

BOOK REVIEW

Mum's the word but flying saucers exist

words are deleted. Apparently information is not so free as one might think it should be.

In the United States, material related to UFO investigations has a security classification higher than that of even the most sensitive defence secrets, including advanced nuclear weapons — hence this book's title.

Good presents his subject matter on a country-by-country basis; as such its scope and thoroughness are impressive. He spent 20 years compiling this material. While information from Britain and the U.S. is the most copious and most startling, the chapter on Canada holds much that will surprise, and even shock, most Canadians.

Back in 1950, Wilbert Smith, a scientist working for the government recommended a research project be set up to study UFOs. In a memo, he wrote, "We believe that we are on the track of something which may well prove to be the introduction to a new technology." Through discreet inquiries made at the Canadian embassy in Washington he had learned, he said, that the U.S. government had considered the matter of UFOs

to be of the most tremendous significance since retrieving parts of a crashed flying saucer near Roswell, New Mexico. "The existence of a different technology (was) borne out by the investigations" subsequently embarked on, Smith added.

The Canadian government was not slow to accept Smith's recommendation. By the end of 1950 Project Magnet had been established, although official sources denied the true function of Smith and his team.

Yet in 1953 Smith filed a report on Project Magnet which stated, "... we are faced with a substantial probability of the real existence of extraterrestrial vehicles, regardless of whether they fit into our scheme of things..." The government neither endorsed nor rejected this report, emphasizing it merely represented the views of researchers involved, not any official opinion.

Smith, however, went on to receive funding to set up a UFO detecting station at Shirley's Bay, outside Ottawa, with sophisticated registering devices including a gamma ray counter, a magnetometer, a radio receiver and a recording gravimeter. Even on the day the station went into operation a Dr. Solandt, on behalf of the government, was vigorously denying its existence. In fact the building housing the detecting equipment was loaned to Smith by the Defence Research Board, of which Dr. Solandt was chairman!

How far did Smith get with his work? Good quotes a letter written by him in 1959 to a friend: "For your information

every nation on this planet has been officially informed of the existence of the spacecraft and their occupants from elsewhere, and as nations they must accept responsibility for any lack of action or for any official position which they may take."

Unofficially, Wilbert Smith made no secret of his opinion that contact had been established with the occupants of UFOs.

AROUND the world the story is virtually the same — intense governmental interest and stringent denial. Good shows that tens of thousands of additional documents are still being withheld in the name of national security — even after statements like the following one, issued by former CIA director Admiral Hillenkoetter in 1961: "It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings... through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense."

Nearly 30 years later, Good points out, we are still being misled. This remarkable work deserves our closest attention — its contents cannot be dismissed. In fact, the reason behind the cover-up seems almost as mystifying as the information that is being covered up. After all, contact with extraterrestrial intelligences must surely rank as one of the most significant events in human history.

Paul William Roberts' novel, *The Palace of Fears*, will be published by Random House in 1989.

Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up

by Timothy Good
Macmillan, 592 pages, \$24.95

By Paul Roberts

It's no exaggeration to say that this is the most significant book ever written about unidentified flying objects. In fact I would go as far as to suggest its contents will engage anyone — whether they're interested in UFOs or not. With a foreword by the former British chief of defence staff, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, *Above Top Secret* is a very serious book, ostensibly concerned with government cover-ups regarding the investigation of UFOs, yet revealing in the process what amounts to conclusive proof that such phenomena exist.

Yes, flying saucers are real — and your government knows it. So why are they keeping you in the dark? Even Lord Hill-Norton has no explanation for this. He writes that "there have been thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of sightings and encounters... by people all over the world whose evidence on any other subject would be accepted without question."

Under the freedom of information laws, British broadcaster and lecturer Timothy Good has assembled government documents from many countries that clearly might relate to the topic if only they were legible. Entire pages are blacked out — "For security reasons" —