



# DON HOYT People and UFOs

## Flying Saucers: Is There A Government Coverup?

Have governments, for 40 years, been involved in "a Cosmic Watergate" to hide the reality of flying saucers?

Stanton Friedman of Frederickton, a University of Chicago-trained physicist, coined the phrase and has expounded on his theory in hundreds of lectures delivered across North America.

Now, he has possession of documents said to have originated with sources within United States intelligence agencies which, if authentic, would support a number of claims made by those convinced that alien spacecraft have visited earth.

The documents were included with a copyright April 30 newsletter of the Fair-Witness Project Inc. in Burbank, Calif. William Moore, editor of the newsletter, writes:

"Over the past 6 1/2 years, I and ultimately several close associates have succeeded in establishing a co-operative relationship with a number of well-placed contacts within the American intelligence community.

### Involvement With UFOs

"As a result, certain information has been made available which appears to pertain directly to our government's continuing involvement with the UFO phenomenon."

Among revelations contained in the documents released to date by Moore are these:

A 12-member committee known as MJ-12, comprising top United States military, intelligence and scientific personnel, was established to report directly to the President, three months after the reported 1947 crash of an unidentified flying object near Roswell, New Mexico.

One heavily censored memorandum mentions "on 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study." The briefing officer on the paper is identified as the first head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter.

A memorandum on a CIA letterhead intitled MJ-5 (then U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Hoyt S. Vandenberg) refused what appears to be a request from a White House staff member for a briefing on Project "A". "Can't seem to make those fools realize (blank) info is not available for any dissemination per (Executive Order) 01156, regardless of who requests info."

### Project Aquarius

A document marked Top Secret on "Project Aquarius", which Friedman believes was prepared for President Jimmy Carter, refers to several volumes of "documented information collected from the beginning of the United States investigation of unidentified flying objects and identified alien crafts."

It adds: "The purpose of Project Aquarius (established by President Dwight Eisenhower) was to collect all scientific, technological, medical and intelligence information from UFO/IAC sightings and contacts with alien life forms."

Heady stuff, but Friedman, who has spent years poring through archives and libraries in the United States containing papers of MJ-12 members, is convinced the documents are genuine.

Considering that a March Gallup Poll in the United States showed 49 per cent of Americans believe flying saucers are real (30 per cent say they're imaginary and 21 per cent aren't sure), Friedman and his colleagues south of the border have an established base of credibility.

### 'First-Hand Involvement'

Friedman has interviewed 91 people about the Roswell incident, 30 of whom, he says, had "first-hand involvement" in the saucer crash.

The initial 1947 investigation was carried out by personnel from the U.S. Army Air Force's Roswell field which Friedman says was a base for atomic bombers manned by hand-picked personnel.

An initial statement on the incident by the Air Force said, "The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence officer of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was



Stanton Friedman

fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chavez County."

A few hours later, the Air Force changed its story, claiming that what was recovered was wreckage from a weather balloon.

That has never convinced people like Friedman who has been pursuing "for God knows how many hours" through every possible source evidence that in fact it was a saucer crash which the United States has managed to keep under wraps for 40 years.

"People don't get to high positions by not keeping secrets," says Friedman.

Among those listed as members of MJ-12 was Dr. Vannevar Bush who, during the Second World War, headed the Office of Scientific Research and Development which

oversaw all U.S. scientific work, including the Manhattan Project which produced the first atomic bomb.

Following the war, Bush, now dead, was top man in the Joint Research and Development Board "responsible to see that the United States never got caught with its pants down on technology," says Friedman.

"He had clearances for everything and an open door to the White House."

According to one of the released memoranda, marked Top Secret (Blank) and Eyes Only, which may have been written in 1952, "Operation (blank) is a TOP Secret Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States. Operations of the project are carried out under control of the (blank) Group which was established by special classified executive order of President Truman on 24 September, 1947 upon recommendation of Dr. Vannevar Bush and (Defence) Secretary James Forrestal."

### Belonged To Group

The fact that then CIA Director Hillenkoetter is designated as MJ-1 in the memo, confirms in Friedman's view, that he belonged to the MJ-12 group whose existence is further emphasized in a recently declassified document Friedman obtained from the United States National Archives.

Marked Top Secret Restricted Security Information and bearing the typed name "Robert Cutler, Special Assistant to the President", the July 11, 1954 memorandum advises Air Force General Nathan Twining (who eventually headed the American air force) that "the President has decided that the MJ-12 SSP briefing should take place during the already scheduled White House meeting of July 16..."

Among the documents released by Friedman is a 1981 telex sent to 120 offices of the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations advising them that they would probably be receiving information requests from Friedman regarding UFO sightings.

"Respond directly to the requestor as follows: Quote Request for information from AFOSI files must be processed by our headquarters. Please re-submit your request to HQS AFOSI, Information Release Division, Bolling AFB, DC 20332."

The memo is signed by N.D. Lawrence, from the headquarters of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

The "special procedure" the memo put in place to deal with Friedman's requests and others having to do with UFOs "is in effect until further notice."

That policy, in itself, is enough to pique a person's curiosity in Friedman's "Cosmic Watergate" theory.