the national archives

(c) crown copyright

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 10/97)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
'UFO's'
PQs/PEs

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/Sec(AS)64/4
Part: B

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 22.11.96

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years ☐

Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years ☑ for Permanent Retention

No recommendation ☐

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review | Date of 2nd review | Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). ☐

b. (i) To be retained for indefinitely years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

	✔		✔	
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐	
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐	
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐	(Public Interest)
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☑	Permanent retention by agreement with the National Ar

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation ☑

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☑

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER

Signature: [redacted] Section 40

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 28/6/04.
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Nov 96

PE Unit Section 40 [redacted]
(thro' [redacted])

LETTER FROM JOHN FRASER MP - US 4516/96

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to John Fraser MP.

BACKGROUND

2. The MP is seeking further information following an earlier PE about the Blue Streak Missile Test Film Footage. The background to the enquiry is provided at Annex A, and USofS' reply is at Annex B.

3. The 'clippings' referred to in the MP's letter are not held on the relevant files in the Public Record Office. Thirty years hence we can only speculate why they are not. It is likely that they were not considered important enough to file at the time. It is also possible that they were returned to Pathe Ltd or simply just degraded in the intervening years.

4. There is no evidence that they have been withheld from the public domain or are in the possession of the Ministry of Defence. The film footage from which these clippings were taken is held by the Central Office of Information and if the MP's constituent wishes to view the film footage he can approach the CoI directly.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

US 4516/96 December 1996

1. Thank you for your letter of 15 November about Blue Streak Missile Test Film footage.

2. Enquiries have revealed that the clippings to which you refer were not placed on the relevant Departmental file. Thirty years hence I am afraid we can only speculate why. It is most likely that it was not considered necessary that they be kept. I can however confirm that the clippings have not been withheld from the public domain by the Ministry of Defence.

3. Nothwithstanding the above, as explained in my letter of 24th May, anyone wishing to view the footage from which the clippings were taken should contact the Central Office of Information; for ease of reference the details are as follows:

Section 40 [redacted]
Head of Film Footage
Central Office of Information
Hercules House
London SE1 7DU

Tel: Section 40 [redacted]

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

John Fraser, MP

ANNEX A

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

16 May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN FRASER MP - US 1199/96 - BLUE STREAK MISSILE TEST FILM FOOTAGE

1. Following Lord Howe's interim reply sent on 14 May, we are now in a position to provide a substantive response to the query from Mr Fraser.

2. Mr Fraser is seeking information on behalf of a constituent whose enquiry was prompted by last month's BBC2 *"Tales of the Paranormal"* programme about "UFOs". The programme, which was made by Section 40 [redacted], a prominent member of the "UFO" lobby, featured footage filmed inside the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew.

3. Section 40 [redacted] stated that during testing of the Blue Streak missile at Woomera South Australia in 1964, one of the launches was aborted because a 'spaceman' was seen in the vicinity of the launch site. She also stated that although most of the film of the Blue Streak tests is available to the public, one reel which contains the aborted launch footage has been withheld from the public domain. The implication was that all the Blue Streak missile test film is held by the PRO for public viewing *except* the footage of the aborted launch. Examination of the files has shown that Section 40 [redacted] use of the material at the PRO was to say the least selective.

4. The Imperial War Museum (IWM) is the official repository of official military film selected for preservation, as approved by the Lord Chancellor. The National Film and Television Archive holds official non-military film selected for preservation. The PRO does not hold archived official film footage. There is documented evidence in the PRO that in 1964, following an enquiry from a member of the public, MOD branch S4(Air) went to a great deal of trouble to identify the source of the film of the aborted launch. They approached The Rank Organisation, the Central Office of Information (COI) and Associated British-Pathe Ltd. Pathe Ltd were able to provide them with relevant 'clippings' from the film and expressed their judgement that the object seen on the film was an internal camera reflection.

5. The 'clippings' sent to the MOD did not survive on the files, but further approaches to the IWM and the COI reveal that both hold a copy of the 14 minute Blue Streak test film, which was sponsored by the COI and produced by The Rank

Organisation. The IWM also holds a few reels of "off-cuts". Therefore, contrary to the results of initial enquiries, "official" footage of the aborted Blue Streak launch does in fact exist and is held by the IWM and the COI. However, the footage can only be viewed by members of the public with the permission of the COI, which owns the Copyright to the film until 2014. The film itself is not sensitive.

6. Additional information uncovered reveals that the Blue Streak film footage also featured in the COI catalogue "Films from Britain", 1968/69 which is an indication that there are probably numerous copies of the film in circulation throughout the world. It is possible that Section 40 viewed the other Blue Streak test material from a "commercial" film archive.

7. Neither the MOD nor the PRO hold Blue Streak test film footage. Anyone wishing to view the film would need to contact the IWM or the COI. I attach a draft explaining the above for Lord Howe's consideration.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8245 Section 40

Enc.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

SEC(AS)2
ENCLOSURE
51

CT: Hd CS(RM) 1

ANNEX B

D/US of S/FH 1199/96/M

24th May 1996

Dear Mr. Fraser,

In my letter of 14 May, I promised to write to you again once enquiries to the Public Record Office about Blue Streak missile test film footage had been completed.

First you will wish to know that all official military film footage which has been selected for preservation is transferred to the Imperial War Museum (the official repository for such material as approved by the Lord Chancellor). The Blue Streak test film mentioned in the BBC2 programme *'Tales of the Paranormal'* last month is not held by the Ministry of Defence, nor the Public Record Office, but enquiries have revealed that copies of the 14 minute footage, which was sponsored by the Central Office of Information and produced by The Rank Organisation, are held by the Imperial War Museum and the Central Office of Information.

You may be interested to know that in response to a similar query about the film from a member of the public in June 1964 MOD staff obtained a few 'clippings' of the aborted Blue Streak launch from Pathe Ltd which revealed that the 'object' observed in the film was in fact believed to be an internal camera reflection which is an apparently well-known phenomenon amongst photographic specialists. Contemporary papers are in the public domain and are available at the PRO under reference AIR 2/17526. I should add that it remains the case that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin.

Until 2014 access to the original Blue Streak test film held by the Imperial War Museum is only possible with the specific

John Fraser Esq MP

64/4

Recycled Paper

permission of the Central Office of Information as they own the Copyright to the film. Should anyone wish to view the footage they should contact in the first instance:

Section 40
Head of Footage Film
Central Office of Information
Hercules House
London SE1 7DU

Tel no: Section 40

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

64/4

ENCLOSURE 66 AKW/FER

Note of Action - PE US 4516/96

Section 40 confirmed that the clippings were not held on the file. As such we can only speculate where they may be. They are not held back by the MOD and are not with the IWM.

One of the following is likely:

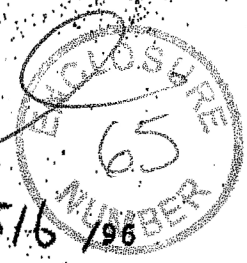
(a) Weren't considered important enough to file in the first place.
(b) Degraded
(c) Sent back to Pathe Ltd

(a) is the most likely. Can assure Mr Fraser that the MOD do not hold the clippings but remind him that the footage from which the clippings came can be viewed at the Central Office of Information as previously advised.

Section 40

6447 1199

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY
FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION



TO: Sec(AS)2 Section 40

PE REF NUMBER: US4516/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 29 Nov 96

DATE: 20 Nov 96 FROM: Section 40, PE Unit TEL: Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies.

Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about ..."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start: "Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO SHOW THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40 PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

JOHN FRASER M.P.

US of S PE: Link FH 1199/96 4516 Sec (95) 2 Missiles.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Your ref D/US OF S/FH 1199/96/M

The Earl Howe
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON S.W.1A 2HB

15th November 1996

Dear Earl Howe

You wrote to me on the 24th May 1996 about Blue Streak Missile test film footage. The Public Record Office do not have any of the 'clippings' of the Aborted Blue Streak Launch which came from Pathe Ltd which revealed an 'object' which you mention in your letter although I do understand that the launch was actually aborted as a result of the objection appearing on a screen.

Can you tell me whether those 'clippings' are still held by the Ministry of Defence or the Imperial War Museum as they are not with Central Office of Information?

Yours sincerely

Section 40

John Fraser M.P.
Section 40

64/4

21 NOV 1996

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PRIME MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE NUMBER 64

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 4168/96/M

21st November 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not fowarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

Martin Redmond Esq MP

64/4

21 NOV 1996

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 64

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 4168/96/M

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Martin Redmond Esq MP

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 64/4 pt B
62
Copy Emailed to ADGE 1.
Ug Co. Section 40
+ PSO/ACAS.
1. Section 40
2. File

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Nov 96

PE Unit
(thro' Head of Section 40)

LETTER FROM MARTIN REDMOND MP - US 4168/96

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Martin Redmond MP. The deadline was extended to COP today with the agreement of the Parliamentary Unit.

BACKGROUND

2. The substance of Mr Redmond's letter alleging 'unidentified flying craft sightings' is based on various reports some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which appeared in the local press.

3. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 October PC Section 40 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights in the sky which he reported to Skegness control room who relayed the message on to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) suspecting it might be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss about any air activity or incident in The Wash area, and with nothing to report, they in turn asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead to check their radar for that area. Neatishead confirmed they had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area. ARCC subsequently checked with the Distress and Diversion (D&D) Cell (which is located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton and not RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported) for advice. The D&D Cell advised a radar plot on the NATS Claxby radar over Boston and this information was passed through ARCC to MRCC. CRC Neatishead having by now conducted a search on all available radar displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. For reasons that are unclear, MRCC associated the police officer's report of lights with the radar return over Boston.

4. Actions by Air Defence System. CRC Neatishead's inquiries revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity. The stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR (Identification Friend or Foe/Secondary Surveillance Radar) was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D

Cell to be a permanent echo. The separate, stationary, lights were judged to be some form of natural phenomena, not suspicious in nature nor of significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. No flying craft had either penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar and no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo showing on the stationary radar plot, or the reported lights, was sought.

5. Subsequent Reporting. MRCC assumed a coordination role and continued to seek further information on both plot and lights. At the instigation of the coastguard, further interest in the radar plot was kept alive and involved LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach; and with the involvement of a tanker vessel at sea (MV CONOCOAST), Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil) in the lights until they disappeared with the dawn.

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

6. The Boston Radar Plot. The radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston on the NATS sensor at Claxby by the D&D Cell and CRC Neatishead, although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in The Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead and the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, it was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo. The fact that it could only be detected by the closest sensors indicated a relatively low physical feature which appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions and was most likely the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump').

7. Stationary Lights. Various sightings of lights were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, neither the police at Kings Lynn when asked at 0227Z, nor the cargo vessel, MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, at 0240Z observed any lights which they considered unusual. The crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at 0557Z reported no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only the original report by PC Section 40 was unsolicited. Although there is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information in connection with the sightings the observations have been assessed by the Royal Greenwich Observatory. They surmise the likely source of the Boston Police sighting as the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 October. Their assessment of the Skegness Police video film (which was not, as reported, forwarded to MOD at the time but only after repeated requests for sight of it), was

that it was also likely to be the planet Venus. They could offer no explanation for either set of lights observed from the MV CONOCOAST.

CONCLUSION

8. Detailed research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were witnessed on 5 October. The radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo. It was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead and no further air defence related action was necessary. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably the planet Venus.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Mr Redmond has tabled 33 'UFO'-related PQs during the last four weeks and is keen to exploit any opportunity to draw attention to what he perceives to be the Governments unwillingness to investigate each reported sighting in depth. This investigation was only considered necessary in view of Mr Redmond's serious allegations about the effectiveness of our Air Defence systems and involved the RAF staffs in very detailed work over a significant period. It is indicative of the effort that would be required to investigate all sightings, something Mr Redmond is keen we should do. We have explained to Mr Redmond on a number of occasions the limit of MOD's interest in 'UFO'-related issues, which is simply to determine whether there is any penetration of the UK Air Defence Region but it is unlikely he will be deflected from his attempts to discredit MOD's handling of 'UFO' reports. On balance we do not believe that the draft letter should provide a full and detailed explanation of the events of 5 October since to do so would only encourage Mr Redmond to write more frequently with this in mind. Mr Redmond has already informed the Media of his letter to MOD (The People, 10 Nov 96, copy attached) and it is likely that he will seek to interest them in the reply.

10. Finally, I apologise for the length of this background note but believe on this occasion it is warranted.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/4168/96 November 1996

Thank you for your letter of 24 October addressed to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not fowarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

I am confident that there is no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. There was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the above for any further military action.

THE EARL HOWE

Martin Redmond, MP

The People
10 November 1996

Page No: 14

RAF IN X-FILE ALERT!

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting Britain, the Government has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

And he adds: "So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded." The letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to break the MoD's veil of secrecy over flying saucers.

By NIGEL NELSON

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was also spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video – now in the MoD's hands – was taken by police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mr Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK air space has been "compromised". He added: "To date no sighting has provided such evidence.

"We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

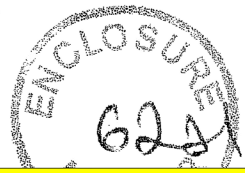
"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is this whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

Last week Defence Minister Nicholas Soames refused to reveal how many UFOs RAF pilots have spotted since 1966. He said the information would cost too much to obtain.

But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interception."

26



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Nov 96

PE Unit
(thro' Head of Sec(AS))

LETTER FROM MARTIN REDMOND MP - US 4168/96

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3. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 October PC Section 40 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights in the sky which he reported to Skegness control room who relayed the message on to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) suspecting it might be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss about any air activity or incident in The Wash area, and with nothing to report, they in turn asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead to check their radar for that area. Neatishead confirmed they had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area. ARCC subsequently checked with the Distress and Diversion (D&D) Cell (which is located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton and not RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported) for advice. The D&D Cell advised a radar plot on the NATS Claxby radar over Boston and this information was passed through ARCC to MRCC. CRC Neatishead having by now conducted a search on all available radar displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. For reasons that are unclear, MRCC associated the police officer's report of lights with the radar return over Boston.

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5. Subsequent Reporting. MRCC assumed a coordination role and continued to seek further information on both plot and lights. At the instigation of the coastguard, further interest in the radar plot was kept alive and involved LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach; and with the involvement of a tanker vessel at sea (MV CONOCOAST), Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil) in the lights until they disappeared with the dawn.

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

6. The Boston Radar Plot. The radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston on the NATS sensor at Claxby by the D&D Cell and CRC Neatishead, although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in The Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead and the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, it was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo. The fact that it could only be detected by the closest sensors indicated a relatively low physical feature which appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions and was most likely the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump').

7. Stationary Lights. Various sightings of lights were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, neither the police at Kings Lynn when asked at 0227Z, nor the cargo vessel, MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, at 0240Z observed any lights which they considered unusual. The crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at 0557Z reported no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only the original report by PC Section 40 was unsolicited. Although there is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information in connection with the sightings the observations have been assessed by the Royal Greenwich Observatory. They surmise the likely source of the Boston Police sighting as the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 October. Their assessment of the Skegness Police video film (which was not, as reported, forwarded to MOD at the time but only after repeated requests for sight of it), was

that it was also likely to be the planet Venus. They could offer no explanation for either set of lights observed from the MV CONOCOAST.

CONCLUSION

8. Detailed research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were witnessed on 5 October. The radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo. It was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead and no further air defence related action was necessary. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably the planet Venus.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Mr Redmond has tabled 33 'UFO'-related PQs during the last four weeks and is keen to exploit any opportunity to draw attention to what he perceives to be the Governments unwillingness to investigate each reported sighting in depth. This investigation was only considered necessary in view of Mr Redmond's serious allegations about the effectiveness of our Air Defence systems and involved the RAF staffs in very detailed work over a significant period. It is indicative of the effort that would be required to investigate all sightings, something Mr Redmond is keen we should do. We have explained to Mr Redmond on a number of occasions the limit of MOD's interest in 'UFO'-related issues, which is simply to determine whether there is any penetration of the UK Air Defence Region but it is unlikely he will be deflected from his attempts to discredit MOD's handling of 'UFO' reports. On balance we do not believe that the draft letter should provide a full and detailed explanation of the events of 5 October since to do so would only encourage Mr Redmond to write more frequently with this in mind. Mr Redmond has already informed the Media of his letter to MOD (The People, 10 Nov 96, copy attached) and it is likely that he will seek to interest them in the reply.

10. Finally, I apologise for the length of this background note but believe on this occasion it is warranted.

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/4168/96 November 1996

Thank you for your letter of 24 October addressed to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not fowarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

I am confident that there is no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. There was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the above for any further military action.

THE EARL HOWE

Martin Redmond, MP

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 61

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

13 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

Copy to: AOAD1

LETTER TO SOFS FROM MR MARTIN REDMOND MP CONCERNING ALLEGED `UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CRAFT SIGHTINGS' ON 5 OCT

Reference: Mr Redmond's letter to SofS dated 24 Oct 96.

1. At Reference, Mr Martin Redmond MP raises several points concerning visual and radar observations which occurred during the early hours of Saturday 5 Oct 96 and which are referred to, incorrectly, as `a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems'. The substance of Mr Redmond's letter is based on various reports which appeared in the local press, some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which I understand were provided to him by Section 40 Section 40 of the Staffordshire UFO Group. In addition, the letter includes serious criticism of the Service, and of the UK Air Defence system in particular; for this reason, exceptionally, the facts surrounding the incident have been established in considerable detail and set out below, to observations, actions and explanations. A of key agencies, equipment and observatio

SEQUENCE OF EVENT

2. Initial Observations. At approximat Skegness police officer on mobile patrol observed stationary multicoloured lights the sky which he reported to the control room in Skegness. As a precaution, the control room relayed the sighting to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), suspecting it could be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss whether they were aware of any air activity or incident in the Wash area. The ARCC had no knowledge of any such air activity and, in turn, asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead if any aircraft activity was present on the radar in that area; Neatishead had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area and ARCC subsequently asked the Distress and Diversion (D&D), located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton (not at RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported). The D&D Cell reported a radar plot on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar over Boston to ARCC, thence to MRCC. At the same time, CRC Neatishead, which had conducted a search on

all available displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. This information was also relayed to ARCC thence to MRCC; by now, MRCC had consciously or subconsciously associated the reports of lights with the Boston radar return and assumed an investigative and coordination role for the rest of the night.

3. Actions by Air Defence System. Meanwhile, CRC Neatishead's inquiries had revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar; the stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR support, therefore, was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D Cell to be a permanent echo, and the separate stationary lights as some form of natural phenomena of no air defence or air concern. It was clear that no flying craft had penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar; furthermore, the unrelated stationary light reports were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety, therefore, no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo or the reported lights was sought.

4. Subsequent Reporting. Updates and further information on both the plot and lights continued to be sought by MRCC from several sources on open circuits and reported, and sometimes distorted, in the process. Further interest in the radar plot was kept alive at the instigation of the coastguard, leading to the eventual involvement of several other control agencies including LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach. Further interest in the lights was maintained by the coastguard until they disappeared with the dawn, involving a tanker vessel at sea, Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil).

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

5. The various observations which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96 and the various phenomenae have been investigated in considerable detail. The relevant logs maintained by on-duty Military and Civilian personnel have been studied and, where possible, key observers and operators, both civil and military, have been interviewed by telephone.

THE BOSTON PLOT

6. Plot Characteristics. A radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston, Lincs, on the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) sensor at Claxby, near Market Rasen, when attention was drawn to the area by Great Yarmouth Coastguard. It was observed by the D&D Cell from approximately 0225Z and by CRC Neatishead from 0230Z; both organisations have access to the same radar display although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in the Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead, which opened at

0600, again on the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, the plot was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham; although a stationary return was detected on the AR15 approach radar at RAF Waddington at 0749Z, this was inaccurate reporting of a separate permanent echo. Three aircraft, which transitted the Boston area at 0710Z, 0830, and 1105, failed to sight any airborne object. A map showing radar locations and the position of the plot is at Annex B.

7. Plot Analysis. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo, and the fact that it could only be detected by a single nearby sensor indicates a relatively low physical feature which, however, appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions; for example, it was not present on the Claxby radar on 8 Nov but could be seen on 11 Nov. It is highly probable that the echo was caused by the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the `Boston Stump), as suggested at 1105Z by Anglia Radar, a unit familiar with operating aircraft in the Wash area; however, it is not possible to be absolutely certain without conducting further detailed technical study.

THE STATIONARY LIGHTS

8. Analysis of Observations. Various sightings of either stationary, multicoloured, flashing lights or a stationary bright white light were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, when asked at 0227 and 0240Z respectively, police at Kings Lynn and the MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, observed no lights which they considered unusual. In addition, the crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at between 0520 and 0530Z reporting no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only one unsolicited observation of lights seems to have occurred: by PC Section 40 at approximately 0205Z on patrol at Addlethorpe near Skegness. All other recorded observations were made on the instigation of Great Yarmouth Coastguard. Moreover, while various reference has been made to an object associated with the lights, this has been by inference only on the part of the observers. A full synopsis of sightings, times, bearings and angles is at Annex C together with maps showing the locations of observation. There is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information since several observers confessed to being either unconcerned, not very interested, or admitted to being poor at angles; the only accurate measurements are derived from the Skegness police video tape of the lights, filmed at 0350Z and from the MV CONOCOAST at 0401Z which measured bearings based on the Ship's compass. While the lights were generally regarded as unusual, no observer confessed to being alarmed by them; indeed, the initial observer watched the multicoloured flashing lights change characteristics and elevation until dawn when `they looked just like any other star'.

9. Expert Opinion. The observations were examined by the Royal Greenwich Observatory and a report of its findings is at Annex D. The report acknowledged the uncertainties in the estimates of azimuth and elevation of the observations and could only provide a best guess of the likely light source(s) as summarized below.

a. The Boston Police may have been looking at the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 Oct, rising at 0209Z on a bearing slightly north of east; this is consistent with the first Boston observation.

b. Based on measurements obtained from the police video, the Skegness observations could also have been Venus. The Observatory notes that when a bright star or planet is low in the sky, even to elevation 20^0, it is quite common for it to appear to show colours which are often described as flashing or rotating. These characteristics and the report of the first Skegness observer tend to favour the Venus theory.

c. The Observatory can offer no likely celestial explanation for either sets of lights observed from the MV CONOCOAST.

SUMMARY

10. Following extensive investigation, it can be concluded that the radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo; it was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead at the time and no further air defence related action taken. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably due to light from the planet Venus which began rising at the time of the first observation; it was particularly bright and could have appeared multicoloured and flashing to some observers. No explanation can be offered for the two sets of lights observed from MV CONOCOAST.

11. For completeness and further reference, various notes are attached at Annex E, together with a list of organizations and persons consulted in the course of this investigation. In addition, abbreviated comment on the detail contained in Mr Redmond's letter to SofS are at Annex F. A copy of the video of the Skegness lights, copied by Lincolnshire Police HQ, is attached.

12. This report is the result of almost full time, painstaking investigation over a period of 8 working days and, although all the light phenomenae have not been conclusively explained, research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were being witnessed. It is likely that similar detailed investigation into light phenomenae would produce

equally less than conclusive but unastonishing results; they could not be achieved on a routine basis, however, without dedicated resources being allocated to the task.

Section 40 [redacted]

Wg Cdr
ADGE 1
MB4227 Section 40

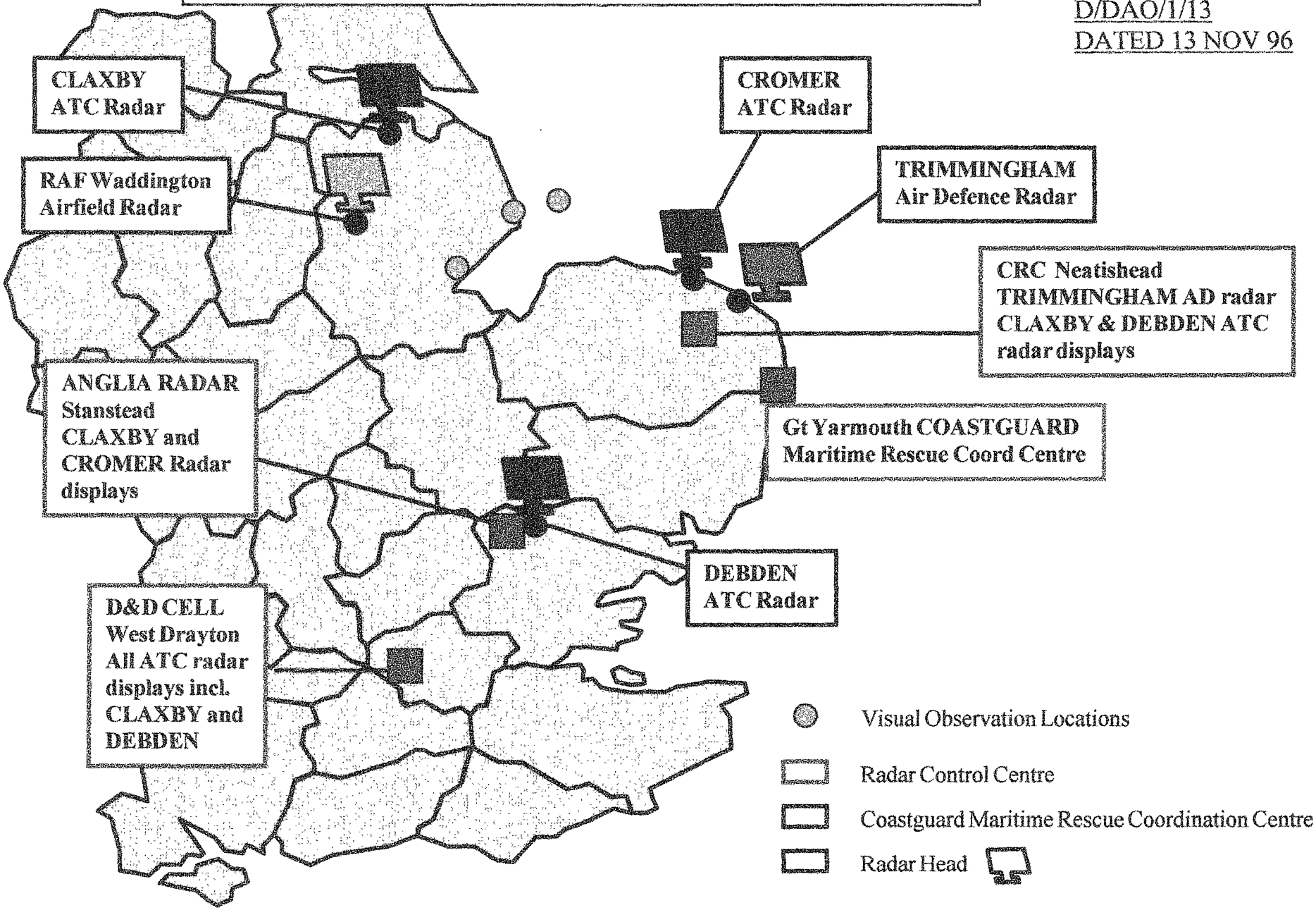
Annexes:

A. Agencies, Locations and Equipment.
B. Radar Plots over Boston.
C. Synopsis on Observations of Lights.
D. Royal Greenwich Observatory Report.
E. Miscellaneous Notes
F. Abbreviated Comments on Mr Redmond's Letter.

Attached: Lincolnshire Police copy of Skegness Video

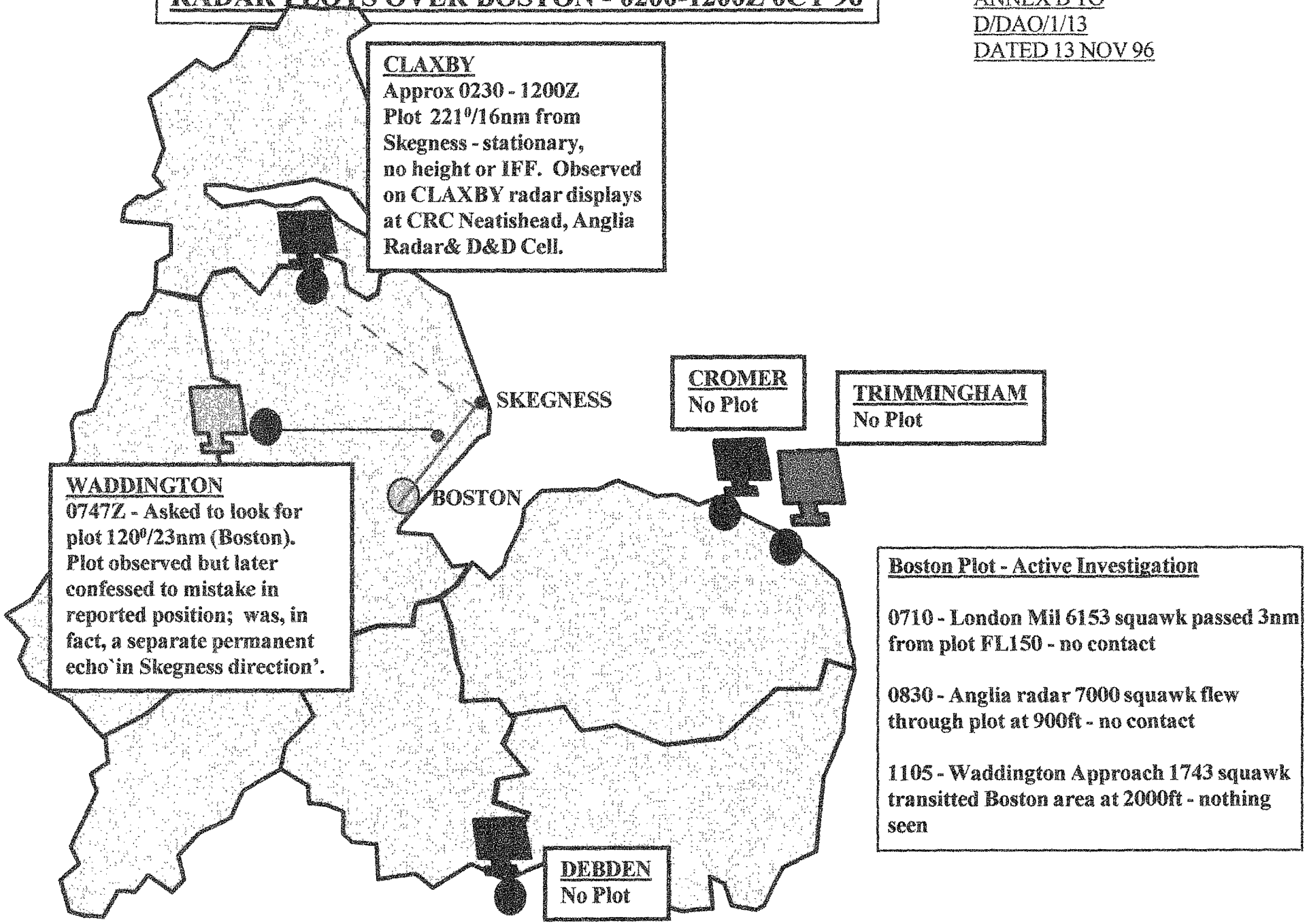
AGENCIES, LOCATIONS AND EQUIPMENT - 5 OCT 96

ANNEX A TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96



RADAR PLOTS OVER BOSTON - 0200-1200Z OCT 96

ANNEX B TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96



ANNEX C TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

SYNOPSIS OF OBSERVATIONS OF UNUSUAL LIGHTS - 5 OCT

SKEGNESS POLICE

Observer: PC Section 40 Mobile patrol at Addlethorpe. Stationary, blue green red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z `the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.

Observer: PC Section 40 at Skegness. First seen 0205Z following information from PC Section 40 static white light with red green and yellow lights rotating around it - much lower than any star, estimate 50,000ft. Last observed at 0420 when 'it looked just like any other star'.

Observer: Section 40 (Control Room - Section 40) - visual plus video
Position: Visual from 3rd floor window, video from roof above.
Four observations at 0214, 0350, 0450(when lights videoed) and just before going off duty at 0600Z. Stationary red, green, blue and white flashing light. Observer admitted to being `not very interested' in the lights.

BOSTON POLICE

Observer: Inspector Section 40
Position: Through 3rd floor window of Police station and outside.
Observed intermittently between approx 0230 and dawn: stationary bright white light, constant azimuth and elevation - slightly north of east and about 40 degrees up - `did not fit the description of the lights being reported by Skegness' - saw the same light `a couple of months ago but further north on that occasion'

Observer: Section 40 (Control Room - Section 40)
Position: Through control room window on 3rd floor.
Two observations at 0412 and 0503 - Just a fixed bright light, not flashing, no colours.

KINGS LYNN POLICE

0227Z - No reports of unusual lights.

MV CONOCOAST

Tanker operating from Rochester carrying fuel to Dredgers off Ingoldmells on north westerly heading - 4 crew
Crew: Section 40 (Master), Section 40 , AN Other (now on ONWARD MARINER - phone Section 40) and Section 40 (Still on CONOCOAST Section 40)
Two sets of similar lights to north and south; observed by all crew members intermittently (busy working the ship) from 0246 til daybreak. - observed about every 30 mins or so. Constant azimuth from ship, 345 and 160 degrees, could not say whether relative bearing changed since ship was moving - elevation about 20 degrees according to Ship Captain; other observer states northerly light about 10 degrees above the horizon and southerly 30 degrees. Both sets of lights bright and flashing red, green, blue and white lights to the south were brightest.

MV NAUTIC W

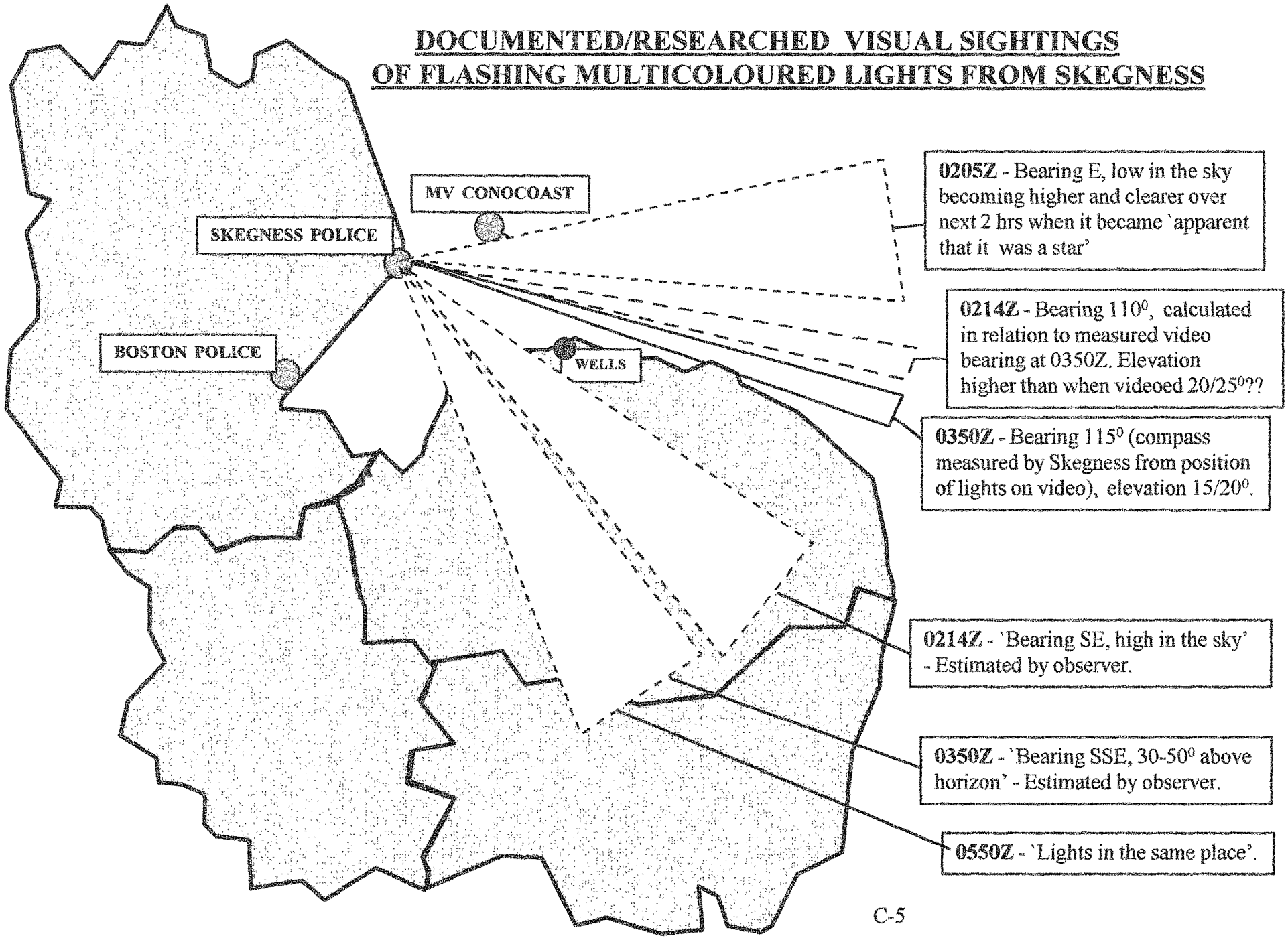
Cargo vessel by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N, 000.44.00E)
No lights observed.

TABLE SHOWING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF OBSERVATIONS

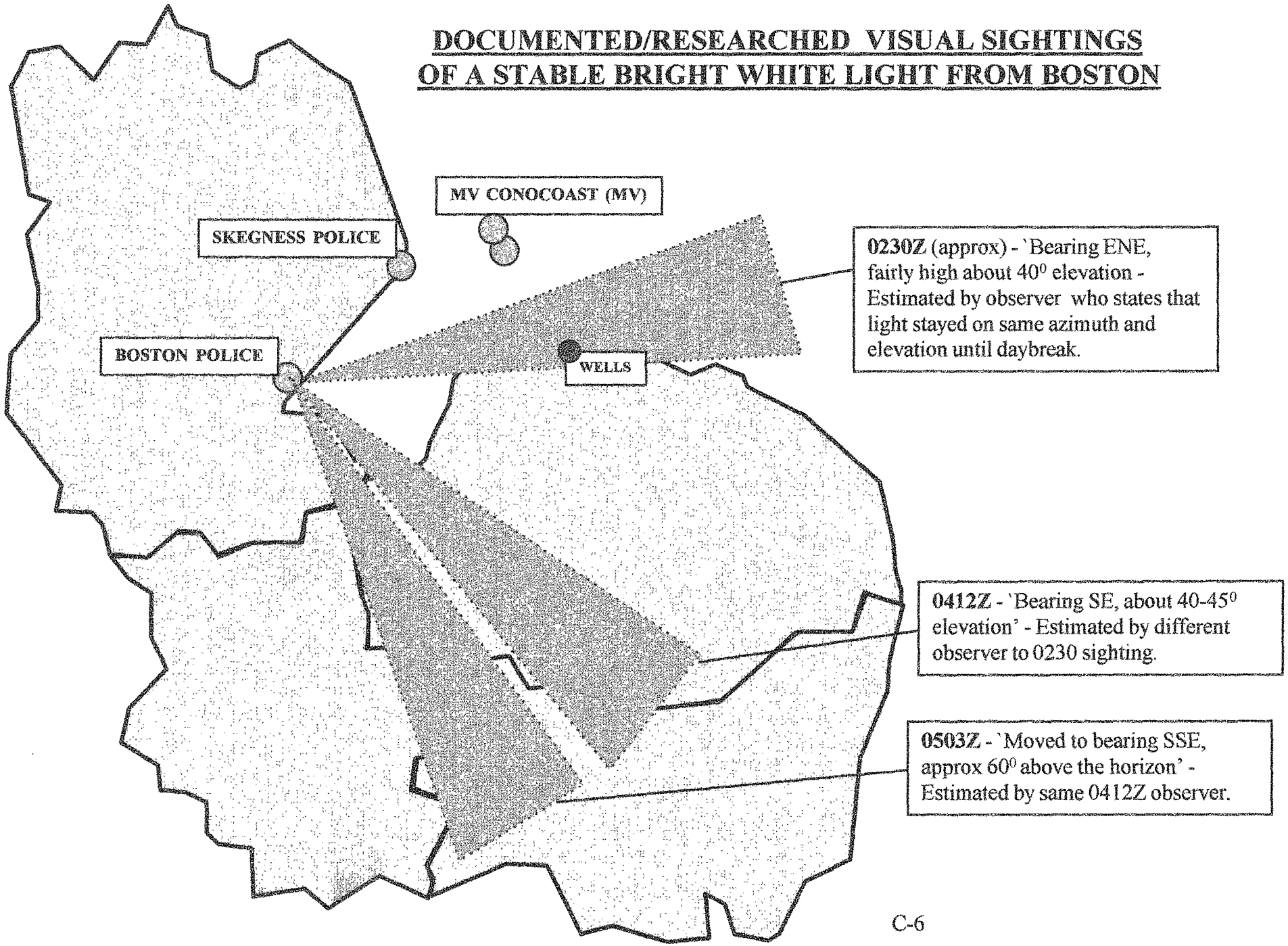
Time	Source	Observation	Remarks
0200ish	**PC Section 40 Skegness**	**Stationary, blue green and red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z `the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.**	**Assume azimuth 090 +or- 15/20, elevation 5-20 degrees.**
0214	**Section 40 - Skegness**	**Very bright, stationary but rotating coloured lights in easterly direction; position about 5 degrees higher in elevation than when video taken (0450) and 5-10 degrees further to the north in azimuth. Lights appeared over LHS of roof of 3 storey block of flats as seen in the video.**	**Elevation approx 20-25 degrees Azimuth approx 110 degrees**
0230ish	*Insp Section 40 Boston*	*Single bright white light, not coloured or flashing, direction ENE (based on it being `south of the direction of Skegness'), fairly high about 40 degrees elevation. Constant azimuth and elevation until it disappeared as dawn broke - observer confessed to be poor at angles.*	*Assume azimuth about 070 degrees +or- 20; assume elevation 30 +or- 0*
0227	Police - Kings Lynn	No unusual lights reported.	
0240	MV NAUTIC W	No lights seen.	
0246	CONOCOAST - Section 40	) MV heading NW. Two sets of stationary red, green and white)flashing lights; one set to north, other off port quarter, ie southerly,)one mile high. First noticed approx 0225 (continues..../)	)Assume azimuth 345 and 160)degrees from 0225 until 0550)Assume elevation constant at 20)degrees

0308 0345	CONOCOAST CONOCOAST	)Lights stationary on seemingly constant bearing (but ship was)moving). Constant elevation assessed at 20 degrees. Southerly set of)lights were brightest. Lights observed every 30 minutes or so until)daybreak at constant azimuth and elevation -)bearing 345 and 160 degrees true at 20 degrees elevation.	)Assume mean position 53 12N,) 00 34E
0350	**Section 40 - Skegness**	**Video made of lights. Position measured (7 Nov by duty staff through Police HQ Lincoln - Sgt Section 40 at 15-20 degrees elevation and 115 degrees azimuth.**	**Azimuth 115 degrees, elevation 15-20 degrees**
0401	CONOCOAST	Same characteristics as before	
0412	Section 40 *Boston*	*Fixed bright white single light to SE (cardinal estimated using St Botolph's spire as reference) 40-45 degrees elevation.*	*Assume azimuth 135 degrees +or- 15/20; elevation 40 degrees +or- 10/15.*
0445	**Section 40 - Skegness**	**Lights still `quite bright and flashing bearing SSE and 30-50 degrees above horizon.**	**Assume elevation 40 degrees +or- 10; Assume azimuth 135 + or - 10/15?**
0503	Section 40 *Boston*	*Lights moved to SSE, 60 degrees elevation, same fixed bright white stable light.*	*Assume elevation 60 +or- 10/15 degrees, Azimuth 157 +or- 10/15 say between 140 and 170 degrees.*
0552	CONOCOAST	As above: Azimuth still 345 and 160 degrees, Elevation 20 0r 30 degrees.	
0550 approx	**Section 40 - Skegness**	**Lights still in same place.**	**Unreliable observation for exact coords.**

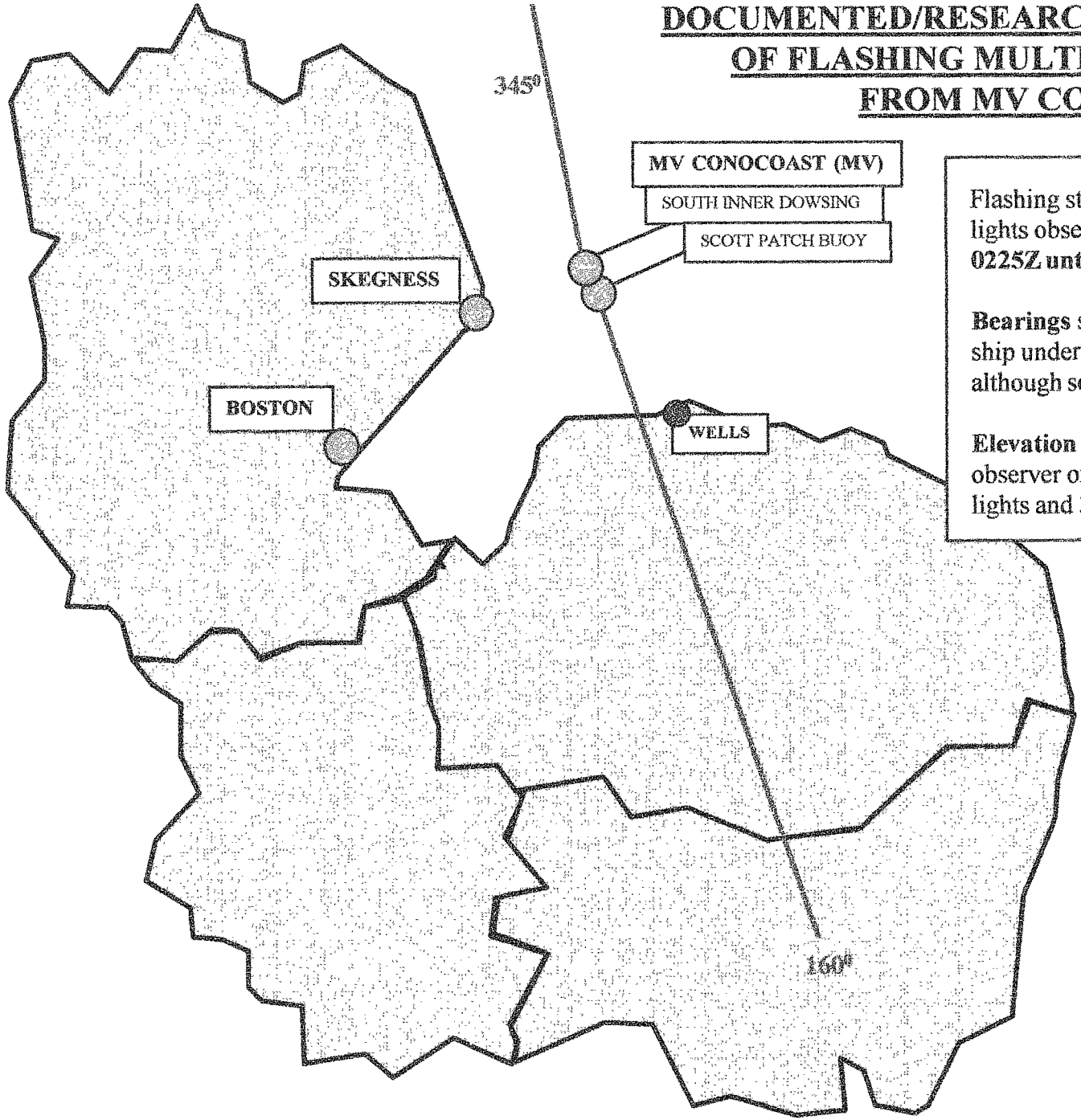
DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM SKEGNESS



DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF A STABLE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT FROM BOSTON



DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM MV CONOCOAST

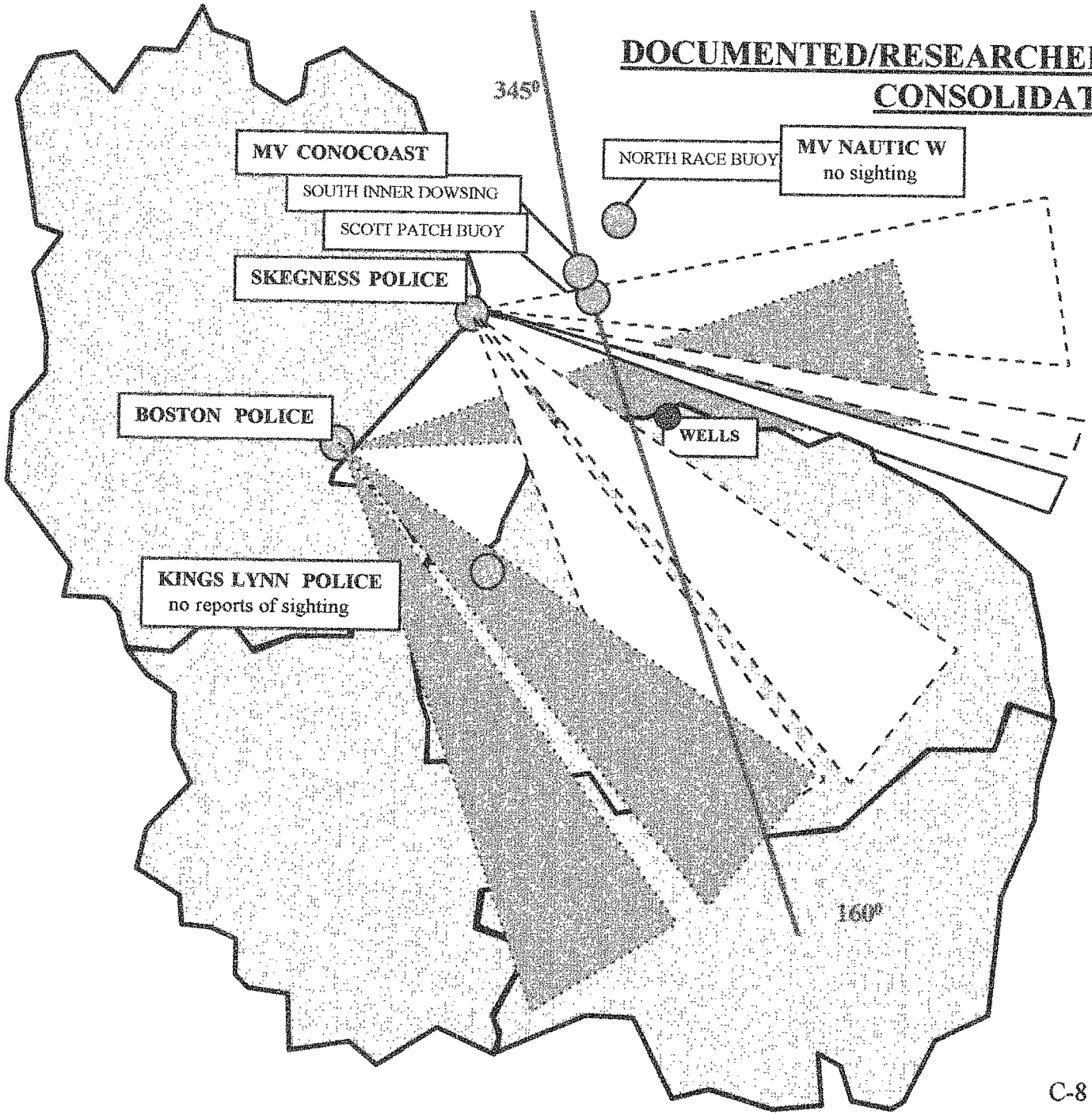


Flashing stationary red, green, blue and white lights observed about every 30 mins from approx **0225Z until 0550Z**.

Bearings seemingly constant at 345° and 160° but ship under way. Lights on both bearings identical, although southernmost set brightest.

Elevation constant: assessed at 20° by one observer or by another at 10° for the northern lights and 30° for the southern.

DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS CONSOLIDATED



PPARC

Royal Greenwich Observatory

Madingley Road
Cambridge CB3 0EZ
United Kingdom
Telephone Section 40
Facsimile

Wing Commander Section 40
ADGE 1, MOD

FAX Section 40

ANNEX D TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

Direct Line Section 40
email: Section 40

13 November 1996

Dear Wing Commander Section 40

I have examined the reports of bright lights seen on October 5 as set out in your fax of 11 November.

When a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20°) it is quite common for it to appear to show colours, which are often described as 'flashing' or 'rotating'. It is important to consider a person's eyesight in interpreting their descriptions of sightings.

It seems to me in this case that the different observers may have been looking at different objects. Because of the uncertainties in the estimates of elevation and azimuth I cannot be certain as to what was seen, but this is my best guess.

I think that both Inspector Section 40 and Section 40 of Boston Police may have been looking at Venus. Venus has been exceptionally bright in the early morning sky over the past weeks and has stood out from all around it. The actual positions of the planet on October 5 are as follows.

UT	BST	Altitude	Azimuth	
02:00	03:00	-2°	68°	
02:09	03:09		70°	Venus-rise
03:00	04:00	+7°	80°	
04:00	05:00	+16°	92°	
05:00	06:00	+25°	105°	
06:00	07:00	+33°	118°	
07:00	08:00	+40°	135°	

I confess to being puzzled as to what the crew of MV CONOCOAST were watching. Presumably they would have had a clear view of the whole sky. Can you rule out that they may have been seeing some laser show with the beams reflected in a hazy sky? I am also puzzled as to why they saw two sets of lights at approximately 180° apart.

(continued)

An establishment of the
Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

Section 40 [redacted] observations are also hard to interpret. What does he mean when he says he was 'not very interested'? Why did he take the video? It is possible from his own record of his observation that he was looking at the same lights as the crew of MV CONOCOAST seen at azimuth 160°, although the later compass measurement of the light seen on the video could have been Venus!

Also, one should note that the Moon was just past Last Quarter on 4th October, rising at 23:36 BST on October 4 and setting at 15:13 BST on October 5. This would have had the effect of 'washing out' all but the brightest stars. If this was so then the bright stars Sirius or Canopus might be candidates for these sightings. However, if the sky was really clear I don't think either of these objects would have fooled people who are presumably all quite used to working at night and therefore are quite familiar with looking at the sky.

I hope this has helped.

Best regards

Section 40 [redacted]

Head, Education and Information Services

ANNEX E TO
DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANISATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Skegness Police Station
Obs: PCs Section 40
Obs: Section 40 on duty in police control room until 0600Z 5 Oct
Section 40 extension

Boston Police Control Room
Section 40
Obs: Inspector Section 40 on duty 5 Oct
Obs: Section 40 (on duty 5 Oct 96)

Kings Lynn Police
0237Z No lights reported

HQ Lincolnshire Police
Head of Media Services
Nettleham
LINCOLN
Section 40
Ext Section 40

Skegness Police Video sent by HQ Lincolnshire Police to MOD ADGE 1 on 5 Nov 96, received 6 Nov together with copies of Skegness police incident log and statements from PCs Section 40 .
Video taken from Police Station roof (3rd storey)
Runs for about 5mins - taken at approx 00350Z - lights on a bearing of 115 degrees true about 15-20 degrees elevation.
Building in bottom left corner is 3 storey block of flats

Copy of Video sent to:
Section 40

North Walsham
Norfolk Section 40
Tel: Section 40
(`independent UFO Researcher' and believed to be collaborating with Section 40 of the Staffordshire UFO Group who is investigating the incident and who confesses to have `got Mr Redmond to ask the questions' - Tel Section 40))

Copy of video requested by:
Lincolnshire UFO Research Team Section 40
Section 40
Sleaford Section 40
Lincoln UFO Research Team
Tel: Section 40

Anglia Radar
Tel: Section 40
Access to Claxby and Cromer Watchman Radars

Gt Yarmouth Coastguard
Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
Section 40 on duty 5 Oct

MV CONOCOAST (out of Rochester on 5 Oct with fuel for Dredgers off Ingoldmells) - 4 crew, very busy, observed lights intermittently every 30 mins or so- bearings measured using ship's compass.
Spoke to Section 40 8 Nov on CONOCOAST Section 40 - lights consistently 10 deg and 30 deg up (N & S respectively)
Section 40 part of crew on 5 Oct now on `ONWARD MARINER' Section 40 . Spoke to Section 40 (Master of vessel who was at wheel) on 11 Nov 96 - confirmed observation from about 0225 til dawn - two sets of lights 346 & 160 (brightest), both about 20 degrees above horizon

MV NAUTIC W (callsign J8FK)
Cargo Vessel registered in St Vincent
Position by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N 000.44.00E)
No lights observed

CRC Neatishead
Flt Lt Section 40 - duty Track Production Officer and Station Duty Officer 5 Oct til 0700Z then relieved by Flt Lt Section 40
Section 40 home: Section 40

Kinloss Air Rescue Coordination Centre
Flt Lt Section 40
Section 40

LATCC Distress and Diversion Cell, West Drayton
Section 40
Duty Controller 5 Oct: Flt Lt Section 40

LATCC(Civil) Controller Section 40 (Civil Supervisor number) working N Sea radar on 5 Oct - Asked 2 civil aircraft between 0520 and 0530Z if they could see any unusual lights in area of Wash/East Anglia as they flew by.

- Aircraft 1, DELTA Airlines FL 370 from USA on track from Isle of Man to Amsterdam; asked when near Scunthorpe, no contact in Wash/East Anglia area but saw `indistinct lights which might have been flares' about 20 minutes previously in Irish Sea area.

- Aircraft 2, UK Air out of Manchester to Continent; asked when 30nm south east of Ottringham heading south east; nothing seen.

Waddington Approach AR15 radar
Section 40
DSATCO Section 40 Flt Lt Section 40
Lower Airspace Radar Service for Civil and Military aircraft
within 30nm and up to FL95.
Fg Off Section 40 on duty 5 Oct 96

Met Office Bracknell
Weather Records
Roshan Section 40
No thunderstorm activity on 5 Oct - clear night

Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge
Section 40

ANNEX F TO
D/DAO/1/13
DATED 13 NOV 96

ABBREVIATED COMMENTS ON MR REDMOND'S LETTER

1. General. Mr Redmond's comments are largely based on radio traffic between Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and various agencies which was either released or intercepted then reported in the press and interpreted in various ways; erroneously, the visual observations of lights have been linked with persistent radar returns from a permanent echo at Boston Lincs.

2. Para 1. There was no visual identified flying craft only unusual lights; correlation by `various different military radar systems' did not occur.

3. Para 2.

a. Lights with different characteristics were observed to the E and/or SE of Skegness and Boston by Police and by the crew of MV Conocoast some 8 miles east of Skegness. A separate stationary object was detected on one ATC radar at Claxby, Lincs, over Boston and observed on the same radar display at Neatishead, Anglia Radar (later) and the D&D Cell at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton; a stationary object was also detected much later on the Waddington approach radar, however this was in a separate position, not over Boston. Three aircraft subsequently flew close to the `object' but no sighting of an airborne vehicle was made.

b. RAF Northwood was never involved in this event. confusion has arisen because Gt Yarmouth Coastguard, referred incorrectly to `D&D Northwood' instead of `D&D West Drayton' in several transmissions or conversations; this error was reproduced in press reports.

4. Para 3.

a. Aircraft were not scrambled because there was no evidence whatsoever of an unidentified airborne vehicle in the vicinity.

b. Tornado F3 QRA aircraft are held on high alert at RAF Leuchars but not routinely at Leeming or Coningsby.

c. The RAF Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC), Kinloss was only involved by Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ascertain whether they knew of any air activity in the area. ARCC, in turn, asked CRC Neatishead and D&D who replied in the negative; ARCC subsequently relayed several messages between D&D/Neatishead and the MRCC concerning the stationary radar plot.

5. Para 4. Locations of permanent echoes are well known to

radar operators who work routinely in particular areas using the same radar head, as is borne out by the information from Anglia concerning the Boston Stump. No Air Defence radar detected the Boston echo. Neatishead's `skilled operators' rarely use the Claxby ATC Radar in the Boston area, nor do D&D and, hence, had not encountered this particular radar echo before; the echo was seen by 3 control agencies using the same radar at Claxby; Waddington reported an echo at 0749 when they were asked to look 120^0/23nm (over Boston), however, investigations revealed a reporting error and this plot was a separate permanent echo towards Skegness. The radar plots could not be correlated with the visual sightings of lights and, geographically, were quite separate.

6. Para 5

a. The video taken by the Skegness police did not disappear into the bowels of the Ministry's Main Building. It was sent by Inspector Section 40 of Skegness police to Lincolnshire Police HQ and held by the Head of Media Services. A copy was supplied to Section 40 , an `independent UFO researcher' on 18 Oct and to MOD, DAO ADGE 1, on 5 Nov 96. No copy was sent to Neatishead.

b. RAF Air Defence Ground Environment units, including CRC Neatishead, produce a Recognised Air Picture of air activity in the UKADR 24 hours a day. Standard procedures exist for investigating unidentified aircraft and these were followed in this case. Experienced operators carefully judged that there was no evidence of unidentified flying craft present in the UKADR and did not, therefore, seek authority to scramble air defence aircraft held on alert at RAF Leuchars.

7. Para 6

a. Question 1

- CRC Neatishead - Responsible for:

  -- the compilation of the Recognised Air Picture in that portion of the UKADR south of 55 degrees north.

  -- Control of Air Defence aircraft on missions to preserve the Integrity of UK airspace.

- ARCC Kinloss - To liaise with and support national emergency organisations by allocating air search and rescue resources to incidents.

- D&D Cell, West Drayton - Provide Air Traffic Control Emergency and Fixer services to Civilian and Military aircraft operating in the London Flight Information Region

- RAF Waddington - Task includes the provision of a Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) to Military and Civil ac on request out to 30nms (or further if airspace quiet) and up to FL095

- Video - see above.

b. Question 2

- There was no evidence of unidentified aircraft being present in the UKADR on 5 Oct 96, therefore, there was no reason to scramble aircraft on alert. Police and the tanker MV CONOCOAST saw LIGHTS not objects or any flying craft. No lights were observed by any aircraft in the area; negative reports were received from 2 civilian aircraft which flew by the area at 0520-0530Z

c. Question 3

Procedures exist to scramble aircraft to investigate unidentified aircraft detected on radar, which was not the case on 5 Oct.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
31 OCT 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 60
64/4

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 4168/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 11 / 11 /96

DATE: 31 /10/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE
Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies.

Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries
other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

MARTIN REDMOND, M.P.

USofS
Sec(AS)
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th. October, 1996

The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, M.P.,
The Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
S.W.1A 2HB.

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
30 OCT 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Dear Michael,

I am very concerned about an incident that occurred off the East Anglian coast recently, involving a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems. I have attached, for your information, copies of some recent press reports.

From these press reports it would seem as if the unidentified flying craft was seen by the crew of a tanker; the crew of a civil aircraft; police at Skegness (who took a video), and police at Boston. Simultaneously, the object seems to have been picked up on military radar systems at R.A.F. Neatishead, R.A.F. Waddington, and R.A.F. Northwood, together with systems at London and at Anglia radar.

What strikes me as incredible is that no aircraft were scrambled when an uncorrelated target was picked up so close to the coast. This raises for me, serious issues about the way in which we police the U.K. Air Defence Region (U.K.A.D.R.). Given that we have Tornado F.3 aircraft based at R.A.F. Leuchars; R.A.F. Leeming; and R.A.F. Coningsby, should not one of these bases have had Air Defence aircraft on Quick Reaction Alert (Q.R.A.), and should a launch not have been ordered? I am also unclear as to the involvement of R.A.F. Kinloss in Scotland, home of our Nimrod Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

A story seems to have been put around that the radar systems were picking up Boston's church tower! Although "ground clutter" can give spurious returns around certain radar heads, my understanding is that the locations of such areas are well known, and that such an effect is unlikely to be repeated on so many different radar systems. Some of the Air Traffic Control radars might have difficulty with ground clutter, but Air Defence radar systems and their skilled operators should know the difference. This "explanation" also fails to take account of the visual sightings.

/Cont. 2

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Naturally, all sorts of rumours are circulating: no Q.R.A. aircraft were available at R.A.F. Coningsby, which is just a few miles from the Wash; the R.A.F. wanted to scramble aircraft but were overruled "at the highest level"; the video taken by the police has disappeared into the bowels of your Ministry's Main Building. While I am interested in finding out what was seen, my primary concern stems from the absolute shambles that such events seem to cause. The R.A.F. are supposed, or so I believed, to be responsible for keeping a watchful eye on activity in the U.K.A.D.R., but seem to have no idea as to what is going on. Do they have no standard procedure for such incidents? They had enough time to think about it, because the object was on radar for upwards of seven hours! These concerns remain, even if there is a prosaic explanation for this specific incident.

I could think of countless other questions that concern me based on the points I have raised in this letter and in the various press reports, but I will confine myself, in addition to the above, if you will answer the following questions in respect of the unidentified flying craft sighting that occurred on 4th./5th. October in the vicinity of the Wash, and subsequently reported to your Department:

1. If you will detail the role played by those military establishments who picked up on their radar systems or were otherwise involved in events, and if you will comment on the video of the sighting sent to your Department by the Boston police?

2. Why no aircraft were scrambled to investigate the unidentified flying craft seen by the police; the crew of a civil aircraft; and the crew of a tanker on 4th./5th. October, given that at least three military establishments reported having detected the unidentified flying craft on radar?

3. Whether it is the R.A.F's standard practice to ignore sightings of unidentified flying craft which are correlated by radar, or whether there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft?

I look forward to your reply with great interest.

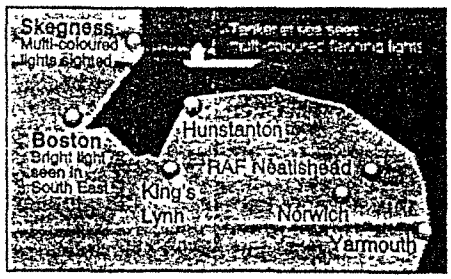
Yours sincerely,

Martin

Out of this world

This is the transcript of the conversations between coastguards, RAF stations in Norfolk, Scotland and London, police and North Sea tanker Conocoast when strange lights were seen in the night sky at the weekend. It is the recording taken at Yarmouth Coastguard headquarters:

0314 Skegness police: "We can see a strange red-and-green rotating light in the sky directly south-east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."
0326 RAF Kinloss: "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles, it looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite a size to be visible from Skegness."
0331 Kinloss: "Neatishead now confirms a couple of radar contacts in the area but no height, they seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil flights should be there."
0346 Conocoast tanker: "We have these lights on visual. Now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high."
Yarmouth Coastguard: "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"
Conocoast: "No. It just appeared and is stationary."
0353 Kinloss: "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather"
Coastguard: "I don't think so as we have visual contact."
Kinloss: "Well, Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this



object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there. Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."
0408 Conocoast: "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise.
0417 Coastguard: "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."
0427 Kinloss: "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."
0445 Yarmouth Coastguard: "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"
Conocoast: "We can see two lights flashing green and red."
0501 Coastguard: "Give us both bearings of the two lights"
Conocoast: "There is one stationary light at 345 deg true and the other at 160 true, the lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."
0517 Boston police: "We can still see the light. It is towards the south-east and seems about 40-45 degrees in the sky. It is just a bright light to us."
0521 Kinloss: "Neatishead are running a trace on this and cannot explain it. If they are helicopters they are fast approaching the end of their endurance as it is well over two hours since the first report let alone how long they were up there before they were actually sighted."
0552 Conocoast: "We can still see the lights, and they are on their original bearings and flashing the same colours but they seem higher and dimmer"
0708 Flight Lieutenant McFarlane, Neatishead: "We had a report from Northwood that a civil flight had also reported strange lights in the area. They fit exactly what was seen from the ground, multi-coloured, flashing, stationary lights."
0731 Flight Lieutenant George, Northwood: "This echo is still on our screens and we cannot explain this at all apart from it being a meteorological phenomenon but then again we have visual sightings also. The civilian flight that reported these lights as a flare was six miles away at the time. All very strange."
1109 Neatishead: "The object still has not moved, London radar and Waddington can also see it."
1920 Anglia radar: "There is nothing there now. we are of the opinion that it was the Boston Stump."
Wind: Force Four. Visibility: 20 miles.

Did you see the mysterious bright lights?

The source of "strange" bright lights spotted in the sky off East Anglia at the weekend remained a mystery last night.

Police, the RAF and shipping reported the appearance of two large, unexplained objects above the Wash in the early hours of Saturday.

Baffled personnel at RAF Neatishead spent hours tracking the UFOs, described by witnesses as large, about a mile up in the sky, and with blue, white, red and green flashing lights.

The Ministry of Defence said it was taking the sightings seriously and "all possibilities" would be covered.

Spokesman Nigel Sergeant said: "We are trying to prove that it does not represent any sort of security threat and that it was not an aggressive intrusion into our airspace. This is one of the bigger sightings recently and has caused quite a bit of interest."

Skegness police called the coastguards at 3.14am on Saturday after seeing a number of objects flashing in the sky, which were also spotted by colleagues at Boston.

Sightings, which continued until the objects disappeared off radar screens at about 11am on Saturday, later came from a tanker and a civilian aircraft, while two military radar stations verified "strange" traces.

Flt Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We have not been able to offer an explanation.

"The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up. We will be investigating thoroughly."

Witnesses heard no aircraft noise and military radar showed no aircraft, civil or military, in the area, apart from the civilian flight which reported "strange lights."

Military officials said no airforce planes had been scrambled to investigate.

Coastguards yesterday suggested the lights might have been Venus. But Ian Morison, a scientist at the radio astronomy observatory at Jodrell Bank, said this was unlikely as the planet would not have been visible after sunrise. Did you take a photograph of the mysterious lights? If so, ring the EDP newsdesk on 01603 628311.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS 8 OCT 1996

UFOs expose 9-5 defence danger

Mystery lights in the sky highlight a problem or two

I READ with interest how our ever vigilant police forces, coastguards and military radar observers spent from 3.15am to 11.09am on Saturday, October 5 watching an unidentified brightly lit flying object.

In the shadow of "Independence Day" hysteria, what is indeed phenomenal is the fact that "Military officials said no air force planes had scrambled to investigate."

Our multi-billion pound defence budget to which we, the tax paying public are forced to contribute, equips our national protection with Tornadoes, Jaguars and F18 fighter aircraft at £30-million a throw and pilots to fly them costing £5-million each to train.

It all seems pretty pointless if they only fly 9-5 on Monday to Friday.

We must think ourselves fortunate the bright lights over the Wash were not Saddam Hussein or some other crackpot targeting us for nuclear obliteration, because if it had been, you would not be reading this letter.

Damian O'Connor, King Street, Norwich.

■ WITH everyone's minds on strange things in the sky (Evening News, October 7) now seems a good time to ask whether anyone else saw the silent object I did over the centre of Norwich at around 9am on December 27 last year, a date and time which meant the city was virtually empty.

It certainly wasn't a flying saucer, more a brightly coloured flying object, and appeared at first to be a giant kite about the dimensions of a single-decker bus.

As the fair was here at the time it might well have been a publicity stunt to attract attention. It might have been any number of things — but quite what is the puzzle.

Malcolm Chamberlin, Highland Road, Norwich.

■ IN YOUR leader (October 7) referring to the mysterious lights seen over The Wash at the weekend, you comment: "The strange sightings of a *stationery* object over East Anglia have so far defied a rational explanation."

I take it you mean there is no cause for concern as it is no more than a *paper* exercise?

Warren King, Amderley Drive, Norwich.

■ **Editor's note:** Oops! Looks like one of the little green men got into the works – perhaps the same one which dated Mr King's letter as March 8. Sorry about the slip. We will try to do better.

Eastern Evening News, 12/10/96

-O probe into
ndar mystery

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224-236 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Southend Evening Echo - Essex
- 8 OCT 1996

UFO hunt is on says the RAF

THE MINISTRY of Defence and RAF were today investigating multiple sightings of a UFO.

Reports of a bright white shining object were received by Boston and Skegness police forces in Lincolnshire and over the Norfolk coast near The Wash.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, confirmed it had tracked a mystery signal on their radar.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours.

"It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon."

He said the RAF would be investigating the matter thoroughly and confirmed they were already collating their information.

"The number of independent reports we've had suggests there is something to follow up," he said.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224-236 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Eastern Daily Press - Norwich
8 OCT 1996

Shedding some light

High over the coast near Boston it hung, a strange flashing, red and green rotating light which the Ministry of Defence is now investigating to see whether it was a "threat to our security".

According to RAF Kinloss, it seemed obvious "that it does not want anyone to know that it is there". Not surprisingly, even normally sceptical UFO researchers are impressed.

We confess to being intrigued, and will feel hugely let down if, as in Anglia radar's view, this revolving aerial show proves to be nothing more extra-terrestrial than the tower of Boston's famous church.

Sightings off coast tracked by air base

THE MINISTRY of Defence is today investigating a possible UFO sighting off the county coast which was picked up by RAF radar.

Reports of a bright white shining object in the sky were received by Skegness and Boston Police together with the coastguard at about 3am on Saturday.

by Jason Mellor

The mystery object was also reported around The Wash. The MoD and RAF officials are looking into the incident.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, was the nearest base to the incident.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman, said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours. It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon.

"We will be investigating the matter thoroughly and are already collating all the information we have. The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up."

It was confirmed that the base had not been conducting operations in the area at the time of the sighting.

Special

Special 'Q' aircraft normally investigate UFO sightings, but there were none available at the time as the nearest one was at RAF Leuchars in Scotland.

The MoD has a special cell which investigates all reported UFO sightings. It will be carrying out extensive checks into what was seen.

A spokesman for Skegness Police said: "We had calls which suggested a large bright object over the coast. In the past, sightings like this have been either a plane or a weather balloon but we have not yet had this confirmed."

LINCOLNSHIRE DAILY ECHO
7 OCT 1996

EASTERN DAILY PRESS OCT 11 96

new theory about those strange lights in the sky

Stumped?

Not any more. . . the great Wash UFO sighting finally explained

By STEVE DOWNES

The truth was out there.
But even agent Mulder of the X-Files would find it hard to believe.
The great East Anglian UFO mystery was solved last night – and turned out to be just a storm and a church tower.
The weekend sightings of colourful flashing lights over the Wash captured the imagination of would-be X-Files sleuths across the region.
Letters and telephone calls flooded into the EDP after the sightings, which coincided with the appearance of a mysterious object on radars.
One theory was that the culprit was planet Venus.
But Norfolk RAF investigators have now found logical explanations – and have ruled out the possibility of little green men peering down on us.
Flight Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We now know that the radar trace was Boston Stump – the church tower at Boston.
"And the weather people said that the coloured lights in the sky coincided with an electrical storm over the Wash.
"You do get weird experiences with electrical storms, and they can produce lots of different colours."
The 200ft church tower would have been ruled out if it had been picked up by a more advanced RAF radar, which can computer-enhance images.
But the air traffic control radar did not have similar facilities, and operators jumped to the conclusion that it must have been linked with the flashing red, blue, green and white lights, seen by the tanker Conocoast.
Following the weekend sightings, an investigation was launched by the Ministry of Defence to ensure they did not pose a threat to national security. That has now been discounted.
The mystery is expected to be cleared up once and for all in the next couple of days when experts at RAF Neatishead view video footage of the lights. They are waiting for the video to arrive after being sent from Boston police.
Flight Lt Sweatman stressed they would be keeping an open mind.
"I don't totally discount UFOs," he said.
"I'm not a disbeliever, but I'm not a believer either."

Out of this world
Did you see the mysterious bright light?

FLASHBACK: How the EDP reported the sighting on Tuesday this week.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 59

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

13 Nov 96

PE Unit [redacted] Sec(AS)2)
(thro'

PE US4215/96 - SIR KEITH SPEED RD, DL, MP

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Sir Keith Speed MP in response to the latest in a long line of letters (including five Parliamentary Enquiries), from his constituent [redacted], about 'UFO' sightings over Belgium in 1990. A summary of previous exchanges with [redacted] was provided to Lord Howe last year (D/Sec(AS)/64/1 of 15 Sep 95 - attached at Annex A). In Sep 96 Sir Keith Speed submitted a further Parliamentary Enquiry on behalf of [redacted] (copy attached at Annex B).

2. [redacted] persists with his claim that his questions have not been properly answered. He contends that if UK air defence experts were not aware of the alleged incident at the time, they were unable to state there was no threat to the UK.

3. The Belgian authorities have formally advised us (Flag A-1) that they did not notify adjacent countries about the sightings at the time because they occurred in the central part of Belgium and no threat was perceived in connection with what was seen. There was no evidence of any sightings or radar contacts occurring within coverage of the UK's air defence system and, as the incident occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, none would have been expected.

4. The draft reply attempts once more to explain our position and is consistent with the answer given to a recent Parliamentary Question tabled by Martin Redmond (Hansard extract attached at Annex C).

5. The draft does not make reference to the likelihood or otherwise of [redacted] taking his case to the Ombudsman for action. We believe USofS should not be drawn into this aspect of the case, particularly in view of Sir Keith Speed's own comments in his earlier letter (Flag B-1).

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Encs.

D/USofS/FH 4215/96 November 1996

Thank you for your further letter of 28 October enclosing the latest correspondence from Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], Cranbrook about 'UFO' sightings over Belgium in 1990.

I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] continues to feel his questions have not yet been fully answered. I believe that my letter of 9 September sets out quite clearly the position in respect of this matter.

The Belgian authorities have informed us that they did not notify adjacent countries of the sighting at the time of the incident because it occurred in the central part of Belgium and, in their view, there was no evidence of a defence threat associated with what was seen. No detections were made on UK air defence systems which would have been completely understandable and acceptable since the sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region. We are, therefore, entirely satisfied that, with no unauthorized incursions of the UK Air Defence Region, there was no threat to the UK.

This issue remains a matter for the Belgian authorities and I must say, again, that there is nothing further to add.

Sir Keith Speed RD, DL, MP THE EARL HOWE

ANNEX A

4

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

15 Sep 95

APS/USofS - Section 40

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OF 3 SEP 95 - "BRUSSELS INVESTIGATES ADMIRAL'S UFO CLAIM"

Reference: D/USofS/FH/28/1/4 (BB) dated 6 Sep 95.

1. At Reference you asked for background information relating to an article which appeared in the Sunday Telegraph earlier this month, and confirmation of any approaches for advice which the MOD has received from Lord Hill-Norton in this respect.

Belgium "UFO" Sightings - MOD Position

2. The issue of the "Belgium 'UFO' Sightings", is a subject well-known to this office in large measure due to the correspondence of Section 40 (mentioned in the article) and Lord Hill-Norton. A wave of "UFO" sightings were reported over Belgium on 30/31 March 1990. As well as visual sightings, some Belgian military radar returns were noted, and as a result the Belgian authorities launched two of their aircraft to investigate. Although 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. 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 remained unexplained.

3. As you know the MOD's only role as far as "UFOs" are concerned is to ascertain whether sightings reported to us might represent evidence of a threat to the UK. With respect to the 30/31 March 1990 'incident', the Belgian authorities have confirmed to us in writing that reports were not made to adjacent countries as the events took place in the central part of Belgium and they saw no evidence of activities of a hostile or aggressive nature at that time. As such, and given that these sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, the MOD was not aware of the 'incident' at the time. Although subsequently made aware of the sightings, the issue lies outside our area of responsibility.

4. In the light of the interest in this 'incident', including 3 PEs on the subject, the available evidence (such as it was) was looked at by the Department's air defence experts in 1993 who confirmed that they discerned nothing of concern, and

judged that there was indeed no reason for the Belgians to have notified UK authorities.

Contacts with Section 40

5. Section 40 first letter in this connection was sent to us in January 1993 when he asked what we knew of the Belgium "UFO" sightings. Officials explained our limited involvement with the subject of "UFOs" in general, and it was pointed out that the Belgium sightings were a matter for the Belgians and not for us. To be helpful, it was suggested that Section 40 contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of "UFO" societies who were actively researching these "UFO" sightings.

6. Over the next few months Section 40 wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the "UFO" phenomenon, and again, officials provided him with full and helpful answers to his questions. Section 40 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. It was explained to him that there were a number of circumstances, such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. Section 40 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 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.

7. By the time Section 40 wrote his tenth letter it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed by the then Min(AF), via his MP, that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received. Section 40 clearly refuses to accept what he has been told and continues to feel that there is information which the Department is withholding from him.

Lord Hill Norton's Involvement

8. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", 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.

9. In March 1994 Section 40 approached Lord Hill-Norton enlisting his assistance with obtaining a 'satisfactory'

response to the questions he had raised with the Department which he felt had not been adequately answered. The following May, Lord Hill-Norton wrote to the then SofS supporting the claims made by Section 40 [redacted], and adding his view that, unless the procedure had changed since he was Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it was inconceivable that the UK would not have been informed of a possible hostile, certainly unidentified, detection by NADGE radars. He also made it clear that he wished to alert SofS to the fact that Section 40 [redacted] may attempt to create a public fuss and urged him to take a personal interest in re-examining the whole matter.

10. Notwithstanding Lord Hill-Norton's assertions, 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 craft was moving *towards the UK* would such action be taken.

11. SofS responded in Jun 94 that he was content that the correct procedures had been followed in response to Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] approaches to the Department and that all relevant information had been passed to Section 40 [redacted]. He commented that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him. I attach a copy of this exchange for ease of reference.

12. I am not aware of any further correspondence from Lord Hill-Norton on this or any other "UFO"-related matter since this time.

13. I hope the above explanation adequately covers the points of concern to Lord Howe.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S Section 40
DDGE/AEW
Sec(AS)1 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

7 June 1994

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

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

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

please

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] of Cranbrook, Kent, 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,

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

Section 40 [redacted]

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ANNEX B

D/US of S/FH 3295/96/M

9th September 1996

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August to James Arbuthnot enclosing a further one from Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted], Cranbrook who believes that questions in his previous correspondence about UFO sightings over Belgium in 1990 have not been fully answered. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Section 40 [redacted] suggests that his letters have not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner but I hope he will be assured that this is not the case. As you know, we have gone to great lengths over a considerable period of time to reply to the numerous points he has raised about this matter.

Section 40 [redacted] latest questions were dealt with in the letter from Malcolm Rifkind to Lord Hill-Norton in June 1994. In the letter Malcolm explained that the Belgian authorities did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat and because they occurred over central Belgium. However, he went on to say that when we subsequently became aware of the sightings, our own experts confirmed that they would not have been concerned with the reports and saw no reason why the Belgians should have informed us. Malcolm further explained to Lord Hill-Norton that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators and does not occur automatically.

I am afraid there really is nothing more to say on this issue.

Yours ever,

THE EARL HOWE

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

[illegible] DEFENCE
13 SEP [illegible]
FILE 64/4

Recycled Paper

FLAG B-1

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

USofS
Sec(AS)
Radars

329

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED IN
28 AUG 1996
FILE:
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Dear James,

I enclose a letter I have received from my constituent Section 40 regarding Belgian radar detections.

This man has an obsession on this subject, and I have no intention of passing his letter to the Ombudsman.

I would be grateful for any comments you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Keith Speed

James Arbuthnot, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for Defence Procurement,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

PARLIAMENTARY
29 AUG 1996
MAIN BLDG

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

Section 40

Section 40

Cranbrook
Kent. Section 40
10th August 1996.

Dear Sir Keith
In response to a question put on my behalf on the 17th May 1994 by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton to the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP, and in answer to the same question put by myself to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, Secretary of State for the Armed Forces. Section 40 Section 40 Commander; Royal Navy, Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence. And the Ministry of Defence on the 12th November 1993. I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer.

The question is indeed a simple one.

Both the Minister (on the 11th June 1994) and Ministry of Defence (on the 12th november 1993) have stated that, at 22h 47m (GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990, they had no knowledge (because they had not been informed of them) of the unidentified Belgian (NADGE) radar detections, that were six minutes from Dover, on a converging course with United Kingdom air space.

If Belgian (NADGE) radars are not able to identify a detection, it is declared hostile.

A necessary prerequisite before the Belgian Air Force are able to attempt interceptions is that an unidentified radar detection must be declared hostile. The Belgian Air Force made 13 interceptions where radar lock-on was acheived.
This is proof of the hostile classification of the NADGE radar detections.

Bearing this in mind, the question is simply *'How were the the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP. The Secretary of State for*

the Armed Forces the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley. The Personal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Commander Section 40 *And the Ministry of Defence, able to state, that at 22h 47m(GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990, their Air Defence Experts did NOT consider these detections a threat, when they have admitted that they did not know about them?"*

I would also request clarification of an anomaly in the reply by the Minister to Lord Hill-Norton. The Minister stated on the 11th June 1994, that advice of radar information to other radar stations *was at the discretion of the Belgian operators and did not occur automatically.*

Lord Hill-Norton has stated that in the NADGE radar system (a system of 80 European radar defence stations of which we are part.) *other radar stations are notified - probably automatically - because that is how the system works!*
This was confirmed by Wilfrid De Brouwer, Head of the Operations Section of the Belgian Air Force who has said (22nd December 1994), *that in the event of a hostile radar classification, transmission of radar information would have been automatic to UK NADGE radar at Neatishead in Norfolk.*

I am in possession of a copy of an American Defence Intelligence Agency report which indicates that an intelligence notice was issued on various press reports, by the American Military attache in Brussels. It was circulated on 26th March 1990, four days BEFORE the events of the 30/31st March. One of the receipients of this report was the London office of the Defence Intelligence Agency which is in the Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall.

You are aware by the correspondence that has passed between us, that I have never received a clear and distinct answer to any of these questions. Indeed it is now patently obvious, by the increasing evidence on this subject and the evasions of the issues, that there is something most odd going on.
As all avenues have now been apparently closed, because of the enormity of the issue and my intention to find out what is going on, my only recourse

must be to an independant authority that is above these political issues: namely the office of the Government Ombudsman.

I would consequently ask that you forward this letter to the office of the Government Ombudsman for their guidance and clarification.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

ANNEX C

	All persons ILO unemployed of working age (thousands) of which (percentage) with highest qualification[1]	Degree or other higher education	'A' level and equivalent (excluding trade apprenticeships)	Trade apprenticeship	GCSE or equivalent	Other	No Qualification
United Kingdom	2,344	11.6	12.3	10.6	18.1	20.0	27.4
Great Britain	2,274	11.7	12.3	10.4	18.2	20.4	27.0
England	1,942	11.8	12.2	9.7	18.1	20.8	27.4
South East	742	14.1	12.8	8.7	16.7	22.1	25.5
Greater London	379	15.6	11.2	7.1	15.8	23.7	26.5
Rest of South East	362	12.6	14.4	10.5	17.7	20.3	24.5
East Anglia	72	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	21.1	23.6	23.0
South West	169	12.7	14.9	10.1	22.1	18.4	22.0
West Midlands	219	9.0	12.1	6.6	16.9	19.5	35.9
East Midlands	152	9.9	13.4	11.5	18.5	18.7	28.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	189	11.0	11.9	8.2	18.3	20.2	30.4
North west	248	11.9	9.4	10.7	19.9	20.0	28.2
North	151	7.1	11.3	16.5	16.8	22.1	26.3
Wales	114	9.3	9.7	10.8	19.2	20.2	30.8
Scotland	218	12.0	14.6	16.0	19.1	16.6	21.6
Northern Ireland	69	[2]—	[2]—	19.4	14.1	[2]—	41.0

Notes:
[1]Working age is men aged 16–64 and women aged 16–59. Includes those who did not answer, but percentages are based on totals excluding them.
[2]Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
Source:
Labour Force Survey (winter 1995–96), Office for National Statistics.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

Mr. Bill Michie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recently agreed highly indebted poor countries initiative; and if he will make a statement. [1329]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newham, North-East (Mr. Timms) on 14 October, *Official Report*, columns *705–706*.

DEFENCE

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the report of the Canberra Commission on the elimination of nuclear weapons. [2931]

Mr. Soames: We have noted the conclusions of the Canberra Commission. We remain committed to the pursuit of negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, as set out in article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But nuclear disarmament cannot realistically be pursued independently of the broader security context. We and NATO continue to judge that nuclear deterrence plays an essential role in maintaining peace and stability in Europe.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his answer of 24 July, *Official Report*, column *424*, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified; if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

Mr. Soames: The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK air defence region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and effort.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when United Kingdom military personnel were briefed about the scrambling of Belgian F-16 aircraft on 30 and 31 March 1990; when the unidentified flying object concerned was detected on United Kingdom radar systems; and if RAF aircraft were scrambled. [3185]

Mr. Soames: The Belgian authorities did not notify adjacent countries because no threat was perceived. There is no evidence of radar contacts within the UK air defence system.

Radiation

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13 January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

Mr. Soames: There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt.

FORCES ARMEES

N° VSRP 577

FLAG-A-1

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

Mr. N.G. POPE
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 a, Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
UNITED KINGDOM

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SECRETARIAT (RS) 2
4 NOV 1996

644

58

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)1 Section 40

MINISTER REPLYING: VSofS

PE REF NUMBER: VS4215 /96

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 13 Nov 96

DATE: 4 Nov 96 FROM: Section 40, PE Unit TEL: Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies.

Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about ..."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start: "Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO SHOW THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO:
Parliamentary Enquiries
other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40 PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

PE : Sec (AS) 1

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

31 OCT 1996

4215

US(P)S
Sec (AS) 1
Radar
Section 40

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

(L) US 3295/96

YR Ref. D/US of S/FH
3295/96/M

28th October, 1996.

Dear Earl Howe,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th September in response to mine concerning my constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Section 40 Kent.

Section 40 is writing a book and is most persistent on this matter, and I enclose his latest letter on this subject. Before closing this matter finally with him, I would be grateful if you could tell me specifically if the reason Section 40 question, which he maintains has not been responded to, is because of security.

Yours ever
Keith Speed

The Earl Howe,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall.
London.
SW1A.

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
-1 NOV 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Please reply to: Section 40 Cranbrook, Kent Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Fax: Section 40

Section 40

Cranbrook
Kent. Section 40
9th October 1996.

Dear Sir Keith

Thank you for your letter of the 7th October.

If you had studied the details of my previous correspondence, you would have realised that the basic question that I have constantly asked, has never been answered!

For your guidance, the question put very simply is:-

'If the Air Defence experts of the Ministry of Defence were not informed at the time, of the Belgian NATO unidentified radar detections, how were they able state that they did not constitute a threat?'

I would be pleased if you could show me in all the correspondence involved, where this question has been clearly answered by Malcolm Rifkind, Jeremy Hanley, Cddr Section 40 , Lord Howe, the Ministry of Defence, or yourself!

The truth of the matter is, that it has not!

It would seem to me that whatever reply the Ministry of Defence give, they will place themselves in a difficult situation.

If they say that they KNEW of these sightings at the time that they happened, then (because they said that they were not!) they will be guilty of deception.

If they say they did NOT know of them at the time that they happened, they will once again will be guilty of deception. How would they able to pass an opinion on these detections when they had NOT been advised of them?

Probably their reason for their evasions, bearing in mind the previous statements, is that the Ministry of Defence are unable to reply to these questions without explaining their involvement still further.

You are my elected Member of Parliament, as such, you are obligated to follow the rules of Parliament by representing me to the appropriate authority. If you choose not to do so, you will be flaunting parliamentary law, and that is your prerogative. All I will say is, that you have no right whatsoever to refuse to pass my request to the Ombudsman. It is his choice whether he considers it or not.

As you are aware, I have already put on record in a previous book, details of my unsatisfactory involvement with you and the Ministry of Defence. This is to advise you that your recent letters, together with my replies, will form part of my next book.

Youre sincerely

Section 40

CC: James Arbuthnot Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The Prime Minister: This morning, I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in the House, I shall be having further meetings later today.

Burma

Mr. Parry: To ask the Prime Minister what recent representations Her Majesty's Government have made to the Government of Burma regarding abuses of human rights; and if he will make a statement. [3178]

The Prime Minister: We have recently issued several statements about violations of human rights in Burma, and did so again yesterday.

In addition, our Ambassador in Rangoon has expressed our grave concern at recent events in Burma on several occasions.

The EU presidency and troika Foreign Ministers also raised these concerns at meetings with the Burmese Foreign Minister on 22 July and 26 September.

Land Mines

Mr. Parry: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received from UNICEF concerning land mines in *(a)* Cambodia and *(b)* Thailand; and if he will make a statement. [3175]

The Prime Minister: As far as I am aware, none.

Mr. Parry: To ask the Prime Minister what assistance *(a)* Her Majesty's Government and *(b)* non-governmental organisations have given to *(a)* Cambodia, *(b)* Laos and *(c)* Thailand in respect of the clearance of land mines; and if he will make a statement. [3176]

The Prime Minister: Since 1 April 1993, the British Government have committed over £5.1 million for humanitarian mine clearance activities in Cambodia, £543,000 in Laos and £5,000 in Thailand, concentrating on specific clearance projects addressing urgent humanitarian needs. Some of these projects are managed by British non-governmental organisations.

We do not have details of all non-governmental organisations' commitments to mine clearance in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

DEFENCE

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what factors underlay his Department's decision that the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects on 5 November 1990 and 31 March 1993 were not of defence significance; [2898]

(2) for what reasons his Department assessed the sightings of an unidentified flying object over RAF Shawbury, referred to in his answer of 24 July, *Official Report*, column *424*, as having no defence significance. [2928]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 July 1996, *Official Report*, column *26*.

Gulf War

Mr. Campbell–Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if supplies of vaccine 10HO3A supplied to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment were used in circumstances relating to the Gulf war. [1674]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Dale Campbell–Savours, dated 12 November 1996:

I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about whether the Vaccine 10HO3A supplied to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment were used in circumstances relating to the Gulf War. I have been asked to reply since The Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBD) is now part of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency of which I am Chief Executive.

I regret that it is not our policy to provide details of the particular vaccines required for the research programme at CBD Porton Down.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date vaccine 10HO3A was received by United Kingdom military personnel in the gulf; [1675]

(2) if named patient requirements as required by the manufacturer were used in the case of vaccine number 10HO3A while used in circumstances relating to the Gulf war; [1673]

(3) on what date Her Majesty's Government purchased from the Miles Drug Company, Miles Pharmaceuticals or Bayer UK vaccine 10HO3A; and which was used in the Gulf war; [1672]

(4) how many British Aerospace personnel *(a)* did and *(b)* did not receive doses of vaccine 10HO3A during the course of the Gulf war; [1671]

(5) if he will make a statement on the use of vaccine 10HO3A during the course of the Gulf war. [1670]

Mr. Soames: At present, details relating to biological warfare medical counter measures remain classified for operational reasons.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what time on the 20 and 21 January 1991 United Kingdom personnel were brought into contact with chemical or biological agents near Dhahran. [1677]

Mr. Soames: No chemical or biological agents were detected at Dhahran on 20 and 21 January 1991.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what time on the 20 and 21 January 1992 chemical agent monitors indicated sarin in the air in the vicinity of United Kingdom personnel at Dhahran. [1676]

Mr. Soames: There is no evidence of sarin being detected at Dhahran on 20 and 21 January 1991.

Gurkha Troops

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkha troops will be stationed in Britain as a result of the handover of Hong Kong; where

64/4
56
NUMBER

	All persons ILO unemployed of working age (thousands) of which (percentage) with highest qualification[1]	Degree or other higher education	'A' level and equivalent (excluding trade apprenticeships)	Trade apprenticeship	GCSE or equivalent	Other	No Qualification
United Kingdom	2,344	11.6	12.3	10.6	18.1	20.0	27.4
Great Britain	2,274	11.7	12.3	10.4	18.2	20.4	27.0
England	1,942	11.8	12.2	9.7	18.1	20.8	27.4
South East	742	14.1	12.8	8.7	16.7	22.1	25.5
Greater London	379	15.6	11.2	7.1	15.8	23.7	26.5
Rest of South East	362	12.6	14.4	10.5	17.7	20.3	24.5
East Anglia	72	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	21.1	23.6	23.0
South West	169	12.7	14.9	10.1	22.1	18.4	22.0
West Midlands	219	9.0	12.1	6.6	16.9	19.5	35.9
East Midlands	152	9.9	13.4	11.5	18.5	18.7	28.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	189	11.0	11.9	8.2	18.3	20.2	30.4
North west	248	11.9	9.4	10.7	19.9	20.0	28.2
North	151	7.1	11.3	16.5	16.8	22.1	26.3
Wales	114	9.3	9.7	10.8	19.2	20.2	30.8
Scotland	218	12.0	14.6	16.0	19.1	16.6	21.6
Northern Ireland	69	[2]—	[2]—	19.4	14.1	[2]—	41.0

Notes:
[1]Working age is men aged 16–64 and women aged 16–59. Includes those who did not answer, but percentages are based on totals excluding them.
[2]Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
Source:
Labour Force Survey (winter 1995–96), Office for National Statistics.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

Mr. Bill Michie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recently agreed highly indebted poor countries initiative; and if he will make a statement. [1329]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newham, North-East (Mr. Timms) on 14 October, *Official Report,* columns *705–706.*

DEFENCE

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the report of the Canberra Commission on the elimination of nuclear weapons. [2931]

Mr. Soames: We have noted the conclusions of the Canberra Commission. We remain committed to the pursuit of negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, as set out in article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But nuclear disarmament cannot realistically be pursued independently of the broader security context. We and NATO continue to judge that nuclear deterrence plays an essential role in maintaining peace and stability in Europe.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his answer of 24 July, *Official Report,* column *424,* when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified; if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

Mr. Soames: The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK air defence region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and effort.

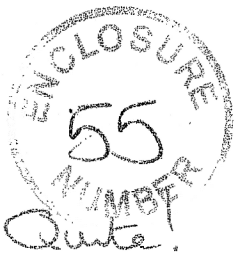
Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when United Kingdom military personnel were briefed about the scrambling of Belgian F-16 aircraft on 30 and 31 March 1990; when the unidentified flying object concerned was detected on United Kingdom radar systems; and if RAF aircraft were scrambled. [3185]

Mr. Soames: The Belgian authorities did not notify adjacent countries because no threat was perceived. There is no evidence of radar contacts within the UK air defence system.

Radiation

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13 January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

Mr. Soames: There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt.



Section 40 [redacted]

Quite.

Thank you. It doesn't seem to matter to some newspapers if they produce wildly inaccurate reports, so long as they are sensational.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

11 Nov 96

PSO/ACAS

Copy to:

PS/CAS
DPR
DAO
Sec (AS)2a1

Section 40 [redacted]

REPORTED UFO SIGHTING OFF BOSTON - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DAO/1/!f dated 1 Nov 96.

1. You may know from the attached press report that the content of Mr Martin Redmond's letter to the SofS on the subject topic has reached the public domain.

2. I reported at Reference that we were taking a closer look at this incident in view of criticism of the RAF's AD system. That work is still underway but will be completed later in the week. Some primary witnesses have been uncontactable. On the evidence so far, we do not anticipate extraordinary conclusions.

3. As interim background:

a. There was only one unsolicited observer, others having reported lights on enquiry from the Yarmouth Coastguard.

b. The video has been in the MOD only since 6 Nov, having been requested from the police where it had been lodged with the Head of Media Services, Lincolnshire Police Services (it shows a single bright pinpoint light, the angle of which may be measured against a building in the foreground).

c. There was no radar correlated contact, the reporting system having tentatively identified, when the visual sighting was inaccurately reported, a stationary contact over Boston showing on the Claxby remote head, but subsequently discounted as a ground return probably the Boston "stump".

d. Reported aircraft sightings may be discounted, referring to enquiries made to a Delta airlines and UK Air aircraft in Blue One. Neither observed anything, although the Delta aircraft made reference to flares which he had seen some 20 minutes earlier and much to the West.

4. Much of the reported material, and its interpretation, would

seem to have come from overheard radio transmissions from the Yarmouth Coastguard.

Section 40 [redacted]

Gp Capt
AOAD1
MB4229 Section 40 [redacted]

The People
10 November 1996

Page No: 14

RAF IN X-FILE ALERT!

ALIENS from outer space may be visiting Britain, the Government has sensationally admitted.

In an incredible letter obtained by The People, Defence Minister Earl Frederick Howe reveals that ALL RAF station commanders are under orders to report UFO sightings.

And he adds: "So far as the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open-minded." The letter was sent to Don Valley Labour MP Martin Redmond, who is trying to break the MoD's veil of secrecy over flying saucers.

By NIGEL NELSON

He is concerned about a UFO with a red and green rotating light that appeared over East Anglia last month.

It was tracked by radar at RAF Neatishead and RAF Northwood for several hours as it hovered in the sky before flying 50 miles down the coast.

It was also spotted by the crews of a tanker and civilian plane, while a video – now in the MoD's hands – was taken by police.

"It's incredible no aircraft were scrambled when a target was picked up so close to the coast," Mr Redmond told Defence Secretary Michael Portillo.

"This raises questions on the way we police the UK Air Defence Region."

Earl Howe replied that the RAF does not respond unless there is evidence UK air space has been "compromised". He added: "To date no sighting has provided such evidence.

"We do not investigate further or provide an explanation for what might have been observed."

Mr Redmond is accusing the Government of covering up information on UFOs and says if there is no defence threat, there is no excuse for secrecy either.

"The answers I've been given lead me to think there is something more to this," added the MP.

"The only thing I know for sure is this whole issue is shrouded in secrecy."

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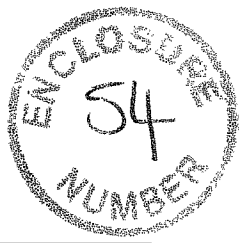
But he added: "Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace are identified by all available means, including interception."

Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

26



LOOSE MINUTE

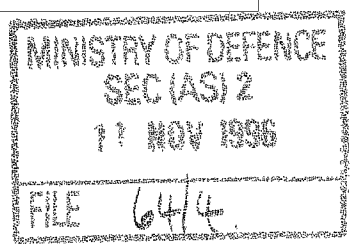
D/DAO/1/13

11 Nov 96

PSO/ACAS

Copy to:

PS/CAS
DPR
DAO
Sec (AS)2a1



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Gp Capt
AOAD1
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Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

26

DEFENCE

Land Mines

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the *(a)* maximum timed life and *(b)* self-destruct reliability of (i) area denial and (ii) land mine systems presently in active service with British forces. [391]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The systems concerned are the HB876 sub-munition of the JP233 area denial weapon and the MLRS AT2 scatterable mine. Self-destruction will normally take place in a matter of hours for the HB876; its self-destruct reliability is currently being assessed. The AT2 mine self-destructs within days and has a reliability which has been evaluated as over 99 per cent. Additionally, in each case mine detonation relies on a short-lifed battery, and any mine that fails to self-destruct will deactivate within a further short period. Precise self-destruction timings for both mines are classified.

There is no other area denial weapon in service with the British armed forces, and no other land mine system in service which has a maximum timed life or a self-destruct capability.

Unidentified Flying Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the reports of encounters by Royal Air Force pilots with unidentified flying craft since 1966 which have not been released to the public; on what grounds they have been retained; and if he will make a statement. [2201]

Mr. Soames: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the Royal Air Force's practice as regards investigating sightings of unidentified flying craft which correlate with radar information; if there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [2200]

Mr. Soames: Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace or the UK air defence region are identified by all available means, including interception.

Gulf War Veterans

Mr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the people who are currently employed on his Department's Gulf veterans medical assessment programme. [1687]

Mr. Soames: The personnel currently employed by my Department's Gulf veterans medical assessment programme are:

Military:

2 consultant physicians (1 group captain RAF and 1 lieutenant colonel RAMC)

1 state registered nurse (squadron leader RAF)

1 medical administrator (flight sergeant RAF)

Civilian:

1 personal secretary

1 administrative officer

2 administrative assistants

1 typist

In addition, the Middlesex hospital undertakes diagnostic testing at the request of the MAP consultants.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the sale of the married quarters estate to Annington Homes. [2750]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Contracts for the sale were exchanged on 24 September. The transaction was completed today.

Menwith Hill RAF Station

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what right of access the local Health and Safety Executive has to Menwith Hill station; if it makes regular health and safety checks; and how many times it has made official visits to the Menwith Hill station. [2153]

Mr. Soames: The Health and Safety Executive has the same right of access to RAF Menwith Hill as at any other MoD establishment. The Health and Safety Executive have visited the site once in June 1996.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what systems are in place to monitor levels of non-ionising electro-magnetic radiation at Menwith Hill station; who is responsible for such monitoring; if their reports are made available to the public; and what precautions are being taken to protect the health and safety of *(a)* the base population, *(b)* the local community and *(c)* the local environment from the effects of non-ionising electro-magnetic radiation emitted by operations at Menwith Hill station. [2157]

Mr. Soames: There is no specific legal requirement to monitor non-ionising electro-magnetic radiation. However RAF Menwith Hill observes and operates in accordance with the National Radiological Protection Board guidelines and the Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission a report on the state of the environment at Menwith Hill station, similar to the internal US environmental compliance status survey of 1992; on what occasions his Department has commissioned similar reports in the past; and if he will commission and publish such reports on a regular basis. [2158]

Mr. Soames: No. The commissioning of compliance status surveys is the sole responsibility of the US authorities. These surveys are carried out to US criteria and I am satisfied that the standards applied fully meet those applicable in the UK. Therefore my Department has not commissioned any similar reports and does not intend to do so.

United States Visiting Forces

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British bases are occupied by United States visiting forces; how many United States personnel are stationed at each; for what reasons sites used by United States visiting forces are designated as RAF stations; when and by whom this decision was taken; what parliamentary scrutiny of this decision has taken place; and if he will make a statement. [2155]

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 52

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2352H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

15|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when United Kingdom military personnel were briefed about the scrambling of Belgian F.-16 aircraft on 30th and 31st March 1990; when the unidentified flying object concerned was detected on any United Kingdom radar systems; and if RAF aircraft were scrambled. [3185]

MR SOAMES: [The Belgian authorities have informed us that they did not advise other countries of these sightings at the time because they occurred over the central part of Belgium and in their view there was no evidence of a defence threat.]

There is no evidence of ~~that~~ any ~~sightings or~~ radar contacts ~~occurred~~ within the ~~expected coverage of the~~ UK air defence system. ~~They remain a matter for the Belgian Government.~~

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: Nov 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AO-AD1*
DPO(RAF)*
DI55c

*by CHOTS

The Belgian authorities did not notify adjacent countries because no threat was perceived.

BACKGROUND TO PQ2352H

1. Since the House returned from the summer recess this brings the total of Martin Redmond PQs on 'UFO'-related issues to 33.

2. The subject of the "Belgium 'UFO' sightings" of 30/31 March 1990 is well documented due in large-measure to the correspondence of a Section 40 [redacted] who has, we believe, written at least one book about this alleged incident. Through his MP, Sir Keith Speed, Section 40 [redacted] has to date been responsible for five Parliamentary Enquiries (the latest as recently as the beginning of this month and for which we will be providing a draft reply for USofS' signature shortly). A summary of the Department's previous exchanges with Section 40 [redacted] (which also details the background to the Belgian sightings) was provided to USofS in September last year (D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 1[redacted] which is attached at Annex A).

3. The "Belgium 'UFO' sightings" were als[redacted] about the 'UFO' phenomenon, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] We suspe[redacted] most likely source of the question given Mr Redmond's other questions on 'UFO'-related issues.

4. Attached at Annex B is a letter from the Chief of Belgian Armed Forces Public Affairs from Feb 94 which confirms that the Belgian authorities did not notify adjacent countries about the sightings at the time because they occurred in the central part of Belgium and no threat was perceived in connection with what was seen. There was no evidence of any sightings or radar contacts occurring within the expected coverage of the UK's air defence system. As the incident occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region none would have been expected and from that it must be assumed that no RAF aircraft were scrambled to investigate the sightings.

5. In summary the issue remains a matter for the Belgian authorities.

Annex A
4

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

15 Sep 95

APS/USofS - Section 40 [redacted]

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OF 3 SEP 95 - "BRUSSELS INVESTIGATES ADMIRAL'S UFO CLAIM"

Reference: D/USofS/FH/28/1/4 (BB) dated 6 Sep 95.

1. At Reference you asked for background information relating to an article which appeared in the Sunday Telegraph earlier this month, and confirmation of any approaches for advice which the MOD has received from Lord Hill-Norton in this respect.

Belgium "UFO" Sightings - MOD Position

2. The issue of the "Belgium 'UFO' Sightings", is a subject well-known to this office in large measure due to the correspondence of Section 40 [redacted] (mentioned in the article) and Lord Hill-Norton. A wave of "UFO" sightings were reported over Belgium on 30/31 March 1990. As well as visual sightings, some Belgian military radar returns were noted, and as a result the Belgian authorities launched two of their aircraft to investigate. Although 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. 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 remained unexplained.

3. As you know the MOD's only role as far as "UFOs" are concerned is to ascertain whether sightings reported to us might represent evidence of a threat to the UK. With respect to the 30/31 March 1990 'incident', the Belgian authorities have confirmed to us in writing that reports were not made to adjacent countries as the events took place in the central part of Belgium and they saw no evidence of activities of a hostile or aggressive nature at that time. As such, and given that these sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, the MOD was not aware of the 'incident' at the time. Although subsequently made aware of the sightings, the issue lies outside our area of responsibility.

4. In the light of the interest in this 'incident', including 3 PEs on the subject, the available evidence (such as it was) was looked at by the Department's air defence experts in 1993 who confirmed that they discerned nothing of concern, and

judged that there was indeed no reason for the Belgians to have notified UK authorities.

Contacts with [redacted]

5. [redacted] first letter in this connection was sent to us in January 1993 when he asked what we knew of the Belgium "UFO" sightings. Officials explained our limited involvement with the subject of "UFOs" in general, and it was pointed out that the Belgium sightings were a matter for the Belgians and not for us. To be helpful, it was suggested that [redacted] contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of "UFO" societies who were actively researching these "UFO" sightings.

6. Over the next few months [redacted] wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the "UFO" phenomenon, and again, officials provided him with full and helpful answers to his questions. [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. It was explained to him that there were a number of circumstances, such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. [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. [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.

7. By the time [redacted] wrote his tenth letter it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed by the then Min(AF), via his MP, that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received. [redacted] clearly refuses to accept what he has been told and continues to feel that there is information which the Department is withholding from him.

Lord Hill Norton's Involvement

8. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", 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.

9. In March 1994 [redacted] approached Lord Hill-Norton enlisting his assistance with obtaining a 'satisfactory'

response to the questions he had raised with the Department which he felt had not been adequately answered. The following May, Lord Hill-Norton wrote to the then SofS supporting the claims made by Section 40 [redacted], and adding his view that, unless the procedure had changed since he was Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it was inconceivable that the UK would not have been informed of a possible hostile, certainly unidentified, detection by NADGE radars. He also made it clear that he wished to alert SofS to the fact that Section 40 [redacted] may attempt to create a public fuss and urged him to take a personal interest in re-examining the whole matter.

10. Notwithstanding Lord Hill-Norton's assertions, 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 craft was moving *towards the UK* would such action be taken.

11. SofS responded in Jun 94 that he was content that the correct procedures had been followed in response to Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] approaches to the Department and that all relevant information had been passed to Section 40 [redacted]. He commented that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him. I attach a copy of this exchange for ease of reference.

12. I am not aware of any further correspondence from Lord Hill-Norton on this or any other "UFO"-related matter since this time.

13. I hope the above explanation adequately covers the points of concern to Lord Howe.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S Section 40
DDGE/AEW
Sec(AS)2 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

7 June 1994

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

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

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

please

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] of Cranbrook, Kent, 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,

FORCES ARMEES

N° VSRP 514.

Annex B

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

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

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 [redacted]

Lieutenant-Colonel
Chief Public Affairs

Mr. N.G. POPE
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 a, Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
UNITED KINGDOM

(1) Section 40 (2) Section 40

for info Section 40 6/11

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 51

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2340H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:ACSA(N)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS) Section 40

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

12|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13th January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

64/4

50 NUMBERS

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:~~2238H~~ 2338H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified; if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents what have occurred since 1979. [2932]

64/4

49

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2344H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

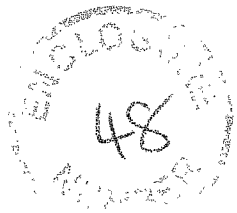
LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

14|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, if he will explain why reports of sightings of an unidentified flying object over RAF Shawbury referred in his Answer are regarded as having no defence significance. [2928]

64/4



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2334H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

9|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what factors underlay his Department's decision that the reported sitings of unidentified flying objects on 5th November 1990 and 31st March 1993 were not of defence significance. [2898]

644

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2352H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

15|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when United Kingdom military personnel were briefed about the scrambling of Belgian F.-16 aircraft on 30th and 31st March 1990; when the unidentified flying object concerned was detected on any United Kingdom radar systems; and if RAF aircraft were scrambled. [3185]

64/4.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 46

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2334H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

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PQ REFERENCE:2344H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

14|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons his Department assessed the sightings of an unidentified flying object over RAF Shawbury referred to in his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, as having no defence significance.[2928]

MR SOAMES: I refer the hon Member to the reply I gave him on 8 July 1996, Official Report, Col 26.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 7 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: 7 Nov 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AO-AD1*
DPO(RAF)*
DI55c

*by CHOTS

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQs 2334H AND 2344H

1. Mr Redmond is continuing to ask a number of questions about 'UFO'-related issues. Since the House returned from the summer recess he has now tabled 33 PQs on this subject. The two incidents to which Mr Redmond refers in these PQs are specifically Section 40 [redacted] on 'UFOs'.

2. The sighting on 31 March 1993 was one of a number reported from the West Country and South Wales that day. These were examined in the usual manner and included a check with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities, which revealed nothing. The report by Tornado aircrew on 5 November 1990 suggested that they may have seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report. The Official Report, 24 July 1996, Col 424, which the MP cites in his question is attached for information at Annex A.

3. As we have already explained the factors relevant to investigating 'UFO' reports (Official Report, 8 July 1996, Col 26 attached at Annex B) there is nothing further to add to what has already been said. The draft reply therefore refers to the earlier answer.

ANNEX A

DEFENCE

Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US–UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the impact of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* the work of his Department in helping small businesses in the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors the impact and the statistical results of such monitoring. [39141]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the form of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

My Department supports the DTI's small business measures and initiatives. I am the Minister within this Department for small businesses and I attend or am represented at the DTI's regular meetings.

The Defence Suppliers Service assists companies, including small businesses, in making contact with appropriate contracts branches. It also arranges for details of many forthcoming tenders to be published in the fortnightly MOD *Contracts Bulletin* which is available to any interested party on subscription. This enables small businesses either to seek to tender directly for specific requirements or, more commonly, to become sub-contractors to larger companies.

Since the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence moved to the new procurement headquarters at Abbey Wood near Bristol earlier this year, the Defence Suppliers Service is in contact with the Bristol chamber of commerce and DTI's business links, whose South-west regional supply network office has become their national focal point for the defence industry. Other areas of the country can reach my Department, and be reached by us, through the business links network.

As much of the assistance provided by my Department to small businesses tends to be in the sub-contractor sector, it is not possible to establish suitable performance parameters and therefore no statistics are available.

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been *(a)* scrambled and *(b)* diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996–97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]

ANNEX B

This helpful recommendation, which reflects the local opinions that have been voiced over many months by my hon. Friends and others, will be considered by Barnet health authority at its next meeting.

Read Codes

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 1 July, *Official Report*, column *334*, if he will specify the organisation or person carrying out the study of the licensing arrangements between Computer Aided Medical Systems plc and the NHS; if that organisation was chosen by competitive tenders; when the study was started; when he expected it to be completed; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the completed report. [35768]

Mr. Horam: The review of current licensing and support arrangements for Read codes will be carried out by Silicon Bridge Research. Since it was chosen for its particular skills and experience, at a cost below the single tender limit, there was no competitive tender. The review started an 4 July 1996 and is expected to be completed by the end of October 1996. A report of its findings will be placed in the Library.

Trust and Health Authorities (Debts)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 23 May, *Official Report*, column *93*, if he will show the amount of bad debts and claims abandoned for each health authority in each region broken down by category for the last three years. [33097]

Mr. Horam *[holding answer 17 June 1996]:* The information will be placed in the Library.

Child Abuse Inquires

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the total cost to public funds of *(a)* the independent review of residential care conducted by Lady Wagner and *(b)* its report, "Residential Care-A Positive Choice". [35146]

Mr. Bowis *[holding answer 1 July 1996]:* The information is not available.

DEFENCE

Land Mines

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many JP233 mines were left by United Kingdom forces at bomb dump M3 in Bahrain after the Gulf war; and how many of them are currently owned by the United Kingdom Government. [35360]

Mr. Soames: All JP 233 munitions in Bahrain were returned to the UK after the Gulf war.

Hawk Trainer Crash, Portugal

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 18 June, *Official Report*, column *416*, in respect of the crash of a Hawk trainer, when the NATO standardisation agreement came into operation. [35691]

Mr. Soames: NATO standardisation agreement 3531 first came into operation in 1964.

Official Secrets (Military Accidents)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has to alter the provisions contained in official secrets legislation in relation to military incidents resulting in *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities; and if he will make a statement. [35703]

Mr. Soames: There are no provisions in official secrets legislation relating specifically to such incidents. Service board of inquiry reports on military incidents resulting in fatalities are released to the next of kin of deceased service personnel, on request, subject to the minimum of security requirements.

Armed Forces

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) of 16 May, *Official Report*, column *559*, if he will break down the figures for armed forces by *(a)* year and *(b)* service for each year since 1991. [35751]

Mr. Soames: The strength of the Regular armed forces by service, on 1 April for each year since 1991, was as follows:

	1991	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*
RN/RM	62,100	62,100	54,400	55,800	50,900	48,300
Army	154,600	152,400	140,900	128,600	115,900	113,400
RAF	88,400	86,000	80,900	75,700	70,800	64,700
Total	305,100	300,500	281,200	260,100	237,600	226,400
Others[1]	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,600	1,000	1,000

[1]Locally Engaged Service Personnel. Army figures include Gurkha strengths.
All figures contain an element for personnel undergoing training.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which office within his Department deals with sightings of unidentified flying objects. [35845]

Mr. Soames: The focal point within my Department for reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects is Secretariat(Air Staff)2a.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list by *(a)* date and *(b)* location for the last 10 years unexplainable sightings of unidentified flying objects received by his Department; and what action was subsequently taken. [35844]

Mr. Soames: My Department evaluates reports of "unexplained" aerial phenomena solely in order to establish whether they may have any defence significance. Unless there is evidence to indicate that the UK air defence region may have been compromised, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, my Department does not investigate or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. The question of unexplainable sightings has not therefore arisen.

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 45

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2338H **(was 2238H - change confirmed by Parl Unit)**
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified; if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

MR SOAMES: The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK Air Defence Region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could only be provided at disproportionate cost and effort.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 7 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: 7 Nov 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AO-AD1*
DPO(RAF)*
DI55c *by CHOTS

BACKGROUND - PQ 2338H

1. This PQ is one of five which have been tabled by Martin Redmond for answer this week, on 'UFO'-related issues. Since the House returned from the summer recess this brings the total of Martin Redmond PQs on 'UFO'-related issues to 33.

2. A copy of the answer given to the previous question (24 July) is attached at Annex A. The incidents giving rise to the uncorrelated radar tracks mentioned in that answer occurred on 2 Aug and 6 Sep 91. The radar tracks were subsequently identified by interception as Russian maritime patrol aircraft which had penetrated the UK Air Defence Region and which were thought to have been monitoring Exercise Northern Star, a NATO maritime exercise taking place at the time.

3. The question asks for details of similar incidents from 1979 onwards. Central file records only exist for the last five years. It might be possible to obtain some information f[redacted] from 1979 by initiating a trawl of local records [redacted] by RAF stations with air defence responsibilities [redacted] raised by all RAF stations for historical purpose[redacted] noteworthy events of significance to the station, [redacted] specifically those of an operational nature. It [redacted] manual search by each station for the 17 year per[redacted] records are not held in a readily available form. The answer to the last part of the MP's question could not therefore be provided without disproportionate cost and effort and the reply reflects this line.

ANNEX A

DEFENCE

Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US–UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the impact of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* the work of his Department in helping small businesses in the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors the impact and the statistical results of such monitoring. [39141]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the form of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

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As much of the assistance provided by my Department to small businesses tends to be in the sub-contractor sector, it is not possible to establish suitable performance parameters and therefore no statistics are available.

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Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been *(a)* scrambled and *(b)* diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996–97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]

COVERING UNCLASSIFIED — STAFF 64/4.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 44

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2340H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):ACAS(N)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13th January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

There is no record of any official

Mr Soames: ~~No formal~~ assessment ~~was made~~ of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt.

COVERING UNCLASSIFIED — STAFF

UNCLASSIFIED

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2340H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):ACAS(N)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13th January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

Mr Soames: There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [redacted] M J D Fuller Tel: [redacted] Date 7/11/96

Sec(AS)2 [redacted] Tel: [redacted] Date 7 Nov 96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS*
ACSA(N) *
DPR(RAF)*
DPO(RAF)*
Sec(AS)1*
DAO.AD2*
DI55c

* By CHOTS

BACKGROUND - PQ 2340H

1. This PQ is one of five which have been tabled for answer this week on UFO-related issues. Since the House returned from summer recess this brings the total of Martin Redmond PQs on this subject to 33.

2. We believe that this PQ may have been prompted by Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]. The case referred to, an alleged "UFO" incident, occurred outside RAF Woodbridge in the Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. The incident Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

3. The alleged incident occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, the Lt Col Charles Halt named in the question, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached at Annex A) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no evidence of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings. A previous written answer to Mr Redmond has made the Department's position on this clear (Hansard extract attached at Annex B).

4. There is no evidence that any analysis of the radiation readings reported at the site was undertaken at the time. It is assumed, however, in the light of the judgement by the relevant air defence experts that the UK air defence region had not been compromised, that no analysis of the reported readings was judged necessary. Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] however, informally and, as far as we can ascertain, unofficially, approached the Defence Radiological Protection Service in 1994 for their views. Their advice was that the readings were higher than normal but that there could be a number of explanations for this. However, since Section 40 [redacted] enquiry was made by telephone, and is documented only by a handwritten file note some thirteen and a half years after the incident occurred in pursuit, we believe, of

Section 40 [redacted], it must be discounted for the purposes of the draft answer.

ANNEX A

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

ANNEX A

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

ANNEX B.

DEFENCE

Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US–UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the impact of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* the work of his Department in helping small businesses in the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors the impact and the statistical results of such monitoring. [39141]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the form of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

My Department supports the DTI's small business measures and initiatives. I am the Minister within this Department for small businesses and I attend or am represented at the DTI's regular meetings.

The Defence Suppliers Service assists companies, including small businesses, in making contact with appropriate contracts branches. It also arranges for details of many forthcoming tenders to be published in the fortnightly MOD *Contracts Bulletin* which is available to any interested party on subscription. This enables small businesses either to seek to tender directly for specific requirements or, more commonly, to become sub-contractors to larger companies.

Since the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence moved to the new procurement headquarters at Abbey Wood near Bristol earlier this year, the Defence Suppliers Service is in contact with the Bristol chamber of commerce and DTI's business links, whose South-west regional supply network office has become their national focal point for the defence industry. Other areas of the country can reach my Department, and be reached by us, through the business links network.

As much of the assistance provided by my Department to small businesses tends to be in the sub-contractor sector, it is not possible to establish suitable performance parameters and therefore no statistics are available.

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been *(a)* scrambled and *(b)* diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996–97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

644.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 43

11/180(BP)/365/2/1/GE

MOD - AO AD1 - FAX Section 40

6 Nov 96

PQ 223811 - UNCORRELATED TARGETS

1. We spoke about the subject PQ referring back to the answer given on 24 Jul 96 (column 424 of the record. For background, until recent QRA events that occurred after the original PQ, the last previous intercept of Russian ac were in Sep 91. The total No of penetrations during the period Jul to Sep was 22 which generated 18 (RAF) QRA sorties with a total of 18 interceptions. In our previous answer we quoted 8 interceptions which is correct when counting the interception of a pair of Russian ac as one intercept and not counting double or more intercepts of the same Russians by different [illegible]. The intercept on in Jul was outside the 3 year period of the questio

2. [illegible] current question we offer the following 'incidents'

[illegible] a Victor tanker was diverted from a towline [illegible] port [illegible] who appeared with[illegible] the northern ADR[illegible]Z) [illegible] previous [illegible] had occurred) USAF F15s intercepted fir[illegible] proceeded [illegible] operate with a SLAVA [illegible] outsid[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Z when they reappe[illegible] inside [illegible]

[illegible] straight 2 pop-up just North of ADR Q1 and [illegible] 10 min after Q1. Both Q achieved intercep[illegible] [illegible] diverted from task to support Q.

[illegible] Q was launched from Leuchars to investigate [illegible] lat[illegible] to be spurious. No other details ar[illegible] (from [illegible] computer track but I cannot dis[illegible] this.

2. [illegible] we [illegible] that a and b above form the basis of the answer [illegible] PQ. [illegible] details of [illegible] since 1979. We do not have this information [illegible] relevant [illegible] relevant STC files [illegible] transferred bet[illegible] not help [illegible] [illegible] ears w[illegible] would be [illegible] month unde[illegible]

3. Suggested ans[illegible] ~~is referred to~~ [illegible]

~~when~~ *RAF aircraft were* [illegible] *diverted from* [illegible] *when the northern* [illegible] *On both occasions the* [illegible] *Russian maritime aircraft. Records of similar incidents going back* [illegible] *available.*

this has penetrated at low level before climbing into radar cover.

Section 40

Wg Cdr
A/Gp Capt AD GE
Ext Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 42

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2303H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

22|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the Royal Air Force's practice as regards investigating sightings of unidentified flying craft which correlate with radar information; if there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [2200]

MR SOAMES: Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace or the UK Air Defence Region are identified by all available means, including interception.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 [redacted] 4Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 [redacted] Tel: [redacted] 4Nov 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS *
DPR(RAF) *
AO-AD1 *
DI55c
DPO(RAF) *

* By CHOTS

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ2303H

1. This PQ is one of two which follow 26 'UFO'-related PQs tabled last month by Mr Redmond (22 to this Department, one to the Prime Minister, and three to the FCO).

2. We believe that the question has been asked as a result of recent media speculation about an alleged 'UFO' sighting off the East Anglian coast which occurred on the night of 4/5 Oct, and was witnessed by a number of people including officers of Skegness and Boston Police stations. Mr Redmond has written to USofS about this matter recently (copy attached) and we shall be providing a draft reply for this letter shortly.

3. During the night of 4/5 Oct, lights in the sky were observed seawards over The Wash. Although newspaper articles claim that the sightings were correlated by radar returns, the radar returns were assessed, were almost certainly caused by a permanent geographical feature on land and considered to be St Botolph's church spire in Boston, (273ft high). The church spire is known locally as the 'Boston Stump' and can appear occasionally on some radars in certain radar propagation conditions. The lights over The Wash area were observed from three separate locations high above the horizon, but without corroborating radar data and no associated air vehicle was detected by civil or military radars. A distant celestial source probably accounted for the lights observed.

4. As the PQ answer explains, "all available means" would be used to identify penetrations of UK airspace (which extends 12 nms from our coastline) or the much larger UK Air Defence Region which we police on behalf of NATO. We do not believe it would be appropriate to provide Mr Redmond with more detailed information about the "means" available to us as this would reveal our early warning methodology. The measures used would include electronic early warning identification (radar) and procedural means (ie. correlation with civil flight plans), and interception when electronic and procedural means did not resolve the issue. Interception would also be used in the case of non-NATO military aircraft to demonstrate a defence presence.

MARTIN REDMOND, M.P.

USofS
Sec(AS)
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th. October, 1996

The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, M.P.,
The Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
S.W.1A 2HB.

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
30 OCT 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Dear Michael,

I am very concerned about an incident that occurred off the East Anglian coast recently, involving a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems. I have attached, for your information, copies of some recent press reports.

From these press reports it would seem as if the unidentified flying craft was seen by the crew of a tanker; the crew of a civil aircraft; police at Skegness (who took a video), and police at Boston. Simultaneously, the object seems to have been picked up on military radar systems at R.A.F. Neatishead, R.A.F. Waddington, and R.A.F. Northwood, together with systems at London and at Anglia radar.

What strikes me as incredible is that no aircraft were scrambled when an uncorrelated target was picked up so close to the coast. This raises for me, serious issues about the way in which we police the U.K. Air Defence Region (U.K.A.D.R.). Given that we have Tornado F.3 aircraft based at R.A.F. Leuchars; R.A.F. Leeming; and R.A.F. Coningsby, should not one of these bases have had Air Defence aircraft on Quick Reaction Alert (Q.R.A.), and should a launch not have been ordered? I am also unclear as to the involvement of R.A.F. Kinloss in Scotland, home of our Nimrod Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

A story seems to have been put around that the radar systems were picking up Boston's church tower! Although "ground clutter" can give spurious returns around certain radar heads, my understanding is that the locations of such areas are well known, and that such an effect is unlikely to be repeated on so many different radar systems. Some of the Air Traffic Control radars might have difficulty with ground clutter, but Air Defence radar systems and their skilled operators should know the difference. This "explanation" also fails to take account of the visual sightings.

/Cont. 2

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Naturally, all sorts of rumours are circulating: no Q.R.A. aircraft were available at R.A.F. Coningsby, which is just a few miles from the Wash; the R.A.F. wanted to scramble aircraft but were overruled "at the highest level"; the video taken by the police has disappeared into the bowels of your Ministry's Main Building. While I am interested in finding out what was seen, my primary concern stems from the absolute shambles that such events seem to cause. The R.A.F. are supposed, or so I believed, to be responsible for keeping a watchful eye on activity in the U.K.A.D.R., but seem to have no idea as to what is going on. Do they have no standard procedure for such incidents? They had enough time to think about it, because the object was on radar for upwards of seven hours! These concerns remain, even if there is a prosaic explanation for this specific incident.

I could think of countless other questions that concern me based on the points I have raised in this letter and in the various press reports, but I will confine myself, in addition to the above, if you will answer the following questions in respect of the unidentified flying craft sighting that occurred on 4th./5th. October in the vicinity of the Wash, and subsequently reported to your Department:

1. If you will detail the role played by those military establishments who picked up on their radar systems or were otherwise involved in events, and if you will comment on the video of the sighting sent to your Department by the Boston police?

2. Why no aircraft were scrambled to investigate the unidentified flying craft seen by the police; the crew of a civil aircraft; and the crew of a tanker on 4th./5th. October, given that at least three military establishments reported having detected the unidentified flying craft on radar?

3. Whether it is the R.A.F's standard practice to ignore sightings of unidentified flying craft which are correlated by radar, or whether there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft?

I look forward to your reply with great interest.

Yours sincerely,

Martin

Out of this world

This is the transcript of the conversations between coastguards, RAF stations in Norfolk, Scotland and London, police and North Sea tanker Conocoast when strange lights were seen in the night sky at the weekend. It is the recording taken at Yarmouth Coastguard headquarters:

0314 Skegness police: "We can see a strange red-and-green rotating light in the sky directly south-east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."

0326 RAF Kinloss: "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles, it looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite a size to be visible from Skegness."

0331 Kinloss: "Neatishead now confirms a couple of radar contacts in the area but no height, they seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil flights should be there."

0346 Conocoast tanker: "We have these lights on visual. Now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high."

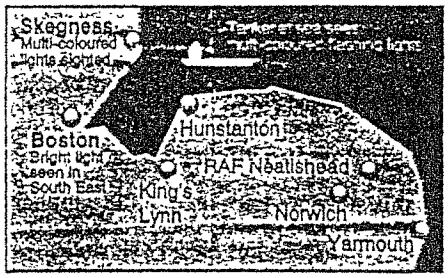
Yarmouth Coastguard: "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"

Conocoast: "No. It just appeared and is stationary."

0353 Kinloss: "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather"

Coastguard: "I don't think so as we have visual contact."

Kinloss: "Well, Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this



object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there. Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."

0408 Conocoast: "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise.

0417 Coastguard: "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."

0427 Kinloss: "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."

0445 Yarmouth Coastguard: "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"

Conocoast: "We can see two lights flashing green and red."

0501 Coastguard: "Give us both bearings of the two lights"

Conocoast: "There is one stationary light at 345 deg true and the other at 160 true, the lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."

0517 Boston police: "We can still see the light. It is towards the south-east and seems about 40-45 degrees in the sky. It is just a bright light to us."

0521 Kinloss: "Neatishead are running a trace on this and cannot explain it. If they are helicopters they are fast approaching the end of their endurance as it is well over two hours since the first report let alone how long they were up there before they were actually sighted."

0552 Conocoast: "We can still see the lights, and they are on their original bearings and flashing the same colours but they seem higher and dimmer"

0708 Flight Lieutenant McFarlane, Neatishead: "We had a report from Northwood that a civil flight had also reported strange lights in the area. They fit exactly what was seen from the ground, multi-coloured, flashing, stationary lights."

0731 Flight Lieutenant George, Northwood: "This echo is still on our screens and we cannot explain this at all apart from it being a meteorological phenomenon but then again we have visual sightings also. The civilian flight that reported these lights as a flare was six miles away at the time. All very strange."

1109 Neatishead: "The object still has not moved, London radar and Waddington can also see it."

1920 Anglia radar: "There is nothing there now we are of the opinion that it was the Boston Stump."

Wind: Force Four. Visibility: 20 miles.

Did you see the mysterious bright lights?

The source of "strange" bright lights spotted in the sky off East Anglia at the weekend remained a mystery last night.

Police, the RAF and shipping reported the appearance of two large, unexplained objects above the Wash in the early hours of Saturday.

Baffled personnel at RAF Neatishead spent hours tracking the UFOs, described by witnesses as large, about a mile up in the sky, and with blue, white, red and green flashing lights.

The Ministry of Defence said it was taking the sightings seriously and "all possibilities" would be covered.

Spokesman Nigel Sergeant said: "We are trying to prove that it does not represent any sort of security threat and that it was not an aggressive intrusion into our airspace. This is one of the bigger sightings recently and has caused quite a bit of interest."

Skegness police called the coastguards at 3.14am on Saturday after seeing a number of objects flashing in the sky, which were also spotted by colleagues at Boston.

Sightings, which continued until the objects disappeared off radar screens at about 11am on Saturday, later came from a tanker and a civilian aircraft, while two military radar stations verified "strange" traces.

Flt Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We have not been able to offer an explanation.

"The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up. We will be investigating thoroughly."

Witnesses heard no aircraft noise and military radar showed no aircraft, civil or military, in the area, apart from the civilian flight which reported "strange lights."

Military officials said no airforce planes had been scrambled to investigate.

Coastguards yesterday suggested the lights might have been Venus. But Ian Morison, a scientist at the radio astronomy observatory at Jodrell Bank, said this was unlikely as the planet would not have been visible after sunrise. Did you take a photograph of the mysterious lights? If so, ring the EDP newsdesk on 01603 628311.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS 8 OCT 1996

UFOs expose 9-5 defence danger

Mystery lights in the sky highlight a problem or two

I READ with interest how our ever vigilant police forces, coastguards and military radar observers spent from 3.15am to 11.09am on Saturday, October 5 watching an unidentified brightly lit flying object.

In the shadow of "Independence Day" hysteria, what is indeed phenomenal is the fact that "Military officials said no air force planes had scrambled to investigate."

Our multi-billion pound defence budget to which we, the tax paying public are forced to contribute, equips our national protection with Tornadoes, Jaguars and F18 fighter aircraft at £30-million a throw and pilots to fly them costing £5-million each to train.

It all seems pretty pointless if they only fly 9-5 on Monday to Friday.

We must think ourselves fortunate the bright lights over the Wash were not Saddam Hussein or some other crackpot targeting us for nuclear obliteration, because if it had been, you would not be reading this letter.

Damian O'Connor, King Street, Norwich.

■ WITH everyone's minds on strange things in the sky (Evening News, October 7) now seems a good time to ask whether anyone else saw the silent object I did over the centre of Norwich at around 9am on December 27 last year, a date and time which meant the city was virtually empty.

It certainly wasn't a flying saucer, more a brightly coloured flying object, and appeared at first to be a giant kite about the dimensions of a single-decker bus.

As the fair was here at the time it might well have been a publicity stunt to attract attention. It might have been any number of things — but quite what is the puzzle.

Malcolm Chamberlin, Highland Road, Norwich.

■ IN YOUR leader (October 7) referring to the mysterious lights seen over The Wash at the weekend, you comment: "The strange sightings of a *stationery* object over East Anglia have so far defied a rational explanation."

I take it you mean there is no cause for concern as it is no more than a *paper* exercise?

Warren King, Amderley Drive, Norwich.

■ **Editor's note:** Oops! Looks like one of the little green men got into the works – perhaps the same one which dated Mr King's letter as March 8. Sorry about the slip. We will try to do better.

Eastern Evening News, 12/10/96

-O probe into
ndar mystery

International Press Cutting Bureau
224-236 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Southend Evening Echo - Essex
- 8 OCT 1996

UFO hunt is on says the RAF

THE MINISTRY of Defence and RAF were today investigating multiple sightings of a UFO.

Reports of a bright white shining object were received by Boston and Skegness police forces in Lincolnshire and over the Norfolk coast near The Wash.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, confirmed it had tracked a mystery signal on their radar.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours.

"It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon."

He said the RAF would be investigating the matter thoroughly and confirmed they were already collating their information.

"The number of independent reports we've had suggests there is something to follow up," he said.

International Press Cutting Bureau
224-236 Walworth Road
London SE17 1JE
Extract from
Eastern Daily Press - Norwich
8 OCT 1996

Shedding some light

High over the coast near Boston it hung, a strange flashing, red and green rotating light which the Ministry of Defence is now investigating to see whether it was a "threat to our security".

According to RAF Kinloss, it seemed obvious "that it does not want anyone to know that it is there". Not surprisingly, even normally sceptical UFO researchers are impressed.

We confess to being intrigued, and will feel hugely let down if, as in Anglia radar's view, this revolving aerial show proves to be nothing more extra-terrestrial than the tower of Boston's famous church.

Sightings off coast tracked by air base

THE MINISTRY of Defence is today investigating a possible UFO sighting off the county coast which was picked up by RAF radar.

Reports of a bright white shining object in the sky were received by Skegness and Boston Police together with the coastguard at about 3am on Saturday.

by Jason Mellor

The mystery object was also reported around The Wash. The MoD and RAF officials are looking into the incident.

RAF Neatishead, near Wroxham, Norfolk, was the nearest base to the incident.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Sweatman, said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours. It moved some 50 miles down the coast at a speed which suggested it wasn't a weather balloon.

"We will be investigating the matter thoroughly and are already collating all the information we have. The number of independent reports we have had suggest there is something to follow up."

It was confirmed that the base had not been conducting operations in the area at the time of the sighting.

Special

Special 'Q' aircraft normally investigate UFO sightings, but there were none available at the time as the nearest one was at RAF Leuchars in Scotland.

The MoD has a special cell which investigates all reported UFO sightings. It will be carrying out extensive checks into what was seen.

A spokesman for Skegness Police said: "We had calls which suggested a large bright object over the coast. In the past, sightings like this have been either a plane or a satellite which but we have not had it confirmed."

LINCOLNSHIRE DAILY ECHO
7 OCT 1996

EASTERN DAILY PRESS OCT 11 96

new theory about those strange lights in the sky

Stumped?

Not any more. . . the great Wash UFO sighting finally explained

By STEVE DOWNES

The truth was out there.
But even agent Mulder of the X-Files would find it hard to believe.
The great East Anglian UFO mystery was solved last night – and turned out to be just a storm and a church tower.
The weekend sightings of colourful flashing lights over the Wash captured the imagination of would-be X-Files sleuths across the region.
Letters and telephone calls flooded into the EDP after the sightings, which coincided with the appearance of a mysterious object on radars.
One theory was that the culprit was planet Venus.
But Norfolk RAF investigators have now found logical explanations – and have ruled out the possibility of little green men peering down on us.
Flight Lt Keith Sweatman, of RAF Neatishead, said: "We now know that the radar trace was Boston Stump – the church tower at Boston.
"And the weather people said that the coloured lights in the sky coincided with an electrical storm over the Wash.
"You do get weird experiences with electrical storms, and they can produce lots of different colours."
The 200ft church tower would have been ruled out if it had been picked up by a more advanced RAF radar, which can computer-enhance images.
But the air traffic control radar did not have similar facilities, and operators jumped to the conclusion that it must have been linked with the flashing red, blue, green and white lights, seen by the tanker Conocoast.
Following the weekend sightings, an investigation was launched by the Ministry of Defence to ensure they did not pose a threat to national security. That has now been discounted.
The mystery is expected to be cleared up once and for all in the next couple of days when experts at RAF Neatishead view video footage of the lights. They are waiting for the video to arrive after being sent from Boston police.
Flight Lt Sweatman stressed they would be keeping an open mind.
"I don't totally discount UFOs," he said.
"I'm not a disbeliever, but I'm not a believer either."

Out of this world
Did you see the mysterious bright lights?

FLASHBACK: How the EDP reported the sighting on Tuesday this week.

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 41

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2299H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the reports of encounters by Royal Air Force pilots with unidentified flying craft since 1966 which have not been released to the public; on what grounds they are still classified documents not released to the public; and if he will make a statement. [2201]

MR SOAMES: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 4 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: Section 40 4 Nov 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS *
AO-AD1 *
DPR(RAF) *
DI55c
DPA(RAF) *

* By Chots.

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 2299H

1. This PQ is one of two which follow 26 'UFO'-related PQs tabled last month by Mr Redmond (22 to this Department, one to the Prime Minister, and three to the FCO).

2. USofS will recall that in May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]. Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. Mr Redmond tabled ten 'UFO'-related questions between May and July this year.

3. Since the beginning of 1966 there have been approximately 9000 'UFO' reports made to the Ministry of Defence. Once examined and judged to have no defence significance, the reports are placed on departmental files. Although the vast majority of 'UFO' reports are received from members of the public, separate records are not maintained of the source of the reports, eg. from on-duty service personnel, police, members of the public etc. To establish how many of the reports were made by military aircrew would require a paper search of all the files since 1966.

4. We are aware of one report by military aircrew on 5 November 1990, which suggested that they may have in fact seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report.

5. We have considered whether to expand the answer in order to avoid any impression that the Department holds a large number of reports from military aircrew, but on balance, have not done so. There is no evidence that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region and Mr Redmond is well aware of this fact (copy of recent PQ answer attached).

Section 40

37

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH/PQ2100H/2101H/2105H/2106H/
2109H/2111H/2112H/2114H/2118H/2123H/
2124H/2127H/2130H/2131H/2136H/96/M

28th October 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Nicholas Soames undertook to write to you in his reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about UFOs. (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty Service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the Services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

SEEN
(AS)
FILE 644

Martin Redmond Esq MP

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Rednorm Howe

THE EARL HOWE

Unidentified Flying Objects

10. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]

15. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement: [41036]

13. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]

11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41042]

7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41050]

1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years: [40915]

6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40918]

5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement: [40921]

8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41049]

2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement: [40917]

12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41043]

9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41051]

3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement: [40910]

4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

AO-ADI's Advice

64/4

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2303H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

22|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the Royal Air Force's practice as regards investigating sightings of unidentified flying craft which correlate with radar information; if there is a requirement to investigate such phenomena by scrambling aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [2200]

Unidentified contacts penetrating UK airspace or the UK Air Defence Region are identified by all available means, including interception ~~as a first resort~~.

('all available means' are electronic and procedural means in correlation with civil flight plans. Interception is used when electronic and procedural means do not resolve the ~~issue~~ or in the case of non-NATO military aircraft to demonstrate presence.

64/4

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2303H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

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64/4

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2299H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

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MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the reports of encounters by Royal Air Force pilots with unidentified flying craft since 1966 which have not been released to the public; on what grounds they are still classified documents not released to the public; and if he will make a statement. [2201]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3712

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2117H/96/M

18 October 1996

Dear Martin —

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 17 October, Col 1092, ... copy attached).

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and five lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - providing voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country;

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit - operating the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor;

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the six geographical P&SS Regions within the UK;

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales;

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parenting responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron and No 3 Air Experience Flight, which operate from the airfield at Colerne.

Martin Redmond Esq MP

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91;

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85;

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in 1995;

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94;

Information on the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However, I can tell you that it comprises 557 Service and 225 civilian personnel.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
0171-218 9000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 37/1

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2103H/2110H/2113H/
2120H/2122H/96/M

28 October 1996

Dear Martin

I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your Parliamentary Questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

Martin Redmond Esq MP

Recycled Paper

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH/PQ2100H/2101H/2105H/2106H/
2109H/2111H/2112H/2114H/2118H/2123H/
2124H/2127H/2130H/2131H/2136H/96/M

28th October 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Nicholas Soames undertook to write to you in his reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about UFOs. (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty Service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the Services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd Sec(AS).
OCT 1996
FILE 644

Martin Redmond Esq MP

Wrong attachment sent!
Correct one being sent
as per our minute.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely.

Richard Howe

THE EARL HOWE

Unidentified Flying Objects

10. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]

15. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement: [41036]

3. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]

11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41042]

7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41050]

1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40918]

5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement: [40921]

8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41049]

2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement: [40917]

12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41043]

9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41051]

3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement: [40910]

4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

ANNEX D

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40970]

(2) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement; [40981]

(3) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which the Government Communications headquarters has monitored unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41178]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41144]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Interceptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each of the last 12 months the number of *(a)* interceptions and *(b)* monitorings of telephone calls (i) entering or (ii) leaving the United Kingdom, through the joint Government Communications headquarters—National Security Agency agreement; and if he will make a statement. [40972]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for United Kingdom policy on the use of nuclear weapons of the decision of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. [41224]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41321]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Religious Discrimination (Caterick Camp)

Mr. Gabraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of religious discrimination at Catterick camp during June and July; and if he will make a statement. [40766]

Mr. Soames: There have been no reported incidents of religious discrimination at Catterick Camp during June and July. However, we treat any allegations of discrimination extremely seriously and if the hon. Member can provide any information which suggests that religious discrimination has taken place at Catterick Camp it will, of course, be fully investigated.

Suicides

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr Clark), *Official Report*, column *559*, if he will break down the number of suicides in the armed forces by *(a)* year and *(b)* service for each year since 1991. [40767]

Mr. Soames: Since January 1991 the total number of service personnel who have been confirmed as committing suicide is 130, which is broken down as follows:

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A: and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

(4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41042]

(5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41050]

(6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

(7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40918]

(8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement; [40921]

(9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41049]

(10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement; [40917]

(11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41043]

(12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41051]

(13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement; [40910]

(14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Tornado Crash (Blackpool)

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his oral statement of 14 October, *Official Report*, column 476, on what date the F3 Tornado which crashed on Blackpool beach in September, received its certificate of airworthiness. [41070]

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his reply of 14 October, *Official Report*, column 484, by whom the investigation into the crash of the Tornado F3 off Blackpool on 28 September will be carried out. [41336]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Tornado F3 that crashed near Blackpool on 28 September 1996 had been authorised to fly by the Ministry of Defence on the same day as the accident.

The authorisation was issued, at British Aerospace Warton where the aircraft was being refurbished, in accordance with standard procedures for aircraft undergoing such work.

The aircraft which crashed was the ninth of a series of 16 aircraft being refurbished by British Aerospace. The previous eight had already been returned to the RAF in fully operational condition.

A Ministry of Defence board of inquiry is under way into the causes of the crash and not one by the Department of Transport as suggested by my right hon. Friend on 14 October, *Official Report*, column 484.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41147]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces (Strength)

Mr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the strength of the British armed forces on 1 April 1992; and what will be its strength on *(a)* 1 April 1999 and *(b)* 1 April 2000. [41111]

Mr. Soames: The total service strength of the regular armed forces on 1 April 1992 was 302,400. The estimated strength on 1 April 1999 and 1 April 2000 is 213,500 for each year. Both figures include Gurkha strengths, Royal Marines and Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service, and an element for personnel undergoing training.

HMS Sceptre

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the result of his Department's investigations into an incident on board HMS Sceptre on 22 July; and if he will make a statement. [40835]

Mr. Soames: The Royal Navy board of inquiry into the incident on 22 July, when two peace demonstrators were apprehended shortly after gaining access to HMS Sceptre, identified the need to tighten certain aspects of the specific security procedures relating to our nuclear hunter killer submarines. This has been done. It also recommended a number of additional security and

anagement measures to minimise the possibility of such i incident happening again. Many of these have already een put in place, and others are being addressed with the reatest urgency.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for efence if he will list the titles of the records of the linistry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in espect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern y the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy f the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

Peninsula Barracks, Winchester

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department entered into an greement with the developers of Peninsula barracks, Winchester, so that his Department could share in any ain arising from development; and if he will make a tatement; [41227]

(2) if he will set out *(a)* the purchase and *(b)* the sale rice of Peninsula barracks, Winchester. [41228]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a opy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41317]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Foreign Police Officers (Powers)

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what authority *(a)* members of visiting forces and *(b)* US security police officers arrest and detain United Kingdom citizens on public highways for (i) theft and (ii) other alleged offences against United Kingdom law. [41328]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Epidemiology Research Proposals

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 17 July to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mrs. Currie), *Official Report*, columns *532–33*, if he will now make a statement on the outcome of the Medical Research Council selection process on the 37 outline proposals for research into Gulf war syndrome mentioned in his answer. [41306]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Gulf War (Pesticides)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if the organophosphate pesticide Denenton–S–Methyl was used by his Department's medical personnel in Operation Granby in the Gulf war; [41293]

(2) pursuant to the letter from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent, on 4 October, if he will now correct his answer of 11 July 1994, *Official Report*, column *436*, on the use of pesticides during the Gulf war. [41294]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Euratom Treaty

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what activities of his Department come within the scope of the Euratom treaty. [41297]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

War Graves (France)

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the desecration of war graves in northern France. [41256]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Sealand

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a decision on the market testing bids at RAF Sealand; and if he will make a statement. [41257]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Dominie Aircraft Contracts

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what prospects there are for the Raytheon Hawker jet work force at Broughton, Flintshire, obtaining contracts to service the MOD's Dominie aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [41258]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

A319 Tanker Airbus

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to purchase British Aerospace's planned A319 tanker airbus; and if he will make a statement. [41259]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 36

D/US of S/FH 3941/96/M

24th October 1996

Dear Olga,

Thank you for your letter of 2 October to Nicholas Soames enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Section 40, Sutton about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The Prime Minister receives many unsolicited reports on a wide variety of issues and does not comment specifically on any of these. My officials have already written directly to Section 40 explaining the Government's position on the subject of the "UFO" phenomenon. We keep an open mind about the possible existence of extraterrestrial craft and lifeforms, but to date have no evidence to prove that these phenomena exist.

Following Section 40 letter to the Prime Minister of 23 July my officials also explained that my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each report. From the descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

My officials have also explained to Section 40 the position about the release of Departmental "UFO" report files. You will be aware that as is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. A number of "UFO" report files are

Lady Olga Maitland MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
25 OCT 1996
FILE

Recycled Paper

available for viewing at the Public Record Office, and a list of the file references concerned has already been passed to Section 40 Section 40

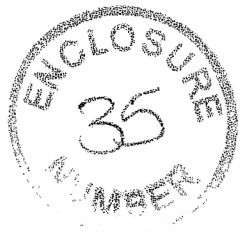
I hope this explains the position.

Yours ever,

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

24 Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch *

Copy to:

PS/SofS
APS/Min(AF) *
APS/USofS *
PSO/ACAS
DAO - AOAD1
DDI Sec
Head of CS(RM)1
DPO(RAF)
DPR(RAF)
CS Logs Cmd
CS PTC

* Annexes A, B, C by E Mail to follow.

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for **USofS** to send to the MP.

BACKGROUND

2. Abnormal phenomena and 'UFOs' have been something of a media fashion this year, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]. It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Section 40 [redacted] concerns. Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

3. At Annex A is a draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'.

4. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. It is known publicly that they are also consulted by Sec(AS) from time to time on aerial phenomena. The other Defence Intelligence branches referred to in Mr Redmond's questions have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago. They may have been identified by researchers from files in the Public Record Office which included details of a DIS reorganisation.

UNCLASSIFIED

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RAF RUDLOE MANOR

5. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP. Although the Flying Complaints Flight, based at RAF Rudloe Manor was responsible until 1992 for collecting 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations and passing them to Sec(AS), the 'UFO' lobby continue to misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor as a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them to Sec(AS).

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

6. At Annex C is a draft reply for **US of S** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the remaining 15 Questions, all of which include reference to 'UFO' matters. We have grouped these in logical order. Although Question 14 does not specifically mention 'UFOs', examination of the letter cited by the MP reveals 'UFOs' to be the subject matter.

7. For completeness, I attach at Annex D, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

Section 40 [redacted]

M J D FULLER
Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A: and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

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Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

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Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996. a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

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Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG: what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

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(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

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Unidentified Flying Objects

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(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 17 October, Col 1092, copy attached).

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and five lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - providing voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit - operating the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the six geographical P&SS Regions within the UK.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parenting responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron and No 3 Air Experience Flight, which operate from the airfield at Colerne.

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in 1995.

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

Information on the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However, I can tell you that it comprises 557 Service and 225 civilian personnel.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached) Nicholas Soames said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex. I have added a separate number sequence from one to fifteen and use this in the following paragraphs for ease of reference and clarification.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings

whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Earl Howe

Martin Redmond MP

Unidentified Flying Objects

10. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]

5. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement: [41036]

3. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]

11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41042]

7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41050]

1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40918]

5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement: [40921]

8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41049]

2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement: [40917]

12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41043]

9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41051]

3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement: [40910]

4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

ANNEX D

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40970]

(2) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement; [40981]

(3) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which the Government Communications headquarters has monitored unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41178]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41144]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Interceptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each of the last 12 months the number of *(a)* interceptions and *(b)* monitorings of telephone calls (i) entering or (ii) leaving the United Kingdom, through the joint Government Communications headquarters—National Security Agency agreement: and if he will make a statement. [40972]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for United Kingdom policy on the use of nuclear weapons of the decision of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. [41224]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41321]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Religious Discrimination (Caterick Camp)

Mr. Gabraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of religious discrimination at Catterick camp during June and July; and if he will make a statement. [40766]

Mr. Soames: There have been no reported incidents of religious discrimination at Catterick Camp during June and July. However, we treat any allegations of discrimination extremely seriously and if the hon. Member can provide any information which suggests that religious discrimination has taken place at Catterick Camp it will, of course, be fully investigated.

Suicides

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr Clark), *Official Report*, column *559*, if he will break down the number of suicides in the armed forces by *(a)* year and *(b)* service for each year since 1991. [40767]

Mr. Soames: Since January 1991 the total number of service personnel who have been confirmed as committing suicide is 130, which is broken down as follows:

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Head of Sec(AS) CLOSURE 34

All of those concerned would like drafts have confirmation that they are correct. Grateful to know if you would wish to amend Reuter. We have the material on CHOTS here and will make any changes necessary. We also intend to provide Ministers and the Parliamentary Branch would Hard copies and flagged Annexes for ease of reference.

D R A F T

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch

Copy to:

Can we sit down in the morning to sign off?

PS/SofS ✓
APS/Min(AF) ✓
APS/USofS ✓ PS/PUS
~~Sec(NS)b~~
~~PS/PUS~~ ✗
~~Head of Sec(O)~~ ✗
~~Head of DIO~~ ✗

D ~~Sec(Air)~~
DAO - AOAD1 ✓
DDI Sec ✓
Head of CS(RM)1 ✓
CT(Pers)2 ✗
~~CS Land~~
CS PTC ✓

CS Logs Cmd
~~CS STC~~
DPO(RAF)
DPR(RAF)
~~Sec(AS)1~~

Section 40

23/5

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for **USofS** to send to the MP. ~~On balance we believe that a single written reply would not suffice for the reasons set out below.~~

BACKGROUND

Abnormal phenomena and UFOs have been something of a media fashion this year. Section 40

2. ~~Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues increased significantly at the turn of the year~~ Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 ~~There has also been a number of TV~~

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Section 40 [redacted]

programmes over the last year on the phenomenon in general. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling these questions, which follow ten he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year. Section 40 [redacted] (this may account for Question one at Annex D). It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Section 40 [redacted] and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft or weapon. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations, or seek to provide an explanation, for what has been observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department - the Prime Minister has already given a line on this in his answer to a question from Martin Redmond at Annex D, Question two), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

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DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

4. At Annex A is a draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'. Although DI55 is publicly acknowledged as being consulted by Sec(AS)2a as part of its assessment of reported 'UFO' sightings (which might have prompted these questions), it would seem sensible to avoid creating a link not made by the MP by including these questions in a single, all embracing, 'UFO' written reply.

5. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. It is known publicly that they are also consulted They are also the DIS repository for 'UFO' reports from time to time on aerial phenomena. forwarded by Sec(AS) in case such information provides useful collateral in explaining aerial incidents or events of interest to DIS. With the exception of DI55, the other Defence Intelligence branches titles referred to in Mr Redmond's questions have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago, and it is not clear why Mr Redmond has asked about these specific branches. There are, however, two They & may have been identified by researchers from files in the Public Record Office dating from the late 1960s early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation and these may have provided researchers with details of DI branch titles. That aside, it is standing policy not to comment upon the work of DIS branches and the questions have been answered on this basis.

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RAF RUDLOE MANOR

6. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP. Although the Flying Complaints Flight, based at Rudloe Manor, was responsible until 1992 for collecting UFO reports made to RAF

7. The units currently located at RAF Rudloe Manor are set out in full in the draft letter, together with details of the changes during preceding years. However, it is standard practice not to reveal specific details of numbers by rank for military establishments for security reasons, both terrorist related and in view of the usefulness of such information to hostile intelligence agencies. Information about the strengths of Rudloe Manor units is only held in a readily available form for the last two years. To provide the information for earlier years would require considerable effort and a detailed trawl of records for previous units, including parent Headquarters organisations since reformed and/or disbanded.

8. RAF Rudloe Manor has been the home of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) since 1977; the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), which is part of HQ P&SS(UK) was, until 1992, the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie. members of the public or generated by service personnel). FCF's function was simply to record the

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stations and passing them to Sec(AS), the

~~details and pass the information directly to Sec(AS)2a for any further action. The~~ 'UFO' lobby ~~and the media~~ continue to ~~exaggerate and~~ misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor's ~~role in the UFO reporting process which they perceive to be~~ a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them ~~direct~~ to Sec(AS)2a ~~for action~~.

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

9. At Annex C is a draft reply for **US of S** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the remaining 15 Questions, all of which include reference to 'UFO' matters. We have grouped these in logical order. ~~Unfortunately the Official Report has~~ linked these Questions in random order and we have, therefore, had to add a separate number sequence, which is used in the following ~~paragraphs, for clarification.~~

10. MOD Policy in respect of 'UFO' matters (Question 1) is set out at paragraph 3 above. This policy has not changed during the last 30 years although Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] may have lead the public to believe otherwise. RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2, first part) require all RAF stations to forward reports of 'UFO' sightings (whether made by members of the public, or generated by service

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personnel on duty) direct to Sec(AS)2a, for further assessment. Over the past 12 months (Question 3) only one instance has been recorded of an on-duty member of the armed forces reporting an "unexplained" aerial sighting. The report was submitted by an air traffic controller at RAF Lossiemouth on 1 May this year. It was examined at the time and no further action was deemed necessary. There are no special standing instructions for 'UFO/flying saucer' reporting for army or navy establishments and 'unidentified flying objects' may be reported in a variety of ways for example as an airprox incident if an object has passed close to a helicopter. It is unlikely however that such an incident would be investigated as a 'UFO'. Coordination of action on 'UFO' sighting reports is the function of Sec(AS)2a.

11. All structured craft entering the UK Air Defence Region (Question 4) are identified by the air defence system, if necessary by interception. However, should "structured craft" have penetrated the UKADR and remain unknown, it would be because they were undetected and, by definition, there would have been no knowledge of such occurrences. At Question 5, Mr Redmond asks about alleged landings of unidentified flying objects since 1980. Although the Department retains records of the number of 'UFO' sighting reports received each year since 1959, reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. In explaining this point, the draft reply is consistent with a 1984 PQ answer to a similar question (copy at Annex E).

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12. Questions 2(a), 2(b) and 6-12 seek information on collaboration and consultation with a number of other countries. There is no contact between the MOD and any foreign Government specifically for investigation or research into 'UFO/flying saucers' of extraterrestrial origin. There has been a small amount of correspondence between the UK and some foreign Governments, most notably the USA, seeking to establish how they handle queries from members of the public about the 'UFO' phenomenon. Since the 1960s there may also have been occasional letters about alleged 'UFO' sightings or related issues, but to confirm this accurately would require a search of all files covering the wide range of bilateral relations with the countries mentioned by Mr Redmond. This would be an extremely time consuming business and, on balance we consider that the reply to these Questions should deal only with regular and/or significant bilateral contacts.

13. Questions 13 and 14 concern archived records about 'UFOs'. Under the legal requirements of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all Government Departments are required to review their records selecting those worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Records selected for permanent preservation but which are too sensitive to release at the normal, "30 year rule" point may be closed beyond this time subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement (the Lord Chancellor being the Minister responsible for public records). Records can be either closed under Sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Act. Sensitive records

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"retained in department" under Section 3(4) are those still deemed classified and are retained indefinitely but subject to rereview at least once every 10 years until release is possible. Those under extended closure, Section 5(1), following the Lord Chancellor's approval are transferred to the Public Record Office (PRO) for storage. These records have historically received a finite closure date ie 50, 75 or 100 year closure. However, since July 1993, Open Government White Paper, Section 5(1) closures periods have assumed a greater flexibility ranging from 40 to 100 years. Additionally, records having no historical but some administrative value may, exceptionally, survive destruction at the review stage but their "admin" retention is subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement.

14. It follows, therefore, that the answer to Question 13 is that MOD holds no records for the period specified since these would be held by the PRO. Although Question 14 does not specifically mention 'UFOs', examination of the letter cited by the MP (~~copy at Annex F~~) reveals 'UFOs' to be the subject matter. In all, 59 files, covering the period 1947 to 1978, have been selected for preservation. Fifteen are open but the rest are too sensitive for release at the present time and they will be retained under Section 3(4) of the PRA. No records, whether open or closed, cover the subject of 'UFOs'. The PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records from this Directorate is available to researchers at Kew.

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15. Finally, Question 15 asks about the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF). As already explained at paragraph 8 above, FCF was, until 1992, the central coordination point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF, except to forward them to Sec(AS)2a. Since 1992 they have not been involved in the central collection of 'UFO' reports, which are now forwarded directly to Sec(AS)2a by individual stations. The strict answer to the MP's question is "no" since the FCF has never been involved in investigations into alleged 'UFO' sightings. However, given public perception that Rudloe Manor/FCF investigate 'UFO' matters, we consider it appropriate to correct this erroneous view and have given a rather fuller answer to the question than is strictly necessary.

16. For completeness, I attach at Annex C, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

M J D FULLER
Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 Section 40

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ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 17 October, Col 1092, copy attached).

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and five lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - providing ~~this RAF unit provides~~ voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit - ~~This unit operates the~~ operating the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor~~, part of the Detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne which is close to RAF Rudloe Manor~~.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the ~~6~~ Six geographical P&SS Regions within the UK.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parenting responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron and No 3 Air Experience Flight, which operate from the airfield at Colerne.

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in 1995.

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

Information on the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However, I can tell you ~~I am able to give the following details:~~ that it comprises 557 Service and 225 civilian personnel

~~Current Establishment Totals~~:

Service Personnel	557
~~Civilians~~	225

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

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Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

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(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX C TO

D/SEC(AS)/64/4

DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached) Nicholas Soames said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex. I have added a separate number sequence from one to fifteen and use this in the following paragraphs for ease of reference and clarification.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to ~~that required solely to establish~~ whether ~~there is any evidence that~~ the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised ~~by a hostile foreign military aircraft~~. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not ~~make any~~ investigate further ~~investigations~~ or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters ~~or~~ and so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned we remain open minded but know of ~~no evidence~~ nothing that proves ~~these phenomena~~ any exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years ~~since we are confident that our own Air Defence system technology has evolved and developed to meet our needs~~.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a (look at ~~coordinate~~ all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported ~~and initiate further action as required~~. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information

sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no ~~lodger~~ unit ~~housed~~ within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE EARL HOWE
~~Lord Howe~~

Martin Redmond MP

Unidentified Flying Objects

10. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]

15. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

13. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41042]

7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41050]

1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]

6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40918]

5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement; [40921]

8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41049]

2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement; [40917]

12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41043]

9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41051]

3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement; [40910]

4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

ANNEX D

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

(1.)

Mr. Nicholas Pope

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Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

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(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

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(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

D-1

ANNEX D

ENVIRONMENT

(2.)

Radioactive Scale (Disposal)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what provisions exist for the offshore disposal of radioactive scale arising from oil exploration and drilling in the North sea and Atlantic. [41251]

Mr. Clappison: Discharge of naturally radioactive scale from oil exploration and drilling in UK waters is regulated under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993, as amended. The Environment Agency is the regulator for the English and Welsh sectors. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is the regulator for the Scottish sector.

World Conservation Congress

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what contribution his Department made to the World Conservation Congress held in Montreal this month; if his Department was represented at the congress; and what plans he has to assess the conclusions of the congress. [41252]

Mr. Clappison: The UK is a state member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Officials from my Department are leading the UK delegation at the World Conservation Congress which began on 13 October and will finish on 23 October. My Department contributed towards the costs of the UK IUCN committee's report on the UK's contribution to IUCN 1994 to 1996, which will be launched during the congress.

PRIME MINISTER

Government Policies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister what new policy proposals were announced by Ministers of Her Majesty's Government in the week beginning 7 October; and if he will indicate which of them will be subject to compliance cost assessments. [40801]

The Prime Minister: The Government prepare a compliance cost assessment for all new legislation likely to have an impact on business and the voluntary sector. The Government's legislative programme will be presented to the House on 23 October. Compliance costs assessments will be presented in due course for the Bills in the programme.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41173]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office is part of the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Prime Minister if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non–air defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [40822]

The Prime Minister: The air defence and air traffic implications of unidentified flying objects are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. The Government have no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

Terrorist Damage

Mr. Soley: To ask the Prime Minister if he will extend the Northern Ireland compensation scheme for terrorist attacks to mainland Britain. [40934]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley (Mr. Eastham), by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade on 27 June 1996, *Official Report*, column 202.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41148]

The Prime Minister: For the purposes of this question, my Office is part of the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given today by my right hon. Friend, the Paymaster General.

British Beef

Mr. Hanson: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to encourage the purchase and use of British Beef by Government Departments. [41308]

The Prime Minister: The best way to encourage use of British Beef is to restore confidence in the product. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has launched an initiative to reassure consumers and those responsible for procurement about the rigorous enforcement of the control measures introduced to protect public health. The Meat and Livestock Commission is continuing with its successful campaign to promote consumption.

WALES

GP Salaries

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proposals he has and what consultations he has set up on the introduction of a salaried status scheme for general practice. [40668]

Mr. Hague *[holding answer 14 October 1996]:* Proposals for the development of primary care health services, including a salaried option for general practitioners, are set out in the White Paper "Choice and Opportunity", Cm 3390, published on 15 October. This issue is also addressed in the document "Primary Care: The Way Forward in Wales", also published on

ANNEX E

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.

ANNEX F

Section 40

Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

Our ref:L 090/83806

21 September 1990

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 1990.

The records of the Defence Ministry's Scientific Intelligence Branch; Public Record Office class reference DEFE 21 are under arrangement and so not available for general access as yet. It is possible that some documents contained in this class may become available for inspection in 1991. Please also note that because of the nature of these files many will be under extended closure and so closed for 50, 75 or 100 years.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
Search Department

BP/lc

Section 40
[redacted]
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

10 September 1990.

Dear Sirs,

I recently wrote to you regarding my interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO'S). Your letter of 10 April advised that a number of records had been located which were responsive to my request. The records in question were identified as AIR 20/9320-9322, AIR 22/93, AIR 16/1199, AIR 20/7390 and AIR 20/9994. The documents relating to the sightings from RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire, September 1952 were located in the file no. (AIR 16/1199.) It was mentioned in one of the documents that a copy of the report was forwarded to the Defence Ministry's Scientific Int-elligence Branch (D.S.I.). In a letter to me, dated 17 July it was menti-oned that records from this time period which related to the D.S.I. had been transferred to the Public Record Office. My reason for writing is to enquire if you could tell me ifthe D.S.I. records from this time are rel-easable and whether they contain details of studies of the UFO reports which had been forwarded to them, i.e. the 1952 Topcliffe report. If any records are available which are responsive to my request can you tell me if it is possible to purchase photo-copies? Should you be able to help in any way or can advise if any other UFO related documents have been located I would be extremely pleased to hear from you. Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter, it is very much appreciated. I have enclosed a SAE.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

ANNEX G

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40970]

(2) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement; [40981]

(3) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which the Government Communications headquarters has monitored unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41178]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41144]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Interceptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each of the last 12 months the number of *(a)* interceptions and *(b)* monitorings of telephone calls (i) entering or (ii) leaving the United Kingdom, through the joint Government Communications headquarters—National Security Agency agreement; and if he will make a statement. [40972]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for United Kingdom policy on the use of nuclear weapons of the decision of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. [41224]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41321]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Religious Discrimination (Caterick Camp)

Mr. Gabraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of religious discrimination at Catterick camp during June and July; and if he will make a statement. [40766]

Mr. Soames: There have been no reported incidents of religious discrimination at Catterick Camp during June and July. However, we treat any allegations of discrimination extremely seriously and if the hon. Member can provide any information which suggests that religious discrimination has taken place at Catterick Camp it will, of course, be fully investigated.

Suicides

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr Clark), *Official Report*, column *559*, if he will break down the number of suicides in the armed forces by *(a)* year and *(b)* service for each year since 1991. [40767]

Mr. Soames: Since January 1991 the total number of service personnel who have been confirmed as committing suicide is 130, which is broken down as follows:

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Head of Sec(AS) Grateful for your comments in principle - we have not yet circulated the drafts - it's not really as long a document as it seems!

ENCLOSURE 33 NUMBER

D R A F T

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 96

Section 40

21/10.

Parliamentary Branch

Copy to:

PS/SofS	D Sc(Air)	CS Logs Cmd
APS/Min(AF)	DAO - AOAD1	CS STC
APS/USofS	DDI Sec	DPO(RAF)
Sec(NS)b	Head of CS(RM)1	DPR(RAF)
PS/PUS	CT(Pers)2	Sec(AS)1
Head of Sec(O)	CS Land	
Head of DIO	CS PTC	

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for **USofS** to send to the MP. On balance we believe that a single written reply would not suffice for the reasons set out below.

BACKGROUND

2. Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues increased significantly at the turn of the year when Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 Section 40. There has also been a number of TV

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programmes over the last year on the phenomenon in general. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling these questions, which follow ten he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year. Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] (this may account for Question one at Annex D). It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations, or seek to provide an explanation, for what has been observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department - the Prime Minister has already given a line on this in his answer to a question from Martin Redmond at Annex D, Question two), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

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4. At Annex A is a draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond in response to five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'. Although DI55 is publicly acknowledged as being consulted by Sec(AS)2a as part of its assessment of reported 'UFO' sightings (which might have prompted these questions), it would seem sensible to avoid creating a link not made by the MP by including these questions in a single, all embracing, 'UFO' written reply.

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RAF RUDLOE MANOR

6. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP.

7. The units currently located at RAF Rudloe Manor are set out in full in the draft letter, together with details of the changes during preceding years. However, it is standard practice not to reveal specific details of numbers by rank for military establishments for security reasons, both terrorist related and in view of the usefulness of such information to hostile intelligence agencies.

8. RAF Rudloe Manor has been the home of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) since 1977; the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), which is part of HQ P&SS(UK) was, until 1992, the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie. members of the public or generated by service personnel). FCF's function was simply to record the details and pass the information directly to Sec(AS)2a for any further action. The 'UFO' lobby and the media continue to exaggerate and misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor's role in the 'UFO' reporting process which they perceive to be a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this

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myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them direct to Sec(AS)2a for action.

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

9. At Annex C is a draft reply for **US of S** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the remaining 15 Questions, all of which include reference to 'UFO' matters.

10. MOD Policy in respect of 'UFO' matters (Question 1) is set out at paragraph 3 above. This policy has not changed during the last 30 years although Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] may have lead the public to believe otherwise. RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2, first part) require all RAF stations to forward reports of 'UFO' sightings (whether made by members of the public, or generated by service personnel on duty) direct to Sec(AS)2a, for further assessment. Over the past 12 months (Question 3) only one instance has been recorded of an on-duty member of the armed forces reporting an "unexplained" aerial sighting. The report was submitted by an air traffic controller at RAF Lossiemouth on 1 May this year. ***[It was examined at the time, not deemed to be of air defence significance, and believed to be a sighting of a comet].*** There are no special standing instructions for 'UFO/flying saucer'

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reporting for army or navy establishments and 'unidentified flying objects' may be reported in a variety of ways for example as an airprox incident if an object has passed close to a helicopter. It is unlikely however that such an incident would be investigated as a 'UFO'. Coordination of action on 'UFO' sighting reports is the function of Sec(AS)2a.

11. All structured craft entering the UK Air Defence Region (Question 4) are identified by the air defence system, if necessary by interception. However, should "structured craft" have penetrated the UKADR and remain unknown, it would be because they were undetected and, by definition, there would have been no knowledge of such occurrences. At Question 5, Mr Redmond asks about alleged landings of unidentified flying objects since 1980. Although the Department retains records of the number of 'UFO' sighting reports received each year since 1959, reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. In explaining this point, the draft reply is consistent with a 1984 PQ answer to a similar question (copy at Annex E).

12. Questions 2(a), 2(b) and 6-12 seek information on collaboration and consultation with a number of other countries. There is no contact between the MOD and any foreign Government specifically for investigation or research into 'UFO/flying saucers' of extraterrestrial origin. There has been a small amount of correspondence between the UK and some foreign Governments, most notably the USA, seeking to establish how they

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handle queries from members of the public about the 'UFO' phenomenon. Since the 1960s there may also have been occasional letters about alleged 'UFO' sightings or related issues, but to confirm this accurately would require a search of all files covering the wide range of bilateral relations with the countries mentioned by Mr Redmond. This would be an extremely time consuming business and, on balance we consider that the reply to these Questions should deal only with regular and/or significant bilateral contacts.

13. Questions 13 and 14 concern archived records about 'UFOs'. Under the legal requirements of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all Government Departments are required to review their records selecting those worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Records selected for permanent preservation but which are too sensitive to release at the normal, "30 year rule" point may be closed beyond this time subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement (the Lord Chancellor being the Minister responsible for public records). Records can be either closed under Sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Act. Sensitive records "retained in department" under Section 3(4) are those still deemed classified and are retained indefinitely but subject to rereview at least once every 10 years until release is possible. Those under extended closure, Section 5(1), following the Lord Chancellor's approval are transferred to the Public Record Office (PRO) for storage. These records have historically received a finite closure date ie 50, 75 or 100 year closure. However, since

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July 1993, Open Government White Paper, Section 5(1) closures periods have assumed a greater flexibility ranging from 40 to 100 years. Additionally, records having no historical but some administrative value may, exceptionally, survive destruction at the review stage but their "admin" retention is subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement.

14. It follows, therefore, that the answer to Question 13 is that MOD holds no records for the period specified since these would be held by the PRO. Although Question 14 does not specifically mention 'UFOs', examination of the letter cited by the MP (copy at Annex F) reveals 'UFOs' to be the subject matter. In all, 59 files, covering the period 1947 to 1978, have been selected for preservation. Fifteen are open but the rest are too sensitive for release at the present time and they will be retained under Section 3(4) of the PRA. No records, whether open or closed, cover the subject of 'UFOs'. The PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records from this Directorate is available to researchers at Kew.

15. Finally, Question 15 asks about the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF). As already explained at paragraph 8 above, FCF was, until 1992, the central coordination point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF, except to forward them to Sec(AS)2a. Since 1992 they have not been involved in the central collection of 'UFO' reports, which are now forwarded directly to Sec(AS)2a by individual stations.

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The strict answer to the MP's question is "no" since the FCF has never been involved in investigations into alleged 'UFO' sightings. However, given public perception that Rudloe Manor/FCF investigate 'UFO' matters, we consider it appropriate to correct this erroneous view and have given a rather fuller answer to the question than is strictly necessary.

16. For completeness, I attach at Annex G, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

SEC(AS)

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ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I am writing as promised in my answers of ?? October to your questions (official report, cols ..copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

The departmental titles you asked about are in a series which delineate Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) branches, sections and desks although not all of them were extant during the timeframe you specified. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the current nature of DIS responsibilities. In the light of this, I am afraid I cannot comment upon the duties of the Defence Intelligence branches referred to in your questions.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question, a copy of which is attached at Annex.

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 6 lodger units. The parent unit is commanded by a Station Commander (a Wing Commander, Administrative Branch) and it provides accommodation, medical, dental, education, catering, transport and other administrative services for the following lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - this a RAF unit operating and maintaining fixed telecommunications services within the UK on behalf of Headquarters Defence Fixed Telecommunications System; it provides voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit. ~~No 1001 SU is a RAF~~ This unit operating the UK military communications satellite system.

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

It controls satellites and operates communications passing over them. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor; part of the Detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne Village which is close to RAF Rudloe Manor.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the 6 geographical P&SS Regions within the UK providing specialist Policy and Security support to all RAF establishments.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Policy and Security support to all RAF establishments within an area consisting of the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Bristol University Air Squadron - providing air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets and operating from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks.

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in Sep 85.

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

I am able to provide the following information for the establishment of the Station:

I would provide the lowest detail

[DASA PROVIDING THE STATS]

For security reasons I am unable to go into anymore detail.

ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters, Nicholas said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex and, for ease of reference, I have numbered them from one to fifteen.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms; we remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years since we are confident that our own Air Defence system technology has evolved and developed to meet our needs.

~~I can assure you that~~ RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel ~~direct~~ to the Secretariat Air Staffs, Branch, ~~Sec(AS)~~2a. Sec(AS)2a coordinate all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported and initiate further action as required. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting.

We have no evidence

~~I can confirm~~ (Question 4) that ~~no~~ any structured craft of unknown origin has ~~have~~ penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no lodger unit housed within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

E 52

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, to what post Mr Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement.

E 2

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

HANSARD EXTRACT

13 MARCH 1984

Cols. 132 & 133

Annex E

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.

Section 40

Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

Our ref:L Q90/83806

21 September 1990

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 1990.

The records of the Defence Ministry's Scientific Intelligence Branch; Public Record Office class reference DEFE 21 are under arrangement and so not available for general access as yet. It is possible that some documents contained in this class may become available for inspection in 1991. Please also note that because of the nature of these files many will be under extended closure and so closed for 50, 75 or 100 years.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
Search Department

BP/lc

Section 40
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

10 September 1990.

Dear Sirs,

I recently wrote to you regarding my interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO'S). Your letter of 10 April advised that a number of records had been located which were responsive to my request. The records in question were identified as AIR 20/9320-9322, AIR 22/93, AIR 16/1199, AIR 20/7390 and AIR 20/9994. The documents relating to the sightings from RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire, September 1952 were located in the file no. AIR 16/1199. It was mentioned in one of the documents that a copy of the report was forwarded to the Defence Ministry's Scientific Int--elligence Branch (D.S.I.). In a letter to me, dated 17 July it was menti--oned that records from this time period which related to the D.S.I. had been transferred to the Public Record Office. My reason for writing is to enquire if you could tell me ifthe D.S.I. records from this time are rel--easable and whether they contain details of studies of the UFO reports which had been forwarded to them, i.e. the 1952 Topcliffe report. If any records are available which are responsive to my request can you tell me if it is possible to purchase photo-copies? Should you be able to help in any way or can advise if any other UFO related documents have been located I would be extremely pleased to hear from you. Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter, it is very much appreciated. I have enclosed a SAE.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

letter

90/83806

(DEFE SERIES)

(WO)

p/c to whoever dealt, please

Section 40

[DEFE 21 ✓ FILES UNDER CLOSURE

DEFE 19:
DEFE 10:
DEFE 7:

ANNEX 9

Transferred to FCO 2

To ask the Secretary of State, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which GCHQ has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

3 To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Masters Copy

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 32

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 22 Oct Time:
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: 0171-218-2140
Authorised by: Rank Name Appointment: EO Section 40 Sec(AS)2A1	
Signature: Section 40	

Document Reference: 64/4.	
Total number of pages including this one:	
To: SEE BELOW	Fax Number: Regret Less Enclosures - Public Records
Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number Section 40	
Signature:	

Subject: MARTIN REDMOND — 'UFO' PRO files

DDI Sec – Section 40) By CHOTS
CS(RM)1 –) happy with it as drafted

AO-AD1 – Group Captain Section 40) By Hand Replied

CS PTC – Section 40)**Please confirm receipt of**
CS Logs Cmd –)**fax on** Section 40 *

I should be grateful if addressees could:

(1) Confirm you are content with the wording of the draft background note and draft replies. Any changes should be provided in the form of amended text please.

(2) Confirm content of draft replies is unclassified.

(3) DDI Sec. Please confirm that the text of the draft reply at Annex A is not contradicted by the content of the documents held at the PRO which mention the reorganisation of the Defence Intelligence branches, IE. that those documents do not state what the previous roles of the merged branches were.

GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS BY 1600 HRS TODAY PLEASE TO Section 40 **ON** Section 40

NIL RETURNS ARE REQUIRED

Caveat:

Covering:

cannot state with any assurance what is on the files and Raw Hayfare proposed amendment to Annex A. Also amendment to Covering letter para 3.

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D R A F T

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch

Copy to:

PS/SofS	D Sc(Air)	CS Logs Cmd
APS/Min(AF)	DAO - AOAD1	CS STC
APS/USofS	DDI Sec	DPO(RAF)
Sec(NS)b	Head of CS(RM)1	DPR(RAF)
PS/PUS	CT(Pers)2	Sec(AS)1
Head of Sec(O)	CS Land	
Head of DIO	CS PTC	

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or weapon

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RAF RUDLOE MANOR

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MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

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10. MOD Policy in respect of 'UFO' matters (Question 1) is set out at paragraph 3 above. This policy has not changed during the last 30 years Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 may have lead the public to believe otherwise. RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2, first part) require all RAF stations to forward reports of 'UFO' sightings (whether made by members of the public, or generated by service personnel on duty) direct to Sec(AS)2a, for further assessment. Over the past 12 months (Question 3) only one instance has been recorded of an on-duty member of the armed forces reporting an "unexplained" aerial sighting. The report was submitted by an air traffic controller at RAF Lossiemouth on 1 May this year. ~~*It was examined at the time, not deemed to be of air defence significance, and believed to be a sighting of a comet.*~~ There are no special standing instructions for 'UFO/flying saucer' reporting for army or navy establishments and 'unidentified flying objects' may be reported in a variety of ways for example as an airprox incident if an object has passed close to a helicopter. It is unlikely however that such an incident would be investigated as a 'UFO'. Coordination of action on 'UFO' sighting reports is the function of Sec(AS)2a.

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landings are not separately identified. In explaining this point, the draft reply is consistent with a 1984 PQ answer to a similar question (copy at Annex E).

12. Questions 2(a), 2(b) and 6-12 seek information on collaboration and consultation with a number of other countries. There is no contact between the MOD and any foreign Government specifically for investigation or research into 'UFO/flying saucers' of extraterrestrial origin. There has been a small amount of correspondence between the UK and some foreign Governments, most notably the USA, seeking to establish how they handle queries from members of the public about the 'UFO' phenomenon. Since the 1960s there may also have been occasional letters about alleged 'UFO' sightings or related issues, but to confirm this accurately would require a search of all files covering the wide range of bilateral relations with the countries mentioned by Mr Redmond. This would be an extremely time consuming business and, on balance we consider that the reply to these Questions should deal only with regular and/or significant bilateral contacts.

13. Questions 13 and 14 concern archived records about 'UFOs'. Under the legal requirements of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all Government Departments are required to review their records selecting those worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Records selected for permanent preservation but which are too sensitive to release at the normal, "30 year rule" point may be closed beyond this time subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement (the Lord Chancellor being the Minister responsible for public records). Records can be either closed under Sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Act. Sensitive records "retained in department" under Section 3(4) are those still deemed classified and are retained indefinitely but subject to rereview at least once every 10 years until release is possible. Those under extended closure, Section 5(1), following the Lord Chancellor's approval are transferred to the Public Record Office (PRO) for storage. These records have historically received a finite closure date ie 50, 75 or 100 year closure. However, since July 1993, Open Government White Paper, Section 5(1) closures periods have assumed a greater flexibility ranging from 40 to 100 years. Additionally, records having no historical but some administrative value may, exceptionally, survive destruction at the review stage but their "admin" retention is subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement.

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the subject of 'UFOs'. The PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records from this Directorate is available to researchers at Kew.

15. Finally, Question 15 asks about the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF). As already explained at paragraph 8 above, FCF was, until 1992, the central coordination point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF, except to forward them to Sec(AS)2a. Since 1992 they have not been involved in the central collection of 'UFO' reports, which are now forwarded directly to Sec(AS)2a by individual stations. The strict answer to the MP's question is "no" since the FCF has never been involved in investigations into alleged 'UFO' sightings. However, given public perception that Rudloe Manor/FCF investigate 'UFO' matters, we consider it appropriate to correct this erroneous view and have given a rather fuller answer to the question than is strictly necessary.

16. For completeness, I attach at Annex G, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

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ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I am writing as promised in my answers of ?? October to your questions (official report, cols ..copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses ~~the current nature of DIS~~ ~~responsibilities~~ their current.

I ~~shall~~ arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

its more recent nature or their duties

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

ANNEX A

1 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

2 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

3 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

5 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question, a copy of which is attached at Annex.

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 5 lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - this RAF unit provides voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit. This unit operates the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor; part of the Detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne which is close to RAF Rudloe Manor.

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Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parent RAF responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron ~~- providing air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets and~~ operating from the airfield at ~~Azimghur Barracks~~ Colerne and No 3 AIS Flight which provides air experience

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

Note
DASA Mil Inswork figures do not provide full info for R.Manor (P&SS excluded) & are fraught with confusion/ complications. - I use last 2 years given by Section 40

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in ~~Sep~~ 95.

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

~~I am able to provide the following~~ information ~~for~~ the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However I am able to

~~[DASA PROVIDING THE STATS]~~ give the following details:

~~For security reasons I am unable to go into anymore detail~~.

Section 40

Section 40

Insert info from last 2 years but added up & not by rank.

Annex B

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters, Nicholas said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex and, for ease of reference, I have numbered them from one to fifteen.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms; we remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years since we are confident that our own Air Defence system technology has evolved and developed to meet our needs.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel to the Secretariat Air Staff, Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a coordinate all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported and initiate further action as required. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for

any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no lodger unit housed within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

Lord Howe

Martin Redmond MP

ANNEX C

1 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years.

2 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement.

3 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement.

5 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement.

6 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

7 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

8 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

9 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects. and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

Transferred to MoD

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

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(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 31/1

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 22 Oct Time:	Document Reference: 64/4 Total number of pages including this one:
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Signature: Section 40		Signature:

Subject: MARTIN REDMOND — 'UFO' PQs

DDI Sec – Section 40) By CHOTS
CS(RM)1 –) By Hand

AO-AD1 – Group Captain Section 40) By Hand

CS PTC – Section 40)**Please confirm receipt of**
CS Logs Cmd –)**fax on** Section 40

I should be grateful if addressees could:

(1) Confirm you are content with the wording of the draft background note and draft replies. Any changes should be provided in the form of amended text please.

(2) Confirm content of draft replies is unclassified.

(3) DDI Sec. Please confirm that the text of the draft reply at Annex A is not contradicted by the content of the documents held at the PRO which mention the reorganisation of the Defence Intelligence branches, IE. that those documents do not state what the previous roles of the merged branches were.

GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS BY 1600 HRS TODAY PLEASE TO Section 40 **ON** Section 40

NIL RETURNS ARE REQUIRED

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Covering:

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D R A F T

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch

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MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for **USofS** to send to the MP. On balance we believe that a single written reply would not suffice for the reasons set out below.

BACKGROUND

2. Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues increased significantly at the turn of the year when Section 40 [redacted] There has also been a number of TV programmes over the last year on the phenomenon in general. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling these questions, which follow ten he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year. Section 40 [redacted] (this may account for Question one at Annex D). It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Section 40 [redacted] and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a

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hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations, or seek to provide an explanation, for what has been observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department - the Prime Minister has already given a line on this in his answer to a question from Martin Redmond at Annex D, Question two), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

4. At Annex A is a draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond in response to five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'. Although DI55 is publicly acknowledged as being consulted by Sec(AS)2a as part of its assessment of reported 'UFO' sightings (which might have prompted these questions), it would seem sensible to avoid creating a link not made by the MP by including these questions in a single, all embracing, 'UFO' written reply.

5. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. They are also the DIS repository for 'UFO' reports forwarded by Sec(AS) in case such information provides useful collateral in explaining aerial incidents or events of interest to DIS. With the exception of DI55, the Defence Intelligence branch titles referred to in Mr Redmond's questions have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago and it is not clear why Mr Redmond has asked about these specific branches. There are, however, two files in the Public Record Office dating from the late 1960s early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation and these may have provided researchers with details of DI branch titles. That aside, it is standing policy not to comment upon the work of DIS branches and the questions have been answered on this basis.

RAF RUDLOE MANOR

6. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP.

7. The units currently located at RAF Rudloe Manor are set out in full in the draft letter, together with details of the changes during preceding years. However, it is standard practice not to reveal specific details of numbers by rank for military establishments for security reasons, both terrorist related and in view of the usefulness of such information to hostile intelligence agencies.

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8. RAF Rudloe Manor has been the home of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) since 1977; the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), which is part of HQ P&SS(UK) was, until 1992, the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie. members of the public or generated by service personnel). FCF's function was simply to record the details and pass the information directly to Sec(AS)2a for any further action. The 'UFO' lobby and the media continue to exaggerate and misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor's role in the 'UFO' reporting process which they perceive to be a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them direct to Sec(AS)2a for action.

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

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D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

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D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

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D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

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Bristol University Air Squadron - providing air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets and operating from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks.

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I am able to provide the following information for the establishment of the Station:

[DASA PROVIDING THE STATS]

For security reasons I am unable to go into anymore detail.

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ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters, Nicholas said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex and, for ease of reference, I have numbered them from one to fifteen.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms; we remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years since we are confident that our own Air Defence system technology has evolved and developed to meet our needs.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel to the Secretariat Air Staff, Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a coordinate all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported and initiate further action as required. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for

any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no lodger unit housed within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

Lord Howe

Martin Redmond MP

ANNEX C

1. To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years.

2 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement.

3 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement.

5 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement.

6 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

7 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

8 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

9 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects, and if he will make a statement.

10 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

11 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

12 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

13 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

Transferred to MoD To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990.

5 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement.

Classification: COVERING

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Covering: UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

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(Rev 2/95)

64/4 ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3/+1

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Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 22 Oct Time:
Document Reference: 64/4.	
Total number of pages including this one:	
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Signature: Section 40 redacted	Signature:

Subject: MARTIN REDMOND — 'UFO' PQs

DDI Sec – Section 40 redacted) By CHOTS
CS(RM)1 –)

AO-AD1 – Group Captain Section 40 redacted) By Hand

CS PTC – Section 40 redacted)**Please confirm receipt of**
CS Logs Cmd –)**fax on** Section 40 redacted

I should be grateful if addressees could:

(1) Confirm you are content with the wording of the draft background note and draft replies. Any changes should be provided in the form of amended text please.

(2) Confirm content of draft replies is unclassified.

(3) DDI Sec. Please confirm that the text of the draft reply at Annex A is not contradicted by the content of the documents held at the PRO which mention the reorganisation of the Defence Intelligence branches, IE. that those documents do not state what the previous roles of the merged branches were.

GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS BY 1600 HRS TODAY PLEASE TO Section 40 redacted **ON** Section 40 redacted

NIL RETURNS ARE REQUIRED

Caveat: COVERING

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D R A F T

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch

Copy to:

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MARTIN REDMOND POs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for **USofS** to send to the MP. On balance we believe that a single written reply would not suffice for the reasons set out below.

BACKGROUND

2. Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues increased significantly at the turn of the year when Section 40 [redacted] There has also been a number of TV programmes over the last year on the phenomenon in general. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling these questions, which follow ten he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year. Section 40 [redacted] (this may account for Question one at Annex D). It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Section 40 [redacted] and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a

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hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations, or seek to provide an explanation, for what has been observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department - the Prime Minister has already given a line on this in his answer to a question from Martin Redmond at Annex D, Question two), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

4. At Annex A is a draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond in response to five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'. Although DI55 is publicly acknowledged as being consulted by Sec(AS)2a as part of its assessment of reported 'UFO' sightings (which might have prompted these questions), it would seem sensible to avoid creating a link not made by the MP by including these questions in a single, all embracing, 'UFO' written reply.

5. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. They are also the DIS repository for 'UFO' reports forwarded by Sec(AS) in case such information provides useful collateral in explaining aerial incidents or events of interest to DIS. With the exception of DI55, the Defence Intelligence branch titles referred to in Mr Redmond's questions have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago and it is not clear why Mr Redmond has asked about these specific branches. There are, however, two files in the Public Record Office dating from the late 1960s early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation and these may have provided researchers with details of DI branch titles. That aside, it is standing policy not to comment upon the work of DIS branches and the questions have been answered on this basis.

RAF RUDLOE MANOR

6. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for **Minister(AF)** to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP. ✱ hedgmond.

7. The units currently located at RAF Rudloe Manor are set out in full in the draft letter, together with details of the changes during preceding years. However, it is standard practice not to reveal specific details of numbers by rank for military establishments for security reasons, both terrorist related and in view of the usefulness of such information to hostile intelligence agencies.

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8. RAF Rudloe Manor has been the home of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) since 1977; the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), which is part of HQ P&SS(UK) was, until 1992, the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie. members of the public or generated by service personnel). FCF's function was simply to record the details and pass the information directly to Sec(AS)2a for any further action. The 'UFO' lobby and the media continue to exaggerate and misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor's role in the 'UFO' reporting process which they perceive to be a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them direct to Sec(AS)2a for action.

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

9. At Annex C is a draft reply for **US of S** to send to Mr Redmond in response to the remaining 15 Questions, all of which include reference to 'UFO' matters.

10. MOD Policy in respect of 'UFO' matters (Question 1) is set out at paragraph 3 above. This policy has not changed during the last 30 years although Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2, first part) require all RAF stations to forward reports of 'UFO' sightings (whether made by members of the public, or generated by service personnel on duty) direct to Sec(AS)2a, for further assessment. Over the past 12 months (Question 3) only one instance has been recorded of an on-duty member of the armed forces reporting an "unexplained" aerial sighting. The report was submitted by an air traffic controller at RAF Lossiemouth on 1 May this year. ***[It was examined at the time, not deemed to be of air defence significance, and believed to be a sighting of a comet].*** There are no special standing instructions for 'UFO/flying saucer' reporting for army or navy establishments and 'unidentified flying objects' may be reported in a variety of ways for example as an airprox incident if an object has passed close to a helicopter. It is unlikely however that such an incident would be investigated as a 'UFO'. Coordination of action on 'UFO' sighting reports is the function of Sec(AS)2a.

11. All structured craft entering the UK Air Defence Region (Question 4) are identified by the air defence system, if necessary by interception. However, should "structured craft" have penetrated the UKADR and remain unknown, it would be because they were undetected and, by definition, there would have been no knowledge of such occurrences. At Question 5, Mr Redmond asks about alleged landings of unidentified flying objects since 1980. Although the Department retains records of the number of 'UFO' sighting reports received each year since 1959, reports of alleged

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landings are not separately identified. In explaining this point, the draft reply is consistent with a 1984 PQ answer to a similar question (copy at Annex E).

12. Questions 2(a), 2(b) and 6-12 seek information on collaboration and consultation with a number of other countries. There is no contact between the MOD and any foreign Government specifically for investigation or research into 'UFO/flying saucers' of extraterrestrial origin. There has been a small amount of correspondence between the UK and some foreign Governments, most notably the USA, seeking to establish how they handle queries from members of the public about the 'UFO' phenomenon. Since the 1960s there may also have been occasional letters about alleged 'UFO' sightings or related issues, but to confirm this accurately would require a search of all files covering the wide range of bilateral relations with the countries mentioned by Mr Redmond. This would be an extremely time consuming business and, on balance we consider that the reply to these Questions should deal only with regular and/or significant bilateral contacts.

13. Questions 13 and 14 concern archived records about 'UFOs'. Under the legal requirements of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all Government Departments are required to review their records selecting those worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Records selected for permanent preservation but which are too sensitive to release at the normal, "30 year rule" point may be closed beyond this time subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement (the Lord Chancellor being the Minister responsible for public records). Records can be either closed under Sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Act. Sensitive records "retained in department" under Section 3(4) are those still deemed classified and are retained indefinitely but subject to rereview at least once every 10 years until release is possible. Those under extended closure, Section 5(1), following the Lord Chancellor's approval are transferred to the Public Record Office (PRO) for storage. These records have historically received a finite closure date ie 50, 75 or 100 year closure. However, since July 1993, Open Government White Paper, Section 5(1) closures periods have assumed a greater flexibility ranging from 40 to 100 years. Additionally, records having no historical but some administrative value may, exceptionally, survive destruction at the review stage but their "admin" retention is subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement.

14. It follows, therefore, that the answer to Question 13 is that MOD holds no records for the period specified since these would be held by the PRO. Although Question 14 does not specifically mention 'UFOs', examination of the letter cited by the MP (copy at Annex F) reveals 'UFOs' to be the subject matter. In all, 59 files, covering the period 1947 to 1978, have been selected for preservation. Fifteen are open but the rest are too sensitive for release at the present time and they will be retained under Section 3(4) of the PRA. No records, whether open or closed, cover

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the subject of 'UFOs'. The PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records from this Directorate is available to researchers at Kew.

15. Finally, Question 15 asks about the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF). As already explained at paragraph 8 above, FCF was, until 1992, the central coordination point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF, except to forward them to Sec(AS)2a. Since 1992 they have not been involved in the central collection of 'UFO' reports, which are now forwarded directly to Sec(AS)2a by individual stations. The strict answer to the MP's question is "no" since the FCF has never been involved in investigations into alleged 'UFO' sightings. However, given public perception that Rudloe Manor/FCF investigate 'UFO' matters, we consider it appropriate to correct this erroneous view and have given a rather fuller answer to the question than is strictly necessary.

16. For completeness, I attach at Annex G, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

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ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I am writing as promised in my answers of ?? October to your questions (official report, cols ..copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the current nature of DIS responsibilities.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

ANNEX A

1 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

2 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

3 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

5 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/Min(AF)/ October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question, a copy of which is attached at Annex.

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 6 lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - this RAF unit provides voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit. This unit operates the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor; part of the Detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, Colerne which is close to RAF Rudloe Manor.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the 6 geographical P&SS Regions within the UK.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Policy and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Bristol University Air Squadron - providing air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets and operating from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks.

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in Sep 85.

d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

I am able to provide the following information for the establishment of the Station:

[DASA PROVIDING THE STATS]

For security reasons I am unable to go into anymore detail, but some of these units are engaged in . . . . .

ANNEX B

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND

D/USofS)/ October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters, Nicholas said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex and, for ease of reference, I have numbered them from one to fifteen.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms; we remain open minded but know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years since we are confident that our own Air Defence system technology has evolved and developed to meet our needs.

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any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

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Lord Howe

Martin Redmond MP

ANNEX C

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3 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement.

4 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement.

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7 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

8 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

9 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects. and if he will make a statement.

10 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

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13 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

Transferred to (L MoD) To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990.

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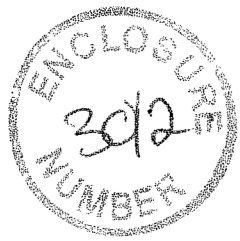

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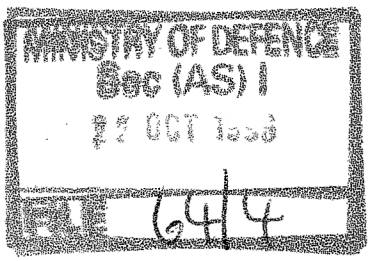
18 October 1996



Sec(AS)2

Copy to :

AD/DI55
DI54

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON `UFOs' - MARTIN REDMOND

1. There is very little that I can offer for inclusion in the letter you are coordinating for reply to Martin Redmond. In response to the questions he posed specifically about Defence Intellgence I would suggest the following:

> "The departmental titles you asked about are in a series which delineate Defence Intelligence Staff branches, sections and desks although not all of them were extant during the timeframe you specified. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties. However I can confirm that intelligence is studied on threats to the UK Air Defence Region to establish whether it might have been compromised by foreign military aircraft or weapons. I can also confirm that the Defence Intelligence Staff do not consult the intelligence staff of our Allies on unidentified flying objects."

2. For the background brief, which I believe should be classified CONFIDENTIAL, I suggest you may wish to tell Secretary of State the following:

> "The Defence Intelligence branch titles have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago, except for DI55. There are two files in the Public Records Office dating from the late 1960s/early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation which may have provided researchers with the titles. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. They are also the DIS repository for UFO reports forwarded by Sec(AS). There is no evidence that UFOs, in the `flying saucer' context, are a threat but the reports are filed in case they provide useful collateral in explaining more tangible events.
>
> The DIS does not exchange or discuss information on UFOs with its intelligence allies since it is not relevant to the

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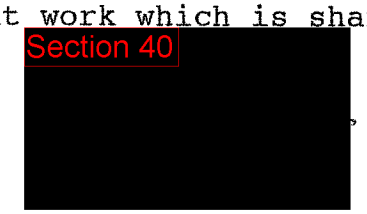
substantive analytical and assessment work which is shared."



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DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
18/10/96	DDISEC	UFOs and MARTIN REDMOND	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 18/10/96 at 16:46 Delivered: 18/10/96 at 16:53
To: SEC(AS)2
CC:
Ref: 191
From: DDISEC Auth by:
Subject: UFOs and MARTIN REDMOND

Text: I attach the DIS contribution to your letter for S of S.

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(SEC)6/1

18 October 1996

Sec(AS)2

Copy to :

AD/DI55
DI54

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON `UFOs' - MARTIN REDMOND

1. There is very little that I can offer for inclusion in the letter you are coordinating for reply to Martin Redmond. In response to the questions he posed specifically about Defence Intellgence I would suggest the following:

> "The departmental titles you asked about are in a series which delineate Defence Intelligence Staff branches, sections and desks although not all of them were extant during the timeframe you specified. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties. However I can confirm that intelligence is studied on threats to the UK Air Defence Region to establish whether it might have been compromised by foreign military aircraft or weapons. I can also confirm that the Defence Intelligence Staff do not consult the intelligence staff of our Allies on unidentified flying objects."

2. For the background brief, which I believe should be classified CONFIDENTIAL, I suggest you may wish to tell Secretary of State the following:

> "The Defence Intelligence branch titles have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago, except for DI55. There are two files in the Public Records Office dating from the late 1960s/early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation which may have provided researchers with the titles. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. They are also the DIS repository for UFO reports forwarded by Sec(AS). There is no evidence that UFOs, in the `flying saucer' context, are a threat but the reports are filed in case they provide useful collateral in explaining more tangible events.
>
> The DIS does not exchange or discuss information on UFOs with its intelligence allies since it is not relevant to the

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substantive analytical and assessment work which is shared."

UNCLASSIFIED

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

17 October 1996

Sec(AS)2 - [redacted] E-Mail only

Copy to:

DDI SEC - [redacted]
CS Logs Command - [redacted]
CS(Pers)2b - [redacted]
CS(Sec) PTC - [redacted]

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - "UFOs"

Reference:
A. D/Sec(AS)64/4 dated 15 October 1996
B. CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 16 October 1996 (not to all)

1. Under the guidance of Reference A CS(RM) provided an initial reply to two of the 22 PQs tabled by Martin Redmond for reply by MOD (Reference B).

2. In preparing this input to the follow up letter I have anticipated that a preference will be expressed for a single letter covering all PQs, but if on reflection you feel that the answers should be repackaged in separate letters I will redraft my contribution accordingly.

3. **PQ 2131H**

To ask.... how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many refer to unidentified flying objects.

Draft Answer

My Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years.

Background

Under the legal requirements of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all government departments are required to review their records selecting those worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others.

Records selected for permanent preservation but are too sensitive to release at the normal point "30 year rule" may be closed beyond this point subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement (the Lord Chancellor being the Minister responsible for public records).

Records can be either closed under Sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Act. Sensitive records "retained in department" under Section 3(4)

are those still deemed classified, are retained indefinitely but are subject to rereview at least once every 10 years until release is possible. Whilst those under extended closure, Section 5(1), following the Lord Chancellor's approval are transferred to the Public Record Office for storage. These records have historically received a finite closure date ie 50, 75 or 100 year closure. But since July 1993, Open Government White Paper, Section 5(1) closures periods have assumed a greater flexibility ranging from 40 to 100 years.

Additionally, records having no historical but some administrative value may exceptionally survive destruction at the review stage but their "admin" retention in department is subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement.

It follows therefore the answer to the MP's question is that MOD holds no records which are closed for the period specified in the question.

4. PQ 2136H

To ask.... if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990.

Draft Answer

The information sought by Mr Redfern in correspondence with the Public Record Office in 1990 concerns the files selected and waiting assignment to a new PRO class **DEFE 21 - Joint Intelligence Bureau: Directorate of Scientific Intelligence; Registered Files.** The PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records from this Directorate is available to researchers at Kew.

Background

It is perhaps fruitless to speculate why no apparent attempt has been made by Mr Redmond's source to update information some 6 years out of date.

In all 59 files, covering the period 1947 to 1978, have been selected for preservation. 15 are open the rest are too sensitive for release at the present time and will be retained in department under Section 3(4) of the PRA. No records, whether open or closed, cover the subject of "ufos".

5. The background notes to the above, particularly PQ2131H, are much longer than I had originally envisaged but I thought you would prefer to have a detailed explanation of departmental responsibilities in the light of legislation in respect of public records.

Section 40
Head CS(RM)1
AA07 Section 40
CHOTS: Hd CS(RM) 1

Classification	UNCLAS
Caveat	
Covering	

F Sigs 927
(Int. 9/92)

Section 40 [redacted]

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 29

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial No:	Date and Time of Transmission: 18 0840 C	Reference: PTC/35752/DCS(S)
From: Section 40 CS(Sec)3c1	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: REDMOND PQ - UFOs
To: Section 40 [redacted] Sec(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40 [redacted]	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40 CS(Sec)3c1	Rank/Grade and Name:
Signatur Section 40 [redacted]	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

URGENT

Covering	
Caveat	
Classification	UNCLAS

PTC/356752/DCS(S)

18 October 1996

Sec(AS)2 - Section 40

MARTIN REDMOND PQ 2130H: 'UFOs'

1. Your facsimile of 16 October to Section 40 suggested that the background note of our response to Martin Redmond's PQ (reference 2130H) was wrong. That is not the case.

2. Martin Redmond's question specifically asks "...if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations..." (my underlining). The answer to this question is "no": the Flying Complaints Flight has never been involved in the investigation of alleged UFO sightings. Group Captain Section 40 letter of 28 February 1996 to Mr Redfern does not contradict this. The work of the Flight to which Group Captain Section 40 was referring simply involved co-ordinating (ie forwarding) any reports of alleged UFO sightings/activity which they received to MOD (Sec(AS)) for action.

3. I hope this clarifies the position.

Section 40

ACS(Sec)3
GL F60 Section 40

p.s. This response has been cleared with Gp Capt Section 40

by AD/AD1

644

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - UFOs

1. We can help immediately with the following references as indicated.

PQ 2100H

2. There are instructions on reporting for aircrews at some units, notably AD. We are investigating further the extent of this and reporting chain.

PQ 2109H

3. Suggest: The MoD reviews all UFO reports to see if there is any Defence implication.

Notes:

(1) We believe this was the response to a similar enquiry in 1985.

(2) In practice, we discard all bright lights reported after pub closing times — take more seriously airborne or ground reports by experienced observers.

PQ 2118H

4. Suggest: None. All structured craft entering the UKADR are identified by the air defence system, if necessary by interception.

: Notes:

(1) By definition, this is the raison d'être of the UKAD system.

(2) Should "structured craft" have penetrated the UKADR, and remained unknown, this is because they were undetected. Again, by definition, we have no knowledge of such occurrences.

PQ 2131H

5. We presume the reference is to 'DSTL'.

6. Later we may be able to help with PQ 2112H and PQ 2142H, and provide further advice on PQ 21001

Section 40

[redacted]

F S Section 40

Cyp Cyf

AO AD 1

MB 4229 Section 40

[redacted]

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11/18G/BP/88772/10/GE

16 Oct 96

POINT BRIEF FOR GP CAPT ADGE

UFO REPORTING PROCEDURES AND REPORTS SENT BY ADGE

You asked for details of UFO reporting procedures in effect at ADGE units and numbers of reported UFO incidents for 1996 and the past 30 years.

REPORTING PROCEDURES BY 11/18Gp ADGE UNITS

- All ADGE unit local orders for reporting of UFOs reference an 11G letter 11G/365/8/Ops dated 23 Mar 76. This is attached as Enclosure 1. This procedure was updated by 11G letter dated 1 Feb 94 which removed the need to copy the reports to Broadshield or 11Gp (Enclosure 2).

  -- Letter states that all incidents are to be reported by signal to MOD(Air) or by telephone to MOD(Air) for S4f or AFOR.

  -- Signals to be copied to UKRAOC and HQ 11Gp.

  -- This letter uses Enclosure 3 as Reference and authority. Enclosure 3 was sent to AOCinC Strike Command by MOD S/4f(Air) on 11 Sep 75.

- Other letters of significance are attached as Enclosure 4, both are from MOD S4f(Air) and are dated 29 Mar 67 and 7 Jan 72.

REPORTS OF UFOS BY 11/18Gp ADGE UNITS

- Collated numbers of reports found on files are at Annex A.

- This information was sent directly to MOD by signal/fax by originator.

  -- No reports or mention found of UFOs detected by ADGE units or 11/18Gp aircraft using RADAR equipment.

    --- All are from visual reports received by ADGE duty staff and reported using the procedures laid down in Enclosure 1.

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Annex:
A. Unidentified Flying Object Report Statistical Summary.

Enclosures:

1. Copy of HQ11Gp Letter 11G/365/8/Ops dated 23 Mar 76.
2. Copy of HQ11Gp Letter 11G/300/20/GE dated 21 Feb 94.
3. Copy of MOD Letter AF/3459/75/PTII/S/4f(Air) dated 11 Sep 75.
4. Copy of other MOD Letters detailing UFO Reporting Policy.

GEOPS1/1A

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ANNEX A TO
11/18G/BP/88772/10/GE
DATED 16 OCT 96

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. The following figures detail the number of Unidentified Flying Object Reports which have been received by ADGE/associated units, and subsequently forwarded to MOD Sec (AS) 2a between 1986 and the present:

	UNIT	YEAR	TOTAL	
a.	CRC Buchan	1996	2	All civvy reports except one
		1995	1	
		1992	1	
b.	CRC Neatishead	1996	2	RAF Sgt saw bright lights.
		1995	2	
		1994	1	
		1993	3	
c.	RAF Manston	1989	1	
		1986	1	
d.	RAF Saxa Vord	1991	1	
e.	RAF Waddington	1994	1	AOAD1 confirmed all civvie reported except one.
		1990	1	
f.	UKRAOC	1990	1	No records of any aircrew reports
		1989	2	
		1988	5	
		1987	1	
		1986	3	
	TOTAL		29	One RAF Sgt saw bright lights

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OC CRC

Presumably we cover WOs in our order book. Please action

BNE/8/11/CP1

Headquarters No 11 Group
Royal Air Force
Bentley Priory
Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3HH

Section 40

Tel: Section 40
GPTN Section 40 Fax ext Section 40

Hist Fds Online

Section 40

Your reference:

Our reference:
11G/300/20/GE

E 14

See Distribution

Date: 21 Feb 94

REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:

A MOD AF Ops Room SOP No 502.

1. Enclosed is a copy of annex A to reference A which units are to use whenever compiling an unidentified flying object (UFO) report received from a member of the public. The information contained in UFO reports should be passed to MOD Sec (AS) 2a, as early as possible, either by telephone or signal message. UFO reports can also be passed by fax.

2. MOD Sec (AS) 2a can be contacted at MOD Main Building ext Section 40 during normal working hours; the fax ext is Section 40 Outside normal working hours units should send reports by unclassified signal message addressed to MODUK AIR using the SIC Z6F; an example signal format is at enclosure 2. Addressees should note that there is no longer any requirement to copy UFO reports to Broadshield (PWHQ), HQ STC or HQ 11 Gp. You are requested to amend your SOPs accordingly.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr
for SASO

Enclosures:

1. Annex A to MOD AF Ops Room SOP No 502.
2. Example of UFO report signal message.

Used in Hist Flights

Section 40

110/365/8/Ops

HQ 11 Gp
01-950-4000 Section 40

Section 40

See Distribution

23 Mar 76

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REPORTS

Reference:

A. AF/3459/75/PT II/S/4f (Air) dated 11 Sep 75 (Notal)

1. Reference A up-dated the procedure for Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) reporting. All UFO reports are to be sent as quickly as possible to MOD (Air), and copied to UKRAOC and HQ 11 Gp, using the format at Annex A. Methods of transmission are to be by either:

Section 40

a. Routine, unclassified signal using DIG - ~~DSG~~.

b. Telephone message to MOD (Air), Main Building, Whitehall on the following extentions.

(1) During normal working hours to S4f (Air) on ext Section 40 Section 40

(2) At all other times to AFOR on ext Section 40

2. Any enquiries from the Press are to be referred direct to the MOD Press Office.

Section 40

Flt Lt
for SASO

Annex:

A. Format for UFO Report

Distribution:

Action:

Postlist One

Information:

MOD (Air)(S4f (Air))
UKRAOC

ROYAL AIR FORCE
FYLINGDALES
29 MAR 76
S & C ENTRY
OC OW
SASO
W.O.

Section 40

29/3/76

7

A-1

ANNEX A TO
11G/365/8/OPS
DATED 23 MAR 76

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

K. Nearby objects. (Telephone lines; high voltage lines; reservoir, lake swamp or marsh; river; highbuildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts; airfields; generating plant; factories, pits or other sites with flood-lights or other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the Press etc).

M. Name and address of informant.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

8

E1-2

ORDER NO 8

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

1. On receipt of a UFO report the CMDR is to complete as much as possible of the Form shown at Annex A by questioning the informant fully.

2. The reports are to be passed as follows:

a. In working hrs to S Inf O.

b. Out of working hrs by routine unclassified signal, SIC Z6F to MOD (Air) using the example of the signal in Annex A for guidance.

3. Any enqueries from the press are to be referred direct to MOD RAF Press Desk on the following numbers:

a. Duty Hrs BT Section 40 or Section 40
GPTN Section 40 or Section 40

b. Out of duty hrs, the MOD Duty Press Officer can be contacted on Section 40
Section 40

Annex:

A. UFO Report and Signal Format.

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ANNEX A TO
ORDER NO 8

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. Date, time and duration of sighting.	
2. Description of object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise).	
3. Exact position of observer (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving).	
4. How observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder).	
5. Direction in which object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a roughly estimated bearing).	
6. Angle of sight (Estimated heights are unreliable).	
7. Distance (By reference to a known landmark).	
8. Movements (Changes in 5,6 and 7 may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).	
9. Met conditions during observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc).	

10. 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).	
11. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc).	
12. Name and address of informant.	
13. Background of informant that may be volunteered.	
14. Other witnesses.	
15. Date and time of receipt.	
16. Any unusual meteorological conditions.	
17. Remarks.	

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

Your reference

Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief
Strike Command
Training Command
Support Command

Our reference AP/3459/75/PT II/S/4f(Air)

Date 11th September 1975

Sir

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REPORTS

References:
A. AF/X 58/64/S4f(Air) dated 29 Mar 1967
B. AF/CX 80/70 dated 7 Jan 1972

I am directed to refer to Reference letters providing guidance on the action to be taken by RAF units on receipt of reports of unidentified flying objects, and to state that the purpose of this letter is to up-date such guidance and information as necessary.

All reports should be sent as quickly as possible to MOD(Air) using the format shown in the Annex to this letter: the normal methods of transmission are:-

a. By routine, unclassified signal message using DIG LCZ, which ensures the immediate distribution of the information to concerned addressees.

b. By telephone message to MOD(Air), Main Building, Whitehall on the following extensions:-

(i) During normal working hours to S4f(Air) on Ext Section 40

(ii) At all other times to AFOR on Ext Section 40

Any enquiries from the press are to be referred direct to the Ministry of Defence Press Office.

It is requested that all RAF formations in UK may be informed of the above procedures.

It is necessary to continue to categorise UFO reports where possible for the department's records. However, the monthly summary formerly prepared by HQ Strike Command (UK RAOC) may be discontinued, provided any positive results of investigations are notified to this branch.

This letter supersedes References A and B.

Section 40

Copies to:
AFOR
DFR(RAF)
DI50a

E3-1

644

27

Classification	UNCLASSIFED
Caveat	-
Covering	-

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TRANSMISSION DETAILS		DOCUMENT DETAILS
Serial No:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference:
From: Section 40 Hd CS(RM)1	Fax Number: LEQ Section 40	Subject: PQ Martin Redmond - Redfern - PRO - Intelligence Reports
To: Section 40 Sec(AS)	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 4

AUTHORIZING OFFICER	TRANSMIT OPERATORS
Rank, Name and Appointment:	Rank/ Grade and Name:
Signature:	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

Question follows.
Also copies of exchange of correspondence between Redfern/PRO in September 1990 Section 40

Covering	-
Caveat	-
Classification	UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
15 OCT 1996
FILE

information about OHMCI inspections. (41160)

337 Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley): To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, if he will list the (a) magistrates' and (b) other courts which have closed in the county of South Yorkshire in each of the past five years. (40966)

338 Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley): To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, if he will list the number of legal aid applications received from members of the public in South Yorkshire, for each of the last five years, indicating the total sums involved. (40968)

339 Mr David Jamieson (Plymouth, Devonport): To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, on what date the visit by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Land Registry in Plymouth on 18th September was first discussed by his Department. (40932)

340 Bridget Prentice (Lewisham East): To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. (41141)

335 Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990. (40899)

336 Mr Alan Milburn (Darlington): To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. (41161)

Section 40

Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

Our ref:L 090/83806

21 September 1990

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 1990.

The records of the Defence Ministry's Scientific Intelligence Branch; Public Record Office class reference DEFE 21 are under arrangement and so not available for general access as yet. It is possible that some documents contained in this class may become available for inspection in 1991. Please also note that because of the nature of these files many will be under extended closure and so closed for 50, 75 or 100 years.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
Search Department

BP/lc

Section 40
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

10 September 1990.

Dear Sirs,

I recently wrote to you regarding my interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO'S). Your letter of 10 April advised that a number of records had been located which were responsive to my request. The records in question were identified as AIR 20/9320-9322, AIR 22/93, AIR 16/1199, AIR 20/7390 and AIR 20/9994. The documents relating to the sightings from RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire, September 1952 were located in the file no. AIR 16/1199. It was mentioned in one of the documents that a copy of the report was forwarded to the Defence Ministry's Scientific Int-elligence Branch (D.S.I.). In a letter to me, dated 17 July it was menti-oned that records from this time period which related to the D.S.I. had been transferred to the Public Record Office. My reason for writing is to enquire if you could tell me ifthe D.S.I. records from this time are rel-easable and whether they contain details of studies of the UFO reports which had been forwarded to them, i.e. the 1952 Topcliffe report. If any records are available which are responsive to my request can you tell me if it is possible to purchase photo-copies? Should you be able to help in any way or can advise if any other UFO related documents have been located I would be extremely pleased to hear from you. Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter, it is very much appreciated. I have enclosed a SAE.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
letter
90 Section 40

(DEFE SERIES)
(JD)

p/c to whoever deals, Please

[DEFE 21 ... will open.

DEFE 19:
DEFE 10:
DEFE 7:

644
ENCLOSURE
NUMBER

PTC/356725/DCS(S)

22 October 1996

Sec(AS)2 - [redacted]

Copy to:
CS(Fin Sec), HQLC - [redacted]

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft responses to the PQs raised by Mr Redmond on the subject of UFOs.

2. I am generally content with what you propose. The main areas of concern to PTC are confined to Annex B, on which I offer the following comment:

HQ P&SS(Western Region): I believe the second line should read "Police" and not "Policy".

I suggest that the paragraph covering the Bristol University Air Squadron be amended to read:

"Bristol University Air Squadron - Rudloe Manner provides a parenting responsibility for Bristol UAS (and No 3 AEF) which operate from the airfield at Colerne."

[Note: The two units at Colerne are, to all intents and purposes, autonomous units, rather than 'lodger' units of Rudloe Manner. I understand that Rudloe Manner assumed this parenting responsibility in September 1992.]

On page B-2, sub paragraph c, I believe the move to RAF Halton took place in November 1995.

3. I hope this is helpful.

[redacted]
CS(Sec)3c
GL F63 [redacted]

6/4/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 25

UNCLASSIFIED

COVERING - RESTRICTED

LC/356805/1/F&S

18 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 - by fax

Copy to:

PSO/COS
Cmd Sec
PSO/AOCIS
DDSyCIS/CPSyO(RAF)
GC Comms Sys
ACS(F&S)

Section 40

To Section 40
Company Sec(AS)2
From Section 40
Company CS(FinSec)1
Tel No Section 40
No. of Pages 4
FAX
Post-it Fax Note
Ref No: 7693

PQ 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. We discussed the response to the subject Parliamentary Question, one of 26 tabled by Martin Redmond MP about UFO activity. You undertook to craft the responses from lead branch inputs.

2. Attached is the information to answer the PQ, supplied by AOCIS personnel, from which you can form the reply to the MP. However, you should note that the third part of Martin Redmond's question; establishment by rank for the last 10 years, presented some difficulty. Firstly, we do not have the information available for the last 10 years, although we understand that the establishment has not changed significantly over that period. Secondly, and more importantly, our security personnel have advised that the break down of numbers by rank and Unit should not be released into the public domain. You should therefore aim to give totals only for Rudloe Manor as a whole; not broken down by lodger unit.

3. Please ring me if you require any clarification or further detail.

Section 40

CS(FinSec)1
F160 Section 40

COVERING - RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Covering RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

LC/120115/CSO

PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

Current Role of Station.

1. RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 6 lodger units. The parent unit is commanded by a Station Commander, who is a Wing Commander of the Administrative Branch, and it provides accommodation, medical, dental, education, catering, transport and other administrative services for the lodger units.

2. Role of the Lodger Units. The lodger units have the following roles:

a. No 1 Signals Unit. No 1 SU is an RAF unit which operates and maintains fixed telecommunication services within the UK on behalf of Headquarters Defence Fixed Telecommunications System[1]. No 1 SU provide voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

b. Detachment of 1001 SU. No 1001 SU is an RAF unit whose role is to operate the UK military communications satellite system. The SU controls the satellites and also operates the communications passing over the satellites. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is the detachment located at RAF Rudloe Manor; part of this detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, at Colerne village, close to RAF Rudloe Manor.

c. Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK). HQ P&SS(UK) is an RAF unit which commands the 6 geographical P&SS Regions within the UK, from which the Regional HQs provide specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments.

d. Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region). HQ P&SS(WR) is an RAF unit which provides specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within an area consisting of the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

e. Controller Defence Communications Network. CDCN is a Tri-Service unit which controls world wide defence communications.

f. Bristol University Air Squadron. BUAS provides air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets. The unit operates from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks.

---

1 There are also a small number of staff from HQ DFTS temporarily accommodated at RAF Rudloe Manor whilst their offices are prepared at the adjacent Basil Hill Barracks.

Covering RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
Covering RESTRICTED

Role of Station over the last 10 Years.

3. The role of the Station has not varied over the last 10 years, although some of the lodger units have changed as follows:

a. No 1001 SU Detachment. The 1001 SU Detachment formed in Oct 91.

b. No 1 SU. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.

c. P&SS Units. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS(Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in Sep 95.

d. No 6 SU. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

Establishment by Rank over the last 10 years.

4. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide details of the Establishment figures over the last 10 years because we do not keep historic records. We can however provide the current Establishment figures, which have varied little over the period. The figures are as follows:

UNCLASSIFIED

Officer Establishment (RESTRICTED)

Unit	Air Cdre	Gp Capt	Wg Cdr	Sqn Ldr	Flt Lt	FO/PO
Rudloe Manor-parent Unit			1	1	4	1
1 SU			1	2	5	0
1001 SU Det				1	2	0
HQP&SS (UK)	1	1	2	7	10	1
HQP&SS (WR)				1	2	
CDCN[2]			1	4	8	
BUAS				1	2	3
Total	1	1	5	17	33	5

[2] Includes equivalent ranks from RN and Army.

rm-pq.res

Covering RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Airman Establishment (RESTRICTED).

Unit	WO	FS	Chf Tech	Sgt	Cpl	AC
Rudloe Manor-parent Unit	4	4	0	13	29	62
1 SU	3	8	5	31	80	45
1001 SU Det	0	2	3	17	16	11
HQP&SS (UK)	4	18	0	39	47	17
HQP&SS (WR)	1	2	0	9	10	0
CDCN[3]	4	3	0	0	4	0
BUAS	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total	16	38	8	110	186	137

UNCLASSIFIED

Civilian Establishment (RESTRICTED).

Unit	Non-Industrial	Industrial
Rudloe Manor-parent Unit	39	50
1 SU	20	0
1001 SU Det	1	0
HQP&SS (UK)	103	0
HQP&SS (WR)	2	0
CDCN	5	1
BUAS	4	0
Total	174	51

[3] Includes equivalent ranks from RN and Army.

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification	UNCLAS
Caveat	
Covering	

F Sigs 927
(Int. 9/92)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial No:	Date and Time of Transmission: 2214 05 L	Reference: PTC/350725 1 bcs(s)
From: Simon Ross CS(Sec)3c1	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: REDMOND PQs
To: Sec (RS) 2 Section 40	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40 CS(Sec)3c1	Rank/Grade and Name:
Sig Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Copy to:

HQ LC – CS(Fm)(Sec) Section 40

Section 40

URGENT

Covering	
Caveat	
Classification	UNCLAS

64/4

ENCLOSURE 24 NUMBER

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2100H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

44|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement. [40917]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136, 2142, one for the Prime Minister and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. This has now been done. **It is too early at this stage to determine which of these questions might be linked for reply and recommend that each one is answered with an individual interim reply.**

2. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2101H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

31|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41042]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)	M J D Fuller	Tel:	Section 40	Signed	16 Oct 96
Sec(AS)2	Section 40	Tel:		Signed	16 Oct 96

Copy to:

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DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2105H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

33|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41050]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

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DDI Sec
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****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2106H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

47|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41043]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

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DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
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****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2109H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years. [40913]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

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DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2112H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

49|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement. [40910]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

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DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2114H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

50|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41051]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2118H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCOTBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

52|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)	M J D Fuller	Tel:	Section 40	Signed	16 Oct 96
Sec(AS)2	Section 40	Tel:	[redacted]	Signed	16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2123H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):CMD SEC HQ STC

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR RHODRI MORGAN (LABOUR)(CARDIFF WEST)**
MARTIN REDMOND? LABOUR DON VALLEY

23|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41048]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2127H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996- PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

42|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41049]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2130H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

26|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [41036]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)	M J D Fuller	Tel:	Section 40	Signed	16 Oct 96
Sec(AS)2	Section 40	Tel:		Signed	16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

Not orginal Mock Up Produced

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

Roughly correct Can't guarantee Perfect.

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2111H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what cooperation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)	M J D Fuller	Tel:	Section 40	Signed	16 Oct 96
Sec(AS)2	Section 40	Tel:		Signed	16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2134H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. (40822)

Answer: The air defence and air traffic implications of unidentified flying objects are the responsibility of the MOD and the CAA respectively. The Government has no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)
M J D Fuller
Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2
Section 40
Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. However, MOD will provide interim, 'I will write', answers for their Questions.

2. The draft answer provided for the Prime Minister does not address the issue of civil research into this topic. It does, instead, answer the Question in so far as we believe the Government's position to be. Neither the MOD nor the Cabinet Office are aware of any other Government interest in 'UFOs' or, indeed of any research into the 'UFO' phenomenon. We have copied the reply to the Cabinet Office Scientific Adviser.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

4. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2142H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement. [40921]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel:Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
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DDI Sec
DI55c

644

CLOSURE NUMBER 23

FAX LETTER

From fax [redacted]

Classification:

To: [redacted] From: Box 850

See (AS) 2 a fax [redacted] Date: 16 OCT 1996

Letter no/ref:

Precedence: ~~Deskby~~ .....Z
Immediate
~~Priority~~
(delete as appropriate)

Authorisation:

Subject: PQ FROM MARTIN REDMOND MP

Reference(s):

No of sheets faxed (including this one): 4 Hard copy to follow

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COMPLETE 1. AND 2. BELOW AND FAX THIS PAGE BACK TO SENDER AT END OF TRANSMISSION

1. No of sheets received.....

2. Date and time.....(GMT)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) 1
16 OCT 1996
FILE

[redacted]

London SE1

Section 23

16 October 1996

Section 40

PUSD (DSW)
FCO

PQ FROM MARTIN REDMOND MP: UFO INVESTIGATIONS

1. We spoke about these PQs asking about SIS and GCHQ involvement in monitoring UFO investigations. The question on CGHQ was originally put down for answer by the Secretary of State for Defence, but I understand has now been transferred to the FCO. The wording of the two questions is otherwise identical, and it might be convenient for the Secretary of State to answer them together. The answer will in any case be in the form of a letter to the MP, due to the prorogation of Parliament on 17 September (see the PRD note accompanying the PQ pro-forma).

2. I have consulted GHCQ and agreed that I would send you our joint proposed reply, which is enclosed. You may wish to draw on the following paragraphs as a background note to the Secretary of State.

3. Martin Redmond MP has asked a number of UFO related PQs this week mostly for answer by MOD Ministers. The MOD believe his interest (or perhaps that of his researcher) was sparked by recent TV documentaries on the subject.

4. The actual question put in respect of SIS and GCHQ is on how many occasions they have monitored unidentified flying object investigations, which we believe should be taken to mean have the agencies been keeping watch on 'ufologists'. Neither Agency in fact undertakes any such activity, though GCHQ cannot rule out the possibility that they may have on record in other contexts

cannot rule out the possibility that they may have on record in other contexts individuals who have separately made a study of UFOs. It would therefore seem most appropriate to adhere to the standard 'no comment' formulation in the reply to the MP.

/5. ...

5. I am copying this letter to Section 40 (GCHQ) and Section 40 (MOD) with a request to pass any comments on the draft reply, or background, directly to you by close of play on 17 October. Copies also go to Section 40 Section 40 and Section 40 for information.

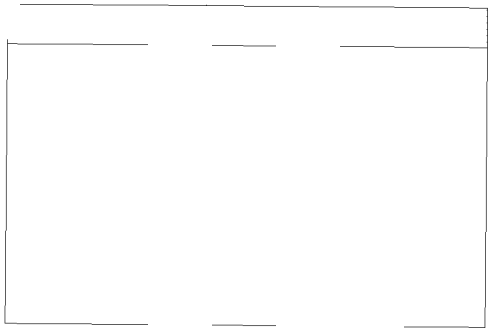
Box 850

cc
Section 40 , Section 40 GCHQ
Section 40 , Sec(AS) 2a, MOD
Section 40 , PUSD, FCO
Section 40 , Section 40 Security Service
Section 40 , Cabinet Office

Draft letter from the Secretary of State to Martin Redmond MP

In my reply of 17 October to your Parliamentary Question asking if I would list by month for each of the past 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations, and if I would make a statement, I promised to write to you shortly. I also promised to reply to a similar question, originally put to the Secretary of State for Defence, with respect to GCHQ, for which I have Ministerial responsibility.

As you may know, it has been the long-standing policy of successive Governments not to comment on the operations of the intelligence and security agencies. I propose to maintain that policy.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

FOR PRU USE ONLY

DATE TABLED: 14/10/96

WHITE O.P. DATE 16/10/96

SERIAL NO: 2897

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

HEAD OF ~~WED~~ WED (PUSD)

Please submit:
a draft answer and background
to Parliamentary Relations Unit before NOON 17/10/96

FOR NOT NAMED WRITTEN ANSWER ON 18/10/96

QUESTION

MR MARTIN REDMOND (DON VALLEY) (LAB)

To ask the Secretary of State:

what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. 40970

FOR ANSWER BY

(Minister)

TO PS/

(Minister)

for approval by

NOON

PQs Reply

ANSWER

There has been no such consultation.

To Section 40
Company MOD Section 40
From Section 40
Company WED
Tel No. No. of Pages 2
FAX Post-it Fax Note Ref No: 7689

Copy to:

Private Secretary

PS/
(Minister)

Parliamentary Clerk

Drafted by Section 40
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Tel: Section 40

Authorised Section 40

(Head of D

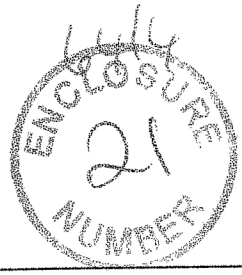
DISCLOSURE 22 NUMBER

Background

1. This PQ is one of around 30 which Mr Redmond has sumbitted simultaneously to the Government, mostly to MoD, on the subject of UFOs. We do not know the reason behind his campaign.

Section 27

[redacted]



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	CS(FinSec)1	PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:49 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 11:54
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: SEC(AS)2
Ref: 202
From: CS(FinSec)1 Auth by:
Subject: PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

Text: Draft response & Background note for subject PQ.

For Sec(AS)2 - Thanks for your help!

Section 40 [redacted]

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LC/356805/1/F&S

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch*

Copy to:

Sec(AS)2
DDI Sec
CS(Sec) PTC
CT(Pers)2b
CS(RM)1
PSO/COS
PSO/AOCIS
CPRO

PQ AF2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Please find attached the reply to one of the 26 PQs about 'UFO' issues tabled by Martin Redmond. As stated in the background note, there is insufficient time to collect all the information and assess the collective worth of the responses before the House prorogues. We agree with the Sec(AS) suggestion that Min(AF) provides an interim 'I will write' answer, and this is attached.

2. A full written reply to the subject PQ will be provided within 5 working days. Please advise if any further information is required.

[CHOTS signed]
Section 40 [redacted]
ACS(F&S)
F160 Section 40 [redacted]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2117H
PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?: NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 1200 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: CMD SEC HQLC

MP'S DETAILS: **MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

Answer:

I will write to the Hon gentleman.

DRAFT CLEARED BY** Section 40 **ACS(F&S)

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 2117H

This PQ is one of 26 tabled by Martin Redmond about, directly or indirectly, UFOs. Given the large number of questions and the fact that the House prorogues on Thursday, there is insufficient time to collect the information and assess the collective worth of the replies. It is suggested that Min(AF) writes to Mr Redmond and an answer to this effect is attached.

Sec(AS)2 have already provided more detailed background to this raft of PQs.

RUDLOE MANOR/FCF

PQ 2117H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2130H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement.

Classification: UNCLAS
Caveat:
Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Int. 9/92)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 20

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial No:	Date and Time of Transmission: 16 12 1996	Reference: PTC/356752/DCS(S)
From: Section 40 CS(Sec)3c1	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: PQ 21301 MARTIN REDMOND MP
To: PQ Branch	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 3
Authorizing Officer		**Transmit Operators**
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40 CS(Sec)3c1		Rank/Grade and Name:
Signa Section 40		Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Copy to:

1. Sec (AS) 2 Section 40 – I trust the attached is sufficient to inform your substantive response.

2. CS (Fin Sec) LC – for info.

Section 40

Covering:
Caveat:
Classification: UNCLAS

LOOSE MINUTE

PTC/356725/DCS(S)

16 October 1996

PQ Clerk, Parliamentary Branch

Copy to:
Sec(AS)2
CS(Fin Sec), HQLC
Prov1a(RAF)

PQ 2130H - MARTIN REDMOND MP: 'UFOs'

1. Martin Redmond MP has tabled a series of 26 Parliamentary Questions for written answer concerning, directly or indirectly, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). PQ 2130H, which seeks to establish whether a lodger unit within the Flying Complaints Flight at Rudloe Manner investigates UFO sightings, is related to PQ 2117H which seeks further detail on the work undertaken at the station.

2. I concur with Sec(AS)'s view that, whilst it might be possible to answer these questions substantively today, it would be preferable for the Department to look at the sum of all the answers first before responding in full. It is therefore recommended that in this instance and with all the other Redmond UFO questions, Min (AF) undertakes to write to the MP.

3. The point of contact for this PQ is Section 40 on Ext Section 40

Section 40

Dep Command Secretary, PTC
GL F54 Section 40
Section 40

PQ 2130H

26| To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [41036]

Answer

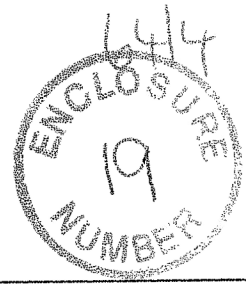
I will write to the hon. member.

Background Note

This is one of a series of 26 written PQs which Martin Redmond MP has tabled concerning, directly or indirectly, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). PQ 2130H is specifically related to PQ 2117H (being answered by HQ LC) concerning the work undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manner, which is where the Flying Complaints Flight is located.

The strict answer to this question is "no". There is no lodger unit located within the Flying Complaints Flight which investigates UFOs, nor is there any record of the Flight ever having undertaken such work.

Nevertheless, in view of the number of questions Mr Redmond has tabled and the short time which the Department has been given to frame the answers, we have agreed with Sec(AS) (as the lead division on these PQs) that, in the first instance, Minister(AF) should be advised to undertake to write to the MP. This will allow Sec(AS) to consider, in slightly slower time, the collective worth of the answers we propose to offer to Mr Redmond.



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	CT(Pers)2b1	PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 2135H	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/10/96 at 12:15 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 12:49
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: SEC(AS)2,PS/PUS,GF(POL)1
Ref: 195
From: CT(Pers)2b1 Auth by:
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 2135H

Text: Please find attached a draft answer to PQ 2135H.
Section 40
CT({Pers)2b
LN Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

PQ REFERENCE: 2135H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

QUESTION: To ask the S of S for Defence, to what post Mr Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: Mr Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a General Finance Policy branch.

APPROVED BY:

CT(Pers)2 _____ Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 LN Date 16 Oct 96

CT(Pers)2b1 _____ [redacted] LN Date 16 Oct 96

COPIED TO:

Sec(AS)
PUS
GF(Policy)

BACKGROUND NOTE TO

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136, 2142, one for the Prime Minister and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. This has now been done.

2. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

4. Question 2135 asks where Mr Nicholas Pope was posted following his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff). We see no reason to include this reply in the main written response as it can be answered quite easily and Head of Sec(AS) is content with this line. A draft response is therefore attached. Mr Pope was posted on the 1 August 1994, on promotion, to the General Finance(Policy) branch. This was a normal career development move Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	DDISEC	DRAFT PQ ANSWERS : `UFOs'	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:47 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 11:48
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: SEC(AS)2
Ref: 188
From: DDISEC Auth by:
Subject: DRAFT PQ ANSWERS : `UFOs'

Text: Please find attached our draft answers and background note to PQs 2103H,2105H,2110H,2113H,2120H, and 2122H from Mr Redmond.

Section 40 DDISEC, Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

DRAFT ANSWERS TO PQs 2103H,2105H,2110H,2113H,2120H,2122H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN
NO SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 AND THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: DI SEC
COPY ADDRESSEES: SEC(AS)

MP's DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

2103H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence , what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2105H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2110H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2113H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2120H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2122H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

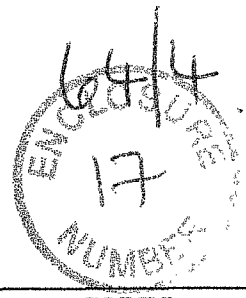
DRAFTED BY : Section 40 **DDISEC,** Section 40

ALSO SEEN BY: SEC(AS)2

CLEARED BY: Section 40 **A/DI SEC,** Section 40

BACKGROUND NOTE - PQs 2103H, 2105H, 2110H, 2113H, 2120H, 2122H

These are six of 26 PQs on UFO issues raised by Martin Redmond. In view of this number Sec(AS) wish to coordinate a look at the collective worth of what might be said in reply from MOD and other departments. These six questions, aimed at the intelligence role in UFO reporting, ask for information on organisational details of the DIS which are classified, and its UFO intelligence exchanges with allies which are non-existent. We will be unable to divulge any detailed organisational information but should be able to make a general contribution to a reply coordinated by Sec(AS) which will also address the non-intelligence aspects.



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	PS/Hd of CS	PW REFERENCES: 2131H AND 2136H	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:07 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 11:09
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: SEC(AS)2B
Ref: 1663
From: PS/Hd of CS Auth by:
Subject: PW REFERENCES: 2131H AND 2136H

Text: PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

To: Parliamentary Branch

From: Hd CS

Copy to: Sec(AS)2
DI(Sec)
Cabinet Office - Historical and Records Branch
Public Record Office - Government Services Department

MP NAME: Mr MARTIN REDMOND MP (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

PQ Reference: 2131H and 2136H

PQ Type: Ordinary Written

Supplementaries are required: No

DATE FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 on Wednesday 16 October 1996

PQ 2131H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2136H

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990.

DRAFT REPLY

I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be

placed in the Library in the House.

Answer drafted by: Section 40 Hd CS(RM)1, LHQ Section 40 (Ref: CS(RM)/4/6/37)

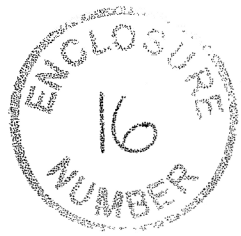
Draft approved by: Section 40 Hd CS, MB Section 40

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 2131H and 2136H

1. These PQs are two of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about "UFO" related issues (22 for answer by MOD: numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123,, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136 (on transfer from Cabinet Office), 2142, one for the Prime Minister and three for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, it is considered prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We will provide Sec(AS) with the necessary input to enable a substantive reply to be made to these two questions (and the other MOD questions) in due course.

2. MOD's interest in "unexplained" aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May of this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on "UFO" matters earlier this year.



Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/4

15th October 1996

DDI SEC – Section 40
CS Logs Command – Section 40
CS(Sec) PTC – Section 40
CT(Pers)2b –
CS(RM)1 – Section 40

Copy to:

Head of Sec(AS)
DAO - AOAD1
Head of Sec(O)
DIO
D Sc(Air)
Sec(AS)1
Parliamentary Clerk

FCO Parliamentary – Section 40

MARTIN REDMOND PQs – 'UFOs'

1. I attach at Annex a list of PQs (26 in total) tabled by Martin Redmond for written answer concerning, directly or indirectly, UFOs. Given that the House prorogues on Thursday 17th October, the Parliamentary Branch has asked for the answers to be with them by midday tomorrow, Wednesday 16th October.

2. Given this sort of timescale I am concerned about the implication of answering all of the Questions on an individual basis. It could be that the sum total of the answers might provide more information than can be assumed if each is dealt with in isolation. I therefore recommend that as a first step they should all be answered with "I will write". **MOD lead Branches as allocated (see also para 3 below) should ensure that this action is completed and that the Parliamentary Branch has the necessary answers by noon on Wednesday 16th October**. The background note could simply refer to the large number of questions tabled, the fact that the House prorogues the next day, there is insufficient time to obtain the information requested and, more importantly, the need to assess the collective worth of what it is proposed to say.

3. Sec(AS) is not offering to answer all of the PQs but, it seems to me, there is a need to co-ordinate our replies - hence this minute. Annotated against each of the PQs on the attached list is the Branch allocated to lead by the Parliamentary Section. However, some of the questions have been wrongly allocated and,

where this is the case, we have corrected, as appropriate, in bold type. All addressees of this minute will, however, have an interest in some, or all, of the PQs tabled.

4. Having provided an interim reply, I suggest that the next step should be to decide whether any of the questions/answers might be linked and draft letters accordingly. The drafts should be circulated for comment and only when everyone has signified that they are content, and we have decided whether there is a need for one or more letters in total, should they be forwarded to the Parliamentary Branch for Ministers' signatures. Again, I believe it would be appropriate for me to act as the focal point/ coordinator.

5. We have considered whether any of the questions might be answered substantively in time to meet the Wednesday deadline. At first sight it could be argued that by answering PQ2117 with a straightforward, factual answer, we could nail once and for all the myth that Rudloe Manor continues to have some involvement in UFO matters. However, the Question covers the last 10 years and there is a related Rudloe Manor Question at PQ2130. We therefore need to look at the sum total of what we intend to say.

6. The usual timescale for following interim PQ replies with substantive letters is five days. We do not, therefore have much time to play with and it would be helpful if you could fax/CHOT your draft replies for comment asap.

7. If there are any concerns about what is proposed please let me know or Section 40 extn MB82140 or Section 40 extn MESection 40

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS TABLED BY MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

TYPE: ALL ORDINARY WRITTEN

PQ 2100H

Lead: Sec(AS)2 **Copy: DAO**
Copy: -

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2101H

Lead: Sec(AS)2
Copy: - **Copy to: DI Sec**

To ask the Secretary of [redacted] sultation has taken place in each of [redacted] epartment with the Royal Australian Ai[redacted] tified flying objects; and if he will

PQ 2103H

Lead: DI(Sec)
Copy: Sec(AS)2

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2104H **(TRANSFERRED TO FCO)**

Lead: Sec(AS)
Copy: -

To ask the Secretary of State, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which GCHQ has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2105H

Lead:	DI(Sec)	**Lead:**	**Sec(AS)**
Copy:	Sec(AS)	**Copy:**	**DI Sec**
			DIO
			DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2106H

Lead:	Sec(AS)2		
Copy:	-	**Copy:**	**DI Sec**
			Sec(O)
			DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2109H

Lead:	Sec(AS)	**Copy:**	**DAO**
Copy:	-		

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years.

PQ 2110H

Lead:	DI(Sec)
Copy:	Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2111H

Lead:	DI(Sec)	**Lead:**	**Sec(AS)**
Copy:	Sec(AS)	**Copy:**	**DI Sec**
			DIO
			DAO
			Sec(AS)1

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2112H

Lead:	Sec(AS)2	**Copy:**	**DAO**
Copy:	-		

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2113H

Lead:	DI(Sec)
Copy:	Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2114H

Lead:	Sec(AS)2	**Copy:**	**DI Sec**
Copy:	-		**DIO**
			DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects, and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2117H

Lead: CS PTC **Lead: CS Logs Command**
Copy: CS PTC
Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2118H

Lead: Sec(AS)2 **Copy: DAO**
Copy: -

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2120H

Lead: DI Sec
Copy: Sec(AS)2

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2122H

Lead: DI Sec
Copy to: Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2123H

Lead: Sec(AS) **Copy: DI Sec**
Copy: CS STC **D Sc(Air)**
DIO
DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2127H

Lead: Sec(AS)2 **Copy: DI Sec**
Copy: - **DIO**
DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2130H

Lead: Sec(AS) **Lead: CS Logs Command or CS PTC**
Copy: - **Copy: Sec(AS)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2131H

Lead: DI(Sec)
Copy: Sec(AS), CS(RM)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2134H

Lead: Sec(AS)2
Copy: -

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2135H

Lead: CT(Pers)
Copy: Sec(AS), PUS

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, to what post Mr Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2136H

Lead: Sec(AS) **Lead: Duchy of Lancaster ????????????**
Copy: - **Copy: CS(Records Management)1**

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990.

PQ 2142H

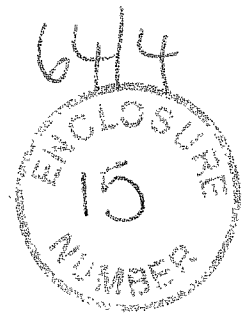
Lead: Sec(AS)2 **Copy: DAO**
Copy: -

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement.

FCO PQs

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.



****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2100H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

44|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement. [40917]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2101H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

31|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41042]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2103H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)2

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

46|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41037]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2104H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:~~SEC(AS)~~ FCO LEAD
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

32|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which GCHQ has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2105H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:DI~~(SEC)~~ SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

33|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41050]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2106H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

47|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41043]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2109H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years. [40913]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2110H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary W
ritten

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

21|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41040]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2111H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996- please let us know if you have any problems reaching this deadline.

LEAD BRANCH:~~DI~~ SEC SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

36|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. . [40918]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2112H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

49|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement. [40910]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2113H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - please let us know if you have any problems meeting this deadline.

LEAD BRANCH:DI SEC
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

37|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41038]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2114H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

50|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41051]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

MR SOAMES

CS Sec PTC

CS Log Cmd

October 1996

2117H

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2118H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCOTBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

52|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2120H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)2

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

53|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2122H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:DI SEC
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

40|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41041]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2123H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):CMD SEC HQ STC

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:~~**MR RHODRI MORGAN (LABOUR)(CARDIFF WEST)**~~
MARTIN REDMOND (COON VALLEY)

23|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41048]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2127H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996- PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

42|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41049]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2130H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH: ~~SEC(AS)2~~ CS PTC
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

26|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [41036]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2131H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:~~DI SEC~~ CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS), CS(RM)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

27|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [40911]

Answer + background.

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2134H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. (40822)

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2135H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:CT(PERS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS), PUS

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

22|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, to what post Mr Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

PQ REFERENCE:2136H
PQ TYPE:ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.

LEAD BRANCH:~~SEC(AS)~~ CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, kew on 21st September 1990.

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2142H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement. [40921]

Classification: UNCLASS

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 14

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: /	Transmission: Date: 16 OCT 96 Time:
From: Section 40 Sec (AS) 2	Fax Number: Section 40
	Tel Numb Section 40
Authorised by: Rank G7 Name Section 40 Appointment	
Signature:	

Document Reference: 64/4	
Total number of pages including this one: 3	
To: Section 40	Fax Number: x Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank AO Name Section 40	Tel Number
Signature:	

Subject: Mastri Redmon PQs - "UFOs"

Your Reference PTC/35625/DCS(S) 8/16 October Nefes3.

Paragraph two of the background note to the PQ answered at Nefence is incorrect - see attached letter and is not, therefore, sufficient for inclusion in the substantive response. You will note that GP Capt Section 40 has written his letter to Section 40 - the subject of one of the other 26 PQs!

Grateful for further advice please ASAP

Section 40

Classification: UNCLASS

Caveat:

Covering:

Group Captain [redacted]

ENCL No 45

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom)
Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor Hawthorn
Wiltshire SN13 OPQ

Telephone Hawthorn [redacted] ext [redacted]
fax [redacted]

Please reply to
The Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference
PSS/260/8/Air
Date
28 Feb 96

[redacted]
Walsall
West Midlands
[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

COORDINATION OF ALLEGED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTINGS

Thank you for your letter dated 30th January 1996 which Air Commodore Uprichard passed to me as Officer Commanding, Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom). The matters referred to in the report which you enclosed with your letter occurred in 1962. I am sure that you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to provide definitive answers to all of your questions as the vast majority of correspondence and documentation dating from that era would have been destroyed many years ago.

I can confirm that Flying Complaints Flight, which is part of Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS(UK)), was responsible for coordinating reports of unexplained aerial sightings until 1992. I have not been able to determine the date on which Flying Complaints Flight began to fulfil this role. Please note, however, that Flying Complaints Flight only moved to RAF Rudloe Manor (with the rest of HQ P&SS(UK)) in 1977. RAF Rudloe Manor itself would have had no role in the coordination of unexplained aerial sighting reports prior to the arrival of HQ P&SS(UK). Indeed, it is likely, although we are unable to confirm this, that Flying Complaints Flight coordinated such reports whilst at the previous location of HQ P&SS(UK) at Acton.

Flying Complaints Flight would have received reports regarding unexplained aerial sightings from members of the public as well as from RAF witnesses. They would merely have forwarded these reports to the Secretariat (Air Staff) at the Ministry of Defence and no further action would have been taken either by Flying Complaints Flight or by any other HQ P&SS(UK) personnel. It is probable that reports would have been retained by Flying Complaints Flight for a limited period of time before routine destruction.

Many thanks for your enquiry and I trust that the above details answer your questions. For your information, I have also written to Mr Timothy Good who wrote to Flying Complaints Flight recently requesting similar information.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

16 Oct '96 15:51

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> CS SEC HQPTC INN	
No.	1871
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'42"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	RE: MARTIN REDMOND PQs - "UFO"	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/10/96 at 7:57 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 8:01
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 107
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: RE: MARTIN REDMOND PQs - "UFO"

Text: Section 40 I believe that two PQs - 2131H and 2136H - require a significant CS(RM) input. Strongly endorse your holding reply approach and propose to forward, hopefully by cop 17 October, suggested answer and background notes for your consideration.

Regards Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [ ]
Codes [ ]

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	Parliamentary Ques	PQ 2100H	[ ]

Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:14
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC:

Ref: 884
Subject: PQ 2100H

Text: THE SAME BACKGROUND NOTE SHOULD BE USED FOR PQs 2101H, 2105H, 2106H, 2109H, 2112H, 2114H, 2118H, 2123H, 2127H, 2130H, 2142H

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Copies to: PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DISSC

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2100H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

44|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and the respective departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement. [40917]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136, 2142, one for the Prime Minister and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. This has now been done. **It is too early at this stage to determine which of these questions might be linked for reply and recommend that each one is answered with an individual interim reply.**

2. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2101H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

31|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41042]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2105H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

33|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41050]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2106H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

47|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41043]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)	M J D Fuller	Tel: Section 40 MB	Signed	16 Oct 96
Sec(AS)2	Section 40	Tel: [redacted] MB	Signed	16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2109H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years. [40913]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2112H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

49|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement. [40910]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2114H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

50|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41051]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel:Section 40 Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2118H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCOTBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

52|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2123H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):CMD SEC HQ STC

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR RHODRI MORGAN (LABOUR)(CARDIFF WEST)**
MARTIN REDMOND? LABOUR DON VALLEY

23|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41048]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2127H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996- PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

42|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence Air Force General Staff (2nd. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41049]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2130H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

26|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [41036]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2142H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement. [40921]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: MB Signed 16 Oct 96

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

file copy.

PQs

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 11

2100H
2142H
2130H
2127H
2123H
2118H
2114H
2112H
2109H
2106H
2105H
2101H

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP:)

PQ REFERENCE:) Please see attached

PQ TYPE:)

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY:)

QUESTION: Please see attached.

Twelve PQs in total

Section 40

[redacted]

DRAFT ANSWER: Please see attached.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 [redacted] M J D Full

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 [redacted]

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI Sec
DI55c

Save background note for all twelve PQs

Section 40 [redacted]

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2100H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

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****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2142H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996 - PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement. [40921]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2130H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

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****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2127H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996- PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS MEETING THIS DEADLINE

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

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MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

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Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2123H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):CMD SEC HQ STC

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR RHODRI MORGAN (LABOUR)(CARDIFF WEST)**
MARTIN REDMOND? LABOUR DON VALLEY

23|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41048]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2118H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCOTBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

52|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2114H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

50|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41051]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2112H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996.PLEASE CALL THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

49|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement. [40910]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2109H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years. [40913]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2106H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996. PLEASE CALL IF THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE MET.

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

47|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41043]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2105H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:DI(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):SEC(AS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

33|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Section of the Spanish Air Forces Air Operations Command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41050]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2101H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)

31|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian Air Force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [41042]

Mr Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136, 2142, one for the Prime Minister and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. This has now been done. ~~The FCO will be providing interim, 'I will write', answers for their three Questions.~~ **It is too early at this stage to determine which of these questions might be linked for reply and recommend that each one is answered with an individual interim reply.**

2. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

file copy

ENCLOSURE 10

PQ 2134 HC MEMBERS

(Prime Minister)

one in total

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP:)

PQ REFERENCE:) Please see attached Section 40 [redacted]

PQ TYPE:)

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY:) 16/10/96

QUESTION: Please see attached.

DRAFT ANSWER: Please see attached.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 [redacted] J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 [redacted] MB Date 16/10/96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 [redacted] Tel Section 40 [redacted] MB Date 16/10/96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DDI SEC
DI55c

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:2134H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS:**MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR)(DON VALLEY)**

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. (40822)

Answer: The air defence and air traffic implications of unidentified flying objects are the responsibility of the MOD and the CAA respectively. The Government has no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

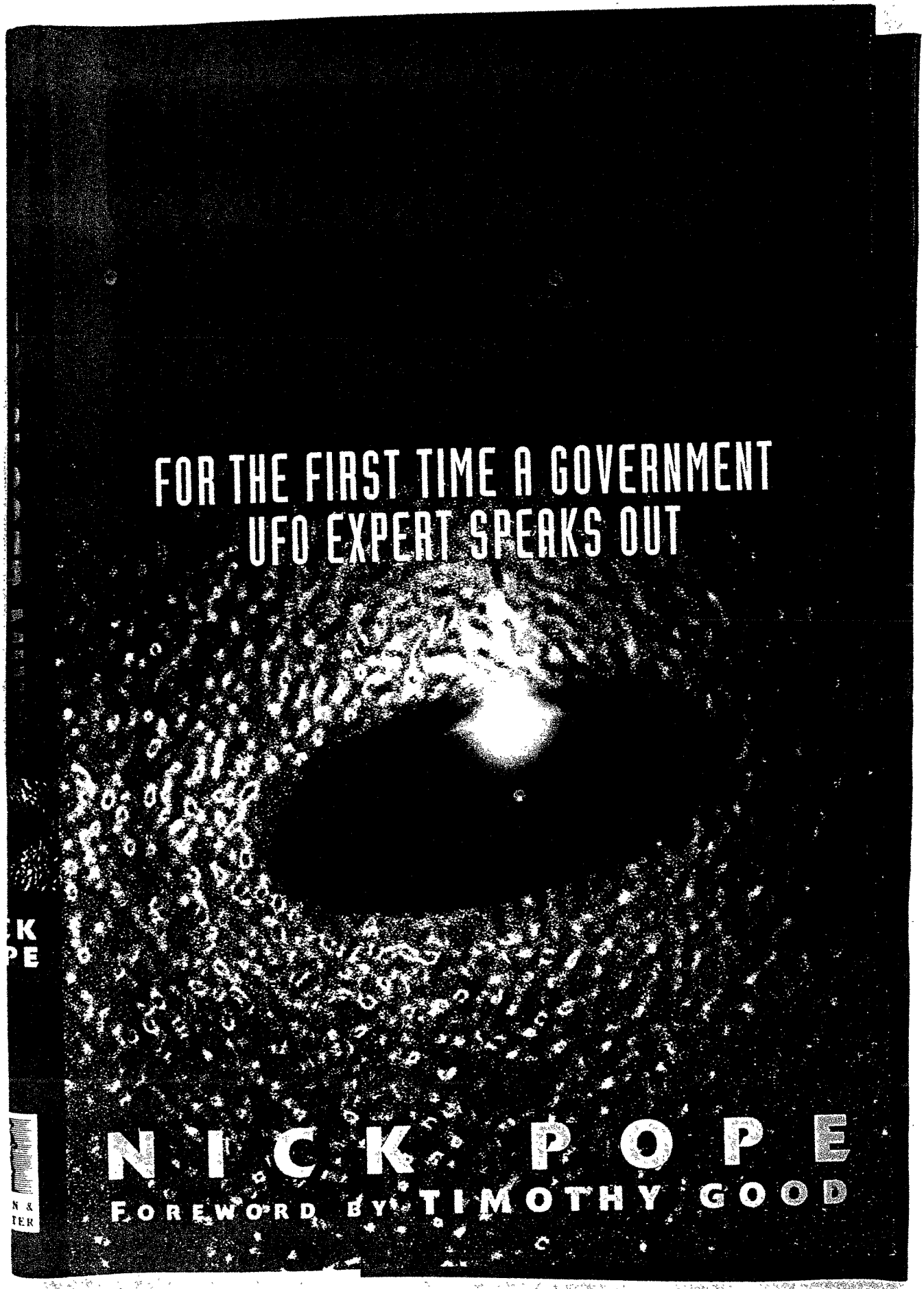
BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. However, MOD and FCO will provide interim, 'I will write', answers for their Questions.

2. The draft answer provided for the Prime Minister does not address the issue of civil research into this topic. It does, instead, answer the Question in so far as we believe the Government's position to be. Neither the MOD nor the Cabinet Office are aware of any other Government interest in 'UFOs' or, indeed of any research into the 'UFO' phenomenon. We have copied the reply to the Cabinet Office Scientific Adviser.

3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

4. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.


FOR THE FIRST TIME A GOVERNMENT
UFO EXPERT SPEAKS OUT
NICK POPE
FOREWORD BY TIMOTHY GOOD

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

'When I first took up my post in Secretariat (Air Staff) at the Ministry of Defence, I knew very little about UFOs. Then, as I researched the subject, as I read the [illegible] Files, as I talked to trained observers, pilots, radar operators, the people in the street, I realised that this wasn't a few lines to tuck away in an odd corner of the *Sunday Sport* or the *Fortean Times*. This was real. This was happening. The collective evidence was just too overwhelming for any other explanation'

NI
PO

ISBN 0-684-81664-4

9 780684 816647 >

Nick Pope works for the Ministry of Defence as a Higher Executive Officer, the ranking equivalent of a Major in the British Army. He has worked at the MoD's London headquarters at Whitehall for eleven years. From 1991 to 1994, he was appointed to Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A – better known to insiders as 'The UFO Desk'. His job was to investigate and analyse claims of UFO sightings and to assess their threat to national security. It was an experience that changed his life.

Now, for the first time, he reveals the contents of the Government's 'X-Files' residing in the deepest vaults of the MoD. He discovered that truth is much stranger than fiction and that something bizarre is going on, something beyond human experience and something potentially hostile. From starting out as a sceptic, he became a firm believer in the reality of UFOs.

In *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Nick Pope presents convincing arguments in support of the existence of UFOs by using cases that he has researched in his official capacity, and warns that extraterrestrial spacecraft are visiting Earth and that something should be done about it urgently.

£14.99

Nick Pope joined the Ministry of Defence in 1985. He has been involved in the policy initiative enabling women to fly as pilots in the Royal Air Force, policy work on the Gulf War and the situation in Bosnia.

From 1991 to 1994 he was responsible for investigating UFO sightings and handling policy on this subject. He now holds the rank of Higher Executive Officer, which equates to a Major in the British Army.

Although he no longer works on the UFO phenomenon in an official capacity, he is still actively involved in researching a range of paranormal phenomena. He lives in London.

Mei Trow is the author of nineteen crime fiction and true crime books, including the *Inspector Lestrade* series and *Let Him Have it Chris* which helped win a partial posthumous pardon for Derek Bentley. His most recent detective creation 'Mad Max' Maxwell, is being developed for television.

Author photograph by G. G. Pope

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Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 9

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 16 OCT 96 Time:
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40
	Tel Number: 82140
Authorised by: Rank: EO Name: Section 40 Appointment: Sec(AS)2A1 Signature: Section 40	

Document Reference: 6414	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
To: Section 40	Fax Number:
Section 40 CS PTC CS Sec 16	x Section 40
Section 40 HQLC - CS	x Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 Tel Number Signature:	

Subject: UFO PQs

For information this is the Sec(AS)2 background note to the UFO PQs.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD numbers 2100, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2117, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2131, 2135, 2136, 2142, one for the Prime Minister and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. This has now been done. The FCO will be providing interim, 'I will write', answers for their three Questions. **It is too early at this stage to determine which of these questions might be linked for reply and recommend that each one is answered with an individual interim reply.**

2. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.

3. In May this year Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

HQ LC

** Transmit Conf. Report **

16 Oct '96 11:11

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	1860
Mode	NORMAL
Time	3'59"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

16 Oct '96 10:56

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> CS SEC HQPTC INN	
No.	1857
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'03"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax Section 40 [redacted]

** Transmit Conf.Report **

16 Oct '96 10:59

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> DI(SEC)	
No.	1858
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'05"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 8

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 15 OCT 96 Time:
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40 MB
	Tel Number: 82140 MB
Authorised by: Rank / Name / Appointment: Eo Section 40 SecCAS2A1	
Signature: Section 40	

Document Reference: 6414	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
To: Section 40 CS Sec 3b HQ PTC	Fax Number: Section 40
Section 40 CS Logs Cmd	Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank / Name / Tel Number: AO Section 40	
Signature:	

Subject: PQ 21304 – FCF, Rudloe Manor

As discussed with Section 40, you were to decide between you whether PTC or Logs Cmd are going to lead on the attached PQ.

Please let Section 40 know the outcome of who is to lead (x Section 40 MB).

Thank you.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax Section 40 [redacted]

** Transmit Conf.Report **

15 Oct '96 15:55

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> CS SEC HQPTC INN	
No.	1845
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'02"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax Section 40 [redacted]

** Transmit Conf.Report **

15 Oct '96 15:58

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> ACS(F&S) HQLC	
No.	1846
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'01"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

Classification: UNCLASS.

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: —	Transmission: Date: 15 OCTOBER. Time:
From: MOD SOC(AS)2. Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40	To: FCO PUS(D) Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40
Authorised by: Rank G7. Name Section 40 Appointment	Transmitted by: Rank AO Name Section 40 Tel Number
Signature:	Signature:

Document Reference: D/SEC(AS)/64/4

Total number of pages including this one: 1

Subject: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

As discussed,

To ask the Secretary of State, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which GCHQ has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

is the PQ for you to answer.

Classification: UNCLASS.

Caveat:

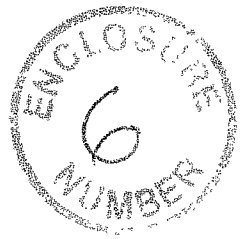
Covering:

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

15 Oct '96 15:30

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)--->Section 40	
No.	1844
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'49"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	O K



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

14 Oct 96

Section 40

PE Unit

(thro Section 40 [redacted] Sec(AS)2)

LETTER FROM LADY OLGA MAITLAND, MP - US 3941/96

1. Enquiries with No 10 have revealed that there is no trace of the Report referred to in the constituent's letter having been received. No 10, however, concur with the proposed line that the Prime Minister does not specifically comment on much of the unsolicited material/reports which he receives.

2. The draft reply instead seeks to explain the Government's position, along with the MOD's specific remit in relation to "unidentified flying objects".

3. Copies of the previous exchange of correspondence, referred to by Lady Olga's constituent are attached for information.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/3941/96 October 1996

Thank you for your letter of 2 October addressed to Nicholas Soames enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 Sutton, on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The Prime Minister receives many unsolicited reports on a wide variety of issues and does not comment specifically on any of these. My officials have already written directly to Section 40 Section 40 explaining the Government's position on the subject of the "UFO" phenomenon. We keep an open mind about the possible existence of extraterrestrial craft and lifeforms, but to date have no evidence to prove that these phenomena exist.

Following Section 40 letter to the Prime Minister of 23 July my officials also explained that my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not

Lady Olga Maitland, MP

attempt to identify the precise nature of each report. From the descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

My officials have also explained to Section 40 the position about the release of MOD "UFO" report files. You will be aware that as is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. A number of "UFO" report files are available for viewing at the Public Record Office, and a list of the file references concerned has already been passed to Section 40

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 51

Section 40

Sutton,
Surrey.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
7 August 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter dated 23 July 1996 addressed to the Prime Minister regarding the "UFO" phenomenon. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence for reply; this office is the MOD focal point for correspondence of this nature.

2. Perhaps it would be useful if I were to begin by clarifying the role and responsibilities of the MOD in respect of reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. We examine any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

3. The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

4. With respect to the first point in your letter I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the MOD has not received a copy of the report you have mentioned. With regard to your points about the release of information held on MOD files you will wish to be aware that all MOD and government files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files selected for preservation generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" reports files were destroyed after 5 years as in the context of limited archive space, and due to insufficient public interest in the subject, there was no reason for them to be retained. Since 1967 due to an increase in public interest these

files are now preserved. However, a few files from the Fifties and Sixties did survive and may be viewed by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	PREM 11/855	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321		AIR 2/17527

5. I hope this explains our position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

J 8
MOD

Section 40
Sutton,
Surrey.
Section 40

23rd July, 1996

PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

Writer informed that letter has been forwarded to the appropriate Government Department for a full reply

Rt. Hon. John Major, MP
10, Downing Street,
London.
SW1 1AA

Dear Sir,

I write to enquire whether:

i) You have received a report entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence" produced under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation?

ii) You concur that the UFO phenomenon is real, not imaginary or fictitious?

iii) You would be prepared to instruct all branches of Government, including the Armed Forces, to make publicly available all information they have on the UFO phenomenon?

I would like to express my hope that the Government will, in the near future, abandon its 50 year policy of secrecy on this subject, as I believe the public has a right to know the facts and a "Cosmic Watergate" style revelation will take place eventually if the Government does not initiate disclosure.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

Section 40

64/

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2 **PE REF NUMBER:** US 3941/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 22/10/96

DATE: 11/10/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

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No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start: "Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

11 OCT 1996
FILE

3941 Sec(AS) Usec J. UFOs.

Lady Olga Maitland, M.P.

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
Telephone Section 40
or
Facsimile

Messages: Section 40

The Hon Nicholas Soames MP
Minister of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

2 October 1996

Dear Nicholas

My constituent, Section 40 writes to me about unidentified flying objects!

I would appreciate your briefing and response to the questions raised in Section 40 letter.

Yours ever

OLM

10 7/89

Section 40
Sutton,
Surrey.
Section 40

12th September, 1996

Lady Olga Maitland, MP.
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London.

Dear Lady Olga,

I am writing to ask you to write to the Prime Minister on my behalf. I have been in correspondence with 10 Downing Street but have been unable to get a satisfactory response to my queries which have been addressed by the Correspondence Secretary.

The object of my query is to determine:

(i) whether the Prime Minister has received the Rockefeller report entitled *"Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document: The Best Available Evidence"*, and;

(ii) whether the Prime Minister is persuaded of the reality of the UFO phenomenon, and;

(iii) whether he would agree to release the MoD and other Government files on the subject in advance of their usual declassification schedule.

For your background information, the report was produced under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation in order to present to the U.S. President and certain other Heads of Government the convincing evidence that UFO's are real and to encourage them to publish the vast amounts of research on the subject that has been conducted by various branches of Government, mainly military and intelligence agencies; and to make available for public viewing the film footage taken and artefacts collected.

In the first instance I was referred by 10 Downing Street to the MoD's Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1a who were helpful in identifying the already published files. However the report in question has only been circulated to Heads of Government, it is not available to the public, although a synopsis has been issued; therefore a response from another Department of State cannot resolve whether the Prime Minister has considered this matter.

I thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Sec(AS) 2A
6444

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

D/US of S/FH 3761/96/M

9th October 1996

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September (reference: IWJ/2/96/36) to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Beaumaris, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Enquiries have revealed that as Section 40 [redacted]' telephone call to RAF Valley was made outside routine working hours, a record of his call would have been logged in the Station Duty Officer's Report. However, Station Duty Officer's Reports are not kept indefinitely but routinely destroyed and Reports for 1990 are no longer available.

You may wish to be aware that we do not routinely contact or reply to every witness who reports a "UFO" sighting to us (on average the Department receives 200-300 such reports annually). Such contact is only necessary if what has been seen has a defence interest and it is necessary to interview the witness further.

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 OCT 1996
FILE

Recycled Paper

The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through the continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force. I should wish to assure Section 40 [redacted] that my Department takes its responsibilities for the effective Defence of the UK very seriously indeed and we remain vigilant for any potential military threat.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Howe

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

644

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21 82111/2/3

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

SECRETARY OF STATE

D/S of S/MP 3660/96/M

3 October 1996

Dear Alastair

Thank you for your letter of 18 September enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about the establishment of a commission to investigate unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting.

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to such matters or so far as the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The Rt Hon Alastair Goodlad MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-9 OCT 1996
FILE

Recycled Paper

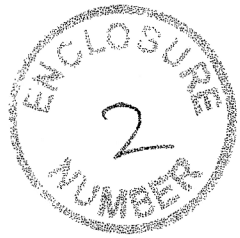
In view of the above, I do not consider that involvement by my Department in a commission such as that proposed by Section 40 would be either necessary or appropriate.

I hope this helps to explain the situation.

Yours ever

Michael.

MICHAEL PORTILLO



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/62/12

26 Sep 96

PE Unit
(thro [redacted] Sec(AS)2)

LETTER FROM THE RT HON ALISTAIR GOODLAD MP - SS 3660/96 - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The draft reply attached sets out the Department's limited interest in the subject of "unidentified flying objects", and that we see no need for Departmental involvement in a commission into "UFO/flying saucers". Neither Sec(AS) nor the Cabinet Office, with whom we have spoken recently, are aware of any other Government interest in "UFOs" or indeed of any official research into the "UFO" phenomenon.

2. The constituent, [redacted] is known to this office primarily as he was the subject of an article in The People (Dec 94) about investigations into alien abduction. [redacted] had approached the paper and the article alleged that the Department, in consultation with [redacted] was investigating a claim of alien abduction, which was completely untrue. The article was the subject of a PE to USofS in Jan 95 and I attach the relevant background paperwork.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D R A F T

D/SofS/3660/96 September 1996

Thank you for your letter of 18 September enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] about the establishment of a commission to investigate unidentified flying objects.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting.

My Department does not carry out research in "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to such matters or so far as the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The Rt Hon Alastair Goodlad, MP

In view of the above, I do not consider that involvement by my Department in a commission such as that proposed by Section 40 Section 40 would be either necessary or appropriate.

Michael Portillo

'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 spinning down a long tunnel and falling into an empty chamber," she said.

I saw lots of other people walking out of this chamber and a series of other 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.

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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] story.

4. In the light of the fact that Section 40 [redacted] 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 [redacted] or Section 40 [redacted] 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 Section 40 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
MB8247 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
S/PS/12
19 JAN 1995
FILE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 071-21.....(Direct Dialling)
071-21 89000 (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] of Section 40 [redacted] Norwich 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] 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] 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 Section 40 or alien abduction generally.

Yours ever

LORD HENLEY

Recycled Paper

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 SEP 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec (AS) 2 **PE REF NUMBER:** SS 3660 /96

MINISTER REPLYING: SofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 2 /10/96

DATE: 23 /9/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

From THE RT. HON. ALASTAIR GOODLAD, M.P.

5 of 5
3660/96
Sec (AS) 2
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18 September 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
The Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Michael

I have been contacted by my constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Section 40 about the establishment of a commission to investigate UFOs.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Section 40 in which he outlines his views about the situation and makes suggestions.

I would be most grateful for any comments you may have which I can pass on to my constituent.

Kindest regards.

Yours ever

Alastair Goodlad

BRITISH U.F.O. STUDIES CENTRE

Section 40
WINSFORD
Cheshire
Section 40
Telephon
Minicom

16th September 1996

Dear Mr Goodlad M.P.

I am writing to you as a member of your constituency in Cheshire.

I have been an active member of an Organisation who investigate Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (U.F.Os) for over twenty years, I currently write articles for some of the magazines one can purchase in the shops about UFOs, I am also a leading researcher into the abduction phenomenon, relating to UFOs. Not everyone recognises this research, however it is a valid phenomenon worthy of investigating, and because I am a qualified Registered Nurse, both general and psychiatric trained, I believe this qualifies me to research abductions.

I have been reliably informed that in October this year, a question regarding the establishment of a commission will be put to the House of Commons. I am writing to you in the hope you will endorse this proposal because there has been a significant increase of UFO sightings over Cheshire in the past two years, infact there has been a 20% increase from other years. I believe that the object sighted over Manchester Airport in January 1995 has also been observed over many areas of Cheshire.However I firmly believe that this sighting has an explanation to it, although many of my colleagues disagree with my explanation,. I believe it could have been a prototype of the H.A.L.O. (High Agility Low Observability) aircraft currentlty uinder construction at Warton British Aerospace in Lancashire. the other explanation is it could have been the 'LoFlyte' Waverider experimental aircraft from the U.S.A. All this nonsense about it not being an explainable phenomenon are laughable, after all, where better to test radar invisibility than over a major In ternational airport? The fact it put sixty plus lives at risk...so what! This is what the Military think. How do I know this....well I served fifteen years in the Royal Navy and know exactly what makes Military hierarchy tick!

Returning to more serious matters, how should this commission be formed? Well maybe I can propose some viable members who would make a good in depth working commission.
We need three/four academics, preferably people related to Astronomy and physics, the same number of Politicians (why not yourself?) and why not include a government and opposition defence spokesperson. Then we require people from the Ministry of Defence, preferably Air Staff 2(a) who investigate UFOs. This would include Section 40 who is cirrently in the post and possibly former civil servant in that position Section 40 who has been a credit to this Department in forming relationships with UFO Groups like BUFOSC.He is a friend of mine, we meet regularly on the UFO lecture circuit. Then we require UFO experts who have years of experience in this phenomenon. I would gladly propose myself, I work full time on this subject either writing or investigating cases.I propose myself because of my experience and the fact I have been in the Services and am subject to the Official Secrets Act.

There is a defence threat to this Country,involving Cheshire there are many documented cases known to the MOD and we need to act upon it soon.
I hope you will give serious consideration to the proposals in this letter and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40