

And now ... if you've read enough about the election, here's news from another world

Close encounters of an alien kind

BODIES of four 'aliens' from a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) were recovered and examined by a special American Government team 40 years ago, according to a top-secret 'document' obtained by a British researcher.

A bitter debate is now likely to develop among UFO experts over the existence of a mysterious committee, code-named Majestic-12, which is supposed to have examined the aliens.

The highly classified briefing paper claims that the then head of the CIA, Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, reported that 'although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development have apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in *homo sapiens*.'

The document, which has been shown to *The Observer* by Timothy Good, Britain's leading UFO researcher, purports to be a briefing paper for President-elect Eisenhower on Operation Majestic-12, also known as MJ-12.

In his book, 'Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up,' to be published by Sidgwick & Jackson on 9 July, Mr Good claims that MJ-12 was a committee of senior US officials which investigated and then covered

up news of flying saucer crashes.

Other UFO experts believe the story could be a hoax involving the planting of a fake supporting White House memo in the files of Air Force Intelligence and then getting the National Archives officially to declassify a forged document.

The Eisenhower briefing paper, dated 18 November, 1952, claims the MJ-12 committee had been set up by his predecessor, President Truman, on 24 September, 1947, as a 'top secret research and development/intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States.'

The document reports that on 24 June 1947, 'disc-shaped aircraft' were sighted in the United States.

'Little was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico, about 75 miles north-west of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

'On 7 July 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site.'

by MARTIN BAILEY

According to the briefing paper: 'All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week of time which had elapsed before their discovery.

'A covert analytical effort resulted in a preliminary consensus (19 September 1947) that the disc was most likely a short-range reconnaissance craft ...

The Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that imposition of the strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new Administration.'

Inquiries by *The Observer* at the National Archives, the archives of former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and the National Security Council archives, have been unable to authenticate the briefing paper. They all say that extensive searches have failed to locate copies of the document.

There is, however, new evidence from the files of US Intelligence that a secret group called MJ-12 did exist. This is a White House memorandum to General Twining informing him about an 'MJ-12' briefing for President Eisenhower. It was declassified on 12 January 1987.

The White House memorandum was described by the National

Archives last week as 'a very strange document.'

Archivist Joanna Williamson said: 'It was found in the files of the US Air Force's Director of Intelligence and is certainly genuine, but we have found no minutes of the MJ-12 meeting, which was scheduled for just two days later. It is very surprising that there are no other papers on MJ-12, and we have no idea what it was.'

If the White House memorandum is genuine, this proves the existence of an MJ-12 group whose responsibility could have covered UFOs. This would then strengthen Mr Good's view that there was a cover-up of the discovery of dead aliens. However, US UFO writer Mr Bary Greenwood has raised an intriguing question suggesting that there could have been a very sophisticated fraud.

'There are some things that look wrong with the White House memo. For example, it is unsigned. It is just possible that it was manufactured by someone wanting to prove the existence of MJ-12 and then inserted into Air Force Intelligence records which had recently been opened up to the public.

'The hoaxer could then have ordered a copy from the National Archives which would carry the official declassification stamp. MJ-12 may well have existed but more research is needed to authenticate the documents,' he said.

WARNING: This is a TOP SECRET - EYES ONLY document containing compartmentalized information essential to the national security of the United States. EYES ONLY ACCESS to the material herein is strictly limited to those possessing Majestic-12 clearance

ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage

Extract from the Majestic-12 'document.'

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