



The Monthly Newsletter
of the
Fair-Witness Project, inc.

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Vol. II. No. 12 (Eight pages)

DECEMBER 1, 1987 @FWP, Inc.

WHO STANDS BEHIND BILLY MEIER?

(A FOCUS EXCLUSIVE)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It goes without saying that a case is only as good as the evidence behind it; yet that evidence, in turn, is only as good as the people it must filter through before being reported. If some reason exists for us to suspect that those people may be unduly biased or prejudiced, or that they may be generally unreliable as reporters, then the entire body of the "evidence" they stand behind must also come under question. This, indeed, is one of the major problems with the mushrooming Billy Meier cult here in the U.S. Virtually ALL of the evidence available to American researchers and journalists has come to us from sources who are either unwilling or unable to provide the sufficiently complete and untainted body of evidence required to enable any sort of reasonable judgement to be made. Rather, we are left with an incredible collection of may-be-facts which originate either with Billy himself or with those immediately around him who have undertaken, for whatever reason, to proclaim his case to the world. [This, unfortunately, also includes author Gary Kinder, of Light Years fame, who states, quite unabashedly in the introduction to his book, that the Genesis III group "will receive a percentage of (the book's) royalties."]

One thing about this case that is not generally known is that early on, Eduard "Billy" Meier entered into a confidential contract with the Genesis III group, making them, in essence, his agents in the U.S., and granting them exclusive rights to tell his story here. He, in turn, would supply them with whatever information they needed to do the job. [I saw a copy of this agreement in Los Angeles in 1981. W.L.M.] This alone, by whatever standard of ethics you care to apply, is more than sufficient to remove the "objective investigators" label from the Genesis III group, and place them more properly in the category of "friendly biographers"-- a place they can hold with pride right alongside Desmond Leslie who played a similar role in the George Adanski affair.

We hold no quarrel with biographers. In such a role, objec-

tive investigation and an impartial reporting of the facts is neither always necessary nor always required. Our problem with the Billy Meier case is that his biographers seem to have been somehow transformed, in the public's eye, into a team of impartial, totally objective, eminently qualified "investigators" whose every utterance should be unquestionably accepted as the final word on the matter. Equally inexcusable is that the group seems to go out of its way to further just such an image at every opportunity, while at the same time refusing to cooperate with truly objective outside sources whose expertise, given unrestricted access to the facts, might well go a long way towards solving the matter of Billy Meier's veracity once and for all.

Just who are these people who comprise "Genesis III"? What do we know about them which might shed some light on their motives, the accuracy of their reportage, and ultimately upon Billy Meier himself and his claimed contacts from the Pleiades? It is in the hope of answering some of these questions that FOCUS has decided to publish the following "Open Letter" from Phoenix based broadcaster, lecturer, writer and long-time UFO researcher Mr. Hal Starr. In doing so, we wish to make it eminently clear to our readers that while we have taken such reasonable steps to verify accuracy as are required by journalistic ethics, the responsibility for the content of this material and the views expressed therein rest solely with Mr. Starr himself, and not with either FOCUS, its editors, or any other person connected with the Fair-Witness Project, Inc. Rather, we publish this material strictly as a service to our readers, at the same time recognizing our obligation to run such material of an opposing point of view as is submitted to us in a reasonable and timely manner.)

The Editors.

THE TEXT OF HAL STARR'S LETTER BEGINS ON PAGE 3...



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FOCUS is a monthly newsletter, published by the Fair-Witness Project, Inc., a non-profit organization incorporated in Delaware, and registered as a foreign corporation in the state of California.



Publisher: The Fair-Witness Project, Inc.

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-- MJ-12 UPDATE --

FOCUS readers are advised that the most recent update on the status of the continuing MJ-12 document controversy is Stanton T. Friedman's lengthy "MJ-12: THE EVIDENCE SO FAR" which appears on pages 13-20 of the September-October issue of "International UFO Reporter" published by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (2457 Peterson Av., Evanston, IL 60659). Copies of the entire issue (which contains several other pieces of interest including one on "The Cover-up in England" by Jenny Randles and an update on abductions by Budd Hopkins) can be obtained directly from "CUFOS", or readers may obtain xerographic copies of Friedman's article (only) by writing to us here at F.W.P. (A \$.39 stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated to help defray expenses.)

In addition, F.W.P. is actively seeking donations to enable us to continue to assist in funding further research into the MJ-12 affair. The Moore-Shandera-Friedman team, working closely with Dr. Maccabee and his associates at the Fund for UFO Research, as well as the staff of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, has decided to submit the most important of the MJ-12 documents to professional questioned-document experts whose opinion would go a long way towards determining the authenticity of this material. We understand the cost of this undertaking will be several thousand dollars. F.W.P., in its role as an independent, non-profit corporate entity, has decided to assist in this effort. We ask FOCUS subscribers to support us in any way you can. Donations are tax-deductable, and may be earmarked specifically for use in MJ-12 related research. All contributions will be acknowledged in writing. We sincerely hope you will help!

FINALLY...

We wish to express our thanks to all of our good friends who were so kind as to send us cards over the recent holidays! To you, and to all of our faithful subscribers and supporters, our very best wishes for a truly Happy New Year!



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AN OPEN LETTER
ON THE GENESIS III BUNCH
By Hal Starr

Things are getting out of hand. They're just getting completely out of hand. What started as a minor story about a self-appointed guru in an obscure area of Switzerland has mushroomed into a world-wide cult with some followers holding surprisingly good credentials. Whether some of these sheep have lost their credibility since acquiring their credentials, are a part of some kind of scheme to destroy serious research into UFOs, or whether they have such an insatiable desire to believe that they will embrace any concept, however bizarre, is difficult to determine. Describing the cult of Meier as "mushrooming" is really using an appropriate word, because the shape of cloud we associate with nuclear detonation portends the same disastrous consequences to the entire field of UFOlogy if the cult with its wild flights of fantasy is permitted to spread unchecked.

This paper is in essence an opening argument and a presentation of evidence to make it perfectly clear to all that the Eduard "Billy" Meier case is really not a case at all, but rather appears to be the result of someone having consumed an entire case. Humorous arguments for the defense are eagerly awaited. We need more laughs in UFOlogy. The prosecution proceeds.

So, what is the history of this movement, and who are its cast of characters? And is it at all reminiscent of the Rajneesh, the self-annointed Indian guru whose religious commune Oregonians recently succeeded in removing from their midst? Judge for yourselves.

Eduard "Billy" Meier has a very colorful background which reportedly includes (you guessed it!) time spent in an Ashram in India, and strange associations and activities in Turkey and Greece where he realized little success and less acceptance. Now he is in Switzerland where he has been more successful in establishing his order. He has learned quickly from prior failures.

And now, just as he has in the past, Meier spouts a strange mixture of philosophy and religion, albeit from a fresh source: "OUT THERE"! He has managed to escape ten (count 'em), ten assassination attempts, one at very close range with a heavy gauge shotgun. His experiences are an inspiration to the many "cops and robbers" TV shows where the hero always manages to escape. It is said that the assassins are experts operating at the behest of powerful forces dedicated to silencing Meier. (Yet how powerful can such a group be,

and how good its "experts" if they fail so often?) And in spite of it all, he has now gathered his flock about him under his protective cloak of sweetness and light according to the Gospel of St. Pleiades.

Add to his expertise an astounding agility in the one-handed use of a 35mm. camera (shooting from the hip, no less!), an 8mm. movie camera, a tape recorder, model-making of the "space ships", and a sheer volume of writing that would stagger many professionals-- writing which often brings a tear to the eye, a feeling of great exhilaration, and an excited pounding in the chest, urging all to attain greater heights of glory and accomplishment.

When highly detailed and exact models of the "beam" ships Meier said he had photographed were found in his trash to be disposed of, it was naturally suspected that these, in fact, were the actual subjects of his photographs rather than the real UFOs he claimed to have seen. Not so, however, according to Meier, who maintained that his only intention had been to construct models of the ships he had seen as a matter of record and as a sort-of hobby. Question: Were not the pictures of the "real" things, if indeed they WERE real, sufficient? And more importantly, after all that work to so painstakingly construct such detailed models for posterity, WHY would anyone want to throw them away?

The pictures are magnificent. They would do justice to any special effects lab in Hollywood. That is, some of them would. In others, it is easy to detect the string or wire from which the "space ship" is suspended. There is also a picture of one of these "cosmonauts": a beautiful blonde allegedly known as Semjase, whose picture appears out of focus as though it were taken from a printed page. Indeed, I have been told that the very same shot appeared in a West German publication which carried an advertisement using this lady as a model. Times must be tough in the Pleiades if the ship's Captain is forced to work on an inferior planet. The other "cosmonauts" names are fascinating... two of them especially. There's Ptaah, whom I recall was a god in ancient Egypt. Also, we find the name Quetzal, which is the name of an exotic bird (also revered as a god) in Central America-- a place where "chief investigator" Wendelle Stevens spent much of his time while flying used warplanes to banana republics.

And then there is the case of the "disappearing tree"-- now you see it, now you don't. The only thing missing are the walnut shells the carnival man uses to hide the pea under. There is a very pretty tree in one picture, but a later shot of the same area discloses no tree! We have several explanations about this. Either the tree was a teeny, tiny sprig of wood on a table top, or as was explained one time, had a hole in it from a blast by a cosmonaut's ray gun (perhaps it died under fire), or as Wendelle Stevens once so adroitly explained, "It was transported to another time frame." (!) Take your pick; and you probably can, because it may have been little larger than a toothpick.

Some say they have been touched and anointed by the man who, I am told, claims he has gone back in time to be blessed by

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none other than Jesus himself as the Thirteenth Apostle. Indeed, time travel seems to be quite ordinary with "Billy", for numbered among his other claims is an alleged trip to the future where he personally witnessed (and photographed) the destruction of San Francisco by earthquake; a trip to the prehistoric past to photograph dinosaurs amidst pyramids (!); a voyage into space to visit various planets and to personally witness the link-up of American and Soviet spacecraft (1975); and a trip to the far reaches of the universe where he allegedly photographed what his cosmonaut friends told him was God's eye (which turned out to be the ring nebula in the constellation Lyra).

The Meier case has enjoyed a great deal of publicity, much of it originated by those who have some financial stake in the affair and who thus cannot afford to have the matter exposed for what it really is. Since most of the information available here in the U.S. has been made public through just such biased channels, getting to the facts behind the stories has not always been easy and has sometimes bordered on impossible. Proponents of the case have almost universally to "come clean" and permit independent assessment of the "evidence" upon which their bizarre claims are based.

Followers of Meier are an assorted lot and include a number of people with strange histories. While some of his associations have been with people of good repute, all too frequently the backgrounds and qualifications of people involved with promoting the case have turned out to be somewhat less than desirable.

One of the earliest investigators of Meier's Hollywood-perfect pictures and strange stories was the late Lou Zinsstag of Basle, Switzerland. Ms. Zinsstag was the grand niece of the famous psychologist Dr. Carl Jung, and often shared her UFO pictures with him because he was interested in the phenomenon and felt there was real substance to it. Lou also bought the George Adanski case, but she couldn't buy this one.

The well-known British researcher, Timothy Good of London, was next on the list of investigators. Not only does he maintain a very low opinion of the case, but his opinions are actually quite damning to it.

Then came the Phoenix Foursome.

Perhaps I should refer to them as the Fearsome Foursome, because they will threaten to sue at the drop of a hat. I have really lost count of the number of times their fearless leader has threatened legal action against a wide variety of

serious researchers seeking the truth. One does not dare express a contrary opinion about the Meier case without risk of litigation. I have often wondered why. Is it because after getting more deeply into the case a hoax was discovered, but the Genesis gang was by that time so completely involved and monetarily committed that it became impossible to back out--not to mention embarrassing and costly? Is it because they aren't making enough money on the Meier case and think they can pick up a few bucks in a lawsuit? Or is their fear of the ultimate disclosure of truth so great that they have become just naturally nasty?

So you see, for daring to disclose the truth and suggesting ulterior motives, I stand a very good chance of being sued. But, I have been threatened before, like when:

I first heard that this gang of four was trying to raise money to publish "UFO... Contact from the Pleiades, Volume I"-- a book they called fact, but a book that the great majority of the world's UFOlogists and scientists subsequently called fiction, hoax, fraud, etc. (So many others condemned it, in fact, that when the smoke cleared virtually the only ones left to endorse it were those who were either close friends of the promoters or financially involved with them.) The controversy had only just begun, however, when I was informed that the Genesis III bunch were about to conclude a deal with a very good friend of mine, Mike Osborn, who had been the owner of a good-sized and very prestigious advertising agency in Phoenix, Arizona. He was to supervise the production of this very expensive effort.

But mostly, he discovered to his chagrin, he was to supply the money. Mike was fascinated with the concept of "flying saucers", and, I suspect, I am at fault there, because I had discussed the subject with him at length years earlier. He, like many of us, had a desire to really believe in them. And he, like many of us, was eager to accept a story without careful investigation. I, too, have been guilty of such an attitude before I grew up and realized there were charlatans out there.

Mike was invited to examine the pictures, all carefully pre-selected for his viewing pleasure. He was excited by their beauty and clarity. Hearing this, I phoned Mike and suggested he look into the case and the people more carefully before he committed a rather large sum of money. He now admits he didn't look carefully enough. Neither did Collins Publishing, Word Distributors, Inc., which printed the book and was to be paid by Genesis III directly. Collins, like Osborn, never collected his money either. Ultimately, his company was forced into bankruptcy when they were unable to make payment for special equipment they had purchased in order to be able to print the out-sized color pictures used in the book. According to Collins, his involvement with Genesis III had cost him over \$40,000. (Both the Osborn and the Collins affair spawned separate lawsuits against Genesis III alleging a variety of fraudulent practices and misrepresentations. Records of the fraudulent claims and counter-claims are on file in Phoenix, Arizona. Ed.)



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But getting back to Mike Osborn, it seems that he casually mentioned to Lee Elders, leader of the Fearsome Foursome, that I had called. Elders, suspecting my opinion of the case because of my involvement in serious research for prior decades, immediately phoned me and threatened to sue for my having the temerity to suggest investigation before investment. He said I was trying to "queer the deal" and was engaging in character assassination. Considering the mild tone of my advice and the brevity of my recommendation to Mike, it apparently would not take much to complete the job of questioning his character. Anyway, being threatened by Elders with a lawsuit puts me in the best of company.

Quite a few people who have tangled with Elders insist his violent reaction to contrary opinion borders upon paranoia and have so expressed themselves publicly and frequently. Someone, it has yet to be proven who, has even stooped to sending letters to many in the UFO community-- letters with forged signatures designed to create mistrust and confusion, and making the apparent sender look heartless or criminal. The only aspect not yet proven, but highly suspect, is exactly who mailed the missives. The signatures, badly done, are always of someone in the process of condemning the Meier case.

In addition to Lee Elders, there is his wife, Brit Nilsson-Elders, who works with him in what they call "Intercep". They say this is a counter-espionage company engaged by very large corporations to de-bug offices of electronics eavesdropping equipment. I could never find a list of their clients, and when I asked Elders one time for the names of some of them, I got no satisfaction. Nor have I ever seen any of the reportedly sophisticated equipment they say they use. I do know, however, that their "office" was in the corner of the living room of a small apartment in a middle-class Phoenix neighborhood.

Then there is Tom Welch who assisted Elders in the preparation and promotion of the pretty picture book. Welch also got to make some trips to Switzerland-- something most buyers of their fiction could never afford. It was he who was chosen to sign his name to a nice silver seal on the fly leaf attesting to the book's authenticity. Other than that, I am not sure what he did.

Next we come to Lt.Col. Wendelle Castyle Stevens (USAF,Retd.) who is presently serving time in the Arizona State Prison for several counts of admitted child molestation of several very young girls. He and Meier's other followers claim he was "railroaded" by a neighbor to whom he refused to loan money. But besides her daughter, there were two other young girls,

with the total number of counts handed down by the Grand Jury numbering sixteen. Wendelle copped a plea, bargaining the accusations down to one count of molestation of each of the three young girls in exchange for the dropping of charges related to his allegedly taking pictures of the kids engaging in sexual acts and furnishing children with explicit pornographic materials. He was sentenced to seven years on each count to run concurrently with no possibility of parole under Arizona law. (Stevens is scheduled for release in mid-1988.)

My wife and I had always wondered about Wendelle's private life, but said nothing because it certainly was no business of ours. But, now that his actions are a matter of public record, I can reveal that we had visited Wendelle at his home on several occasions when we surprised him with our arrival. Sometimes it would take him quite a while to answer the door wearing only his shorts. On more than one occasion, Wendelle would seat us in his living room in such a position that we did not have a very good view of the rest of the house, but alas, a lass could be seen attempting a very rapid exit before being detected by us. And, the young lady would be quite young and not really dressed for public view on the street. While other of Wendelle's and Meier's less informed followers have steadfastly claimed he was "railroaded" into prison as a result of some infamous plot to keep him quiet about UFOs and get him out of circulation, the facts of this matter really do speak for themselves. (Besides, Mr. Stevens has hardly been "quiet" on the subject of UFOs while in prison. Just consider the number of books he has published since 1981-- most with the unqualified backing of a Colorado millionaire who also believes in Meier. No evidence of suppression here.)

Wendelle is a very pleasant man whom I have always instinctively liked, and, guilty or not, he is still a very likeable guy. Still, I never could quite understand how he could confide in some that nowhere in the Pleiades book did he ever say the pictures were real! Nor could I understand how, from his huge collection of UFO pictures, he would never publicly admit that some were certainly phoney-- even though he would make that admission privately. If you didn't press him for his opinion, you would never know, but rather would go happily on your way thinking you had some very good pictures for very little cost. (Oh, yes. He sold them.) This says a lot for his enthusiasm, but little for his sincerity. Yet this is the man whose character and veracity we are asked to accept as "Chief Investigator" of the Billy Meier case!

My first Close Encounter of the Thurd Kind with Elders came about quite by accident when a friend, Jay Edwards, whose father was very well-known and well-heeled, mentioned to me that he was being asked to be the go-between for raising money to shoot a high budget motion picture about the Meier case. Specifically, Jay was to help extract money from his father for this venture which he had reason to expect was legitimate. Jay insisted I accompany him to a luncheon meeting with Elders because of my expertise, but Elders, who would know me by sight because of TV appearances, was unaware I was coming. When Elders saw me walking in with Jay Edwards, his face fell and he looked very unhappy, not to mention ner-

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vous. In case you were wondering, the deal did not go through.

Then there was Russ Grisson whom I have also always liked. I even attended his wedding, presents in hand. But I have never understood the conflicting reports on his activities. His very sincere appearance as he recounted his trips to see Meier in the very early days of Wendelle's investigations, and how Meier wanted only that the truth should be known, conflicted with what a lady he had been living with before his marriage told me. She recited chapter and verse how he would mumble in strange languages, a sort of "speaking in tongues" routine in his sleep; how he would act very mysterious, claiming he was really from another planet where he was from a royal family or highly placed leadership, and how he would generally frighten her. She says she most objected to his commandeering her car, stealing her expensive camera, and getting her money from her savings account.

Jimmy Dilettoso has been very active on the Meier circuit. It goes back to the time when he says he was the owner of a company he called "Starship Mentor, Ltd." I never did understand the name. I seldom understood Jimmy. He passes himself off as one of the top experts extant in computer analysis of photography, assuring one and all that he can spot a phoney picture easily. But the Meier pictures? Ah, these are genuine! No question, says Jimmy.

I have always been fascinated by Jimmy's speech pattern. He talks with a certain strident staccato, but rhythmic rondo, more reminiscent of a teletype than a computer. The computer analyses he has conducted or ordered were done on equipment being demonstrated to him by companies who expected to sell some of their units. Unfortunately, there was no sale. Instead, much to their chagrin, they discovered they had been conned into doing a job which would later be distorted so as to leave the impression that they had endorsed certain pictures and performed certain "analytical" functions which they had not. (One company, De Anza Systems of San Jose, California, even considered taking legal action against Dilettoso because of misrepresentations made about them in print in connection with one such demonstration.) Whether fraud or not, Jimmy Dilettoso claims great expertise to anyone who will listen. He has also claimed a degree from the University of Connecticut, although a check with the registrar's office there shows no record of him. Precisely what qualifications he might really possess appear to be anybody's guess--allegations of heavy L.S.D. use notwithstanding. Some of us who have trapped him into revealing ignorance of very basic functions just aren't sure.

There was also Jimmy's partner for a time-- a partner I felt

was becoming weary of his association. This was Michael Tanner, a member of the Tanner Family of multi-purpose companies which have their operations buried deeply in Southwest economy and politics. I have been told at least once by someone who found out the hard way that, however righteous your cause or legally firm your position, you will never win in court against them unless you have also found the right friends in the right places. Michael, I am told by certain of my "friends", also has an uncle who is interested in UFOs and who is very active in the Las Vegas political arena. Of the team of Tanner and Dilettoso, Michael was the quieter, more gentlemanly of the duo. Jimmy sounded, for all his bombastic, specious and often obscene explosions in public, more like he had been taking paranoia lessons from some of his associates.

And then there are the el-Legions, Michael and Aurora, both of the Phoenix area. In case you don't believe that name, be assured that is what they call themselves. They somehow manage to invade just about every UFO event in the area and virtually every talk show on the air which will allow them to give vent to their egos. I have often wondered whether they would have as much attention paid them if they were to use their real names and reveal their real places of birth, which are certainly not, as they claim, off-planet! It is utterly astounding to me how even some talk show hosts can be "snowed" into accepting their story, told poorly and in bad English. Perhaps this is due to the fact that they only learned to speak an earth language without accent recently, rather than in Detroit, from whence they really came. Nevertheless, their unqualified endorsement of Meier sounds like they all ride the same Interstellar Computer-Shuttle to work every day. (I wonder what their outer space friends think about their recent arrest in Hawaii on charges of fraud involving credit cards?)

And there are others-- many others-- who are joining the swelling ranks of the blind followers of Meier wish-wash. It is, perhaps, a sad commentary on UFOlogy in general which has failed to supply fresh answers to old questions. The result is a gathering new-age storm of fanatically faithful followers who, without any way to check the facts on their own, are becoming more vocal and more vociferous with each passing day.

Yet, in all fairness, the Meier case is so alluring that some of the best known, most dedicated researchers into the UFO enigma have also been led down the primrose path before seeing the light. The late Jim Lorenzen, international director of A.P.R.O., was one. His infatuation with the case ended, however, when he looked a bit deeper into people, places and purposes.

The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek participated in the formation of what he thought was to be a pure research facility and repository for UFO data in the Phoenix area. But, as each month dragged by, he saw no real research and none of the money he had been promised would be forthcoming to help fund it. There was, however, plenty of guarded conversation about cases that others in the Phoenix group knew Allen could never accept.

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Principal among these was the Meier case. Tina Choate and Brian Myers, the two who helped Allen found the so-called International Center for UFO Research, were quickly excluded from his operations when Allen began to suspect they were using him only for his name and had interests he could never condone. He washed his hands of them and the organization which they had virtually taken over; even though to this day they continue to infer that they are carrying on his work with his blessing.

In the final months of his life, after he had discovered what had been going on behind his back, Allen completely, and as he said, "I mean completely", disassociated himself from the International Center for UFO Research (ICUFOR), not to be confused with the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR). Brian and Tina have gone on to openly defend, even promote, Meier's legitimacy, even to the extent of presenting his case at a very attractive display they organized where they managed to have Dr. Jacques Vallee speak in Phoenix. Further confusing the similarity of names behind ICUFOR and ICUR, they continue to expand, setting their sights higher on true international operations by holding a July, 1987 meeting in London where they AGAIN got Jacques to speak, inferring he endorsed the Meier case which he, in fact, had previously rejected using words such as "cults" and "hoaxes". Of course, it was simply a coincidence that ICUR (the legitimate international group) had scheduled their annual meeting for the summer of 1987 in London as well.

But now we come to what might very well become the coup-de-grace for the UFO scene. Our Fearsome Foursome convinced (you may drop the middle syllable of that word if you wish) a literary agent that the Meier case was the greatest thing since the touchdown of Noah's ark. While I still wonder how much money the franc Foursome will realize by this ploy in the play, they reportedly approached the literary agent of one Gary Kinder. Kinder supposedly had no knowledge of the UFO scene up to that time, but he was urged to write a book endorsing the Meier case, telling one researcher in a rare moment of candor that he didn't care if the case was fact or fiction, just so long as it made money! Dirty dinero?

Kinder had written just one other book up to this time-- a murder mystery which, as far as I can ascertain, did not set any great sales record. What Kinder's source of income is, I cannot imagine. It is none of my business; but he seems to have spent years investigating and researching, and apparently can afford extensive and costly trips all over the country, indeed, all over the world. Just about every researcher in the field I have talked to was interviewed by Kinder for his book, Light Years. He was at my house twice to see what I

could contribute, and on one occasion I just gave him some tape recordings of UFO cases which I had spent most of the day re-recording for him. Once when I called well-known British researcher Timothy Good in London, there was Kinder sitting in his living room! I also understand he and his family spent months in Switzerland (tough duty) getting information from none other than Meier himself.

What has really upset everyone I have talked to is this: KINDER APPARENTLY WAS SAILING UNDER FALSE COLORS! Had those of us he interviewed known he was going to write fiction about Meier when almost the entire respectable UFO research community had denounced the case, we certainly would not have been so helpful. He told everyone very clearly that he was a neophyte and needed information to write a book about UFO organizations, cases and personalities-- a sort of extension of Dr. David Jacobs' UFO Controversy in America. We all willingly helped him as much as we could, providing everything he might need... except the Meier fiction.

Look how he has repaid us. Read what the publisher's promotional literature says. This from what was a respectable publishing house, Atlantic Monthly Press:

"...his evidence has been analyzed by experts and leading scientists-- including an American security team headed by a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and scientists from NASA. Even the most die-hard skeptics have been unable to disprove Meier's claims. It remains the best documented, most carefully studied, most credible UFO case ever."

The above puffery is so crammed with crap that I hesitate to quote it. Informed readers will recognize it as nothing short of distortion and outright lies, from whatever source. (The principal contact with the publisher appears to have been Jim Dilettoso, Ed.) It got so bad that when top administrators at Atlantic Monthly Press announced they were going to publish Kinder's book with a big hoopla, four of their top staffers left, saying, "The new editors are hyping books about LSD and UFOs... Atlantic is not the house it was when I joined it." One Atlantic defector called the Meier book "absolutely ridiculous."

All of this notwithstanding, Gary Kinder's book, Light Years, came off the press as scheduled in April of this year. According to the publisher, it enjoyed a 50,000 copy first printing, a \$50,000 promotional budget, a twenty-two city national author tour, network TV appearances utilizing film footage taken by Meier, and coast-to-coast radio advertising on CBS. The book was also chosen as Atlantic Monthly's lead "non-fiction" title, and collected numerous floor bids at an international booksellers convention in Frankfurt, Germany.

And, there is the danger! One bad apple, distributed with fanfare and hoopla to an unsuspecting public on an international level and then ultimately exposed as a hoax, can only serve to muddy a state of affairs (UFO research) about which the public is confused enough as it is. But how to police the problem? How to separate the wheat from the chaff

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when the phoney promoters are totally unwilling to submit to any type of close and impartial scrutiny? For example, on one occasion I publicly challenged in an open UFO convention to personally investigate the Meier case. At that point in time, I had not in any manner committed myself to either support or reject the case. I offered to get a sealed and bonded camera from Eastman Kodak in Rochester, N.Y. and travel to see Billy Meier in Switzerland, there to have Meier call his space friends to come and see him-- a feat which the "security team" had previously alleged he could do without any trouble. I would photograph the visitation myself and turn the film over to the Eastman Kodak labs for processing under strict supervision. The challenge was made directly to Wendelle Stevens, who was in the audience, and was intended to once and for all settle the matter under completely neutral and honest conditions. I had sincerely hoped the Meier gang would accept my offer and not force me to call it a challenge.

They declined.

(Just for the record, FOCUS editor William Moore has issued two similar challenges to the Meier promoters over the years-- once to Stevens in 1980, and a second to Diletto in 1986. Both of these involved the presentation of the Meier evidence without restriction to an impartial tri-partite panel of experts. Although Moore offered to cover all expenses and to publicly endorse whatever the panel's finding might be, the offer was flatly rejected twice. On the first of these occasions, the excuse given was that "Billy doesn't care whether people believe him or not"-- this in spite of earlier pronouncements that Mr. Meier was interested only in "truth". The second time, I was rudely informed that Billy's cosmonaut friends from the Pleiades "wouldn't want it that way." The Pleiadeans, I was told, "want humans to accept their reality through faith, not fact." Ed.)

It is now time to rally 'round the flag. It is now time to call a spade a spade. It is now time to reveal some of the things that hitherto have been buried in both memories and filing cabinets. The Meier case has been called a hoax by some of the more daring in times past. It is now being called by a much more serious appellation, one which can be proved with little trouble. It is being called "fraud"! Few people know of the extensive files that have been assembled by myself and others. But they are extensive. They are damning. They are so utterly convincing that anyone who reads them will never again entertain the thought that honesty has played a major part in the promotion of the Meier case.

It is now time to open those files on this attempted abortion of a respectable subject that continues to cry for honest, sincere, scientific examination. Efforts to examine the nature of UFOs through legitimate inquiry and investigation have been discarded by charlatans whose only goal appears to

be cheap fame and dishonest fortune. This article, condemning as it may be, is the opening statement by the prosecution. The pages of FOCUS are open for any legitimate rebuttal by the devious defense. Let's see what they have to say for themselves.

-END-

SO WHERE'S THE REPORT IN QUESTION?

The following excerpt is taken from a draft statement on UFOs apparently prepared by someone in the USAF's G3 section in mid-May, 1950. While the majority of the statement is relatively innocuous, a portion of it seems to indicate the existence of a report on the 1946 Swedish "ghost rocket" flap which has yet to see the light of day. That portion is quoted here for the benefit of researchers who might wish to make use of it in efforts to learn more about this aspect of the UFO phenomenon:

"The present flurry (sic.) of flying saucers, ghost rockets, etc., began in mid-1946 Sweden. Hundreds of people reported seeing strange objects flying over the country. Newspapers speculated (sic.) that they were Soviet guided missiles being tested over the Baltic Sea, either from the former German experimental station at Peenemunde, or from Dago Island off the Estonian Coast. The fact that an experimental V-2 fired by the Germans from Peenemunde had landed in Sweden in 1944 lent credence to their speculation. The Swedish defence (sic.) staff made an investigation and may have deliberately allowed the public to believe this theory for some time for political reasons. Careful investigation by the US Ma (military attache?) and by an independent British team, failed to uncover any evidence to support the theory of Soviet missiles...."

It seems reasonable that this "investigation" produced some sort of written report. Where that report might be, if in fact it still exists, is anybody's guess. If anyone can come up with it, Swedish researchers who currently have a data collection project underway dealing with the 1946 events would very much like to look at it. We here at FWP would too. (WLM)