

(145)

Executive Order
11-742/2

(33)

6 FEB 1959

Mr. George Popovitch
The Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee
P. O. Box 5242
Aston, Ohio

Dear Mr. Popovitch:

This is in reply to your letter of 21 January 1959 in which you quoted an earlier letter to this Agency on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. We have also reviewed the copy of the Staggard Report which you enclosed.

In your letter you have asked a number of questions concerning the subject of unidentified flying objects, how these affect national security, and essentially whether information is being withheld from the public. Some six years ago when there was a question as to whether the rash of reported sightings occurring at that time might pose some threat to national security, a panel of experts was asked by higher authority to make an assessment of such possible threat. As you undoubtedly know from subsequent public information, this panel reached the conclusion that there was nothing inherent to our security in the matter. This conclusion was made public last year.

The total responsibility for the Government in dealing with UFO matters is vested in the U. S. Air Force and that is the department concerned and responsible for answering the questions posed by organizations such as yours. This Agency has no jurisdiction or responsibility in this area and is therefore not in a position to supply the information you have requested.

Very truly yours,

FEB 3 2 12 PM '59

John S. Harrington
Executive Officer

Distribution:

Orig - addressee

- 1 - Mr. Egan
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Mr. George F. Popovich
The Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee
P. O. Box 5642
Arlon, Ohio

Dear Mr. Popovich:

This is in reply to your letter of 21 January 1959 in which you quoted an earlier letter to this Agency on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. We have also reviewed the copy of the Fitzgerald Report which you enclosed.

In your letter you have asked a number of questions concerning the subject of unidentified flying objects, how these affect national security, and essentially whether information is being withheld from the public. About six years ago when there was a question as to whether the rash of reported sightings occurring at that time might pose some threat to national security, a panel of experts was asked by higher authority to make an assessment of such possible threat. As you undoubtedly know from subsequent public information, this panel reached the conclusion that there was nothing inherent to our security in the matter. This conclusion was made public last year.

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John S. Harrington
Executive Officer

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- 1 - Mr. Egan
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- 1 - DSI
- 1 - Chief ASD/SI w/official SI/CS Strong:ns (4 Feb. 1959)
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