

One summer's day in 1947, a spaceship crashed in the New Mexico desert. Four small, dead aliens and their craft were spirited away, to become a State secret for the next forty years. So says Stanton T. Friedman, atomic scientist and UFO believer. This weekend, he will try to persuade British audiences to believe, too . . . Moira Martingale reports

# UFO:

## Was there something?

**Y**es, Santa, you *do* have to watch out for Flying Saucers on your way to our chimney-tops. And even if recent reports of a spaceship landing in Russia did originate in a vodka bottle, there *are* such things as Aliens From Outer Space . . . That, this weekend, is the message that Stanton Friedman will be trying to hammer home, in lectures to UFO addicts in Sheffield and Manchester. Friedman, whose professional background is in advanced nuclear and space systems in American industry, has been a UFO-ologist for more than 30 years.

Back in 1970, he was working on his country's Pioneer space probes 10 and 11, which went to Jupiter and Saturn. Around that time, he began his travels around America, lecturing on UFO reports.

One of Friedman's pet topics on the subject was the strange case of the Roswell Incident. The incident in which, if the tales are true, an alien spaceship crashed into the New Mexico desert, 75 miles from a United States Army Air Force base outside the township of Roswell.

There was a tiny flurry of publicity, though a world just emerging from a gigantic war had more pressing matters to think about. And then . . . nothing. The American Government, it seemed, clammed up. There was no spaceship, they let it be known. Just a wandering weather balloon. *No* spaceship. *No* visiting aliens. End of drama. Leave

it to the B movies. Once Stanton T. Friedman took an interest in the story, he began to have doubts. Ten years ago he set out to prove that there was more to this tale than a balloon that lost its way. Government sources were not forthcoming. If it wasn't true, it just wasn't true. If it was a secret, it really *was* a secret.

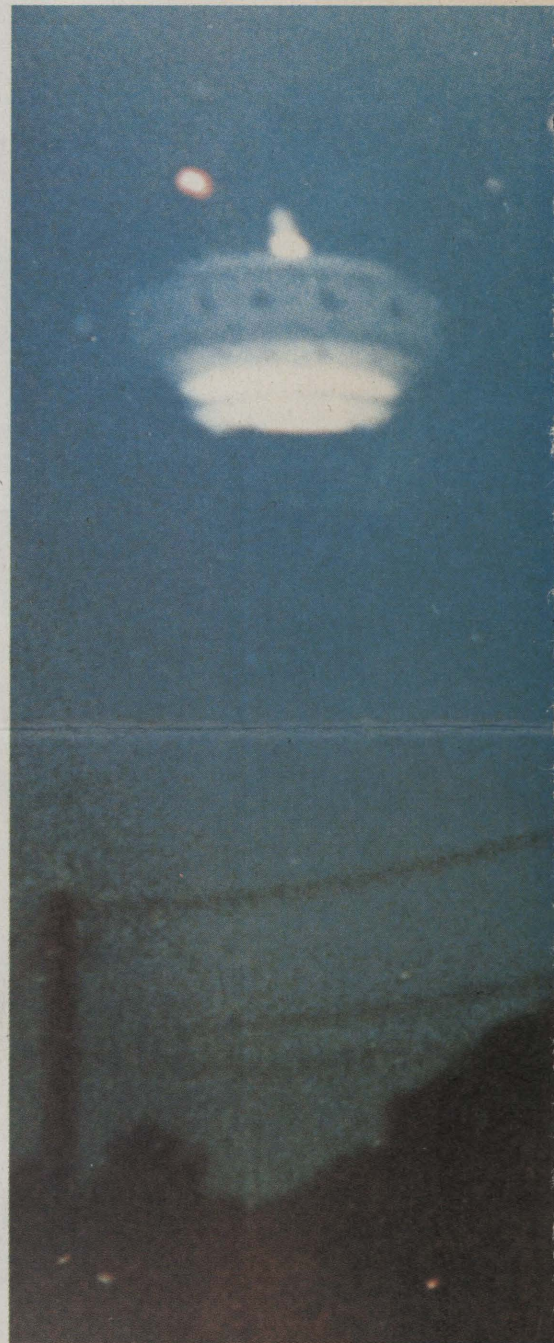
Then, according to Friedman, the key was dropped into his hand. A brown envelope was delivered to him anonymously. In it were copies of various documents that seemed to be secret and from somewhere deep inside the White House . . .

**TOP SECRET . . . EYES ONLY . . .** was the stamp on most of the documents, which bore dates between 1947 (Year One of the UFO) and 1954. And if even one of these documents is genuine, it means that for the past 42 years, successive American governments have suppressed the most astonishing story ever untold.

From this point on, either you believe or you don't believe. This, take it or leave it, is the astonishing story so far . . .


The supposed White House papers reveal a close-knit, inner-circle committee called Majestic-12 (shortened to Majic-12 or MJ-12) 'a *Top Secret* Research and Development Intelligence Operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States'.

Among the documents which Stanton Friedman relies on in his pro-UFO campaign is one which appears to describe the astounding events of July,




1947 when, 'A local rancher reported that [a UFO] had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico.

'On July 7, 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. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during approximately one week time period which had elapsed. A special



Alien spaceship? Homespun hoax? Spacecraft pictures abound. These, to appear in a book next March, are among 30 snapped by Edward Walters at Gulf Breeze, California, over an 18 month period. The top one, Walters says, was taken at 5.03pm on November 20, 1987. The lower picture was taken nine days earlier, at 5pm on November 11. American physicist Bruce Maccabee, UFO-photo expert and UFO Research Fund chairman, says, 'I haven't found anything wrong with them.'



scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. News reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon. A covert analytical effort resulted in a preliminary consensus (September 19, 1947) that the disc was most likely a short range reconnaissance craft. This conclusion was based for the most part on the craft's size and the apparent lack of any identifiable provisioning. . .'

A list of Majestic-12 members in a document 'prepared on 18 November, 1952' includes Dr

Detlev Bronk. According to one of Friedman's windfall papers, it was a Dr Bronk who arranged an analysis of the four dead occupants of the crashed spacecraft and it reported: 'It was the tentative conclusion of this group (30 November, 1947) that although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in homo-sapiens. Dr Bronk's team has suggested the term "Extraterrestrial Biological Entities", or "EBE's", be adopted as the standard term of reference for these creatures until such time as a

more definitive designation can be agreed upon'.

These creatures, according to another scientist, Dr Robert Sarbacher, were 'constructed like certain insects we have observed on earth'. Sarbacher was at Roswell the day a research party went out to bring in the dead aliens and their spaceship. Sarbacher had more pressing things to do: he did not go out himself but in a letter he allegedly wrote to a publishing researcher, he told what the men on the spot told *him* when they returned. 'I got the impression,' Sarbacher wrote, 'that these "aliens" were constructed like certain insects we have observed on earth. Lightweight... sufficient to ▶

## 'I'm sure for aliens we're a primitive, tribal society'

An anonymous tip-off convinced Stanton Friedman (right) that the Roswell Incident – a UFO and alien sighting – did happen



withstand the tremendous deceleration and acceleration associated with their machinery. . .

As relayed by Sarbacher, materials from the alien space-wreck were 'extremely light and very tough'.

There was even someone who was actually there and actually saw something. Jesse Marcel was an Air Force major, the highest-ranking intelligence officer at Roswell Air Base when the whole drama happened (or didn't).

According to Stanton Friedman, the Major, in 1978, described the crashed spaceship as made of lightweight material 'like metal foil but not metal foil. Small lightweight bars, like balsa wood, with strange, unidentifiable writing on them'. The Major, unfortunately, is now dead.

If any of this ever happened at all, the bodies of the four EBEs were taken to the Roswell air base hospital. Stanton Friedman has talked to a mortician (undertaker) who was working there who says he was not allowed in on the post-mortem examination, tried to get a closer look, and was thrown out. But, Friedman claims, the mortician's girlfriend, a nurse, did see the alien corpses and even made sketches.

Friedman, unfortunately, does not feel free to name the mortician or the nurse, for fear of embarrassing them. He does feel able, though, to say with confidence, 'The bodies [of the aliens] were separated from the wreckage and they were not in good shape. Out in the July desert in New Mexico for several days, they wouldn't be.

'They were dark blue. Two of them were in worse shape than the others. The nurse was pretty upset, the autopsy reports are classified. I'd give my left arm to get hold of those. I suspect the bodies were later carried off to a lab at Wright Fields, near Dayton, Ohio.'

Why should Extraterrestrial Beings visit our planet and – if some alleged victims are to be believed – abduct earthlings, subject them to intimate physical examinations and even take some joyriding in the spaceship before clearing off to the stars again?

Friedman says, 'You have to assume that an advanced alien civilisation is concerned with its own safety. I'm sure that, for them, we are a tribal, primitive society concerned with warfare, but there probably isn't more than one civilisation going through our stage of space travel. We are in the process of reaching for the stars.

'From *their* viewpoint, it's necessary to do an inventory on this budding civilisation and how these kindergarteners will fit into the Space com-

munity. You either live in peace with your neighbours or you get clobbered.'

So: are these aliens friendly? Friedman thinks not. 'But I don't see them as hostile, either,' he says. 'I think they're neutral, clinical, doing their own thing. They're here to do a job. They're not here to cure cancer and so on. They are concerned with their own survival.'

What, 42 years after the supposed alien crash-landing, do the American authorities have to say about it? Not, in fact, a lot. . .

The Central Intelligence Agency, responsible for spotting and beating threats to United States security everywhere, from anywhere, say, 'We don't know anything about this. It sounds a little far off, to me. Try the FBI.'

The Federal Bureau of Investigation says, 'We don't have anything to do with UFOs. Get in touch with our Freedom of Information Act people. We might have something on MJ-12. We might not.'

The Freedom of Information Act Office (care of the FBI) states, 'I know we have received requests in the past for reports on UFOs, but whether they concerned this particular incident in Roswell, I don't know. MJ-12, that name is vaguely familiar – it may be incorporated in the UFO material. We have available one thousand six hundred and ninety-four pages on the subject of UFOs. Copies are available on request. But we only have eight thousand requests pending. It might be two years before your request is answered.'

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which runs America's own roving-rocket programmes, comments, 'All inquiries regarding UFOs are directed to the UFO Reporting Centre.'

At the UFO Reporting Centre, a non-government body, a spokesman said, 'We know Stanton Friedman. He has been a major investigator of the Roswell incident for several years and is a world authority on this. There has never been any official admission from the government that MJ-12 existed, but Friedman has the documents to prove his claim. I am satisfied that MJ-12 did exist although there is no evidence it exists today.'

A United States Air Force spokeswoman confirmed that there was once a committee called Project Bluebook, which investigated UFO sightings. It was eventually shut down, she said, because 'No UFO investigated ever indicated a threat to the security of the United States; No evidence emerged that the technology behind any reported UFOs was beyond our scientific knowledge; No evidence was found that UFOs were of extraterrestrial origin.'

And what of Majestic-12? 'The only thing that is filed under Majestic is about a World War Two operation in the Pacific.'

**PLUS**

■ Stanton T. Friedman will be talking at Sheffield Central Library Theatre, October 28, 1.30-5.00pm and at Radcliffe Civic Centre, Manchester, October 29, 7-10pm.

■ The UK Independent UFO Network hotline number is 0924 444049.

## WHAT DO ALIENS LOOK LIKE?



Close encounters of the extra-terrestrial kind reported by five different people on five different occasions have yielded remarkably similar descriptions, enabling these identikit pictures of the average alien to be produced. According to the late Dr J Allan Heineck, veteran UFO

consultant with the US Air Force who set up the Centre for UFO Studies in the USA, he, she (or it?) is a bald, big-headed humanoid, 4 feet to 4 feet 6 inches tall with a greyish complexion, no prominent features (including a nose), a slit for a mouth and dark eyes with no pupils.