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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECISION EXPECTED SOON IN UFO/CIA SUIT

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)--A decision is expected soon in the appeal of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for the release of over 200 documents on Unidentified Flying Objects.

The legal effort is being pressed by Ground Saucer Watch, Inc. of Arizona and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a Washington-area public interest organization.

The organizations are appealing a Federal District Court decision which allows the agency to keep over 200 pages of UFO documents secret. A hearing in the appeal took place on May 1 in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington.

Part of the cost of the litigation was provided by the Fund for UFO Research, Inc., a scientific, nonprofit organization which channels public contributions into UFO research and education projects.

"Organizers of the Fund await the court's decision with extreme interest," says Chairman Bruce Maccabee, a physicist. "Continued government secrecy is hampering UFO research and exacerbating the UFO problem.

"If UFOs do not present a threat to national security--as the Air Force says--then there is no legitimate reason for the CIA to withhold UFO-related information extracted from documents which have not been released," Dr. Maccabee adds.

"The Fund for UFO Research supports efforts to declassify and disseminate all official UFO documentation."

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EDITORS NOTE: Enclosed for your information is a copy of an article by Peter Gersten, a New York attorney representing GSW and CAUS in the CIA suit. The article will appear in the next edition of Frontiers of Science magazine.

To obtain permission to reprint the article, contact Elizabeth Philip, Editor, Frontiers of Science, 8 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20003; phone: (202) 544-0233.

For interviews with Peter Gersten, call (212) 992-9600.

For more information on the Fund for UFO Research, contact Fred Whiting, (703) 683-2786.

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What the U.S. Government Knows About Unidentified Flying Objects

by PETER GERSTEN

At last! New evidence for the existence of unconventional aerial objects relies no longer on the credibility of civilian reports but on the records of scientists, military personnel, intelligence analysts, law enforcement officers and other reliable and responsible people. Their testimony can be found in three thousand pages of previously classified documents on UFOs released (mostly through Freedom of Information Act suits) over the past few years by the Departments of State/Army/Navy/Air Force/Defense, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.

This overwhelming evidence indicates that Unidentified Flying Objects do exist, and that some of them are unconventional craft that (1) pose a threat to national security and (2) perform beyond the range of present-day technological development.

Furthermore, there is evidence that our government has continually misinformed the public concerning the true significance of the "UFO problem."

National Security and UFOs

"It is my view that this situation has possible implications for our national security."

—Central Intelligence Agency, 1952

In late 1952, a memorandum was drafted for CIA Director Walter B. Smith's signature, to be sent to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. The memo's subject: "Unidentified Flying Objects." The document shows that the CIA had "reviewed the current situation concerning unidentified flying objects which have caused extensive speculation in the press and has been the subject of concern to government organizations."

It was the Director's opinion, based upon the review, that "this situation has possible implications for our national security which transcend the interests of a single service."

"I therefore recommend that this Agency and the agencies of the Department of Defense be directed to formulate and carry out a program of intelligence and research activities required to solve the problem of instant positive identification of unidentified flying objects."

A draft of a proposed National Security Council directive was attached to the memorandum.

Unfortunately, it appears that the NSC directive fell by the wayside. Now, twenty-nine years later, the "current situation," contrary to official denials, still poses serious implications for our national security.

UFOs as a Threat

The Government's position: *"No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."*

—Air Force, 1980

The evidence:

DOD, USAF, and CIA documents reveal that during October, November, and December of 1975, reliable military personnel repeatedly sighted unconventional aerial objects in the vicinity of nuclear-weapons storage areas, aircraft alert areas and nuclear-missile control facilities at Loring Air Force Base, Maine; Wurtsmith AFB Michigan; Malstrom AFB, Montana; Minot AFB, North Dakota; and Canadian Air Forces Station, Ontario.¹ Many of the sightings were confirmed by radar. At Loring AFB, the interloper "demonstrated a clear intent on the weapons storage areas."

The incidents drew the attention of the CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense. Though the Air Force informed the public and the press that individual sightings were isolated incidents, an Air Force document says that "Security Option III" was implemented and that security measures were coordinated with 15 Air Force bases from Guam to Newfoundland.² Another AF document reveals that the Air Force conducted an investigation into the incidents but found no explanation for their occurrence.

It appears Air Force "security measures" provided no protection against the "invasion." One month later, on January 21, 1976, UFOs "25 yards in diameter, gold or silver in color with blue light on top, hole in middle, and red light on bottom" were observed "near the flight line of Cannon AFB, N.M." Ten days later, on January 31, a UFO was observed near a radar site at Elgin AFB, Florida. On July 30, 1976, a UFO was observed "over the ammo storage area" at Fort Richie, Maryland.³

The above accounts have numerous historical precedents. From 1948 through 1950, an FBI document reveals, UFOs were sighted by "persons whose reliability is not questioned," near highly sensitive military and government installations, in-

cluding nuclear weapons design, construction, testing and stockpiling sites. Security officials were greatly alarmed by these incidents.⁴

A CIA document reveals that in 1952 "sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and travelling at high speeds" were reported in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations and posed a threat to national security.

The evidence is clear and convincing that the Federal government has systematically misinformed the American people about the real threat to our national security posed by such UFO encounters.

UFOs as Advanced Technology

The Government's position: *"There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge."*

—Air Force, 1980

The official documents reveal hundreds of sighting reports—many confirmed by radar and other tracking devices—that describe unconventional objects exhibiting advanced performance characteristics involving maneuverability, speed, size and shape.

A Defense Intelligence Agency document reveals that on September 19, 1976, American-made Iranian jets encountered several UFOs that exhibited a technology beyond present-day development. During the night-time encounter, one F-4 jet, upon approaching one of the UFOs, lost all instrumentation and communications functions. Another F-4's weapons-control panel became inoperable when the pilot attempted to fire at the object.

The DIA evaluation (October 12, 1976) refers to this incident as "an outstanding report" because the objects were seen by many witnesses of high credibility; the visual sightings had radar confirmation; similar electromagnetic effects were reported by three separate aircraft; and

New York attorney PETER A. GERSTEN has been pressing the legal effort on behalf of UFO groups—such as CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy)—for nearly three years. Gersten currently awaits a U.S. Appeals Court decision on release of over two hundred additional CIA documents relating to UFOs. □

physiological effects were reported by some of the crew members. Furthermore, the UFOs displayed an "inordinate amount of maneuverability."

A State Department message (March 1975) from the American Embassy in Algiers tells of "strange machines" seen near Algerian military installations by "respectable people." Some of the sightings were confirmed by radar.

And another State Department message from our embassy in Kuwait reports that during November 1978, a series of UFO sightings caused the Kuwaiti government to appoint an investigatory committee from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. One UFO appearing over the northern oil fields "seemingly did strange things" to the automatic pumping equipment. The equipment is designed to shut itself down when any failure occurs that could seriously damage the petroleum-gathering and transmission system; when such an event occurs, the pumping equipment must be restarted manually. When the UFO appeared, the pumping system automatically shut down. But when the UFO "vanished," the system started up again, automatically.

The presence of a highly sophisticated technology—a technology beyond our present development—seems obvious. Why is it being ignored by our government?

A Question of Survival

"It would seem a little more of this survival attitude is called for in dealing with the UFO problem."

—National Security Agency, 1968

The evidence indicates that some unconventional aerial objects could provoke, either intentionally or unintentionally, an international incident—with serious repercussions.

In March 1967, an intercept technician with the USAF Security Service intercepted a communication between the pilot of a Russian-made Cuban MIG-21 and his command concerning a UFO encounter.⁵ The technician has since stated that when the pilot attempted to fire at the object, the MIG and its pilot were destroyed by the UFO. Furthermore, the technician alleges that all reports, tapes, log entries, and notes on the incident were forwarded to the National Security Agency at their request.

Not surprisingly, several months later, the agency drafted a report entitled *UFO Hypothesis and Survival Question*. Released in October 1979 under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, the report states that "the leisurely scientific approach has too often taken precedence in dealing with the UFO question." The Agency concluded that no matter what UFO hypothesis is considered, "all of them have serious survival implications."

Comparing the UFO problem to a rattler on a forest path, the NSA report says, "you would have to treat the alarm as if it were a real and

immediate threat to your survival. Investigation would become an intensive emergency action to isolate the threat and to determine its precise nature. It would be geared to developing adequate defense measures in a minimum amount of time. It would seem a little more of this survival attitude is called for in dealing with the UFO problem."

The Government and UFOs

"Further scientific investigation of UFOs is unwarranted."

—Air Force, 1980

Perhaps most disturbing is the very fact that after thirty-two years, a small but significant percentage of UFOs still remains unidentified. While the government has been concerned with the psychological danger the UFO phenomenon poses, it has been unwilling to consider the prospect that some UFOs pose an actual physical threat. Fearful of generating undue concern, the government has deliberately chosen to debunk UFO reports and has misinformed the public as to the true importance of the phenomenon.

Unconventional aerial objects that boast unlimited and unrestricted access to our most sensitive nuclear installations—and which can render inoperable the instrumentation, communication/weapon systems of American-made jets, or which can shut down and restart at will sophisticated hydraulic equipment—do warrant further scientific study. Awareness of an advanced technology and potential threat is not an unreasonable pursuit. As the National Security Agency indicates, it could be a matter of survival.

Though admittedly the government has studied UFO reports, apparently no government body has dwelt on those official government reports that indicate certain UFOs pose a threat to national security. Is there any doubt that it is these reports which deserve further scientific investigation?

The now-defunct USAF twenty-year "Project Blue Book" UFO study never had a chance to receive the "outstanding report" from Iran. An Air Force document states: "Reports of UFOs which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146⁶ or Air Force Manual 55-11, and are not part of the Blue Book system." The Air Force's UFO investigation was

⁶Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication 146 is published by the Military Communications Board of the DOD Joint Chiefs of Staff. It provided U.S.-Canadian "Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS) from Airborne and Waterborne Sources." Section III (Security), paragraph 208, calls for stiff penalties for divulging information about such sightings once reported. —Ed.

criticized as long ago as 1952 by the CIA. The CIA complained that the Air Force's case-by-case investigations and explanations were insufficient to determine the exact nature of the phenomenon.⁶

Similarly, the Air Force-sponsored "Condon Committee" study by the University of Colorado in 1968 never earnestly intended to investigate the physical reality of the phenomenon. Indeed, an early memorandum by one of Dr. Edward U. Condon's staff indicates otherwise: "The trick would be, I think to describe the project so that to the public, it would appear a totally objective study . . . one way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomenon, but rather of the people who are doing the observing . . ."

Conclusion

In June 1978, a French government UFO study group (GEPAN) concluded that "everything taken into consideration, a material phenomenon seems to be behind the totality of the phenomenon—a flying machine whose modes of sustenance and pro-

pulsion are beyond our knowledge."

If the UFO phenomenon is indeed beyond the grasp of our understanding—technologically speaking—all the more reason to strive towards learning more about it. For although the United States may ignore the significance of the UFO phenomenon, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that the rest of the world will do so.

And there are other considerations besides national security in following up the UFO enigma. As a report from the National Security Agency in 1968 put it,

"Perhaps the UFO question might even make man undertake studies which could enable him to construct a society which is most conducive to developing a completely human being, healthy in all aspects of mind and body—and, most importantly, able to recognize and adapt to real environmental situations."

In isolating ourselves from the UFO phenomenon we may risk missing what could be the most important adventure man has yet embarked upon. □

Over the past third of a century, the government's conduct with regard to UFOs has been characterized as nonfeasance, misfeasance, and malfeasance. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a public-interest group, was formed to foster a review of the reality and significance of UFOs and the government's policies and practices regarding them.

CAUS calls upon the Federal government to (1) admit that the public has been misled about the nature of UFOs, (2) acknowledge that UFOs exist, and (3) reverse its position that further scientific study of UFO reports is unwarranted. CAUS seeks the immediate declassification and public dissemination of all official UFO documentation.

CAUS believes that the public has a right to an objective reappraisal of the implications of the UFO phenomenon.

For more information, write to CAUS, P.O. Box 4743F, Arlington, Virginia 22204.