I9th June I987.

Subject: MAJESTIC I2.

Dear Mr Crowther,

First off all let me introduce myself, my name is Section 40 [redacted] I am the Overseas Liaison Officer for the Yorkshire UFO Society & Quest Magazine. Under the working title of "Project Orion", I recently wrote to an MoD department known as DI55, (Defence Intelegence). Unfortunately, I have yet to receive a reply from them.

Majestic I2 came into being on the orders of President Trueman in I947, after the recovery of a crashed Alien craft in the New Mexico desert in '47. This Above Top Secret orgainisation has obviousley continued it's research into the study of the UFO phenomena (see atachment OI0280), this information has subsequently come under the scrutiny of various U.S & UK researchers, plus Admiral Lord Hill Norton (Cheif of Defence Staff I97I - 73) and evidence suggests they could well be genuine. Therefore one can only presume that the MoD (AS2- Air Staff 2, DI55 - Defence Intelegence) must have at least some knowledge on this major development.

In a letter to a former Investigator for this orgainisation, Michael Hesseltine (former Defence Secretary) replide to Merlin Reese on 3rd November I983, that " There is not a grain of truth in the allegations that there has been a cover-up about alleged UFO sightings".

It is then, very disturbing to know that AS2 appears to have no knowlege of U.S intelegence research into this phenomena. As your are my M.P, I would likeyou,

on behalf of the Yorkshire UFO Society / Quest magazine (the official publication of YUFOS) and the civilian population of the UK and Northen Ireland, to raise questions at the highest level in parliament, regarding 'Majestic I2', and the obvious lack of knowlege by our own MoD, regarding the DATA, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS under the supreme command of the president/s, which was,(and still is)being carried out on UFO phenomena.

The Executive Committee of the Yorkshire UFO Society and QUEST magazine,would be willing to meet you (and we urge that you accept the offer) to show and display some II ABOVE TOP SECRET documents acquired from an intellegence source in the U.S. regarding the opperation known as " MAJESTIC I2".

We firmly believe and sincerely hope that an official approach by yourself can throw some light on this distubing information. Looking forward to your reply and urgent co-operation.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer
Project ORION.
The Yorkshire UFO Society / Queat magazine.

enclosed: (I) one photocopy of the Observer article.
(I) one photocopy of letter sent to DI55.
(I) one photocopy of 'MAJESTIC I2 document (code Y.R.D. 0I0050)
(I) one photocopy of 'MAJESTIC I2 document (code Y.R.D. oI0280)

E17

FROM: THE OVERSEAS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH "PROJECT O.R.I.O.N."

Section 40 [redacted]

TO: DEFENCE PERSONNEL DI-55

SUBJECT: MAJESTIC TWELVE (MJ12)

7th June 1987

SOURCE: THE OBSERVER - Sunday 31st May 1987

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have been informed that this department (DI-55) deals with UFO reports and similar type of phenomena.

We viewed the enclosed article with great interest and perhaps feel you may have some knowledge of MJ12. If this is the case, then perhaps you could supply information on this very unusual matter. We feel it is in the publics interest that all UFO related material should be released, thus PROJECT ORION considers the Observer report unique in respect of what MAJESTIC TWELVE represents.

If the Observer report is to be believed, then the worlds most powerful government, has indeed recovered an alien craft containing ultra advanced technology.

We are currently running checks with various military departments regarding the existance of British interest in respect of MAJESTIC TWELVE.

I look forward to receiving your reply in the near future.

Yours Faithfully

Section 40 [redacted] O.R.I.O.N.

Ref. 002/87

OBSERVER

And now ... if you've read enough about the election, here's news from another world

Close encounters of an alien kind

by MARTIN BAILEY

BODIES of four 'aliens' from a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) were recovered and examined by a special American Government team 40 years ago, according to a top-secret 'document' obtained by a British researcher.

A bitter debate is now likely to develop among UFO experts over the existence of a mysterious committee, code named Majestic-12, which is supposed to have examined the aliens.

The highly classified briefing paper claims that the then head of the CIA, Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, reported that 'although these creatures are human like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development have apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in *homo sapiens*.'

The document, which has been shown to *The Observer* by Timothy Good, Britain's leading UFO researcher, purports to be a briefing paper for President elect Eisenhower on Operation Majestic-12, also known as MJ 12.

In his book, 'Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up,' to be published by Sidgwick & Jackson on 9 July, Mr Good claims that MJ-12 was a committee of senior US officials which investigated and then covered up news of flying saucer crashes.

Other UFO experts believe the story could be a hoax involving the planting of a fake supporting White House memo in the files of Air Force Intelligence and then getting the National Archives officially to declassify a forged document.

The Eisenhower briefing paper, dated 18 November, 1952, claims the MJ-12 committee had been set up by his predecessor, President Truman, on 24 September, 1947, as a 'top secret research and development/intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States.'

The document reports that on 24 June 1947, 'disc-shaped aircraft' were sighted in the United States.

'Little was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico, about 75 miles north-west of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

'On 7 July 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site.'

According to the briefing paper: 'All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week of time which had elapsed before their discovery.

'A covert analytical effort resulted in a preliminary consensus (19 September 1947) that the disc was most likely a short-range reconnaissance craft . . .

The Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that imposition of the strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new Administration.'

Inquiries by *The Observer* at the National Archives, the archives of former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and the National Security Council archives, have been unable to authenticate the briefing paper. They all say that extensive searches have failed to locate copies of the document.

There is, however, new evidence from the files of US Intelligence that a secret group called MJ-12 did exist. This is a White House memorandum to General Twining informing him about an 'MJ-12' briefing for President Eisenhower. It was declassified on 12 January 1987.

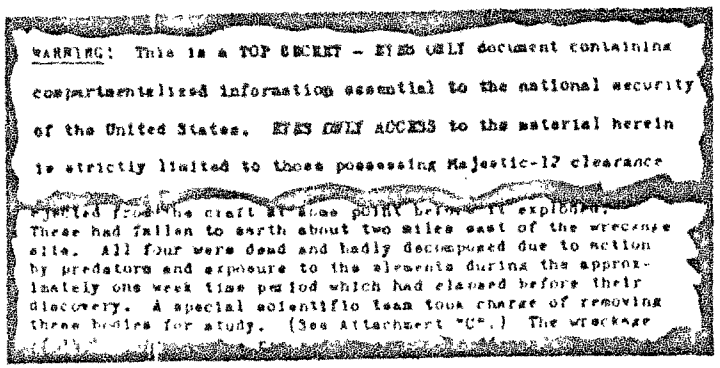
The White House memorandum was described by the National Archives last week as 'a very strange document.'

Archivist Joanna Williamson said: 'It was found in the files of the US Air Force's Director of Intelligence and is certainly genuine, but we have found no minutes of the MJ-12 meeting, which was scheduled for just two days later. It is very surprising that there are no other papers on MJ-12, and we have no idea what it was.'

If the White House memorandum is genuine, this proves the existence of an MJ-12 group whose responsibility could have covered UFOs. This would then strengthen Mr Good's view that there was a cover-up of the discovery of dead aliens. However, US UFO writer Mr Bary Greenwood has raised an intriguing question suggesting that there could have been a very sophisticated fraud.

'There are some things that look wrong with the White House memo. For example, it is unsigned. It is just possible that it was manufactured by someone wanting to prove the existence of MJ-12 and then inserted into Air Force Intelligence records which had recently been opened up to the public.

'The hoaxer could then have ordered a copy from the National Archives which would carry the official declassification stamp MJ-12 may well have existed but more research is needed to authenticate the documents,' he said.



WARNING: This is a TOP SECRET – EYES ONLY document containing compartmentalized information essential to the national security of the United States. EYES ONLY ACCESS to the material herein is strictly limited to those possessing Majestic-12 clearance

[illegible] from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage

Extract from the Majestic-12 'document.'

ALL REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

E15

[redacted] Y.R.D. 010050

[redacted]

COPY ONE OF ONE.

On 24 June, 1947, a civilian pilot flying over the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington observed nine flying disc-shaped aircraft traveling in formation at a high rate of speed. Although this was not the first known sighting of such objects, it was the first to gain widespread attention in the public media. Hundreds of reports of sightings of similar objects followed. Many of these came from highly credible military and civilian sources. These reports resulted in independent efforts by several different elements of the military to ascertain the nature and purpose of these objects in the interests of national defense. A number of witnesses were interviewed and there were several unsuccessful attempts to utilize aircraft in efforts to pursue reported discs in flight. Public reaction bordered on near hysteria at times.

In spite of these efforts, little of substance was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico located approximately seventy-five miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. (See Attachment "B".) Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon.

[redacted]

"MAJESTIC TWELVE"

[redacted]

T52-EXEMPT (E)

[redacted]

V.R.D. 010280

(E14)

SECRET

17 NOV 1980

RTTEZYVW RUFLOJA9136
ZNY SECRET
ZZH
SECRET FOR AFOSI ONLY
R 171130Z NOV 80
FM HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC//IVOE
TO RUMTBA AFOSI DIST 17 KIRTLAND AFB NM//BID
INFO 7602 AINTELG FT BELVOIR VA//INSR
SECRET FOR AFOSI ONLY
REF: REQUEST FOR PHOTO IMAGERY INTERPRETATION YOUR MSG 292030Z OCT 80.
SUBJECT CASE NR: 8017D93-126 HQ CR 44
1. SUBJECT NEGATIVES/FILM WERE ANALYZED BY HQ IVT AND 7602 AINTELG/IT AND THE FOLLOWING RESULTS WERE FOUND:
A. NEGATIVE #1: DEPICTING C-5A AIRCRAFT ON APPROACH AND STREAKING UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN LOWER RIGHT PORTION OF FILM. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SIZE DIFFERENTIAL WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH SIZE OF AIRCRAFT. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE
B. NEGATIVE #2; DEPICTING CYLINDER SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN UPPER LEFT PORTION OF PHOTO. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. FILM SHOWED OBJECT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH FIELD DEPH AND CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT. BOLTON/REINFELD METHOD DID NOT REVEAL VISIBLE MARKINGS ON OBJECT.
C. NEGATIVE #3: DEPICTING IRREGULAR SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN SEVEN FRAMES OF 8MM FILM. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND APPARENT SPEED OF OBJECT NO FURTHER CLASSIFICATION OR CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN. FILM SHOWN TO BE UNALTERED.
D. 36 INCHES OF 8MM FILM: DEPICTING APPARENT COLORED OBJECT MOVING IN FRONT OF STILL CAMERA. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SPECTROGRAPHY REVEALED COLORED TO BE BASIC PRISM FEATURES. DEPTH ANALYSIS REVEALED OBJECT TO BE WITHIN 152MM OF CAMERA. OBJECT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS OBSERVED FOR SEVERAL SECONDS IN FILM. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE.
E. ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DEPICTING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FIXED OBJECTS IN THE FILM, NO DEPTH ANALYSIS COULD BE PERFORMED. BOLTON REINFELD METHOD REVEALED OBJECT TO BE SAUCER SHAPED, APPROXIMATE DIAMETER 37 FEET. OBJECT CONTAINED A TRILATERAL INSIGNIA ON THE LOWER PORTION OF OBJECT. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT.
2. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING HQ CR 44, THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED: CAPT GRACE 7602 AINTELG, INS CONTACTED AND RELATED FOLLOWING: (S/WINTEL) USAF NO LONGER PUBLICLY ACTIVE IN UFO RESEARCH, HOWEVER USAF STILL HAS INTEREST IN ALL UFO SIGHTINGS OVER USAF INSTALLATION/TEST RANGES. SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LEAD BY NASA, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE SIGHTINGS THROUGH COVERT COVER. (S,WINTEL/FSA) ONE SUCH COVER IS UFO REPORTING CENTER, US COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852. NASA FILTERS RESULTS OF SIGHTINGS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS WITH INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR SIGHTING. THE OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RESULTS OF PROJECT AQUARIUS IS STILL CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET WITH NO DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AND WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS TO "MJ TWELVE". CASE OF HEINEMITZ IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY NASA INS, WHO REQUEST ALL FUTURE EVIDENCE BE FORWARDED TO THEM THRU AFOSI, IVOE.
4. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE OF A CHANCE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NO KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONNEL WITH SPA WILL BE PROVIDED. CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN YOUR MESSAGE, MILLER, PUGATE. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF CASE, REQUEST THEY BE THOROUGHLY DEBRIEFED AT REGULAR INTERVALS.
BTS
INS
DOWNGRADE 17NOV2020

SECRET

Hd / Sec(AS) to see [redacted] Section 40

1897

413

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone [redacted] Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4

17 July 1985

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1985 concerning our previous exchange of correspondence on Unidentified Flying Objects.

I am sorry you were unhappy with my response but I can assure you my department does take the subject seriously, and I do appreciate the very real concern which caused you to raise the subject.

Yours,
David.

Lord Trefgarne

I am of course very willing to talk to you further on this if you wish.

D.

Ian Hill-Norton

Sec(AS)2e

Admiral of the Fleet the Rt Hon Lord Hill-Norton GCB

E12/4

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

9 Jul 85

APS/US of S(AF)

UFOs

Reference:
A. D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4 dated 27 Jun 85

You asked at reference for a draft reply to Lord Hill-Norton's letter of 24 June 85. Please find attached a short self-explanatory draft as discussed on the telephone today.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 28/1/4 July 1985

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1985 concerning our previous exchange of correspondence on Unidentified Flying Objects.

I am sorry you were unhappy with my response but I can assure you my department does take the subject seriously. I do appreciate the very real concern which caused you to raise the subject.

Lord Trefgarne

Lord Hill-Norton
Job No 2a2-35

(E12) file 12/4

COVERING: ~~TOP SECRET/SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE~~

REFERENCE: D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4

See (AS) 2

UFOs

I am attaching a letter/minute from .Lord..Hill-Norton..... to .Lord..Trefgarne..... dated ..24..June..85...

Will you please consult other Departments, Divisions and Branches, as necessary, and submit advice, together with a draft letter/minute in order to reach US of S(AF) not later than .10..July.85

I am sending copies of this minute/letter to:

.....	.....
.....	.....
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You have already kindly provided us with a speaking note on this subject for our debate in the House of Lords next Wednesday, at which Lord Hill-Norton is due to speak. Perhaps you could also consider whether any further material should be prepared.

Section 40 [redacted]

APS/US of S(AF)

Date: 27 June 85

Section 40 [redacted]

24th June, 1985

The Lord Trefgarne,
House of Lords,
London.

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19th June, in reply to mine of 1st May addressed to the Defence Secretary. Apart from good manners, which might be thought to have required some earlier acknowledgement, I am astounded that a serious letter to a Minister from a member of the House of Lords was allowed to remain unanswered for seven weeks.

I am sorry that you take the view that the sort of uproar which occurred in Suffolk in December 1980 is of 'no defence significance', because I have no doubt from my rather longer experience that you are mistaken. Unless Lt. Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace - and probably territory - were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle in that month, and that no bar to such intrusion was effective. If Halt's report is not believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by members of the U.S.A.F. at an important base in the U.K. Either way the events can hardly be without defence significance.

There is a good deal more which I could add, but I shall not weary you further on this narrow issue. I remain convinced, as I said in my letter to Heseltine, that you are courting trouble. The media and the U:S. Freedom of Information Act will certainly prove more difficult to brush off than you evidently expect. I have done what I saw as my duty, bearing in mind that I am still on the Active List, in attempting to warn you. I shall continue to press, in various ways, for a more responsible attitude from this, and successor, Governments.

Yours,

Peter Hain-Archer.

FAO

[redacted]

[redacted]

With the Compliments of the

Private Secretary

Parliamentary Under Secretary

of State for Defence for the Armed Forces

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, WHITEHALL, S.W.1

(Mile 12/4 C11.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho[redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted]chboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 6210

19 June 1985

Dear Peter,

You wrote to Michael Heseltine on 1 May 1985 about the sighting of an unidentified flying object near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. Michael has asked me to reply as UFO questions fall within my responsibilities.

I do understand your concern and I am grateful to you for having taken the trouble to write. I do not believe, however, that there are any grounds for changing our view, formed at the time, that the events to which you refer were of no defence significance.

You may recall the House of Lords debate on UFOs in 1979 (Hansard, 19 January 1979). I attach an extract of what I said on that occasion. Whilst I respect the views of those who differ from me on this matter I am bound to say that nothing I have seen since then has led me to change the views I myself expressed.

Yours,

Dave.

Lord Trefgarne

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd.Sec.(AS)
24 JUN 1985
FILE

Admiral of the Fleet the Rt Hon Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Jill 12/4 ER E10

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

17 June 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in the official's letter of 25 February to Mr Noyes.

Yours sincerely,

Trefgarne

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Reference.....

U2/4 copy to: 12/2/1.

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 Section 40

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.

2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to Mr Noyes' last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.

3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

Section 40

12 June 1985

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173 June 1985

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in Sec(AS)'s letter or Mr Noyes.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24

US(AF)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from Mr R Noyes following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

I read Mr Noyes letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply. I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to Mr Noyes' own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton.

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

[redacted]

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

Dear Mr. Alton,

[redacted] has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

[redacted] decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on [redacted] letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that [redacted] is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

[redacted] claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the



case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, Section 40 [redacted] article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Noyes

(Ralph Noyes)

Section 40

[redacted]

31 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your enclosures (undated) which reached me on 30th inst.

May I comment on the reply of Lord Trefgarne to yourself.

His letter is virtually a word-for-word repeat of the standard MoD line (it must save money to keep churning them out of the word processor!) However, he does add a couple of points not previously noted. These are the specific references to not covering up "any incident or mishap" and not "in any way to obscure the truth". That said, and it presumably being true, I would have thought that it was of interest to know from the MoD why they only have the memo from Col Halt (and note he is refered to in Trefgarne letter as Colonel Halt, his rank now, although on the memo he is Lt.Col.).

Bear in mind that this incident (whatever it was) occurred on BRITISH soil (not base land) and just outside the perimeter fence of an RAF owned base. Consequently British citizens have a right to expect to have been kept informed of matters, especially as then British commander (Squadron Leader Donald Moreland) was specifically on base for that purpose.

YET - according to the MoD stance - we are lead to believe the following data was at no time made available...VIZ

(i) The tape recording made by Halt, the base security chief and several other senior officers,which describes in detail the taking of soil samples,tree samples,photograph radiation readings,infra-red readings etc AT THE SITE ON BRITISH SOIL. Subsequently (as the tape records) a "UFO" reappeared. This tape is in our hands and Moreland personally told me in January 1984 (several months before we got it from the US commander in America) that he was aware of its existence.

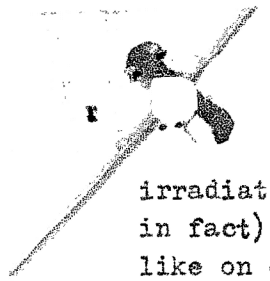
How come the MoD have no copy? How come the activities recorded on it took place on British soil without MoD knowledge? How come Moreland never advised the MoD of this vital evidence?

(ii) The photographs and samples recorded on the tape (which is officially accepted a genuine by the US) are,again,crucial evidence.Under a recent Freedom of Information (US) request they have been admitted and are likely to be made available in theUSA very shortly. Again, I think we are entitled to ask why the MoD appear not only to be unaware of these but have no copies or copies of the analysis results which must accompany them. Again Moreland was aware that these samples and photographs were taker

IF, as the MoD contend, the events do not bear any relationship to a secret test or experiment (and if they do they have lied both to you,as an MP, and to me) then that is an admission that they involve an Unidentified Object (which is all I contend the UFO to be). Indeed in the letter to me of 13 April 1983 DS 8 do say that the lights are unidentified and have "no explanation".

It seems to me that there are questions here concerning the inter-relation between the US Air Force on British soil and our country IF, as contended, several senior officers from a USAF base can be involved in protracted work outside the base and on British land without such facts being known by the MoD or the results of their work being made available.

It is an interesting question as to who legally owns the samples of allegedly



irradiated soil and tree bark taken from BRITISH land (owned by the Forestry Commiss in fact)! I doubt very much that the USAF have carte blanche approval to do what th like on our shores. And if they do I for one am very concerned about it!

Finally,you will note that the official response makes no reference to the lighthous normal background radiation theories propounded by Section 40 in the Guardian (on t strength of almost no evidence). Yet the Trefgarne letter to you does try to convince you this is the answer,

Neither the MoD nor the USAF will accept the lighthouse theory officially because th are as well aware as I am that it is easily refutable by the facts. Section 40 actually stated on television (in a debate with myself)(5 March 1985) that he regarded his investigation as more objective.His investigation, as he admitted, has consisted of interviewing not a single one of the 17 eye-witnesses from the USAF now traced as being present during the events.Instead it consisted of speaking to one forestry worker who found some holes in the ground one month after the sightings and has presumed they might have been connected! I have spoken to that worker also, on the site itself, and he is less than convinced of his theory himself.

None of this takes into account the various BRITISH CIVILIAN eye-witnesses who saw the events,some in positions where it is literally impossible to see the lighthouse, others looking in the opposite direction from it, and one who had the decidely curious experience of the "lighthouse" flying right over the top of his house!

I am trying to force no explanation onto anybody. But frankly the lighthouse idea is utterly ridiculous and the MoD must know that.

Besides which - what does it do to the USAF/RAF/MoD inter-relationship if all these senior officers (base commander, deputy commander,chief security officer, on-duty night command officer and control tower chief amongst them!) do not know what a lighthouse looks like, which has stood five miles from one of our bases for decades and still stands today?

It seems to me this proffers defence implications should these men (or men like them) ever be put into a situation where they have to defend this land!

In connection with which comes the question of the radiation. Ridpath insists this was ordinary background stuff.The forest was not irradiated, The "peak" readings in the alleged ground traces (samples taken) are quoted as seven-tenths on the point five scale.And I am reliably informed these are significant.

But again - assuming they are not - are we to take it that none of these senior USAF officers have received any training in radiation monitoring? If so - are YOU satisfied to leave them in charge of cruise missiles and nuckear weapons on our shores?

I know that I am not happy, and I am convinced that such factors pose even more serious defence implications than if a genuine bona-fide UFO was involved. The MoD have steadfastly refused to make any comment on these matters.Perhaps you,Mr Alton, can get them to do so?

I pass this letter to Ralph Noyes for forwarding to you,with a letter I trust he will write you. Ralph,as former head of the DS 8 section handling UFO enquiries, knows the situation better than I , supports our call for more information on this affair, and will I hope open your eyes to the truth about what is being obscured here.

Please do not be put off. There are important civil liberties issues at stake.

Best wishes Section 40

E8

211

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho[redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted]tchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

file 12/4
copy to 12/2/1

D/US of S(AF)DGT 4884

11 June 1985

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May which enclosed a further letter from [redacted]

I am afraid I have little to add to what I said in my letter of 20 February 1985 in reply to your original enquiry on this matter. We remain satisfied that the events reported by Colonel Halt on 13 January 1981 are of no defence significance. The report was, like all other UFO reports, examined at the time by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and we have since seen nothing to alter our views.

Turning to [redacted] request for copies of all UFO reports we have received since 1980, I am afraid that the Department could not justify the effort involved in acceding to this request. However, [redacted] will already know that we are prepared to release reports of specific incidents to interested parties and, if he has any particular reports in mind, [redacted] can obtain copies of these from Sec(AS)2 in my Department, whose address is room [redacted] Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB.

[redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Trefg.

Lord Trefgarne

Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

M4

[redacted] Section 40

E7/1

UFO

SEC (AS)

Please note E9. Forward a draft reply to this office by close of play 6/6/85.

[redacted] Section 40

21/5/85. For APS/US of S(AF)

[redacted] Section 40

M5

APS/US of S(AF)

I enclose a draft reply to the letter at E9 as requested. There is little to add to US of S(AF)'s previous reply to Mr Rees on this subject (E8) and suggest there is advantage in keeping the reply brief.

[redacted] Section 40

7 June 1985

Head of Sec(AS)

FROM US OF S(AF) TO RT HON MERLYN REES MP

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 1985 which enclosed a further letter from your constituent Section 40 [redacted]

I am afraid I have little to add to what I said in my letter of 20 February 1985 in reply to your original enquiry on this matter. We remain satisfied that the events reported by Colonel Halt on 13 January 1981 are of no defence significance. The report was, like all other UFO reports, examined at the time by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and we have since seen nothing to alter our views.

Turning to Section 40 [redacted] request for copies of all UFO reports we have received since 1980, I am afraid that the Department could not justify the effort involved in acceding to this request. However, Section 40 [redacted] will already know that we are prepared to release reports of specific incidents to interested parties and, if he has any particular reports in mind, Section 40 [redacted] can obtain copies of these from Sec(AS)2 in the Department.

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

7 June 1985

APS/US of S(AF)

Copy to:
APS/S of S
D Air Def

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT: WOODBRIDGE, DECEMBER 1980

1. I understand you agreed with APS/S of S that US of S(AF) would reply to Lord Hill-Norton's letter of 1 May which was sent to Sec(AS) under cover of APS/S of S's minute MO 26/19 dated 29 May 1985. You kindly agreed to an extension of the deadline and indicated that the gist of Lord Trefgarne's reply should simply be to refer to his contribution to the Lords debate on the subject on 19 January 1979.

2. I attach a draft reply accordingly. The events to which Lord Hill-Norton refers are, of course, those in your file D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884 in which US of S(AF) is in correspondence with Mr Merlyn Rees MP. US of S(AF) told Mr Rees in his letter of 20 February that those events were of no defence significance.

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)

DRAFT LETTER FROM US OF S(AF) TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

You wrote to Michael Heseltine on 1 May 1985 about the sighting of an unidentified flying object near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. Michael has asked me to reply as UFO questions fall within my responsibilities.

I do understand your concern and I am grateful to you for having taken the trouble to write. I do not believe, however, that there are any grounds for changing our view, formed at the time, that the events to which you refer were of no defence significance.

You may recall the House of Lords debate on UFOs in 1979 (Hansard, 19 January 1979). I attach an extract of what I said on that occasion. Whilst I respect the views of those who differ from me on this matter I am bound to say that nothing I have seen since then has led me to change the views I myself expressed.

Section 40 [redacted]

Many thanks.
I remain
this at
CAFS; with
today

Section 40 [redacted] 3/6

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: MO 26/19

Sec(AS)2 [redacted]

UFOs

1. In consultation with the other Directorates or Divisions concerned, please advise the Secretary of State, with a draft as necessary, on the attached communication from Lord Hill-Norton dated 1 May 85

2. Please submit advice by not later than 31 May 85

3. The attachment must be placed on a Departmental registered file.

~~4. I am copying this minute, with the attachment, to:~~

PS/Def Sec(RAF)

[redacted]

Date 29 May 1985

APS/S of S

[redacted]

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Personal

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, PC, MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence, Main Building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HB.

1st May, 1985

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been interested for some years in the UFO problem, and belong to the (rather ineffective) House of Lords UFO Group. In pursuit of this interest I have recently been impressed by some, to me anyway, new evidence of what is called the "Bentwaters Incident". In case the matter has not already been brought to your personal attention I think you would wish to be aware of unusual incidents which were reported to your officials by the United States Air Force authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. Although this date is now somewhat remote, the case has puzzling and disquieting features which have never been satisfactorily explained by your Department and which continue to preoccupy informed sections of the public. Having recently seen a cogent documentary programme on the reported events made by the American television company, Cable News Network (already broadcast in the US and now likely, I believe, to be shown here), I think you may wish to take stock of the matter.

In brief, the Deputy Commander at the USAF Base at RAF Woodbridge informed the Ministry of Defence in a written report dated 13th January 1981 that events had occurred in British territory adjoining the base on two nights in late December 1980 which suggested the intrusion of a piloted vehicle which had entered and left British airspace, and landed on British territory, on these two occasions with complete impunity and without identifying itself. The existence of this report was not made public until a copy of it was released in the US under their Freedom of Information Act in June 1983. In the preceding two years or so the Ministry of Defence had denied any knowledge of untoward events at RAF Woodbridge. Since the report was made public the official line in response to enquiries has merely been that the matter is of no Defence interest.

My personal view, having considered the fragmentary but compelling evidence brought to public knowledge by the media, is that the case cannot be disposed of in these rather perfunctory terms. If the report made by the USAF authorities in January 1981 is accurate, there is evidence that British airspace and territory are vulnerable to unwarranted intrusion to a disturbing degree. If, on the other hand, the report of the Deputy Base Commander must be dismissed (together with the collateral testimony given to Cable News Network and other investigators by several additional American witnesses), then we have evidence - no less disturbing, I suggest - that a sizable number of

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine 1st May, 1985

USAF personnel at an important base in British territory are capable of serious misperception, the consequences of which might be grave in military terms. It seems to me advisable that you should be briefed on the case in view of the likelihood of continued public interest in it, and that your officials should be ready to demonstrate a more serious concern with its implications than they have so far manifested. There seems to be a head of steam building up on this matter, and I can see a potential 'banana-skin' looming.

I was able to see the Cable News Network documentary at their London office by courtesy of their American Headquarters. But I have no doubt that they would be very ready to show it to you personally, or to a small group of your officials, if you felt that this would be helpful in briefing you.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Thomas

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
witchboard)

12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

I enclose a formal reply to your letter of 21 February concerning Section 40 Section 40

I thought that you might also be interested to read the enclosed "Guardian" article which goes some way towards refuting Section 40 arguments!

Yours sincerely,

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

E47.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Teleph Section 40 ..... (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February with the enclosed from Section 40

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, which Section 40 mentions in her letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 Parliamentary Questions, one of which is that put down by Sir Patrick Wall and which Section 40 also mentions.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach a draft reply to David Alton MP. Since Mr Alton is unlikely to be familiar with the MOD's interest in the subject, the draft follows the standard line taken with correspondents on UFOs.

2. However, Mr Alton's correspondent, Section 40 [redacted], is well known to us. She has written on a number of occasions, both privately and as Section 40 [redacted] of the British UFO Research Association, concerning the reported sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. She has also written a book on the subject. She has been assured that there is no question of a cover up over this incident. A copy of her letter of 15 March 1983 and our reply of 13 April 1983 are enclosed. There is nothing we can usefully add to what has been said to Section 40 [redacted] before.

3. Also enclosed are copies of 2 PQs which we normally pass to correspondents who may be interested. One of these, put down by Sir Patrick Wall on 24 October 1983, is specifically mentioned in Section 40 [redacted] letter.

4. You may also have seen an article, again mentioned by Section 40 [redacted] which appeared in The Guardian on 5 January 1985, giving an interesting counter-argument to that which she propounds. Section 40 Section 40 is clearly not convinced by the Guardian piece and for this reason no mention of it is made in the draft reply which will no doubt be passed on to her. However, a copy of the article is enclosed and US of S(AF) may like to pass this to Mr Alton for information under separate cover.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

12 Mar 85

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173 March 1985

Thank you for your letter of 21 February with the enclosed from [redacted]

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

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I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 Parliamentary Questions, one of which is that put down by Sir Patrick Wall and which Section 40 also mentions.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2a(1)-40

Defence Secretariat Division 8

E156.

Section 40 [redacted]

D/DS8/10/209 1270

8 April 1983

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the subject of UFOs.

As regards your offer to summarise the reports held by this Department there really is very little to summarise. I attach a copy of a blank report form showing the type of information we require together with a couple of examples of completed reports (with the name and address of the informant deleted for reasons of confidentiality). I am sure you will agree that, although we hold a large number of reports, each one is indeed very brief.

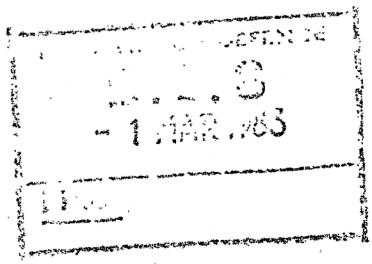
Turning now to your interest in the sighting at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, I can confirm that USAF personnel did see unusual lights outside the boundary fence early in the morning of 27 December 1980 but no explanation for the occurrence was ever forthcoming. There is however, no question of the account being a cover-up for a crashed aircraft or testing of secret devices as you suggest, nor was there any contact with "alien beings".

I understand that an article on the Woodbridge sighting has been published in the magazine "OMNI" (Vol 5 No.6) in which you may be interested.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40



February 28 1983

Dear Section 40

Further to your letter to me of 20 January 1983 (your ref: D/DS8/10/209); the subject UFOs. I trust you have received my subsequent letter to this (addressed to Section 40 wherin I suggested that you might consider lodging the files you hold with a recognised scientific establishment. Here they could be accessable (on arrangement) to serious researchers, and their use could be adequately controlled. I really think this makes sense because the volume of data you must hold would make it very difficult to release other than summaries in printed form and often access to the full materials might be essential for scientific study.

A number of possible sources for locating these files, eg a university, come to mind. Indeed there have been a number of interested responses to the article on UFOs by myself and Peter Warrington (New Scientist, 10 Feb 1983) to which I refer you for illustration of my, hopefully, serious and none-sensationilst position on this topic.

I am well aware that to you UFO data is barely of interest and, as it does not seem to directly impinge on defence implications, of relatively low priority. However, I hope you also see that whilst 90% of these reports are unquestionably explicable there <u>are</u> reports that seem to offer probative data to scientists. Work that you, of course, have neither the facilities nor the resources to handle. It should be your concern that you hold this data, faithfully reported by individuals who would like something done. And I am delighted at your decision to make the material accessable for research.

Presumably it will be in your interests to cultivate a mood whereby UFO reports are not made to you, but to a scientific establishment (another advantage of lodging the files there). You could naturally rely upon the UFO community to transmit reports to you which might suggest defence implications. That is, if you are fair by serious investigators serious investigators will naturally be fair by you. And we too, of course, have the interests of Britain at heart and would not wish you to be unaware of any cases that might involve defence implications. Even though, as you have pointed out to me previously, none of your studies so far <u>have</u> produced such implications.

You have promissed to advise me when you have taken a decision to release data, which is why I was somewhat surprised to learn that you have supplied to some colleagues of mine in Bristol data on cases in South Wales. I would, therefore, very much like an update on the current position please. For the last few years while writing to you I have stressed that I want to help put across your true position to the public (with which I have some influence as a full-time writer of UFO books and articles). But for this purpose I do need your help in return, of course. I see from the current issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, for example, that much is said about your alleged cover-up and it is towards correcting this view with the facts (if you will openly give them) that I am concerned. Hence my previois requests to be granted access to the data prior to release so that I might present a fair review in the UFO literature and defuse such commentary.

Finally, on the question of defence implications, I would wish to advise you of an accretion of data concerning an incident which appears to have taken place at the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1980. It is of some concern to me that you have not been able to offer any statement on this event, because on face value the evidence <u>does</u> suggest that somebody is hiding something.

Now I have published some of the material supplied to me (and gathered myself) in the UFO literature, primarily because in lieu of any other reason I believe the information should be told. But understand my position here. I have no wish to do anything injurious to British defence and if I was offered any reason (however roundabout) which suggested the case should simply be dropped then I would do so. For example, it is possible that the UFO story is covering either an accident or

t of some secret device (either by British or American sources). Therefore, to continually stress this in a UFO context (which is how it has been reported) and yet inevitably have to mention such none-UFO explanations as these possibilities might be against this nations interests. Yet what else can I do, since I have no such reason to argue in this way and feel myself duty bound to discuss the matter in case it genuinely has gone un-noticed and yet may be of potential importance?

Vety briefly, on this case, we have first-class hard evidence (which we could of course give to the national press but have had no desire to so do) that something occurred (during the last three days of the month, possibly December 29, 1980). This includes evidence of radar tracking of the unexplained object, its 'landing' in Rendlesham Forest and a number of independant testimonies that relate to a quite fantastic account of what supposedly happened after that. It is impossible for me and the couple of other people in possession of these full facts not to accept that a genuine event did occur and naturally we are more than a little concerned that (a) it has not been admitted to and (b) you profess to know nothing about it.

As I said, the evidence is strong (almost, I might say, categorically probative) and could (if we chose to discuss the full facts in the right way outside the limited circukation we have done so far) lead to quite an outcry about cover-ups. Personally, I believe you must have very good reason for doing what you are doing about this incident, and that may have nothing to do with UFOs per se. However, please see my position and recognise my dilemma. I want to do the right thing.

I am not expecting a reply saying anything specific about this event, but you may be able to offer advice about the problem I face. I have this data that seems probative. You do not seem to want it and claim to know nothing about it. I cannot just sit on it because it appears to be too important. Yet if I make a big issue out of it national security may suffer.

I would add that the story behind these events indicates that there was contact between military sources and an other intelligence (which is not alien spaceships in the nuts and bolts sense) but which is an indigenous intelligence to planet earth which in fact is way beyond us in terms of most capacities and therefore represent the real rulers of our world.

This account does merge with data offered by other sources to me (in confidence) including government officials in this country and abfoad. I have never published it and have actually played down the possibility in my books. I am not saying I believe it. But I am saying that I have heard it from so many dources that I do have to listen. And it does make a great deal of sense out of many things.

The UFO subject is complex and to represent it fairly very difficult. I so very much do want to do the right thing. But I am beginning to doubt if I am doing the right thing. Can you offer any advice?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

(EIC)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

GRASSROOTS

A flashlight in the forest

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft . . .' More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983: "UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. It told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World paid £12,000 for the story. A book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 20ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitnesses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth

CONT... 12

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force notepaper was headed "Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1 Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L) two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2 The next day, three depressions 1½" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05- 07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3 Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp, angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

short, there was no
diation at the site.
star-like objects
ıragraph of Col.
s me..., they were prob-
just that — stars. Bright
lestial objects are the main
culprits in UFO sightings, and have fooled many experienced observers, including pilots. The object seen by Col. Halt to the south was almost certainly Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a colonel in the US Air Force should identify a star as a UFO, consider the alternatives. Is it likely that a bright, flashing UFO should hover over southern England for three hours without being spotted by anyone other than a group of excited airmen? And if Col. Halt really believed that an alien craft had invaded his air space, why did he not scramble fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue to believe that an alien spacecraft landed in Rendlesham Forest that night. But I know that the first sighting coincided with the burn-up in the atmosphere of an exceptionally bright meteor, and that the airmen who saw the flashing UFO between the pine trees were looking straight at the Orford Ness lighthouse. The rest of the case is a product of human imagination.

DAILY EXPRESS

Enoch warns Irish over 'spy' radar 13

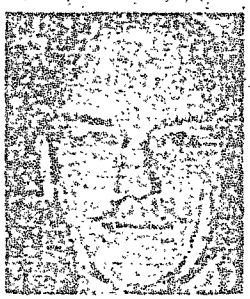
By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

A NEW long-range radar system which can see over the horizon could be the turning point in Anglo-Irish affairs, Enoch Powell claimed last night.

The system, code-named Cold Witness, may be based in Britain and would greatly improve NATO surveillance of the strategically important waters around Norway.

It would, said Mr Powell, strip the Irish Republic of its importance for picking up early warning signals of Russian movements.

Mr Powell, Official Unionist MP for South Down, who was speaking in County Armagh, added that Ireland had previously been able to blackmail Britain and America into undermining the constitutional position of Ulster.



Mr Powell: 'Blackmail'

THE TIMES

Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence 2

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The development of a high-level radar system could strip the Irish Republic of its strategic influence over Britain and the United States, Mr Enoch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in a speech at Markethill, Co Armagh, that the implications of the little-noticed development were revolutionary for Northern Ireland. It was the trump card which could mark a turning point in the province's fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as defence surveillance was limited by the horizon, the republic's position in the Atlantic was of outstanding strategic importance.

"Hence the elaborate microwave telecommunications system, unrelated to any possible domestic requirements, with which the republic is being provided at a cost of £800 million and which will be able to feed data into the so-called 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance of the territory of the Irish for strategic and intelligence purpose has endowed it since the 1960s with an ideal weapon for blackmailing the United States and, through the United States, Britain, into undermaining the constitutional status of Ulster and preparing the way for its absorption into an all-Ireland confederation.

"It has been a ruthless exercise directed at acquiring and protecting strategic assets in the island of Ireland and it has been conducted with typical cynicism and unscrupulousness from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the end of that exercise was in sight, if the advance of defence technology and 'over-the-horizon' radar undermined the republic's position.

"If Britain, including Northern Ireland, can do the job itself just as well, there is no need to pay the republic blood money to have the job done somewhere else. Why send washing out, which you could so at home?

"Chill news indeed for FitzGerald and Haughey, chill news for the IRA and Sinn Fein: their wares will no longer be marketable, the days when they basked in the sunshine of British and American official countenance and co-operation will have gone by. The writing is upon the wall."

5 JAN 1985

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [*pursuant to his reply*, 9 March 1984, c. 728]: For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

Acknowledged E1
US(Air)
25 FEB 1985

See (AS)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st February 1985

I enclose a letter I have received from Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments on the points raised by this lady and if you could let me know whether your Department has investigated any of the incidents she describes.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

12 February 1985

Dear Sir,

Please let me apologise for the time I take up in writing you this letter. Especially as I am not one of your constituents. (Although you are my closest Liberal M.P.). I write because I believe the subject is of concern to the British people and the Liberal party has demonstrated a respect for that.

I also note that Section 40 [redacted], a BBC Radio Merseyside producer, has had a brief word with you on the subject of this letter a couple of months back. That fact, plus my genuine admiration for you (I have voted Liberal in every election since I became old enough in the unfashionable days of 1970) leads me to inquire if there is anything you can do.

The subject concerns 'UFOs'. But please do not switch off at that. My approach to the subject is not (emphatically not) the "UFOs are spaceships piloted by little green men" angle Section 40 [redacted] will support that. As will my several books on the phenomenon or my articles in the scientific press (see, for example, "New Scientist" February 1983).

Besides which I am not writing to ask you to defend the UFO spotters, a thing which might be politically unwise in view of some of the UFO spotters I know! The specific events with which I am concerned may not even be UFO related. But they certainly involve a serious withholding of information from the public by the present government and a possible attempt to supress a secret weapons mishap that went on eight miles from Ipswich in December 1980.

It would be impossible to explain in a letter all the substance behind this matter. All I aim to do is give some background, some names of people you can check out to demonstrate that I am not talking through my hat, and then ask for some time to see you. I do appreciate how extraordinarily busy an M.P. must be, but if you can suggest a date I am willing to come to London where (if you can offer myself and a colleague an hour or so) we would like to show you documents, play some tape recordings and generally paint a more detailed background. Much of this material about the December 1980 events has been leaked to us by US government sources (but confirmed later by our own MoD), others involve data refused to us by the MoD and obtained in the USA (via the Freedom of Information Act) despite being official MoD property!

Briefly, my involvement began in January 1981 (about 4 weeks after the alleged incident) when a radar operator at RAF Watton breached the official secrets act and leaked to me a story concerning an object which they had tracked entering UK air space on 27 December 1980, and which had 'crashed' into Rendlesham Forest half a mile outside the perimeter fence of RAF Woodbridge (a NATO base leased by the MoD to the Americans, entirely staffed by the US Air Force flying A-10 bombers, but presided over by a British Squadron Leader as base commander). My radar source advised that USAF intelligence men had gone to Watton and examined the radar film of the incident a couple of days later (something that must have involved MoD permission). These USAF men had spun a fantastic yarn about the object being a "spaceship" and a communication between the Wing Commander of the unit (now a USAF Brigadier General Gordon Williams, who is based in Washington).

Of course, not being one to believe a tale like this (whoever is telling it) I and some colleagues in East Anglia spent the next two and a half years trying to find out the truth. Within a few months we had come to the conclusion the UFO story had to be a blind leaked publicly as something which would be laughed at, in order to mask something extraordinary (and presumably rather nasty) which had really gone on.

The work since has involved tracking down the civilians involved, spending a great deal of time and money (even going to the USA), and interviewing military witnesses from Airmen First Class up to the Brigadier General. We found a lot of circumstantial evidence that civilians had been frightened off. Definite evidence that government officials had investigated the matter on 1 January 1981 by interviewing local civilians. Three USAF airmen (up to rank of Sargeant) who independently supported the story as offered by the Watton radar man. Plus many other airmen and higher ranks (including the British Squadron Leader, Donald Moreland, three USAF Colonels, including the base commander and deputy base commander) who all affirmed that an unexplained event had occurred which involved an object crashing into the forest, flying about, being chased by a security patrol and taking off again leaving severe damage, radiation levels etc. These higher ranks all refused to acknowledge the alien nature of the craft or the alleged communication with Williams. But they all insisted that it was something unknown to them. The USAF base commander said it was not American, British or Russian, but he had no idea what it was.

Naturally, we sought official confirmation of this. We have letters and tape recordings with people involved. The MoD (via their department handling such enquiries, DS 8) denied any knowledge of the events. Later when knowledge was admitted (after we produced their own document, obtained via the US Freedom of Information Act) they suggested it must have been temporarily mislaid at the times when we approached them (Feb/March 1981 and October 1981). All of which is odd since when we had our first official appointment to see the British base commander (on 18 February 1981, just six weeks after the events) he thought we were from the MoD to interview him! He was clearly expecting an investigation. (For reasons later proved when the MoD document was released to us - this base commander had forwarded, with a covering letter, the official base report on the incident to the MoD files just four weeks previous to our visit).

In early 1983 I published several papers on the case, and the results of our investigation so far. This included an interview with the US science journal "Omni". That appeared in March 1983. Within four weeks I suddenly had a letter from the MoD department DS 8 now (after over two years) admitting that they did have records on such an event, that it was unexplained, and that there was no question at all of it involving "alien beings" (inverted commas their use) or being a cover for a crashed aircraft carrying a nuclear bomb (a theory I postulated) or the testing of secret devices (something I had never suggested to them or in any article). This had been part of a quote from me in OMNI, however. The DS 8 officer was now (just a month after publication in the USA) refering me to this magazine article, without in her letter indicating I am quoted by it!

When I received this letter (13 April 1983) two other dramatic things happened at once, after two years of stalemate and bluffing. A USAF Colonel (Ted Conrad) gave an interview to OMNI admitting it was a real unexplained phenomenon but shooting down any talk of aliens, and along with him Squadron Leader Moreland officially confirmed the incident too! Also a US airman trotted out into the public domain (and created a front page article in that eminently 'credible' source the News of the World!) talking a load of bull about alien contact on the base. Voice Stress analysis on him

...

...as seemingly demonstrated what we believed all along. Either he is a paranoic jumping on the bandwagon (or as seems more likely in view of the background facts) he was put up to this by US government sources to rescue the flagging UFO "nutters" theory in the face of the danger that the real truth would get out.

The second event was official support from the Pentagon confirming (in similar terms to the MoD) that the events had happened and were unexplained. They then released to us a memo (allegedly with MoD permission!) which was signed by then deputy base commander (Lt Col Charles Halt) and reported direct to our MoD re TWO incidents, both involving unexplained UFOs, both witnessed by many USA personnel (including Halt himself), and the first (being the original event we knew all about) having left tree damage, symetrical holes in the ground, and radiation in the holes and on the trees. It had also upset nearby farm animals (we discovered from one farmer whose cattle were hit by a taxi when scared by the object that he was paid sufficient compensation to clear off out of the area and buy a new farm in Devon!)

There are numerous problems about this memo, not counting the question as to why the MoD had denied this to British citizens, even denied its existence, but according to its covering letter endorsed its release to US citizens under their FoI act! One is this mysterious second incident, never before mentioned by any of our witnesses (despite the report itself attesting that many more people were a party to it than to the events of 27 December) (The MoD admission to me of 13 April, just two months before this memo release in the USA, was paradoxical as it talks only of the first night and makes no mention of the second...it is also, at best, misrepresenting the truth, because it is plainly based on the above refered to memo yet talks of "lights" when the memo describes a triangular craft of very specific dimensions, and says not one word about the tree damage, animal effects, symetrical holes in the ground or radiation levels officially refered to!)

The second major problem with the memo is that it is dated 13 January 1981, 17 days after the events. The MoD insist this is the only data on their files and thus their first record. Yet the local interrogations occurred 12 days prior to this as did the the USAF intelligence visit to the RAF base at Watton (which must have had MoD approval).

We took the MoD memo to Whitehall (on the pretext that we had a file, denied to us previously, but released to Americans under FoI, so we were not sure if we were in breach of the official secrets act by possessing it). At the MoD we were told we were not in contravention, had the memo confirmed as in MoD possession, and had it insisted that they had not released it to the US government for FoI release, despite the cover letter with its release from the US government saying exactly the opposite!

The News of the World story then appeared and a sequence of "shoot it down" stories have followed, suggesting that it was a lighthouse at Orford Ness. The calibre of news media promoting these stories is strange, in view of the usual lethargy about UFO matters "The Times" (3 Oct 1983), "The Guardian" (as recent as 5 Jan 1985) etc. However, the MoD, the base itself, and all the officers involved absolutely refuse to acknowledge the lighthouse theory. They still insist (in writing) that the event is unexplained. Not that the media sources mentioned above are taking any notice of this. And believe me we have tried to get a serious media source to counteract these blatant "cover-up" stories.

A tape recording has even now been released to us, recording the events of the second night. This includes the taking of site photographs, samples of irradiated bark and soil, geiger counter monitoring of the damage and traces, and a detailed

discussion of these things by several USAF officers (including the deputy base commander,head of base security,and on duty night commander).Later on the tape a UFO reappears which evidently is the Orford Ness lighthouse.But the tape also clearly illustrates that the senior officers are acting !

This tape has been officially confirmed by several senior officers on the base (including the last three base commanders!).Yet in writing under Freedom of Information,the US government have denied its existence.So have our own MoD. Both these parties also refuse to acknowledge the existance of the photos and samples,as plainly recorded on the tape.

As I said right at the start this is a complicated business.And I can only scratch the surface of it here.But it seems to me (remaining as objective as I can) that something happened which the MoD and US government want to hide.To do this they have been willing to use a crazy UFO tale as a convenient smokescreen and possibly even comply with fabrication of evidence and testimony (certainly to obscure the truth from British citizens)

Major Sir Patrick Wall,of the defence committee, has asked questions in the house But these followed the News of the World codswallop and,despite my briefing him beforehand,were frankly the wrong questions to ask.John Stanley (the same man in the dock over Belgrano right now) responded and did nothing but admit that the government had seen the Halt memo to the MoD.Patrick Wall backed off.I spoke to him last November and he refused point blank to ask any more questions,on the grounds that four years ago is too long back into the past!

Former chief of staff at the MoD and admiral of the fleet,Lord Hill-Norton, has also been of partial help and been briefed.But he prefers the quiet life and says there is nothing he can do.

This leaves us with one of two positions.The evidence clearly suggests something did happen,capable of damaging and irradiating civilian land.The official position remains that it is unexplained. Are the government really ignoring an unexplained intrus on by an irradiating object,right next to one of our NATO bases? If so I cannot be satisfied.

The other option is that the lighthouse theory is true. If so, then it means that senior USAF officers have mutually complied in a conspiracy to protect their incredible incompetence. They not only mistake a lighthouse (which has been there for decades) as a triangular craft flying around the forest and landing for two hours! They also cannot tell whether tree damage and holes in the ground are real or not. They do not know whether radiation levels are normal or not. And their investigations and MoD investigations are so inept they cannot spot the very same lighthouse, which continued to be exactly where it was night after night after night.

This implies something remiss about our base commander policy at NATO bases, which I think causes grave concern for European security. For all three US commanders (1980-1984) are party to the above (as fabricators and conspirators, not just fools). So is the British base commander. So is the MoD for endorsing the appointments.

One thing these media stories saying "it was a lighthouse" have all missed is this. Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander, signatorey of the MoD memo, witness to the events, instigator of the tape, was promoted to full Colonel the very week the News of the World story appeared. A few months later, when the "it was a lighthouse"

Best wishes,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telepho Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

[redacted] E2

Section 40

file 12/4

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884

20 February 1985

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 24 January, with the enclosed from your constituent Section 40 [redacted]

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sightings" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, of lights seen outside RAF Woodbridge, a copy of which was sent to Section 40 [redacted] on request and which he mentions in his letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions, one of which mentions the report in question.

Yours sincerely,

Trefg.

Lord Trefgarne

Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

E1

Section 40 [redacted]

LOOSE MINUTE

DGT 4884

Feb 85

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach a draft reply to Merlyn Rees MP. Since Mr Rees is unlikely to be familiar with the MOD's interest in the subject, the draft follows the standard line taken with correspondents on UFOs.

2. However, Mr Rees' constituent, Section 40 [redacted] represents an organisation called the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS) which is well known to us. The report to which Section 40 [redacted] refers was provided by the MOD in May 1984. A copy of the report, together with our covering letter and Section 40 [redacted] request, are also enclosed. Clearly there is nothing we can usefully add to what was said in our letter to Section 40 [redacted]

3. Also enclosed are copies of 2 PQs which we normally pass to correspondents who may be interested. One of these, put down by Sir Patrick Wall on 24 October 1983, specifically mentions the incident in question.

4. You may also have seen an article which appeared in The Guardian on 5 January 1985, giving an interesting counter-argument to that propounded by YUFOS. A copy of the article is enclosed and US of S(AF) may like to pass this to Mr Rees for information under separate cover. We are aware, from other correspondence, that UFO investigators are not convinced by this article and for this reason no mention of it is made in the draft reply which will no doubt be passed on to Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884 February 1985

Thank you for your letter of 24 January, with the enclosed from your constituent Section 40 [redacted]

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sightings" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, of lights seen outside RAF

Woodbridge, a copy of which was sent to Section 40 on request and which he mentions in his letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions, one of which mentions the report in question.

Lord Trefgarne

Merlyn Rees Esq MP

Job No 2a(1)-24

Acknowledged

28 JAN 1985

See

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24 January 1985

Dear Michael

I enclose copies of two letter I have received from Section 40 who is a constituent of mine.

Your comments on the points he makes would be appreciated.

Merlyn Rees

Merlyn Rees

Rt Hon M Heseltine MP
S of S Defence
Whitehall Sw1

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

International Communications

Section 40 [redacted]
Overseas Liaison Officer
Section 40 [redacted]
England
Tel. Section 40 [redacted]

Merlyn Rees M.P.
c/o
The House of Commons,
Westminster,
London.

20.1.85.

Dear Mr Rees,

Just a few lines to ask you if you have managed to ask the questions of Mr Heseltine which were contained in my last letter dated 23.12.84.

The reason that I may seem a lttle impatient is that the questions I asked are vital to my research into UFOs at the present,so if you have not already asked Mr Heseltine the questions in my last letter could you please do so at the earliest opportunity.

I can appreciate that you are a busy man but I take the study of UFOs very seriously as no doubt you are aware of if you read the copy of QUEST I sent you.If you would care to find out more about the kind of research undertaken by our organisation then I would like to invite you to attend our forth -comeing conference in Leeds on March the 23rd.

The conference is to be held at Centenary House North Street,Leeds, and starts at 1.15 prompt.Speakers include Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] (our president) Section 40 [redacted] (our research head) and myself.I am sure that if you could find the time to attend the conference you will not be dissapointed.

Please find enclosee with this letter a SKY CRASH leaflet.I would recommend that if you have the time you read this book then you may realise why the questions I have put to both you and Mr Heseltine are so important.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

International Communications

Mr Merlyn Rees M.P.
c/o
The Houses of Parliment,
Westminster,
London.

23.12.84.

Section 40 [redacted]
Overseas Liaison Officer
Section 40 [redacted]
England
Tel. Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy of a report that I obtained from the Ministry of Defence in May of this year.

The report is from Lt Col Charles Halt,who at the time was deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk.This report was sent to the MOD by Col Halt and as you will see it refers to the sighting of an unusual metallic glowing object and numerous sightings of unusual lights,all of which were observed near to RAF Woodbridge.

What I would like you to do on my behalf is to ask Mr Michael Heseltine a number of questions concerning the enclosed report.

These questions are as follows:
1.What was the object in paragraph one and from where did it originate. Was the object mentioned in paragraph one a secret miliatary device, British,American,foriegn or a mixture in origin.
Was the object mentioned in paragraph one not of human design and origin

2.Is there any truth in the rumours that during the observation of the object mentioned in paragraph one that contact between Woodbridge base personnel and beings of a non-human intelligence took place.

3.Was there any photographs taken of the object mentioned in paragraph one or cine or video film.If yes what was the results of the developed film and where is it now.

4.Was there any photographs taken of the depressions mentioned in paragraph two.If yes where are these photographs at this moment in time.Also what does the Minister for Defence make of the high radiation readings that were recorded within the area of depressions mentiomed in paragraph two.

5.What were the objects that were observed in paragraph three,and from where did they originate.

6.What official investigation was carried out into the observations mentioned by Col Halt in the enclosed report.

Are we to believe that no investigation was carried out at all.

7.I would also like to know what further information the MOD has on this report.Are we to believe that the report by Col Halt is the only document that refers to the sightings outside of RAF Woodbridge.

Last but not least I have been asked by a colleague of mine to ask Mr Heseltine if he or any scientific body will take an unbiased look at the evidence accumilated by my colleague into this report by Col Halt. The large amount of evidence accumilated by my colleague does conclude that something very unusual was observed outside RAF Woodbridge.My colleagues name is Section 40 and she is willing to present her evidence to anyone anywhere anytime so long as three weeks notice is given in advance of presenting the evidence.

These are all the questions I would like to ask the Minister for Defence at the moment.

I would also be interested to hear your comments on this report aswell Mr Rees I am sure it will make interesting reading.I have also enclosed a copy of our latest journal "QUEST" for your attention I would also like to hear your comments on our journal.

I look forward to both your reply and the reply from Mr Heseltine.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

From Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

File 694

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/DS8/10/209-648

Date
25 May 1984

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your two letters, of 7 and 8 May.

In your letters you asked whether we had any information concerning three reported sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify. The only one of these for which I could find a report was the one on 27 December 1980, at RAF Woodbridge. I am therefore attaching a copy of a report by Colonel Charles Halt of the United States Air Force, which is the only information we have on this.

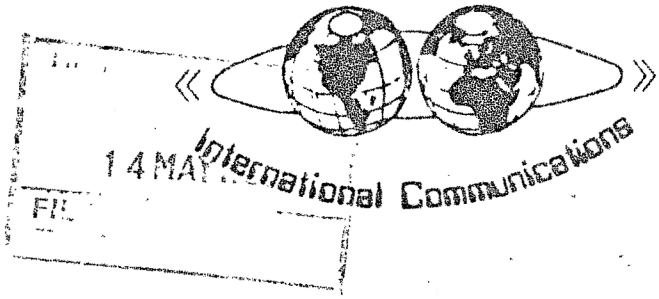
You may also be interested in the two attached Parliamentary Questions.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

E92



Section 40

Defence Secretariat 8,
Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

DATE:8.5.84.

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer

Section 40

England

Tel. Section 40

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you please forward any information that you have on the following reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Date and time of sighting:Friday the 11th of July 1980,3.30 am.

Description of object:A large flattened oval shaped object,Colour yellow then blue/white then changed back to yellow.

Position of observers:Soyland Moor between Littleborough and Todmordnn North Yorkshire,England.

How Observed:Naked eye only.

Direction object first seen:North.

Weather conditions:Cold and clear with Moon and stars visible.

Names of observers:Police Constable Section 40 and Police Constable Section 40

Second report.

Date:December the 27th 1980 at 3am.

Description of object:Metallic triangular object,2/3 meters across its base and 2 meters high.One red light on top with a row of blue lights underneath.The object was on some sort of"legs".

Position of observers:Tangham wood,near USAF base at RAF Woodbridge,Suffolk England.

How observed:Naked eye and 8-10 power lense.

Direction object seen:North.

P.T.O.

Angle of sight: 10 degrees above the horizon, just above tree top level and on the ground.

Distance: Not determined.

Movements: Object came down through trees in a multitude of colours and landed on the ground. When moving off it manouvered between trees.

Weather conditions: Not determined.

Names of observers: Lt Colonel Charles I Halt, deputy commander of the USAF 81st Tactical Flying Wing. Plus both British and American Air Force personel.

I would appreciate all the information that your department has on the two UFO reports that I have mentioned.

If there is any cost involved for the above reports I will be only too pleased to oblige.

Hopefully I will recieve your reply before too long, untill then I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

(109)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

The Guardian
GRASSROOTS

A flashlight in the forest

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft . . .' More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983: 'UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. It told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World paid £12,000 for the story, book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation. Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 26ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitnesses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth

CONT... 12

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force notepaper was headed 'Unexplained Lights', dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1 Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L) two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2 The next day, three depressions 1½" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05- 07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3 Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp, angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

CONT.

short, there was no ...diation at the site. As fo... star-like objects ...the fi... paragraph of Col. Halt's memo, they were probably just that — stars. Bright celestial objects are the main culprits in UFO sightings, and have fooled many experienced observers, including pilots. The object seen by Col. Halt to the south was almost certainly Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a colonel in the US Air Force should identify a star as a UFO, consider the alternatives. Is it likely that a bright, flashing UFO should hover over southern England for three hours without being spotted by anyone other than a group of excited airmen? And if Col Halt really believed that an alien craft had invaded his air space, why did he not scramble fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue to believe that an alien spacecraft landed in Rendlesham Forest that night. But I know that the first sighting coincided with the burn-up in the atmosphere of an exceptionally bright meteor, and that the airmen who saw the flashing UFO between the pine trees were looking straight at the Orford Ness lighthouse. The rest of the case is a product of human imagination.

DAILY EXPRESS

Enoch warns Irish over 'spy' radar

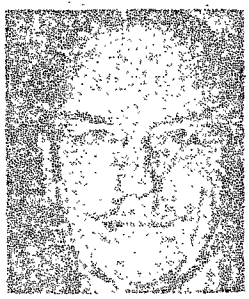
By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

A NEW long-range radar system which can see over the horizon could be the turning point in Anglo-Irish affairs, Enoch Powell claimed last night.

The system, code-named Cold Witness, may be based in Britain and would greatly improve NATO surveillance of the strategically important waters around Norway.

It would, said Mr Powell, strip the Irish Republic of its importance for picking up early warning signals of Russian movements.

Mr Powell, Official Unionist MP for South Down, who was speaking in County Armagh, added that Ireland had previously been able to blackmail Britain and America into undermining the constitutional position of Ulster.



Mr Powell: "Blackmail"

THE TIMES

Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The development of a high-level radar system could strip the Irish Republic of its strategic influence over Britain and the United States, Mr Enoch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in a speech at Markethill, Co Armagh, that the implications of the little-noticed development were revolutionary for Northern Ireland. It was the trump card which could mark a turning point in the province's fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as defence surveillance was limited by the horizon, the republic's position in the Atlantic was of outstanding strategic importance.

"Hence the elaborate microwave telecommunications system, unrelated to any possible domestic requirements, with which the republic is being provided at a cost of £600 million and which will be able to feed data into the so-called 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance of the territory of the Irish for strategic and intelligence purpose has endowed it since the 1960s with an ideal weapon for blackmailing the United States and, through the United States, Britain, into undermining the constitutional status of Ulster and preparing the way for its absorption into an all-Ireland confederation.

"It has been a ruthless exercise directed at acquiring and protecting strategic assets in the island of Ireland and it has been conducted with typical cynicism and unscrupulousness from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the end of that exercise was in sight, if the advance of defence technology and 'over-the-horizon' radar undermined the republic's position.

"If Britain, including Northern Ireland, can do the job itself just as well, there is no need to pay the republic blood money to have the job done somewhere else. Why send washing out, which you could so at home?

"Chill news indeed for FitzGerald and Haughey, chill news for the IRA and Sinn Fein: their wares will no longer be marketable, the days when they basked in the sunshine of British and American official countenance and co-operation will have gone by. The writing is upon the wall."

13

5 JAN 1985

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [*pursuant to his reply*, 9 March 1984, c. 728]: For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.