

# Group seeks UFO documents

*United Press International*

WASHINGTON — UFO buffs are seeking a close encounter with the Supreme Court in a battle involving 135 UFO-related documents held by the National Security Agency.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy wants the justices to order the agency to release the mysterious material under the Freedom of Information Act.

The case began in late 1978 when the New York-based UFO group filed a formal request for 18 agency documents under the information law. The National Security Agency refused to release the information.

The group then expanded its request to include "all documents in the possession or under the control of the National Security Agency relating to or pertaining to Unidentified Flying Objects and the UFO phenomena."

The agency said it has 135 "UFO-

related" documents, but again declined to release them, saying disclosure would reveal some of its top-secret electronic monitoring and interception techniques.

The agency is a Defense Department unit at Fort Meade, Md., and one of its main responsibilities is to gather foreign intelligence information by intercepting radio communications sent to or from foreign governments.

The agency told the UFO buffs, "NSA must focus its interception activities on those particular communications lines, channels, links or systems which yield the highest proportion of useful foreign intelligence information.

"What foreign governments do not know is which of the vast number of radio communications NSA attempts to intercept, which are intercepted, and, of those that are intercepted, which yield to NSA pro-

cessing methods and techniques," NSA Policy Chief Eugene Yeates said in a letter to the UFO group.

The refusal prompted the organization to file suit in federal district court in Washington.

The agency, urging the court to throw out the case, filed one public affidavit and one confidential affidavit that was reviewed in private by Judge Gerhard Gesell.

Gesell dismissed the case in 1980, saying, "Release of this material could seriously jeopardize the work of the agency and the security of the United States."

The UFO group then took the dispute to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, but that panel affirmed Gesell's decision.

Appealing to the Supreme Court, the UFO buffs argued, "The district court accepted without question NSA's overbroad claim of exemption" from the information act.

*Dallas Morning News 15 Feb '80*