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POLICY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 3290
(Revised 5/97)
RPQ = 100

2004

Date opened
4.3.98

Registered file number
D/SEC(AS)64/3

Part No. M

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

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT "UFOs"

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl
						PART N					
							64				

Section 40

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

File Ref: SEC(AS)64/3

Part: M

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed)

RCU000131973

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RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

POLICY

Ministry of Defence, CS (Pr) 2. Tel. 0117 9376256

7000, 569622, 15121, 06932-6

ENC NO	NAME	DATE RECD	DATE REPLIED	CODE REQUEST	ANSWERED WITHIN 20 WORKING DAYS?	OA LETTER?	SOURCE OF CODE REQT	OPS LEAFLET USED?
64	Section 40	14.4.98	12.5.98	NO	NO	NO		

PI : PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL

ENC NO	NAME	DATE RECD	DATE REPLIED	CODE REQUEST	ANSWERED WITHIN 20 WORKING DAYS?	OA LETTER?	SOURCE OF CODE REQT	OPS LEAFLET USED?
43	Section 40	17.3.98	20.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
44		17.3.98	20.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
45		20.4.98	21.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
46		21.4.98	22.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
47		22.4.98	22.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
48		23.3.98	22.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
49		17.4.98	22.4.98	NO	YES	YES		
50		20.4.98	23.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
51		12.3.98	24.4.98	YES	NO	NO	PI	NO
54		17.4.98	30.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
55		7.4.98	30.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
56		15.4.98	1.5.98	NO	YES	NO		
57		30.4.98	1.5.98	NO	YES	NO		
58		30.3.98	1.5.98	NO	NO	NO		
60		5.5.98	7.5.98	YES	YES	YES	PI	NO
61		17.4.98	7.5.98	NO	YES	YES		

2

ENC NO	NAME	DATE RECD	DATE REPLIED	CODE REQUEST	ANSWERED WITHIN 20 WORKING DAYS?	OA LETTER?	SOURCE OF CODE REQT	OPS LEAFLET USED?
26	Section 40 [redacted]	2.3.98	2.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
27		5.3.98	2.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
28		13.3.98	2.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
29		5.3.98	2.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
30		13.3.98	2.4.98	NO	YES	YES		
31		10.3.98	3.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
32		17.3.98	3.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
33		17.3.98	7.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
34		17.3.98	7.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
35		16.3.98	7.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
36		7.4.98	8.4.98	NO	YES	YES		
38		17.3.98	16.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
39		20.3.98	17.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
40		20.3.98	17.4.98	NO	NO	NO		
41		3.4.98	17.4.98	NO	YES	NO		
42		9.3.98	20.4.98	NO	NO	NO		

ENC NO	NAME	DATE RECD	DATE REPLIED	CODE REQUEST	ANSWERED WITHIN 20 WORKING DAYS?	OA LETTER?	SOURCE OF CODE REQT	OPS LEAFLET USED?
1	Section 40 [redacted]	6.2.98	4.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
2		3.2.98	6.3.98	NO	NO	NO		
3		6.3.98	9.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
4		13.2.98	10.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
5		13.2.98	10.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
6		13.2.98	10.3.98	NO	YES	YES		
7		16.2.98	10.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
9		18.2.98	17.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
10		18.2.98	17.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
12		20.2.98	23.3.98	NO	NO	YES		
15		20.3.98	23.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
18		15.1.98	25.3.98	NO	NO	NO		
19		27.2.98	25.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
19|1		5.3.98	25.3.98	NO	YES	NO		
20		2.3.98	26.3.98	NO	YES	YES		
23		5.3.98	27.3.98	NO	YES	NO		

NAME:	DATE OF REPLY:	ENC NO:
Section 40	7 April 1998	35
	8 April 1998	36
	6 April 1998	37
	16 April 1998	38
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	7 May 1998	60
	7 May 1998	61
	12 May 1998	64

NAME:	DATE OF REPLY:	ENC NO:
Section 40		
	4 March 1998	1
	6 March 1998	2
	9 March 1998	3
	10 March 1998	4
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	10 March 1998	6
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	17 March 1998	10
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	23 March 1998	15
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	—	17
	25 March 1998	18
	25 March 1998	19
	26 March 1998	20
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	27 March 1998	23
	27 March 1998	24
	2 April 1998	26
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	3 April 1998	31
	3 April 1998	32
	7 April 1998	33
	7 April 1998	34

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 10/97)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

"UFOs"
Public Correspondence

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): D/SEC(AS)64/3

Part: M

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 12.5.98

Date closed: 12.5.98

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

	✓
Destroy after _____ years	☐
Forward to CS(RM) after _____ years	☐
No recommendation FOR PERMANENT RETENTION IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE	☐

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 _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s): for permanent retention in the PRO

	✓		✓
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☐

PPQ = 100

(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: Section 40

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C1 Date: 6/4/03.
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 4 (SEO)
ROOM 3241
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB

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)

Produced by Ministry of Defence, CS (Pr) 2. Tel. 0117 9376256

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 64

Section 40

Talysarn
Caernarfon
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
12 May 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 7 April in which you asked a number of questions in respect of reports of 'unidentified flying objects'.

2. I will answer your questions as presented:

(1) In accordance with the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 Government files which are deemed worthy of preservation (for historical or public interest reasons) are transferred to the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew thirty years after the last action has been taken on the file. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were routinely destroyed after five years, on the grounds there was no long term interest in this subject. However, public interest has increased in recent years and, in 1967 a decision was taken that the Ministry of Defence's 'UFO' report files should be retained and transferred to the PRO at the thirty year point. A few files from the 50s and early 60s did survive and have been transferred to the PRO. I have consulted our records branch who advise that the MOD holds no papers relating to the 'UFO' phenomenon over thirty years old, ie. papers dating earlier than 1968. The absence of this report at the PRO leads me to conclude that it has regrettably not survived the passage of time.

(2) All surviving contemporary paperwork has been forwarded to the PRO in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967.

(3) The Official Secrets Act reflects Government policy regarding the protection of nationally sensitive information; anyone contravening the Act makes themselves liable to prosecution and, if found guilty, liable to penalty as proscribed by law. This Act of

Parliament applies equally to all UK citizens; members of the public, as well as serving and ex-service personnel. In the hypothetical example you cite in your question former service personnel would be able to discuss any matter which was not "classified" but may be liable under the Official Secrets Act if they revealed information which today remains "classified".

(4) The MOD's policy in respect of reports of 'unidentified flying objects' has not changed. The Department's interest in these matters relates solely to whether a sighting represents an incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

(5&6) As explained in Mr Spellar's letter to Dafydd Wigley MP of 21 January, the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential external military threat. We are confident that our current air defence capabilities fully meet any perceived threat.

(7) The number of reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings made by members of the armed forces is very small in comparison to the overall number of reports the Department receives. Since 1967 all reports received by this Department, from whatever source, are transferred to the PRO at the thirty year point.

(8) On 24 July 1996 the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Hon Nicholas Soames MP, answered a Parliamentary Question from the late Martin Redmond about this alleged incident. I enclose a copy of the Official report for your information.

(9) Depending on the nature of events alleged to have been witnessed, further advice as necessary would be sought from Defence experts within the Department.

(10) Since 1 January 1995 to date the MOD has received:

- one 'UFO' report from a military source.
- 1,470 'UFO' reports from civilian sources.

(11) As explained in para 2 of the letter to Dafydd Wigley MP of 21 January, 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.

3. I am returning your sae as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

HANSARD EXTRACT

Official Report – Written Answers – Column 424 – 24 JULY 1996

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.

Section 40

TALYSARN,
CAERNARFON,
GWYNEDD,
Section 40

Section 40
Sec. (A.S.)2a,
M.O.D.
Whitehall,
LONDON.

Your ref: D/Sec(AS) /64/3

07/04/98.

Dear Section 40

I wrote to Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1a occasionally during the latter half of 1996, my final letter dated 02/02/97.
Having reported a sighting of an unidentified aircraft on the night of May 4th 1996 to the MOD, I received written confirmation from both your department that no military aircraft were responsible for my sighting, and also from Section 40 of NATS that no flight plans were logged for civilian aircraft; also, North Wales Police confirmed their helicopter was not airborne that night, and the civilian airport at Caernarfon was not operational as of 19.00hrs. that day. As I have therefore established that an unidentified aircraft was operational, and was somewhat surprised at the lack of interest shown by the MOD at a possible breach of UK airspace defences, I wrote to my Member of Parliament, Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru) who in turn wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence on both 12/06/97 and again on 02/10/97 expressing my concern.
Following the reply received from John Spellar MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary Of State For Defence ref. D/US of S/JS 5075/97/M and dated 21 January 1998, I have investigated previous reports which are available for public inspection at the PRO at Kew, and would appreciate your guidance on the following, namely:-

1) Re: File No. PREM 11/855.
Why is the Intelligence study, referred to by the Air Ministry as having been carried out in 1951, not available for public inspection at the P.R.O.?

2) Re: File No.'s AIR 20/9321+AIR 20/9320.
Is there a conclusive report available for public inspection identifying the five unknown objects tracked by Defence Establishment radar installations?

3) Re: File No's AIR 20/9994+DEFE 31/118.
Are former services personnel allowed to discuss declassified incidents of this nature, or are they still held to oath under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act?

4) Re: John Spellar's reply to Dafydd Wigley MP in context to 2)&3) above.
What has changed the MOD's stance that no evidence exists to substantiate the breach of UK Air Defence Region by unidentified aircraft, when the above records prove otherwise?

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 APR ....
FILE

5) Can I be reassured that the UK Air Defence Region is adequately covered for the detection of foreign 'stealth' technology, eg. of Russian, Chinese, or Iraqi origin?

6) When, as in my case, a structured unidentifiable aircraft is reported, rather than 'lights in the sky' or 'flying saucers' and no explanation for the origin of said aircraft is forthcoming, is it not the case that an apparent lack of interest/indifference could be an error of judgement in maintaining the integrity of UK airspace?

7) Due to the lack of records of 'sightings' by service personnel available for inspection at the P.R.O. from 1958 onwards, would it be true to say that no observations have been reported from this date by RAF/civilian pilots and radar operators?

8) Are the reports logged with Sec (AS)2a by a patrol of RAF Tornado Aircraft on November 5th 1990, while conducting manoeuvres over the North Sea available for public inspection? The brief mention of this incident by Nick Pope (formerly of your department) in his book, and in numerous magazine articles authored by himself state that the pilots were overtaken at high speed by a large unidentifiable aircraft of some sort.

9) Without your specifying individual departments, do specific categories of unidentified aircraft sightings get passed routinely to an intelligence interpretation agency?

10) How many reports of unidentified aircraft/phenomena have been received by the ministry since 1995 from:-
a) military sources
b) civilian sources

11) Of these reports received, how many remain unidentified?

Thank you very much for the time your department spent on replying to my previous correspondence during 1996/7. To save a little ink from your printer cartridge, I am fully aware of your Departments' policy statement!

Best wishes for a Happy Easter, I also enclose a SAE for your reply.

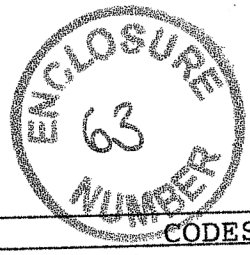
Yours faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

6413



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
11/05/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	AIR INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON	[ ] *

Intended:
Sent: 11/05/98 at 9:04 Delivered: 11/05/98 at 9:06
To: SEC(AS)2A1
CC:
Ref: /GUID:E47F51B3CAE6D111B39C00005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: AIR INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - 1950s

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

UNCLASSIFIED

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Section 40 your memory has not let you down.

Background.
Under the direction of Sir Henry TIZZARD, then Chairman of the Defence Research Committee, the Joint Technical Intelligence Committee was directed to form a Working Party to investigate future reports of ufos.
The JTIC meeting on 15 August 1950 approved the setting up of the Working Party. Subsequent meetings considered the Working Party's "Terms of Reference" culminating in a meeting on 20 March 1951 at which the Flying Saucers Working Party Report was approved and that the recommendation the Working Party be dissolved accepted. The minutes of the JTIC are at the PRO under the following references DEFE 41/74 and 75 (released during 1996) and DEFE 10/496 (released just a month or two ago).

Partial Publication?
At a subsequent meeting, 21 October 1952) the JTIC considered publishing extracts from the Working Party's Report. It may be these extracts were incorporated in an Air Intelligence paper from 1955 AIR 22/93 (released 1986!)
In addition, another piece DEFE 41/153 (released 1995) includes a reference to "DSI/JTIC No 7 "Unidentified Flying Objects".

Your enquirer appears not to have discovered these references.

The Report.
We have not been able to locate a copy in MOD. This is not too surprising as we hold an index of Joint Intelligence Bureau: Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, reports and memoranda issued during the period 1946 - 1992, of the more than 2,000 reports listed around 100 are known to have survived.

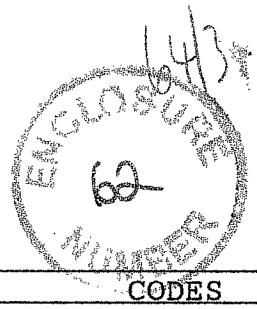
USA Assistance.
One of my reviewers pulled article from the internet, a US government report on "The CIA's Role on the Study of UFOs, 1947-90". As a result of a passing reference to the UK's study in the 1950s I have asked my contact in the States to approach the CIA just in case a copy survives at Langley.

What to say to your enquirer?

"[I have consulted our records branch who advise] the Ministry of Defence holds no papers relating to the UFO phenomenon over 30 years old i.e. papers dating earlier than 1968. The absence of this report at the Public Record Office leads me to conclude that it has regrettably not survived the passage of time."

Hope this is helpful. Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
08/05/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	Section 40 QUERY	[ ]

Sent: 08/05/98 at 11:55
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1777
Subject: Section 40 QUERY

Text: Please see attached.

Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [ ]
Delivery Acknowledge [ ]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Section 40

I have received a letter with a list of questions as long as your arm from a persistent correspondent called Section 40. One of the questions is as follows:

1) RE: File No PREM 11/855 Why is the Intelligence study, referred to by the Air Ministry as having been carried out in 1951, not available for public inspection at the PRO?

In my dim and distant memory I have a feeling you've mentioned this report to me before as not being on file but that you were trying to get a copy from the Americans? Does my memory serve me correctly or am I thinking of something else?

Have you any suggestions for a form of words that I might use along the lines of 'all surviving contemporary papers relating to 'UFOs' have, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, been transferred to the PRO'.

Grateful for a chat.

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 60

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Skipton,
North Yorkshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
7 May 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letters of 28 and 29 April, the latter addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence which has been passed to this office for reply as we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature.

2. You have asked about the recent press articles alleging a 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea. All of the press reports were incorrect and speculative; RAF Fylingdales has not tracked any 'UFOs' on its radar. The RAF Cranwell 'Military Exploitation of Space' Symposium in June is not concerned with alleged 'UFO' sightings.

3. I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 6 MAY 1998
FILE

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS) 2 Ref No 2642 /1998

Date 5-5-98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

S. E. R. I. U. S.

2642

Section 40
S.E.R.I.U.S.,
Section 40
Skipton,
N. Yorkshire,
Section 40

The Rt. Hon G. Robertson, MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
The House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA.

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
- 5 MAY 1998
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

29th April 1998.

Dear Sir,

Could you please tell both myself and my group what you and your colleagues know about the revelations contained in an article published in both the Daily Express and the Daily Mail for Monday the 27th of April, 1998. To clarify my inquiry I have enclosed a photocopy of the article in question. Please do not refer me to our MOD, I have already written to their Secretariat Air Staff 2A and I would hope that being a minister in a government that has promised the people of the United Kingdom a more open and enlightened government, along with a Freedom of Information Act, you will appreciate how irritating it can be to be run through the Rose garden by those not exactly sympathetic to ones cause, or in establishing the truth regarding UFO's and the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence.

I have been in touch with various people about this matter, including other MP's & the commanding officer of HQ USAF Third Air Force, RAF Mildenhall at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. This particular body has been most helpful to us in the past regarding UFO inquiries. From our investigations thus far we have ascertained that the content of the article in question was given to the Daily Express and the Daily Mail by a disgruntled ex employee of the MOD itself, who gave the information to a well known author and researcher on the subject of UFO's. We would gratefully appreciate it if you could find the time to possibly raise this matter in the house at your earliest opportunity and convenience.

If the content of this article can be verified then it is surely time we the people were told the truth regarding these extraterrestrial craft, who appear to be visiting both our solar system and our planet with impunity, while at the same time being engaged in extremely uncivilised activities. I believe you will no doubt be aware of the importance and impact of such a situation. We in the field of UFO research are sick and tired of officials and scientists in the world of academia, arrogantly telling us (the populace), that there are no such intelligence's visiting our world at this moment in time. We are neither gullible nor stupid and they should not insult our intelligence by treating us as such. In anticipation of your kind consideration of this matter, we would like to thank you for giving this letter your most urgent attention.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted] S.E.R.I.U.S.

RAF spots speeding UFOs with new radar

BRITAIN'S X-Files may be opened up amid claims of stunning evidence that UFOs fly over Britain.

Tapes to be shown to British and American experts are said to show objects which change shape in mid-air and a battleship-sized aircraft travelling at 33 times the speed of sound.

The details are due to be revealed in early June at a Space Symposium at the RAF's Cranwell staff college.

A senior RAF source claims the mystery craft have been picked up by the latest Phased Array radar at the Cold War listening post at Fylingdales in North Yorkshire.

One senior officer said: "What we have seen are not secret weapons. They are craft

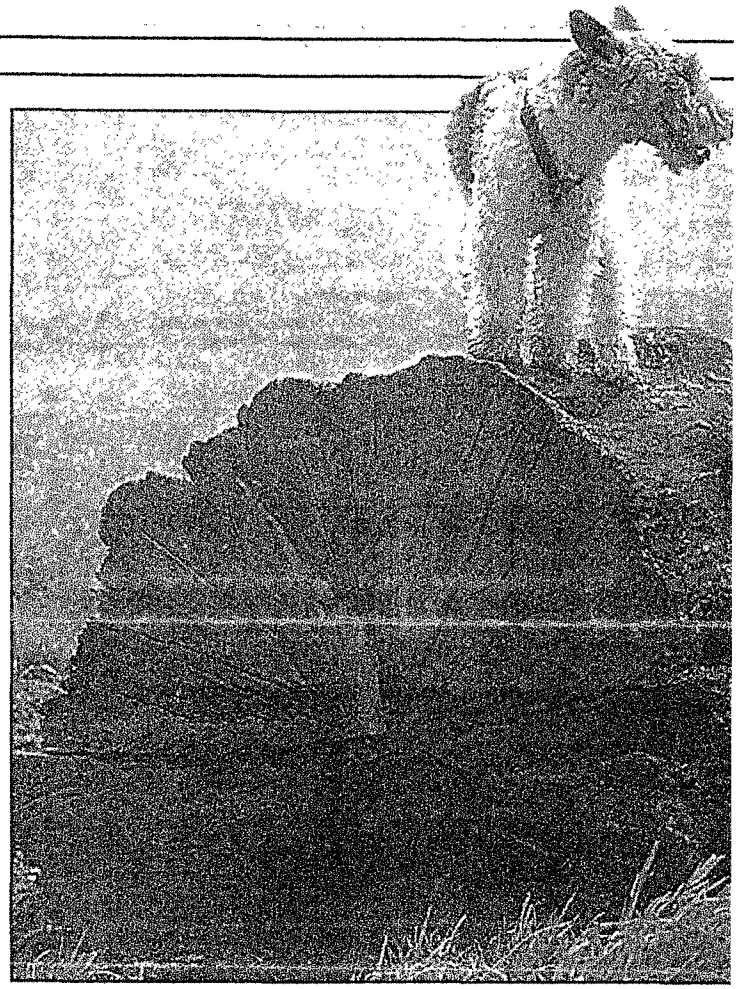
BY JOHN INGHAM

of which we have no technical knowledge. We know their shape, speeds and height but cannot explain what they are."

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Another tape shows a group of 12 oval objects seemingly change shape, to the amazement of observers.

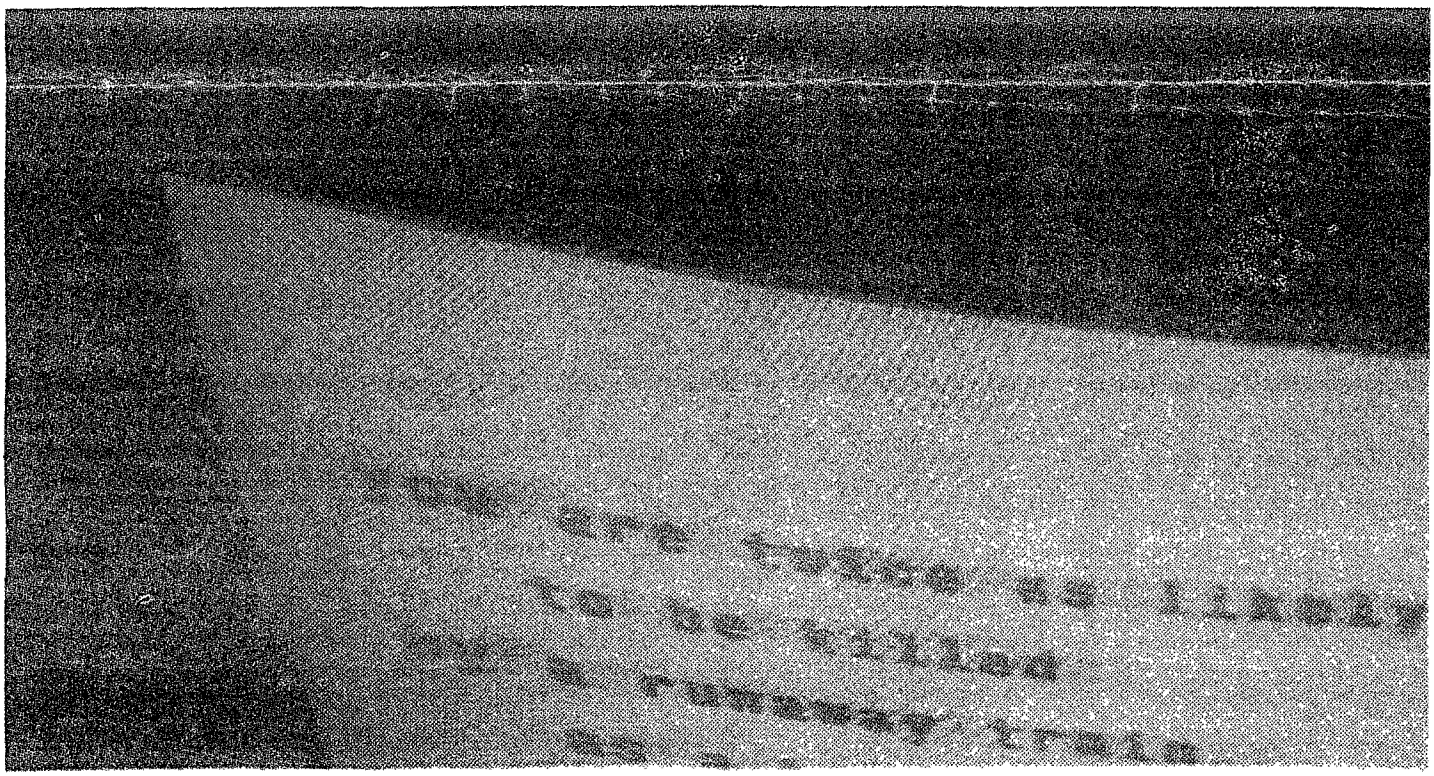
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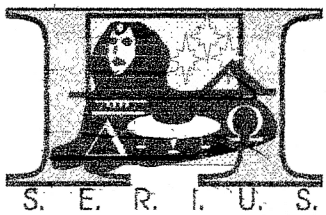


Dog barks up the wrong tree

FREE at last. Pa terrier who mad call that lasted s

During a walk the dog bolted a thunder, diving f into a 10in hole i





Section 40
S.E.R.I.U.S.,
Section 40
Skipton,
N. Yorkshire,
Section 40

The UFO Desk Officer,
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB.

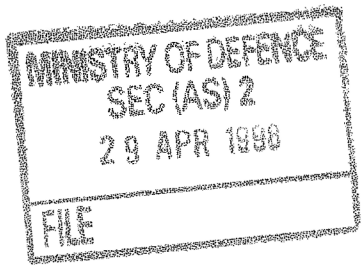
28th April 1998.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with reference to the article which appeared on page 27 of the Daily Express for Monday the 27th of April regarding UFO's that were picked up on the new Phased Array Radar system at RAF Fylingdales. Also that senior members of the Royal Air Force and the American military will be discussing the relevant radar tapes at a symposium to be held at RAF Cranwell in the early June of this year. Please can you confirm that the content of this article is in fact a true record of events thus far. I have enclosed a copy of the article in question to enable clarification of my request. I am writing this letter on behalf of both myself and my research group here in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40
S.E.R.I.U.S.



RAF spots speeding UFOs with new radar

BRITAIN'S X-Files may be opened up amid claims of stunning evidence that UFOs fly over Britain.

Tapes to be shown to British and American experts are said to show objects which change shape in mid-air and a battleship-sized aircraft travelling at 33 times the speed of sound.

The details are due to be revealed in early June at a Space Symposium at the RAF's Cranwell staff college.

A senior RAF source claims the mystery craft have been picked up by the latest Phased Array radar at the Cold War listening post at Fylingdales in North Yorkshire.

One senior officer said: "What we have seen are not secret weapons. They are craft

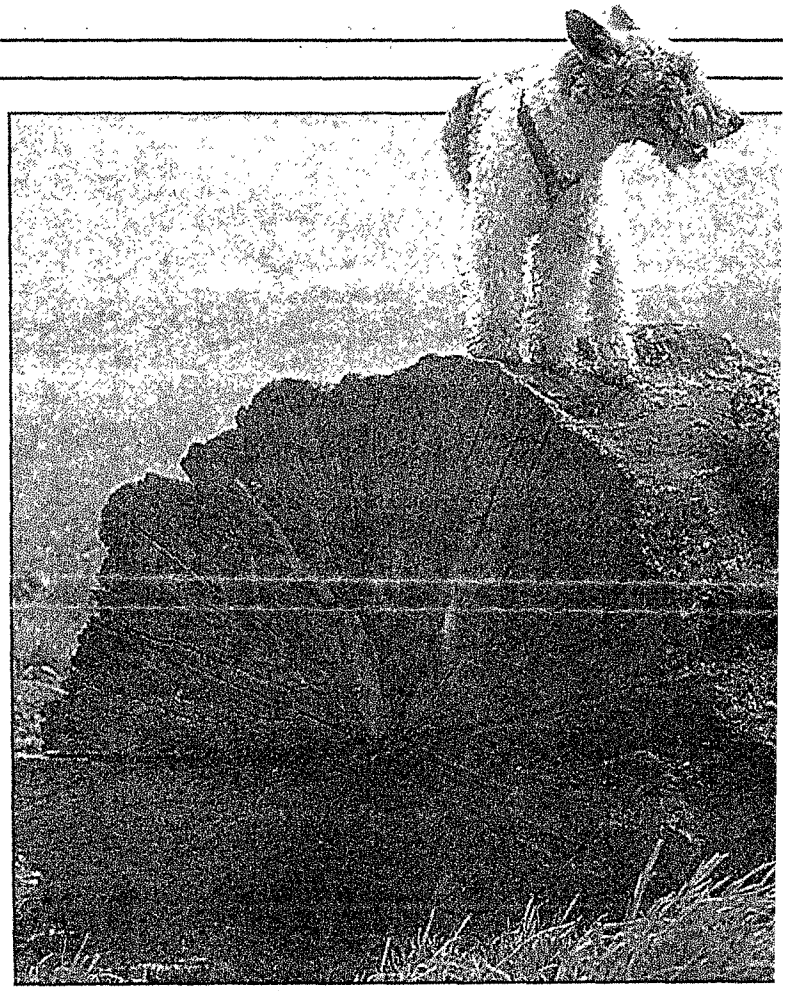
BY JOHN INGHAM

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Another tape shows a group of 12 oval objects seemingly change shape, to the amazement of observers.

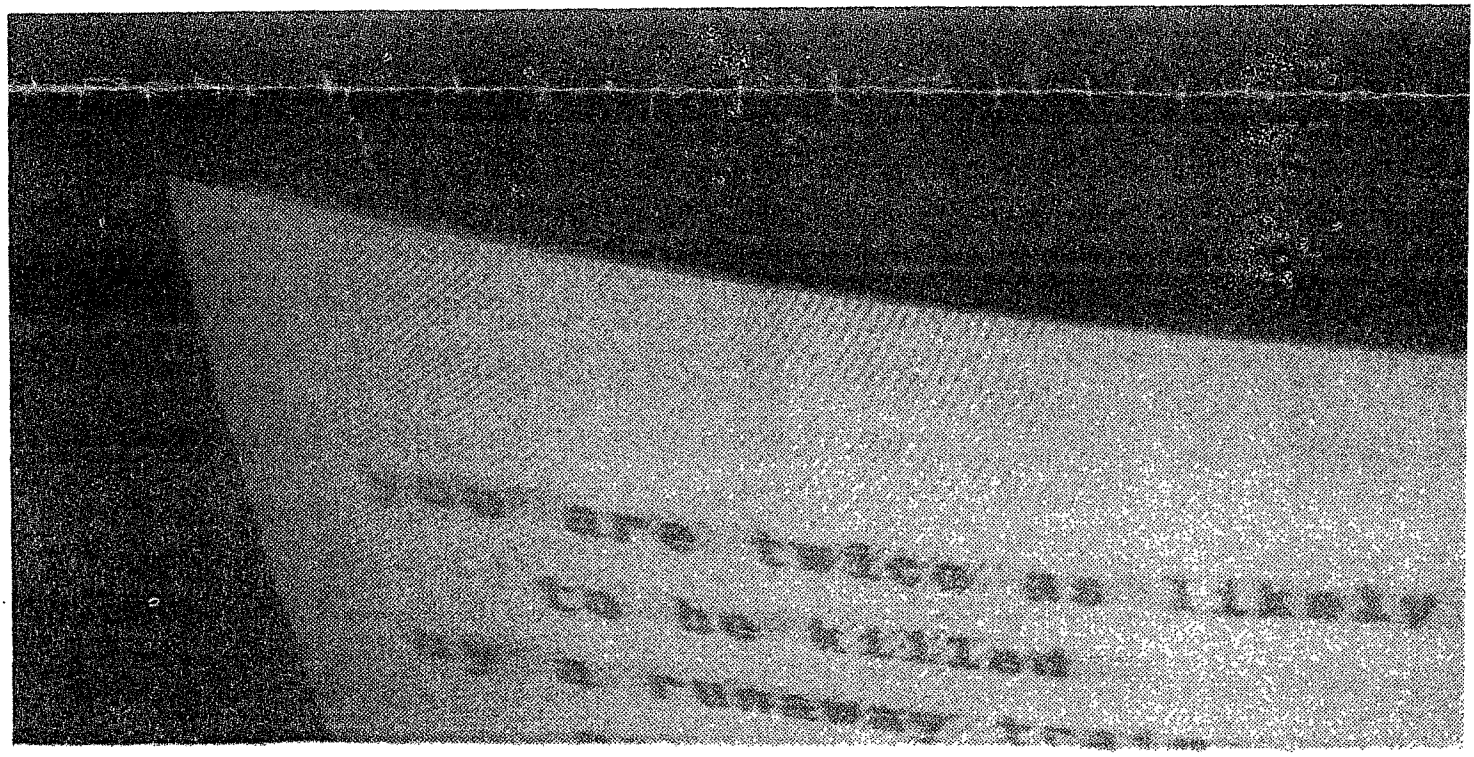
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Dog barks up the wrong tree

FREE at last. Patchi terrier who made a t call that lasted seve

During a walk in t the dog bolted after thunder, diving for c into a 10in hole in a



BNSC
BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

file else.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 59

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a
MoD
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

British National Space Centre
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SS

Tel: Section 40
Fax:

1 May 1998

Letter to DTI Minister regarding UFOs.

As we discussed the other day, Mr Battle has received a letter from a member of the public regarding the Government's policy on investigating UFO sightings. We agreed that I would write back to the individual stating the Government's policy and informing him that the MoD has lead responsibility on this issue.

For completeness, I am enclosing a copy of the original letter from Section 40 and my response to him.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 6 MAY 1998
FILE 64/3

BNSC
BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

Section 40 [redacted]
Holyhead
Anglesey
Section 40 [redacted]

British National Space Centre
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SS

Tel: 0171 215 0971
Fax: 0171 215 0936

1 May 1998

Government Policy on UFOs

Thank you for your letter of 3 April to Mr Battle regarding the government's policy on UFO sightings. I have been asked to reply.

Government policy on UFO reports is to investigate any sighting in order to establish whether the UK Air Defence Region has been penetrated by hostile or unauthorised foreign military forces. Unless the sighting reveals evidence of a potential threat from an external military source - and to date no UFO sighting has revealed such evidence - no attempt is made to determine the precise nature of the sighting. The Government does not feel that investigating each report would generate sufficient benefit to justify the large public resources required.

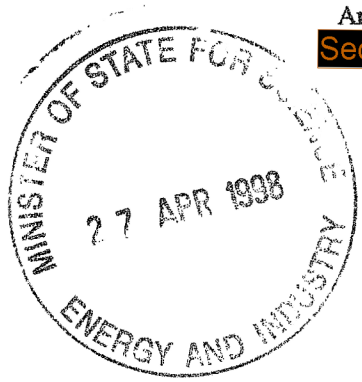
Lead responsibility for Government policy on this issue lies with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and not with Mr Battle - the Minister for Science, Energy and Industry. If you wish to discuss the implications of government policy on UFOs, you should contact the MoD direct at the following address:

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a
Ministry of Defence
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London. SW1A 2HB

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40
[redacted]
Holyhead
Anglesey
Section 40



03 April 1998

Mr John Battle, MP
The Minister of State for Science and Technology
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Battle,

I am a student, and member of the WFIU (Wales Federation of Independent UFOlogists). I am writing to voice my concern over the issue of UFO secrecy in this country, and our government's refusal to acknowledge that highly advanced craft displaying capabilities far beyond the reaches of cutting edge technology, are routinely penetrating the United Kingdom's air space.

The opinion held by myself, and many others, is that these UFOs deserve to be researched thoroughly, and objectively by scientific means, so as to establish the truth behind these extraordinary craft. The government's ignorance of this phenomena is frightening in itself, as UFOs clearly demonstrate the ease with which our airspace can be penetrated by potential threats, yet we are fed with clear displays of this ignorance when the government labels sightings of UFOs over our military and energy establishments as being of "No Defence Significance".

Surely, in light of the recent increase in the volume of cases reported, the government should be a little more concerned, ordering scientific investigation into these sightings, and making the details available to the public.

Many qualified scientists are already researching the phenomena on a freelance basis, but official scientific investigations need to be made, not only to establish whether or not UFOs are a threat to the security of the country, but also perhaps to find an answer to the mystery behind these craft.

I have enclosed some documents pertaining to UFO sightings, which I obtained through America's CIA *Freedom Of Information Act* database. Surely the phenomena highlighted in these documents deserves to be investigated scientifically.

I am very grateful for your kind consideration on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]



Title:	SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
Abstract:	
Pages:	0004
Pub Date:	August 24, 1954
Release Date:	November 16, 1978
Keywords:	UFO SIGHTINGS|UFO
Case Number:	F-1975-03653
Copyright:	0
Release Decision:	RIPPUB
Classification:	U

Pages:
1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

IF image 624x788 pixels

file:///a%7C/SIGHTING/SIGHT1.TIF

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. 00-W-30883

CD NO. --

COUNTRY	Non-Orbit	DATE OF INFORMATION	1954
SUBJECT	Military - Unidentified flying objects		
HOW PUBLISHED	Newspapers	DATE DIST.	25 Aug 1954
WHERE PUBLISHED	As indicated	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE PUBLISHED	7 May-20 Jun 1954		
LANGUAGE	Swedish, Turkish, French, German	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE As indicated

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

ADDITIONAL WITNESSES TO PREVIOUS SIGHTINGS IN SWEDEN -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 18 May 54

Lulea -- A snowstorm on 17 May made it impossible for the Gaellivare police to investigate the celestial objects which were recently seen in various places in northern Norrbotten Province. The police do not think that the objects were meteorological balloons but do not have any theories to account for the sightings. The latest eyewitness account was given by Valdemar Ylinentalo from Kousijaervi, who declared that he saw a silvery football-shaped object coming from the Finnish side of the boundary; it had a fiery tail 70-80 meters long and appeared to descend to earth about half a kilometer from where he was. Jenny Karlsson, another eyewitness, stated that she saw a sphere-shaped object attached to a meter-long rod pass her at a distance of 4-5 meters (sic) and come to earth in the forest, a short distance from her. No traces of this object have been found.

CELESTIAL OBJECT TO BE DUG UP IN DENMARK -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 24 May 54

In the near future, an investigation will be made to determine whether a flying object which landed in a field near Spjellerup about 6 months ago is a meteor, a shell, or some part of a "flying saucer." The object made a hole in the field about 3.5 meters deep and 25 centimeters in diameter and passed through a thick stratum of flint. The owner of the land pushed a long iron rod into the hole and determined that the object at the bottom is metallic. It is said that at the time the object descended to earth, there were quite a number of unidentified flying objects over the area. Excavation of the object will be performed with assistance from the military.

03/20/98 12:21:47

PUBLISHED As indicated NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 7 May-20 Jun 1954

LANGUAGE Swedish, Turkish, French, German

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE As indicated

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE
DATE 6 JAN 98

ARCHIVAL RECORD
PLEASE RETURN TO
CIA/NSA LEGACY ARCHIVES, [redacted]

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

STATE	NAVY	NSA	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	AIR	FBI	

#15

F image 624x788 pixels

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted] (U-N-X059)

SIGHT UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT OVER TAURUS MOUNTAINS OF TURKEY -- Istanbul, Yeni Sabah, 7 May 54

Mersin, 6 May 1954 -- Today, an unidentified aircraft was sighted by residents of the town of Mersin at approximately 1130 hours. The craft, which appeared over the Taurus Mountains, seemed to be about 10 meters in length and was traveling in a straight line. It was visible only for a few minutes and then disappeared.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS SEEN OVER WEST GERMANY -- Douala, L'Eveil du Cameroun, 17 Jun 54

Two unidentified flying objects were reported to have been seen recently for about 10 seconds by a PTT (Postes, Telegraphes, et Telephones, Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Service) engineer and by another person between Frankfurt and Darmstadt, near the Rhein-Main Air Base. The objects were described as glowing disks, which descended almost vertically to a certain (unspecified) distance above the earth at high speed and then rose rapidly, describing a parabola. US radar did not pick up the objects.

New York, N. Y. Staats-Zeitung und Herold, 20 Jun 54

Employees of various air lines at the Duesseldorf airport recently observed a shiny, round object which approached from the south at high speed, then turned toward the west, and disappeared above the 6,000-meter overcast. An employee of the Condor aerial-advertising firm, who happened to be watching a skywriter of his firm at the time, called the object a "flying saucer" and stated that it could not possibly have been an airplane, balloon, or aerial measuring device. Several other airport employees confirmed his observation.

- E N D -

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

[redacted] 25 AUG 1954

[redacted]

03/20/98 12:25:11

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UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS SEEN OVER WEST GERMANY -- Douala, L'Eveil du Cameroun, 17 Jun 54

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- E N D -

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

[redacted] 25 AUG 1954

[redacted]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

ARCHIVAL RECORD
PLEASE RETURN TO
AGENCY ARCHIVES
[redacted]

05/26/98 12:26:56

Title:	UFO SIGHTED OVER URUMQI EVENING OF 6 SEP
Abstract:	
Pages:	0001
Pub Date:	September 12, 1989
Release Date:	May 31, 1994
Keywords:	UFO|SIGHTED|6 SEP|SAUCER|URUMQI
Case Number:	F-1990-01096
Copyright:	0
Release Decision:	RIPPUB
Classification:	U

Pages:
1

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0029

INQUIRE=DOC9D
ITEM NO=00032533
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CDSN = LGX732 MCN = 89256/15667 TOR = 892560940
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R 130818Z SEP 89
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE
R 130748Z SEP 89
FM FBIS OKINAWA JA
TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA
RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR//BJ-IP-PE//
RUCLACC/CDRUTHPSYOPCP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUDKMKB/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//
RUDMNOP/NAVOPINTCEN SUITLAND MD
RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGNCY WASH DC
RUETIAV/NPC FT GEO G MEADE MD
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RUHQIPA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
RUNJHK/FBIS HONG KONG
ACCT FBOW-EWDK
BT
CONTROLS
UNCLAS 1T

SERIAL: OW1309074889

BODY
COUNTRY: PRC
SUBJ: UFO SIGHTED OVER URUMQI EVENING OF 6 SEP

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0619 GMT 13 SEP 89
TEXT:

((TEXT)) URUMQI, SEPTEMBER 13 (XINHUA) -- AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) WAS SIGHTED OVER URUMQI, CAPITAL OF THE XINJIANG UYGUR AUTONOMOUS REGION, AT 11:13 PM ON SEPTEMBER 6.

THAT NIGHT TONG YUWEI, A WORKER IN THE CITY SAW A DARK CLOUD SUDDENLY LIGHT UP. FOLLOWING A GOLDEN FLASH, A SAUCER SHAPED OBJECT WITH A BLACK CAP ON ITS EDGE APPEARED. AFTER HOVERING IN THE SKY FOR A MINUTE, THE UFO, BATHED IN RED AND YELLOW LIGHT, ROTATING AT HIGH SPEED, DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT TOWARD THE SOUTHWEST.

DURING THE TIME OF THE OBJECT'S APPEARANCE, OBSERVERS REPORTED HEARING SOUNDS LOUDER THAN A CAR ENGINE.

ADMIN
(ENDALL) 130619[redacted]141309.002 DISK YK 13/07502 SEP
BT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

Approved for Release
JUN 1994

3

Title:	POLICE OFFICERS SPOT UFO; RAPID REACTION FORCE ALERTED
Abstract:	
Pages:	0002
Pub Date:	June 25, 1996
Release Date:	March 25, 1997
Keywords:	UFO|LITHUANIA|LITHUANIAN BORDER
Case Number:	F-1997-00403
Copyright:	0
Release Decision:	RIFPUB
Classification:	U

Pages:
1 | 2 |

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE:0001

INQUIRE-DOC95U
ITEM NO-00259326
DTG 2611072 JUN 96
FROM FM FBIS LONDON UK
TO TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
RHEHAAA/DOE WASH DC//NN-30//
RHFTAAA/USAIS RAMSTEIN AB GE//INO4//
RHFTAAA/OSIA EUROPE RHEIN MAIN AB GE
RHHJJAA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA//CIIC//
RUCOXAQ/FITRON ONE ZERO ONE//320//
RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA//MIL//
RUDASMA/STOCKHOLM SWC
RUDKEN/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
RUDKTA/AMEMBASSY TALLINN
RUDKVN/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
RUDMONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUEALGX/DEFINCAGNCY WASH DC
RUEDADI/AFOSI IOC BOLLING AFB DC
RUFHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/CRE//
RUHHEH/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
RUHMMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUHNRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA
RUEOAYA/CDR NCIC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
RUERSFA/CDR2DAD FT HOOD TX//G3 ACE//
RUESFV/FBIS VIENNA AU
RUESFW/FBIS WARSAW PL
RUESMF/FBIS MOSCOW RS
RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD
RUFINEU/CDR USASETAF VICENZA IT//AESE-CMO//
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RUFOSEA/US SURVEY SEC SHAPE BE
RUHBABA/CG III MEF//G-2//
RUWSMKI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//
RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//J2-C/J2 3//
RUWTNOK/HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//POLAD//
RXDBHW/CINCNORTHWEST UAJ
RXFNDA/COMNORTH//JOINTINT//
RXFPSH/SHAPE BE//P2O//
CONTROLS
UNCLAS SV/LITH CISNIL

UNCLASSIFIED

Approved for Release
Date [illegible]

1

GIF image 636x825 pixels

WARNING: ACTN WSPOPD

SERIAL: IJ260615C796

BODY
COUNTRY: LITHUANIA
SUBJ: POLICE OFFICERS SPOT UFO, RAPID REACTION FORCE ALERTED

SOURCE: MOSCOW ITAR-TASS WORLD SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 0926 GMT 26 JUN 96

TEXT:

BY VLADAS BURBULIS

[BIS TRANSLATED TEXT VILNIUS, 26 JUN -- AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO), SPOTTED NEAR THE LITHUANIAN BORDER ON 25 JUNE BY TWO DUTY MOTOR POLICE PATROL OFFICERS JANIUS POZERA AND LAIMIS KRAILIALIS PLACED THE WHOLE VILNIUS POLICE ON THE ALERT. VEHICLE LOADS OF SOLDIERS FROM THE ARAS RAPID REACTION FORCE, SNIFFER DOGS AND POLICE REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE OF THE EMERGENCY.

ACCORDING TO THE EYEWITNESS'S ACCOUNTS, AT ABOUT 0030 IN THE EARLY MORNING, ON THE VILNIUS-MEDININKAI ROAD, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF NEMEZIS, 10 KM FROM THE CAPITAL, AT AN ALTITUDE OF 20-30 METERS ABOVE THE GROUND, THEY NOTICED A SPHERICAL OBJECT HANGING AND "PULSING," ALTERNATELY SHRINKING AND EXPANDING. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY HEARD WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS "A STRANGE SOUND LIKE AN ELECTRIC OR ELECTRONIC CRACKLE." WANTING TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE UFO, THE POLICEMEN MOVED TOWARD IT. WHEN THEY HAD ADVANCED ABOUT 50 METERS THROUGH THE LONG GRASS, THE POLICE SAID, THE SPHERE MOVED AWAY, ROSE HIGHER AND RAPIDLY DEPARTED IN THE DIRECTION OF VILNIUS.

THE POLICEMEN WATCHED THE UFO FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE SCENE OF THE "EMERGENCY", MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, SERVICEMEN FROM THE SPECIAL FORCES AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE CAPITAL'S POLICE CAREFULLY STUDIED THE AREA, MEASURED THE BACKGROUND RADIATION AND TAPE-RECORDED THE STRANGE SOUND, WHICH WAS STILL HEARD IN THE AREA AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE UFO. THE SNIFFER DOGS DID NOT DISCOVER ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS AND BEHAVED QUIETLY, BUT IT WAS NOTED THAT THE TALL GRASS AROUND THE PLACE OVER WHICH THE SPHERE HAD "HUNG" WAS FLATTENED TO A RADIUS OF 10 METERS.

LITHUANIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED AN OPINION ON THE APPEARANCE OF THIS UFO NEAR VILNIUS. POLICE COMMISSIONER VALENTINAS CUCHNEVICIUS SAID IN A RADIO INTERVIEW TODAY THAT BOTH OFFICERS WHO WATCHED THE SHINING OBJECT "ARE PSYCHOLOGICALLY HEALTHY, NORMAL PEOPLE, NOT NOTED FOR CRANKINESS."

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From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 58

Section 40
Osmondthorpe,
Leeds.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
1 May 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your recent letters and message left on the Secretariat (Air Staff) answerphone regarding a sighting of an "unidentified flying object" seen near Grangemouth on 2 February. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have made enquiries and have found that there were no military aircraft booked into the low flying training system for 2 February near Grangemouth at around the time specified in your message. I have also looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 2 February from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

5. Finally, you asked about the recent press articles alleging a 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea. All of the press reports were incorrect and speculative; RAF Fylingdales has not tracked any 'UFOs' on its radar. The RAF Cranwell 'Military Exploitation of Space' Symposium in June is not concerned with alleged 'UFO' sightings.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UFO AWARENESS GROUP

Section 40 [redacted]
INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTOR
Section 40 [redacted]
OSMONDTHORPE
LEEDS.LS9 0HN

Telephone Section 40

Dear Section 40

I am writing to you for information about a sighting of a unidentified flying object that was seen in Scotland at the begining of this year. The information I got was of a object that was seen near a BP OIL REFINERY in Grangemouth, this object was in this area for a few minuets before three jets came in to the area, once these jets were in the area the object took off at such a speed that it left the three jets in a matter of seconds and they could noy keep up with it.
I would like to ask if you have had any sightings of this nature, and too point out a few things I have found out:
1. I have been told that this area is in controlled airspace and only special authorization can be given for overflights of this highly explosive complex, if this is the case who give the three jets permission to chase this object.

2. There was also a similar object photograped in 1991 over this same area and doing the same thing.

Any information or answers you can give me on this sighting would be most helpfull.

Yours sincerely
Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
30 MAR 98
FILE

UFO ANSWERPHONE MESSAGE FROM

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] Osmondthorpe, Leeds, Section 40 telephoned to say that his group (?) had received a report from Grangemouth in Scotland in the early hours (between 3:30 and 4am) of 2 Feb 98. The area is quite close to a BP chemical refinery and the object was seen flying very close to the refinery. The witness at first thought it was some kind of big aeroplane or helicopter as there was a light beam coming down from the craft so at first he didn't take much notice of it until three jets came on the scene and tried to intercept the object which took off at such a speed it left the jets standing. The witness then knew it wasn't an ordinary aeroplane or helicopter. Some other members of the group have looked into this sighting and have found that the chemical refinery is in controlled airspace because its a highly explosive complex so somebody gave the the jets permission to enter the airspace. Some other strangely marked jets and a black helicopter were in the area but this cannot be confirmed as Mr Ellis doesn't know anything about it. Section 40 [redacted] who works in Scotland for SPI has looked into the sighting and has spoken to RAF Leuchars. Section 40 was wondering if anything else had been reported on 2 Feb 98. He would also like a statement on the Daily Mail article of 27 April entitled "24,000mph UFO Buzzes Britain" (a copy of which is held on 64/5 enc 62).

ACTION: Section 40 has sent a letter to us which we received on 30 March and the reply sent to him as a result of that letter has incorporated our response to this phone call. Copy held on 64/3 part M enc **??**.

29/04/98

UFO AWARENESS GROUP

[redacted] Section 40
INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTOR
[redacted] Section 40
OSMONDTHORPE
LEEDS [redacted] Section 40

Telephone Section 40

Dear Sir,

I am sending this letter after reading a story in my local paper that reports that the MOD are looking at Radar records from your listening post on Fylingdales moor, which are said to show a craft moving at speeds of 17.000 mph, it also reports that these records are to be shown to science and millitary top brass at a conference at the RAF's Cranwell staff collage. I would just like what comments you have on this report and if the report is accurate to the events that took place.

I also send a copy of the news article so you can read what was put, a response to my letter would be greatly appreciated as I would not like to put wrong info in our newsletter.

Many thanks Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
30 APR 1998
FILE

24,000 mph UFO buzzes Yorkshire

BY PAUL ROBINSON

A MASSIVE UFO travelling at 33 times the speed of sound has been spotted by the Ministry of Defence in North Yorkshire.

The craft, said to be the size of a battleship, was picked up flying in a zig-zag pattern at 17,000mph over the North Sea. It then accelerated to 24,000mph and sped off towards the Atlantic.

The Dutch air force also spotted the object but two F-16 fighters scrambled to intercept it were unable to keep up.

Tapes

The UFO was tracked by the latest Phased Array radar equipment at the Cold War listening post on Fylingdales moor.

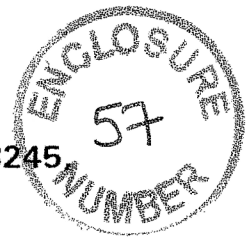
Radar records of the craft are set to be shown to science and military top brass at a conference at the RAF's Cranwell staff college, in Lincolnshire, in June.

And a second series of tapes, said to show 12 UFOs changing shape in mid-flight, may also be released, according to RAF insiders.

Mark Birdsall, who runs Otley-based *UFO Magazine*, said: "I am absolutely amazed. If these reports are accurate then I would be very interested indeed in seeing the tapes."

Some UFO watchers believe the object may have been an experimental military aircraft while others believe the sighting may be a result of a freak weather effect.

The tapes are thought to have been made within the last two years.



From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Maidenhead,
Berkshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
1 May 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 28 April addressed to RAF Fylingdales. Your letter has been passed to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "unidentified flying objects".

2. You have asked about the recent press articles alleging a 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea. All of the press reports were incorrect and speculative; RAF Fylingdales has not tracked any 'UFOs' on its radar. The RAF Cranwell 'Military Exploitation of Space' Symposium in June is not concerned with alleged 'UFO' sightings.

3. I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MOD Establishment.
RAF Fylingdales,
North Yorkshire.

28th April 1998

Dear Sirs,

Ref: Daily Mail dated 27/4/98 page 17.

Was this a recent tracking of a UFO?

As a Spiritualist, I know space-ships are used by Spiritual Beings to travel around the globe & to planets. Some transport, others research the problems of this planet, caused by ignorant scientists & humankind & such which is destroying the environments. Others are stabilising the electro-magnetic fields, the vortexes, the balances of the Universe, because mankind are abusing space & earth itself.

Some of us who see The Holy Spirit Masters would like you to understand the Spiritual Viewpoint of life, from whence we came & where we return after death.

You should reveal your encounters quickly. Time for Planet Earth is dangerous & some of us are trying to bring sense to people involved in Service life, NASA & space endeavours.

There is too much junk produced by humans, space-ships are not junk so do not shoot at them with any weapon.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

MAIDENHEAD
BERKS

Section 40

We have written to Section 40 before + explained the moon's position of the subject of reports of "UFO's".

ROYAL AIR FORCE
FYLINGDALES
29 APR 1998
REGISTRY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
30 APR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

ENCLOSURE 56 NUMBER

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
East Acton,
London,
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
1 May 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 13 April regarding an incident which is alleged to have occurred in Llandrillo in January 1974.

2. As my colleague stated in her letter to you of 3 April, the files have been checked and the MOD has no record of any 'UFO' sightings or military aircraft crashes having occurred on 23 January 1974 in the Llandrillo area. If you believe the Fire Service, police or any other organisation have records of this alleged incident then you may wish to contact them directly.

3. I am sorry that I cannot be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

E. Flegg
London
13/4/98

Sir/Madam

Thank you for your reply. I would like to say that my reason for requesting any information on the Lockerbie incident is that people like the police, the fire service and MI5 agents appear to have been called in. That being so (?) reports would have been made by one, if not all three.

On top of that, the Scotsman newspaper recorded the Edinburgh Weather Forecast unit. They actually recorded it at 7.30pm. Also it was reported that the explosion occurred before the crash.

If these reports are available to the general public, please let me know.

Once again I thank your Department for all your help.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
15 APR 1998
FILE

ENCLOSURE 55 NUMBER

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Brighouse
West Yorkshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
30 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 4 April in which you sought details of the five 'unidentified flying object' reports received by the Ministry of Defence for 23 January 1974.

2. A brief description of the details contained in the five reports received are as follows:

Location: Chigwell Row

Time: 2200 hours
Description: Size of the Moon, Green in colour with a long tail.

Travelling from East to West

Location: Millhill

Time: 2200 hours
Description: White vertical track in sky - green flash occurred before it disappeared behind the horizon.

Observed in a North-Westerly direction.

Location: Willesden

Time: 2145-2200 hours
Description: Cone-shaped, seemed to send off sparks - yellow in colour.

The observer was looking towards Kilburn (from Willesden). Appeared to be falling to the earth.

Location: Greenford, Middlesex

Time: 2145-2200 hours
Description: Large whiteish-green light.

The observer was sitting indoors looking out through a window facing north. Appeared to be falling to the earth - looked like a firework.

Location: Islington

Time: 2120 hours
Description: Triangular shaped object with three bright lights - white - no sound - appeared larger than an aircraft.

Object at first appeared to be stationary, but it then appeared to turn south at an angle of about 45° and gathered speed.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Brighouse
West Yorkshire

Section 40

4/4/98

Your ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for both your letters concerning my request for information about possible UFO sightings on 23 January 1974 from the Bala region of North Wales.

I note that your second letter indicates you have located five reports from the date in question although none of them are from the area in question.

However, as the case I am working on is most probably misperceptions of meteors, which were seen as 'UFOs' and would have been visible all over the country, particularly in the north and north west of England, I would be very grateful for *any* details of the sightings you mention.

I look forward to hearing from you in respect of this. Thanks for your time and assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

NOTE DIFFERENT ADDRESS.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 7 APR 1998
FILE 64/3

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 54

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Hull.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
30 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter regarding missing trawlers.

2. As stated in my last letter dated 2 April, I am afraid I am unable to assist you with your questions regarding missing trawlers as this is simply not a matter for this office.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Hull

Section 40

Dear, Section 40 I am wrighting to you about the trawler mystery again. You said" in my last letter"(The M/o/D Can't answer any of your Questions) but they was a Christmas Card from the M/o/D) writen to a (Section 40) Dated 1965 Sent to the MO Coal wers this Chritmas Card in anyway to do with the trawler insident which happened in 1974 a Coldwar Spying project and was it ran by you. The man who it was from is called Section 40 but why is the Christmas card date 1965 by the M/o/D) was the card conected with the trawler insident in 1974. Thankyou for reading my letter!

yours

Section 40

P.S / Please wright back!

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 APR 1998
FILE

ENCLOSURE 53

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Kelty,
Fife.

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
29 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I am writing with reference to your recent report of an unexplained aerial sighting which you observed on 10 April 1998 from your back garden. The details of your report have been passed from RAF Leuchars to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "unidentified flying objects."

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 10 April from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on
64/2 pt 9
enc. 94/2

Enclosure 52 on
64/3/10 PEA E 1/3

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 50

Section 40
Enniskillen,
Co Fermanagh.
Section 40
NORTHERN IRELAND

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your postcard in which you have described an unexplained aerial sighting observed on 10 April from your back garden. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "unidentified flying objects" and I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 10 April from anywhere Northern Ireland, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

To Ministry of Defence
Dept of UFO's
London

Section 40

ENNISKILLEN
Co FERMANAGH
N.I

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
20 APR 1990
FILE

Dear Sir,

10 April

On Good Friday Evening at 11.50 while out in my Back garden looking for the Space Station which is supposed to be visible at the moment I spotted a gigantic triangular shaped object moving over our town. It was so large and noiseless and definitely like nothing I have ever seen before I dont know who to tell about it as they would never believe me around here

Yours faithfully

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 49

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Wishaw,
N Lanarkshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
22 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister regarding "unidentified flying objects". Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS) 2

Ref No 2292 /1998

Date 17/4/98

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days.**

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

C - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
20 APR 1998
FILE

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT Section 40

2292

2. UFOs

NO PRIME MINISTER

FOREIGN OFFICE

Section 40

Whilst unfortunately we are unable to offer advice, your letter has been forwarded to the appropriate Government Department for a full reply.

Section 40

Dear Mr Blair,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I have a deep interest in the paranormal and have collected different views on UFO's from people such as J Edgar Hoover, Ronald Regan and Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell and would like to know your view on UFO's and unexplained [illegible].

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
17 APR 1998
ROOM G134 MAIN BLDG

yours faithfully

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 48

Section 40

Salisbury
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
22 April 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. I refer to your letter of 20 March. The content of your letter has been noted and placed on a relevant Departmental file.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

0 March 1998

My ref: MR-MOD2.

Your ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Decision to send a simple acknowledgement only

Section 40
Salisbury.
Wilts.

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
Ministry of Defence
Main Building.
Whitehall.
London. SW1A 2HB.

Section 40

Cd/Sec(AS)2 22/Apr/98.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 17 March 98, and the contents therein.

I am most surprised that your department were asked to reply to my letter, as the contents warranted at least the attention of the DSTI or DI55 depts. As I said in my letter dated 15 Feb 1998 ref: MR-MOD1, that I believed the object to be an Asteroid that had come into a low orbit, and that it had passed over a satellite that I was observing at the time.

Having given the approximate size, and advising of the " Dull grey " colour, also the approximate height, I would have thought it called for a more senior department (as mentioned above) to have looked into this.

In saying this, I infer no discredit to you or your department, it would seem that the personnel in the Defence Secretaries office did not pay much attention to the contents of my letter, and passed it to you to reply to me, with the most common reply from the MOD.

Would you be so kind as to pass on this letter, with the first one, to the above mentioned departments. Should this object in part or whole, impact on Earth, at least I have done my duty by reporting it to RUFORA, CIA History Sect Washington, and UK MOD.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
23 MAR 1998
FILE 643

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 Researcher.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 47

Section 40
Dover
Kent
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
22 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter in which you asked whether the Ministry of Defence holds any information on a alleged 'unidentified flying object' sighting in the early 1950s.

2. As is the case with other government files, 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. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and these are available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

3. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(TEL) Section 40
(FAX)
24HOUR

UNISPEC

UFOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

Section 40
Dover
Kent
Section 40

Section 40
Secretariat (AS)2a
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Have you any information of an incident to which 70-80 members of the crew of HMS Birmingham sighted an unidentified flying object at Hong Kong in 1953-4.

I received information from Section 40 an employee of the MOD, dated the 22 September 1977,with your reference number SN 741/77.

If you have anymore information on this incident, please do not hesitate to contact myself on the above address.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS) 2c
22 APR 1998
FILE 64/3

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 46

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
BIRMINGHAM
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
22 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I refer to your letter of 17 April.

2. You should by now have received my letter of 20 April in response to your earlier letter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence,
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A,
Room 8245,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB

Section 40
BIRMINGHAM,
Section 40

17th April, 1998

Dear Sirs,

We recently wrote to you in relation to a request for information as to the whereabouts of some UFO photographs you seized from ex-Chief Inspector [redacted] in the Aldridge area, some years ago.

Section 40

Would you mind just confirming that you did receive our last letter, in which case we are hopeful of a reply?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
21 APR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 45

Section 40
Hartlepool
Cleveland
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
21 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 17 April addressed to the Chief of Staff, the content of which has been noted.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

APRIL 17, 1998.

Section 40
[redacted]
HARTLEPOOL,
CLEVELAND,
Section 40
[redacted].

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
20 APR 1998
FILE

DEAR CHIEF OF STAFF,

DATE : SEPTEMBER 24, 1997.
TIME : LUNCHTIME.
PLACE : MOD MAIN BUILDING, WHITEHALL, LONDON.

LOG BOOK - RECEPTION (FROM MEMORY)

	PASS NO	SIGNATURE	NAME	DATE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7			Section 40 [redacted]	

I DECIDED TO VISIT THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE MOD BUILDING IN ORDER TO DISCUSS AND MAKE A STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRIPLE 1) BIBLE, 2) EGYPTOLOGY (PYRAMIDOLOGY), 3) NOSTRADAMUS CODES I HAVE CRACKED (IN PARTS) AND PLANTED IN MY SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL 2100 ROBOTROCK - CLASSIFIED ABOVE TOP PRIORITY, WHICH HAS TAKEN ME APPROXIMATELY 2½ YEARS,

3,000 HOURS (WHICH INCLUDES EXTENSIVE RESEARCH WORK) COMPLETED DURING FEBRUARY 1997.

AS I DO NOT HAVE A PASS NUMBER, I CROSSED MY NAME OFF THE LOG BOOK THEN I APPROACHED A TALL STOCKY NEGRO SECURITY OFFICER (WHO WORE BLUE UNIFORM). I TOLD HIM I WISHED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THE CODE ASPECTS OF MY BOOK .... I WAS SHOWN TO THE SECURITY COUNTER WHERE I DISPLAYED A COPY OF CODE PRIMARY OF CH-11, ALIEN ARTIFACTS OF THE SCARABS PLUS ONE CODE ENCODE, INTERLINKING THE PRINCESS DIANA, DODI AL FAYED INCIDENT OF 31 AUGUST 1997.

THE GENTLEMAN BEHIND THE COUNTER, DESCRIPTION; LATE THIRTIES EARLY FORTIES, THINNING LIGHT SHORT CUT BROWNISH HAIR, WORE LIGHT SUIT, LIGHT SHIRT, BLUE TIE (WITH TINY INSIGNIA) PROCEEDED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL..... MEANTIME THE NEGRO SECURITY OFFICER (STANDING NEXT TO THE PHONE CALLER BEHIND THE COUNTER) HAD A CURIOUS LOOK AT THE CODE COPY.

A MOMENT PASSED WHEN A YOUNG LADY MOD OFFICIAL COME TO SEE ME ABOUT WHATEVER I HAD TO SAY. I'M AFRAID I WAS NOT GIVEN EITHER RESPECT NOR PROPER TIME TO EXPLAIN THE COMPLEX SCENARIO OF CODE CH-11, ALIEN ARTIFACTS OF THE SCARABS, (TO INCLUDE THE ENCODES). NOR WAS THERE A TABLE ANYWHERE FOR ME TO LAYOUT MY DOCUMENTS AND DRAUGHTS. THE SITUATION BECAME FRUITLESS SO I DECIDED TO RE-PACK MY BRIEFCASE. HOWEVER, BEFORE I LEFT I STATED A DEPARTING WARNING, "BEWARE OF SADDAM

HUSSEIN, HE IS ON THE WARPATH .... ZERO MINUS 21.2 AND COUNTING." REMEMBER, THIS WAS SAID ON THE SEPTEMBER 24, 1997. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER THE MEDIA REPORTED THAT THE IRAQi REGIME WERE BLOCKING ACCESS TO THE UN WEAPONS INSPECTION TEAM ..... BEFORE FEBRUARY 1998 WHEN BOTH SIDES RESOLVED TO A SOLUTION.

BEFORE I LEFT THE MOD BUILDING, THE LADY REQUESTED THAT I SEND IN A REPORT, SO I HAVE DECIDED TO SEND IN THIS PRELIMARY ALONG WITH FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE MOD TO DOUBLE CHECK.

THE KENNEDY ENCODE.

DATE : DECEMBER 22, 1997.
TIME : 1-40 PM.
PLACE : CENTURY RADIO, TEL NO-0191- 4772000, PRESENTER ROGER KENNEDY.

I WAS ALLOWED TO GO LIVE ON AIR FOR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MINUTES TO DISCUSS THE TRIPLE SCENARIO REGARDING THE KENNEDY CURSE.

1) THE BIBLE CODE OLD TESTAMENT

1 GENESIS
2 EXODUS
3 LEVITICUS
4 NUMBERS
5 DEUTERONOMY
6 JOSHUA

7 JUDGES
8 RUTH
9 1 SAMUEL
10 2 SAMUEL
11 1 KINGS
12 2 KINGS
13 1 CHRONICLES
14 2 CHRONICLES
15 EZRA
16 NEHEMIAH
17 ESTHER
18 JOB
19 PSALMS

PSALMS 19:63 - LINE 10.

THEY SALL BE GIVEN OVER TO THE POWER OF THE SWORD, THEY SHALL BE PREY FOR JACKALS.

PSALMS 19:63

1963 NOVEMBER 22.

JACK - AL - S

JFK WAS KNOWN AS JACK TO HIS FRIENDS

FITZGERALD

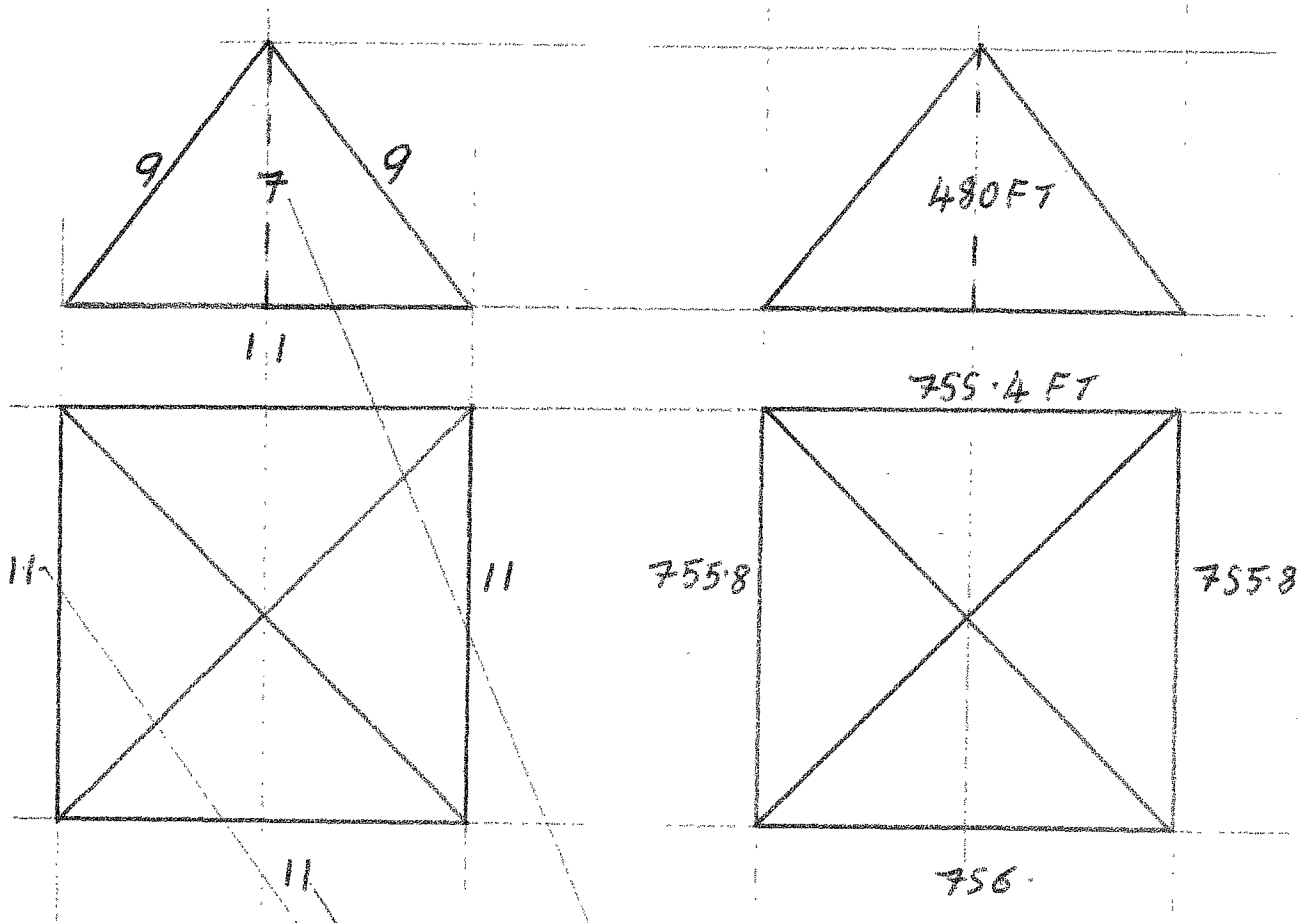
KENNEDY(S)

DOES THIS REFER TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY? DOES THE WORD JACKALS REFER TO ASSASSIN OR OTHER ENCODED MEANING?

2) THE EGYPTOLOGY - PYRAMIDOLOGY CODE

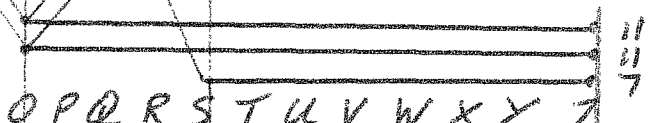
DRAWN TO SCALE

THE GIZA PYRAMID



THE HEIGHT OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA TO THE BASE RATIO = $\frac{7}{11}$ = ·6363636

1900
1963
(REVERSE SCENARIO)



A B C D E F G H I ~~J K L~~ M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

NOVEMBER 1922 TUTANKHAMUN (BRIEFLY).

(ELEVEN MONTH) 22

CARTOUCHES, SCARAB, JACKAL, THE SEALED ANIMAL OF THE GOD OF THE DEAD ANUBIS.

3) THE NOSTRADAMUS KENNEDY CODE.

CENTURY II QUATRAIN 57.

"BEFORE THE CONFLICT THE GREAT MAN WILL FALL, THE LAMENTED GREAT ONE WILL FALL TO SUDDEN DEATH."
(PRESIDENT JF KENNEDY DID SUFFER FROM A CRIPPLING SPINAL CONDITION.

CODE PRIMARY

CH - II. ALIEN ARTIFACTS OF THE SCARABS

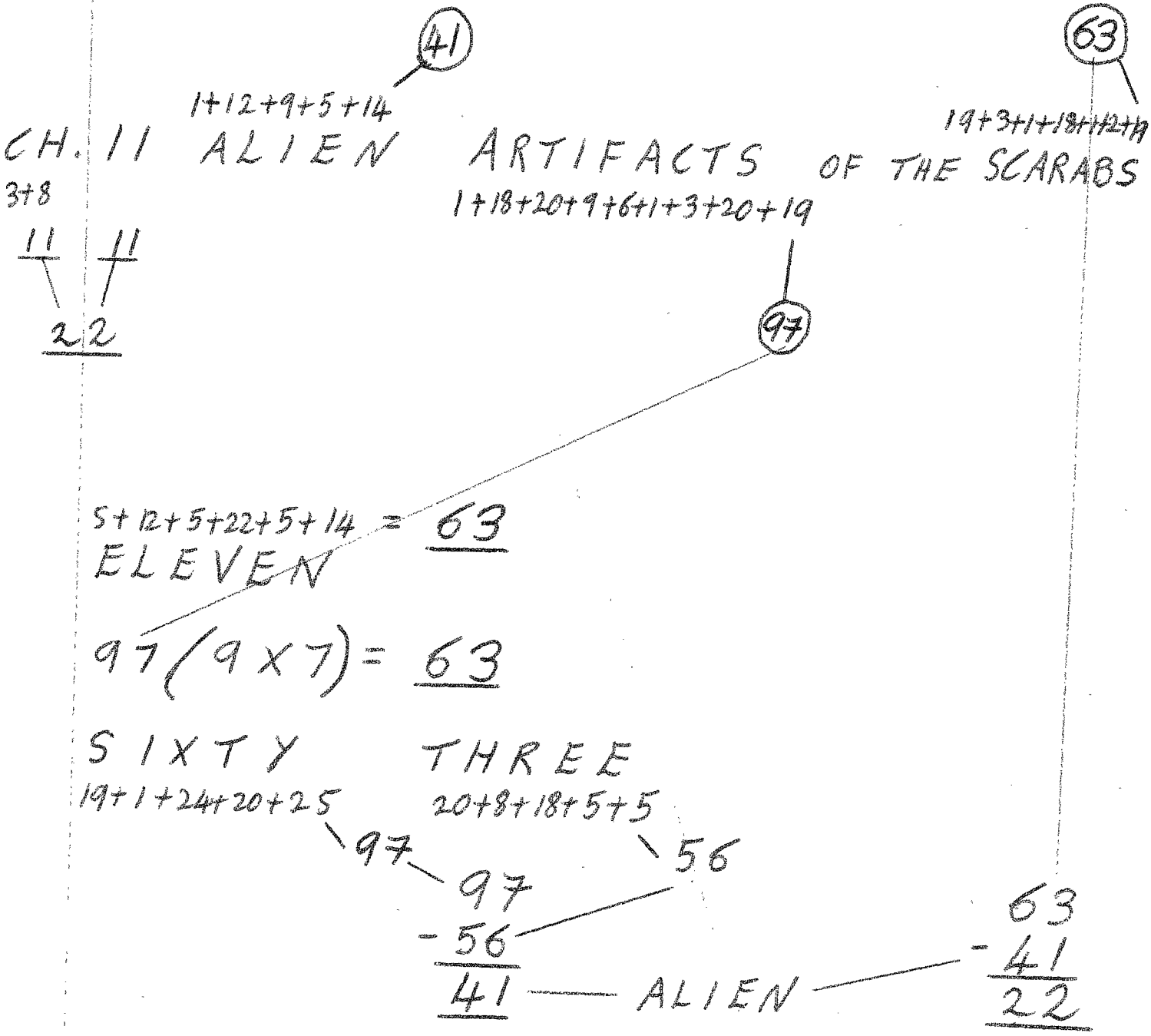
(CLASSIFIED)

ANTIQUITY INSTRUMENTS

(EGYPTOLOGY BEETLES - SACRED).

KENNEDY ENCODE - DECLASSIFIED

(TO INCLUDE SYNCHRONICITY/NUMEROLOGY INFRA-STRUCTURE).



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

21+19+1 = 41
U.S.A

CH. II ALIEN ARTIFACTS OF THE SCARABS

3+8=11 11

2 2

97

63

1997

1963

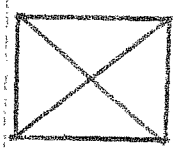
(ENCODES CLASSIFIED)

MICHAEL KENNEDY
DECEMBER 31, 1997

121

J F KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

11X11 = 121 (REVELATION - BIBLE)



11 N.B. PYRAMIDOLOGY.

11

REMEMBER, 9 DAYS AFTER I DECLASSIFIED THE KENNEDY SCENARIO ON CENTURY RADIO DECEMBER 22, 1997, I'M AFRAID MICHAEL KENNEDY DIED IN A SKIING ACCIDENT.

OTHER CODES, INCLUDING ENCODES OF CH-II, ALIEN ARTIFACTS OF THE SCARABS ARE ON DE-CLASSIFICATION STANDBY.

I MUST STRESS THAT EXPENSES FOR 2100 ROBOTROCK STANDS AT APPROXIMATELY £1,800, (NOT INCLUDING LABOUR AND RESEARCH). PERHAPS IN FUTURE THE MOD COULD SHOW ME A LITTLE MORE ETIQUETTE FOR SERVICES RENDERED. I HAVE AUTONOMY REGARDING 2,100 ROBOTROCK, THE CODES ARE NOT OPEN TO ABUSE. FINALLY I ENCLOSE COPIES, INCLUDING A LETTER AND REPLY FROM DOWNING STREET, (ONE DAY I HOPE THE PRIME MINISTER WILL UNDERSTAND THE OTHER UNDERLYING REASONS).

YOURS TRULY

Section 40 [redacted]

SIGNED (Section 40 [redacted]).

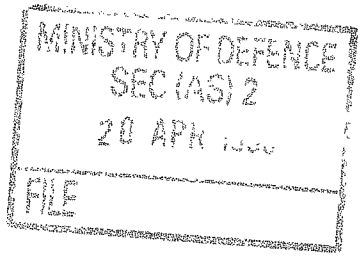
PS, TIME IS RUNNING OUT REGARDING JULY/ AUGUST 1999 → .

2100

ROBOTROCK

CLASSIFIED

ABOVE TOP PRIORITY



10th JULY 1997.

Section 40 [redacted]

HARTLEPOOL,
CLEVELAND,
Section 40 [redacted].

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE SOME TIME OUT FROM MY SCIENCE FICTION PROJECT 2100 ROBOTROCK (CLASSIFIED - ABOVE TOP PRIORITY), TO PUT FORWARD A DEEPLY THOUGHT ALTERNATIVE COST CUTTING/ SAVING PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE 2000 MILLENNIUM DOME. AS I TRUST THAT MANY MILLIONS OF POUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SPENT ON THE DOME PROJECT IE, PLANNING, FOUNDATIONS, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT ETC, WHY NOT CONSIDER THIS NEW OPTION. WHY NOT BUILD ONE GIANT OR SEVERAL GIANT TENTS OR MARQUEES ON THE GREENWICH SITE AT A FRACTION OF THE HUGE COST!

I HAVE EVEN CARRIED OUT MARKET RESEARCH ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE; FAMILY, RELATIONS AND FRIENDS. ALL HAVE EXPRESSED POSITIVELY CONCERNING THE GIANT TENT/ MARQUEE IDEA! SO PRIME MINISTER, WE BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST REVIEW THE SITUATION ONE MORE TIME WITH YOUR CABINET COLLEAGUES, THINK OF THE HUGE SAVINGS THAT CAN BE MADE FROM THIS INHERITED, EXPENSIVE LEGACY OF THE TORY PARTY!

IN 1984 I DID PROMOTIONAL WORK INCLUDING MEDIA FOR THE CIRCUS BARUM TOUR

OF WEST GERMANY. I ENCLOSE TWO PHOTOCOPIES OF THEIR MASSIVE TENTS, ONE HOUSING 3,000 PEOPLE THE OTHER 2,200.

FINALLY, A REMINDER ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TERRORISM, (CANARY WHARF AND THE 1997 GRAND NATIONAL ARE PRIME EXAMPLES TO US ALL). SECURITY MUST BE KEPT EXTREMELY STRICK AND VIGILANT AT ABSOLUTELY ALL TIMES.

YOURS SINCERELY

Section 40 [redacted].

SIGNED (Section 40 [redacted]).

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Correspondence Secretary

29 August 1997

Section 40

HARTLEPOOL
Liverpool
Section 40

Dear Section 40

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent letter and the enclosure.

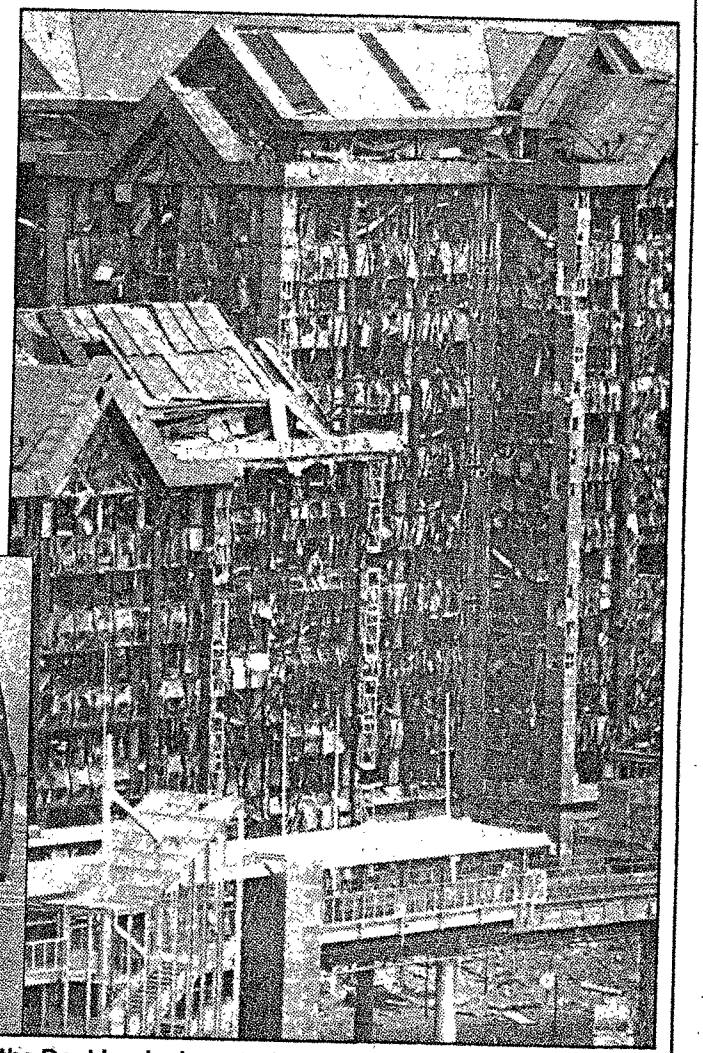
Yours sincerely

Section 40

GRAND NATIONAL OR WESTMINSTER SUMMIT COULD HAVE FACED CARNAGE

Found: Bomb as big as the one at Canary Wharf





Deadly cargo: The 980lbs of explosives, discovered in the boot of the white BMW, left, filled 12 bin bags and, right, the Docklands devastation caused by the 1996 bomb

POLICE yesterday seized a massive 980lb car bomb aimed at causing carnage on the British mainland and

By DAVID WILLIAMS
Chief Reporter

major escalation by CIRA, made up mainly of hard-line

dare. Two English couples in another BMW who were also arrested were later released.

Police swooped at 5.50am as cars queued at Dun Laogh-

timers and Semtex packed in booster tubes to maximise ignition.

A 45-year-old West London businessman who was queu-

FOR £1 OFF

AITKEN & STONE

LIMITED

Section 40

Section 40

Hartlepool
Cleveland
Section 40

18 February 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for sending in the synopsis and sample pages from your novel 2100 ROBOTROCK. Although I have read the pages with interest I do not feel convinced that I could find publication for them and cannot therefore offer you the representation you seek. I wish you every success in finding a suitable publisher elsewhere.

Thank you for allowing Aitken & Stone the chance to look at your work.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directors Section 40
[illegible] (Company Secretary)

Registered Address: [illegible] Limited Reg No. [illegible] VAT Reg No. [illegible]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 44

Section 40
Chorley
Lancashire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
20 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 March.

2. The MOD's limited interest in reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings has been explained to you in previous exchanges of correspondence. I am afraid that there is nothing further that I can add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Section 40
Chorley
Lancs
Section 40

March 12, 1998

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MoD Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your response to my letter of the 10th February. My interest stems from a specific instance documented in the closing report to Project Blue Book reference USAF Contract no F44620-67-C-0035 published as ISBN 85478-142-0 page 56-57 where a USAF B47 equipped with special radar monitoring equipment was involved in an incident associated with "unexplained" aerial sightings where emissions of 2,800 MHz were detected.

The publication World Electronic Aircraft by Martin Streetly ISBN 0 7106 01662 identifies from page 20 to 25 a number of RAF platforms equipped for a similar role.

Confirmation that RF emissions in the range of 2,500 to 3,500 MHz have been recorded elsewhere, associated with "unexplained" aerial sightings may provide an indication of commonality of propulsion system, and may aide in identifying a physical effect which may lead to a novel aerospace propulsion system. Any data on colour changes and flight characteristics associated with such incidents which can be released would also be useful in this study.

Thanking you in anticipation of your assistance.

Sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 MAR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 43

Section 40

Swadlincote
South Derbyshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. The content of your letter of 16 March has been noted and your letter has been placed on Departmental file.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
17 MAR 1998
FILE

Swadlincote
South Derbyshire

Section 40

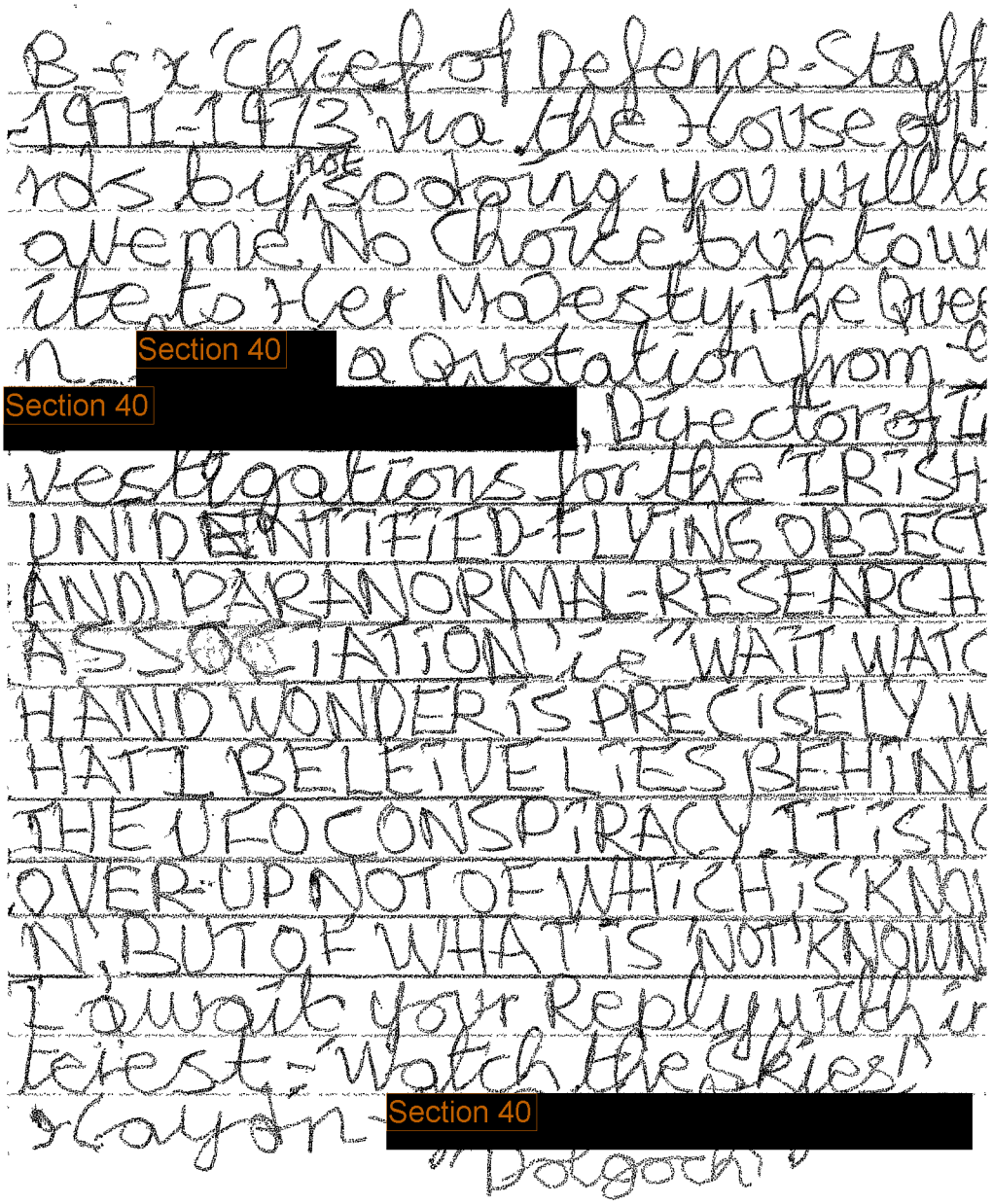
16th March, 1998

Hello Section 40

I would start another c
ommunication to you with a
Quotation from a former Pr
sident of the United State
of America ABRAHAM LINCO
LN (1809-1865) "YOU CAN FOOL
SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE

TIME, AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE
OME OF THE TIME, BUT YOU C
ANNOT FOOL ALL OF THE PEOP
LE ALL OF THE TIME." I enclo
e a Clipping taken from
EO-REALITY Magazine of ar
Object photographed usi
g a Video-Camera, and can
ou provide an EXPLANATION
r the Question that is pose
d? Perry, you will probably
state "IT'S AN AIRCRAFT" Re
TY LORD LOUIS-MOUNTBATTEN THE ADM
RAL OF THE FLEET, AND CHIEF
OF DEFENCE-STAFF 1971-1979
G.C.B. has this to say about
you" [redacted] IS THE W
MAN WHO ANSWERS LETTERS

ROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT UFOS
SHE USALLY SAYS THAT THE NAT
ER "POSES NO THREAT AND IS TH
ERE FORE NOT OF DEFENCE IN
TEREST---" OR SOMETHING L
KE THAT, SO IT IS NO SURPRIS
NG THAT THEY (Official-Letters
MAKE YOU WANT TO YAWN. Lord
Gill-Norton, F.C.B. then stat
S "MY POSITION IS THAT I HAVE
NO DOUBT SOME PHYSICAL THING
S ARE OPERATING IN OUR ATMO
SHERE, AND I WANT TO KNOW W
HAT THEY ARE, WHERE THEY CO
E FROM AND WHO DIRECTS THEM
I SHALL DO MY BEST TO FIND OU
T." Jerry I would advise you to
contact Lord Gill-Norton F.C


Section 40
Section 40
Section 40

RY PICS

MABLETHORPE & SUTTON
News
Mablethorpe WEDNESDAY, July 21, 1993 TWENTY EIGHT PENCE

DAVID DENNIS
Waste Disposal Service
Tel: Skegness 881274

UFO mystery: did ET call?

by Janet Patchett

DID Mablethorpe receive an extra-terrestrial visitation in the early hours of June 21?

Awakened from his sleep by a strange bright light, Peter Gregory was amazed to see a large luminous shape hanging in the sky over Somersby Avenue.

"Luckily my video camera was at hand and I was able to capture the entire event on film."

"The whole thing only lasted about four seconds before it disappeared northwards over the town leaving a trail of light."

Unfortunately, two men claiming they were from Grimsby UFO Society asked Mr Gregory if they could borrow his video.

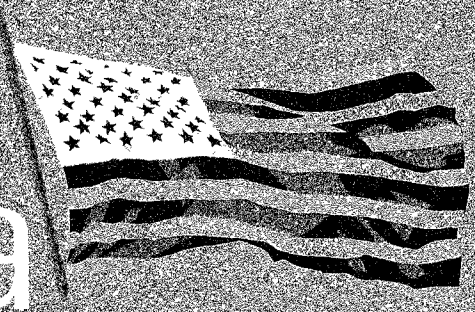
Believing them to be genuine, he lent the film in good faith, but it was never returned.

Further investigations revealed that there is no Grimsby UFO Society.

However, Mr Gregory did manage to photograph one frame of his video before it was stolen, and here it is.

What do you think? Is there someone out there? Or did you see the strange phenomenon witnessed by Mr Gregory? Drop us a line at the News





Oneida Lake Lights

by Bob Canino

On the tale of our 'Arizona Lights' article (Issue 9) we received this report from Oneida Lake, New York State, where the same strange triangular formation of lights caught on camera in Phoenix has now been caught on camera in Upstate New York. Bob Canino reports...

[illegible] they saw far different distances and different heights. Two outstanding videotapes of a major portion of the event were taken by two different witnesses [illegible] two night period. What makes their tape so outstanding is the fact that Ed worked the zoom correctly and also set reference points in the background as well as [illegible]

making interesting comments as to what the lights were doing. Those comments [illegible] lights by his father, who lives a few houses down from him on the south shore of Oneida Lake. McDermott's young son also witnessed the lights and stood by his [illegible] over the lake, did not see anything at that time. After the event McDermott's curiosity was piqued, and he did some good follow up on his own (he is a top-notch malpractice attorney in the [illegible]

the suggestion that a paintball park on the north shore of the lake was using flares in a 'night game', but contact with the owners of the park indicated that there was no night game running on the date in question. The McDermott tape also shows the lights 'winking' out and coming back on, as well a feature well-documented in the Gramoski tape.

[illegible]

A total of 28 witnesses have come forward with sightings so far and, at this stage of the investigation, most all appear credible.

The witnesses, both men and women, report strange anomalous lights, light balls, or glowing objects in the vicinity of the north shore of Oneida Lake as well as in the general southern region of the Tug Hill Plateau. Some of the most interesting sightings come from witnesses who say they saw the lights move from east to west (sighting location, north of Parish, NY, on [illegible] the rest of the year, a fact reported unsolicited to a third party).

[illegible] when her dogs went nuts (she has a grooming kennel) and her husband saw the lights and called for her to bring out the video camera. She subsequently did [illegible]

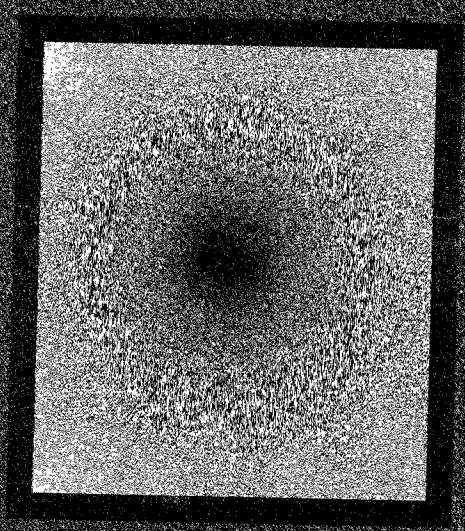
UFOs IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

by Petr Novak

Ceska Lipa

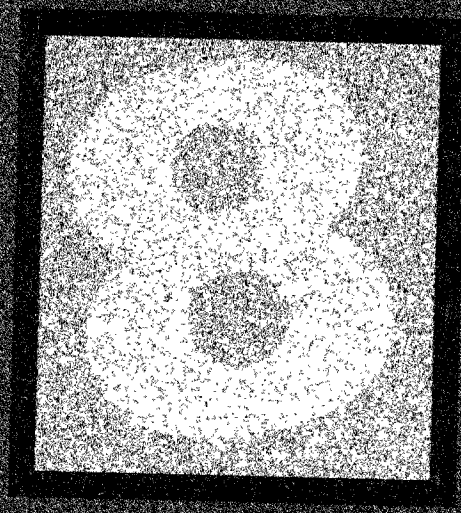
Since the end of April this year, witnesses from Ceska Lipa and the nearby village of Zandov in North Bohemia have been seeing unidentified flying objects in the sky.

The first observation involved a single light in the sky. It was spotted by Mr Karel Piencak from Zandov on 21st April 1997. The light was moving very low over the horizon to the west, towards the village of Dubi. Mr Piencak had been observing the object for some ten minutes when it suddenly disappeared at a great speed, leaving behind something like a smokey track. Two days later the situation repeated.



This time the object was lower than in the previous case, and Mr Piencak watched it for seven minutes. The light seemed to have three black, flat objects around its perimeter, visible with the naked eye.

About a week later, on 1st May, something very unusual happened. This time Mr Piencak saw something much more incredible in the sky. Shortly after 9.30 pm he saw the same strange object on the same spot as before. It hung quite low over the horizon, and gave out white light. It appeared to be surrounded by several dark rectangles. Ten minutes later two small white objects separated from it. It looked as if the whole thing split into three parts. Then suddenly all three objects took off very fast and disappeared in a north-easterly direction.



Local Papers

It's worth noting that the local papers reported the discovery of a strange pictogram, in grass, in the shape of the number '8', near the Ceska Lipa hotspot.

The following day, 2nd May, two unknown objects appeared on the same spot. They were moving very low towards a hill called Dubovka, and looked completely the same as the object from 21st April.

During the following weeks Mr Piencak called us several times to let us know that the object had appeared again. But not on the same spot this time. Once it appeared in the west then suddenly disappeared and reappeared in the east. His accounts were confirmed by other witnesses from Ceska Lipa.

"I saw the mysterious object from the balcony of my house. First it was too distant, but then it started moving closer and closer and stopped over the village of Zandov." This account is in full accordance with that of Mr Piencak, who was skywatching at that time, and the object was manoeuvring just above his head. He says that this time the object was as big as a coin held in front of your eyes, and seemed to be made out of metal.

Some time later we visited the famed Zandov again. This time we chose an elevated site for our observation. Shortly after 8pm we spotted an object that was visible with the naked eye. Before we managed to react and grab our cameras, the object moved a large distance.

Shining Metallic Disk

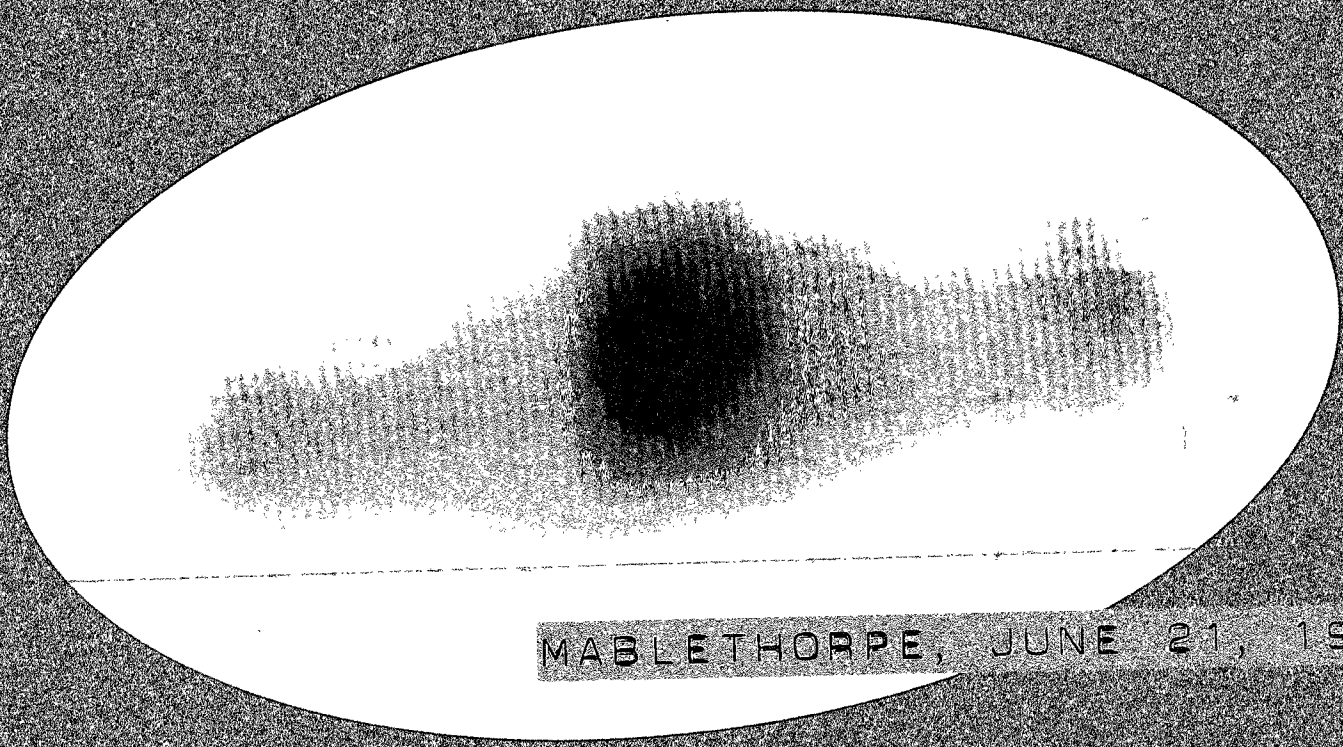
The object looked like a shining metallic disk, reflecting the rays of the setting sun. Our observation took about an hour and a half, which - according to Mr Piencak - was the longest one he had ever had. During that time we managed to film it with our camcorder. The slow motion and a subsequent computer analysis showed that the thing was indeed something quite unusual. On one of the analysed pictures you can see three small black crescents around the white object (the white colour is probably a reflection of light on the surface of the metallic disk). The object radiates a cone of orange-red light from its bottom part. The video is to be subjected to professional analysis soon, in co-operation with Czech and foreign specialists.

And something surprising at the end. Some time ago, my English colleagues from UFO Reality gave me an interesting video showing UFOs filmed over Mexico in 1993. I was virtually stunned when I played some of the shots on the slow motion and discovered that they bore a striking similarity to the objects from Ceska Lipa.

P.S. Situated very near Zandov in the Ceska Lipa region, there is a huge air force base which was deserted by the Russian Army in the early 90's. But how 'deserted' it really is we can only guess. We know that a few years ago the base witnessed very strange things. We have information that an unknown flying object which had been shot over Switzerland, was being test-flown on the territory of this base.

If you have information on any of these sightings or any others please contact us at **UFO REALITY** on **01458 834112** or any of the groups listed in UFO Connections on pages 72 and 73

MYSTERI



This astonishing photograph was sent to us by **Peter Gregory** of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. It was taken from a video shot by Peter on June 21st, 1993.

At the time of the sighting Peter was fast asleep, but was awoken by a bright light shining in through his bedroom window.

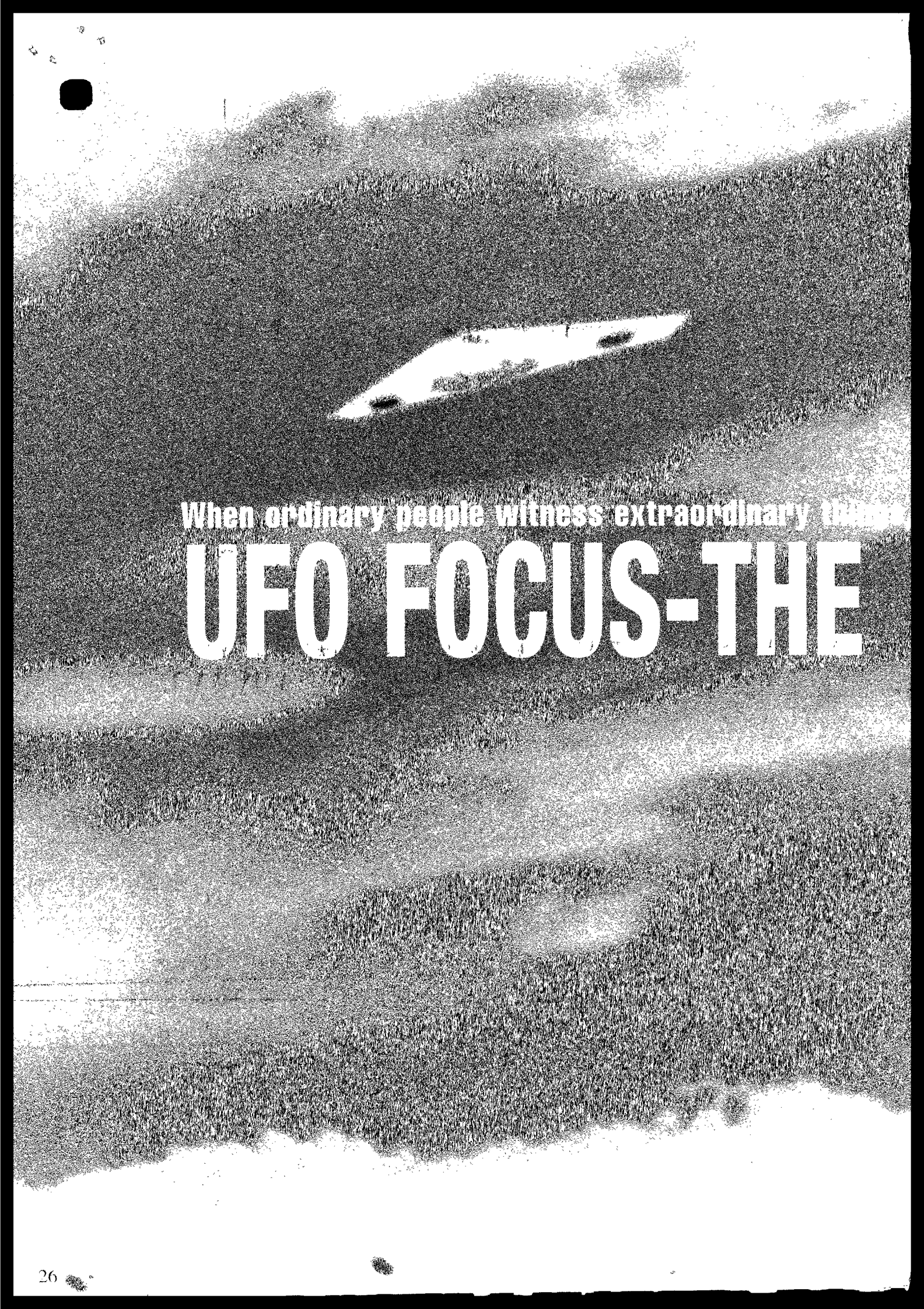
"Luckily my video camera was at hand," Peter said. "And I was able to capture the entire event on film."

He added: "The whole thing only lasted about four seconds before it disappeared northwards over the town, leaving a trail of light."

Then came a strange twist in the tale.

Two men claiming they were from the Grimsby UFO Society called and asked Peter if they could "borrow" the video for analysis. Perhaps unwisely, Peter agreed. The video was never returned. Indeed, subsequent investigations revealed that the Grimsby UFO Society doesn't even exist!

In this respect it is indeed fortunate that Peter had photographed a frame from the video before it was stolen. As you can see, it is a very impressive photograph indeed.



When ordinary people witness extraordinary

UFO FOCUS-THE

THE UNOPENED FILES

Access a Number of Well Kept Secrets every three months...

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE!

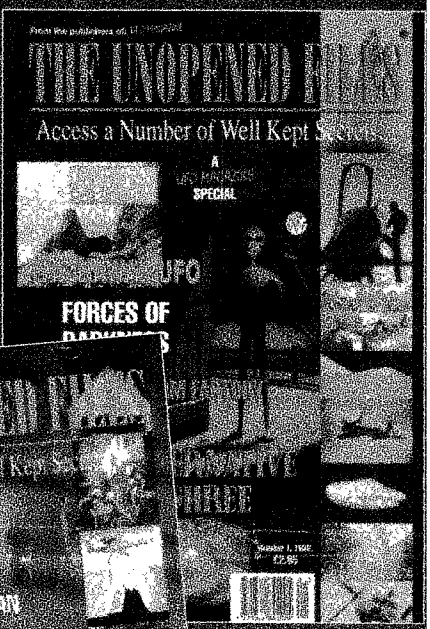
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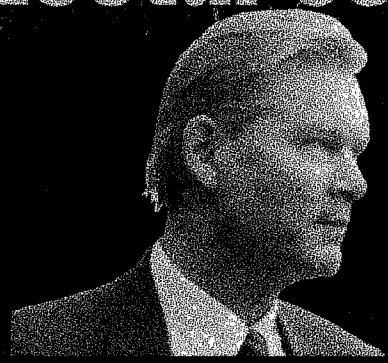
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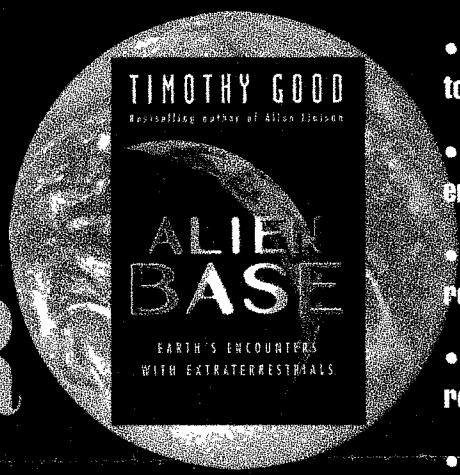
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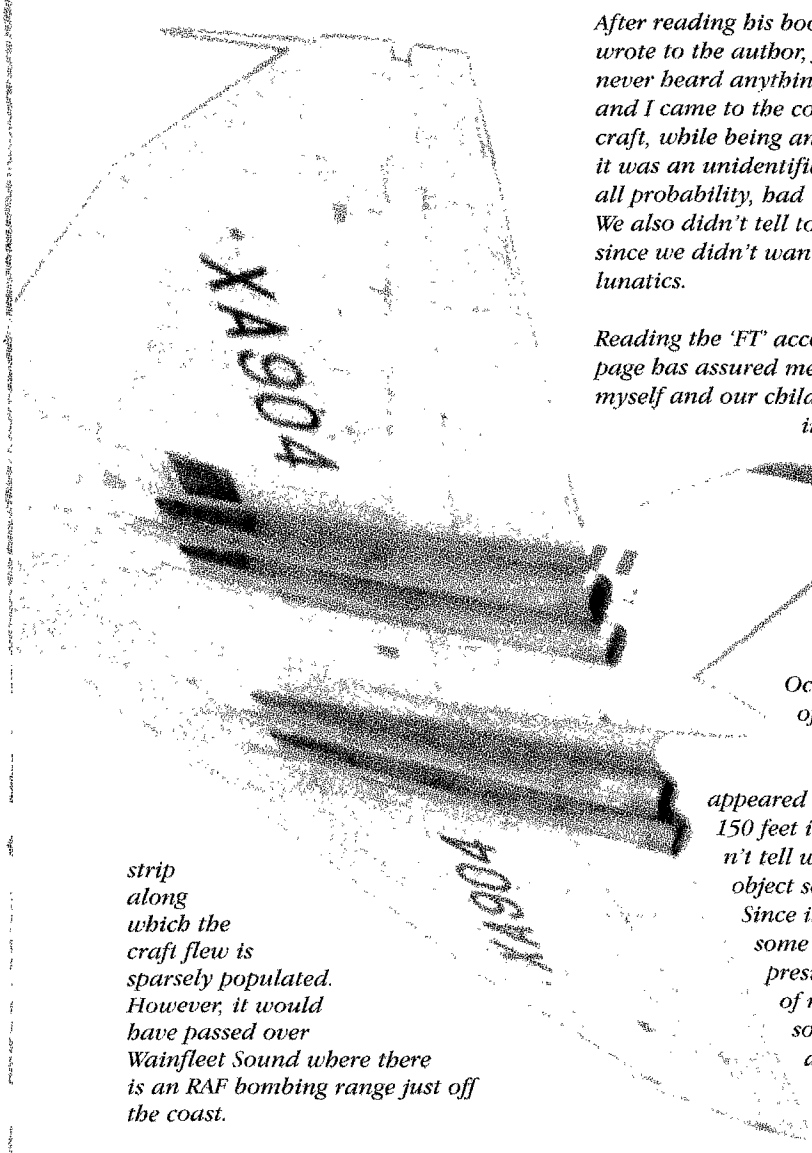
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conversation locally, many times over the years. I have yet to find anyone who saw the craft or who has had a similar experience. I read most local papers from cover to cover. I found nothing to match my sighting. There were reports of cigar shaped objects seen above the sea off Grimsby, but no reports of my delta.

Another observation is that our area is full of RAF installations. The coastal



strip along which the craft flew is sparsely populated. However, it would have passed over Wainfleet Sound where there is an RAF bombing range just off the coast.

James Easton says that 'Paul' seems to be as credible a witness as one could wish for, but is not convinced that in 1978, or any other year, an above-top-secret triangular aircraft, four times the size of a Vulcan bomber, would be nonchalantly ambling down the A1028 and shining searchlights on the road, whilst carefully maintaining an altitude of 'tree-top'."

Another witness to the 'Flying Triangle' sent this correspondence:

At the end of October, beginning of November 1994, I saw a craft of the same description i.e., triangular, silent, matte black, etc., hovering over my house in Stockton, California, USA.

I was with my friend. About one week prior to this, my friend and our two children had seen a similar craft about eight blocks away from our house when they were at the store.

They tried to chase it, but lost it. Both times we saw this craft it was between 10.00pm and 11.00pm. We had some strange occurrences in our home as well.

After reading his book 'Revelations' I wrote to the author, Jacques Vallee, but never heard anything back. My friend and I came to the conclusion that this craft, while being an actual UFO in that it was an unidentified flying object, in all probability, had very human origins. We also didn't tell too many people since we didn't want to appear as lunatics.

Reading the 'FT' accounts on your web page has assured me that my friend, myself and our children were not alone in what we saw. I don't recall the exact date of the incident, only that it occurred in October or November of 1994.

The object appeared to be between 100 - 150 feet in altitude. I couldn't tell what material the object seemed the made of. Since it appeared to be some type of flying craft, I presumed it was made of metal or maybe something lighter, like a titanium alloy. Its appearance had a matt finish.

The object appeared to be approximately 30 - 35 feet wide and 45 - 50 feet long. I only saw the 'bottom' of it. It was more of an isoceles triangular shape. The corners appeared to be rounded, but only slightly. There were smaller, recessed white lights at each point of the triangle which were on at all times.

There also appeared to be a larger light in the centre in a bubble, or convex in shape, the bubble being of the same colour as the rest of the craft with the resultant light being seen in an opaque manner. This light was also on at all times and seemed muted in rel to the other lights which again, ha e quiet lighting of recessed lights, or lights in concave sockets.

I don't recall seeing any other features but the lights. At first I thought it was stationary and hovering over our house, but then I noticed that it was moving, albeit very slowly. I would say it seemed to be moving about 5 - 10 miles per hour. It moved in a slight arc and just kept moving until it was out of my line of sight. I didn't hear any noticeable sound. In fact, what I noticed was the unusual quietness - not just of the craft itself - but the whole vicinity. My friend on the other hand, said he heard a low humming.

There did seem to be a change in the atmosphere. This incident occurred in the Fall when the weather is usually clear and crisp, but on this night it almost felt summerish with an unnatural warmth and a little more humidity than usual for that time of year. In terms of temperature and humidity, it was similar to how it warms up before a winter rain, but the sky was clear and retained the clarity and focus of a normal Fall sky.

As far as I can recall there were no markings of any kind. The entire object appeared to be a dark grey or black colour except for the lights which were a soft white, a clear white without any yellowish or pinkish tinge to them, with the exception of the light coming through the centre 'bubble' that was an opaque, greyish colour that appeared to be given by the colour of the 'lens'.

I didn't report my sighting, unless writing to Jacques Vallee about two years later constitutes a report. My friend was with me when I saw the object - in fact, he was the one who had pointed it out to me. We had just pulled into our driveway and it was right over the house. He drew my attention to it because he had seen a similar craft about a week before, while at the store with our two children.

As far as I am aware of, there were no reports in the local press. I don't take the newspaper, and rarely watch TV news or listen to the radio news. But I don't believe there were any reports at the time.

http://JamesEastonpulsar@compuserve.com

maj way south towards Boston unti. st sight of it just past Spilsby. I'd love to know what it was.

It seemed too real to be extraterrestrial. However, its immense size, its low speed and above all, the sheer silence made it unlike any aircraft known to me! I have no accurate existing aide-memoire as to the exact date, but it was in March 1978.

The craft appeared to be perfectly 'solid', so it wasn't constructed of anything flimsy. It didn't flex in its movement but remained rigid. I would therefore assume that it was made of a metallic element. I would not say that it was a hard, cold metal. It seemed to be soft and warm - maybe like a cross between aluminium and manganese. The area of the sighting is very rural - surrounded by agricultural property. Although the village of Alford was behind me, the village is small and quiet and does not emanate much light.

The only immediate light (other than that on the craft) would have come from the headlights of my car and from another car, which came down the hill towards me after I had stopped. However, I recall seeing the underside of the craft in its entirety. I have already described it as being light blue, but maybe it had luminescent nature. Thinking about it, there was nothing else, other than the craft's forward lights, to reflect that amount of light. I saw it in the black of night and yet my memory of the underside was as if I'd seen it in daylight.

When flying along the coast, its altitude was constant. It was quite low; I would guess 50 feet or so. That would also have been its altitude when it passed over my car.

Although I do not have a PPL (private pilot's licence), I have flown in a Cessna along that stretch of coast. The coastline constitutes land reclaimed from the sea and is uniformly flat.

The road from Alford to Ulceby (A1104) goes uphill (quite unusual for this part of Lincolnshire.) When I first saw the lights, I was at the bottom of the hill and the lights were at the top. So, my perception as the lights 'left the road' was that they moved to my right rather than upwards. In retrospect, I suppose that the craft came over the hill towards me at just above tree height and maintained that altitude rather than following the contour of the land down the hill. As for width and depth of the craft, I will not try to give you dimensions in feet and inches (or metres and centimetres.) Other than the craft itself, and a few small trees, I had sight of no other structure by which I could gauge it. However, I could compare it to the Vulcan bombers with which I was familiar (the Vulcan squadron was based at RAF Waddington, Lincoln at the time.)

I would say that the area of the delta was about four times that of the Vulcan. The depth of the delta was about the same as the cabin section of a Boeing 747. As far as I can recall, the depth was the same throughout the delta. All three sides of the triangle were of equal size and perfectly dimensioned to boot. There were no sharp edges. Even the tail angles of the delta were beautifully and smoothly rounded.

"However, I could compare it to the Vulcan bombers with which I was familiar"

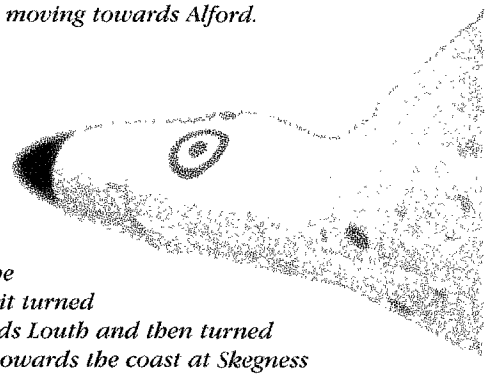
At first I thought the lights were car craft headlights and they dazzled me. As they flew towards the side of my car it became obvious that two distinct beams were emanating from the 'nose' of the delta and were aimed directly towards the ground (i.e. they were not aimed at the ground in front of the craft but came directly down at 90 degrees from the delta.) The two beams remained on at all times I had sight of the craft and in fact, it was these beams which enabled me to track the craft from my vantage point on the A16. The beams seemed to have the same intensity of white light throughout their entire length.

Strangely, the width of the beams was also the same throughout their length. They did not splay out as would a spotlight or searchlight beam.The best view I had of the craft was of its underside as it flew over my car. There were no protrusions or attachments. More tellingly, perhaps, neither were there any panels, rivets, joins or welds. The whole thing seemed to be made of one single sheet of material.

I would expect that it moved at between 15 and 40 mph, although it seemed to me that its speed was constant. It did not stop at all, and neither did I perceive it to accelerate.

I could see the craft (after my initial encounter) as I drove towards Boston on the A16. It did not pull away from me and occasionally I had to slow down to keep it in sight.

When it wasn't turning, it did fly in a perfectly straight line. However, it did navigate a seemingly premeditated route. When I first saw it on the A1104, it was moving towards Alford.



As it 'left the road' it turned towards Louth and then turned back towards the coast at Skegness directly over my car. It then turned South towards Boston. Throughout all these turns, its height remained constant. I cannot recall the craft 'banking' in any of these turns.

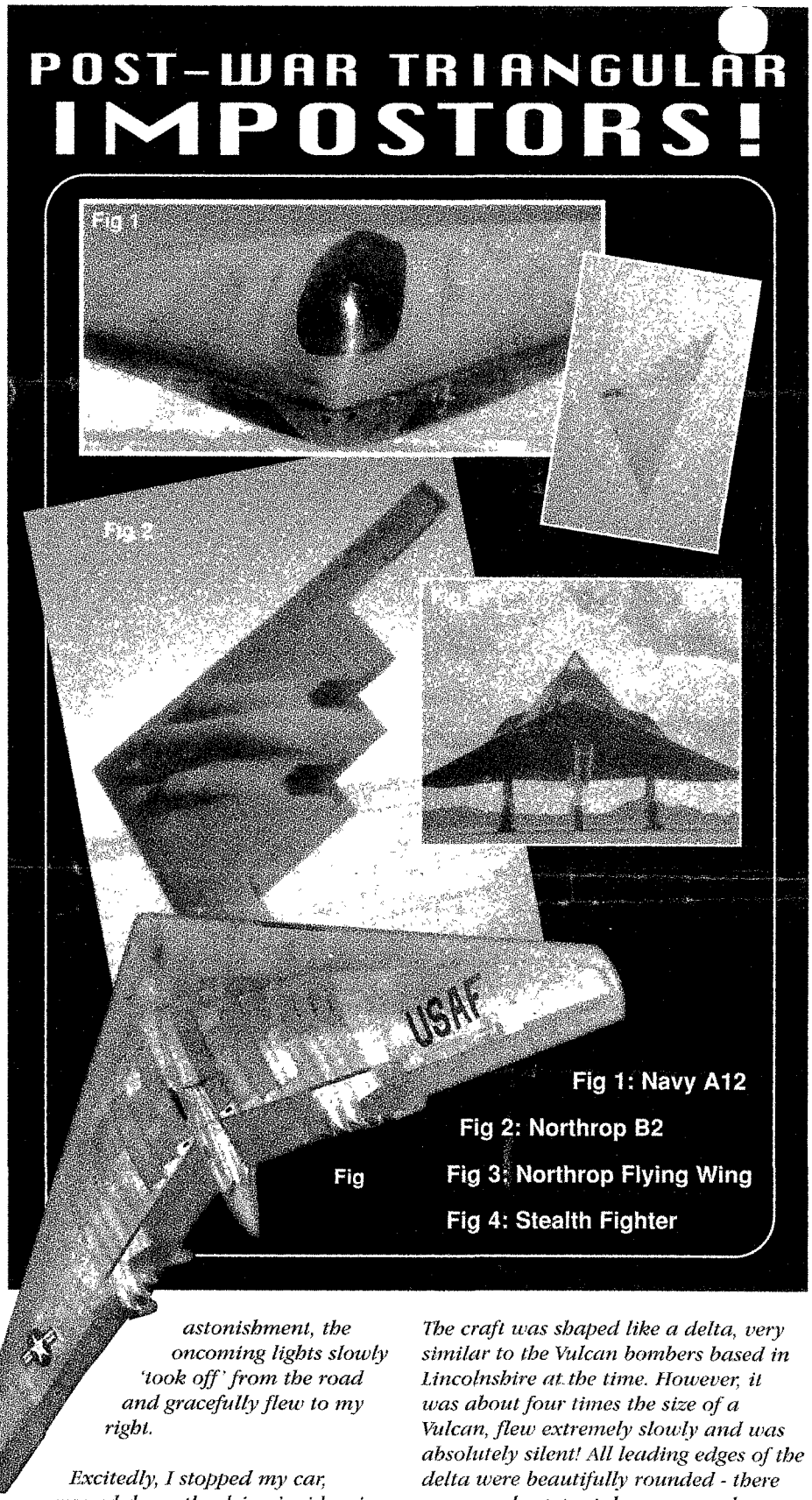
The air was clear, cold and absolutely still. (The stillness may be seen as unusual because the area is renowned for being windy.)

There were no markings at all. Just an even light blue underbody. No roundels or numbers or logos!

When I got home, I was very excited and told the whole story to my fianceé (now my wife.) I also excitedly related the tale to my work colleague the next day. However, I did not report the sighting to any official authority. Firstly, because I had no idea which authority to report to and secondly because I didn't want to be seen as a crank!

As for other witnesses, another car had come towards me on the A1104 and had stopped on the road. I remember pointing up towards the craft to draw his attention to it (as if the other driver could miss it!) After the craft had passed, he drove on. I didn't speak to him; I've no idea what kind of car he was driving. I've related this story in

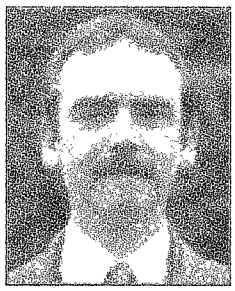
POST-WAR TRIANGULAR IMPOSTORS!



We were following our daughter and son-in-law who were about 75 yards in front of us. After about 30 seconds, our son-in-law signalled to pull into the nearside of the road. He had a bicycle and rack on the rear of his car which was obstructing his rear view mirror.

We were stopped for approximately 60-90 seconds while he adjusted it. I asked if he had seen the craft, but he had been so preoccupied with his rear view mirror problems he hadn't noticed anything. During this brief stop, I heard no other aircraft noise and the mysterious craft had by now long passed beyond our position. On arriving home however, my daughter said she had seen the craft. She said it was triangular with a waved trailing edge and bulbous shape slung underneath the nose section - the source of a number of bright lights. She couldn't recall any noise.

We passed two very large convoys of military vehicles carrying some unusual equipment as we passed through Cambridgeshire. They eventually headed southwest off the M11 motorway. A week later CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) announced that the last stockpile of nuclear weapons had left USAF Lakenheath the week previous.



James Easton is one of Scotland's leading UFO researchers and has been at the forefront of investigating 'Flying Triangle' reports. Here is an early account of one such sighting derived from a discussion he entered into with a man known only as 'Paul'- witness to an intriguing encounter.

As a Chartered Accountant, I often have to oversee audit assignments with a strict timetable. This leads to the need to work long hours. In March 1978, I was working on such an assignment in my home county of Lincolnshire. One Thursday night, I finished work at about 10.30pm and drove a colleague home to the village of Alford. In general, the coastal areas of Lincolnshire are very flat.

However, Alford lies on the edge of gently rolling countryside - the Lincolnshire Wolds. My route home took me up a hill on the A1104 towards Ulceby Cross.

Part way up the hill I was dazzled by what I took to be the undipped headlights of an oncoming car. I flashed my own headlights and slowed. To my astonishment, the oncoming lights slowly 'took off' from the road and gracefully flew to my right.

Excitedly, I stopped my car, wound down the driver's side window and peered out. The sight that greeted me will stay in my memory forever.

I saw that the lights were coming from a massive, beautiful aircraft which had now turned, was flying at a height of about 50 feet and was now heading towards the coast directly over my car!

The craft was shaped like a delta, very similar to the Vulcan bombers based in Lincolnshire at the time. However, it was about four times the size of a Vulcan, flew extremely slowly and was absolutely silent! All leading edges of the delta were beautifully rounded - there were no sharp protuberances such as tailplane.

The underside of the craft was coloured sky blue. It just glided over me and headed towards the coast - no noise, no smoke, no vibrations, no smell - just an aircraft of sheer gargantuan beauty.

It was very real; from the A16 I was able to watch this craft making its slow,

abo[illegible]50ft was a jet black "equilateral tri[illegible]

It had a white light at each apex and a red flashing light somewhere in the triangle. Malcolm thought the red light was near the white ones, but Sharon was sure it was more central.

"To be honest," he told me, "I was so shocked by what we were seeing that I wasn't that bothered about counting lights!"

He said that the shape of this thing was very obvious against the night sky, which was grey in comparison.

The object moved slowly over the road ahead of them and over a field so they both jumped out of the car and ran across the field and came to a halt about 400 yards away. Malcolm told Sharon, "That thing is hovering!"

She said something like, "It can't be" - but it was.

It stayed in that position long enough for them to discuss what they would do if it came back towards them.

It must have remained there for a minute or two before moving sharply to the right, at right-angles to the direction it had originally been heading, then turned slightly and accelerated away and upwards.

Malcolm heard no sound whatsoever, but Sharon thought she heard a low humming noise. The craft was probably some 60-70ft along each side, although Malcolm said that this was pure guesswork on their part.

They contacted a local UFO 'hotline' number to report the sighting which led to the Ministry of Defence stating there had been no registered activity in the area.

Malcolm tried very hard to come up with a rational explanation during and after the sighting - he considers himself a very intelligent man - but the two conclusions he came to was that either someone is being secretive about the most amazing and "impossible" aviation technology, or the craft was extraterrestrial in origin.

Both possibilities have left him quite stunned, but the story has one final twist in the tail.

The following evening, when he returned to the drama group, the director asked him if he had been on a sun-bed. It would appear he had developed an overnight tan!

Sharon then developed "red blotches" on her stomach, and now thinks she "felt" a sort of digital "beeping" in her head (four beeps, followed by two, followed by one), but along with Malcolm, recognises this may be just pure coincidence or imagination due to the shock of their experience. I have asked to be kept up-to date with possible developments and Malcolm is very keen to talk about the experience, but only to friends and certainly not to the media.

Malcolm said, "You can make fun if you like, but I know what I saw!"

ADVANCED HI-TECH DESIGN

Gordon Thompson is 56 years-of-age and from the age of 7-8 years developed an interest in the weather, aircraft recognition and astronomy.

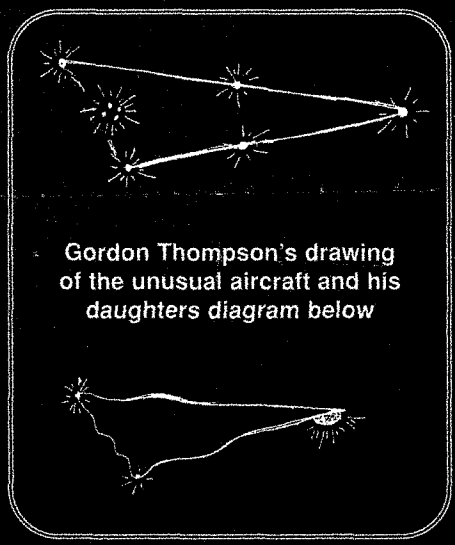
"Consequently," he told us, "over my childhood and adulthood I have spent many thousands of hours observing the sky and its contents."

Mr. Thompson wrote to us about an "unusual aircraft sighting" (note the term 'aircraft' and not 'UFO') which took place on Monday, 21 October 1996 at the junction of the B1106 and A11, near Elveden Forrest, Suffolk.

On leaving Centre Parcs holiday complex after a short break, I observed an incoming aircraft in a landing attitude making a slow descent to land at either Mildenhall or Lakenheath USAF bases (though I am quite certain it was the latter of the two).

The first thing that seemed obvious about the craft was that it had many lights and its shape was triangular. The sweep angle seemed sharper than Concorde's, with no discernible nose.

We were on a quiet stretch of country road with a good surface that produced little tyre noise. I knocked the gears into neutral and just cruised with the engine idling and wound down my offside window.



Gordon Thompson's drawing of the unusual aircraft and his daughters diagram below

The craft was the source of a most unusual noise, unlike any I have heard from an aircraft, and seemed incongruous coming from something of such an advanced hi-tech design. The sound was based upon a low throb, not unlike a heavy military helicopter at some distance when they are approaching toward you.

Mixed in with this sound was what I can only describe as a crude sort of 'whirring gears' sound - the whole noise overlaid by a soft 'whistling jet' sound.

Fortunately, the craft passed in front of a fairly large patch of thin cloud which was back-lit by moonlight, rendering the shape of the craft quite visible, otherwise observation would have been more difficult.

who better to relate their experience than the people themselves?-

'FLYING TRIANGLES'

Mark Lewis of Barbourne in Worcester wrote:

Perhaps it is through fear of being ridiculed that has kept me from mentioning this before now, but after reading about the increase in sightings of 'Flying Triangles', especially over the British Isles, it brings to mind something that was witnessed by myself and a group of friends back in 1979.

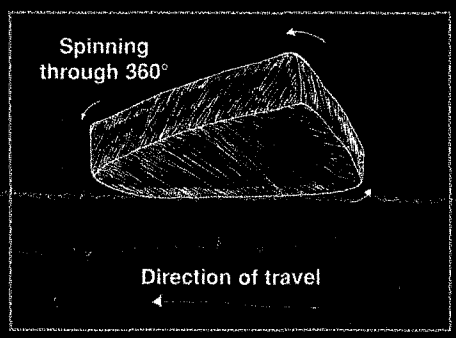
It was a clear day and we were on the local playing fields partaking in our usual games of cricket and football, when glancing into the sky we were met with a most unusual sight of what could only be described as a 'Flying Triangle'.

It was around 100-150 metres from the ground and fairly large, about 50 metres from point to point and some 10 metres thick.

There were no lights of any kind visible. In fact there were no distinguishing features on it at all, although due to its position it was impossible to view the top surface.

It travelled silently with no audible sound in a north to south direction and as it moved it was spinning through 360 degrees. It kept a constant speed and was out of sight after 3-4 minutes. I was wondering whether any readers or organisation could shed some light on what we saw? Perhaps there were similar sightings around that time.

I myself wonder whether it was an early prototype of a military 'FT' or perhaps a genuine UFO?



•Mark's drawing of the 1979 'FT'.

Adrian Grimes writes from Hemel Hempstead:

I heard from my brother that one of his mates (his best-man) had seen a UFO on Wednesday night, 25 June '97 and was badly shaken by the experience. Malcolm is a teacher in Somerset and apparently used to describe himself as 'erring on the sceptical - although keeping an open mind with regard to the possibility of other life in the Universe.' Needless to say, he is not quite so sceptical now!

Malcolm had been helping a theatre group out in Taunton this particular evening and was returning home with his girl-friend Sharon, heading in the direction of the Quantock Hills. They were travelling away from Kingston St. Mary on a country lane (which is called Kingston Road at the start, but something else after a few miles).

It was very close to 11.00pm and Sharon asked Malcolm to put the radio on to listen to the news. After several failed attempts to tune-in to the local radio station via the automatic pre-set button on the car radio, Malcolm slowed the car down and tried to tune manually. He located the right frequency but there was a lot of interference.

*He was about to put his foot down again when he noticed something very strange ahead. His exact words to his friend to draw her attention to it were, "What the **** is that?!" He skidded to a halt and approximately 200 yards ahead of them and slightly to the left, at a height of* ➤

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 42

Section 40

BIRMINGHAM
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 February, which we received on 9 March concerning 'unidentified flying objects'. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

2. With regard to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 I am afraid you have been misinformed about access to Ministry of Defence files. As is the case with other government files, 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.

3. We hold various papers on our files which mention Rendlesham Forest. These are mainly enquiries from members of the public about the alleged incident and official replies to their letters. The only paper of any note we have is a memorandum written by Lt Col Charles Halt the then Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, which was written some two weeks after the alleged events took place and has been in the public domain for several years. I attach a copy for your information.

4. I should say that the MOD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.

5. The judgement at the time Lt Col Halt's memorandum was received, was that nothing had occurred to substantiate a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences on the nights in question. Where there is no evidence to substantiate such an event it is the case that no further investigation into the matter is necessary.

Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest, nothing has emerged over the last 17 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

6. Turning now to your question about an alleged sighting in the West Midlands in 1971. As explained above, the MOD has a well-established review programme to release files into the public domain after 30 years in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. However, in the light of the Government's commitment to greater openness, the Under Secretary of State for Defence has asked that some files, due for release to the Public Record Office in the next few years, be considered for earlier release and the files covering the 1971 period are part of this batch. I am afraid it is too soon to say when a decision might be made particularly since factors such as personal privacy must first be addressed. I shall write to you again when this issue has been resolved.

7. I hope this explains the position. I am returning your sae as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence,
Air Secretariat 2A,

Section 40
BIRMINGHAM,
Section 40

12th February, 1998

Dear Sirs,

1 We are wondering if you could help us in locating a number of photographs that were recovered from Chief Inspector Section 40 of the Staffordshire Constabulary in 1971, following a UFO seen over Aldridge in the West Midlands, which was described as 'egg shaped', (who has given us permission).

2 Would we be able to obtain a copy of the photos, which we may decide to use in a book we are hoping to publish on what we consider to be the true realities of the UFO Phenomena, which does not include an acceptance of the E.T. hypothesis?

3 We have also researched into the events that took place at Rendlesham Forest in December, 1980, and would like to ask if we would be able to obtain sight of the files that relate to the incident, which we gather you indicated (quote) "would be available to serious researchers of the subject", which we believe we fall into that category. (According to Jenny Randles & Sky Crash!)

Yours faithfully,

Section 40
[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
- 9 MAR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
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(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 41

Section 40
Stoke on Trent,
Staffordshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
17 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter addressed to Mr Nick Pope. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "UFOs"; Mr Pope has not worked in this branch since July 1994 and I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. You asked about an alleged incident near Rendlesham Forest. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 17 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

5. Finally, I would like to point out that the views expressed by Mr Pope on the subject of "UFOs" are entirely his own personal

opinions and do not represent nor reflect the views of the MOD. If you wish to write to Mr Pope, you may do so via his publishers at Simon & Schuster Ltd., West Garden Place, Kendal Street, London, W2 2AQ. I have enclosed your SAE as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

STOKE-ON-TRENT
STAFFS

Section 40 [redacted]

DEAR MR POPE

I HAVE WRITEN THIS LETTER TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS, ON YOUR 3 YEARS AT THE U.F.O DESK AT THE MoD.

FIRSTLY, HOW MANY REPORTS (IN AN ESTIMATE) DID YOU GET & HOW MANY DO YOU THINK WERE ACTUALLY POSABLE U.F.O OR ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.

SECONDLY, WHAT OBSTACLES DID YOU COME ACROSS WHILST YOU'RE INVESTIGATIONS.

INTIRDLY DO YOU THINK A UFO DID LAND IN RENDLESHAM FOREST AT AN AIR BASE IN SUFFOLK IN 1980, 27TH OF DECEMBER.

IF YOU CAN REPLY TO THIS & ANSWER MAY QUESTIONS I WOULD BE VERY GRATFULL.

YOURS SINCERELY

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-3 APR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 40

Section 40
Whitehall,
Dublin 9.
Republic of Ireland

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
17 April 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 14 March in which you asked whether any British military aircraft crashed near Boyle, County Roscommon during the summer of 1996.

2. I have made enquiries and can confirm that there were no such accidents involving British military aircraft in the Republic of Ireland at that time. If you have not already done so, you may wish to contact the Irish Department of Defence and/or the Civil Aviation Authority who would be able to advise you if there were any aircraft crashes recorded in the Republic of Ireland during 1996.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

4 MAR 1998

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
20 MAR 1998
FILE

:IUFOPRA INFORMATION NETWORK: RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

(The Irish Ufo & Paranormal Research Association.)

Section 40 [redacted], Whitehall, Dublin,9. Ireland.

priidel
~~iufopra~~@indigo.ie - http://www.digiserve.com/ufoinfo/iufopra/

For Information & Attention of Section 40 [redacted] P.A.I. (Fairview Branch.)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to thank your department, firstly, for a prompt reply we received last spring, in relation to 'UFO' reports in Northern Ireland. The map you sent us, of UFO reports to the MoD, was both interesting and useful.

Secondly, I'm hoping you may be able to assist us in our ongoing inquiry into an air crash near Boyle, County Roscommon, in the early summer of 1996. We didn't see, unfortunately, the local newspaper reports of the incident, as we only heard of it many months later, and the relevant back issues proved impossible to obtain. One report we received suggested the accident occurred on June 3rd, but we believe it actually happened in the small hours of Sunday, May 5th.

It is our understanding that the craft involved may have been a Saab Gripen, and that, sadly, its two crew members died. Presumably the aircraft did not originate in Sweden, but from the UK - either Northern Ireland or the mainland - as British Aerospace have been involved in the aircraft's development for quite some time. Could you possibly confirm that this is the case, and thus put an end to this inquiry? If you can't provide any information on this accident, perhaps I should contact BAe at Warton?

Of course, the aircraft may have been an RAF or British Army helicopter or fixed-wing plane that may have been flying through the area en route to Northern Ireland or even Scotland - maybe even a returning rescue aircraft. Could you possibly check your records for May/June 1996, and let us know of any military air accident that may account for this particular crash?

British military aircraft have routinely visited or stopped off at Irish airports - especially the Irish Air Corps' Casement Aerodrome - and these flights are routinely released into public domain, though for obvious security reasons, details emerge only after these craft have left the jurisdiction. Could one of these aircraft have crashed, perhaps shortly after taking off from Knock (Horan) Airport in the West of Ireland?

Thank you very much for your time, and hopefully you can help us in our effort (finally) put this incident to rest.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 39

Section 40
Stockport,
Cheshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
17 April 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 17 March.

2. I have looked back through our sighting report files and have found that no reports were received by the Ministry of Defence for 4/5 March in the Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire areas.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

B.U.F.O.R.A.

(BRITISH, UNIDENTIFIED, FLYING, OBJECT, RESEARCH, ASSOCIATION)

To; Section 40
SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF)2a 1a,
ROOM 8245,
MAIN BUILDING,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB.

From; Section 40
Section 40
High Peak,
Section 40

Telephone No;01298 812036.

17 MAR 1998

Dear Sir/Madame;

Recently I have been asked on behalf of a number of members of the public to find possible explanations for a sighting of an unidentified ariel nature, this sighting was witnessed by over thirty persons to date, and I have included a brief concerning these sightings upon the page following this letter.

If you were aware of any further reports, possibly connected to these reports- that you can pass onto myself, then I would be most grateful to receive these.

Further if you or your staff were aware of any possible causes that may account for these reports, then I would be most grateful to hear of any such ideas, that you may have.

Finally, I am aware that there was a laser display operating within the area of Mansfield, upon the night that the sighting reports concern, from my inquiries- I have eliminated many of the reported sightings that this display has already caused, though I still have thirty plus reports that I cannot identify as being connected to the display, some of these may turn out to be mis identified aircraft in time.

Thankyou for all your help and assistance, please attend to this inquiry when time permits!

Yours faithfully Section 40

Section 40 (B.U.F.O.R.A.)(Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire)
-(Coordination's officer for investigations.)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
20 MAR 1998
FILE

The majority of reports received from the telephone enquiries, if believed to be associated with the other reports- concern an unusual object with a triangular form, three edge white lights, with no apparent noise, sighted flying between Mansfield (Nottinghamshire) and (Shirebrook) Derbyshire, from the evening of the 4/3/98 to the morning of the 5/3/98, by thirty plus persons.

Other details concerning the reports are as follows;

1. A very intensely bright blue-white light when first sighted, this light appears to be formed from the three edge light sources upon the object, due to the viewers' position at the time of the sighting.

2. A dull grey or black triangular object, about the size of a conventional passenger jet, or smaller, with panelling or grooves upon its underportion.

3. Within these grooves appears many smaller white lights, arranged within rows.

4. Several witness report green and orange navigational lights steady in luminosity and located close to these grooves.

5. Some witness' report what could be perceived as a shadow reflection of ground lighting, reflected away from the clouds above the object, by its passing.

6. The object appears to have no apparent engine noise, except for a time when the object appears to power up ready for a rapid departure towards the Shirebrook area.

7. The object has either a diamond or triangular shape to itself, reports similar to this shape, have been reported across Derbyshire recently.

8. The object was observed as moving slowly across the Mansfield area at treetop level passing over several witnesses in their cars, before moving off at rapid speed towards Shirebrook.

9. The object was sighted in one instance as having a glowing rear, similar to a heat signature from a jet, similarly several received reports have noted a helicopter sighted as following the same flightpath of the object shortly afterwards.

10. The object appears to have been flying around from 18:00 hrs, on Wednesday 3rd to about 06:00 hrs on Thursday 4th, with periods whereby the object was sighted darting constantly around the area all night, whereas, the first report has the object as grounded close to pylons near the Blidworth area of Nottinghamshire.

11. In one instance a report was received whereby prior to the sound of the low rumbling/powering up sound, a brilliant flash was reported to be seen coming from the area of the craft, this lit up the sky, before the object disappeared.

12. These details match other reported sightings from other groups around the areas of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

13. One witness described how the object had "upwards swept wingtips"?

OTHER REPORTS RECEIVED HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED WITHIN THIS BRIEF AT PRESENT.

COMPILED BY Section 40 U.F.O.R.A".

Persons wishing to report an unusual sighting, or to enquire for any information concerning this subject may contact myself at; -

THE "BRITISH, UNIDENTIFIED, FLYING, OBJEC,T RESEARCH, ASSOCIATION"

DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE INVESTIGATIONS COORDINATOR;

Section 40 CAN BE CONTACTED AT;

Section 40 **HIGH PEAK,** Section 40

OR TELEPHONE ; Section 40

The group has 326 investigators in both the U.K and the world.

The group operates upon a professional and unbiased opinion, that all witness' reports require logical, rational investigation to attain possible logical explanations as to the cause of the witness' sightings.

WITNESS' PERSONAL DETAILS ARE NEVER RELEASED AND ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT, A COPY OF WHICH IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 38

Section 40

North Cheam,
Surrey.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
16 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 13 March.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. You asked what the response would be if the UK air defence region were to be breached by a craft of extraterrestrial origin. The situation would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances which prevailed at the time. I am afraid there can be no categorical answer to this hypothetical question.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

T.M.B.R.G.

The Magic Bullet Research Group.

Section 40 [redacted]
North Cheam,
Surrey,
Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a,
Room 8245,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB

13 March 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a matter of interest to both myself and the group that I belong to I am interested to know the MOD's policy if, however unlikely it may be, an alien (i.e. not of this world) invasion took place over British air space. Would this constitute a "threat" as this is you're policy on UFOs. You only feel it necessary to investigate to discover whether they are of "any defence significance" and thus if you discovered that this alien invasion was of no threat to Britain and was just passing overhead to another country for its landing site, would you still investigate the matter.

These questions are in no way a prediction of any sort and are purely for research and inquisitive purposes only. Your help and co-operation is most gratefully received.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

(Researcher)

STRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 MAR 1998
FILE

BNSC
BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 37

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Ministry of Defence
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London. SW1A 2HB

British National Space Centre
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SS

Tel: Section 40
Fax: [redacted]

6 April 1998

Ref:

Letter from Section 40 **to DTI Minister** — enc. 25.

Thank you for your fax of 1 April enclosing some information about the MoD's policy on UFO sightings. As you will recall from our discussion, Section 40 has written to Mr Battle, a DTI minister responsible for Science, Energy and Industry. Section 40 appears to believe that Mr Battle is the chairman of the Science & Technology Select Committee and is inviting the committee to look at HMG's policy towards UFOs.

I am attaching a copy of my letter back to Section 40 which gives him the address of the S&T Select Committee Clerk and re-affirms that MoD has responsibly for this area of policy. I am also enclosing a copy of Section 40 letter to Mr Battle along with his report which, I am sure, you will already have seen.

Once again, thanks for the advice.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] approach to the DTI. We requested a copy for our files. Dear - o - Dear!

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 7 APR 1998
FILE

BNSC
BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

Section 40 [redacted]

British National Space Centre
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SS

Tel: Section 40 [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

6 April 1998

Ref: BV 7/6/7

Government Policy on UFOs

Thank you for your letter of 20 March to Mr Battle enclosing your report entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: A need for Fundamental Change in Current Policy". As the British National Space Centre (BNSC) co-ordinates the Government's civil space interests, I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility within Government for UFO sightings lies with the Ministry of Defence. You should therefore send your report, if you have not already done so, to officials within the Air Secretariat of the MoD. I see from your report that you are already in contact with them.

To prevent any apparent misunderstanding, I should point out that Mr Battle is not a member of the House of Commons Select Committee on Science & Technology. Select Committees oversee the work of Government departments and are staffed by backbench MPs. It is the responsibility of the Select Committee itself to decide which subjects it should investigate. If you believe they should review the Government's policy towards UFO sightings, you should contact them direct. Their address is :

Section 40 [redacted]
Committee Clerk
Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
7 Millbank
London. SW1P 3JA.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

Section 40

20 March 1998

John Battle, MP
Minister for Science
House of Commons Select Committee on Science & Technology
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir,

It was a pleasure to meet with your Select Committee colleagues at the "Science Question Time" Meeting on the 17th March sponsored by The Royal Society of Chemistry. I was also grateful for a request on information by Dr Ian Gibson, MP and the opportunity to share with him my historical research on unidentified aerial phenomena.

On the recommendation of the POST, I take pleasure in copying you with a nine page report with appendices entitled *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena-A need for a Fundamental Change in Current Policy*. I feel that the evidence I have presented is overwhelming and the sources utilised are clearly beyond reproach. I trust that the Select Committee will concur with my assessment.

As an Industrial Chemist, I do not quite fit the category of "Distinguished Academic"; However, I am happy to further offer what limited guidance I can to the Select Committee on these matters.

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you my research on what is evidently a fascinating topic. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards

Section 40

Section 40

To Section 40 - BNSC

Copies to:

For ADVICE (AND DRAFT REPLY IF APPROPRIATE) PLEASE BY 1/4/98

Section 40

Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - A need for a Fundamental Change in Current Policy

Author: Section 40 [redacted]

Abstract: *Current Government policy on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) has for some years been rendered obsolete by information that has come into the public domain. The information has come from various sources including the US Department of Defence, The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), dissenting voices within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and The Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew in Surrey. It is clear from this information that on occasion, UK airspace has been penetrated by unidentified craft with design and performance parameters well in excess of cutting edge state of the art technology. What is not clear is the origin of and motives behind these incursions although many have speculated that they are of an extraterrestrial nature. Despite the uncertainties, the origins of these craft are truly "alien" in as much as they have not been manufactured by any known "earthbound" civilization. This observation is born out by mankind's failure to emulate capabilities displayed by these unidentified craft in the fifty years since widespread "UFO Sightings" have been recorded. It is also clear from historical evidence that our Intelligence services such as the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) were involved in the investigation of UAP and that concerns were expressed by this Department at the lack of manpower available to carry out a proper analysis of sightings. It is recommended that a formal acknowledgment of UAP or even a partial acknowledgment should be expedited under "New Labour" so that academic and industrial facilities be utilised in the ongoing investigation of what is clearly an incredibly fascinating subject.*

Background

The "Flying Saucer" entered our consciousness and our vocabulary in 1947. At approximately 3.00pm on the 24 June, Kenneth Arnold, an American pilot witnessed nine unidentified aerial objects flying in a wedge-shaped formation over the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, USA. Describing the objects as "crescent shaped", Arnold likened their movements to those that a saucer would make if it were skimming across a pool of water[1]. The press at the time latched onto this description and ever since, UFOs or UAPs have always been, somewhat mistakenly construed as being round and saucer shaped. Ever since that first sighting, speculation has been rife that these craft originate from another planet, probably outside our solar system.

The MoD have consistently asserted to interested Members of Parliament and public alike (Appendix 1) that they have no interest or role with respect to "UFO/Flying Saucer" matters. Furthermore, there is no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena, and, when reports of UAP have been received, no evidence of defence significance has been forthcoming. There have been dissenting voices within the MoD[2] disputing the official line; however, no changes in policy have been forthcoming.

Those within the MoD who have disputed the "no defence significance, no substantiating evidence" policy have been correct in their re-assessment of the situation. Their observations have been based on.-

1. Files released by the PRO.
2. Files released by the US Department of Defence
3. Files released by the CAA
4. Experience at the "UFO-Reporting" desk within the MoD.

Let us now consider this material in detail.

Documentation disputing "no substantiating evidence"

(i) The Mainbrace Incident[3].- 1952 was a landmark year in the history of the Twentieth Century. Britain had a change of monarch, UN forces were fighting in Korea and President Truman dedicated *The Nautilus*, the worlds first nuclear submarine. September also had its share of the years events, Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase confirmed the hereditary nature of DNA in a report published on the 20th. That same month, the NATO allies were conducting a huge exercise in the North Sea and North Atlantic. Dubbed "Mainbrace", the exercise used the military resources of Britain, USA, Canada, Norway, Denmark, France, Netherlands and Belgium. Details of an incident that occurred during Operation Mainbrace have only recently been made available through the auspices of The PRO.

As part of the Royal Air Force's involvement in Mainbrace, No 269 Squadron were posted to RAF Topcliffe on Yorkshire. On the 19th September, whilst on duty there, several members of No 269 Squadron witnessed a silver disc type unidentified flying object. Flt Lt Kilburn, the senior officer among the men filed a full report which was posted to HQ No 18 Group and dated 20th September 1952, the contents of the report are summarised thus.-

The witnesses observed a Gloster Meteor descending at 500 feet at RAF Topcliffe in Thirsk, Yorkshire, The time was 7.10pm. The UFO was seen approximately 5 miles astern of the Meteor at approx. 15000 feet, described as circular and silver in colour. Whilst moving at a slow speed on a similar course to the Meteor, the UFO then began a descent swinging in a pendular motion not too dissimilar to that of a falling sycamore leaf. The descending Meteor had turned towards Dishforth and the UFO, whilst still descending, appeared to follow suit. The pendulous motion then ceased and the object initiated a rotary motion about an axis perpendicular to its horizontal plane before disappearing in a westerly direction and turning on a south easterly bearing. The witnesses stated that its movements were not identifiable with anything that they had seen in the air and acceleration was in excess of that of a shooting star. The duration of the incident was 15 to 20 seconds. The sighting was also backed up by a number of civilian witnesses outside of the base.

(ii) The West Freugh Incident[4].- Cast your mind back if you will to Thursday, 4th April 1957. Tom Finney of Preston North End FC had just been voted Footballer of the Year and the recently elected MacMillan Government had come to the bitter conclusion that the sun was setting on the British Empire. Consequently, it was announced on the day that there was going to be a radical change in the defence policy of the UK, more reliance was going to be placed on a nuclear deterrent and large cut backs would be made in conventional forces; especially those serving overseas.
With all the talk over the defence cuts, it was small wonder that little attention was being focused on incredible events that were happening near Stranraer in South West Scotland. On the morning of the 4th, radar operators at the Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object. The first return was picked up on the screen of a radar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about ten minutes, its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 feet. A second radar was switched on and verified this return as the unidentified flying object was detected at the same range and height. The radar sets used were capable of following the objects automatically and the information was obtained in the form of polar coordinates. These could then be converted to give plan position indication and were printed out onto a plotting board via an electronic pen, the heights were read off a meter. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table and after ten minutes, it moved in a north-easterly direction with a gradual increase in speed (70mph groundspeed at 54,000 feet). Further confirmation of the unidentified object came from a radar station twenty miles away from Balscalloch which was equipped with similar height/position monitoring equipment. After the radar return had traveled about twenty miles, it did a sharp turn and proceeded in a south-easterly direction whilst increasing its speed. The Balscalloch radar tracked an object at 50,000 feet moving at a speed of 240 mph while the other station tracked four objects at 14,000 feet and 4,000 yards line astern from each other. The Balscalloch radar also picked up these returns. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. *In fact they considered that the size was nearer a ship's echo.*

In the previous December, a memo marked SECRET had been issued by RAF HQ No 11 Group (Ref. 11G/S.1803/7/Air Int. Paragraph 3 of this memo stated.-

"It will be appreciated that the public attach more credence to reports by Royal Air Force personnel than to those by members of the public. It is essential that the information should be examined at Air Ministry and that its release should be controlled officially. All reports are, therefore, to be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" and personnel are to be warned that they are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed, unless officially authorised to do so"

Despite these standing orders, it appears that the *Evening Standard* must have gotten a handle on the story as a reference was made to West Freugh in the Saturday edition (6th April). It would seem that the newspaper's Air Reporter was told by an Air Ministry spokesman that the radar returns were

attributable to a weather balloon which had been sent up from Aldergrove airfield in Northern Ireland (Appendix 2). This rather mundane explanation seems to have been accepted, the reporter had his story and the case was to all intents and purposes closed. by contrast to the explanation given to the press, it would be interesting to see what the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence thought of this incident. In a report dated the 30th April 1957 (Ref. DDI (Tech)/C.290/3/, Appendix 3) the following observations were made.-

1. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 feet while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 mph. Nothing can be said of physical construction except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

2. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

3. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena (author's note.- clouds, like balloons would also be unlikely to move against prevailing winds at high speed).

4. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

It is interesting to note that observation 2 states that there were no meteorological balloons in the vicinity at the time in question which contradicts the version of events given to The *Evening Standard* by an Air Ministry spokesman. Was this a blatant cover-up of the facts ? Certainly the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were unhappy that the radar incident fell into the hands of the press and this is alluded to in a secret memo (Ref DDI (Tech)/S290/). However, even more damning were the draft notes prepared for Mr George Ward. The Secretary of State for Air. A Parliamentary Question was tabled by Mr Stan Awberry, a Labour MP for one of the Bristol constituencies on Wednesday, 17 April, 1957 (*Hansard*, col 206). The question read.-

> To ask the Secretary of State for Air. what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on the subject.

Extracts from the Ministerial notes prepared for George Ward (Appendix 4) read.-

> 3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that that no service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.
> 4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines:-
>
> > "That report is still being investigated. and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

You will notice from these draft notes that the Minister was not informed of.-

1. The size of the object

2. The appreciable height
3. The fact that it was hovering

Also, no mention was made of objects ; was there a cover-up ? Certainly if you consider the witholding of information from a Government Minister and the blatant misrepresentation of facts to the press as a cover-up then clearly, this was indeed the case.
Notwithstanding the fact that a cover-up was perpetrated, it would be an absurd anachronism to apply the moral hindsight of the 1990s to the Cold War horrors anticipated by the military establishment in the 1950s. We must not forget that in April 1957 the world was also becoming a dangerous place to live as Britain was one month from exploding its first H-Bomb over the Pacific and the USSR was about to announce that it had developed long range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

(iii) The St Margaret's Bay Incident[4].- It was the 1st May 1957, once again, the Middle-East was very much in the headlines. Having survived an attempted coup, a youthful King Hussein of Jordan was happy to accept $10 million of US aid in order to quench the influence of communists and "other extremists" within his country and establish a more moderate and pro-Western monarchy. In Washington, The House of Representatives had just passed a controversial (and very much diluted) Civil Rights Bill which was to be approved by The US Senate the following August. Then in September, the standoff at Little Rock occured, the rest is of course, history.
These were not the only headlines in the papers that first day in May-RAF chases 900mph mystery object screamed *The Daily Express* to the commuters on the trains; RAF hunts "The Thing" yelled *The Mirror* to the factory workers on their tea breaks; Radar staion's report of flying object cautioned *The Daily Telegraph* to teachers and bank managers. The *Daily Sketch* and *The Worker* also carried similar headlines. Clearly, something incredible had happened.
The actual exclusive for the story was obtained by the *Evening News* and published the night before. Apparently, senior Air Ministry officials in charge of Britain's radar defence network scrambled a squadron of Javelin interceptors from RAF Odiham, Hampshire in response to some 1000mph anomalous radar returns. The incident had occured the previous Monday (29th April) and the aircraft were put up at 8.50pm. They were homed on to the objects near St Margaret's Bay in Kent; however, they failed to make contact due to the excessive speed of the unidentified object.
This was quite an incredible story not least due to the fact that it made so many major national newspapers but also, because of RAF standing orders, it is incredible that this story got out at all ! RAF personnel were under instruction not to divulge details of unidentified craft with design and performance parameters in excess of cutting edge technology. Yet here was an incident involving a craft with a speed in excess of anything attainable by the then state of the art, and what was more, just like Topcliffe and West Freugh, penetrating the UK's airspace with impunity.
So what really happened on the evening of the 29th April 1957 ? At 08.07 pm that evening, the Duty Display Radar Controller at RAF Ventnor, Isle of Wight recieved a telephone call from an astronomer who lived at nearby Shanklin. A number of civilians had noticed a very bright pinpoint of light to the south-east, elevation 75°, height, approximately 30,000 feet. Through x8 magnification field glasses, there appeared to be a secondary object; however, the main one was *metallic* with light emanating from the centre and perimeter. The size of the object was variable. Sceptics of UFO stories often relate sightings of stationary lights to misidentification of Venus. In this incident, the sightings were not astronomical since the Duty Display Controller had the prescence of mind to contact RAF Beachy Head who subsequently confirmed two stationary returns in the Shanklin area. Apparently, the returns were described as being similar to "angels" which is a term for a little understood atmospheric phenomena relaing to ionic inversion[5]. By 08.20 pm, Beachy Head reported that one object had faded on the radarscope, a fact later confirmed by the civilian observers (RAF Ventnor, after repeated attempts got through to the astronomer at 09.10 pm). At 9.00 pm, it would seem that alarm bells were ringing as a third RAF station at St Margarets reported two fast tracks heading in a south westerly direction toward the Isle of White. Although unable to get a visual, RAF Ventnor were able to track the unidentified objects by radar on advice from Beachy Head and gave a speed of 750 to 800 knots. This is equivalent to a speed of 860 to 920 mph and it would seem that the initial newspaper estimates of 1000 mph were a little exagerrated. We will see later the significance of this exagerration.
What of the interception ? did the RAF really try to shoot down a flying saucer ? The truth is a little less sensational than that. Certainly, RAF Odiham did not scramble a squadron of Javelins and this fact is borne out by a secret telex message transmitted to DDI Tech from the RAF Station. Nevertheless, the telex message makes interesting reading and I have recreated the text in full.-

SECRET A0166 (AIR MINISTRY FOR DDI (TECH)) ODIHAM REPORT ON INTERCEPTION OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT ON THE NIGHT OF 29TH APRIL 1957 AT 2038Z TWO JAVELIN AIRCRAFT MISSION 48 AND 49 TOOK OFF FROM ODIHAM TO CARRY OUT PRACTICE INTERCEPTIONS PD AT APPROX 2105Z HOPE COVE CALLED OFF MISION 48 TO INTERCEPT AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT AT 12 OCLOCK RANGE 12 MILES AT 50,000 FT MISSION 48 WAS THEN AT A POSITION ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTH EAST OF YEOVIL AT 45000 FT HEADING 010 (M) ON REACHING 48000 FT MISSION 48 WAS TOLD THAT THE OBJECT WAS THEN AT 12 OCLOCK 10 MILES PD ON REACHING 50000 FT MISSION 48 WAS TOLD THAT THE OBJECT WAS NOW IN THE DARK AND THAT HE WAS TO RETURN TO BASE PD IT WAS A CLEAR NIGHT BUT THE CREW SAW NOTHING PD THE NAVIGATOR WAS UNABLE TO PICKUP ANYTHING ON HIS AI DURING THE PRACTICE INTERCEPTIONS HE HAD MADE PICKUPS ON HIS PLAY MATE AT 14 MILES PD THE AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY LANDED AT ODIHAM AT 2130Z.

In conclusion, it is clear from historically authenticated evidence that something unusual was in our skies on the night of April 29th 1957. Unusual metallic aerial phenomena was witnessed by several people near Shanklin and these observations were backed up by radarscope evidence. Furthermore, fast moving objects were seen on radar on an apparent rendevous course with the shape-shifting Shanklin craft. The newspaper reports on this incident were sufficient to generate a Parliamentary question, Mr Frank Beswick (Labour-Uxbridge) enquired.-

> To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what was the nature of the aircraft or other object sighted on the radar air defence screens on Monday night and which occasioned the despatch of aircraft of Fighter Command.

A week later, another shot across the bows came from Major Patrick Wall (Conservative-Haltemprice).-

> To ask the Secretary of State for Air, how many unidentified flying objects have been detected over Great Britain this year as compared with previous years; and whether the object picked up by radar over the Dover Straits on 29th April has yet been identified.

The Deputy Directorate of Intelligence had actually prepared briefings for the Secretary of State; however, it is interesting to note that a lot of briefing was going on behind the scenes. In a document marked SECRET, (File AIR 20/3920, ref DDI (Tech)/S290/3A, Appendix 5) I quote the following statement.-

It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire [West Freugh] radar incident fell into the hands of the press. The two other radar incidents have not been made public and reached us by means of official secret channels. We suggest that [Secretary of State] does not specifically refer to these incidents as radar sightings.

Let us just pause for a minute and reflect on that last sentence, why would the Intelligence Department not want these incidents to be referred to as radar incidents ? It does not take a PhD to realise that radar returns are physical evidence. and whilst radarscopes can give spurious readings. these faults can be quickly identified by a trained technician. If these returns are seen by more than one radar as was the case with St Margaret's Bay, chances are, they represent a genuine object. The underlying current was that the post-war generation of the 1950s had a lot of faith in radar as it had won us the Battle of Britain. They would have believed more in the physical reality of the unidentified craft than the possibility that the radars were at fault and this was in my opinion the reason for the ommission.

You will note that Major Wall's question enquired about previous years incidents. This was considered a supplementary question in the brief prepared for the Minister and he was advised to draw attention to the fact that very few of the unusual objects reported remain unidentified for long. Had George Ward seen the unexplained incidents of the previous year outlined on the Intelligence Minute

Sheet (Appendix 6), he may well have been very concerned. The minutes included brief descriptions of.-

1. Radar sighting by a navigator on a vulcan aircraft.
2. An unusual object on Lakenheath Radar which moved at between 2000 and 4000 knots. Venom scrambled in unsuccessful intercept.
3. Radar sighting at Weathersfield, momentary contact made by aircraft scrambled to investigate
4. A visual submitted by a member of the Royal Observer Corps

A further brief description was made of an object seen on the screen at RAF Church Lawford which accelerated to a speed in excess of 1400mph from a stationary position. The radar was not at fault since it was giving a standard return for another aircraft in the vicinity.
This still left the MoD with the problem that the St Margaret's Bay radar returns had been reported to the press. At West Freugh, the explanation given was a Weather Balloon. Clearly, 860mph was a little excessive for this excuse. I will now hand you over to the Secret Ministerial Briefing Papers (Appendix 7) prepared for the Secretary of State for Air.

To summarise the brief.-

1. The previous years reports were not included
2. Church Lawford *was* mentioned; however, it was "played down" to use MoD terminology in that no mention was made of the object's acceleration and contradictory to the minute sheet, it was implied that the equipment may have been faulty.
3. RAF Ventnor *did* pick up two returns on the night of the 29th April; however, the time was 10.00pm (not true, it was 9pm, furthermore, the two intercepting Venoms had landed by 9.30pm).
4. They *were* high speed returns (750knots) picked up by RAF Ventnor; however, they were re-assessed to be travelling at 600 knots by Hope Cove radar near Land's End. Note, this was a return at 10.00pm travelling Westwards. RAF Ventnor's returns were travelling South Westerly at 9.00pm on an apparent rendezvous with the other object reported at Shanklin Bay.

Apparently, there were sixteen hunters on exercise between 9 and 10.30pm on the night of the 29th. The minister was essentially told that these were the mystery objects. If he was asked about the speed, he was instructed to say that the press reports of 900 to 1000 mph were in excess of those reported by the Control and Reporting System (Ventnor reported 860 to 920mph, still faster than anything we had then). Furthermore, no mention was made of the stationary objects in Shanklin Bay, nor was there any mention of the fact that Ventnor had been alerted to the returns by radar at RAF St Margarets.

I must admit, when I first read the reports from File AIR 20/9321, I was convinced that the Ministerial Briefs were correct and that the St Margaret's Bay Incident was just a false alarm. Having correlated the information with documents from a second file AIR 20/9994 it became quite clear that this brief was a cover-up, this is amply demonstrated in the answers that Major Wall and Mr Beswick recieved (*Hansard*, 15th May 1957, 393/4).-

Five flying objects reported this year are as yet unidentified compared with six last year, none in 1955, and six in 1954 (note: no mention of radar sightings !)
The object sighted in the Channel on 29th April turned out to be two of a large number of Hunters of Fighter Command engaged on a training exercise. Their movements as observed on radar were somewhat unusual and aroused the suspicions of the radar defences.

(iv) *The Rendlesham Forest Incident.*- Over a series of nights in December 1980, unidentified craft with design and performance parameters in excess of cutting edge technology were seen by numerous military personnel at the twin USAF bases of RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters. Strange identations were found on the ground in nearby Rendlesham Forest, at a location where a guard patrol had witnessed a small structured metallic craft. Radiation readings were taken from these indentations, whereupon, the Defence Radiological Protection Service calculated that the radiation was ten times higher than was normal for the area. The MoD maintains that this was an alleged

incident; however, the document in Appendix 8 released by the US Department of Defence following a Freedom of Information request refutes this.

(v.) *Open Skies, Closed Minds*[6].- 1996 saw the publication of a book written by Mr Nick Pope, a civil servant who had worked at the MoD's UFO reporting desk, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a in Whitehall. The book, Open Skies, Closed Minds was unprecedented in that for the first time, an individual with first hand experience of UAP in the UK had spoken out against the current MoD policy. For the first time, incredible details were made available to the public; for example (a) on 5 November 1990, a squadron of RAF Tornadoes flying over the North Sea were casually overtaken by a UFO and a report was filed and (b) on 31 March 1993, a triangular shaped UFO flew directly over two military bases and was seen by a guard patrol (RAF Cosford) and a Meteorological Officer (RAF Shawbury). The craft was marginally smaller than a Boeing 747 and was capable of moving very slowly and also displayed tremendous acceleration on a par with the RAF Lakenheath, RAF Topcliffe and RAF Church Lawford UFOs reported in the 1950s.

Documentation disputing "No Defence Significance"

The Ministry of Defence is clear in its official policy that UFOs are of no defence significance and taken to its extreme, this is true in that no serious damage has been done to property. It is perhaps fortunate for us that in the last fifty years since sightings of UAP have become commonplace, a "War of the Worlds" scenario has not materialised. That said, the "no defence significance" assertion seems out of place in a world where aircraft are diverted from task to intercept craft which clearly show design and performance parameters far in excess of our cutting edge technology and it would seem a terrible waste if Intelligence resources were utilised for something that was considered harmless. It is for these reasons that, historically at least, "no defence significance" does not hold water. It is more a case of "we are keeping a weary eye on the situation as it develops" which is the message that comes across in HQ Fighter Command Air Staff Instruction No. F/1 (Appendix 9)[7].

What of the situation today, clearly, it is unlikely that our Intelligence Services have stopped looking at UAP; however, there is no way of confirming this since the MoD cannot comment on these areas for national security reasons. Looking at the situation from another perspective, one could quote Defence Role One from the *Statement on the Defence Estimates 1996*:-

> It is the MoD's job to ensure the protection and security of the United Kingdom and our Dependent Territories even when there is no major external threat

Whereas Military Task 1.10 is more specific

> The integrity of British airspace in peacetime is maintained through a continuous Recognised Air Picture and air policing of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region.

On numerous occassions to numerous MPs and members of the public, the MoD have said UFOs are of no defence significance; however, let us place this into perspective. Anything that compromises the integrity of our airspace falls into Task 1.10 and that includes anything that endangered our civilian airlines, be it directly or indirectly. It is a matter of official record held within the CAA Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Database (See Appendix 10) that UAP have indirectly imperilled civilian ailcraft through near misses.

(i) *A near miss over the Pennines*[8].- A B737 was about 8 or 9 nautical miles south-east of Manchester Airport and descending from 4000 ft. Although dark (time 6.48pm, dare 6th January 1995), visibility was over 10Km. An unidentified wedge-shaped craft passed down the right hand side of the plane, so close in fact that the first officer instinctively "ducked" as it went by. The size of the unidentified object was estimated to be between that of a light aircraft and a jetstream. Apart from the wedge-shape, other abnormal characteristics about the UAP were the lack of wake and sound.
The Joint Airprox (P) Section of the CAA were unable to assess the degree of risk and cause of the incident; however, the Group was also anxious to emphasise that the report, submitted by two responsible airline pilots, was considered seriously and they commended the pilots for their courage in submitting it, and their company , whose enlightened attitude made it possible. It was also noted that

such reports were often the object of derision; however, the Group hoped that a sufficient precedent had been set to encourage other pilots who experience unusual sightings to come forward.

(ii) *The Kondair Trislander Incident*[9].- Actual collisions between aircraft and UAP are also a matter of official record with the Civil Aviation Authority. On the 24 August 1984, a Kondair Trislander carrying a revenue cargo was struck in mid-air and had to execute a forced landing. Three pieces of foreign metallic debris were found embedded in the aircraft; however, no details were released on their analysis and experts from the Meteorological Office were adamant that it was not part of their Radio Sonde equipment.

(iii) *The McDonnell MD-80 Incident*[10].- On the night of April 21, 1991, the crew of a McDonnel MD-80 were concerned by an unidentified object passing in close proximity less than 1000 feet above the airliner (a near miss). The pilot said the object was light brown, round, 3 metres long and did not describe any means of propulsion.

It is clear from the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Abstracts in Appendix 5 that the above cases are only the tip of the iceberg. It is also clear that the presence of UAP on civil flight paths is a very real danger. For example, if a pilot panicked and yanked at the controls, this could put a large civilian airliner in serious peril.

Perhaps the most telling aspect from the past that UAP were of defence interest came from the involvement of our Intelligence services. The Technical Branch of the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were involved in recieving such reports as early as December 1953[11]. It seems that by November 1962[12], reports from the public were being directed to S6 [fore-runner of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a] and reports from service sources, including radar reports were dealt with by Tech Intelligence-Air 5b (aka AI (Tech)5b). Five years later, responsibility fell upon the Space Section in DI55 which was a branch of the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI). it was clear from a memo issued by Sqdn Ldr. E Humpston (Appendix 11) that there was insufficient manpower to investigate UFOs to the "standard required". It is here that the trail goes cold; however, it would be inappropriate to assume that our Intelligence Services dropped investigations into UAP there and then. To all intents and purposes, the successor of DI55 is still probably operating for it is clearly the case that Defence Ministers, Generals, Heads of Intelligence etc have come and gone whereas craft that show superfluous design and performance parameters well in excess of cutting edge technology still continue to penetrate our airspace with impunity.

Conclusion

How can we view the available evidence ? It is clear from the historically authenticated documentation released that unidentified craft with design and performance parameters in excess of cutting edge technology have penetrated our air defence region. It is also clear from the released documentation that these craft were not manufactured by any known earthbound civilization for we have still yet to prepare aerial craft that can rapidly accelerate to 1400 mph from a hover and we have still not mastered how to build aircraft that give radar returns the size of ships capable of hovering at 70,000 feet. To understand this better, in 1956, the Vulcan bomber was a prototype, in 1957, it entered service and by 1985 it was obsolete.
Historically authenticated documentation has also attested to the fact that, in the 1950s, incidents involving UAP were "played down". Although it would be an inane prolepsis to judge the perpetrators by our modern standards given the Cold War scenario in the 1950s, there can no longer be a justification in not acknowledging UAP or withholding further documentation..
Information from the 1960s has been hard to come by, the MoD has stated that all of the UFO files held by AI (Tech)5b were destroyed; however, this is about as likely as Hersey and Chase burning their notes on DNA or Darwin having thrown papers on his Origins of Species over the rail of *The Beagle*. Man's innate curiosity is such that when faced with the unknown his instinct is to try and control or eliminate it, what he learns, he does not readily throw to one side. However, knowledge is power, and what he learns, nor does he necessarily share with his fellow man. This latter characteristic can lead to man's undoing, for example, we have seen how the reluctance by the MAFF to share details on BSE led to an unprecedented collapse in the UK's beef industry despite the

protestaions of many emminent scientists. A similar reluctance to share information on AIDS in the early 1980s led to further catastrophic results.
Clearly, the way forward is an acknowledgement of the fact that unidentified aerial craft with design and performance parameters in excess of our cutting edge technology *are* penetrating our airspace. That does not necessarily mean we should acknowledge the existence of "Little Green Men"-honesty is the best policy and the honest answer is we just do not know who or what is piloting these craft. Nevertheless, an acknowledgement of UAP by the Government would be the catalyst for industry and academia to divert much needed resources to this field.
A fact generally recognised by New Labour is that unecessary secrecy leads to defective decision making and can undermine a Government's credibility. It is this recognition that formed the cornerstone of the recent White Paper on the Freedom of Information Act. This is the case with UAP. We have seen from Sqdn Ldr. Humpston's Memo that the DSTI had insufficient manpower to investigate sightings and this begs the question *what opportunities were missed ?* what would we have found out had we put more resources into investigating UAP ? The crux of the matter is, UFOs are being witnessed all over the world, they are a global issue. An issue far too large for an undermanned Intelligence Unit to investigate, an issue too gargantuan to keep the lid on much longer and more seriously, an issue we may one day come to regret not having acknowledged and acting upon. Let us reflect on the term "global issue", UAP penetrating our airspace are something we have in common with Iraq, Iran, China, Libya, Israel, Chile, Brazil, Korea and probably with every other country in the world. Furthermore, the obvious extraterrestrial overtones serve to remind us that we all breathe the same air on this little spec of sand in the desert that is our cosmos, we all want what is best for our loved ones and we all want peace and stability. UAP could be the one thing that unites us.

Source Material:

1. A Covert Agenda by Nicholas Redfern (Pub. Simon & Schuster 1997)
2. The Uninvited by Nick Pope (Pub. Simon & Schuster 1997)
3. PRO File: AIR 16/1199. Crown Copyright Exists. Sourced at Kew, Tel. 0181 876 3444
4. PRO Files: AIR 20/9320, AIR 20/9321 and AIR 20/9444. Crown Copyright Exists.
5. A I Mesenyashin, *Journal of Electrostatics*, **36**, 1995, pp 139-150
6. Open Skies, Closed Minds by Nick Pope (Pub. Simon & Schuster 1996)
7. PRO File: DEFE 31/118. Crown Copyright Exists.
8. Airmiss Report No 2/95. Provided courtesy of CAA
9. Document EW/684/08/14 . Provided courtesy of CAA
10. Press release issued by CAA
11. Reports on Aerial Phenomena by Flt. Lt. C P B Russel, 16 Dec 1953, PRO File: AIR 20/9994. Crown Copyright exists.
12. PRO File: AIR 2/16918. Crown Copyright Exists.
13. PRO File: DEFE 31/119. Crown Copyright Exists.

Appendix 1

Section 40

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

A/1891

D/US of S/JS 5075/97/M

21 January 1998

Dear Dafydd,

13th 2004

Thank you for your letters of 12 June and 2 October to George Robertson concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility. I am sorry for the delay in responding, however, your earlier letter was not received by my Department.

By way of background I should explain that my Department examines any reports of 'unidentified flying object' sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. 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. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Members of the public who are concerned that they have seen something that might represent a military threat to the United Kingdom can report the details of the incident to the nearest RAF station, police station, air traffic control centre or similar. The information is then passed on to my officials in Secretariat (Air Staff)2 who will examine the details, consulting Air Defence experts and others as necessary, to the extent of our specific interests only. Where there is no evidence to suggest a potential military threat, no further action is taken. Members of the public can also leave details of 'UFO' sightings on the Secretariat (Air Staff) public enquiry line (0171 218 2140) and

Dafydd Wigley Esq MP

Released

these are handled in a similar way. My Department does not routinely provide acknowledgements or contact witnesses who submit reports of 'UFO' sightings and will only take further action if there is corroborating evidence of a matter of defence significance.

It is sometimes the case that my Department's specific interest in a particular issue does not correspond with the wider-ranging interests of some members of the public. This is particularly the case with regard to 'UFO' matters. My Department has no interest or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which we remain open-minded. To date my Department knows of nothing which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I should wish to assure you that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

With regard to any concerns held by your constituents, my Department would, of course, be happy to examine any evidence they might have. The address to which this should be forwarded is:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat(Air Staff)2
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

I hope this clarifies the position.

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Appendix 2

The mystery of the object in the sky

6. 9. 57

Evening Standard Air Reporter

The mystery of an unidentified object picked up by a Royal Air Force radar screen at West Freugh, Scotland, on Thursday, deepened today.

Was it a weather balloon or was it something else?

An Air Ministry spokesman said today: "We are still investigating the reports. There is no further evidence yet."

Yesterday the Air Ministry had no doubt about it. An official said then that they had checked with the radar station, and that the object was a weather balloon, which had been sent up from Aldergrove airfield, Northern Ireland.

Telephone report

Northern Ireland is only 25 miles across the North Channel from West Freugh.

RAF intelligence officers who deal with reports of unidentified objects have received a telephoned report from Wing Commander W. Whitworth, commanding officer of the West Freugh station.

He is sending a full written report to the Air Ministry.

'Very high'

Radar stations (Britain's watch against any surprise attack) are constantly manned. Other radar sets are used in air traffic control and are not on all the time. Objects which cannot be identified are reported to the Air Ministry.

It is understood that the West Freugh object was plotted at a great height.

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AIR 20/9321 35087

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D.D.I.(Tech)/C.290/3/

Unidentified Objects at West Freugh

1. On the morning of April 4th radar operators at West Freugh detected unidentified objects on the screens of their radars. A summary of this incident is given below.

2. The object was first observed as a stationary return on the screen of a rdar at Kelscallock. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about 10 minutes its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 ft. A second radar was switched on and detected the "object" at the same range and height.

3. The rader sets used were capble of following objects automatically besides being manually operated. The information is obtained in the form of polar coordinates but it can be converted to give plan position indication together with heights. This information can be fed into aplotting board which displays the position of the object by means of an electronically operated pen, while the height is shown on a meter.

4. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table, each radar being switched on to the table in turn to check for discrepancies. After remaining at one spot for about ten minutes the pen moved slowly in a N.E. direction, and gradually increased speed. A speed check was taken which showed a ground speed of 70 m.p.h., the height was then 54,000 ft.

5. At this time another radar station 20 miles away, equipped with the same type ofradars, was asked to search for the "object". A echo was picked up at the range and bearing given and the radar was "locked-on".

6. After the "object" has travelled about 20 miles it made a very sharp turn and proceeded to move S.E. at the same time increasing speed. Here the reports of the two radar stations differ in details. The set at Kelscallock tracked an"object" at about 50,000 ft at a speed of about 740 m.p.h. while the other followed an "object" or "objects" at 14,000 ft. As the "objects" travelled towards the second radar site the operator detected four "objects" moving in line astern about 4,000 yards from each other. This observation was confirmed later by the other radars, for when the object they were plotting passed out of range they were able to detect four other smaller objects before they too passed out of range.

7. It was noted by the rader operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. In fact they considered that the size was nearer that of a ship's echo.

8. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 ft while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 740 m.p.h. Nothing can be said of physical construction of the objects except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

9. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

10. Another point which has been considered is that the type of rader used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the rader screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena.

/11.

11. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

Appendix 3

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Appendix 4

NOTES FOR MINISTER

Mr. Stan Awbery

For the two years beginning 1st January, 1955, 64 reports were received. Nearly all have been rationally accounted for during the subsequent investigations.

2. So far this year, 15 reports have been received, including the faked photograph published in the "Daily Sketch" on 6th April, 1957.

SECRET

3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked for 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that no Service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.

4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines :-

"That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

SECRET

5. Two unidentified radar sightings are at present under investigation, viz :-

/(1.

Appendix 5

a209320.tif

Reference:-
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3A. 5141

DAW

SECRET

D.D.I.(Tech)/S290/

S.6 (Mr. West)

With reference to your loose minute 511/S.6 dated 11th April, 1957, it is regretted that due to an oversight the West Freugh, Wigtownshire incident was listed twice; once as a newspaper report and once as a radar sighting under investigation. The error in listing the incidents means that there were fifteen reports this year. The newspaper reports were, in fact, only two and not three as given.

2. The four reports, amplifications of which you require, are as follows.

Radar sightings under investigation

(a) A report was received from Royal Air Force Church Lawford on 26th March, 1957 of a sighting of an unusual nature. The object move at a speed timed as exceeding 1400 m.p.h. This in itself was unusual as the object had accelerated to this speed from a stationary position. No explanation has yet been found for this sighting but supplementary report, including a copy of the radar plot, was requested and has been received from Church Lawford this afternoon.

(b) Signals from Royal Air Force Stations Bempton and Lakenheath on 19th March reported unusual responses which did not resemble those from conventional aircraft. Aircraft sent to find the object made no contact with anything in the area of the response.

The meteorological office are at present trying to find whether any unusual phenomens were observed by their stations in that area.

It is possible that the response was due to a seasonal phenomena known as "Angels" and "Anaprop" which is a result of Inversion and Reflection from the Ionosphere.

(c) Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh, Wigtownshire picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object on 4th April 1957; the object was tracked for thirty-six minutes continually increasing in speed while losing height. Enquiries, so far, reveal that no service nor commercial aircraft were in the vicinity at the time. We are at present trying to find out whether a private aircraft might have been in the area at the time.

The possibility of a balloon has been eliminated because the object was proceeding against the wind.

Newspaper Report

(d) A review by the 'Daily Worker' of a book recently published on German wartime weapons contained references to a German flying saucer which was flown at a speed of 1250 m.p.h. to a height of 40,000 ft.

3. The Wigtownshire report referred to in para 5 of our minute 3 of folder P.Q. 193/57 is the same incident as reported in the news cuttings forwarded with your minute and returned herewith.

4. It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the press. The two other radar incidents have not been made public and reached us by means of official secret channels. We suggest that S. of S. does not specifically refer to these incidents as radar sightings. We suggest that in answering the original question S. of S. might reply:-

"Of the fifteen incidents reported this year ten have been identified as conventional objects, two contain insufficient information for identification and three are under investigation."

5. If supplementary questions are asked the S. of S. might wish to refer to the answer given to Major Wall on 4th May 1955. Reports received since that date do not suggest that there need be any change in the answer given at that time.

[signature]

DIRECTOR

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Appendix 6 1 of 3

MINUTE SHEET Air Ministry File No.

1.

S.6.

I showed he grateful for a draft reply and notes to this question not later than 5.0 on Wednesday 8th May. I understand that you already have a set of press cuttings about the object pursued on 29th April.

I attach a recent P.Q. 193/57 in connection with which you provided some background information and an earlier question of Major Wall - PQ 196/55.

S4.b.
1/5/57

2.

D.D.I.(Tech)

I should be grateful for advice on both parts of this question. I suggest that the definition of "UFO's detected" should be regarded as reasonably authenticated and reliable reports, including radar reports, for which no satisfactory explanation has been advanced. Thus for 1955 and 1956 together (para.1 of your min.3 on P.Q.folder 193/57 attached) the maximum number would appear to be 6. I should be glad of figures for 1955, 1956 and 1957 to date, separately.

2. I understood from what A.C.A.S.(I) said at the Air Staff meeting yesterday that reports of the incident of 29 April were still ~~very~~ being collated. I should be glad of /a

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a full summary of what has been established, together with your conclusions on the West Freugh incident.

3. The full facts will of course need to be given to S. of S. If there is any question of releasing information of intelligence value I will of course consult A.C.A.S.(I).

4. I should be glad of a reply as soon as possible, and not later then 9 May.

P.J. Hudson

(P.J. HUDSON)

S.6.
2nd May, 1957.

S.6

In 1955 there were no unexplained incidents of unidentified flying objects.

In 1956 a total of six unidentified flying objects were received. Of this total three were radar sightings. One was made by the navigator of a Vulcan aircraft but the captain was unable to make a visual sighting although the object approached the aircraft. The duration of the sighting was 1 min 15 secs. Another, was a report of an unusual object on Lakenheath Radar which at first moved at a speed of between two and four thousand knots and then remained stationary at an high altitude. No visual contact was made with this object by the Venom sent to intercept it and other radars failed to pick it up. The third radar report was of an object on the screen at Weathersfield. One of the two aircraft sent to intercept made a momentary contact; the other made no contact at all. No other ground radars who scanned the area were able to find a trace of any object.

The other three incidents are all visual sightings. One was submitted by a member of the Royal Observer Corps. His description of the object was not sufficient to identify it as any particular thing. It is thought that what he saw may have been an aircraft but it is impossible to say so, categorically. Another report came from a B.Sc. who gave a description of an object which he saw some twelve thousand feet up. It is thought that this was a balloon but no verification could be made. The Meteorological Office are certain that the object was not one of their balloons. The third of the reports came from a man who reported seeing a round object, emitting rippling circles, similar to heat or vibration waves. It is not known what this might have been.

In 1957, four unidentified flying objects have been reported. Of these, two are radar sightings and the other two, reports from the public.

Of the radar sightings, one has received publicity as the "West Freugh Incident". The other reached us by secret channels and is not public knowledge. It came from R.A.F. Church Lawford, which reported an unusual object travelling at a very fast speed at a great height. No explanation has been found for this, as, in view of the speed and height, it could not have been any conventional aircraft. The radar may have been at fault but this is unlikely as it performed a normal plot on a V type aircraft while it was watching the U.F.O.

Of the two reports from the public one is thought to be a balloon but no confirmation can be obtained. The other contains insufficient information to be identified.

/With

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MINUTE SHEET Air Ministry File No.

3 Cont'd

With reference to the telephone conversation between Mr. Hudson and the undersigned, no report has been made here of the Channel incident. A copy of the report on the West Freugh incident is attached to the P.Q. folder.

(A. GIFFEN PEACOCK)

D.D.I.(Tech)
8th May 1957

-4-

S.4b

I attach at 4A and 4B a draft Answer and Notes based on minute 3 and the enclosure relating to West Freugh (the contents of which are Secret). The matter has also been discussed at some length with D.D.I.(Tech).

2. The second part of the Question is dealt with on P.Q. Folder 220/57. Presumably the two Questions will be answered together but, in any case the information provided on the two folders by S.6 will enable you, with suitable editing, to produce the Answers required.

(P.J. HUDSON)

S.6
13/5/57

5

A.U.S.(G)
P.S. to D.U.S.I.

Mr. Beswick's Question about the object picked up by radar over the Channel on 29th April, which was originally down for answer last week, was deferred until tomorrow and we therefore have the opportunity of answering it together with the similar Question from Major Patrick Wall. A combined answer to the two Questions is accordingly submitted at enclosure 5A. Notes for Minister are at enclosure 5B.

S.4b
14.5.57

(E.P. KRUSE)

6.

(E6618) Wt. 12185—150 400M 4/50 G S.B.L.

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Appendix 7
1 of 4

NOTES FOR MINISTER

Major Patrick Wall
Mr. Heswick

NUMBER OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS REPORTED

The total of five unidentified flying objects for 1967 is composed of two radar sightings and three reports from the public.

2. The first of the radar sightings was the so-called "West Freugh" (Wigtownshire) incident reported by the press at the beginning of May; an object was tracked by two radar stations moving N.W. at heights between 50,000 and 70,000 ft., and gave radar echoes considerably larger than the operators would have expected from a conventional aircraft. At one time the reports of the incident mention more than one object, and possibly as many as five. They cannot have been meteorological balloons, since they were moving against the wind, and because of their size an earlier suggestion that a private aircraft might be involved has been rejected.

SECRET

3. The second radar report, which was not reported to the press, came from . . . Church Lawford in the Midlands. The reported object was noted travelling at great height and speed, which may conceivably have been a fault in the radar although this is thought to be unlikely.

4. The three reports from the public came from Kent, Glasgow and Cornwall; by their nature, of course, little is known about the sightings.

Although...

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Appendix 7

though they are probably all capable of a natural explanation. One of them, from Glasgow, was made by a boy of ten, who gave a detailed description of an object which he saw for 15 seconds at 10,000 ft. travelling at 750 m.p.h.; the second, from a Cornish postman who saw a "dome-shaped object like a sliced egg", is somewhat less frivolous, since the postman is understood to have received some basic training in aircraft recognition while the third, in Kent, is believed to have been a balloon, although this cannot be confirmed.

5. As with earlier "flying saucer" queries, general supplementary questions might be answered by pointing out that very few of the unusual objects which are reported remain unidentified for long; and when they cannot be explained, it may often be because there is insufficient evidence fo a positive identification.

6. If Members suggest that the figure for 1957 is very high, taking into account the fact that less than five months' reports are included in it, the reply might be :-

> "Honourable Members will bear in mind that the unexplained reports relating to this year are still under investigation, and that some of them may well be identifie later."

THE OBJECT SIGHTED ON 29TH APRIL

7. 16 Hunters of Fighter Command were exercising between 9 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. on

/30th April

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Appendix 7
3. of 4

29th April. Two aircraft appeared on the radar screens of Ventnor G.C.I. at about 10 p.m. (Since aircraft are not tracked inland, the G.C.I. was not aware that the aircraft had, in fact, come from inside the United Kingdom). First estimations credited the aircraft with a very high speed (over 750 knots) and because it was suspected that something unusual had happened, two Javelins which were in the air on patrol were instructed to investigate. The two aircraft, whose height was about 44,000 ft. were seen on the radar screen to part company - one travelled North-East (actually to Horsham St. Faith) and one almost due West. The two Javelins were directed towards the aircraft heading Westwards, but no interception was made, neither did the Javelins' radar detect any other aircraft. During the phase when the Javelins were being homed on to the "suspicious" aircraft travelling Westwards, its speed was re-assessed at something under 600 knots. When it had moved out to the west of Lands End, and was moving towards the limit of Hope Coves radar cover, the Javelins were ordered to abandon the attempted interception.

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8. Subsequent investigations by Fighter Command showed that the movement of the two "suspicious" objects, seen by the Ventnor radar, was completely consistent with the movements of two of the 16 Hunters of Fighter Command engaged on a training exercise. Times have been correlated

/with...

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with aircraft flight plans, and there is no doubt that this was a false alarm.

9. Press reports spoke of the very high speed of the suspicious objects. If questions are asked on this subject, it can be said that the speeds reported in the Press (900 to 1,000 miles an hour) were in excess of those reported by the Control and Reporting System.

10. If Members ask why it is that two friendly aircraft should so have confused our radar defences as to have drawn off our defending aircraft on a false scent, it could be pointed out that there were a very large number of movements taking place at the time, and that in view of the fact that the aircraft were not positively known to be friendly, it was clearly better to deploy defending aircraft as a precaution.

11. If S. of S. is asked whether the explanation advanced in the answer is regarded as proven, the reply could be made that the times and radar tracks have been closely checked with the movements of the Hunters as reported by their pilots, and the correlation is complete.

12. Hansard extracts for recent Questions about flying saucers and so on are attached.

Appendix 8

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

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

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

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

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

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

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Appendix 1 of 4

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HEADQUARTERS FIGHTER COMMAND AIR STAFF INSTRUCTION NO. F/1

REPORTING OF UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT OR AERIAL PHENOMENA

PART I - RADAR SIGHTINGS

Introduction

1. This Instruction replaces instructions previously promulgated by letter. A copy of Part I of this instruction is to be immediately available to Squadron Commanders of Night/All Weather Squadrons, to "the Air Defence Controller at A.D.O.C., to Master Controllers and Reporting Controllers at M.R.S's., and to Display Controllers at Satellite Radar Stations." and to Duty Staff and Air Staff officers at Sector and Command Headquarters.

Immediate Investigation

2. When an unusual phenomenon or track is observed by radar, the occurrence is to be investigated immediately. This investigation should endeavour to determine whether the phenomenon or track is due to:-

(a) A technical fault.

(b) A friendly aircraft previously unidentified.

(c) Interference.

(d) Meteorological conditions.

(With reference to (b), the procedure for identifying aircraft, and for reporting aircraft that remain unidentified, is laid down in Headquarters Fighter Command Control and Reporting Procedure Instructions. In areas where, or at times when, the identification of all aircraft is not carried out, a track should be considered unusual if it is moving at a ground speed exceeding 700 knots or at an altitude exceeding 60,000 feet).

Reporting

3. If the immediate investigation does not discover the cause of the track or phenomenon, a report is to be made by Confidential Routine signal to Headquarters Fighter Command (Ops. C. & R.) copies for information to Sector Headquarters. This report is to include:-

(a) The appearance of the echo.

(b) The ground speed and altitude of the echo.

(c) Whether it is continuous or intermittent.

(d) Its signal strength (strong, medium or weak) throughout the time of observation, including pick-up and fade points.

(e) The range and bearing of these points.

(f) The type of radar used.

(g) Whether confirmation was obtained from other types of radar.

A copy of the record sheets, together with a track tracing and the relevant P.D.S. film (where applicable) is to be sent by post.

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Analysis

4. Operations Branch Headquarters Fighter Command will analyse reports from units, and if an explanation cannot be found a report will be rendered by Confidential Routine signal to Air Ministry (D.D.I.(Tech.)), (information copy to Intelligence Branch, H.Q.F.C.).

Press Publicity

5. The Press are never to be given information about unusual radar sightings. Unauthorised disclosures of this type will be viewed as offences under the Official Secrets Acts.

/Part II

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Append 9.
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PART II - VISUAL SIGHTINGS

Introduction

6. A copy of Part II of this instruction is to be immediately available to all Station Commanders, Squadron Commanders and Intelligence Officers during working hours, and to Station Duty Officers and Duty Staff Officers at all other times.

Sightings by Service Personnel

7. (a) Aircraft. Should a member of the Services, or of the Royal Observer Corps observe an aircraft belonging to the Soviet bloc or one which cannot be identified as friendly, behaving in a manner likely to cause suspicion, that is, flying other than the flight pattern normally seen in the particular area, he is to report the sighting to his Station Commander through his superior officer immediately.

(b) Phenomena. Should a member of the Services see an object in the sky for which he cannot account, he is to report it at once to the Station Commander through his superior officer.

(c) Action by Commanding Officers. In both cases (a) and (b) above, the Commanding Officer is to report the occurrence by telephone to the appropriate Master Radar Station without delay, and is to initiate a sighting signal as detailed in paragraph (f) below. He is then to arrange the immediate interrogation of the witness/witnesses and to send a report of the interrogation to all addressees of the sighting signal as soon as possible.

(d) Action by Aircrew. Where sightings of suspicious aircraft or phenomena are made by aircrew when airborne, they are to report the occurrence immediately as follows:-

(i) Crews of Fighter Aircraft. To the appropriate Master Radar Station.

(ii) Crews of Other Aircraft. To the appropriate Master Radar Station if in radio contact, otherwise to the appropriate Air Traffic Control authority.

(e) Action by Master Radar Stations. When sightings are reported to a Master Radar Station under (c) and (d), (i) and (ii) above, the Master Controller or his deputy is to ensure that the radar is checked for any unidentified responses. If the Master Radar Station has aircraft under control in the vicinity of the reported phenomena, those aircraft are to be diverted to investigate the phenomena.

(f) Sighting Signal. The signal is to be graded "Priority Confidential", addressed to Air Ministry, London (for the attention of D.D.I. (Tech.)), Headquarters Fighter Command and A.D.O.C., and repeated to Sector Headquarters. It is to be set out as follows:-

(i) The time ("Z") of the occurrence.

(ii) The place where it was observed (Georef, or distance and bearing from a town or R.A.F. Station).

(iii) A detailed description of the aircraft or phenomenon (i.e. size, shape, colour, movements or changes in appearance if any, its estimated altitude, speed and course, and the duration of the observation).

/(iv)

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(iv) Whether the observer has been trained in aircraft recognition.

(v) How many other people saw the phenomenon.

Sightings of Phenomena by Civilians

8. Should a civilian report to an R.A.F. authority that he has observed a phenomenon, a signal as in paragraph 7(f), but including the name and address of the civilian, is to be despatched. It is also to be followed by an amplifying written report to all addressees in paragraph 7(f) as soon as practicable after the sighting. A letter of acknowledgement and thanks should be sent to the civilian, but any action taken as a result of the report must not be disclosed either verbally or in writing.

Press Publicity

9. Sightings by Service personnel, or the action taken as a result of sightings by civilian personnel, are in no circumstances to be disclosed to the Press. Members of the Press are, if they make enquiries, to be referred to the Information Division of the Air Ministry, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Entry in S.R.Os.

10. Stations are to insert in S.R.Os. at intervals of three months an order similar to the following:-

(a) "Visual Sighting of Suspicious Aircraft or Aerial Phenomena

(i) Unidentified Aircraft. Any officer or airman who sees an aircraft that he cannot identify is friendly is immediately to refer the sighting to his superior officer for guidance.

(ii) Aerial Phenomena. Likewise any officer or airman who observes in the sky a phenomenon or object so unusual that he considers it should be investigated, is to report it to his superior officer.

(iii) In no circumstances is any communication to be made to the Press without Air Ministry authority."

31st December, 1960
FC/S.48160/Ops. (C. & R.)
FC/S. 42917/Int.

Appendix 10
1 of 2

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	BRITANNIA	G-BAZG	NR LEEDS	5 JUL 78	7802646F	P

CAA Narrative:
UNIDENTIFIED BRIGHT LIGHT SEEN 11 O'CLOCK ABOVE

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727 -100	DAN-AIR	G-BAJW	VICENZA	19 SEP 79	7904369X	P

CAA Narrative:
UFO OBSERVED PASSING 200FT BELOW A C
MILAN CONTROL REPORTED "NO TRAFFIC.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BCDA	VICENZA	11 JUN 80	8003311C	P

CAA Narrative:
UFO PASSED CLOSE TO SUBJECT AIRCRAFT
OBJECT APPEARED TO BE LIKE A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DROP TANK.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BHNE	LYON	13 FEB 81	8100542C	P

CAA Narrative:
UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN OBJECT SEEN ON A C RADAR
A SIZEABLE OVAL SHAPED TARGET APPEARED ON RADAR CENTRE-LINE AT LIMIT OF RANGE
TRACKING TOWARDS A/C AT VERY HIGH SPEED.NO VISUAL SIGHTING MADE.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G -BKCG	DINKELSBUHI	12 JUN 82	8201614C	S

CAA Narrative:
LARGE TRANSLUCENT OBJECT, APPROX 500FT LONG, OBSERVED AT 41000FT.
ATCC REQUESTED SUBJECT A/C TO INVESTIGATE THIS OBJECT WHICH WAS FOUND TO HAVE
THE FORM OF A DOUBLE RECTANGLE SURMOUNTED BY A GLOBE (EGG SHAPE) CROWNED BY A
SILVER CONE. OBJECT OBSERVED BY ALL ON BOARD.

Appendix 10
2 of 2

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	DAN-AIR	G -BKAP	BRINDISI	21 JUN 82	8201671B	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED BY PILOTS.
OBJECT PASSED DOWN LEFT HAND SIDE AT SAME HEIGHT AS A/C (FL230) APPROX 2 MILES AWAY. BLACK SHINY DOUGHNUT SHAPE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CAR. OBJECT WAS TUMBLING & JUDGED TO BE STATIONARY.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
BAC 111 500	BCAL	G -AWYS	FLORENCE	18 AUG 83	8302525A	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SEEN BY CREW.
LARGE BLACK OBJECT, BALLOON SHAPED WITH LARGE WHITE SPOT ON IT, OBSERVED 10NM SE OF FIRENZA. NO ATTACHMENTS TO OBJECT. SUPP INFO: ITALIAN CAA REPLIED NO MET BALLOON COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE INDICATED PLACE OR TIME.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737	BRITANNIA	G -AVRL	AMBOISE	9 AUG 84	8402477A	P

CAA Narrative:

GREEN FLARE SEEN DESCENDING LEFT TO RIGHT STRAIGHT AHEAD AT FL300.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
TRISLANDER	KONDAIR	G -BDOS	IPSWICH	24 AUG 84	8402680D	P

CAA Narrative:

UK REPORTABLE ACCIDENT : A/C STRUCK OBJECT IN CRUISE. PROPELLER, FUSELAGE, COWLING & CONTROL RUNS DAMAGED.
THE A/C WAS FLYING IN SLIGHT TURBULENCE WHEN A BUMP WAS FELT. JUST BEFORE DESCENT THE RIGHT ENGINE CONTROL WAS FOUND TO BE SEIZED SO AN ASYMMETRIC APPROACH & LANDING WAS EXECUTED. ON INSPECTION IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE LEFT PROPELLER HAD STRUCK AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT, PROPELLING IT THROUGH THE CABIN ROOF, WITH A PIECE EXITING THROUGH A WINDOW. THERE WERE SEVERAL HOLES IN THE FUSELAGE & DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE, AILERON & RUDDER TRIM CABLES. THREE PIECES OF FOREIGN METALLIC OBJECT WERE FOUND, INCLUDING A SMALL CYLINDRICAL MAGNET. THE UFO HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. (AIB BULLETIN 10/84). SEE DIGEST 84/D/43.
CAA CLOSURE: NO INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING NATURE OR ORIGIN OF UFO.

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Appendix II

Secret

15

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. It has been stated in the House of Commons and in policy correspondence in the Ministry of Defence that all reported sightings of UFOs are investigated by M.O.D. to determine their cause and to assess if they constitute a military threat. The present procedure in M.O.D. is that all sightings are channelled to S.4f(Air) who is responsible for all communications with the public on these matters. S.4f(Air), in collaboration with the A.I.O.R., make preliminary enquiries with Fylingdales or R.S.R.S. Slough, for possible satellite sightings, and with other organisations who may be flying aircraft or balloons, or operating equipment that could cause optical phenomena giving rise to the sightings. In the majority of cases the sightings can be attributed to these causes and no further action is required.

2. In the cases where no immediate satisfactory explanation can be determined, i.e. they are truly unidentified flying objects, then D.S.T.I. are required by M.O.D. to carry out further investigations. These investigations were originally carried out by Tech. Intelligence (Air) but they became the responsibility of the Space Section in DI.55 from the beginning of May 1967. After receiving UFO sightings from S.4f(Air) for a complete month, the Space Section have now had a chance to assess the magnitude of the task. It is emphasised that the information given in the reports is quite inadequate for any decision to be made from within the office, and if the task is to be done at all, more details must be obtained from those members of the public who originated the sightings. This can only be done from personal interviews as it is sure to involve the preparation of sketches, geographic bearings, distances, heights, movements and further statements. Armed with this knowledge the investigating officer would then be obliged to assess the facilities in the local area, such as air bases, university experimental areas and factories, and consider the prevailing meteorological conditions at the time for conditions which could possibly have given rise to the phenomena. Finally, the investigating officer would be required to make his decisions and write a report on the results of his investigations. It is suggested, therefore, that if the investigation is to be carried out in accord with the official policy statements on the subject, 2-3 man days will be required for each investigation. A total of nine UFO sightings requiring further investigation by DSTI were received during May 1967.

3. From the above, it is apparent that investigations into UFOs cannot be regarded as a part-time or secondary task, and that it is completely beyond inclusion in the work schedule of the already overworked and undermanned Space Section of DI.55. Under these circumstances it is recommended that it be recognised that DSTI cannot undertake the investigation of UFOs to the standard required by the stated policy on the subject, or, alternatively, an officer and transport be established in DSTI specifically for this purpose.

(E. HUMPSTON)
Sqdn.Ldr.
DI.55 b.

7th June 1967

Secret

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245, 36
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER

Section 40
Withernsea,
North Humberside.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
8 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister concerning "unidentified flying objects". Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec(AS)2

Ref No 2122 /1998

Date 7/4/98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-8 APR 1998
FILE

PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

No acknowledgement has been sent. If a Ministerial reply is required please ensure that your enclosure and full address are provided

CONTACT Parliamentary Branch Numbers

Section 40

WITHERNSEA
N. HUMBERSIDE

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
- 8 APR 1999
ROOM 515, NORMAN SHAW BLDG

2122

MR BLAIR

I am writing to Let you no that i have been in contact with councillor allen, and he as not helped me with my problem as i contacted him through a Libary, as i have seen U.F.O.'s on a number of occasion's and i have photograph's as they Landed. But the councillor allen as been in touch with the D.O.A. and there have not helped me at all there keep passing me to diffrent departments and they do not seem to be Listening to me, they seem to pass me around as they hope the problem will go away and it as not gone away and we do not no who to turn to now. Has we have been on the radio and the hull daily mail papers, but still no one can help me getting the truth out, even though we have proof on some of the event's that as happened to me and my daughter over the last Five years. Also me and my daughter believe we have been tagged as we both got the same bumps at the back of our heads which you can see, and we also have been hypnotize which proves that we are telling the truth but nobody will help me and my daughter. But my problem keeps recurring i have been in contact with N.A.S.A. and many other organisations and newspapers and all they seem to want is our negatives but still no one will help us, and i also been in touch with Sir A. clarke as all they want is to help there selfes and not me and my daughter. So could you please help me thank-you.

yourstruthfully Section 40

P.S I WOULD LIKE A INTERVIEW with MR BLAIR would you get intouch as soon as possible thank-you.

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 35

Section 40

Eyemouth,
Berwickshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
7 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 11 March regarding an "unidentified flying object" sighting of 29 January near RAF Kinloss.

2. I have looked back through our sighting report files and there were no sightings reported to the MOD for 29 January 1998 from anywhere in the UK.

3. You asked if there was any military aircraft activity in the area on the evening in question. I have made enquiries and have found that there were two F-15s from RAF Lakenheath conducting routine night time low level training in the general area, although not necessarily above or around RAF Kinloss.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

bufora

British UFO Research Association

TEL Section 40

Section 40

Eyemouth,
Berwickshire.
Section 40
11/03/98.

Dear Section 40,

As you know I am an investigator with B.U.F.O.R.A. who encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research into the U.F.O. phenomena. I now wish to approach your department yet again, with regard to a recent sighting of lights or objects in the sky over an area near RAF Kinloss Moray, Scotland. This sighting took place on the 29th of January 1998 at precisely 21:05 hrs. The display was described as a brilliant white/pink colour. From this object came a tail of a similar colour and a peculiar rumbling sound. The object was described as floating in the sky but suddenly shot straight up at an incredible speed until it became the size of the surrounding stars. Four witnesses claim to have seen this object. Surprisingly, an object of similar dimentions was seen a few days later being escorted by RAF aircraft near RAF Kinloss.

Would it be possible for you to put forward a suggestion as to what these lights may have belonged to, for example helicopters, or was there any military activity in that area on that night? Information no matter how small can sometimes be the utmost importance to us at B.U.F.O.R.A. I do realise the British Stealth programme is Top Secret and therefore any information released by you will be of a limited nature.

I would now like to thank you again for the time you have taken to read this letter and I await your timely reply.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Regional Investigations Co-ordinator (BORDERS)

Section 40 Sec(AS)2b did log trace on 7 April

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
16 MAR 1998
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 34

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Partick,
Glasgow.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
7 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 10 March regarding sightings of "unidentified flying objects" over the East Kilbride area, one of which was on 25 January.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. I have looked back through our sighting report files and have found that there were no sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence for 25 January 1998 from anywhere in Scotland. I am unable to check whether any military aircraft were operating in the area on that date because you did not specify a time. However, you may wish to know that most military low flying training is carried out during daylight hours on weekdays. Certain locations, such as built-up areas like East Kilbride, are excluded from low flying training by Tornados or Jaguars.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Partick,
Glasgow Section 40

Tuesday, 10 March 1998

CONFIDENTIAL

MoD Department 4a,
Whitehall,
London SW1

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects over East Kilbride, Lanarkshire

I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to help me in my investigation into several sightings of UFOs in the skies over East Kilbride, Lanarkshire.

At present I am engaged in an investigation into said sightings in my capacity as a Field Researcher for UFO Scotland. One particular sighting has me baffled as two separate witnesses recalled the interception of an object by three Military aircraft. To all intents and purposes their descriptions of the aircraft suggested Tornado or Jaguar fighter/bombers.

During this particular sighting which occurred on the 25th of January this year (1998), the two witnesses described how one aircraft approached the object from a Northerly direction, flying South towards the object, while another two aircraft approached the object from a Northerly/Western direction heading South-East on an intercept course.

According to witness statements, one ex-military, the aircraft approached the object on their initial headings and then within a certain undeterminable range, all three aircraft broke off and flew off quickly disappearing from sight.

My question to you is, can/will the MoD confirm to me that the events, as described, took place. If so, what was the Military aircraft's intended intercept target. I appreciate there are obviously security implications at stake here, but I would very much appreciate any information you can supply me with.

Respectfully yours,

Section 40

Field Researcher
UFO Scotland

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 MAR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 33

Section 40
Stamford,
Lincolnshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
7 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 7 March addressed to RAF Wittering concerning reports of "unidentified flying objects". Your letter has been passed to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature.

2. First I should explain that the MOD examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

With the compliments of

Squadron Leader Section 40 **RAF (R'td)**
Community Relations Officer
Royal Air Force
Wittering
PETERBOROUGH
PE8 6HB

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 MAR 19

We discussed the attached earlier today. Thank you for your assistance.

Regards.

Section 40

7/3/98

Section 40

Stamford,
Lincs.

Section 40

Dear Sir or Madame,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Section 40 and I am the local member of the International UFO Research Network. I was hoping that you could send me the details of which dept/extension was I might need when following up possible sightings,... radar, air traffic control, flight records etc, and also any contacts that you use that you could also refer myself to. Obviously various agencies will come under the Official Secrets Act but any that don't, I will be grateful for.

I would also appreciate a copy of the latest official MoD stance on UFOs.

PTO

If you require any payment for me please feel free to phone me on Section 40 [redacted]

Any help you can give is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully.

Section 40 [redacted] (SURFORM)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 32

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
East Acton
London
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
3 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 21 March in which you seek any information held by the Ministry of Defence on an incident which is alleged to have occurred in Llandrillo at some time during 1974.

2. I have seen Press and magazine articles which allege that a 'UFO' incident occurred near the Berwyn Mountains on 23 January 1974 and wonder if one such article has prompted your enquiry.

3. I can tell you that I have recalled the MOD's 'UFO' report files for January 1974 and can confirm that although the Department did receive five reports for 23 January 1974, none were from Wales or the surrounding area. I have also been able to establish that there were no military aircraft crashes in the UK on 23 January 1974.

4. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

E. Sussex
London
21/3/98.

Sir/Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you please help me. I am doing research into events which took place at Rendlesham in 1980. The only information I have at this moment is that Rendlesham is in the Middle of Nowhere. Something came down with a big bang.

Members of certain armed forces were then sent in by the air and roads were kept at the bit, even the local police. Later, RAF experts came in a helicopter looking for "debris" from a meteor fall, finding nothing.

Only it was not a meteor fall, and I can. It was a "Disc" some tall and tripod undercarriage 4 portholes 6m by 15m in size and reflective metallic.

If you can help me any information from the RAF experts reports and findings I would be grateful.

Yours

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 MAR 1998
FILE

ENCLOSURE 31 NUMBER

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Marnhull,
Dorset.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
3 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter addressed to Dorset County Council in which you have requested information on "UFO" sightings in Dorset. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

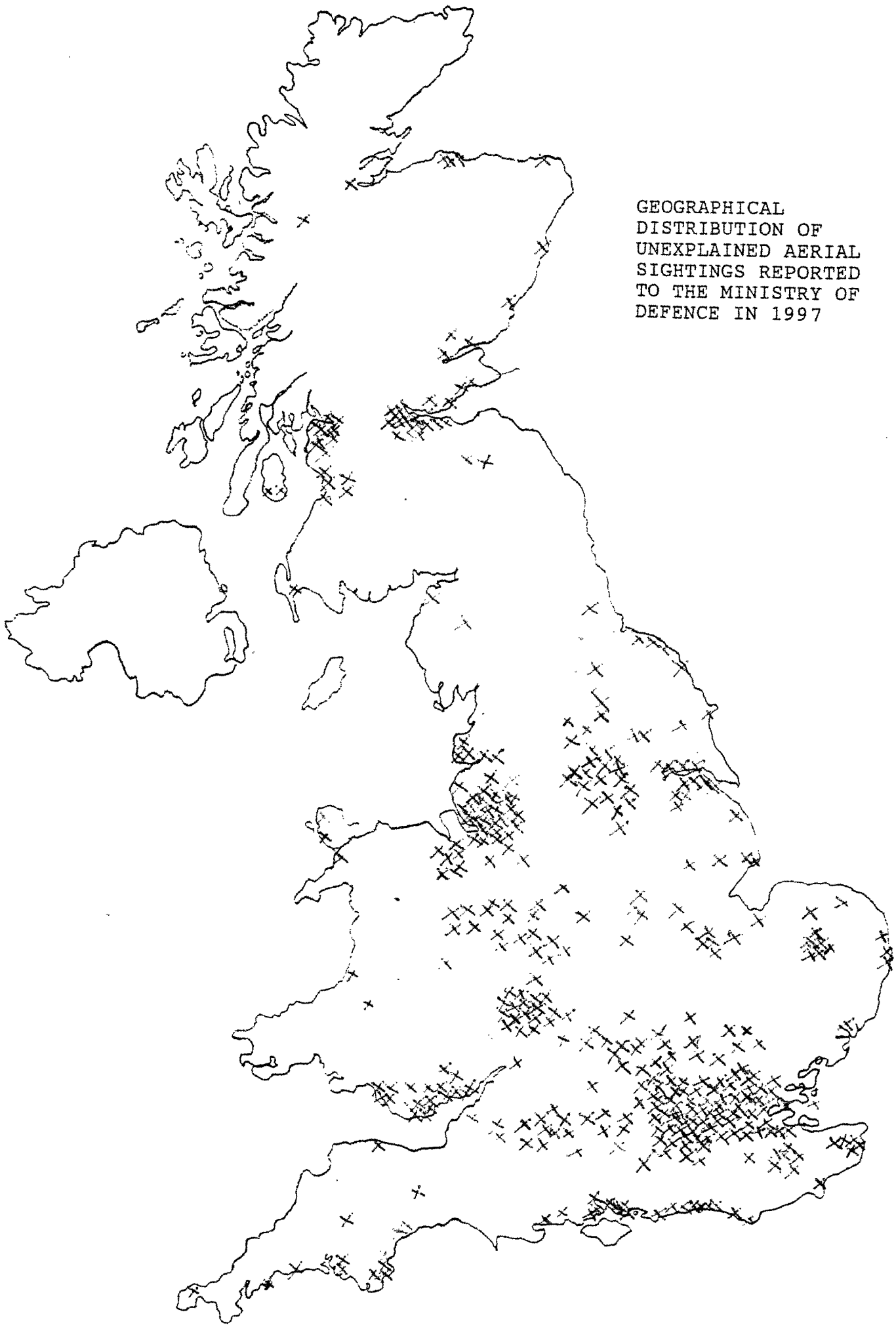
4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

5. I have enclosed a copy of a map which shows the geographical distribution of sightings around the United Kingdom reported to us during 1997. You will be able to see from this map that we did not receive many reports from the Dorset region.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(2x SHETLAND ISLANDS)



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN 1997

1 x TERCEL

DORSET County Council

C O R P O R A T E S E R V I C E S

David Jenkins • Director

Peter Drummond • County Emergency Planning Officer

County Hall • Colliton Park • Dorchester • DT1 1XJ • Tel: (01305) 251000 • Direct Line: (01305 or 01202) 224510
Fax: (01305 or 01202) 224108 • Minicom: (01305) 267933 • DX8716 Dorchester

Ministry of Defence
Attn DPR (RAF) / SIO
Room 0358
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Your ref:
My ref: ORG/10/3
Ask for: Peter Drummond
Date: 18 February 1998

Dear Sir

INFORMATION ON UFOS

On advice from my Royal Air Force Regional Liaison Officer, may I request that you respond direct to the attached letter seeking information about unidentified flying objects in Dorset?

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

P N Drummond
County Emergency Planning Officer

UFOQ2.SAM

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS)1
10 MAR 1998
FILE

Dorset U.F.O. Research Network (D.U.F.O.R.N.)

[redacted] Section 40
Director Of Investigations
[redacted] Section 40
Marnhull Dorset
[redacted] Section 40

Telephone Section 40

Dear sir / madam

I am a U.F.O. investigator and I was wondering where can I get information on UFO sightings in Dorset. Any information would be taken [redacted] well

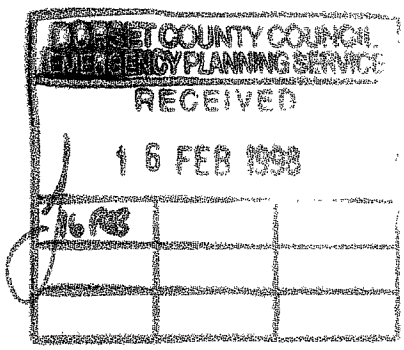
thanks for any help you can give.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Director of Investigations

D. U. F. O. R. N



From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 30

Section 40
Waltham Cross,
Hertfordshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 3 March to the Secretary of State for Defence regarding "unidentified flying objects". Your letter has been passed to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

5. You asked whether there were any recently released documents relating to "UFO" sighting reports. As is the case with other government files, 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. It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967,

following an increase in public interest in this subject "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Any files surviving from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

6. I hope this explains the MOD's limited interest in reports of so-called "UFOs".

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec(AS)2 Ref No 1762/1998

Date 13/3/98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

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As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

3rd March 1998.

Section 40
[redacted]
Waltham Cross,
Hertfordshire,
Section 40
[redacted]

MINISTER OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES
12 MAR 1998

1762

Dear Sir,

I am writing to request any information on any recently released documents or reports on unidentified aerial phenomena such as military UFO sightings. I ask you to read this letter with an open mind and not dismiss it. Can you categorically deny that the British government has no knowledge of any conspiracy to cover up information on UFO's, and that it is not currently engaged in any such activities. I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
13 MAR 1998
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

RECEIVED
11 MAR 1998

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE 29 NUMBER

Section 40

Hull.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 29 February.

2. You asked how you can make contact with Mr Nicholas Pope. In my last letter, dated 21 January, I provided you with the address of Mr Pope's publishers (Simon & Schuster Ltd., West Garden Place, Kendal Street, London, W2 2AQ) through whom you can write to him.

3. I am afraid I am unable to assist you with your questions regarding missing trawlers.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Date 29/2/98

Section 40 [redacted]

Hull

Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Section 40 [redacted] I am wrighting to you because I want to know an address of a member of the (M,O,D) Mr nick Pope.
I also want to know about three trawlers that went missing 24 years ago the year 1974 or near there.
The name's of the three trawlers are

- MV Artic Galliard
- MV lord nelson
- MV Invincible

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 5 MAR 1998
FILE

they were used in a spying network The project name:

Project Intelligence gathering.

Did [redacted] the Ships all have some kind of Stedth technology on board because in them days it was a one off chance for a trawler not to be seen by a u-boat at all. They was a man Called Section 40 [redacted] who was also involved who got a christmas card off the (M/O/D) in 1965 the christmas Card Said!

with best whiskes for christmas + new year

from

Section 40 [redacted]

Then it is Signed by a [redacted] is related to mr Wick pope only you can answer that. Could you check thought the (MPO/D) recolection files for this past incident.

yours

[redacted]

P.S

Please wright back + Thankyou for reading my letter.

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

Section 40
Hull.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter in which you have asked about an "unexplained" aerial sighting in Hull.

2. I have looked back through our sighting report files and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence did not receive any reports for 16 January 1998 in Hull or the surrounding areas.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Hull

Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

~~To~~ We are wrighting to you about a (ufo) Sighting in Hull down Caldane on the 9th/1st/98 What we are asking is Could you Please have a look in your (ufo) files and tell us if they has been any reports of a Sighting in Britian / Hull on the 16 January 98 at 7.50pm When I Say one (ufo) they was Sexel.

yours

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

P.S/

Please wright back!

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
13 MAR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 27

Section 40

Redcar,
Cleveland.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 April 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 2 March in which you have asked for further information on events which are alleged to have occurred near Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

2. As my letter to you of 11 February explained, unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, the MOD does not seek to provide an explanation for each sighting reported to us. From Departmental records available for the period in question, we have established that all available information was looked at at the time by air defence experts who were satisfied that nothing had occurred to suggest that the UK Air Defence Region had been breached by unauthorised foreign military activity on the nights in question.

3. I am not aware of any information that would answer your latest questions.

4. I should like to assure you that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our current air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

REDCAR,
CLEVLAND,
Section 40

2nd March 1998.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 11th february 1998, which responded to my request for information on the rendlesham forest, incident.If the object seen near rendlesham forest in december 1980, was of no defence significance and no breach of the united kingdom's, air defence occured then the object must have originated in the united, kingdom and must be known to the MOD.
I would like to know if RAF Bentwaters disaster preparedness and, Bioenviromental office was notified of the incident and if any of , the following were reported by the USAF.

1."Helping Hand"
2."Coverd Wagon"
3."Faded Giant"
4."Broken Arrow"

I would be greatfull for any information you could give me or any, coments your office may have.
Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
- 5 MAR 1998
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 26

Section 40
Canterbury
Kent
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 April 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 27 February, which concerns an alleged 'unidentified flying object' sighting near the home of the former Home Secretary, Michael Howard on 8 March 1997.

2. The Ministry of Defence's sole remit as far as reports of 'unidentified flying objects' are concerned is to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.

3. Once the MOD Air Defence staff established there was no evidence to suggest that an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region occurred on 8 March 1997 the MOD's interest in the alleged incident ceased. The Home Office has informed this office that no security incident occurred at Mr Howard's home on 8 March 1997.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UFOMEK
UFO Monitors East Kent

Co-ordinator:
Section 40
Canterbury,
Kent. Section 40

Section 40
Folkestone.
Kent. Section 40

Date: 27/2/98

Dear Section 40

As you are aware, my colleague, Section 40 has been corresponding with your office for the last 12 months, regarding the sighting by multiple witnesses of a large unidentified aerial triangular shaped object in an area of East Kent called 'Burmarsh', adjacent to Dymchurch and Romney Marsh in the early hours of 8th March, 1997. Further to these multiple sightings at Burmarsh, we were given information that the said same object was observed by two 'credible' witnesses in the immediate vicinity, hovering apparently motionless above the private residence of the then Home Secretary and Folkestone MP, Michael Howard.

It is quite clear from your response, that this incident was being first of all, denied and then quite obviously 'played down' by your department. This is evident as the correspondence between ourselves and the Kent County Constabulary has, in some cases, contradicted your often condescending replies.

Contrary to popular belief, 'ordinary' people who have an interest in the UFO subject, are not always the lunatics you would like portrayed to the public. Those of us who are responsible, intelligent members of society refute such a suggestion and do NOT believe that every unidentified light/craft seen in the skies over the UK is necessarily of 'alien' origin. Indeed, we are quite aware that upwards of 96% of all sightings are proved to be mis-identified aircraft etc. in fact, UFOMEK have been instrumental in providing down to earth explanations of alleged UFO sightings that have been reported to us.

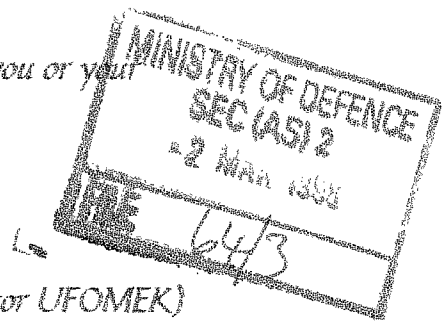
We now know that an incident did take place on the 8th March, 1997, and that the security contingent at Mr. Howards residence were indeed aware of such an incident, and responded. This we know to be FACT. We have now received written confirmation from the Kent County Constabulary.

I would appreciate a less condescending response from you or your superior than we have had of late, and look forward to such.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(Coordinator UFOMEK)



Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 25

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: —	Transmission: Date: 1 April 98 Time:
Document Reference: 6413	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
From: MOD Section 40 [redacted] Sec(AS)2A	Fax Number: Section 40 [redacted] Tel Number: Section 40 [redacted]
To: DTI Section 40 [redacted]	Fax Number: Section 40 [redacted]
Authorised by: Rank Name Appointment	Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number
Signature:	Signature:

Subject: Section 40 [redacted]

As agreed, for information I have attached a summary of the Ministry of Defence's policy in respect of reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. Section 40 [redacted] is a persistent correspondent and is well aware of the MOD's policy. There is no need, therefore, to go into our policy in your reply.

Should you receive any other requests regarding the MOD's policy on 'UFOs', please advise the correspondents to write to this office at the following address:

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a
Ministry of Defence
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

As Section 40 [redacted] has frequently written to MOD and Home Office Ministers in recent months, for completeness it would be most helpful if you would send me a copy of his letter and a copy of your reply.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Thanks.

Section 40 [redacted]

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which it remains open-minded. To date, however, the MOD is unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings it receives 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 hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

1 Apr '98 11:54

Secretariat(Air Staff)--->	
No.	1880
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'10"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

links with Enclosure 18

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE 24

Section 40

Brighouse
West Yorkshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
27 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I refer to my letter of 25 March in which I said that I had not been able to locate any files which would assist me in answering your query about an incident which is alleged to have occurred in January 1974.

2. The search has continued and I have now received a file containing details of sightings of 'unidentified flying objects' reported to the Ministry of Defence in January 1974.

3. I can advise you that although the Department did receive five reports for 23 January 1974, none were from Wales or the surrounding area.

4. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 23

Section 40
Wokingham,
Berkshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
27 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 2 March in which you have asked about the Ministry of Defence's policy regarding reports of "unidentified flying objects". This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature.

2. The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. I hope this explains our position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Wokingham
Berkshire
Section 40

2 March, 1998

Ministry Of Defence
Sec(AS)2a
MOD
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Unidentified Flying Aircraft/Objects

I have written you this letter about your official position on the subject of Unidentified Flying Aircraft/objects, and the possibility of contact with extra-terrestrial biological entities, I would like any information you have regarding this subject, you can email me it at: john- . I would also like to know if you still investigate this subject, even after the stereotype of the press, of which I hope you treat in a professional manner.

Respectfully,

Section 40
Asst President
PUFORI

www.pufori.org

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 5 MAR 1998
FILE

Answered under
FE: US 0959/98
MARCH 98.

Section 40

For open Govt Audit Purposes, this letter is recorded on file 64/4 pt E.

Holyhead
Anglesey
Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 22

21 February 1998

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MOD
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

I would like to add my voice to the groundswell of public opinion concerning an open policy on unidentified aerial phenomena.

I am aware of your Department's official policy that "To date, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial lifeforms exist". However, if you read my attached article on the Operation Mainbrace Incident, I am sure you will agree, this policy is now obsolescent. Nor is this the only incident on record to have come out of the Public Record Office.

I would be grateful if the Ministry of Defence would reword its official policy to the more updated.-

"It is a matter of Public Record that intelligently controlled unidentified craft with design and performance parameters that far exceed current state of the art aircraft design have on occasion being witnessed by military/civilian aircrew/personnel. These unidentified craft are also on occasion penetrating the UK air defence region."

Under the Code of Practice on access to Government Information, I sense it would also be constructive if, in future, when military units witness unidentified aerial phenomena that full details of the sighting be made public in the form of a televised press conference. This type of openess would also be an excellent demonstration of the Government's commitment to a Freedom of Information Bill.

I am grateful for your kind consideration of my requests for open Government. I believe by working in partnership with the people in this way, our Government would be recognised by people at home and abroad as pioneers in the progressive development of modern democracy.

Kind Regards,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
27 FEB 1998
FILE 64/3

A Very Secret History

1952 was a landmark year in the history of the Twentieth Century. Britain had a change of monarch, UN forces were fighting in Korea, General Batista seized power in Cuba, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia won three medals at the Helsinki Olympics and President Truman dedicated *The Nautilus*, the worlds first nuclear submarine. September also had its share of the years events. In Washington, The McCarthy Witchunts were in full swing and even Charlie Chaplin was denied a US Visa pending a disloyalty enquiry. Meanwhile, Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase confirmed the hereditary nature of DNA in a report published on the 20th.

Communism and The Soviet Union were perceived as a grave threat and on the 18th September, the Danes and the US disclosed the building of a huge airbase at Thule in Greenland; meanwhile, the NATO allies were also conducting a huge exercise in the North Sea and North Atlantic. Dubbed "Mainbrace", the exercise used the military resources of Britain, USA, Canada, Norway, Denmark, France, Netherlands and Belgium. Whilst details of all these events are available in any standard college history textbook; disturbingly, details of an incident that occurred during Operation Mainbrace have only recently been made available through the auspices of The Public Record Office at Kew.

As part of the Royal Air Force's involvement in Mainbrace, No 269 Squadron were posted to RAF Topcliffe on Yorkshire. It was whilst at Topcliffe that several members of this squadron witnessed a silver disc type unidentified flying object on the 19th September. Flt Lt Kilburn, the senior officer among the men filed a full report which was posted to HQ No 18 Group and dated 20th September 1952, the contents of which are summarised below.

The witnesses observed a Gloster Meteor descending at 500 feet at RAF Topcliffe in Thirsk, Yorkshire during Operation Mainbrace. The time was 7.10pm and the date was 19 September 1952. a UFO was seen approximately 5 miles astern at approx. 15000 feet and described as circular and silver in colour, it was moving at a slow speed on a similar course to the Meteor and then began a descent swinging in a pendular motion not too dissimilar to that of a falling sycamore leaf. The descending Meteor had turned towards Dishforth and the UFO, whilst still descending, appeared to follow suit. The pendulous motion then ceased and the object initiated a rotary motion about an axis perpendicular to its horizontal plane before disappearing in a westerly direction and turning on a south easterly bearing. The witnesses stated that its movements were not identifiable with anything that they had seen in the air and acceleration was in excess of that of a shooting star. The duration of the incident was 15 to 20 seconds. The sighting was also backed up by a number of civilian witnesses outside of the base.

Source Material:

1. A Covert Agenda by Nicholas Redfern (Pub. Simon & Schuster 1997)
2. Chronicle of The 20th Century (CD By Dorling Kindersley Ltd, London, 1996)
3. PRO File: AIR 16/1199. Crown Copyright Exists. Sourced at Kew, Tel. 0181 876 3444

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 21 4/3

Thu 26 Mar, 1998 9:38 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
26/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	RE: Hill-Norton letter to USofS	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 26/03/98 at 8:33 Delivered: 26/03/98 at 8:33
To: OMD/AD(Management),SEC(AS)2
CC:
Ref: /GUID:D901711F0CC4D111B39400005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: RE: Hill-Norton letter to USofS

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Checked. No problem. As we agreed we can easily live with

Section 40

Section 40

One almost happy customer -

Can you check to see that Section 40 change is ok a problem.

Section 40

26/3

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40 I have only one small change to Section 40 background note.

Para 11, last sentence to read "Additionally, Air Historical Branch holds key Air Staff papers including some 2,600 boxes of Operational Record Books (ie RAF Station diaries)." Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 20

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Christchurch,
Dorset.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
26 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister regarding "unidentified flying objects". Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. You stated you would like to visit the Public Record Office to look through MOD "UFO" report files. You will wish to know that as is the case with other government files, 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. It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Any files surviving from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To SOC (AS) 2

Ref No 1504 /1998

Date 2/3/98

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days**.

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

C - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 48/97; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT Section 40

Section 40

CHRISTCHURCH
DORSET
Section 40

TONY BLAIR
PRIMEMINISTER

13 NOV 96

1504

DEAR MR Blair

I have been an investigator into the UFO phenomena for several years and I also do research for BUFORA, recently I have been looking into reports concentrating around the houses of parliament and which MP,s have seen strange lights or UFOs . I would very interested to hear your views on this subject as I feel that the tag of lunatic fringe has been given to investigators and witnesses who report such sightings.
I would also like the opportunity to visit the public record office and to gain access to records about such reports.
Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

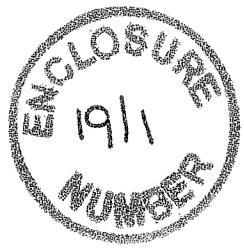
Yours sincerely

Section 40

PRIME MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

Your letter has been forwarded to the appropriate Government Department for a full reply

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-2 MAR 1996



From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Military Affairs Consultant
Microsoft Network UFO Forum
Section 40
MA 01453
USA

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
25 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 28 January forwarded to this office by the British Embassy in Washington, in which you sought information on the way the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence handles reports of 'unidentified flying objects'.

2. The UK MOD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, the UK MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

4. The UK MOD has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open-minded. I should add that to date the UK MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

5. Contrary to media and some public misconceptions, the UK MOD does not have a dedicated 'UFO' office nor the resources to assist the public with research into the so-called 'UFO' phenomenon. There are no staff in the UK MOD who work on this subject full time. Secretariat (Air Staff) provides advice to Ministers, the Department and the public on a wide range of issues in support of RAF activities and operations. Within these terms of reference, Sec(AS)2 acts as the nominated UK MOD *focal point* for handling queries, sighting reports and correspondence on the subject of

'UFOs'. Any reports received are assessed, in consultation with the Department's air defence experts as required, to determine whether there is defence interest.

6. I hope this is helpful in explaining the limited interest that the UK MOD has with respect to the 'UFO' phenomenon.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Middle Copy:

Air 3

RAF Staff

British Embassy Washington.

Royal Air Force Staff

British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20008-3688
Tel: Section 40
Fax:
E-mail: Section 40

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 4 March 1998 **REF:** BDS/RAF/5051/2

TO: Section 40 Sec(AS)2a1 Room MB8245

FAX: Section 40

FROM: Wg Cdr Section 40 Air 3

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 2 PAGE(S) INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.
IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL Section 40

MICROSOFT NETWORK UFO FORUM

Please find attached the letter on UFOs we discussed in our last telecon. I apologise for the delay in forwarding it to you. Quite simply, I have been snowed under with matters Iraq and latterly, I welcomed the opportunity to get out on the road for a week to visit some of my exchange officers.

As I mentioned, I have sent Section 40 a holding reply and explained that 'MOD' would probably respond to him direct in due course. Over to you, Kerry and good luck with this thorny policy issue!!

Regards,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS)1
05 MAR 1998
FILE

Microsoft Network UFO Forum
Section 40, Military Affairs Consultant

Section 40
Leominster, MA 01453

Phone Section 40
Email

January 28, 1998

Defense Attaché
Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Sir,

My name is Section 40 and I serve as a Military Affairs Consultant to the Microsoft Network (MSN) Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Forum. As you are probably aware, the Microsoft Network is one of the largest Internet providers in the United States. The purpose of the UFO Forum is to provide Microsoft Network subscribers and others information about this very controversial phenomenon. It is the position of the Forum to adopt a posture of complete neutrality as to the explanation of what constitutes the UFO phenomenon. We neither accept nor reject the plethora of theories that abound with regard to UFOs. We regularly feature guests at our Forum Website who represent the full gamut of thought with regard to Ufology. At this time we are compiling data with regard to how various governments in the world regard the phenomena and if they have an official position regarding the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

It would be extremely helpful to us, if you could briefly share with us your government's position regarding UFOs especially with regard to how that impacts upon your defense establishment. Do you, for instance, have a systematic response if a UFO is reported? Is there an agency or office that deals with alleged reports or sightings of UFOs? Is any research being conducted by your government to attempt find an explanation for the phenomenon? Your input is very valuable to us. I can assure you that we are not a "crackpot" or fringe organization, we are merely assembling data on a topic that millions of people world-wide find very interesting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Military Affairs Consultant
MSN UFO Forum

cc:
Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 19+1

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
UFO Magazine
Quest Publications International Ltd
Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Oteley LS21 3JP

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
25 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 24 February concerning reports of unidentified lights over the city of Leeds on 2 February 1998. Your letters to the LATCC (Mil) West Drayton and RAF Leeming have been passed to this office as the MOD focal point for correspondence of this nature; please accept this as a reply to all three letters.

2. As you will know, the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

3. You will wish to know I am sure that the MOD did not receive any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for 2 February 1998 from anywhere in the country. I can assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential external military threat. We are confident that our current air defence capabilities fully meet any perceived threat.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

DRAFT

Section 40
UFO Magazine
Quest Publications International Ltd
Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Oteley LS21 3JP

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
March 1998

Section 40

I am answering the specific question only here. Not being patronising. Are you certain?

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 24 February concerning reports of unidentified ~~bright~~ lights over the city of Leeds on 2 February 1998. Your letters ~~on the same subject~~ to the LATCC (Mil) West Drayton and RAF Leeming have been passed to this office as the MOD focal point for correspondence of this nature; please accept this as a reply to all three letters.

2. As you will know, the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

3. ~~I can confirm~~ that the MOD did not receive any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for 2 February 1998 ~~for~~ from anywhere in the country.

You will wish to know I answered.

Yours sincerely,

Draft letter
Before any one we have made any reference to such activity.
I can answer you that ..... integrity of UK Air Defence Regim

Est. 1989

UFO MAGAZINE

Quest Publications International Ltd

UFO MAGAZINE™

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE...

Section 40 [redacted]
Features Editor

Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Otely, LS21 3JP

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

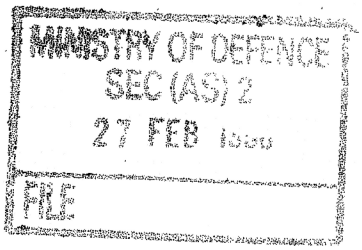
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA, THE UFO DIRECTORY, UFO MAGAZINE VIDEO COLLECTION, PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY, NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE, UFO INTELLIGENCE RECORDS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Tel: [01943] 850860 (4 lines) Fax: [01943] 850637 e-mail UFOMAG@QuestPub.Demon.CO.UK

Ministry of Defence
AS (Sec) 2a
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

24 February 1998

Alleged UFO Sighting -
2 February 1998 - Leeds Area



Dear Sir/Madam

Following as many as 100 hundred eye-witness accounts of two unidentified bright lights seen moving slowly over the city of Leeds on 2 February 1998, (at approximately 5.30-5.45pm) would you be so good as to answer a number of questions from some quite baffled residents?

The lights, described as 'two large white spheres' were reported moving from a southwesterly direction - heading northeast. The passed directly over the Leeds Ring Road, over Headingley, then towards Garforth. Several observers state a low humming noise emanated from the lights, whilst around 90% of the witnesses reported no shape which could have indicated an aeroplane or perhaps an airship.

A number of the witnesses are trained observers. One gentleman served with Bomber Command during WWII, whilst another flew Hawker Hunter aircraft in the RAF. Interestingly, one of the gentlemen claimed an object was visible yet he could see through the device!

Local newspaper, television and radio companies in Leeds and district have been inundated with reports from witnesses. Thankfully two independent observers captured the lights on video - one a security man in Kippax, the other, a Section 40 [redacted] from Wortley. I have acquired the latter recording which does indeed show two strobe lights pulsating in unison - indicating they are attached to the same airborne object. The video tape has also picked-up the strange humming noise. However, what is strange is that a number of observers claim that the lights hovered for around five minutes - directly over the city, then parted company - one east, one west!

In every case the witnesses state the lights were moving very slowly. The video tape is valuable evidence and supports this conclusion.

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Following further enquiries it is apparent the lights moved towards Leeds from the north of Manchester. We are currently charting the progress of the lights on O/S maps from eye-witness accounts/reports made to other organisations and media outlets. The lights were seen and reported around 5.15pm north of Manchester, observers to the west of Bradford saw the lights at 5.25pm, residents in Dewsbury at 5.30pm; and finally, dozens of witnesses made reports between 5.30-5.45pm.

Whilst it is difficult to ascertain its height, the video evidence shows two extremely bright lights moving over south-west Leeds. Thankfully the observer managed to capture the corner of his house, this combined with the lights provides data which can be evaluated.

What is slightly concerning to the residents is the close proximity these lights travelled to an incoming aircraft at around 5.35pm. Residents in Headingley allege the unknown lights moved directly over an aeroplane heading towards Yeadon. Others thought an accident was immanent.

For your attention I have attached a number of newspaper cuttings which do afford some background to the events. I would ask that you co-operate in this matter, providing our organisation which air traffic movements over north of England airspace. Furthermore, I am confident that between Leeds ATC and Manchester ATC these lights would have been picked-up on radar. On a local level, I am making enquiries with all relevant authorities.

There is probably a very mundane explanation to these events, and I think it is in the interest of everyone concerned that we identify the lights and issue a statement at the very earliest opportunity. On a more personal note, we are quite prepared to show you the recording. Additionally, when our enquiries are complete, I will submit a report to your office.

I would also like to request copies of all alleged UFO reports or 'air incidents' submitted to the MoD on the date in question - 2 February 1998.

Thank you for your valuable time and assistance in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Director

 11 FEB 98

George's video mystery

EIGHTEEN years in the British Army had not prepared George Hickinson for what he saw in the skies over Leeds.

But father-of-five Mr Hickinson, now a security guard, had the forethought to train a security camera on the two strange bright lights he saw and record them. Now he fears he has a mystery on his hands worthy of the *X Files*.

Mr Hickinson, 42, of Kippax, Leeds, is a former tank warrant officer with the Royal Dragoon Guards and describes himself as a man with his feet firmly on the ground.

But he said: "There were two objects in the sky which I can't explain and no one else who I have shown the videotape to can explain.

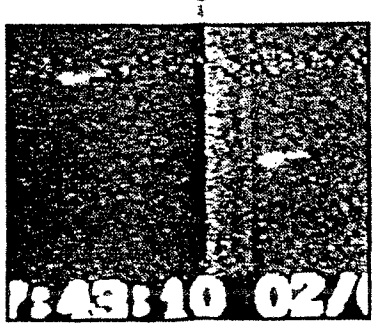
"The lights were stationary for a few minutes so I decided to turn a security camera on them."

Mr Hickinson's colleague, Ken Hague, 52, was standing outside watching the bright lights while Mr Hickson was recording events.

Mr Hague said today: "There was not a sound as they started to move off. They climbed into the night sky and just shot away. Up until then, if anybody had talked about UFOs, I would have called them idiots, but I don't know now."



● **UFO MYSTERY: George Hickinson and, *inset*, his video image**



The incident happened on Monday February 2. The video started recording at 5.35pm and the two lights remained static for about five minutes before moving off.

West Yorkshire Police said they had no calls to report of strange goings-on in the sky.

Yorkshire ufologist Nigel Mortimer said one possible explanation was that if a plane was travelling towards the security camera it would look as if it was stationary for a few minutes. One of the two lights could have been a reflection, he added.

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STAR TURNS: Youngsters from Cl

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AN Audenshaw couple are hoping 'the truth is out there' after they saw two globes of brilliant white light gliding through the skies.

by DIANA MacCARTHY

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Steven, 42, an independent record producer, was on the phone to a friend on an upstairs extension when the bright lights caught his eye last Monday.

He put the phone down and shouted to his 37-year-old wife Annie, who works for an insurance firm, to look at the strange lights travelling to Audenshaw from the direction of Manchester.

They went out into their back garden and watched the lights for more than five minutes.

"There were two balls of solid bright white lights that were moving very slowly, the light on the left moved over on top of the other.

"They both had three little bright lights on the rear that were flashing perfectly in time. They were several hundred feet in the air."

Steven said: "We live on the flight path and have seen plenty of aircraft go over our home.

"If the lights belonged to planes or helicopters they would surely have crashed because they were so close together. I've never seen anything like that before.

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The couple watched the lights move in the direction of Ashton Moss and head towards Bradford.

As soon as the lights were out of sight Steven rang a friend in Bradford and told him to keep an eye out on the skies that night but didn't describe what he had seen.

Later that night his friend Mark Mcglinchey rang and described exactly what the Clarke's had seen.

Paul Quest, a member of the Manchester Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team, said a number of UFO reports have been received from the Blackley area.

"Some serious investigation work will have to be done on the case due to the number of similar sightings."

Anyone with similar spotting can contact Paul Quest on 01426 330924.

Rebels ... political partners

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Maureen saw UFO in the sky too...

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Mrs Maureen Killeen, of Nottingham Drive, believes she too saw the UFO that was sighted near Audenshaw - but initially thought it was the Dog Star Sirius.

After reading last week's edition of the Reporter and Chronicle she realised just what she and her daughter had seen.

"My daughter had come round for tea and I was stood at the kitchen sink when I saw what I thought was the Dog Star shining.

"The light came closer to Ashton from the direction of Piccadilly and I thought it was a plane.

"But as it came nearer the light split into two and one of the balls jumped over the other."

Mrs Killeen said she saw two balls of lights were too close together to have been planes.

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"I was watching them for about two to three minutes and decided to move to the front garden so I could see them better. When the lights were overhead they just weren't making any noise at all. They moved so slowly, even studiously."

She said that as she moved from the back of the house to the front the lights just disappeared.

"It was so peculiar, I just couldn't explain it. The lights couldn't have been a plane," she said.

Night of the UFOs

More YEP readers say they saw lights

BY RICHARD ALLAN

NEW video evidence and a wealth of eye-witness accounts have raised fresh questions about UFOs spotted over West Yorkshire.

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* has been inundated with calls since it published the story of security guard George Hickinson who filmed two unexplained bright lights in the Leeds sky.

UFO-watcher Mark Birdsall believes the mysterious lights which appeared on Monday, February 2 are the strongest evidence of UFOs in the city for 15 years.

Mark believes this month's sightings rival July 23, 1983, when dozens of eye-witnesses reported seeing a huge white sphere hanging over Leeds.

His views are based on 22 seconds of film shot this month by Leeds resident Ken Field.

Hovering

Video stills from the tape clearly show two very bright lights hovering in the sky.

Ken, of Walkers Green, Lower Wortley, said: "My wife Pauline was outside and called me to look at the lights. I got my camcorder and focused on the object.

"All I can tell you is that definitely wasn't an aircraft. I have never seen an aircraft with lights brighter than a star."

Mark said: "We have played the tape 20 to 30 times and there are two giant white strobe lights flashing in unison."

"Whatever this thing is it's very very low in the sky, maybe 1,500 to 2,000ft."

Mark, who runs an Otley-based UFO magazine, has written to the Ministry of Defence asking whether military planes were active over Leeds that night.

He said: "It's doubtful that something military would fly over the city that low using a normal Leeds flight path.

"The video footage will enable us to determine what we're dealing with but it's the biggest event in Leeds in the 1990s."

UFO expert and author Timothy Good, due to give a lecture at Leeds University on the evening of February 23, has been called in by Mark to look at the Leeds UFO evidence.

Martin Best, who works for British Telecom, saw the strange lights as he walked home that evening.

"I was walking home when I saw these lights in the sky. They were in my view and heading towards me from the south-west.

"As they passed overhead I could see there was no shape to the object.

"When it came towards me it took the colouring of the sky and I could see through it, as if it was opaque.

"There was no noise except a very dull whine," said Martin, who lives in Red Hall View, Whinmoor.

"I have never seen anything like it before, it was very, very strange and it made me a bit uneasy and apprehensive."

Pensioner and RAF veteran Denis Vevers says he was amazed by what he saw from the doorstep of his home in Manston Grove, east Leeds.

"What I saw mesmerised me. I just couldn't understand it.

The former air-gunner, a self-confessed sceptic, says the lights he saw that night remained stationary at first before moving away slowly.

"I'm a sceptic and I'm still sceptical but the lights were there and it wasn't an aeroplane."

In Meanwood, Margaret Rolls and her friends watched the same bright lights in the sky above them.

Margaret, who viewed the mysterious object through binoculars, has never seen anything like it before and is convinced the lights did not belong to a military aircraft.

Carolyn Clark, who works at the Parcelforce National Enquiry Centre at Bridge House in Leeds, saw the lights as she left work.

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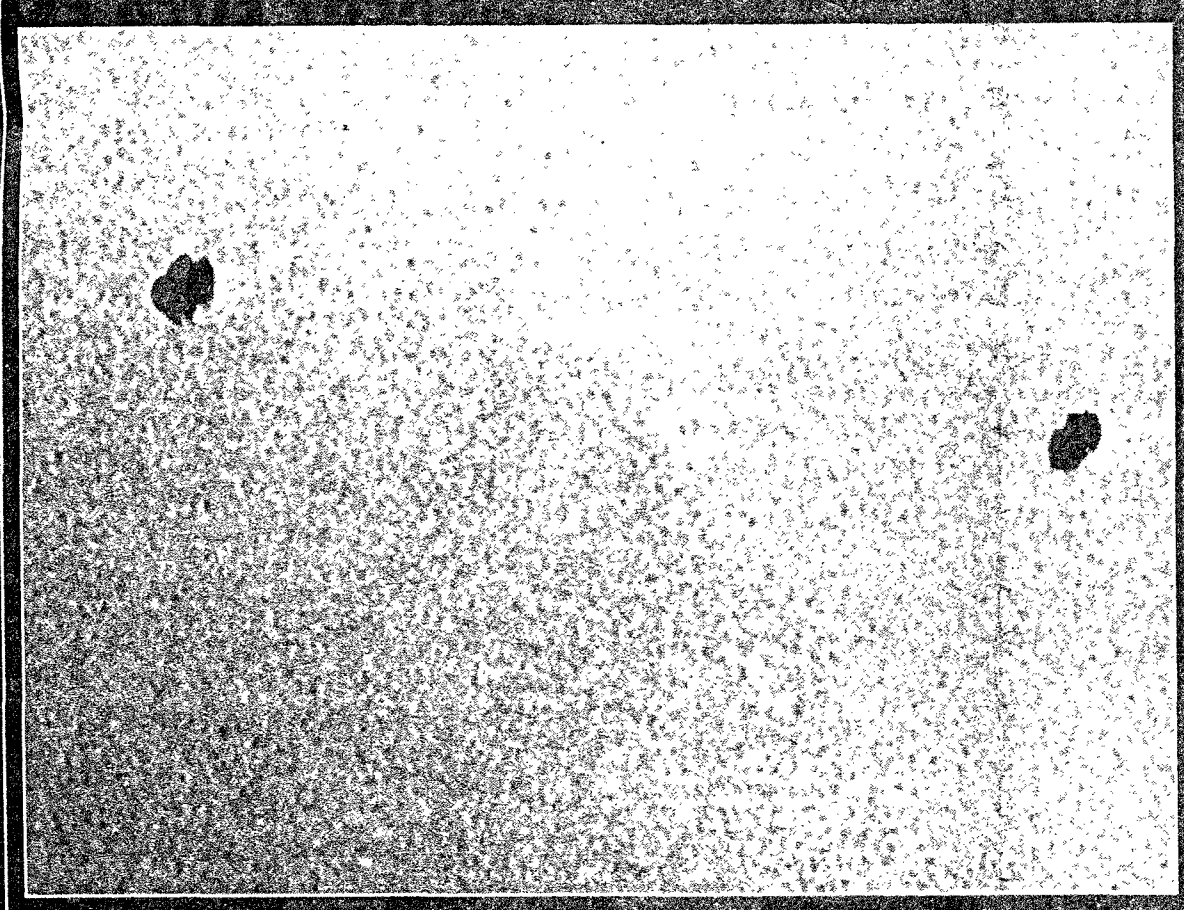
● Anyone who wishes to see Timothy Good at Leeds University on Monday night should telephone 0800 068 7281 for details.

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JAMES HARDSITY



● SKY AT NIGHT: The video shot by Ken Field of Leeds shows two mysterious bright lights



● UNEASY: Martin Best, in a ginnel near his home in Whinmoor, Leeds, where he saw a UFO

DAN OXTOBY

READER OFFER Yorkshire Evening Post READER OFFER

Seed House

A mini greenhouse and propagating unit all in one!

FOR JUST

LM/157/Ops

27 Feb 98

Sec(AS)2a1

ALLEGED UFO SIGHTING - LEEDS AREA (2 Feb 98)

1. With reference to our telephone conversation of today, I am forwarding the letter that I received concerning the above sighting.

2. As agreed, I have not replied to Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Flt Lt
A/OC E&ATS (LATCC(Mil))
Ext Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 1
03 MAR 1998
FILE

UFO MAGAZINE

Est. 1989

Quest Publications International Ltd

UFO MAGAZINE™

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE...

Section 40
Features Editor

Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Otely, LS21 3JP

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA, THE UFO DIRECTORY, UFO MAGAZINE VIDEO COLLECTION, PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY, NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE, UFO INTELLIGENCE RECORDS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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Emergency & Air Traffic Sqd.
London Air Traffic Control
Centre (Military)
West Drayton
Middlesex
UB7 9AU

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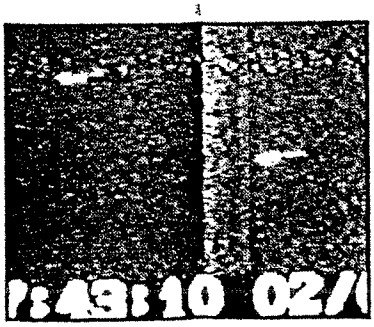
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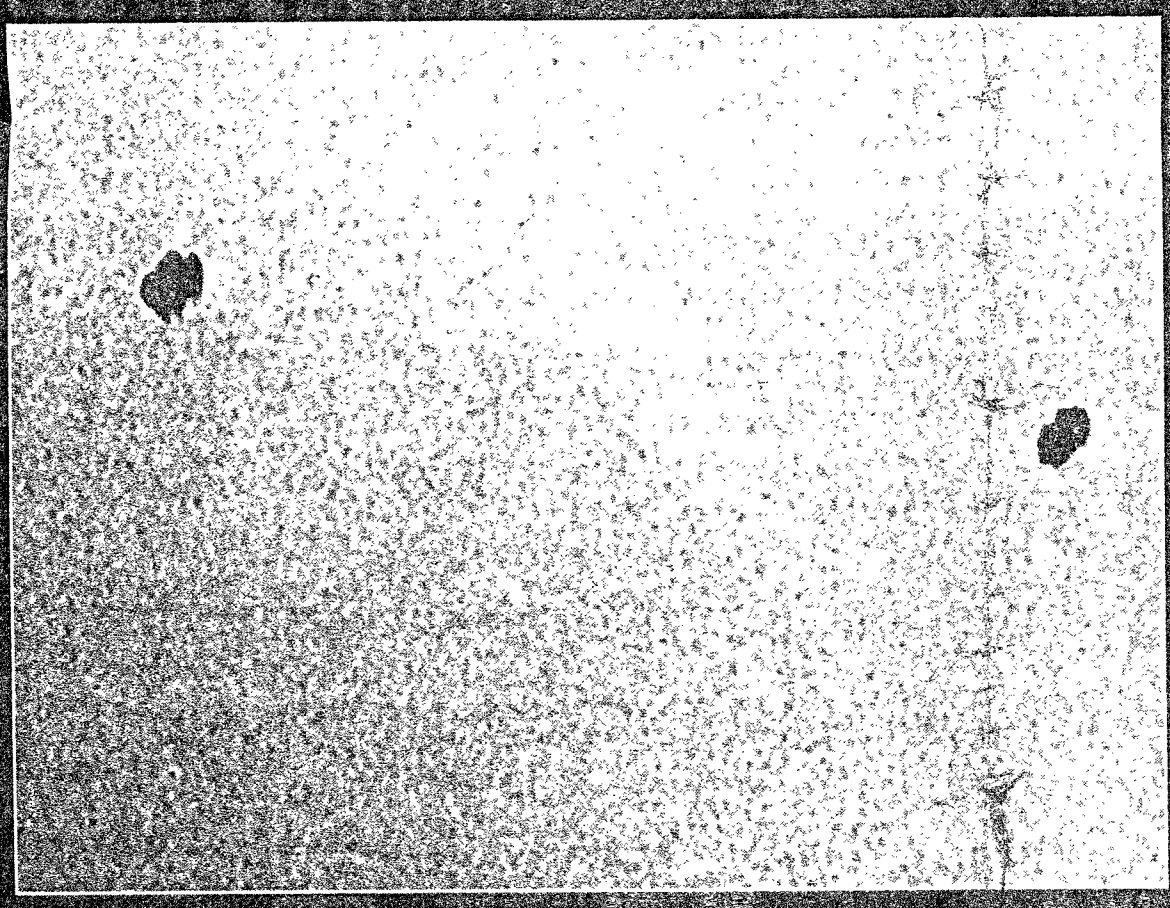
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FOR JUST

Flight Lieutenant Section 40 RAF

Section 40
UFO Magazine
Quest Publications International Ltd
Wharfebank House
Wharfebank Business Centre
Ilkley Road
Otely LS21 3JP

2390/2/PR

4 March 1998

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your letter dated 24 February 1998 about an alleged UFO sighting on 2 February 1998 in the Leeds/Manchester area.

I regret that I am unable to identify anything which may relate to the sightings and have therefore forwarded your letter to the Ministry of Defence (Air Secretariat) who deal with such matters.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
12 MAR 1998
FILE

LEEM/2390/2/30/98/PR (20)

UFO MAGAZINE

Quest Publications International Ltd

Est. 1989

UFO MAGAZINE™

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE...

Section 40
Features Editor

Wharfebank House
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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

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Tel: [01943] 850860 (4 lines) Fax: [01943] 850637 e-mail UFOMAG@QuestPub.Demon.CO.UK

Officer Commanding
RAF Leeming
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 9NJ

Grid ref. 104SE280359
for Headingley

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In every case the witnesses state the lights were moving very slowly. The video tape is valuable evidence and supports this conclusion.

Continued -

Following further enquiries it is apparent the lights moved towards Leeds from the north of Manchester. We are currently charting the progress of the lights on O/S maps from eye-witness accounts/reports made to other organisations and media outlets. The lights were seen and reported around 5.15pm north of Manchester, observers to the west of Bradford saw the lights at 5.25pm, residents in Dewsbury at 5.30pm; and finally, dozens of witnesses made reports between 5.30-5.45pm.

Whilst it is difficult to ascertain its height, the video evidence shows two extremely bright lights moving over south-west Leeds. Thankfully the observer managed to capture the corner of his house, this combined with the lights provides data which can be evaluated.

What is slightly concerning to the residents is the close proximity these lights travelled to an incoming aircraft at around 5.35pm. Residents in Headingley allege the unknown lights moved directly over an aeroplane heading towards Yeadon. Others thought an accident was immanent.

For your attention I have attached a number of newspaper cuttings which do afford some background to the events. I would ask that you co-operate in this matter, providing our organisation which air traffic movements over north of England airspace. Furthermore, I am confident that between Leeds ATC and Manchester ATC these lights would have been picked-up on radar. On a national level, I am making enquiries with the Ministry of Defence and West Drayton.

There is probably a very mundane explanation to these events, and I think it is in the interest of everyone concerned that we identify the lights and issue a statement at the very earliest opportunity. On a more personal note, we are quite prepared to show you the recording. Additionally, when our enquiries are complete, I will submit a report to your office.

I would like to request any reports submitted to RAF Leeming on the date in question.

It's not often we have reason to contact Leeming, indeed, the last time such an incident occurred was in 1983, we eventually identified the UFO after a major investigation, hopefully we can do the same in this case.

Thank you for your valuable time and assistance in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you shortly

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Director

 H FEB 98

George's video mystery

EIGHTEEN years in the British Army had not prepared George Hickinson for what he saw in the skies over Leeds.

But father-of-five Mr Hickinson, now a security guard, had the forethought to train a security camera on the two strange bright lights he saw and record them. Now he fears he has a mystery on his hands worthy of the *X Files*.

Mr Hickinson, 42, of Kippax, Leeds, is a former tank warrant officer with the Royal Dragoon Guards and describes himself as a man with his feet firmly on the ground.

But he said: "There were two objects in the sky which I can't explain and no one else who I have shown the videotape to can explain.

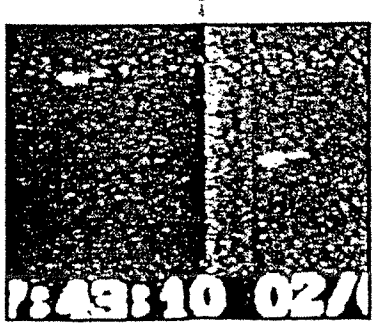
"The lights were stationary for a few minutes so I decided to turn a security camera on them."

Mr Hickinson's colleague, Ken Hague, 52, was standing outside watching the bright lights while Mr Hickson was recording events.

Mr Hague said today: "There was not a sound as they started to move off. They climbed into the night sky and just shot away. Up until then, if anybody had talked about UFOs, I would have called them idiots, but I don't know now."



● **UFO MYSTERY: George Hickinson and, *inset*, his video image**



The incident happened on Monday February 2. The video started recording at 5.35pm and the two lights remained static for about five minutes before moving off.

West Yorkshire Police said they had no calls to report of strange goings-on in the sky.

Yorkshire ufologist Nigel Mortimer said one possible explanation was that if a plane was travelling towards the security camera it would look as if it was stationary for a few minutes. One of the two lights could have been a reflection, he added.

BBC LOOK NORTH

SOMETHING TO SELL? CALL OUR ADVERTISING TEAM ON 3(

MANCHESTER PAPERS

Maureen saw UFO in the sky too...

AN Ashton pensioner who spotted strange glowing lights in the sky over her home was amazed when she read a similar account in the Reporter and Chronicle.

Mrs Maureen Killeen, of Nottingham Drive, believes she too saw the UFO that was sighted near Audenshaw - but

by DIANA MacCARTHY

initially thought it was the Dog Star Sirius.

After reading last week's edition of the Reporter and Chronicle she realised just what she and her daughter had seen.

"My daughter had come round for tea and I was stood at the kitchen sink when I saw what I thought was the Dog Star shining.

"The light came closer to Ashton from the direction of Piccadilly and I thought it was a plane.

"But as it came nearer the light split into two and one of the balls jumped over the other."

Mrs Killeen said she saw two balls of lights were too close together to have been planes.

"They would have crashed if they were aircraft," she added.

"I was watching them for about two to three minutes and decided to move to the front garden so I could see them better. When the lights were overhead they just weren't making any noise at all. They moved so slowly, even studiously."

She said that as she moved from the back of the house to the front the lights just disappeared.

"It was so peculiar, I just couldn't explain it. The lights couldn't have been a plane," she said.

STAR TURNS: Youngsters from Cl...

MANCHESTER PAPERS

Mysterious lights seen in the night

AN Audenshaw couple are hoping 'the truth is out there' after they saw two globes of brilliant white light gliding through the skies.

Steven and Annie Clarke, of Kingfisher Avenue, both watched in awe as what they believe to be a UFO moved over their home.

Steven, 42, an independent record producer, was on the phone to a friend on an upstairs extension when the bright lights caught his eye last Monday.

He put the phone down and shouted to his 37-year-old wife Annie, who works for an insurance firm, to look at the strange lights travelling to Audenshaw from the direction of Manchester.

by DIANA MacCARTHY

They went out into their back garden and watched the lights for more than five minutes.

"There were two balls of solid bright white lights that were moving very slowly, the light on the left moved over on top of the other.

"They both had three little bright lights on the rear that were flashing perfectly in time. They were several hundred feet in the air."

Steven said: "We live on the flight path and have seen plenty of aircraft go over our home.

"If the lights belonged to planes or helicopters they would surely have crashed because they were so close together. I've never seen anything like that before.

"The lights didn't make any noise until they were overhead and only then did they make a slight humming noise a bit like an electric shaver. They moved very slowly and we were watching for more than five minutes."

The couple watched the lights move in the direction of Ashton Moss and head towards Bradford.

As soon as the lights were out of sight Steven rang a friend in Bradford and told him to keep an eye out on the skies that night but didn't describe what he had seen - lest in a wild mind.

Later that night this friend Mark Mcglinchey rang and described exactly what the Clarke's had seen.

Paul Quest, a member of the Manchester Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Team, said a number of UFO reports have been received from the Blackley area.

"Some serious investigation work will have to be done on the case due to the number of similar sightings."

Anyone with similar spotting can contact Paul Quest on 01426 330924.

Rebels ... political partners

Night of the UFOs

More YEP readers say they saw lights

BY RICHARD ALLAN

NEW video evidence and a wealth of eye-witness accounts have raised fresh questions about UFOs spotted over West Yorkshire.

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* has been inundated with calls since it published the story of security guard George Hickinson who filmed two unexplained bright lights in the Leeds sky.

UFO-watcher Mark Birdsall believes the mysterious lights which appeared on Monday, February 2 are the strongest evidence of UFOs in the city for 15 years.

Mark believes this month's sightings rival July 23, 1983, when dozens of eye-witnesses reported seeing a huge white sphere hanging over Leeds.

His views are based on 22 seconds of film shot this month by Leeds resident Ken Field.

Hovering

Video stills from the tape clearly show two very bright lights hovering in the sky.

Ken, of Walkers Green, Lower Wortley, said: "My wife Pauline was outside and called me to look at the lights. I got my camcorder and focused on the object.

"All I can tell you is that definitely wasn't an aircraft. I have never seen an aircraft with lights brighter than a star."

Mark said: "We have played the tape 20 to 30 times and there are two giant white strobe lights flashing in unison."

"Whatever this thing is it's very very low in the sky, maybe 1,500 to 2,000ft."

Mark, who runs an Otley-based UFO magazine, has written to the Ministry of Defence asking whether military planes were active over Leeds that night.

He said: "It's doubtful that something military would fly over the city that low using a normal Leeds flight path.

"The video footage will enable us to determine what we're dealing with but it's the biggest event in Leeds in the 1990s."

UFO expert and author Timothy Good, due to give a lecture at Leeds University on the evening of February 23, has been called in by Mark to look at the Leeds UFO evidence.

Martin Best, who works for British Telecom, saw the strange lights as he walked home that evening.

"I was walking home when I saw these lights in the sky. They were in my view and heading towards me from the south-west.

"As they passed overhead I could see there was no shape to the object.

"When it came towards me it took the colouring of the sky and I could see through it, as if it was opaque.

"There was no noise except a very dull whine," said Martin, who lives in Red Hall View, Whinmoor.

"I have never seen anything like it before, it was very, very strange and it made me a bit uneasy and apprehensive."

Pensioner and RAF veteran Denis Vevers says he was amazed by what he saw from the doorstep of his home in Manston Grove, east Leeds.

"What I saw mesmerised me, I just couldn't understand it.

The former air-gunner, a self-confessed sceptic, says the lights he saw that night remained stationary at first before moving away slowly.

"I'm a sceptic and I'm still sceptical but the lights were there and it wasn't an aeroplane."

In Meanwood, Margaret Rolls and her friends watched the same bright lights in the sky above them.

Margaret, who viewed the mysterious object through binoculars, has never seen anything like it before and is convinced the lights did not belong to a military aircraft.

Carolyn Clark, who works at the Parcelforce National Enquiry Centre at Bridge House in Leeds, saw the lights as she left work.

Orange

"These lights were like rectangles with rounded corners and were orange. They made no sound as far as I could detect and were perfectly still. I didn't stay long enough to see them move away, but I had the feeling they weren't your usual mode of air transport."

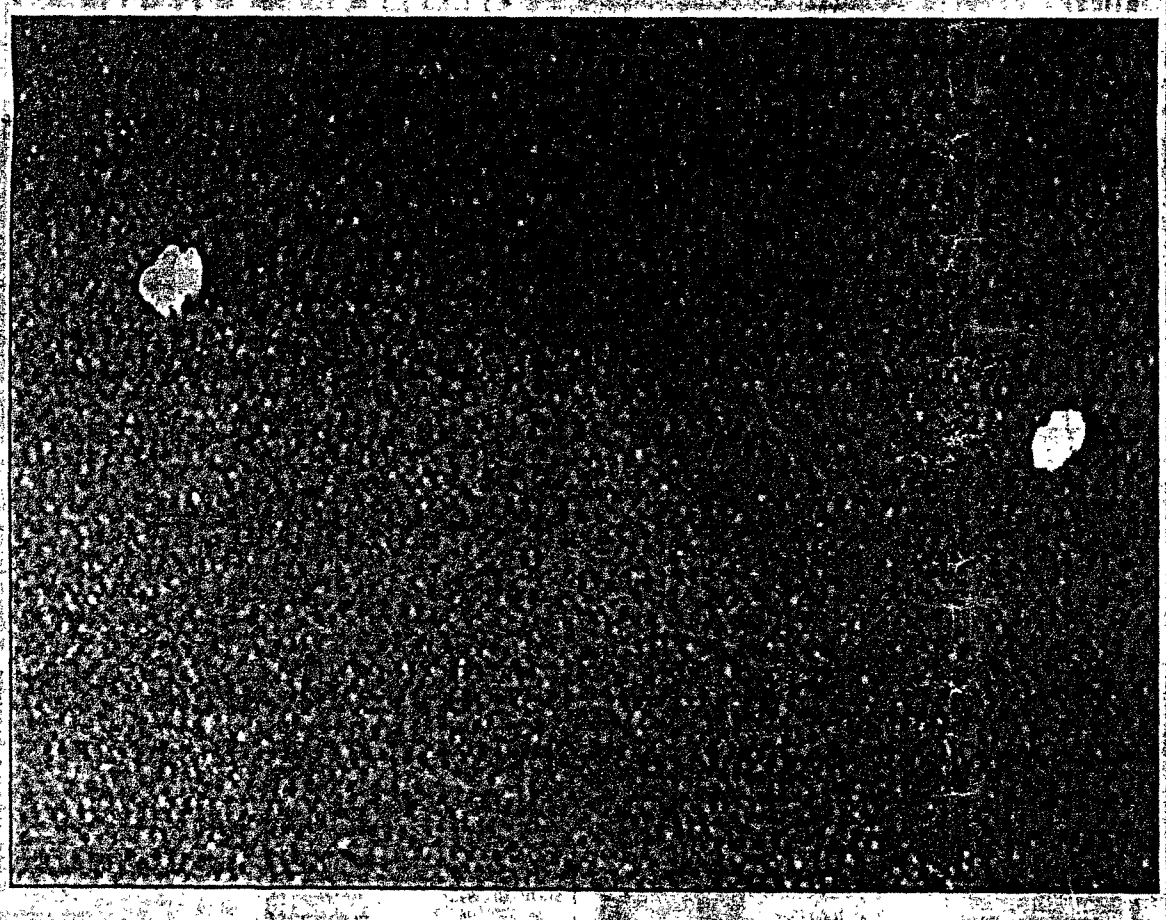
● Anyone who wishes to see Timothy Good at Leeds University on Monday night should telephone 0800 068 7281 for details.



● IS THERE SOMETHING OUT THERE? *From left,* Edna Lolly, Margaret Rolls, Alan Adamson and Margaret Adamson who all saw an object in the night sky over Leeds

JAMES HARDSITY

'WE HAVE PLAYED THE TAPE 20 TO 30 TIMES. THERE ARE TWO GIANT WHITE STROBE LIGHTS FLASHING IN UNISON'



● SKY AT NIGHT: The video shot by Ken Field of Leeds shows two mysterious bright lights



● UNEASY: Martin Best, in a ginnel near his home in Whinmoor, Leeds, where he saw a UFO

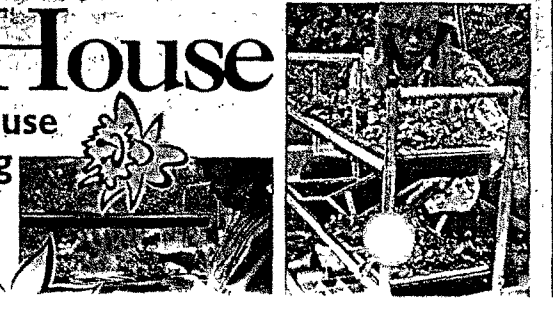
DAN OXTOBY

READER OFFER Yorkshire Evening Post READER OFFER

Seed House

A mini greenhouse and propagating unit all in one!

FOR JUST



From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 18

Section 40

Brighouse,
West Yorkshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
25 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 11 January in which you asked for information on an incident which is alleged to have occurred in January 1974, which you believe might be 'UFO-related'. I am sorry for the delaying in responding to you.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

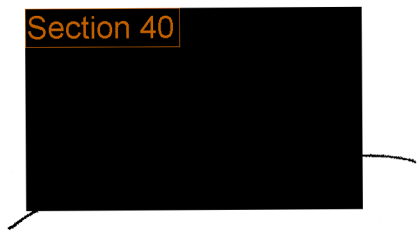
4. The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

5. With regard to your particular request I have checked the listings of files which have been forwarded to MOD archives since 1974 and have been unable to identify any files which might

contain information relevant to your enquiry. I have, however, been able to establish that there were no military aircraft crashes in the UK on 23 January 1974.

6. I am sorry I am unable to help you further. If at some stage in the future any relevant paperwork on this subject comes to light I will of course contact you again.

Yours sincerely,



Section 40 [redacted]
Brighouse
West Yorkshire
Section 40 [redacted]

11-1-98

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to enquire if your department of the MOD has any information on the following event:

Date:	Night of 23/24 January 1974
Location:	Berwyn Mountains, central Wales. Specifically the area around Cader Berwyn and the town of Llandrillo
Event:	Some type of event took place on the mountain and in the area which, according to witnesses, involved among other things, the military sending a search team out, RAF involvement from their mountain rescue unit at RAF Valley on Anglesey. It was said that this was a 'UFO' related incident and that the MOD was aware of it, as evidenced by the military activity.

Obviously there must be some record of this event and I wondered if your department has any knowledge of this event in its files. If not could you suggest any departments it would be worth contacting. Thankyou for your help.

This matter is to be the subject of a forthcoming book and I appreciate any assistance or comment you can give.

Best Wishes

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
15 JAN 1998
FILE

UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~
POLICY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE 17 MURDER

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS)6413

Enclosure Jacket No. 2

DATE OPENED .....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/~~BRANCH~~:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

LORD HILL-NORTON REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE OF CLOSED FILES.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~
POLICY

→ 64/4 TE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
071-21 89000 (Switchboard)

Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

From: THE RT HON DR THE LORD GILBERT

D/Min(DP)/JWG/MP/3842/97/M

16 October 1997

Dear Lord Hill-Norton.

Thank you for your letter of 22 September concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that this Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980. Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude, therefore, that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still, the case, that MOD does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

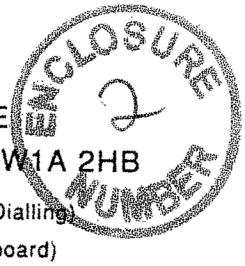
I hope this clarifies the position.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

dppsMb39/pe/3842hillno/an/cs

Section 40

18/1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
071-21 89000 (Switchboard)

Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

From: THE RT HON DR THE LORD GILBERT

D/Min(DP)/JWG/MP/4290/97/M

14 November 1997

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

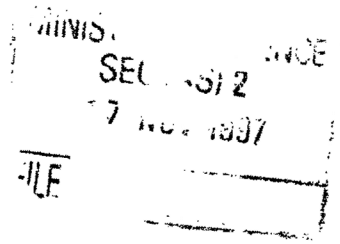
Thank you for your further letter of 22 October about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of the nights of 27-29 December 1980.

Officials here had previously drawn my attention to the memo written by Colonel Halt. I am afraid, however, that there is nothing further I can add. From surviving Departmental records we remain satisfied that nothing of defence significance occurred on the nights in question.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Private Secretary
approved by Lord Gilbert and signed in his absence on duty



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Section 40

615

(Have you been briefing Lord H-N ?!)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Section 40

COVERING ~~SECRET~~/~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/~~RESTRICTED~~/~~MANAGEMENT~~/

REFERENCE D/US of S/JS 28/1/0

DoND.

FoI & VFOS.

I am attaching a letter/~~minute~~ from Lord Hill-Norton

to ~~S of S~~ dated 3.3.98

Will you please consult other Departments, divisions and branches as necessary and submit advice, together with a draft reply, in order to reach US of S not later than 23.3.98

I am sending copies of this to:

APS/S of S Section 40

APS/Min (AP)

APS/Min (AF)

HD Sec (AS)

The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4 April 1994 and you should ensure that replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with its procedures.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
US of S (AS)
10 MAR 1998
FILE

Section 40

PS/US of S
MB6215 Section 40
CHOTS: USofS/Mailbox

Date: 9.3.98



Section 40 [redacted]

PS/US of S

Could you deal with this pse for FOI. Thanks?

Section 40 [redacted]

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

PERSONAL
The Rt Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

3 March, 1998

Dear Secretary of State,

As you may know, I have for some years taken a keen interest in the issue of unauthorised penetrations of the UK Air Defence Region by unidentified craft. For the most part your officials refer to these incidents as "UFO" sightings, and this language ensures that such events are hardly ever pursued by the serious media or by the Establishment.

I recognise, of course that most such incidents can be explained as misidentifications of various aerial objects and phenomena. That said, there is a hard core of events, including incidents where uncorrelated targets have been detected on radar, and RAF aircraft scrambled in attempts to intercept the craft, which cannot be so explained. A number of these have come to light through a careful study of around twenty five of your Department's old files (some of which were classified at the level of Secret) on this subject, available at the Public Record Office in Kew. This brings me to the point of this letter.

AD(Systems) 25 yrs ago

There is wide spread suspicion about the role of your Department in relation to these events, and Head of Secretariat (Air Staff) will doubtless be able to give you a brief on the level of public interest in this subject. When the UK's Freedom of Information Act comes into force, your Department can expect to receive huge numbers of requests for UFO information, taking up endless hours of valuable staff time.

} Persist

} Peace US + UK proposals in White Paper Raise galaxy

Continued:

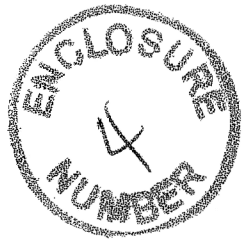
It seems to me that there is a way to avoid this burden, and at the same time deal with some of the criticisms currently being made. My request is that you authorise the immediate release of all closed files on this subject. I understand that such a move would not run counter to the terms of either of the Public Record Acts, and that in spite of the old "Thirty Year Rule", departmental records management staffs are actively encouraged to identify discrete blocks of files for early release. Such a move would be greatly appreciated by those of us who take a serious interest in this subject, and would be a litmus test of your Department's commitment to Open Government.

I naturally hope you will agree to this move, and do most strongly urge that you should consider the matter yourself. More generally, may I suggest that you ask for a detailed briefing on the Cio issue from your staff - preferably from the appropriate specialists from within the Defence Intelligence Staff, as opposed to the civil servants from Sec(AS). I am pretty sure you will find there is rather more to this subject than you might currently suppose.

Yours Sincerely

Hugh Kinloch

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DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/03/98	OMD/AD(Management)	Letter from Lord Hill-Norton (U/C)	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 16/03/98 at 12:44 Delivered: 16/03/98 at 12:45
To: SEC(AS)2,Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:
Ref: /GUID:6F51E340BABCD1119C7000A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: Letter from Lord Hill-Norton (U/C)

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

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Attached is a skeleton draft brief and reply to Hill-Norton (produced in CSV8 and Unclassified). As you will see, it needs a lot of fleshing out, and I would be grateful for your inputs as indicated, plus any other thoughts that you might have. My initial view is that the message should be that we will consider early release or some programme leading to early release, subject to the constraints that you might identify. Happy to discuss particular points, but grateful for responses by COP Thurs 19 Mar.

Section 40 a copy of the letter is being faxed to you.

Many thanks,

Section 40

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:
APS/SofS
PS/Min(AF)
PS/Min(DP)
PS/DUS(CM)
DGMO
Hd Sec(AS)
[DISN]
Hd CS(RM)

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference:
A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

Issue

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton **[Sec AS - grateful for some background on his interest in this topic.]** Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UAPs be released now. 'UFO'

5. **[Sec(AS) - grateful for a description of what you retain and why]** Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI GEN 54/98). Given the number of enquiries that Sec(AS) receive on the subject of UAPs, it would seem to be a strong candidate for early release of files. **[Sec(AS)/CS(RM) -**

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UNCLASSIFIED

comments on feasibility and constraints of releasing files, including volume, resources required, need to withhold personal info, Public Record Acts procedures.]

6. The options therefore are:

1.[Immediate release of files as requested.]
2.Higher priority placed on the review of the appropriate files, with the aim of securing their early release.
3.Continuation of current practice **[what is that?]**

7. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that **[my initial view is that some form of programme to secure early release of these files would be justified, but I would welcome Sec(AS)/CS(RM) views. If this was to occur, then it might be something that the press would take an interest in and we should need to consider a press line]**

8. **[Comments on the briefing suggested in Hill-Norton's final para??]**

DOMD

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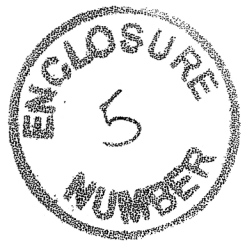
DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files relating to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

As you are no doubt aware, this Department holds records of_ **[info as per para 5 of brief]**. As you quite rightly point out, staff are encouraged to identify blocks of records that can be released to the Public Record Office before the thirty year point **[CS(RM) - any recent example worth quoting?]**. In this case, **[constraints as per para 5 of brief]**. [Nevertheless, given the undoubted public interest in this topic, I have asked that greater resources be devoted to the review of the files in question, with a view to their early release **(need to be more specific if possible about what and when)**]

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:
APS/SofS
PS/Min(AF)
PS/Min(DP)
PS/DUS(CM)
DGMO
Hd Sec(AS)
[DISN]
Hd CS(RM)

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

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Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton **[Sec AS - grateful for some background on his interest in this topic.]** Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UAPs be released now.

5. **[Sec(AS) - grateful for a description of what you retain and why]** Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI GEN 54/98). Given the number of enquiries that Sec(AS) receive on the subject of UAPs, it would seem to be a strong candidate for early release of files. **[Sec(AS)/CS(RM) -**

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comments on feasibility and constraints of releasing files, including volume, resources required, need to withhold personal info, Public Record Acts procedures.]

6. The options therefore are:

1.[Immediate release of files as requested.]
2.Higher priority placed on the review of the appropriate files, with the aim of securing their early release.
3.Continuation of current practice **[what is that?]**

7. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that **[my initial view is that some form of programme to secure early release of these files would be justified, but I would welcome Sec(AS)/CS(RM) views. If this was to occur, then it might be something that the press would take an interest in and we should need to consider a press line]**

8. **[Comments on the briefing suggested in Hill-Norton's final para??]**

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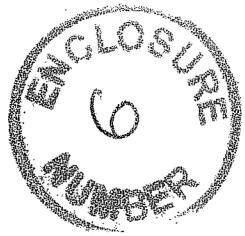
DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files relating to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

As you are no doubt aware, this Department holds records of_ **[info as per para 5 of brief]**. As you quite rightly point out, staff are encouraged to identify blocks of records that can be released to the Public Record Office before the thirty year point **[CS(RM) - any recent example worth quoting?]**. In this case, **[constraints as per para 5 of brief]**. [Nevertheless, given the undoubted public interest in this topic, I have asked that greater resources be devoted to the review of the files in question, with a view to their early release **(need to be more specific if possible about what and when)**]

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DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
17/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 17/03/98 at 13:50 Delivered: 17/03/98 at 13:51
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC: SEC(AS)2
Ref: /GUID:ADE6A525D1BAD111B39200005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Text: Section 40 attached my contribution. Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

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Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

March 1998

12% = 4,500

OMD/AD(Management)

Copy to:

SEC(AS)2

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference; D/DOMD/2/3 dated March 1998

1. You asked for inputs to enable to you to provide PS/USofS with a background brief and a draft reply to Lord Norton-Hill.

Current review arrangements

2. Unlike the USA the Ministry of Defence has a well-established review programme (in line with Public Record Office guidance) which ensures records are reviewed to enable release after 30-years. The US experience by comparison is to rely on FOI applications to trigger release rather than a structured approach to review. With the result that millions of papers over 30 years old, a large number from World War II, have not been released

3. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point - we are therefore examining records from the early to mid 1970s - and involves the review of files surviving earlier branch and CS(RM) reviews. Some 12% of records reviewed at this point (for 1997/98 450 linear feet or approximately 4,500 files) survive the selection process. These have to be listed and cleaned (catalogued and, if necessary, conservation work carried out) before acceptance by the PRO.

UFO files awaiting release (and transfer to the PRO)

4. At the present time we have some 55 files relating to ufos prepared for the PRO. With release dates from 1999 thru' 2003. All, bar one, appear to have originated from predecessors of Sec(AS). The one exception a Met Office file from 1970. In addition, another 12 files await listing/cleaning with an expected release date of 2004.

Public Records Act and early release

5. The PRA has always provided for the release of records at dates other than the normal point ie at the start of the 31st year. Section 5(1) allows the Lord Chancellor to approve extensions or reductions in the closure period. The point should be made that as in the case of closure beyond the normal point releases in advance of 30 years require the formal approval of the Lord Chancellor.

6. Noting that 55 files await release a submission could be made to Lord Irving to effect their early release. Assuming sensitivity not an issue PRO advice [obtained without identifying the subject currently under discussion] suggests we should

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allow for a minimum 12 weeks from the date of the submission to the Lord Chancellor before assuming files are generally available to the public.

Sensitivity

7. A degree of sensitivity has been attached to these records over the years. Both in the context of the internal distribution lists and with the lapsing of this concern with the question of personal sensitivity.

8. The "30 year rule" is a well established, and well recognised by the public, closure period. The White Paper on Open Government accepted that there might be circumstances when records would be closed for longer than 30 years ie contains information supplied in confidence; contains information about individuals, the disclosure of which would cause distress or endangerment. Discussions with Sec(AS) a few years ago accepted that the 30 year closure period would be sufficient to protect the personal privacy of correspondents.

9. Should it be felt this is still the case we would be required to remove any information that would

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identify correspondents before the release of these files. Potentially several thousand enclosures (55 files x 100 enclosures) would need to be examined and sanitised before the action outlined in paragraph 6 (above). This could only be done at the expense of other work (see below).

Identification of other records relating to ufos

10. The release of what is a comparatively convenient package of files from our point of view would not satisfy researchers who want to see the "real ufo records" released. To identify other related records would present resource implications.

11. Records surviving local branch review are routinely passed to one of the two main MOD archives. At Hayes, where records classified up to SECRET are stored, some 30,000 linear feet (say 300,000 files) are currently earmarked for second review between 1998 thru' 2017. Records are stored by date of review and within that by branch. There is no thematic index and in the absence of specific file references it would be a major exercise trawling through attempting to identify relevant records. Although, Sec(AS) should be able to provide some file references, which would assist identification, for their more recent files and possibly for those of DS8. Any records identified would have to be reviewed for sensitivity.
12. Additionally, records might be stored elsewhere in MOD. For example Air Historical Branch maintains a store of key Air Staff papers that are routinely passed to CS(RM) at the normal review point. An essential set of papers is the Operational Record Books (RAF Station diaries), approximately 2,600 boxes are held by AHB. All are preservable, they generally cover a five year period and because they record RAF sorties could be relevant to this current exercise.

Experience of early releases to date

13. The White paper on **Open Government** identified a number of initiatives that subject to resources would lead to more records being released. One being to give consideration to the release of blocks of records in advance of 30 years being one. To date very few records have been released early. I estimate perhaps fewer than 100 files and these have tended to be oddments. Although one small collection of records covering certain trials conducted by Porton Down up to the mid-1970s is being prepared for transfer to Kew and should be available to researchers towards the end of the year.

Acquisition policy of the PRO

14. Although not pursued with my contact at Kew we need to be certain if it is decided to release these records early the PRO will accept them. The PRO has, on occasions, rejected records for preservation and our review programme takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive but also the interests of the more specialist museums (the PRA allows for records to be "presented" to other institutions with the approval of the Lord Chancellor).

Summary

14.

a. Section 5(1) of the Public Records Act, 1958, provides for the release of records

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in advance of the normal period ie the 30 year subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

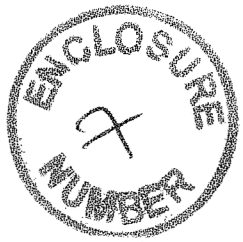
b. Subject to residual sensitivity a number of MOD files containing correspondence from the public on this subject, covering the period 1968 thru' 1973 (for normal release 1999 thru' 2004), could be included in the January 1999 releases.

c. A commitment to extend the release beyond those already processed would involve a major exercise identifying relevant records stored in the main archives and possibly other locations. Such an exercise would require a reallocation of resources resulting in the disruption to our structured review, list and transfer program.

d. The possibility that the PRO will not accept what could be considered a significant collection of trivia.

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Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3 Section 40

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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

25th March 1998

DOMD - Section 40

Copy to:

Head of CS(RM)1

LORD HILL-NORTON REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE OF CLOSED FILES

Reference: D/USofS/JS/28/1/0 dated 9 March 1998

1. We have spoken a number of times about the letter from Hill-Norton and the remit to provide PS/USofS with a draft reply. I said I would weave our contribution in with Section 40 response; this is attached.

2. I am copying this in parallel to Section 40 he has not yet cleared it. You will, perhaps, want to assure Ministers that Sec(AS) and CS(RM) have contributed to, and are content with, the finished piece. Perhaps you could let me know if you intend any changes of substance.

3. I am afraid it is a rather lengthy reply, but it is important to explain to Ministers that the Hill-Norton request is only a small part of the much wider issue concerning early release of files.

4. I have mentioned to PS/USofS that I am responsible for the failure to meet the deadline!

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40

Loose Minute **DRAFT**

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	DGMO
PS/Min(AF)	Head of Sec(AS)
PS/Min(DP)	DISN
PS/DUS(CM)	Head of CS(RM)

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE OF 'UFO' FILES

Reference: D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

ISSUE

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

TIMING

3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. Lord Hill-Norton's request cannot be considered in isolation and the fundamental issue of the Department's overall policy in the light of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act must also be addressed.

Departmental Records

5. The MOD has a well-established, structured, review programme (in line with Public Record Office (PRO) guidance) which ensures records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years. The US by comparison relies on applications under their Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to trigger release and, as a result, millions of papers over 30 years old have not yet been released.

6. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and CS(RM) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (c4,500 files for 1997/98) and must be catalogued and conserved (cleaned) before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

'UFO' Files

7. A decision was taken in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these files should be retained. Closed files over 30 years old (including any remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. As part of their ongoing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 'UFO' files with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/cleaning. CS(RM) does, of course, have many Departmental files on a wide range of subjects at various stages of listing and cleaning but none in sufficient number by subject to comprise similar packages.

Public Record Act (PRA) and Early Release

8. Under existing commitments to openness, Departmental officials are encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public which could be released to the PRO ahead of this time (staff were recently reminded of this in reissued instructions on Open Government - DCI GEN 54/98). Section 5(1) of the PRA has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval. Permission for early release of the 55 files mentioned above could be sought if it was judged that sensitivity was not an issue.

Sensitivity

9. A degree of sensitivity has been attached to 'UFO' files because sighting reports were passed to the Defence Intelligence Branch (DI55) to ascertain any intelligence of a terrestrial nature and because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public. Open Government accepts that there might be circumstances where records could be closed for longer than 30 years (contains information supplied in confidence; contains information about individuals, the disclosure of which would cause distress or endangerment) but the public interest/public confidentiality aspects of 'UFO' business has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents.

10. There are no security concerns about early release of 'UFO' files. There are three options for dealing with personal privacy concerns:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details (an extremely time consuming process);

b. remove personal details (the processed files at para 7 above would require examination of 55x100 enclosures and sanitizing as necessary);

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

Identification of Possible 'UFO'-related Files

11. A number of 'ufologists' believe that key information about 'UFOs' is held on files other than those containing reports and public correspondence and are, therefore, keen to see files on a

wide range of Air Force related issues. Identifying such files would be difficult. The MOD archives at Hayes contains some 300,000 files currently earmarked for review between 1998-2017. They are stored by date of review and, within that, by Branch; there is no thematic index and, without specific file references (and many Branches have reorganised a number of times during the last 30 years) a major resource effort would be required to locate and examine them. Additionally, Air Historical Branch holds some 2,600 boxes of key Air Staff papers including Operational Record Books (ie RAF Station diaries).

Lord Hill-Norton

12. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83 and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual 'ufologist' causes and, more recently, tabled PQs about an alleged 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest) subsequently writing because the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time.

13. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity, and that to date the Department knows of no evidence to support the existence of 'UFO/flying saucers'/extraterrestrial lifeforms. It is frequently the case that our limited interest does not correspond with the wide-ranging non-defence related enthusiasms of a minority of the public who continue to lobby for the diversion of defence resources for their own aims.

Summary of Issues

14. To summarise:

a. The Department manages a structured review programme for the release of closed files at the 30-year point;

b. Section 5(1) of the 1958 Public Records Act provides for the early release of records subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

c. A reduction from 30 to 25 years for release of 'UFO' sighting report and public correspondence files would be possible if personal privacy was not deemed to be a concern.

d. A commitment to identification and early release of closed files (including those concerning or possibly related to 'UFO' reports and correspondence) beyond those already processed would involve significant resource effort and severely disrupt the Department's structured review programme.

OTHER POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

15. There are, of course, other defence related topics that attract vociferous supporters looking for greater access to

Departmental papers under the FOI Act and early release of 'UFO' files to satisfy a minority interest group could set a precedent. It is Sec(AS)'s experience that releasing information does not stem the tide of correspondence. The reverse is true as many correspondents seek to challenge decisions made 30-50 years ago.

16. Sec(AS) is already considering the implications of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act and how it might impact on the Department's limited interest in the subject of 'UFOs'. They are progressing a number of issues as part of this work, not least the interests of the Air Defence and Defence Intelligence staffs. They are seized of the need to take full account of public interest in this subject. Sec(AS) will be advising further in due course.

17. The PRO has, on occasion, rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they could be viewed as a large amount of trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public, and seek the Lord Chancellor's approval for the method chosen.

CONCLUSION

18. As a goodwill gesture, the release date for closed 'UFO' files could be reduced from 30 to 25 years and the 55 files mentioned at para 7 above could be made available at the January 1999 point. This is, however, unlikely to satisfy Lord Hill-Norton who is looking for the release of all 'UFO' files. His request would need to be treated as a special case (and there is no justification for this) to warrant the reallocation of the significant resources required to achieve this and would adversely affect the Department's structured review programme. The draft provided is therefore couched in conservative terms in order not to raise Lord Hill-Norton's expectations.

DRAFT REPLY TO LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

As you know, my Department has only a very limited interest in the sightings that are reported to us as unidentified aerial phenomena.

The White Paper on the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act has generated correspondence from a number of people and organisations each with their own specific interests and all keen to see a greater openness in respect of a wide range of defence and defence related topics.

My Department has a structured programme to release closed files after 30 years. Whatever the merits of individual requests for the early release of files I must take full account of the overall implications of diverting resources from the programme before agreeing to them.

I am sorry but I cannot at this time give an undertaking that the files you ask for will be released early but I shall write to you again when we have given further consideration to the matter.

2nd copy highlighted - bits removed

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 8

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

25th March 1998

DOMD - Section 40

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Loose Minute **DRAFT**

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

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DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
27/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	Hill-Norton reply (U/C)	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 27/03/98 at 12:59 Delivered: 27/03/98 at 12:58
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC: SEC(AS)2,C+L(F+S)L1
Ref: /GUID:B208711F0CC4D111B39400005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Text:

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE 2
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

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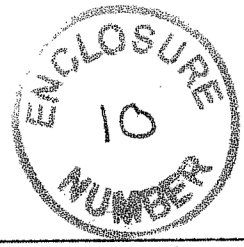
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Section 40

Following discussion with Hd CS(RM) we have just a few minor changes to your drafts.
para 8, line 9 - delete "conserving" substitute "conservation action".
para 11, line 1 - delete "key".
lines 3/4 - delete "Identifying such files would be difficult."
line 9 - amend to "...a major resource effort would be required to sift through to identify files that might be of interest to ufologists."
Draft letter to Lord H-N.
para 1, line 1 - delete "closed".
para 3, 2nd sentence to read "My Department has a well established review programme to release files after 30 years in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967."

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DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
27/03/98	OMD/AD(Management)	Hill-Norton reply (U/C)	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 27/03/98 at 11:29 Delivered: 27/03/98 at 14:44
To: SEC(AS)2,Hd of CS(RM)1
CC: Hd of CS(RM),C+L(F+S)L1
Ref: /GUID:B28D3A974CC5D1119C7500A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE 2
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [2]
Codes [ ]

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Attached is my draft advice to USofS (not yet cleared with DOMD). Grateful for any comments this afternoon - please let me know if that will not be possible.

Section 40 thank you for the legal advice; are you happy with what I have put at the end of para 10.

Many thanks for the advice & assistance.

Section 40

See "NEW" Z

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:
APS/SofS
PS/Min(AF)
PS/Min(DP)
PS/DUS(CM)
DGMO
Hd Sec(AS)
DISN
Hd of CS(RM)
DDC&L(F&S) Legal

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference:
A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

Issue

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of `unidentified flying objects'.

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual `UFO' causes and late last year, tabled PQs about an alleged 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest), subsequently writing because the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time. Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released now.

Added In.

5. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorised incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity, and that to date the Department knows of no evidence to support the existence of alien spacecraft or extraterrestrial lifeforms.

Departmental Records

6. The MOD has a well-established review programme (in line with Public

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Record Office (PRO) guidance), which ensures that records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and Central Services(Records Management - CS(RM)) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (of the order of 4,500 files each year) and must be catalogued and conserved before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

7. Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI Gen 54/98). The Public Record Act has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point, subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

'UFO' Files

8. A decision was taken in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these files should be retained. Closed files over 30 years old (including any remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. As part of their continuing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 files relating to `UFOs' with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/ conserving. CS(RM) does, of course, have many Departmental files on a wide range of subjects at various stages of listing and conserving but none in sufficient number by subject to comprise similar packages.

9. The PRO has, on occasion, rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's

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review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they could be viewed as a large amount of trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public, and seek the Lord Chancellor's approval for the method chosen.

10. There are no security concerns about early release of 'UFO' files. A degree of sensitivity has been attached to them, however, because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public. The public interest/public confidentiality aspect of 'UFO' business has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents. Permission for early release of the 55 files mentioned above could be sought, however, and there are three options for dealing with the personal privacy concerns:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

b. remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require examination ~~and sanitisation~~ of some 5500 enclosures) to obtain the details at the outset.

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

The first method would be time-consuming and probably impractical, particularly in the case of the oldest files; the second would be possible, but would represent a considerable diversion of resources for CS(RM). Preliminary legal advice on the third option suggests that MOD would be protected against any charge of breaching confidentiality if documents were released in advance of 30 years because early release is provided for in the Public Record Act. *New*

11. A number of 'ufologists' believe that key information about 'UFOs' is held on files other than those containing reports and public correspondence and are, therefore, keen to see files on a wide range of Air Force related issues. Identifying such files would be difficult. The MOD archives at Hayes contains some 300,000 files currently earmarked for review between 1998-2017. They are stored by date of review and, within that, by Branch; there is no thematic index and, without specific file references (and many Branches have reorganised a number of times during the last 30 years) a major resource effort would be required to locate and examine them. Additionally, Air Historical Branch holds key Air Staff papers including some 2,600 boxes of Operational Record Books (RAF Station diaries). There are, of course, other defence-related topics that attract interest and early release of 'UFO' files to satisfy one interest group could spark similar requests from others.

Added but hardly stressed

Conclusion

12. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that, subject to confirmation of legal advice about confidentiality, CS(RM) takes steps towards effecting early release of the 55 files that have already been identified (together with the additional 12 under preparation). Given the uncertainties involved in the possible need for sanitisation of personal details, obtaining the Lord

He's not summarised it clearly maybe to confuse the issue.

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Chancellor's approval and the PRO's reaction to accepting the files, it would be wise to be cautious about any time-scale in responding to Lord Hill-Norton. This is reflected in the draft letter attached. CS(RM) will advise in due course on the outcome of the process. An appropriate press plan to accompany any release in due course would be essential in order to maximise the impact of the release.

I agree this is the last thing we want!

Section 40
DOMD
NH619 Section 40

why?

it will only open the floodgates and letters will pour in asking questions about what's on the files and wanting more.

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DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

our words

As you know, my Department has only a very limited interest in the ~~sightings~~ information ~~that are~~ reported to us ~~as unidentified aerial phenomena~~.

The White Paper on the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act has generated correspondence from a number of people and organisations each with their own specific interests and all keen to see a greater openness in respect of a wide range of topics. My Department has a structured programme to release closed files after 30 years. Whatever the merits of individual requests for the early release of files, therefore, I must take full account of the overall implications of diverting resources from the programme before agreeing to them. Whilst I have asked that the files that you have asked for be considered for early release, I cannot at this time give an undertaking that this will be possible. I shall, however, write to you again when I have given further consideration to the matter.

No, we're only considering a small number of closed files which is not what Hill-Norton asked for!

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Mon 30 Mar, 1998 17:20 mailbox standard Page 1

DAT	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
30/03/98	OMD/AD(Management)	Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 30/03/98 at 16:56 Delivered: 30/03/98 at 16:56
To: SEC(AS)2,Hd of CS(RM)1
CC: Hd of CS(RM),DOMD
Ref: /GUID:5956DD0DD5C5D1119C7500A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Text:

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE 2
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Section 40 [redacted]

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Section 40 [redacted]

1969-1973

2004

DOMD Message

55 ENCLOSURE 11 NUMBER

I have discussed the draft submission that I sent to you the other day with DOMD. He is unhappy with the draft, feeling that it is unduly defensive and that it does not go far enough to addressing the question put by Hill-Norton of whether we could immediately release all closed files on the subject. His main points and questions are:

a. Why can't we consider releasing all "ufo" files - even up to the present? If there is some issue about the most recent files, what might be a feasible date - files more than a year old, 2 years old or what? Are there any legal objections to this, eg PRA rules or sensitivity of personal information? Or an exemption under the Code?

b. If there are no legal objections to such early release, are there any other implications, eg the diversion of resources? Under the Code, we could claim that it would take a disproportionate effort (exemption 9). But if we believe that it would involve a significant diversion of resources, can we quantify the effort involved?

Grateful for your thoughts on the above, I am pursuing an extension to this Weds with USofS's office.

Section 40 [redacted]

held in Sec(AS) 69 +

1974/75 14 + 4

87

+ 20 at Hayes we've got dockets for 1976

107 files

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Tue 31 Mar, 1998 9:25 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
31/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	FW: Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 31/03/98 at 9:22 Delivered: 31/03/98 at 9:22
To: SEC(AS)2A1
CC:
Ref: /GUID:965628BCD1C5D111B39500005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: FW: Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

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CB(Records) Intend Comments



Section 40 this is a hidden copy for you and reflects my initial reaction to the questions raised by DMOD. Section 40

From: Hd of CS(RM)1
Sent: 31 March 1998 09:20
To: Hd of CS(RM)
Subject: RE: Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Section 40 I thought the "silly season" was months away! But as the early release of all "ufo" related files has been raised we cannot avoid formally raising the matter with Q. I have spoken to Section 40 Immediate reaction "very unhappy" at the prospect of such a release. Particularly concerned that it would lead to the selection of records on a reactive basis (with lobby groups determining what should be kept) rather than through a considered review programme. He will seek further advice and give us the PRO formal view later today.

On resources:

This has already been covered. I advised OMD that records are not stored thematically, but by date of review and then by branch. There are some 300,000 files for second review covering the next 20 years. Additionally, there are records stored elsewhere in MOD some stores we know about ie AHB, DIS. There may be others elsewhere e.g. RAF stations, regional Met Offices, DERA. Answer - Sec(AS) to issue a DCI to identify caches (this is getting very silly).

To commit ourselves to releasing "ufo" records other than those already prepared for Q would require a major diversion of existing resources both for review and listing. In the case of the later priority would be given to processing these records to the certain detriment of others.

Also, if MOD makes any commitment to release these files early what about the knock-on effect elsewhere ie CAA.

Finally, we can never be sure files that may be relevant have not been missed. A weakness that is sure to be exploited by researchers. Section 40

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ENCLOSURE 13

Section 40 [redacted]

64/3 → Lord Hill Norton

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
01/04/98	OMD/AD(Management)	LINES TO TAKE - MOD INTEREST IN	[ ]

Sent: 01/04/98 at 13:35
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC:

Section 40 [redacted]

pbe

Ref: 968
Subject: LINES TO TAKE - MOD INTEREST IN REPORTS OF 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS'
Text: Section 40
Lines to Take as Requested.

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

To: Section 40 [redacted]

URGENT !

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

* MOD examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance.

* Defence significance constitutes evidence that UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

* Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported.

* MOD believes down to earth explanations could be found for reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so.

* MOD has no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters.

* MOD keeps an open mind about the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms but to date knows of no evidence which substantiates this phenomenon.

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ENCLOSURE NUMBER 14

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
02/04/98	OMD/AD(Management)	UFOs - Hill-Norton	[ ]

Intended: SEC(AS)2
Sent: 02/04/98 at 9:20 Delivered: 02/04/98 at 9:20
To: SEC(AS)2,Hd of CS(RM)1
CC: C+L(F+S)L1,CPO,OMD14
Ref: /GUID:0B1A86F077C9D1119C7500A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: UFOs - Hill-Norton

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE 2
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [2]
Codes [ ]

Section 40 has seen it and is happy with it as drafted.

Section 40 E-mailed Section 40 to this effect.

Here is the redrafted DOMD submission following our meeting yesterday. I think it's a vast improvement on the earlier draft and reflects well our discussions yesterday. I will read it through a few more times this morning but at present I can't see anything that needs to be changed.

Grateful for any views you may have. I'll then respond to Section 40 before the deadline.

Section 40

2/4/98

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Grateful for your comments on this draft - I think that we are getting there! My aim is to get the submission to PS/USofS tomorrow morning.

For CPO: Section 40 grateful for any comments on the (defensive) news brief.

Thanks

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

Apr 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/DUS(CM)	DDC&L(F&S) Legal
PS/Min(AF)	DGMO	Hd of CS(RM)
PS/Min(DP)	Hd Sec(AS)	
PS/PUS	DISN	

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference:
A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

Issue

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of `unidentified flying objects'.

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual `UFO' causes and late last year, tabled PQs about an alleged 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/ RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest). He subsequently wrote to Minister(DP) complaining that the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time. Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released now.

5. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorised incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity.

Departmental Records

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6. The MOD has a well-established review programme (in line with Public Record Office (PRO) guidance), which ensures that records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and Central Services(Records Management - CS(RM)) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (of the order of 4,500 files each year) and must be catalogued and conserved before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

7. Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI Gen 54/98). The Public Record Act has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point, subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

8. The PRO has, nevertheless, on occasion rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they could be viewed as a large amount of trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public, and seek the Lord Chancellor's approval for the method chosen.

'UFO' Files

9. A decision was taken in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these

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files should be retained. Closed files over 30 years old (including any remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. In considering Lord Hill-Norton's request for the release of all closed files, I took as a starting premise that, in the spirit of openness, and given the undoubted public interest in this subject, we should try to meet it. However, after discussion with CS(RM) and Secretariat(Air Staff - Sec(AS)), the Division mainly involved, I have concluded that to do so would carry considerable resource implications, in particular in the effort needed to identify, review and sanitise files. This could not be attempted without significant disruption to the normal process of record reviewing or the provision of additional staff. By way of illustration, it is estimated that the review of currently identified Sec(AS) files alone (held by the Division itself or at Hayes) would require some 6 man-months. Furthermore, whilst there may be no security concerns about early release of 'UFO' files, a degree of sensitivity has been attached to them because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public.

10. However, as part of its continuing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 files relating to `UFOs' with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/conserving. With a view to going some way to meeting Lord Hill-Norton's request without an unreasonable diversion of resources, permission for early release of these files could be sought. Subsequent releases of such files would therefore be at the 25-year point. The confidentiality aspect of 'UFO' files has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents. There are three options for dealing with the personal privacy concerns relating to earlier release:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

b. remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require examination and sanitisation of some 5500 enclosures);

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

The first method would be time-consuming and probably impractical, particularly in the case of the oldest files; the second would be possible, but would represent a considerable diversion of resources for CS(RM). Preliminary legal advice on the third option suggests that MOD would be protected against any charge of breaching confidentiality if files were released in advance of 30 years as long as the new period (eg 25 years) had been properly approved by the Lord Chancellor in exercising his statutory discretion in accordance with the Public Record Act. However, there is also a requirement on Departments that consideration is given to whether releasing information gained from members of the public might constitute a breach of good faith, and this would have to be considered for the files in question.

11. Even if agreed, such a move would, of course, be unlikely to

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satisfy the `UFO' community which would be convinced that other files were being withheld, and it could spark similar requests from other interest groups. Nevertheless, it has merit as a sign of a commitment to openness, it need not act as a precedent and, given the resource implications, would not commit the Department to more widespread release in response to other requests.

Conclusion

12. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that, subject to confirmation of legal advice about the protection of third party confidentiality, CS(RM) takes steps towards effecting early release (probably in January 1999, along with the next batch of releases to the PRO) of the 55 files that have already been identified, together with the additional 12 under preparation. Given the uncertainties involved in the possible need for sanitisation of personal details, obtaining the Lord Chancellor's approval and the PRO's reaction to accepting the files, I recommend that a holding reply, along the lines of the attached draft, is sent to Lord Hill-Norton at this stage. Some defensive press lines are also attached should Lord Hill-Norton wish to make something of this reply. An appropriate news brief to accompany any release in due course will be essential. CS(RM) will advise in due course on the outcome of the review/release process.

Section 40 [redacted]
DOMD
NH619 Section 40

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RESTRICTED - POLICY

DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

As you know, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in the sightings that are reported to us as unidentified aerial phenomena.

MOD has a well-established review programme to release files after 30 years in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967. Whilst I am prepared to consider on their merits individual requests for the early release of files, therefore, I must take full account of the overall implications, including the diversion of resources from the review programme, and the need to protect information provided in confidence by members of the public, before agreeing to them. Nevertheless, in the light of the Government's commitment to greater openness, and given the public interest in this matter, I have asked that some files that would be due for release to the Public Record Office in the next few years be considered for earlier release. This will require some work, including for example, the need to check whether personal details of members of the public should be protected. At this time, therefore, I cannot give an undertaking that such early release will be possible. I shall, however, write to you again when the necessary work has been completed and the way ahead is clear.

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News Brief

Subject: Early Release of "UFO" Files

Source: Branch: DOMD Officer: Section 40 Tel: Section 40

BACKGROUND

In a letter to SofS dated 3 Mar 98, Lord Hill-Norton requested early release of all closed files on the subject of "UFOs". USofS, in responding, explained that release of all files was not possible, partly for resourcing reasons, but that the Department would consider the early release of files that were due to be presented to the Public Record Office over the next few years. However, to do this required some additional consideration, and he could not, therefore, give a firm undertaking. He did undertake to write back to Lord Hill-Norton when a final decision has been made. (A separate news brief will be provided at that time). The purpose of this brief is to provide some lines to take should Lord Hill-Norton decide to publicise this reply.

KEY MESSAGE

In line with the Government's commitment to greater openness, and in view of the public interest, MOD is considering whether some files related to the subject of "UFOs" could be released to the Public Record Office in advance of the normal 30 year point.

KEY POINTS TO SUPPORT THE MESSAGE

* Some additional work is required, for example, to ensure that we do not breach third party confidentiality (much of the material in question has been provided by members of the public).

* No final decision on early release has therefore yet been taken.

* (If raised) Lord Hill-Norton has made a request for files to be released, but staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public which could be released to the Public Record Office (PRO) ahead of the normal 30 year point. **[For CS(RM): have any records ever been released under this procedure?]**

* MOD already has a well-structured programme to release files to the PRO after 30 years. The recent White Paper on Freedom of Information stated the Government's view that the 30 year rule should not be reduced, as meeting the considerable costs for earlier release of **all** historical records was not considered to be the best use of scarce public resources.

SUBSIDIARY POINTS

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* MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance.

* Defence significance constitutes evidence that UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity.

* Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported.

* MOD has no expertise or role with respect to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms and it would be an inappropriate diversion of defence resources to investigate this issue.

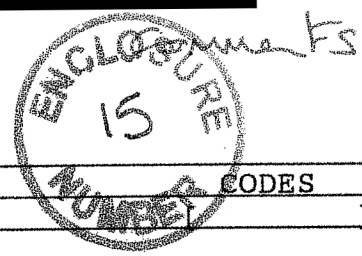
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Section 40 [redacted]



Thu 2 Apr, 1998 12:44 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
02/04/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	RE: UFOs - Hill-Norton	]

Intended: SEC(AS)2
Sent: 02/04/98 at 12:32 Delivered: 02/04/98 at 12:32
To: SEC(AS)2,OMD/AD(Management)
CC: C+L(F+S)L1,CPO,OMD14
Ref: /GUID:E76028BCD1C5D111B39500005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: RE: UFOs - Hill-Norton

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

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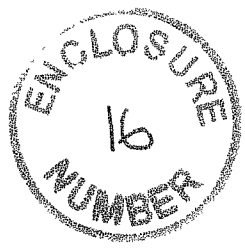
UNCLASSIFIED

Paul, I have the following comments:
Para 5 - delete "conserved" insert "conservation action taken"
Para 8 - last sentence to read "Should the PRO decline to accept "UFO" files (they are viewed, by Kew, as trivia)..... might be made available to the public, this may mean seeking the Lord Chancellor's approval for transfer to a museum."
Para 9 - 2nd sentence - "Files over. ....been released."
Para 10 - as I mentioned at yesterday's meeting we are uneasy with the preliminary legal advice on personal sensitivity which suggests the matter rests with CS(RM). If unchanged we will opt to sanitize papers being released in advance of normal, long established release point.

News Brief:
I have no examples of early releases as previously only oddments, rather than blocks of files, have been involved.
We are though preparing MOD's first block of records for release. The release of which is almost certain to attract publicity.
You may be aware of this matter as the apparent delay in transferring this material to Kew has been the subject of a letter from Matthew Taylor MP to the Lord Chancellor, which in turn has been referred to MOD (MIN(AF) to reply) [DOMD on circ].

Section 40

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DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
02/04/98	OMD/AD(Management)	LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR	[ ]

Sent: 02/04/98 at 10:40
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC: Hd of CS(RM)1

Ref: 1721
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Text:

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

2 Apr 98

OMD/AD(Management)

Copy to:

Head of CS(RM)1

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

1. Thank you for forwarding the latest draft submission for the above mentioned subject. I am replying in Section 40 absence.

2. Head of Sec(AS) is entirely content with the revised drafts.

[original signed]

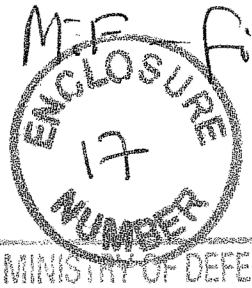
Section 40
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

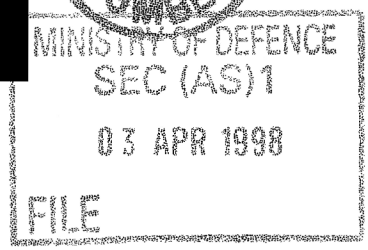
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Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]





D/DOMD/2/3

3 April 1998

PS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/DUS(CM)	DDC&L(F&S) Legal
PS/Min(AF)	DGMO	Hd of CS(RM)
PS/Min(DP)	Hd Sec(AS)	
PS/PUS	DISN	

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference:
A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98 (not to all)

Issue

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of `unidentified flying objects'.

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual `UFO' causes and late last year, tabled PQs about a 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest). He subsequently wrote to Minister(DP) complaining that the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time. Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released now.

5. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorised incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity.

Departmental Records

6. The MOD has a well-established review programme (in line with Public Record Office (PRO) guidance), which ensures that records are reviewed to

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enable release after 30 years. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and Central Services(Records Management - CS(RM)) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (of the order of 4,500 files each year) and must be catalogued and conservation action taken before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

7. Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI Gen 54/98). However, in considering proposals for a Freedom of Information Act, Ministers decided not to reduce the general 30 year period, in part for reasons of cost. The Public Record Act has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point, subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

8. The PRO has, nevertheless, on occasion rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they are viewed by Kew as trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public; this may mean seeking the Lord Chancellor's approval for transfer to a museum.

'UFO' Files

9. A decision was taken and an undertaking given in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these files should be retained. Files over 30 years old (including any

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remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. In considering Lord Hill-Norton's request for the release of all closed files, I took as a starting premise that, in the spirit of openness, and given the undoubted public interest in this subject, we should try to meet it. However, after discussion with CS(RM) and Secretariat(Air Staff - Sec(AS)), the Division mainly involved, I have concluded that to do so would carry considerable resource implications, in particular in the effort needed to identify, review and sanitise files. This could not be attempted without significant disruption to the normal process of record reviewing or the provision of additional staff. By way of illustration, it is estimated by CS(RM) that the review of currently identified Sec(AS) UFO files alone (held by the Division itself or at Hayes) would require some 6 man-months. Furthermore, whilst there may be no security concerns about early release of 'UFO' files, a degree of sensitivity has been attached to them because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public.

10. However, as part of its continuing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 files relating to `UFOs' with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/conserving. With a view to going some way to meeting Lord Hill-Norton's request without an unreasonable diversion of resources, permission for early release of these files could be sought. Subsequent releases of such files would therefore be at the 25-year point. The confidentiality aspect of 'UFO' files has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents. There are three options for dealing with the personal privacy concerns relating to earlier release:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

b. remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require examination and sanitisation of some 5500 enclosures);

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

The first method would be time-consuming and probably impractical, particularly in the case of the oldest files; the second would be possible, but would represent a considerable diversion of resources for CS(RM). Preliminary legal advice on the third option suggests that MOD would be protected against any charge of breaching confidentiality if files were released in advance of 30 years as long as the new period (eg 25 years) had been properly approved by the Lord Chancellor in exercising his statutory discretion in accordance with the Public Record Act. However, there is also a requirement on Departments that consideration is given to whether releasing information gained from members of the public might constitute a breach of good faith, and this would have to be considered for the files in question.

11. Even if agreed, such a move would, of course, be unlikely to satisfy the `UFO' community which would be convinced that other files were being withheld, and it could spark similar requests from other interest groups. Nevertheless, it has merit as a sign of a commitment to openness, it need not act as a precedent and, given the resource implications, would not commit the

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Department to more widespread release in response to other requests.

Conclusion

12. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that, subject to confirmation of legal advice about the protection of third party confidentiality, CS(RM) takes steps towards effecting early release (probably in January 1999, along with the next batch of releases to the PRO) of the 55 files that have already been identified, together with the additional 12 under preparation. Given the uncertainties involved in the possible need for sanitisation of personal details, obtaining the Lord Chancellor's approval and the PRO's reaction to accepting the files, I recommend that a holding reply, along the lines of the attached draft, is sent to Lord Hill-Norton at this stage. Some defensive press lines are also attached should Lord Hill-Norton wish to make something of this reply. An appropriate news brief to accompany any release in due course will be essential. CS(RM) will advise in due course on the outcome of the review/release process.

{signed}
Section 40
DOMD
NH619 Section 40

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DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

As you know, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in the sightings that are reported to us as unidentified aerial phenomena.

MOD has a well-established review programme to release files after 30 years in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967. Whilst I am prepared to consider on their merits individual requests for the early release of files, therefore, I must take full account of the overall implications, including the diversion of resources from the review programme, and the need to protect information provided in confidence by members of the public, before agreeing to them. Nevertheless, in the light of the Government's commitment to greater openness, and given the public interest in this matter, I have asked that some files that would be due for release to the Public Record Office in the next few years be considered for earlier release. This will require some work, including for example, the need to check whether personal details of members of the public should be protected. At this time, therefore, I cannot give an undertaking that such early release will be possible. I shall, however, write to you again when the necessary work has been completed and the way ahead is clear.

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RESTRICTED - POLICY

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News Brief

Subject: Early Release of "UFO" Files

Source: Branch: DOMD Officer: Section 40 Tel: 81994MB

BACKGROUND

In a letter to SofS dated 3 Mar 98, Lord Hill-Norton requested early release of all closed files on the subject of "UFOs". USofS, in responding, explained that release of all files was not possible, partly for resourcing reasons, but that the Department would consider the early release of files that were due to be presented to the Public Record Office over the next few years. However, to do this required some additional consideration, and he could not, therefore, give a firm undertaking. He did undertake to write back to Lord Hill-Norton when a final decision has been made. (A separate news brief will be provided at that time). The purpose of this brief is to provide some lines to take should Lord Hill-Norton decide to publicise this reply.

KEY MESSAGE

In line with the Government's commitment to greater openness, and in view of the public interest, MOD is considering whether some files related to the subject of "UFOs" could be released to the Public Record Office in advance of the normal 30 year point.

KEY POINTS TO SUPPORT THE MESSAGE

* Some additional work is required, for example, to ensure that we do not breach third party confidentiality (much of the material in question has been provided by members of the public).

* No final decision on early release has therefore yet been taken.

* (If raised) Lord Hill-Norton has made a request for files to be released, but staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public which could be released to the Public Record Office (PRO) ahead of the normal 30 year point.

* MOD already has a well-structured programme to release files to the PRO after 30 years. The recent White Paper on Freedom of Information stated the Government's view that the 30 year rule should not be reduced, as meeting the considerable costs for earlier release of **all** historical records was not considered to be the best use of scarce public resources.

SUBSIDIARY POINTS

* MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance.

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* Defence significance constitutes evidence that UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity.

* Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported.

* MOD has no expertise or role with respect to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms and it would be an inappropriate diversion of defence resources to investigate this issue.

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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 18

US of S Dist - DOMD
APS/SofS, PS/MIN(AF), PS/MIN(DP),
PS/PUS, PS/DUS(CM), DGMO,
HD SEC(AS), DISN & CAL(FAS),
HD of CS(RM)

D/US of S/JS 28/1/0

7 April 1998

The Lord Hill-Norton GCB
Admiral of the Fleet
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Section 40

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of files containing information about alleged of 'unidentified flying objects'.

As you know, the Ministry of Defence has only a very limited interest in the sightings that are reported to us as unidentified aerial phenomena.

MOD has a well-established review programme to release files after 30 years in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967. Whilst I am prepared to consider on their merits individual requests for the early release of files, I must take full account of the overall implications, including the diversion of resources from the review programme, and the need to protect information provided in confidence by members of the public, before agreeing to them. Nevertheless, in the light of the Government's commitment to greater openness, and given the public interest in this matter, I have asked that some files that would be due for release to the Public Record Office in the next few years be considered for earlier release. This will require some work, including, for example, the need to check whether personal details of members of the public should be protected. At this time, therefore, I cannot give an undertaking that such early release will be possible. I shall, however, write to you again when the necessary work has been completed and the way ahead is clear.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)
-7 APR 1998

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper

Section 40 [redacted]

returned with thanks. Section 40 [redacted]

. Publicity
. future deposits

64/3

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 19

COVERING RESTRICTED

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KEY PAPERS FOR MEETING WITH DOMD AND CS(RECORDS MANAGEMENT) ON EARLY RELEASE OF 'UFO' REPORT FILES

DETAILS OF MEETING: 1000 HRS, ROOM 7257, WED 1 APRIL 1998

Those Attending: DOMD – Section 40 [redacted]

CS(RM)1 – [redacted]

TAB A: Section 40 [redacted] internal comments to Head of CS(RM) on Section 40 [redacted] note at TAB B

TAB B: Section 40 [redacted] note to Section 40 and Section 40 [redacted] expressing Section 40 [redacted] unhappiness with the draft reply to Lord Hill Norton (TAB C).

TAB C: DOMD's second draft (which we have not yet responded to.

TAB D: Sec(AS) response to DOMD's first draft background note and reply to the Lord Hill Norton letter (our response incorporated CS(RM)1's input).

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Internal

CS(Records) Comments

[NOT TO DOMD]

Section 40 this is a hidden copy for you and reflects my initial reaction to the questions raised by DMOD. Section 40

From: Hd of CS(RM)1
Sent: 31 March 1998 09:20
To: Hd of CS(RM)
Subject: RE: Lord Hill-Norton reply (U/C)

Kew*

Section 40 I thought the "silly season" was months away! But as the early release of all "ufo" related files has been raised we cannot avoid formally raising the matter with Q.* I have spoken to Section 40 Immediate reaction "very unhappy" at the prospect of such a release. Particularly concerned that it would lead to the selection of records on a reactive basis (with lobby groups determining what should be kept) rather than through a considered review programme. He will seek further advice and give us the PRO formal view later today.

On resources:

This has already been covered. I advised OMD that records are not stored thematically, but by date of review and then by branch. There are some 300,000 files for second review covering the next 20 years. Additionally, there are records stored elsewhere in MOD some stores we know about ie AHB, DIS. There may be others elsewhere e.g. RAF stations, regional Met Offices, DERA. Answer - Sec(AS) to issue a DCI to identify caches (this is getting very silly).

To commit ourselves to releasing "ufo" records other than those already prepared for Q would require a major diversion of existing resources both for review and listing. In the case of the later priority would be given to processing these records to the certain detriment of others.

Also, if MOD makes any commitment to release these files early what about the knock-on effect elsewhere ie CAA.

Finally, we can never be sure files that may be relevant have not been missed. A weakness that is sure to be exploited by researchers. Section 40

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Section 40 [redacted]

DOMD Message

1969-1973

2004
55+12.

I have discussed the draft submission that I sent to you the other day with DOMD. He is unhappy with the draft, feeling that it is unduly defensive and that it does not go far enough to addressing the question put by Hill-Norton of whether we could immediately release all closed files on the subject. His main points and questions are:

a. Why can't we consider releasing all "ufo" files - even up to the present? If there is some issue about the most recent files, what might be a feasible date - files more than a year old, 2 years old or what? Are there any legal objections to this, eg PRA rules or sensitivity of personal information? Or an exemption under the Code?

b. If there are no legal objections to such early release, are there any other implications, eg the diversion of resources? Under the Code, we could claim that it would take a disproportionate effort (exemption 9). But if we believe that it would involve a significant diversion of resources, can we quantify the effort involved?

Grateful for your thoughts on the above, I am pursuing an extension to this Weds with USofS's office.

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Attached is my draft advice to USofS (not yet cleared with DOMD). Grateful for any comments this afternoon - please let me know if that will not be possible.

Section 40 thank you for the legal advice; are you happy with what I have put at the end of para 10.

Many thanks for the advice & assistance.

Section 40 [redacted]

See "NEW" Z

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:
APS/SofS DGMO DDC&L(F&S) Legal
PS/Min(AF) Hd Sec(AS)
PS/Min(DP) DISN
PS/DUS(CM) Hd of CS(RM)

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference:
A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

Issue

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of `unidentified flying objects'.

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual `UFO' causes and late last year, tabled PQs about an alleged 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest), subsequently writing because the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time. Pointing to the public interest in this topic and the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, he has requested that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released now.

Added in.

5. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorised incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity, and that to date the Department knows of no evidence to support the existence of alien spacecraft or extraterrestrial lifeforms.

Departmental Records

6. The MOD has a well-established review programme (in line with Public

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Record Office (PRO) guidance), which ensures that records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and Central Services(Records Management - CS(RM)) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (of the order of 4,500 files each year) and must be catalogued and conserved before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

7. Under existing commitments to openness, staff are already encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public, which could be released to the Public Record Office ahead of the normal 30 year point. Staff were recently reminded of this requirement in reissued instructions on Open Government (DCI Gen 54/98). The Public Record Act has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point, subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

'UFO' Files

8. A decision was taken in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these files should be retained. Closed files over 30 years old (including any remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. As part of their continuing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 files relating to `UFOs' with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/ conserving. CS(RM) does, of course, have many Departmental files on a wide range of subjects at various stages of listing and conserving but none in sufficient number by subject to comprise similar packages.

9. The PRO has, on occasion, rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's

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review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they could be viewed as a large amount of trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public, and seek the Lord Chancellor's approval for the method chosen.

10. There are no security concerns about early release of these 'UFO' files. A degree of sensitivity has been attached to them, however, because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public. The public interest/public confidentiality aspect of 'UFO' business has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents. Permission for early release of the 55 files mentioned above could be sought, however, and there are three options for dealing with the personal privacy concerns:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

b. remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require examination ~~and sanitisation~~ of some 5500 enclosures) to obtain the details at the outset.

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

The first method would be time-consuming and probably impractical, particularly in the case of the oldest files; the second would be possible, but would represent a considerable diversion of resources for CS(RM). Preliminary legal advice on the third option suggests that MOD would be protected against any charge of breaching confidentiality if documents were released in advance of 30 years because early release is provided for in the Public Record Act. *New*

11. A number of 'ufologists' believe that key information about 'UFOs' is held on files other than those containing reports and public correspondence and are, therefore, keen to see files on a wide range of Air Force related issues. Identifying such files would be difficult. The MOD archives at Hayes contains some 300,000 files currently earmarked for review between 1998-2017. They are stored by date of review and, within that, by Branch; there is no thematic index and, without specific file references (and many Branches have reorganised a number of times during the last 30 years) a major resource effort would be required to locate and examine them. Additionally, Air Historical Branch holds key Air Staff papers including some 2,600 boxes of Operational Record Books (RAF Station diaries). There are, of course, other defence-related topics that attract interest and early release of 'UFO' files to satisfy one interest group could spark similar requests from others.

Added but hardly stressed

Conclusion

He's not summarised it clearly

12. In the light of the discussion above, it is recommended that, subject to confirmation of legal advice about confidentiality, CS(RM) takes steps towards effecting early release of the 55 files that have already been identified (together with the additional 12 under preparation). Given the uncertainties involved in the possible need for sanitisation of personal details, obtaining the Lord

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Chancellor's approval and the PRO's reaction to accepting the files, it would be wise to be cautious about any time-scale in responding to Lord Hill-Norton. This is reflected in the draft letter attached. CS(RM) will advise in due course on the outcome of the process. An appropriate press plan to accompany any release in due course would be essential in order to maximise the impact of the release.

I agree this is the last thing we want!

Section 40
DOMD
NH619 8 Section 40

why?

it will only open the floodgates and letters will pour in asking questions about what's on the files and wanting more.

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DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

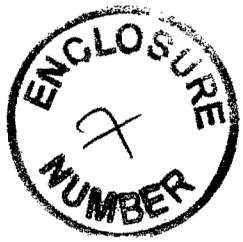
our words

As you know, my Department has only a very limited interest in the ~~sightings that are~~ reported to us ~~as unidentified aerial phenomena~~ information.

The White Paper on the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act has generated correspondence from a number of people and organisations each with their own specific interests and all keen to see a greater openness in respect of a wide range of topics. My Department has a structured programme to release closed files after 30 years. Whatever the merits of individual requests for the early release of files, therefore, I must take full account of the overall implications of diverting resources from the programme before agreeing to them. Whilst I have asked that the files that you have asked for be considered for early release, I cannot at this time give an undertaking that this will be possible. I shall, however, write to you again when I have given further consideration to the matter.

✓ No, were only considering a small number of closed files which is not what Hill-Norton asked for!

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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

25th March 1998

DOMD - Section 40

Copy to:

Head of CS(RM)1

LORD HILL-NORTON REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE OF CLOSED FILES

Reference: D/USofS/JS/28/1/0 dated 9 March 1998

1. We have spoken a number of times about the letter from Hill-Norton and the remit to provide PS/USofS with a draft reply. I said I would weave our contribution in with Section 40 response; this is attached.

2. I am copying this in parallel to Section 40 he has not yet cleared it. You will, perhaps, want to assure Ministers that Sec(AS) and CS(RM) have contributed to, and are content with, the finished piece. Perhaps you could let me know if you intend any changes of substance.

3. I am afraid it is a rather lengthy reply, but it is important to explain to Ministers that the Hill-Norton request is only a small part of the much wider issue concerning early release of files.

4. I have mentioned to PS/USofS that I am responsible for the failure to meet the deadline!

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40

Loose Minute **DRAFT**

D/DOMD/2/3

Mar 98

PS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	DGMO
PS/Min(AF)	Head of Sec(AS)
PS/Min(DP)	DISN
PS/DUS(CM)	Head of CS(RM)

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE OF 'UFO' FILES

Reference: D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 Mar 98

ISSUE

1. How to respond to the request from Lord Hill-Norton for the release of all closed files on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

TIMING

3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. Lord Hill-Norton's request cannot be considered in isolation and the fundamental issue of the Department's overall policy in the light of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act must also be addressed.

Departmental Records

5. The MOD has a well-established, structured, review programme (in line with Public Record Office (PRO) guidance) which ensures records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years. The US by comparison relies on applications under their Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to trigger release and, as a result, millions of papers over 30 years old have not yet been released.

6. MOD's key review occurs around the 25 year point and involves files surviving earlier branch and CS(RM) reviews. Some 12% of records survive this selection process (c4,500 files for 1997/98) and must be catalogued and conserved (cleaned) before acceptance by the PRO and release at the 30-year point.

'UFO' Files

7. A decision was taken in 1967 in the light of increasing public interest in 'UFOs' that these files should be retained. Closed files over 30 years old (including any remaining from years prior to 1967) have already been released. As part of their ongoing structured review programme, CS(RM) has some 55 'UFO' files with planned release dates of 1999-2003 ready for the PRO. A further 12 (release date 2004) currently await listing/cleaning. CS(RM) does, of course, have many Departmental files on a wide range of subjects at various stages of listing and cleaning but none in sufficient number by subject to comprise similar packages.

Public Record Act (PRA) and Early Release

8. Under existing commitments to openness, Departmental officials are encouraged to identify discrete blocks of records of more than ordinary interest to the public which could be released to the PRO ahead of this time (staff were recently reminded of this in reissued instructions on Open Government - DCI GEN 54/98). Section 5(1) of the PRA has provisions for the release of records at dates other than the normal 30 year point subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval. Permission for early release of the 55 files mentioned above could be sought if it was judged that sensitivity was not an issue.

Sensitivity

9. A degree of sensitivity has been attached to 'UFO' files because sighting reports were passed to the Defence Intelligence Branch (DI55) to ascertain any intelligence of a terrestrial nature and because reports and letters contain personal details of members of the public. Open Government accepts that there might be circumstances where records could be closed for longer than 30 years (contains information supplied in confidence; contains information about individuals, the disclosure of which would cause distress or endangerment) but the public interest/public confidentiality aspects of 'UFO' business has been effectively managed on the basis that a 30-year closure period provides sufficient protection for the personal privacy of correspondents.

10. There are no security concerns about early release of 'UFO' files. There are three options for dealing with personal privacy concerns:

a. obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details (an extremely time consuming process);

b. remove personal details (the processed files at para 7 above would require examination of 55x100 enclosures and sanitizing as necessary);

c. agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

Identification of Possible 'UFO'-related Files

11. A number of 'ufologists' believe that key information about 'UFOs' is held on files other than those containing reports and public correspondence and are, therefore, keen to see files on a

wide range of Air Force related issues. Identifying such files would be difficult. The MOD archives at Hayes contains some 300,000 files currently earmarked for review between 1998-2017. They are stored by date of review and, within that, by Branch; there is no thematic index and, without specific file references (and many Branches have reorganised a number of times during the last 30 years) a major resource effort would be required to locate and examine them. Additionally, Air Historical Branch holds some 2,600 boxes of key Air Staff papers including Operational Record Books (ie RAF Station diaries).

Lord Hill-Norton

12. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83 and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-1973, has a long-standing interest in 'UFOs'. He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party 'UFO' Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual 'ufologist' causes and, more recently, tabled PQs about an alleged 'UFO' incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest) subsequently writing because the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time.

13. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity, and that to date the Department knows of no evidence to support the existence of 'UFO/flying saucers'/extraterrestrial lifeforms. It is frequently the case that our limited interest does not correspond with the wide-ranging non-defence related enthusiasms of a minority of the public who continue to lobby for the diversion of defence resources for their own aims.

Summary of Issues

14. To summarise:

a. The Department manages a structured review programme for the release of closed files at the 30-year point;

b. Section 5(1) of the 1958 Public Records Act provides for the early release of records subject to the Lord Chancellor's approval.

c. A reduction from 30 to 25 years for release of 'UFO' sighting report and public correspondence files would be possible if personal privacy was not deemed to be a concern.

d. A commitment to identification and early release of closed files (including those concerning or possibly related to 'UFO' reports and correspondence) beyond those already processed would involve significant resource effort and severely disrupt the Department's structured review programme.

OTHER POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

15. There are, of course, other defence related topics that attract vociferous supporters looking for greater access to

Departmental papers under the FOI Act and early release of 'UFO' files to satisfy a minority interest group could set a precedent. It is Sec(AS)'s experience that releasing information does not stem the tide of correspondence. The reverse is true as many correspondents seek to challenge decisions made 30-50 years ago.

16. Sec(AS) is already considering the implications of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act and how it might impact on the Department's limited interest in the subject of 'UFOs'. They are progressing a number of issues as part of this work, not least the interests of the Air Defence and Defence Intelligence staffs. They are seized of the need to take full account of public interest in this subject. Sec(AS) will be advising further in due course.

17. The PRO has, on occasion, rejected files for preservation and release. The Department's review programme therefore takes into account not only the requirements of the national archive, but also considers the interests of the more specialist museums. Should the PRO decline to accept 'UFO' files (they could be viewed as a large amount of trivia) the Department would have to decide how their contents might be made available to the public, and seek the Lord Chancellor's approval for the method chosen.

CONCLUSION

18. As a goodwill gesture, the release date for closed 'UFO' files could be reduced from 30 to 25 years and the 55 files mentioned at para 7 above could be made available at the January 1999 point. This is, however, unlikely to satisfy Lord Hill-Norton who is looking for the release of all 'UFO' files. His request would need to be treated as a special case (and there is no justification for this) to warrant the reallocation of the significant resources required to achieve this and would adversely affect the Department's structured review programme. The draft provided is therefore couched in conservative terms in order not to raise Lord Hill-Norton's expectations.

DRAFT REPLY TO LORD HILL-NORTON

Thank you for your letter of 3 March in which you request the release of closed files containing information about alleged sightings of 'unidentified flying objects'.

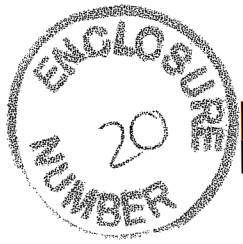
As you know, my Department has only a very limited interest in the sightings that are reported to us as unidentified aerial phenomena.

The White Paper on the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act has generated correspondence from a number of people and organisations each with their own specific interests and all keen to see a greater openness in respect of a wide range of defence and defence related topics.

My Department has a structured programme to release closed files after 30 years. Whatever the merits of individual requests for the early release of files I must take full account of the overall implications of diverting resources from the programme before agreeing to them.

I am sorry but I cannot at this time give an undertaking that the files you ask for will be released early but I shall write to you again when we have given further consideration to the matter.

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64/3

Section 40 [redacted]

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
08/09/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL-NORTON - FOLLOW-UP REPLY	[ ]

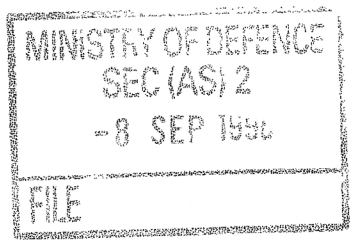
Intended:
Sent: 08/09/98 at 15:06 Delivered: 08/09/98 at 15:07
To: OMD/AD(Management), SEC(AS)2
CC: Hd of CS(RM)
Ref: /GUID:41C85F1CA244D211B3AA00005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON - FOLLOW-UP REPLY

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [2]
Codes [ ]



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If you cast your minds back six months Lord Hill-Norton wrote to SofS seeking the release of all closed "ufo" files. DOMD was tasked with the lead at that time providing USofS with a holding reply whilst CS(RM) sought legal advice on the question of third party confidentaliy. On the basis of advice recently received I have prepared the attached draft background note and reply for Minister. Comments please by 17 September. Section 40

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Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37 DRAFT

September 1998

PS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/DUS(CM)	DDC&L(F&S)Legal
PS/Min(AF)	DGMO	DMOD
PS/Min(DP)	Hd Sec (AS)	
PS/PUS	DISN	

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference: A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 March 1998 (not to all)
B. D/DOMD/2/3 dated 3 April 1998

Issue

1. To provide Lord Hill-Norton with the outcome of our consideration of his request for the early release of files on the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the defence Staff from 1971-73, has a long standing interest in "UFOs". He was a member of the (long defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO Study Group and has written the forewords for at least two books on the subject. Over the years he has supported individual "UFO" causes and late last year, tabled PQs about a "UFO" incident in 1980 outside RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters (Rendlesham Forest). He subsequently wrote to Minister (DP) complaining that the Department was not prepared to review decisions made at that time. He has subsequently **[Sec(AS) any further examples you wish to include?].** 7 PQs
4. He approached the department earlier this year (undercover of Reference A) pointing to the public interest in this topic and to the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, requesting that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released in advance of the normal, 30 year point.

5. Ministers will know that the Department's interest in "UFOs" is limited to establishing whether there is any associated evidence of an unauthorised incursion of the UK ~~Air Defence Region~~ airspace by foreign military activity.

Departmental Records

6. The MOD has a well established review programme (in line with Public Record Office (PRO) guidance) which ensures that records are reviewed to enable release after 30 years.

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7. Typically, CS(RM) formally reviews in excess of 13,000 linear feet of records each year (in the region of 130,000 files) of which around an estimated 4,500 files are earmarked for permanent preservation at the PRO. Before transfer to Kew all require cataloguing and conservation action, in addition if sensitivity is an issue, appropriate submissions are prepared to seek the Lord Chancellor's agreement for closure beyond 30 years.

"UFO" Files

8. Since 1967 it has been MOD policy to earmark "ufo" files for preservation, with just over 30 files in the public

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domain. The limited nature of these files generally in the form of reports to the Department by members of the public has lead to the general belief that the MOD continues to hold, and withhold beyond the 30 year point, a considerable cache of files on this subject, particularly files covering intelligence aspects of the phenomenon. This is not the case.

9. By way of a holding reply USofS advised Lord Hill-Norton that although we were unable to agree to the release of all closed UFO files an undertaking was made to consider the early release of those files which were in an advance stage of preparation for transfer to the PRO (ie 55 files prepared and a further 12 awaiting listing/conservation).

10. In recent months the PRO has been involved in their largest consultation exercise that has lead to the publication of a new aqusitition policy. Although there is no suggestion that the 67 "ufo" files at various stages of preparation will be rejected by the PRO the routine acceptance of this kind of "trivial" record by Kew is doubtful.

Outcome of our review

11. Three options have been considered:

(1) obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

(2) remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require further examination and sanitisation of some 5,500 enclosures);

(3) agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection of privacy.

The first option had previously been considered time-consuming and, given the fact that we would be attempting to trace individuals whose addresses were 25 plus years old, impractical. Option two, is possible, but would represent a major diversion of resources. For the third option advice was sought from MOD's Legal Advisers. We are advised,

"there is an implied override of the Department's duty to protect third party confidentiality by use of the 30 year rule under the [Public Record] Act. Release of records pertaining to that period are, therefore, not a problem. However, Legal Adviser is of the view that this implied override probably does not extent to earlier release periods. _ she has advised, therefore that to be on the safe side, records released prior to the 30 year point should be sanitised_.. Legal Adviser's duty is to protect the Department insofar as possible from the risks of legal action and therefore her legal advice is to err on the side of caution, given that the legal position is not at all clear cut."

Conclusion

12. In the light of legal advice, and having previously rejected options one and two, it is recommended USofS advise Lord Hill-Norton that we intend making no changes to the existing arrangement where-by "ufo" files are transferred to the PRO for release at the 30 year point.

Section 40
Hd CS(RM)
MTA8/3 Section 40

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DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Further to my letter dated 7 April 1998 I can now advise you of the outcome of our consideration of the release of a number of files relating to ~~the alleged activities~~ reports of "unidentified flying objects".

You will recall I advised you that whilst I was prepared to consider on their merits individual requests for the early release of files, resource considerations and the need to protect information provided in confidence by members of the public had first to be investigated.

The various options open to the MOD have now been considered. We plan to make no change to the existing routine release of "UFO" report files at the normal 30 year point, subject of course the Public Record Office continued willingness to accept the material.

Although there are a number of "ufo" files, containing correspondence between officials and members of the public, at various stages of preparation for transfer to the PRO we are mindful of our responsibility to protect third party confidentiality, a concern endorsed by our legal advisers. Release ahead of the 30 year point would only be possible by the removal of all data that would reveal the identity of correspondents. Such an activity would only be possible through a major diversion of resources. A diversion I am unable to justify.

I am sorry to give you what will be a disappointing reply.

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64/3

Section 40 [redacted]

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 21

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
10/09/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR	[ ]

Sent: 10/09/98 at 9:33
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1978
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

10 Sep 98

Hd of CS(RM)1

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

1. Thank you for your E-mail of 8 Sep, enclosing your proposed draft submission to USofS and a draft reply for the Minister to send to Lord Hill-Norton.

2. I have a few small suggestions:

(First) Para 4

At end of para 4 insert:

"[He subsequently] tabled a further seven PQs on the MOD's 'UFO' reporting procedures during July and August and has since written to Minister (DP) seeking further clarification of an answer."

Para 5

Change "... the UK Air Defence Region .." to "...the UK's airspace ..."

Draft Letter from USofS to Lord Hill-Norton

Para One

Delete: "...the alleged activities ..." and replace with "...reports..."

3. We are content with the remainder as drafted.

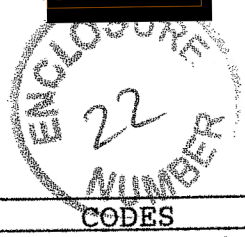
[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

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H-N

Section 40



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
15/09/98	OMD/AD(Management)	Lord Hill-Norton	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 15/09/98 at 17:34 Delivered: 15/09/98 at 18:09
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC: SEC(AS)2,OMD14
Ref: /GUID:404066F1A04BD2119CA200A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Section 40 [redacted]

Actioned

I haven't looked at this at all - can you see if there are any problems and tell Section 40 [redacted] the outcome

Section 40 [redacted]

15/9

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

15 Sep 98

Hd of CS(RM)1

Copy to:
Sec(AS)2
OMD14

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

1. Thanks for a sight of your draft submission to USofS on the final reply to Lord Hill-Norton on the question of the early release of "UFO" files (your e-mail of 8 Sep). Whilst I am disappointed that we are unable to make any early releases of information, if our legal advice is that we have a duty of confidentiality, then we have to abide by that advice. I think that USofS would, however, appreciate advice on what is meant by a "major diversion of resources", ie approximately how many man-hours would be required to examine and sanitise the material in question and/or the effect on CS(RM).

2. On the general layout of the submission, I believe that it could be much shorter, as the present draft merely repeats a lot of the original submission. I suggest, for example, that (the first) para 4 need only keep the first sentence. After para 5, I suggest that you go straight into something along the lines of: "In his submission dated 3 April (Ref B), DOMD advised that_" followed largely by a summary of para 12 of our original submission, plus discussion of the three options. Para 7 of your draft could also go. Finally, I recommend rewriting the legal advice so that it is an integral part of the submission rather than, as at present, a quotation, eg (assuming the following is an accurate summary):

ok.

ok

> For the third option, advice was sought from MOD's Legal Advisers. Their advice is that the Public Record Act gives an implied override of the Department's duty to protect third party confidentiality by use of the 30 year rule. Release of records pertaining to that period is not, therefore, a problem. However, this implied override probably does not extend to earlier release periods, and the Department would be at risk of legal action [for breach of confidence??] if it released documents containing the personal details of members of the public before the 30 year point. We have therefore concluded that, having rejected options (a) and (b), we are unable to make a block release of files prior to their transfer to the PRO. A draft letter to Lord Hill-Norton to this effect is attached.

ok

3. In the draft letter, I suggest you refer to his letter "of" 7 April. I also suggest deleting the third para , and in the fourth para deleting "a concern endorsed by our legal advisers" (as he is speaking for the whole Department). At the end of the existing fourth para, you could add: "Nevertheless, these files will continue to be released routinely at the normal 30 year point, subject to the continued willingness of the PRO to accept the material."

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4. Hope that it helpful, happy to discuss further, or to go over another draft.

Section 40

OMD/AD(E+MG)
NH617 Section 40

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 23

Wed 16 Sep, 1998 9:36 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
15/09/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL-NORTON SUBMISSION	[ ]

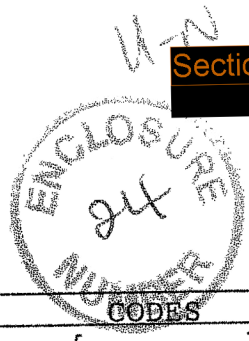
Sent: 15/09/98 at 16:16
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1987
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON SUBMISSION

Text: Section 40 of DOMD phoned Section 40 wanting her comments on his comments to your submission. She didn't have the papers in front of her and was too busy anyway so she asked him to side-copy his comments to you to her (if you see what I mean!!). I'll call you straight away when we've seen them to confirm he hasn't said anything we disagree with. Hope this makes sense Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [ ]
Codes [ ]

Section 40



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
16/09/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR	[ ]

Sent: 16/09/98 at 9:36
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1988
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Text: Section 40 Further to my E-mail of yesterday afternoon, having now read DOMD's comments I have no difficulty with any of them.

Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [ ]
Codes [ ]

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Section 40

Please file on the HN 25

ENCLOSURE NUMBER

Section 40

Thu 24 Sep, 1998 12:05 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
24/09/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	LORD HILL -NORTON: REQQUEST FOR	[ ]

Intended: Hd of SEC(AS)
Sent: 24/09/98 at 11:30 Delivered: 24/09/98 at 11:33
To: PS/USofS(Personal)
CC: PSSECRETARY OF STATE,MIN(AF)-APS1/Personal,MIN(DP)APS1(PERSONAL) +
Ref: /GUID:FCF251EBBB4FD211B3AB00005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: LORD HILL -NORTON: REQQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Text: Section 40 Hd CS(RM), has seen and approved the following submission. Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Section 40

24/9

Section 40

Section 40

5/10

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Secretariat
24 SEP 1998

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Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

September 1998

PS/USofS *_

Copy to:

APS/SofS	*	PS/DUS(CM)	*	DDC&L(F&S)Legal	*
PS/Min(AF)	*	DGMO	*	DMOD	*
PS/Min(DP)	*	Hd Sec (AS)	*	PRO IDO	*
PS/PUS	*	DISN	*		

* CHOTS only

LORD HILL-NORTON: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FILES

Reference: A. D/USofS/JS 28/1/0 dated 9 March 1998 (not to all)
B. D/DOMD/2/3 dated 3 April 1998

Issue

1. To provide Lord Hill-Norton with the outcome of our consideration of his request for the early release of files on the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

Recommendation

2. That USofS responds in terms of the attached draft letter.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Lord Hill-Norton, aged 83, and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971-73, has a long standing interest in "UFOs". He approached the department earlier this year (undercover of Reference A) pointing to the public interest in this topic and to the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, requesting that all closed files on the subject of UFOs be released in advance of the normal, 30 year point.

5. In his submission dated 3 April 1998 (reference B) DOMD advised that in the region of 55 files were held with planned releases dates of 1999-2003, in addition a further 12 (with a release date of 2004) were in the early stages of preparation for transfer to the PRO. These files concern correspondence from members of the public reporting such occurrences, therefore question of personal confidentiality had to be resolved.

Outcome of our review

6. Three options have been considered:

(1) obtain permission from members of the public on an individual basis to the release of their details;

(2) remove personal details (the 55 processed files would require further examination and sanitisation in the order of 5,500 enclosures);

(3) agree that a shorter period, say 25 rather than 30 years, was acceptable for protection

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of privacy.

The first option was considered time-consuming and, given the fact that we would be attempting to trace individuals whose addresses were 25 plus years old, impractical. Option two, is possible, but would represent a major diversion of resources as each file would have to be re-reviewed, a note made of every page requiring extraction/deletion of personally sensitive information and for these actions to be carried out. It is estimated some 200 man hours would

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be required and so as not to adversely affect our existing review and transfer programme the task spread over a six month period. For the third option advice was sought from MOD's Legal Advisers. Their advice is that the Public Record Act gives an implied override of the Department's duty to protect third party confidentially by use of the 30 year rule. Release of records pertaining to that period are, therefore, not a problem but the Department would be at risk of legal action for breach of confidence if it released documents containing the personal details of members of the public before the 30 year point. We have therefore concluded that, having rejected options (a) and (b), we are unable to make a block release of the files before the 30 year point. A draft letter to Lord Hill-Norton to this effect is attached.

Section 40
Hd CS(RM)
MTA8/3 Section 40

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DRAFT REPLY FROM USofS TO THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Further to my letter dated 7 April 1998 I can now advise you of the outcome of our consideration of the release of a number of files relating to reports of "unidentified flying objects".

You will recall I advised you that whilst I was prepared to consider on their merits individual requests for the early release of files, resource considerations and the need to protect information provided in confidence by members of the public had first to be investigated.

Although there are a number of "ufo" files, containing correspondence between officials and members of the public, at various stages of preparation for transfer to the PRO we are mindful of our responsibility to protect third party confidentiality. Release ahead of the 30 year point would only be possible by the removal of all data that would reveal the identity of correspondents. Such an activity would only be possible through a major diversion of resources. A diversion I am unable to justify. Nevertheless, these files will continue to be released routinely at the normal 30 year point, subject to the continued willingness of the PRO to accept the material.

I am sorry to give you what will be a disappointing reply.

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POLICY

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RESTRICTED/~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
POLICY

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 16

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Cheam,
Surrey.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
25 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I am writing with reference to your message left on the Secretariat (Air Staff) answerphone regarding an "unidentified flying object" seen whilst driving in Cheam on the evening of 10 March. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 10 March from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on
64/2 pt G
enc. 821 -

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 15

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I refer to your letters to RAF Brize Norton and RAF Stanbridge of 16 March concerning the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letters have been passed to this office for reply as the MOD focal point for handling correspondence of this nature.

2. You should by now have received my letter to you of even reference dated 17 March which set out the MOD's policy on reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. I am returning the two saes forwarded with your letters.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted] Re attached, we spoke

[redacted] Section 4

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

Flight Lieutenant [redacted] Section 40

Royal Air Force

Brize Norton

Carterton Oxfordshire OX18 3LX

Telephone\ FAX [redacted] Section 40

Answerphone

(GPTN

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
20 MAR 1998
FILE

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

16 March 1998

Public Relations Office
RAF Brize Norton
Oxfordshire

Dear

I am the area investigator for BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) and I am investigating the reported sightings of a UFO in the area of Linslade/Leighton Buzzard on the following occasions:-

25 October 1996 at 9pm
22 October 1997 at 10.45pm
4 November 1997 at 7.20pm
6 November 1997 at 6pm

Besides these sightings I now understand that there have been some more recent sightings in the same area.

When sightings of this nature are passed to this organisation we try to eliminate any obvious explanation that there might be such as weather, police helicopters or aircraft movements by the RAF etc.

Therefore I would be grateful for your help in telling me whether RAF Brize Norton had any aircraft flying from its base in the above areas during the dates and times given above. If aircraft were flying could you please give me as many details as you can ie aircraft types etc.

If no aircraft were flying from RAF Brize Norton could you please confirm the status of the base ie whether any aircraft do, or have, flown from there or whether it is purely an administrative centre.

Any help that you can give would be gratefully received. I enclose a SAE for your reply.

Yours Sincerely
Section 40

RAFSEE/20141/9/Sy

11 Mar 98

Secretary (Air Staff) 2a

UNSOLICITED MAIL - BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Reference:

A. Telecon Section 40 dated 18 Mar 98.

Reference A sought your departmental advice following the receipt of a letter by RAF Stanbridge from Section 40 of the British UFO Research Association dated 16 Mar 98, who requested a response to his earlier letter dated 11 Jan 98. As advised, neither RAF Stanbridge or RAFSEE Henlow have responded to the letters, but have enclosed them for your action and reply to Section 40 Section 40 as you agreed.

Section 40

Cpl
RAF Police

Enclosures:

1. Letter from Section 40 dated 11 Jan 98.
2. Letter from [redacted] dated 16 Mar 98.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 MAR 1998
FILE

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

16 March 1998

Flt Section 40
RAF Stanbridge
Stanbridge
Beds

Dear Flt Section 40

I wrote to you on the 11 January 1998 regarding some reported sightings of UFO's in the Linslade/Leighton Buzzard area on the following dates:-

25 October 1996 at 9pm
22 October 1997 at 10.45pm
4 November 1997 at 7.20pm
6 November 1997 at 6pm

As yet I have not received a reply and although I understand that you will be busy carrying out your normal duties I would be grateful if you could spare the time for a reply. I enclose a copy of the original letter in case it has been lost.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

11 January 1998

Flt Section 40
RAF Stanbridge
Stanbridge
Beds

Dear Flt Section 40

I am the area investigator for BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) and I am investigating the reported sightings of a UFO in the area of Linslade/Leighton Buzzard on the following occasions:-

25 October 1996 at 9pm
22 October 1997 at 10.45pm
4 November 1997 at 7.20pm
6 November 1997 at 6pm

In addition to these sightings I now understand that there have been some more recent sightings in the same area.

When sightings of this nature are passed to this organisation we try to eliminate any obvious explanation that there might be such as weather, police helicopters or aircraft movements by the RAF etc.

With this in mind I would be grateful for your help in telling me whether RAF Stanbridge has any aircraft flying from it's base and, if so, whether any such aircraft were flying in the above areas during the dates and times given above. If aircraft were flying could you please give me as many details as you can ie aircraft types etc.

If no aircraft were flying from RAF Stanbridge could you please confirm the status of the base ie whether any aircraft do, or have, flown from there or whether it is purely an administrative centre.

Any help that you can give would be gratefully received. I enclose a SAE for your reply.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 14

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Leven,
Fife.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I am writing with reference to your recent report of an unexplained aerial sighting which you observed on 16 March 1998. The details of your report have been passed from RAF Leuchars to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "unidentified flying objects."

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 16 March from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on
6412 pt G
enc. 85-

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Methill,
Fife.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. I am writing with reference to your recent report of an unexplained aerial sighting which you observed on 16 February 1998. The details of your report have been passed from RAF Leuchars to this office as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to "unidentified flying objects."

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, 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 believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

4. With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of "UFO" sightings for 16 February from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on 6412 ptG enc. 68.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 12

Section 40
Godalming
Surrey
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 14 February addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning geostationary satellites. Your letter has been passed to Secretariat (Air Staff) and I have been asked to reply.

2. As explained by the former Under Secretary of State for Defence, Earl Howe, in his letter to your MP Mrs Bottomley of 14 February 1996, although there are a number of geostationary satellites positioned above the United Kingdom at any given time the satellites are not capable of causing the physical effects you appear to be suffering from.

3. A visit to your GP might help assuage any anxieties you have in respect of the physical symptoms you appear to be experiencing.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

LINK TO PE 0237/96
Feb 96

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS) 2

1263
Ref No /1998

Date 20/3/98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 48/97; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 FEB 1998
FILE

Section 40

Godalming,
Surrey.

Section 40

14 2 98.

Rt Hon G. Robertson,
Defence Secretary,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building Whitehall London.

Dear Sir, Please read all of this
letter and don't think it to be a
load of schizophrenic nonsense.
I have been persecuted, on and
off, since as long ago as 1985 by
an english geostationary satellite
which, it is obvious to me, is militar
Therefore, everything that the satell
ite is capable of should be known

to me. Of course, the satellite's capabilities are top-secret. The earl Howe, when Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, said in a letter to my M.P. the Rt Hon. Virginia Bottomley two years ago that satellites were not ~~that~~ capable of doing what I claimed of them. As the persecution has continued since then, he didn't do anything secretly to put a stop to it.

I will enumerate a few of my experiences from the satellite. I could give a longer list at a later date. In 1985 I learnt that the satellite knew my thoughts, both words and pictures. I woke up [illegible]

mo[redacted]ings running from a dream,
hearing an artificial voice comm-
enting on what I was dreaming.
Over the years I have conversed
with the satellite a lot, often
by speaking aloud, or merely by
thinking words. I have been struck
down unconscious several times in
my house. I writhed in bed, or ann
off, for several hours from undu-
ced pains in my limbs. I have ha
a lot of damage done to the skin
on my lower legs. I have had in-
duced growths occur rapidly. Two in
my mouth and one in the top of
my gullet were later made to
largely shrink. A later growth in
the top of my gullet remains. I am

currently experiencing induced freak
pains. During the week beginning
1.2.98 the globety of my eyesight
deteriorated rapidly quite a bit.
I am convinced this was caused by
the satellite. The deteriorated vision
remains. It is not the first time
there has been a sudden change
with my vision.

Only a person with full knowledge of the capabilities of the geostationary satellite I have been writing about is going to believe my claims. I don't see how such a satellite could not be under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

I request of you that you take steps to put a stop to the activities

of the people persecuting me with the satellite.

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MOD Form 174D

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 11

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS)643

Enclosure Jacket No. 1

DATE OPENED 18.3.98

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

LETTER FROM Section 40

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

18 Mar 98

D Info(P&P) – Section 40

copy to:
Sec(AS)1a

LETTER FROM Section 40

You spoke to Section 40 on 9 Mar about a chap called Section 40 Section 40 who had contacted you to discuss an 'incident' which occurred near Sheffield on 24 Mar 97. At the time, Section 40 said that the 'incident' had also been the subject of correspondence from Section 40 and that we would reply as soon as we were in a position to do so. In view of Section 40 assertion that he is a news reporter, we feel it would be more appropriate for the reply to come from within the D Info empire. Accordingly, I attach a self-explanatory draft for you to send, along with a copy of Section 40 Section 40 letter.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8243 Section 40
fax: Section 40
CHOTS mail: SEC(AS)2A

DRAFT LETTER TO Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 2 March about RAF activity near Sheffield on 24 March 1997. When we spoke a few weeks ago, I said that we would write to you as soon as we were in a position to do so. I hope you find the following information useful.

Our records show that there were no military aircraft booked to fly at low level over Derbyshire or South Yorkshire on the evening in question. I cannot comment on the suggestions that there was a high level of military jet activity as too much time has elapsed for us to be able to carry out any kind of meaningful investigation. I can however tell you that we received no reports from members of the public of any military aircraft activity in or around the Peak District that evening. In addition, our flight safety records show that there were no military aircraft accidents anywhere in the United Kingdom on the day in question.

As to the involvement of RAF aircraft in a Search and Rescue operation, I can confirm that a Sea King from Leconfield did spend some 3½ hours searching the area at the request of South Yorkshire Police. That search, which was carried out after what were described to our Rescue Coordination Centre at RAF Kinloss as "sightings of flashes and sounds of explosions in the Peak District" was called off after nothing was found. I should add that the civil police have primacy for all Search and Rescue operations on land.

In our telephone conversation, you mentioned that there had been reports of two sonic booms in the area earlier on the day in question. We have no record of this, and it would appear that no-one contacted this Department about the booms at the time. Given that nearly a year has elapsed, as with the reports of military jet activity near Dronfield and Chesterfield it would not be possible for us to investigate the matter now.

Section 40 [redacted]
Walkley
Sheffield Section 40
Tel: Section 40 [redacted]

...DEFENCE
...C (AS) 2
- 9 ... 1998

2 March, 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a news reporter working for Sheffield's evening paper **The Star** and have been investigating an incident which occurred on the western outskirts of the city on March 24, 1997, which was initially believed to have been a air disaster involving a light plane.

A brief TV documentary on the subject has since appeared on BBC1 in October last year, but the truth behind what caused the incident remains a mystery, hence this letter to you.

On the night in question between 10.10 and 10.15pm up to 40 separate groups of witnesses contacted police and emergency services to report seeing a low-flying object which they believed was a low-flying aircraft in distress near the South Yorkshire village of Bolsterstone.

At least two witnesses saw the object appear to disappear behind trees over Margery Hill, at the highest point of the Peak District moors west of Sheffield, which conicided with a report of an "explosion" heard by gamekeepers at the hamlet of Strines, nearby.

Subsequently, South Yorkshire Police initiated a full search and rescue operation - costing thousands of pounds in public money - involving seven Peak District Mountain rescue teams, the West Yorkhire Police helicopter and, I understand, RAF search and rescue helicopters from RAF Kinloss and RAF Leconfield.

After searching more than 40 square miles of moorland around the Howden reservoirs west of Bolsterstone, the police called off the search after 17 hours as no crash site was discovered and no civil aircraft had been reported missing.

Today, the police and civilian rescue teams remain open-minded about the cause of the incident, but a number of theories have been advanced from a drug-running operation involving a light aircraft to the misidentification of a

bolide meteor burning up in the earth's atmosphere.
Police logs of calls made to them by members of the public suggest there was a high-level of activity involving military jets in the Derbyshire/South Yorkshire area immediately preceding the "aircrash" on the moors. A number of inidividuals claim to have seen RAF Tornado jets flying northwards towards the Peak District from the north Derbyshire towns of Dronfield and Chesterfield between 9.45 and 10pm shortly before the "aircrash".
However, police say direct contact they made with the RAF at the time of the incident suggested there was no military activity in the area at the time.
I would be interested to hear any suggestions or theories you may have which could shed light on the mystery which remains unresolved one year later.
I enclose an SAE and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

Note.

Section 40 (DPO) rang. Section 40 rang was going through the background to reported event on 24 March. He added that two sonic booms were reportedly reported at 0952 and 10.06 hours on 24/3/97. He wanted to know if RAF operations were going on.
I advised Section 40 to ring Section 40 back & advise that we had his letter (received last Friday, 6 March) & would reply as soon as we were in a position to do so, noting the additional information he has now provided.

Section 40

9/3

UNCLASSIFIED

1082/3

NFA

OPCON
[redacted] 202 SQNDET LECONFIELD
[redacted] at 250840Z MAR 97

INFORMATION copy 1 Ref [illegible]

[illegible] GIB SELF HEL

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

E82

Prec Act ROUTINE InFo: ROUTINE
DTG 250840Z MAR 97
From 202 SQNDET LECONFIELD
To MIB 1291
7B SQN FALKLANDS
NAS PRESTWICK
SICs ICJ KPJ

A. ARCCK FORM R190/202E SQN DET/SEA KING/LECONFIELD/MON 24 MAR 97
B. S.YORKS POLICE 2250/ARCCK 2255/LECONFIELD 2325
C. CIV/LAND/EXPLOSION/NIL/NIL/SK 272968/47 NM/2359
D. CAVOK/NIL/NIL/300-10/NIL
E. NOTHING FOUND
F. SEARCH/VOB 0/NIL
G. SK 272 968 0230/NIL/LECONFIELD 0255/3 HRS 30 MINS NIGHT
H. KIRKUP COOPER SOUNDY SCOTT. R128 SCRAMBLED TO SIGHTINGS OF FLASHES AND SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS IN THE PEAK DISTRICT. VARIOUS AREAS SEARCHED USING NVGS AND NOTHING FOUND. POLICE 42 ALSO ON SCENE. SEARCHING WITH FLIR, ALSO NOTHING FOUND. AFTER FACE TO FACE BRIEF WITH LOCAL MRT/ R128 RTB. EXCELLENT COOP FROM POLICE 42. HF COMMS UNWORKABLE
J. ARCCK FORM R190 COMPLETE

Action Distribution

Addressee	Code	Action-Officer	Retrieval
HQ 11/18 GP NORTHWOOD	ICJ	AIR CONTROLLER	DIST 007SG
	KPJ	AIR CONTROLLER	

Information Distribution

18 GP	RSA

Delivery

Telefax

To: [redacted]
Fax:
From: [illegible] SAR HQ 11/18 Gp (NW)
Date: 10 MAR 98 Pages: 6/6

[redacted] as requested but if you want more info re this area Kinloss and quote from R number 190 and they can dig out the folder.

[redacted]

10/3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SECRET

PAGE 1

251304MAR97 TALLY05.9021*1/LAST PAG

UNCLASSIFIED

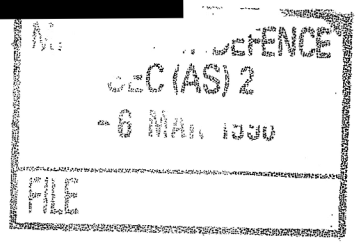
Section 40

You asked us to look into the 'incident' mentioned in the attached letter. The basic facts are pretty much as related in the letter. There was indeed some RAF SAR involvement in a search carried out in the area, after an 'explosion' was reported to the civil Police. A Sea King from Leconfield was involved, but the search was called off after nothing was found. The attached "Form R" confirms this information, although it should be noted that the RAF search lasted 3½ hours not the 17 hours alluded to in the letter. Sec(AS)1a advise that there were no aircraft accidents - either military or civilian - reported in that location on the day in question. Neither were there any sonic events reported to us that day.

Section 40



Section 40
[redacted]
Walkley
Sheffield Section 40
[redacted]



2 March, 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a news reporter working for Sheffield's evening paper **The Star** and have been investigating an incident which occurred on the western outskirts of the city on March 24, 1997, which was initially believed to have been a air disaster involving a light plane.

A brief TV documentary on the subject has since appeared on BBC1 in October last year, but the truth behind what caused the incident remains a mystery, hence this letter to you.

On the night in question between 10.10 and 10.15pm up to 40 separate groups of witnesses contacted police and emergency services to report seeing a low-flying object which they believed was a low-flying aircraft in distress near the South Yorkshire village of Bolsterstone.

At least two witnesses saw the object appear to disappear behind trees over Margery Hill, at the highest point of the Peak District moors west of Sheffield, which conicided with a report of an "explosion" heard by gamekeepers at the hamlet of Strines, nearby.

Subsequently, South Yorkshire Police initiated a full search and rescue operation - costing thousands of pounds in public money - involving seven Peak District Mountain rescue teams, the West Yorkhire Police helicopter and, I understand, RAF search and rescue helicopters from RAF Kinloss and RAF Leconfield.

After searching more than 40 square miles of moorland around the Howden reservoirs west of Bolsterstone, the police called off the search after 17 hours as no crash site was discovered and no civil aircraft had been reported missing.

Today, the police and civilian rescue teams remain open-minded about the cause of the incident, but a number of theories have been advanced from a drug-running operation involving a light aircraft to the misidentification of a

bolide meteor burning up in the earth's atmosphere.
Police logs of calls made to them by members of the public suggest there was a high-level of activity involving military jets in the Derbyshire/South Yorkshire area immediately preceding the "aircrash" on the moors. A number of inidividuals claim to have seen RAF Tornado jets flying northwards towards the Peak District from the north Derbyshire towns of Dronfield and Chesterfield between 9.45 and 10pm shortly before the "aircrash".
However, police say direct contact they made with the RAF at the time of the incident suggested there was no military activity in the area at the time.
I would be interested to hear any suggestions or theories you may have which could shed light on the mystery which remains unresolved one year later.
I enclose an SAE and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

Note:

Section 40 (DPO) rang. Section 40 rang her going through the background to reported event on 24 March. He added that two sonic booms were apparently reported at 0952 and 10.06 hours on 24/3/97. He wanted to know if RAF operations were going on.

I advised Section 40 to ring Section 40 back & advise that we had his letter (received last Friday, 6 March) & would reply as soon as we were in a position to do so, nothing the additional information he has now provided.

Section 40

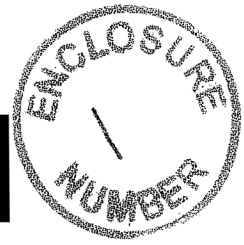
9/3
1625 hrs.

Recording Enquiries:

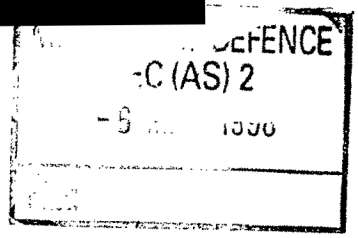
IFS: No accidents Reported.

MB: No Civilian accidents Reported.

STC (EXERCISES): No major exercises - the air traffic would have been regular transit flights.



Section 40
[redacted]
Walkley
Sheffield Section 40
[redacted]



Section 40
[redacted]
17/3/98.

2 March, 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a news reporter working for Sheffield's evening paper **The Star** and have been investigating an incident which occurred on the western outskirts of the city on March 24, 1997, which was initially believed to have been a air disaster involving a light plane.

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Section 40

[redacted]

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I advised Section 40 to ring Section 40 back & advise that we had his letter (received last Friday, 6 March) & would reply as soon as we were in a position to do so, noting the additional information he has now provided.

Section 40

9/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 10

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
17 March 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. I refer to your letter of 11 January addressed to RAF Stanbridge, which concerns the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to this office for reply as the MOD focal point for handling correspondence of this nature.

2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

4. You will wish to note that the MOD did not receive any 'UFO' reports in the Linslade/Leighton Buzzard or surrounding areas on the dates you listed in para 1 of your letter. I am returning your sae as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED

Royal Air Force
Signals Engineering Establishment
RAF Henlow
Bedfordshire
SG16 6DN

Telephone: Hitchin 851515 (RAFTN: 95381) Ext: Section 40

Your Reference:

Secretary (Air Staff) 2a
Room 8245
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London

Our Reference: RAFSEE/20141/9/SY

Date: 16 Feb 98

UNSOLICITED MAIL - BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Reference:

A. Letter from British UFO Research Association dated 11 Jan 98.

During Jan 98 Reference A was received by Flt Lt Section 40 an Administrative Officer currently employed at RAF Stanbridge. Flt Lt Section 40 has not responded to this letter, only forwarded it to the RAF Police Flt, RAFSEE Henlow who parent RAF Stanbridge for all matters security. Following the advise of the Central Security Cell, RAF P&SS(UK) I have enclosed the original letter for your action. If you require any further information regarding this incident please do not hesitate to contact me on Ext Section 40

Section 40

Cpl
RAF Police

Enclosure:

1. British UFO Research Association letter dated 11 Jan 98, outer envelope and self addressed envelope for Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
18 FEB 1998
FILE

UNCLASSIFIED

British UFO Research Association

Section 40
Bedford
Beds
Section 40

11 January 1998

Flt Section 40
RAF Stanbridge
Stanbridge
Beds

Dear Flt Section 40

I am the area investigator for BUFORA (British UFO Research Association) and I am investigating the reported sightings of a UFO in the area of Linslade/Leighton Buzzard on the following occasions:-

25 October 1996 at 9pm
22 October 1997 at 10.45pm
4 November 1997 at 7.20pm
6 November 1997 at 6pm

In addition to these sightings I now understand that there have been some more recent sightings in the same area.

When sightings of this nature are passed to this organisation we try to eliminate any obvious explanation that there might be such as weather, police helicopters or aircraft movements by the RAF etc.

With this in mind I would be grateful for your help in telling me whether RAF Stanbridge has any aircraft flying from it's base and, if so, whether any such aircraft were flying in the above areas during the dates and times given above. If aircraft were flying could you please give me as many details as you can ie aircraft types etc.

If no aircraft were flying from RAF Stanbridge could you please confirm the status of the base ie whether any aircraft do, or have, flown from there or whether it is purely an administrative centre.

Any help that you can give would be gratefully received. I enclose a SAE for your reply.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 9

Section 40
Amesbury
Salisbury
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
17 March 1998

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 15 February addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning an object you saw in the sky on 15 August 1997. Your letter has been passed to this office for reply, as the MOD focal point for correspondence of this nature.

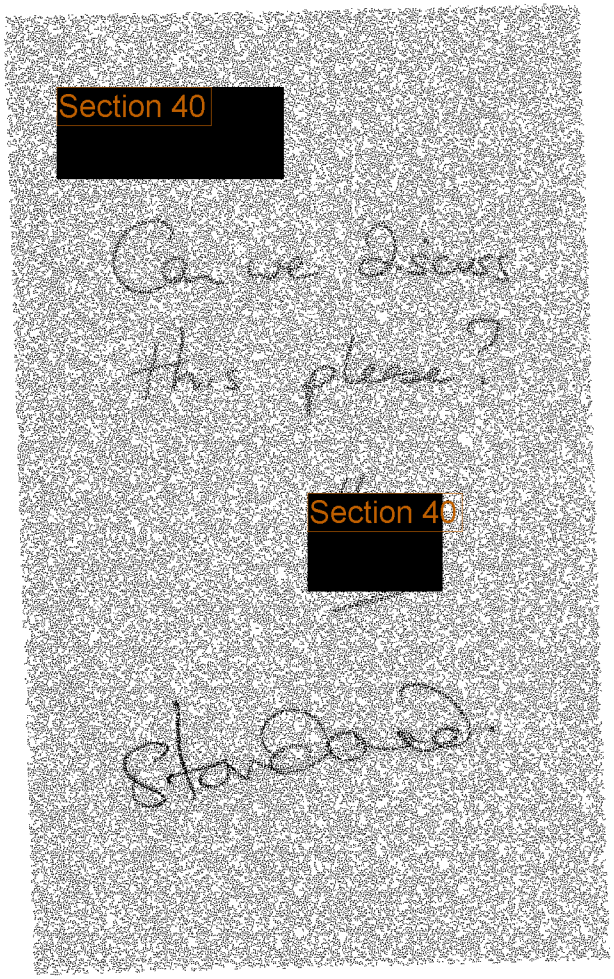
2. First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region (ADR) might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

4. You may wish to note that the MOD did not receive any other 'unexplained' aerial sighting reports in your immediate or surrounding areas on 15 August 1997. Furthermore, there was no evidence to substantiate an unauthorized incursion of the UK ADR by foreign military activity.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40


Section 40
Section 40

15 Feb 1998

Section 40
[redacted]
Amesbury,
Salisbury. Section 40
Wilts.

My ref: MR-MOD1.

MR G. Robertson
(Defence Secretary)
Ministry of Defence
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London. SW1A 2HB.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
18 FEB 1998
FILE

Dear Mr Robertson,

On August the 20th last year, I sent a report to the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) about a very large object in the night time sky. The date and time of this sighting was 15th Aug 97, at 10:35 pm.

The sighting came about as follows: I was observing a slow Satellite coming from the South-South east, which was going to the North-North east, at the time I was following it with 10 x 50 wide angle binoculars. When the satellite just went in to the East-North east section, a very large black object came from the North-North east, it passed right over the satellite, which remained in full view all the time. When the object got into the South-South east section of the sky, it must have picked up a little light from the moon, (which was some 15deg west of due south) I was able to see this very large object was a dull grey in colour, its shape was just like a large lump of rock. As this object took up some 75% of the field of view, I had to do some form of calculation to get an indication as to its size.

Assuming the object to be in an orbit level of 100miles, the object length came out at 12,200mts, the width at 8,600mts. However, having received information from USSPACECOM (Courtsey of the CIA history dept) with regard to the various orbiting levels of debris and the Space Shuttle, I then had to revise the calculation. I then made the length 27,450mts and the width 18,300mts.

This was based upon the new orbiting level of the lowest Satellites. The orbiting level of the Space Shuttle is 187miles, the levels of the space debris, and spent rockets is 500miles, the lowest satellites are in the region of 300miles for their orbit path. I must now ask you, if someone in your dept could work out the correct size of this object.

Using 10 x 50 wide angle binoculars, field of view 122mts at 1,000mts.
The object at a height of 300miles - 480kms.
The object took up 75% of the field of view in length.
The object took up 50% of the field of view in width.

My last calculation came out at: length 22:5miles, width 15:5miles.
My main concern is, this could be a small asteroid that has come into a low orbit, and could start to break up due to the pull of the Earths gravity, or it could impact in one lump causing untold loss of life, not to mention the serious damage to property.

I hope you will be able to advise me as to the size of this object, I also hope your department will kindly send me the information on how to work out the size of an object at a given height,with binocular size being used at that time.
Has our UK Defence system got this object logged ? I am sure USSPACECOM must have this one, its too dam big to miss.
I hope I can receive a favourable reply.

Yours Sincere[redacted]

[redacted]
Phenomenon Researcher.

ENCLOSURE 8 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

13 Mar 98

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

LETTER TO THE HOME OFFICE FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

1. You asked Sec(AS)2 to reply to the attached letter from a member of the public to the Home Office. We have looked carefully at this and I am afraid we are unable to do so.

2. Although the subject of the letter is 'UFOs', the writer is specifically seeking information from the Home Office about any involvement they might have in respect of investigations, whether they have in place any emergency planning procedures to deal with 'landed and crashed 'UFOs', and for their comment about the alleged early release of what appears to be a RESTRICTED Home Office document attached to the letter.

3. The letter writer, Section 40 [redacted] frequently writes to us and we have explained to him on a number of occasions the MOD's limited interest in 'UFOs'. It is clear from the letter to the Home Office that he wants their comments and, even if they have nothing to say, it cannot be for Sec(AS) to answer on their behalf.

4. I am sorry for the delay but I should be grateful if you could return the letter to the Home Office explaining why MOD cannot take it on.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec CAS) Ref No 0939/1998

Date

The Secretary of State, at Home Office has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 48/97; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
13 FEB 1998
FILE

TEL: Section 40
PAGER

Section 40

Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

27 JAN 98

HOME OFFICE
-2 FEB 1999
REGISTRY

0939

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Section 40 I am currently employed as a journalist and author. Several years ago, a most strange story was told to me regarding the alleged (and I stress, alleged) involvement on the part of the Home Office in the investigation of UFO reports and sightings. The source of this account supplied me with the names of two people employed at the Home Office and who, allegedly again, were somehow involved in these investigations. One of those two, Section 40 responded to my inquiries and advised me that he was aware that his name was being linked with the UFO subject, but that this was total fabrication and there was not a shred of truth to this story. In view of Section 40 authoritative statement, I was (and stil am) happy to accept this.

However, the source who alleged to me that the Home Office was to a degree involved in the UFO subject, maintained that the HO had in place emergency procedures to deal with, and I quote, 'landed and crashed UFOs', and that such procedures were very similar to those HO procedures in place to deal with crashed and radioactive space satellites on UK soil.

Whilst I accept that this sounds very much like something from the X-Files, I asked for some form of confirmation of these very extreme claims, and was within 3 days supplied with a copy of the enclosed 'Restricted' Home Office document on crashed satellite incidents.

Given that the document is only 19 years old, I can only assume that my source for this account has access to HO files which have not been released under the terms of the '30 Year Ruling'. You will note that the last but one page of the document refers to a Section 40 at the Ministry of Defence being a point of contact for the Home Office. At the time, Section 40 was head of a division called S4f(Air). By the MOD's admission, S4f(Air) was one of three or four MOD departments which investigated UFO sightings on behalf of the MOD in the 1970's.

I am sure you can understand the implications of all this, and I would appreciate an authoritative statement with respect to (a) the UFO allegations concerning the Home Office; (b) the claims that the Home Office has in place emergency procedures for dealing with UFO incidents in the same way that crashed satellite incidents would be dealt with; and (c) the possible

unauthorised release of Home Office papers.

Your assistance in this matter is most gratefully appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

438

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate, LONDON, SW1H 9AT
Direct line: 01-213
Switchboard: 01-213 3000

Our reference:
Your reference:

20 April 1979

For Action: Chief Officers of Police in England and Wales

For Information: Chief Fire Officers in England and Wales

Chief Executives/Clerks of -

The Greater London Council and all County Councils in England and Wales

The Common Council of the City of London, London Borough Councils and all District Councils in England and Wales

Dear Sir

Home Office Circular No ES 5/1979

Satellite Accidents - with Radiation Hazards

Introduction

Following the descent of a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite in Canada on 24 January 1978, consideration has been given to contingency arrangements for dealing with the possibility of a similar incident in the United Kingdom. It is recognised that the likelihood of such an accident is remote. Moreover, the additional hazards to life from nuclear-powered satellites are very small and are limited to potential exposure to radioactive debris following accidental re-entry. Nevertheless, the special considerations that affect the use of nuclear materials and the safety standards applied to them make it prudent to devise plans to deal with such an incident on United Kingdom territory, should it ever occur.

2. A crash involving a satellite which was not powered by nuclear fuel would present problems which would fall to be dealt with through normal major accident procedures. This circular is therefore concerned only with contingency arrangements for dealing with the crash of a satellite which is known to be nuclear-powered or whose energy source has not been established (but see paragraph 21 for reporting arrangements for non-nuclear space objects). Similar circulars are being issued by the Scottish Office and Northern Ireland Office.

Features of a Satellite Accident

3. In the absence of extensive experience it is difficult to make any firm assumptions about the features of a satellite accident. A major problem is that the prediction of the location of a satellite's point of return to earth is very difficult. Although it is likely that knowledge

'Restricted' Home Office files pertaining to the crash and recovery of radioactive space debris.

of changes in the orbital pattern which might lead to premature return to earth would be available many hours or even days before re-entry occurred, it would not be such that a reasonably accurate prediction of the final orbit over the earth could be made until 12-24 hours before impact. Even then forecasts of the precise point of re-entry along this track might still be in error by thousands of kilometres. It is therefore probable that accurate warning would not be available until a few minutes before impact, and it is possible that there might be no warning at all.

4. On re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, the behaviour of the satellite would largely be determined by its mechanical construction. Some satellites are designed in such a way that they will disintegrate on re-entry; others are so designed that fairly large components will remain intact on entering the earth's atmosphere. The debris from a crashing satellite might thus vary from minute dust particles to heavy and sizeable objects, and the latter might include the radioactive source - but any part might be radioactive.

5. Although the parameters of the orbit of a crashing satellite can be fairly closely defined, debris might fall over an area 2000 kilometres long by 200 kilometres wide. It would not therefore be possible to alert police forces on a selective basis; in the event of a warning that a satellite might crash in or near the United Kingdom, all police forces would have to be alerted.

6. The crash of a nuclear-powered satellite would present particular problems such as -

a. there would be a possible radiation hazard, the degree of which could not be determined in advance;

b. debris from the crashed satellite might be scattered over a very large area, perhaps the greater part of the country;

c. individual pieces of debris might be very small, yet each might present a small radiation hazard.

There would be no explosion of the type associated with the detonation of an atomic bomb.

Contingency Arrangements

7. If the malfunctioning of a satellite became known before it came out of orbit the Ministry of Defence (MOD) would be responsible for arranging for the preparation of an assessment

UNCLASSIFIED

of the possible risks to the United Kingdom. A Government decision would then be sought on whether the police should be alerted and whether a public statement should be made. If such action were decided on, overall responsibility for the measures to deal with an incident would be exercised from a central control point in Whitehall, in a manner similar to procedures already established to handle a terrorist incident and with similar Ministerial and senior official representation from all the Government Departments concerned. Warning to the police would be given by means of a broadcast over the Police National Computer (PNC) system. The focal point for the collection of scientific data would be the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE), Aldermaston, which would in conjunction with the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) arrange for appropriate scientific and technical advice to be made available to central Government and to police forces who might be involved.

8. On receipt of the warning message, police forces should arrange to gather reports of debris. Chief fire officers should be informed of the warning and asked to notify the police promptly of any reports which they may receive. Fire service personnel are trained to fight fires involving radioactive sources and have a limited range of equipment for the detection of radiation; they are able to confirm the presence of some but not all types of radioactivity, and are not able therefore to say authoritatively that debris is not radioactive.

9. When reports of suspected or actual locations have been received, the police should take such steps as may be needed locally to prevent people entering areas which may be dangerous because of radioactive material (see also paragraph 15 below). For advice as to the dangers of radioactivity and for the examination and disposal of suspect material they should call upon the National Arrangements for Incidents involving Radioactivity (the NAIR scheme). Under this the immediate attendance of the Stage 1 contact is requested, followed if necessary by calling out the Stage 2 establishment (Home Office Circulars ES 7/1972 and ES 3/1977). The NAIR representatives should advise local police on their own initiative until contact is established with, and scientific and technical advice received from, AWRE and/or NRPB under the arrangements described in paragraph 7. All persons should be told to keep well away from possible radioactive debris. Although highly unlikely, some large pieces of debris might have radiation fields of significance over distances of the order of 100 metres, and some limited evacuation might be necessary; widespread continuous contamination is, however, unlikely. Advice on the degree of evacuation required would be available in the first instance from the NAIR representatives

and subsequently from representatives of the AWRE and the NRPB. In the case of damage requiring rescue or firefighting operations, the possible hazard from radioactivity should be borne in mind and existing disaster plans relating to rescue operations in such circumstances should be implemented as appropriate.

10. Details of all findings of material which the police have reason to believe is satellite debris should be reported immediately, together with a brief outline of the action taken and quoting a unique reference number identifying the police force concerned. Such reports should be sent via the PNC system to New Scotland Yard (from where they will be passed to the central control point) in accordance with standard proforma headings - see Annex A. This will enable a nationwide picture of confirmed sightings to be built up and consideration to be given to the need for specialist assistance. The central control point will pass the reports received to the scientific data centre at AWRE (paragraph 7 above). If debris is expected over a considerable area of the country it may be necessary to set up a field operations centre to provide overall direction of both land and air searches, and this centre would operate within general directions provided by the central control point. Special communications equipment available at the central control point could be deployed locally if there were a need to reinforce facilities in particular areas.

11. If the warning time was only a matter of minutes, it would not be possible to alert police forces before reports of falling debris began to come in. A PNC broadcast would, however, be sent as soon as possible and a subsequent message would confirm that the central control point arrangements had been established. The reports required under paragraph 9 above should then be passed immediately to the control point. 10

12. If no warning at all were received, the first indication that a satellite had crashed might be reports to the police of debris. In many cases such reports might prove to be false or it might be possible to establish immediately that the debris could not have come from a satellite. Whenever a report of debris has been confirmed, however, and there are no valid reasons for believing that the debris could not have formed part of a satellite, the action outlined in paragraph 9 above should be taken and the central control point should be notified immediately. The appropriate contact is the Duty Officer on Section 40 [redacted] Action would then be taken to bring the central control point arrangements into operation if necessary.

Search for Unreported Fragments

13. Since much of the debris would be very small many of the fragments would not be sighted and unnoticed irradiated debris might be scattered over an area of thousands of square

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RESTRICTED

kilometres. A major search operation might have to be mounted to locate radioactive fragments. Whether to mount a search, and if so what area should be covered, would be decided by the central control point. Arrangements would be made to deploy, using the framework of the NAIR scheme, the resources of every available technical support service, including teams from MOD, NRPB, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) and the Electricity Generating Boards, using specialist aircraft and vehicle search techniques. In rural areas the most effective initial search to locate major sources of radioactivity might be from the air. Police forces would then be asked to organise ground searches of specific areas under arrangements by the central control point or forward operations centre and with the advice of AWRE and NRPB staffs.

Recovery of Fragments

14. Special arrangements would be made centrally under AWRE advice for the recovery of all fragments, when they had been located and examined, and these would be notified to the police forces concerned. Where, in the interests of public safety, and on scientific advice, a fragment is removed from the point of impact, the central control point should be informed where it is to be stored while awaiting recovery.

Public Warning about Radioactivity

15. It is for the Government to decide whether, and if so by what means, a public warning of danger from radioactivity should be given. In reaching that decision, the need to prevent unnecessary alarm would be carefully considered. Chief Officers should therefore ensure that nothing is done locally to anticipate a Government statement.

Press and Publicity

16. It is essential that those dealing locally with a satellite accident and the Government team in Whitehall should not issue inconsistent statements. Chief Officers should ensure that all local press enquiries are directed to a senior officer at force headquarters, who is briefed to deal with them, working in close liaison with Government Information Officers who would make appropriate arrangements to co-ordinate the national dissemination of information from Whitehall.

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Extra Costs

17. International law makes provision for a country in which a satellite falls to be reimbursed for any damage and other costs arising from the incident. In order to establish facts and enable costs to be calculated, for inclusion in any claim submitted by the United Kingdom, police forces (and fire and local authorities) should keep a record of all debris found and all action taken from the receipt of the warning message (or, if no warning message is given, from the receipt of the first reports of falling debris) until the incident is closed.

Claims Procedure

18. The Government is under an obligation to consider claims from the general public for injury or death following a nuclear accident and there is already a registration procedure in existence for this purpose. In the event of a nuclear powered satellite accident a Government announcement would be published about how to obtain registration forms to provide information or assistance in looking into claims for compensation by those in the affected area at the relevant time.

Communications

19. As indicated in paragraph 10, reports will be sent via the PNC terminal in New Scotland Yard and from there, depending on the volume of traffic, by Telex or by courier to the central control point. Any general directions issued by the control point will be sent by these means.

20. Messages addressed to the central control point should be confined to operational matters concerning the search for debris, public control, etc. Any enquiry about subsidiary administrative matters arising in consequence of the operations envisaged in this circular should be addressed to the Home Office, F6 Division - by telephone to Section 40 [redacted] or Section 40 [redacted] or by Telex message. The normal Home Office Telex number is [redacted] HOH6QA G. The additional number [redacted] (answer back code HOHQOC G) may be activated to handle such messages exclusively when the need arises

Non-nuclear debris from space

21. As indicated in paragraph 2, the contingency arrangements set out in this circular are applicable to the crash of a satellite known or believed to be carrying radioactive material. Nuclear powered satellites are few but many non-nuclear satellites and other space debris are in orbit and there is continuing likelihood of such objects falling from space and parts of them surviving re-entry to the atmosphere and landing on the earth's surface. Though the likelihood

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is small the police may become aware of such debris if the fall is observed and reported to them. In that event it would be appreciated if chief officers would inform the Ministry of Defence so that the object may be examined and if possible identified. The point of contact at the Ministry of Defence is Section 40 Head of S4f(Air), Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (tel no Section 40

Yours faithfully

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

ANNEX A

SATELLITE ACCIDENT REPORT PROFORMA

To be reported via the Police National Computer terminal in New Scotland Yard to the Government Central Control Point (See paragraph 9).

ADDRESSEE - 02B6 SATELLITE

Item	
ALPHA	From (state name of force).
BRAVO	Date/Time (state ONE, time of sighting; TWO, time report submitted).
CHARLIE	Reference No (state local unique ref no *).
DELTA	Exact location of debris (giving grid reference and map sheet number where possible; otherwise by direction and distance from easily identified point on Ordnance Survey map).
ECHO	Description (state rough size and shape, material, whether radioactive).
FOXTROT	Casualties/Damage (brief description of dead/ seriously injured and damage to property).
GOLF	RV (state location, telephone number if available, of guide to lead investigator to incident).
HOTEL	Action (state what action taken locally or proposed and any other relevant information).
INDIA	Assistance already at or ordered to scene, other than police.
JULIET	Assistance Required (state type and approximate number).

* It will be very important, in making initial reports and to assist subsequent action and enquiries, to identify each finding of possibly dangerous debris by means of a reference number unique to that finding. The reference number, when allocated, should be notified to those concerned with action on the spot as well as to the central government control point.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

Section 40
Ashurst Wood
West Sussex
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 February to Section 40 concerning the subject of 'unidentified flying objects' the content of which has been noted. Section 40 is currently on leave and I am replying on her behalf.

2. I should like to clarify one particular point. As Section 40 explained we look at any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' received by the MOD to determine whether there is evidence of defence significance, namely whether the UK Air Defence Region has been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an *external* military source we do not attempt to determine the precise nature of each seemingly inexplicable sight in the sky. I am afraid it simply would not be an acceptable use of defence resources to do this.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Ashurst Wood,
West Sussex Section 40

12th February 1998

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
16 FEB 1998
FILE

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1a,
Room 8245,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of December 5th 1997. I am amazed that a request for an interview with the new Armed Forces Minister, Dr John Reid, on the subject of UFOs - which, after all, falls within his ministerial remit - should have been passed on to you. I had hoped with a change of administration and the Prime Minister's committment to more open government that perhaps the Minister would have been more willing to talk than his predecessor, but obviously not.

I understand that your reply was exactly in line with the standard MOD response to all enquiries regarding UFOs, i.e. 'No defence significance'. You also point out in paragraph three that: 'Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" report has revealed any such evidence . . . ' By this I assume you are excluding the UFO that overflew at least two military establishments on the night of March 30/31 1993 and was witnessed by numerous police and military personnel and yet not picked up by any ground radar. If this does not constitute a 'potential military threat' then what does?

The official line is remaining 'totally open-minded' but knowing of 'no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.' I have no idea whether you personally have any interest in the subject at all or whether you have just landed at the UFO desk in the usual civil service rotation of positions. Whatever, this open-minded-but-no-proof position is complete nonsense. If you are interested can I suggest that you contact your equivalent in the Pentagon and ask him/her to send you a copy of the Grudge 13 report. This is a classified document and it may be that your security clearance is not high enough to warrant seeing it, but this document contains the unequivocal proof, submitted by members of the US Armed Services, of the existence of UFOs, intelligently controlled by extraterrestrials.

In the meantime, thanks for your help and I wish you the best of luck in the position. I suspect that you have to spend a great deal of your time handling assorted freaks and weirdos, something I do not envy you. But if I can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 6

Section 40
Bedminster
Bristol
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 28 January addressed to the Prime Minister concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and I have been asked to reply.

2. The MOD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

4. I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS)2

Ref No 0979/1998

Date 13 FEB 1998

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days**.

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

C - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 48/97; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40 .

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT Section 40

Sec (AS) 2
16 FEB 1998
FILE

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Mr Blair,

I have recently become 0979
interested in a very important phenomena
currently occuring all over the world
and one of which as yet I can't
seem to find a creadible argument
against. I refer to the growing number
of documented ufo sightings currently
being reported.

As leader of the country I am
sure that you will have had these
reports brought to your attention.

I Understand that as far as National
Security goes you will be able to
give me all the information, however
I am sure that you will be glad to
shed some light upon the situation

Sincerely yours.

[redacted]

[redacted]

mad
dogeee.

Keep up on
UFOS.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

Section 40
Rugeley
Staffordshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 25 January in which you ask whether the Ministry of Defence received any reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings on 19 January in the Staffordshire area.

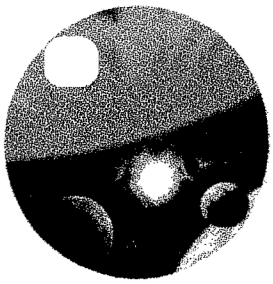
2. First I should explain that the MOD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

4. I can confirm that the MOD did not receive any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for anywhere in the country for 19 January.

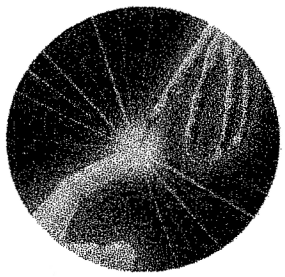
Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Staffordshire U.F.O. Group

Section 40 [redacted]
[redacted] *Rugeley, Staffordshire*
Section 40 [redacted]
Tel : [redacted]



Ministry of Defence
AFO RAF Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

My Ref: 98/2 Section 40

25 January 1998

Dear Sirs

I have been given this address via the Civil Aviation Authority who state that any response to answers I seek of them will be dealt with on their behalf and of that of the R.A.F./M.O.D. and will be forthcoming from your office.

In essence, I am seeking confirmation that both the Civil Aviation Authority and R.A.F./M.O.D. have no knowledge of and have no concern relating a sighting of a yet unidentified flying object witnessed by residents in the County of Staffordshire on 19 January 1998. I am specifically concerned with a half hour period from 23.50 p.m. - 00.20 a.m.

The visual sightings took place in the locations of Little Haywood and Milford and centred the sightings over the Shugborough Estate. (Grid Ref: SJ.99200E / 22500N)

The reports approximate height at 3000 - 4000 ft but may not be accurate though as such would be within the likely zone of influence of the Manchester - Birmingham civil air corridor to my knowledge.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
13 FEB 1998
FILE

In the interests of the witnesses concerned, I would welcome answers to the following points:

1. Were any reports received by the C.A.A. either by pilots or public relating a visual sighting or radar capture of an unknown object for the stated times ?

2. Were the R.A.F./M.O.D. notified from any source of any unusual activity for the times stated ?

3. Do the M.O.D. have an interest in the above stated reports as indicated in the articles of 22 January and 23 January 1998 - Stafford Express & Star (copies attached) ?

4. Were any R.A.F. or N.A.T.O. aircraft in the vicinity at the times stated ?

A simple "yes" or "no" will suffice though should you wish to offer explanation for your answers, any comments will be welcomed.

I look forward to your reply in due course

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

Express & Star, Friday, January 23, 1998

UFO sighting adds to mystery

A pyramid-shaped UFO seen flying over a Staffordshire village is similar to previous sightings in Stafford and Derby, according to investigators of the phenomenon.

Investigator Graham Allen, of the Staffordshire UFO Group, said the description of the sighting over The Haywoods did not match that of any military or civilian aircraft in the area. He has published a study of the sighting with a sketch of the "craft".

He said descriptions of the UFO matched a sighting reported over GEC in Stafford in November.

Berkswich councillor John Francis, an engineer and plane expert, saw the object through his bedroom window and followed it with binoculars.

He described it like a pyramid with lights down one side turning on its axis.

Councillor Francis said he had been a sceptic before the sighting at about 11.50pm on Monday.

The MoD said there were no military aircraft in the area at the time.

Express & Star, Thursday, January 22, 1998

Reports of UFO probed

Startled residents of a Staffordshire village – including a parish councillor – claim they have spotted a pyramid-shaped UFO flying over their homes.

Claims by people in The Haywoods are now being investigated by Ministry of Defence UFO experts.

Berkswich Parish Councillor John Francis, an engineer and plane expert, saw the object through his bedroom window.

"It was like a pyramid with lights down one side turning on its own axis," he said.

"I had not seen anything like that before. It seemed to stay in one position before moving very fast into another."

He said he rang Staffordshire UFO Group, who confirmed that there had been similar sighting at about the same time.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

Section 40

Chorley
Lancs
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 March 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 February, concerning reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings, the content of which has been noted.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Chorley
Lancs
Section 40
February 10, 1998

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff)2a1a Room 8245
MoD Main Building
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of the 19 th January and the 1997 map of locations.

Generating an OHP film of the 1996 data to enable it to be laid on top of the 1997 data was the only useful activity I could think to apply to the map. So that is what I did. This highlighted two tenuous features.:-

1) A line of crosses running roughly from Caernarvon in the west across Great Orme running just south of and parrallel the Ribble estuary across country to wards Whitby and Robin Hoods bay.

2) A second line roughly parallel to 1 above running from the Lizard Peninsula across the UK and leaving just south of the Wash.

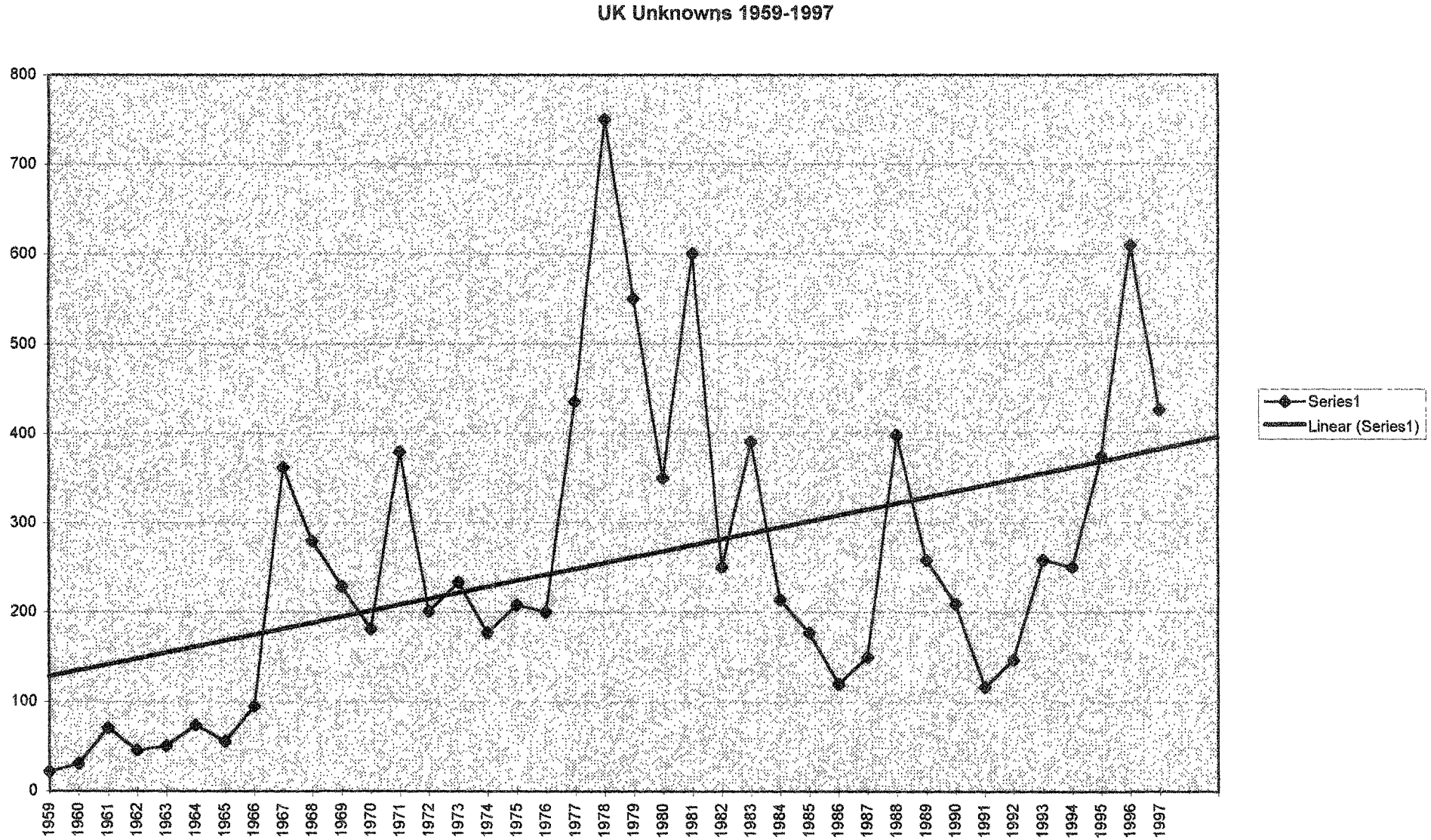
I enclose an updated graph of MoD Unknowns for your records.

Are you able to advise if any UK sightings are associated with Radio Frequency emissions in the region of 2500 to 3500 MHz (2.5 to 3.5 GHz) range?

Sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
13 FEB 1998
FILE


UK Unknowns 1959-1997
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From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Section 40
Exeter
Devon
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
9 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letters to Section 40 concerning "unidentified flying objects", one undated received here on 2 February, and the other dated 4 March. I am replying as Section 40 Section 40 is currently on leave.

2. As Section 40 explained in her letter to you of 22 January, the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.

3. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an external military threat to the United Kingdom no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 17 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

4. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Exeter
Devon

Section 40

RE/ UFO INCIDENT AT RENDELSHAM FOREST / WOODBRIDGE, BRITISH, US AIR FORCE BASE, 25/12/80.

04/03/1998

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
-6 MAR 1998
FILE

Dear Section 40

I am writing in regards to why you have not answered my letter dated 31st January 1998, regarding the 'UFO' incident at Rendelsham forest located near woodbridge British/U.S. Airforce base 25th December 1980.
I am aware of the M.O.D's official line on matters regarding 'UFO's that are a threat and cannot be explained 'basically ignore it.'

However I do not like being ignored, I would simply like an answer from you, even if it's "we have no record of the incident" or the usual bumf.

I would like to remind you that there was a audio recording made at the time which I have heard to, which has been declared as genuine by the M.O.D, As I stated in my previous letter, I would consider a unidentified flying object near Britains nuclear stock pile Base (at the time) a very real threat, and you stated "no known UFO report has shown a threat exists."

I would be grateful if you could answer on this issue.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

(Copy Made)

Section 40

Exeter
Devon

Section 40

REF:- D/SEC(AS)/64/3.

Dear Section 40

Thankyou for your reply 22nd January 1998 regarding "UFO's.

I do understand that you officially have to place files under the provisions of the public records act 1958-1967.

However I would like to enquire about the well documented incident which took place at Woodbridge British/US Airforce Base on December 28th 1980, where a "UFO" was seen by Military personel, including Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Col Holt (USAF). You may or may not be aware, but a audio recording was made of the incident by Lieutenant Col Holt (USAF) which has been officially confirmed as genuine by the Ministry of Defence.

You also stated to me that "no UFO report has revealed evidence to show a potential Military threat". I would have thought that a "Unidentified flying Object" being investigated by Base Security Staff including a high ranking officer, near a Military Airforce Base, which had Nato's Nuclear Stockpile stored, a "potential Threat".

So I have investigated "UFO" sightings since 1990, and have always recived the same answer by offical sorces, told you to re-question to me in a positive manner, and not with what the M.O.D don't know, fob off letter/I/we dont know anything.

PTO

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 2 FEB 1998
FILE

I would be grateful for a response to my enquiry.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

(COPY MADE)

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

Section 40
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
6 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 2 February.

2. The number of reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings received by the Ministry of Defence for 1997 was 425.

3. Your letter asks for details of 'UFO' files transferred to the Public Record Office this year. You will be aware from your own research on this subject the information you seek will be available from an examination of the lists of records preserved. These lists are of course readily available to the public at Kew.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TEL: Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

2.2.98

Dear Section 40 [redacted],

I have written to you on several occasions concerning my interest in the 'UFO' subject. My reason for writing is as follows:

1. Could you advise me of the number of UFO reports received by the Ministry of Defence in 1997?

2. Could you advise me of the various file numbers of the UFO documents released into the public domain at the Public Record Office, Kew, this year? I understand that there maybe 6 or 7 such files covering the approximate period of 1966-8/9.

Thankyou in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
-3 FEB 1998
FILE 643

As you know it was generally the case that before 1967 all ufo files were routinely destroyed after five years, on the grounds there was no long term interest in this subject. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest a decision was taken that MOD's ufo report files should be retained and transferred to the Public Record Office in accordance with the terms of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967. You will also be aware from your own research on this subject the information you now seek will be available from an examination of the lists of records preserved. These lists are of course readily available to the public at Kew. You may also be interested to learn the PRO has produced a list of files released on this subject..

Section 40 - Section 40

We spoke - is this helpful!

Section 40

3 March 98

(RM)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS)1
03 MAR 1998
FILE

Tue Mar, 1998 11:06 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
03/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	Section 40 LETTER	[ ]

Sent: 03/03/98 at 9:41
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1646
Subject: Section 40 LETTER

Text: Section 40 I tried to phone you but no reply. Thought I'd send an E-mail instead. Hopefully speak to you later.

Section 40
PS Did you know that you've lost your initials from your CHOTS address and are now only known as Section 40??

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

To: Section 40
Hd of CS(RM)1.

From: Section 40
Sec(AS)2A1
Section 40

Fax: X Section 40

Section 40

You may recall I spoke to you about our plans to tell any members of the public who write in asking for the references of files which have been released to the PRO at the turn of the year, that details should be obtained from the PRO.

Well, as expected Section 40 has written his annual constitutional. The relevant para in his letter asks:

> *"Could you advise me of the various file numbers of the UFO documents released into the public domain at the Public Record Office, Kew, this year? I understand that there maybe 6 or 7 such files covering the approximate period of 1966-8/9."*

As I think I mentioned to you, as we are at the 30 year anniversary of the decision to keep all "UFO" report files, now would seem a good point to start this policy. I propose to respond to Section 40 on this point in the following way:

> *"As you know it was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest a decision was taken that all MOD 'UFO' report files should be retained in the public interest. It is now 30 years since that decision was made and we can expect a steady stream of 'UFO' report files to be released at their 30 year point to the Public Record Office.* ***Details of the new releases should be obtained by contacting the PRO directly.***"

Can you think of a better way of expressing this? Of course if he doesn't get them from me he may try to get them from you.

Can we discuss when you've a moment.

I also have our comments on the Section 40 draft response which we can discuss on your return.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

Section 40
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
4 March 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your faxes of 6th February and 15 January.

2. As you already know, the MOD's interest in any reports it receives of 'unidentified flying objects' is limited to establishing if what was seen might have some defence significance, namely whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. I can confirm that there is no evidence to substantiate an incident of this nature in the Burmarsh area on 8 March last year. Unless there is evidence of an external military threat the MOD makes no attempt to identify what might have been seen and does not provide members of the public with an aerial identification service.

3. In principle, the whole of the United Kingdom is available for military low flying activity but some locations, such as restricted airspace around civil airfields, glider sites, certain major industrial sites and the larger centres of population, are excluded.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Thank you for your fax of 6th February and 15 January.

As you ~~may~~ already know, the MOD's interest in any reports it receives of 'unidentified flying objects' is limited to establishing if what was seen might have some defence significance, namely whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. Unless there is any evidence of an external military threat and, to date, no report has revealed such evidence, the MOD makes no attempt to identify what might have been seen and does not provide memebrs of the public with an aerial identification service.

In principle, the whole of the United Kingdom is available for military low flying activity but ~~certain~~ some locations, such as major ~~built up areas~~, restricted airspace around around civil airfields, glider sites ~~and~~ major industrial sites are excluded. It ~~is the MOD's policy not to release specific details of military low flying restrictions in individual areas.~~

Section 40

Can I say the last para in response to the last para of the attached?

Section 40

Section 40 Sutton Coldfield - West Midlands Section 40

Phone Section 40
Fax:

E-Mail: Section 40

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Section 40 - Secretariat (AS)2a
Phone: 0171 218 2140
Fax: Section 40
From: Section 40
Date: 06-02-98
Pages including this cover: 2
Subject: My fax of 15-01-98
Comments:

Dear Section 40

As three weeks have passed since I sent my original fax regarding unusual aerial activity near former Home Secretary Michael Howard's house in Kent, I wondered if I could give you a gentle reminder of my questions by re-sending the original.

I note that an earlier request for information to your office (April '97) was forwarded to Section 40 for a response, which he supplied in three days. Therefore, I wonder if I should address any questions to him rather than (AS) 2a.

I would appreciate a clarification regarding to whom I should send any questions.

On a related matter, is there a policy of operating an airspace restriction near such a senior politician's home and if so, is there a similar restriction over nuclear power stations or indeed power stations in general ?

Sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS)1
- 6 FEB 1998
FILE

Section 40

Section 40

Plse action

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 Sutton Coldfield - West Midlands Section 40

Phon Section 40
Fax:
E-Mail:

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Section 40 Secretariat (AS)2a1
Phone: 0171 218 2140
Fax: Section 40
From
Date: 15-01-98
Pages including this cover: 1
Subject: Unusual aerial activity over Burmarsh in Kent

Comments:

Dear Section 40

I am a journalist researching reports of unusual aerial activity near former Home Secretary, Michael Howard's house in Kent last March.

Concerning the period 7th (seventh) to the 8th (eighth) of March 1997, I have received reports from several sources of a large triangular craft seen hovering over Burmarsh and the surrounding area, including Lymne. The majority of the reports place the timescale of these events as taking place between 03.00 hrs and 03.30 hrs on the 8th (eighth).

The description of the craft seen at close quarters by one particular witness is unlike any aircraft of which I am aware and seems to have behaved as if it was an airship of unknown type. Ignoring the fanciful notion that this was a UFO in the popular sense of the term, the clear indication is that a classified or unknown air vehicle was operating at low level during this period.

Can you confirm that no aerial activity *either authorised or unauthorised* took place on or near this location over the period stated ?

Sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
19 JAN 1998
FILE

9 Feb 98

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2
Room ~~8248~~ 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [redacted]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your ~~letter/complaint of~~ faxes of 6 Feb and 15 Jan 98 ~~about military aircraft activity~~.

We aim to reply to such letters/complaints within four working weeks from date of receipt. However, owing to current administrative difficulties it may not be possible to reply to you within this timescale.

Nevertheless, you may be assured that you will receive a substantive reply as soon as is practicable.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]