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Mr. J. L. Cary

31 August 1960

Deputy Assistant Director for Collection/OSI

Reply to your Note Regarding Gordon N. Scherer

1. We have investigated this with the Air Force and find that Mrs. Golden telegraphed the Secretary of State along the same lines. She has been carrying on correspondence with the Air Force for quite some time on the general subject of UFO's. (Attached is their reply to Mrs. Golden.) The State Department referred the telegram to the Air Force who, in turn, answered Mrs. Golden to the effect that the U.S. Naval Attache evaluation indicates that the picture was false. The photo was taken by a free lance photographer noted for his trick photography. It was not, as Mrs. Golden states, developed in the presence of anyone.

2. I do not believe we should concern ourselves with questions in Mrs. Golden's letter that do not concern CIA; therefore, we have covered only those questions. The Air Force is responsible and is doing a very good job of public information in this field and it has been our past procedure to refer all matters to them when it does not implicate CIA.

3. I think our Naval attache's final comment on the whole affair sums it up very well: "It is the reporting officer's private opinion that a flying saucer sighting would be unlikely at the very barren island of Trinidad, as everyone knows Martians are extremely comfort loving creatures."

4. Attached is a draft reply for Congressman Scherer per your request.

P. G. Strong

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Approved for Release

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August 15, 1960

Hon. Gordon Scherer
House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Scherer:

Several weeks ago a picture of a UFO was shown on the Dave Garroway show. It was the famous Brazilian UFO. It was taken on board the Brazilian Navy IGY ship in daylight and in full view of about a hundred persons. It was developed aboard in the presence of the officers of the ship. It was certified as being authentic by the Navy, released to the press by the Brazilian President himself. It was in the headlines of all the Brazilian newspapers for a week. It created such tremendous public interest that a Congressional investigation followed, and as a result much more UFO information was made public.

Now the American Air Force has labeled this picture a hoax!

Of course I am concerned about the affect of this on our campaign to get the UFO situation opened up in this country. But I am even more concerned as to what affect this will have on our relations with Brazil. The Brazilians know about their UFOs. I have copies of the magazine O THUZEIRO in which many outstanding incidents are frankly and openly discussed. I recently received a seven page report on censorship in Brazil from Dr. Olavo Fontes, Brazil's best known UFO researcher. What censorship there is in Brazil is largely at our insistence and the authorities don't like even that much. There have been an average of six to eight sightings/month for fifty months, and sometimes there are as many as thirty in a two hour period. How are these well informed people going to react to hearing their President and several high Navy officials called frauds?

You may not agree with this at present, Mr. Scherer, but the American Air Force is withholding evidence even from Congressmen, and I feel strongly that the time has long since come when this dangerous situation should be cleared up. ATIC has now admitted hiding the Project Grudge report by marking it "secret", and admitted that the CIA is involved in the UFO investigation. On the other hand it has denied many serious incidents it had previously confirmed. Why, why does there have to be secrecy at all? What is the CIA covering so desperately that it is necessary to make such incredible charges against the head of a friendly government? I have a good understanding of scientific method, and I am not a crackpot. The Air Force "explanations" many times simply do not explain, and their statistics are obviously contrived. The feeling about UFOs has changed in Cincinnati. There hasn't been a tongue-in-cheek article published for over a year. As General O'Keefe said last December, and Senator Johnson has said recently, UFOs are serious business.

Won't you, Sir, lend your help by making a stand for open Congressional hearings? And if you feel you can't do that, at least do something about the Brazilian affair. Thank you.

334 Thrall St, Apt 3
Cincinnati 20, Ohio

Sincerely
Catherine Carter Golden