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JANUARY, 1988

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FACTS ABOUT MJ-12 THAT UFO-BASHERS NEVER MENTION

By Stanton T. Friedman

Of special interest for those with a serious scientific or journalistic or even historical interest in MJ-12 are some of the things Philip Klass doesn't mention at all as well as a few things he has mentioned only to be forced to ignominiously he was wrong about.

For example, he does mention The Roswell Incident by name in the SI article, but not in his CSICOP press release (Ref.3, in the feature article) He also took out his reference to the Bermuda Triangle and did mention that I am a nuclear physicist, presumably responding to my complaint that the latter fact is more important than the former. Naturally he neglects to mention that there have been several papers about Roswell (Ref. 12-15) published since the book and that Moore and I have talked to more than 90 persons in some way connected with Roswell (including five who saw symbols on the wreckage) while he has made no effort to talk to any of these people and made no less than twenty-two factual mistakes in his tirade about the incident (Ref. 16) as noted by me (Ref. 2). Klass avoids any mention of the significance of the November 18, 1952 and September 24, 1947 dates, or of the interrelationships of the members of MJ-12. He does correct his earlier press release comment (without, of course, mentioning the mistake) that MJ-12 consisted of 12 scientists-- this apparently in response to my correction that it was five scientists and seven military and intelligence people. Klass also knows that I gave a paper about Menzel at the 1987 MUFON conference, but is strangely silent about Menzel in his critique. Apparently he feels that the contents of the documents are much less important than the format, even though Klass hardly qualifies as an expert on the format of classified government documents.

Neither does the SI article mention Klass' widely circulated off-the-wall claim that the memo "erroneously" refers to Admiral Hillenkoetter as "Roscoe", which he apparently based on the fact that the few memos he examined had a typed close of "R.H. Hillenkoetter". Klass had contended that the briefing document had to be a counterfiet because the admiral didn't like the name Roscoe and never used it-- a claim which ultimately turned out to be totally false as shown by numerous typed and signed examples to the contrary provided by the Truman Library and other sources.

Equally absent from his piece is his even more ridiculous attempt to discredit Bill Moore by

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"DEBUNKING A UFO-BASHER", CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:
far from Washington.) Such an error could easily be dismissed as trivial if it stood alone. Careful examination of Klass' writings, however, will show that his material is literally permeated by such mistakes and that they are, in reality, more the rule than the exception with him. (Read on, dear reader.)

Another of Klass' curious penchants as evidenced in his SI article, is that he frequently turns psychic. Careful readers of his arguments will note that he often "knows" what people were thinking, and "knows" what they would have written-- all without any evidence whatsoever being offered in support of these marvelous revelations. Although these psychic powers certainly fly in the face of the strong anti-psychic stand taken by CSICOP, no one at that organization seems to object so long as it serves their own ends.

The subtitle of Klass' SI article is "Numerous Flaws and Inconsistencies Reveal that 'Top Secret' Papers, Including one Allegedly Found in the National Archives are Fraudulent." The fact is, as this article will show, that it is Phil Klass' arguments themselves which are loaded with flaws and inconsistencies. That his arguments do not withstand scrutiny, however, does NOT prove the documents are legitimate. However, the absence of good, valid counter-arguments by Klass or anyone else in the almost a year since the release of the documents (despite the frenzy of noise), when combined with the positive findings about the internal information in the documents (not noted at all by the skeptics) certainly indicates that if they are not genuine, then they are at least far better frauds than any of us on the outside could possibly have hatched.

In his SI article, Klass after a brief introduction, raises these two questions about the fact that the roll of 35mm. film on which the briefing and Truman-Forrestal memo (Attachment "A" of the briefing) were located was sent to Jaime Shandera instead of either Moore or Friedman: "Why would the film be sent to Shandera, who has never published any papers on UFOs and does not even consider himself a UFOlogist?", he asks, and "How could the sender of the 35mm. film even know that Shandera and Moore were friends and that the contents would find their way to Moore?" This seems to echo a concern of Barry Greenwood in a Klass-type article (Ref. 5). The answer is so straight forward it is hardly surprising that neither Klass nor Greenwood could come up with it. Shandera joined Moore and Friedman working together on UFOs in 1980. Friedman moved to New Brunswick several months later. Moore continued his association with Shandera and, later, with permission from inside contacts, shared information received from them. They knew very well that the two were working together and were keeping Friedman fully informed by phone and at meetings which took place two or three times a year on the average. In fact, Shandera has spent far more time at various archives than has Klass or Greenwood, despite the fact that both live much nearer to key document storage facilities than he does.

Klass goes on to claim that Shandera must have had "psychic powers" because Shandera called Moore prior to processing the film. More nonsense! There had been cryptic post cards from inside sources and other communications suggesting something might be forthcoming. Even the postmark on the envelope containing the film (which has indeed been prudently withheld) gave some clue that there might be a connection with inside sources. One wonders how often either Klass or Greenwood receives an undeveloped roll of film in the mail!

Klass claims "it would have been more logical for Ike to be briefed by the chairman of MJ-12, who had remained in the U.S. close to the committee's activities. Presumably this would have been Dr. Bush." Naturally no explanation is offered for this bit of psychic nonsense which, when examined at its most basic level, is nothing more than a comment and is not rooted in any evidence at all. (Those who read Klass regularly will instantly recognize such tactics to be entirely typical of his thinking. When unable to refute a matter with solid evidence, he invariably resorts to telling his readers how things "could have, would have, or should have" occurred according to his own brand of Klassical logic. Try re-reading both of his SI pieces with this in mind and note how many times he does it.) Getting back to the point at hand, it must be noted that Ike WAS INDEED briefed in the Pentagon vault by various members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on November 18, 1952. Bush could easily have been present since we do not know from any eye witness just who all was invited or brought in on an off the record basis. Published accounts, however, (ref. 6) do attest to the fact that at least one MJ-12 member was among the briefers present that day, and it is curious to note that as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, he was the only "second-in-command" officer in attendance. In light of the fact that the briefing document in question clearly identifies itself as "preliminary", a briefing from a general to a general is an equally "logical" scenario. (Klass dismissed!)

Moving along, Klass then comes what he describes as "the most revealing substantive anomoly" in the briefing document-- the format used to write dates. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to check on the adequacy of Phil's research (or lack of it). His complaint is that the format "18 November, 1952" (note what PK calls "the unnecessary comma") and "01 August, 1950" (note the zero preceding the single digit date), are an erroneous mixture of civil and military styles and were certainly not in use at the time. One can only marvel at how Klass then notes, as he has in many letters, that Moore has used this same format for dates in letters written according to Klass) since 1983. Obviously by Klassical reasoning, the document with its consistent "wrong" date format must have been forged by Moore.

It is impossible to know just how many documents Klass actually checked (probably very few), but the fact is that a number of documents DO exist which display this same format. One of these is a letter from none other than Admiral Hillenkoetter

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himself. Among the others are several which are reproduced in UFOs Top Secret (p. 446) and The Alsos Mission (pp. 84,98). But perhaps the most damning document is a 1954 military regulation (JANAP 146-c) discovered by Moore, which contains explicit instructions on how to write dates and times:

> "(Indicate) the date and time of the sighting, expressed by the use of six digits and the time zone suffix. The first two digits denote the date, the second two digits denote the hour and the third two digits denote the minutes of the hour. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), must be used in all instances, and shall be indicated by the use of GMT or by the addition of Z to the date time group, i.e.:
>
> 0714302
>
> 07 = Day of month
> 14 = Hour expressed in 24 hour time
> 30 = Minutes of the hour
> Z = Indication that GMT is being used"

In addition, two different sources, both having far more military background than Friedman, Moore, Shandera or Klass, have made the following comments to British researcher Tim Good.

> (1) "You raise the query that the prefix "0" as in "02 July 1947" was not used until modern computer technology was developed. I beg most strongly to differ. Certainly my experience in wartime in the Navy was that the "0" was a vital prefix whether in the date as in "02 July" or the hour as in "0300". I should think such methods were still used in NATO."
>
> Donald McCormick, Royal Navy (Intelligence) during World War II under Sir Ian Fleming

> (2) "NATO documents always used the "0" in front of single date figures in my day."
>
> Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, G.C.B.; Former Chief of British Defence Staff.

In short then, there is NOTHING about the date format that suggests the document is a fraud, especially when one notes that Adm. Hillenkoetter himself was an attache in France for some years prior to 1947 and would certainly have become familiar with procedures that ultimately were adopted by NATO (a primarily European-based organization) when it came into existence in 1949.

Discriminating readers of Klass' S.I. piece will recognize that the date-format argument, as poorly constructed as it is, turns out to be the strongest point he is able to make. Everything goes down hill from there. For example, he weakly attacks the Truman-Forrestal memorandum by claiming that the signature IS genuine, but that with modern Xerox machines the document could have been easily forged by overlaying a genuine Truman memo with a spurious text and then copying the result. To support this, he has pointed out that the text of the memo appears to have been typed on an old machine with a worn ribbon and filled letters-- a conclusion obviously arrived at from a hasty examination of an obviously poor quality Xerox of the document in question. Unfortunately, Klass has never had the opportunity to examine the original photograph of this document. Had he done so, he would have instantly seen that the type IS even and that the letters are as crisp and clear as one would expect from a White House document. Klass' "expert analysis" (once again) was based upon faulty data.

In his CSICOP press release, Klass purposely but erroneously referred to this memo as a "letter" no less than nine times so that he could make the claim that its format was unlike that of "genuine" Truman "letters". He argues, for example, that "the counterfeiter forgot to type Forrestal's name, title and address in the lower left portion of the page and used 'Dear Secretary Forrestal' instead of Truman's typical 'My Dear Secretary'...." When confronted by Friedman with evidence of the clear difference in style between Truman letters and Truman memoranda, he once again quietly modified his position. In his S.I. piece, Klass carefully avoids using the term "letter" (he slips once), but rather, without offering any meaningful evidence whatsoever, claims that "the format differs significantly from that used by the president's secretary in other memoranda written to Forrestal, and others during the same period." More hogwash!

Although Klass carefully avoids providing examples in his S.I. article which would back up his claim, he does provide three such examples in a widely-circulated "white paper" dated January 8, 1988. These three, which show ONLY dates and salutations in poorly Xeroxed form while carefully omitting security markings, headings, contents and sign-offs, portray precisely the opposite of what he says they do. According to Klass, "the three authentic memoranda use the same format"-- a statement which, as any ten year old can readily see, is completely false. In the three Klassical examples, there are three different addresses: "Members of the Cabinet", "James Forrestal Secretary of Defense", and "Secretary of Defense". In addition, one of the three has the words "MEMORANDUM FOR" all in caps; while the other two use a combination of caps and lower case. Where Klass comes up with "same format" out of this combination is difficult to imagine. Indeed, the only valid conclusion that can be drawn from these "examples" is that inconsistency is more the rule than the exception in White House documents from that era. But perhaps more important is the fact that none of these appear to be Executive Orders, which the Truman-Forrestal document clearly is as evidenced by its

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textual use of the statement "You are hereby authorized to proceed." Once again, there is absolutely nothing in any of this which suggests fraud, forgery or counterfeit; all of which allegations Klass makes with great hoopla and utterly fails to defend in his writings.

Another thing that Klass conveniently fails to note is the fact that the September 24, 1947 (Truman-Forrestal) memo has a period after the date-- a style not seen anywhere else in these documents. His attention was long ago called to this detail because essentially all letters from Vannevar Bush have a period after the date. He was also informed that, according to the Truman Library, September 24, 1947 was the ONLY date between May 31 and December, 1947 when Bush met with Truman where Forrestal was also present, and that, according to Forrestal's papers, Bush and Forrestal had met together the half-hour preceding their meeting with Truman. It would not have been unusual for Bush and Forrestal, who had known each other very well for years during and after the war, even to the extent of playing tennis together on occasion, to have prepared a draft memo for the record and then to have typed it at the White House. A three sentence Eyes Only order may well NOT have been typed by a secretary.

Predictably, Klass chooses to ignore all of the above in favor of an utterly ridiculous and totally laughable attack on the contents of the memo itself. Calling the text of the memo "un-Truman-like gobbledygook", Klass unabashedly suggests a presumably more Truman-like text which, Klass asserts, he is "confident" the memo would have contained if it were really authentic! According to Klass, if it were real, "it would have (please notice the "would have") read more like the following:

> "Let's find out where in the hell these craft are coming from, whether they pose a military threat, and what in the hell we can do to defend the country against them should they attack...."(!)

So now we have Mr. Klass (confidently, no less) instructing us as to precisely how a president of the United States would have worded an Executive Order! And is he troubled by the fact that NOT ONE SINGLE Truman official memorandum exists which is worded in such a fashion? Not a bit! The only thing more amazing is that The Skeptical Inquirer has seen fit to allow such an outrageously absurd suggestion to appear in its pages without comment!

Equally absurd is Klass noting ONLY that Bush was "president of the Carnegie Foundation." This indeed he was. Much more important, however, is the fact that he had been wartime head of the Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD) which was in charge of the Manhattan (atomic bomb) Project, the proximity fuse, radar, and about 90 other scientific projects intended to aid the military. Bush was the founder and first chairman of the post-war successor to the OSRD, the Joint Research & Development Board, served on the post-war War Council, and on numerous other similar committees. His pre-war positions included Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, which was predecessor to the modern N.A.S.A. He was without a doubt the most powerful scientist-engineer in post-war America and had, quite literally, an open door at the White House. He was also the one common factor in the several organizations mentioned by MJ-12 member General Nathan Twining in his important (but only Secret)letter about UFOs dated, interestingly enough, September 23, 1947-- just one day before the Truman Executive Order.! (For more on the Twining letter of 9-23-47, see Moore's monograph "P.K. & The Roswell Incident: The Skeptics Deceived", available from F.W.P.)

Klass goes on to attack Moore for stating that "If I was going to pick a panel at that time capable of dealing with a crashed UFO, I would certainly want to consider those on the list"-- a statement which clearly has to do with the impresive qualifications to be found amongst members of the MJ-12 group named in the briefing memo. Klass, however, chooses to ignore the obvious in an effort to turn an innocent statement into some kind of an indictment. "In other words," he writes, "the members of MJ-12 were persons whom (sic.) Moore himself would probably have selected for such a committee." This, of course, amounts to nothing short of a thinly veiled innuendo that Moore counterfieited the document-- precisely the sort of ad hominem attack Klass is so well known for when he has run out of substantial evidence to present on an issue he disagrees with. His purpose is to take the reader's mind off the real issue-- the fact that each of the persons cited in the MJ-12 briefing document did indeed possess exemplary credentials-- and attempt to cover the matter with some sort of irrelevant mud-- i.e. Klass' thinly hidden personal conviction that Moore must somehow stand behind what, to Klass' narrow mind, HAS JUST GOT TO BE (he prays) a counterfeit document.

To add insult to injury, he goes on to argue that "Moore demonstrated remarkable psychic abilities in his '82 MUFON paper by stating that Bush would be a logical choice for an assignment to set up a Top Secret project dealing with a crashed UFO." Psychic abilities indeed! As usual, Klass chooses to quote a carefully selected phrase while conveniently ignoring the context of the rest of the paragraph in which it was written, and hoping (knowing) that few if any of his faithful S.I. readers would actually bother to check. While Moore did, in fact, write the sentence as quoted, he wrote it in comment upon the contents of the Top Secret November 21, 1950 Canadian memorandum on the subject of UFOs written by the late Wilbert B. Smith-- a document which, in early 1982, was only just beginning to become known to the general public. Dr. Bush is cited in the memo as being head of a "small group" within the U.S. government which was making "concentrated effort" to determine the "modus operandi" of UFOs. The memo also states that "the matter (of UFOs) is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government", and "is considered by the U.S. authorities to be of tremendous significance." In light of these revelations, and considering Dr. Bush's obvious

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association with the super-secret National Security Agency than any other person, held a Top Secret Ultra security clearance, had done classified work for the CIA and numerous other organizations, had very close connections with Bush and other alleged members of MJ-12, and, in short, led a double life--all of which strongly suggested that IF such a group as MJ-12 had existed, Menzel certainly could have been part of it (Ref. 7). Indeed, it turns out that he was a world-class expert on cryptanalysis, had mastered a symbolic language (Japanese), had written science fiction and many popular newspaper articles, and was certainly an obvious choice for review of the strange symbols reported to have been found amidst the Roswell wreckage. He was also the obvious choice for disinformation-- a role he clearly relished with relish. Indeed, his presumed involvement with MJ-12 makes clear why his many prosaic explanations for UFOs could have been so bad, and why he didn't ever in his three fantasy UFO books (Ref. 8,9,10) refer to the largest official scientific investigation on UFOs ever published for the government, Project Blue Book Special Report 14 (information on 3201 sightings), even though he had reviewed a copy. (Curiously, Klass also failed to refer to this report in his first three UFO books, although he, too, was certainly aware of it.)

The remainder of Part I of Klass' S.I. piece goes on to quote various portions of a National Archives letter on the Cutler-Twining memo, which includes several comments from the Eisenhower Library staff. Apparently because these comments please him, he has made no effort whatsoever to determine their accuracy. Although our extensive refutation of the contents of the National Archives letter has been in print for some time, (Ref. 11; & FOCUS, Vol.II, #7), a few additional comments on the matter do seem to be in order. For example, although Klass makes much of the fact that Cutler was out of the country when the Cutler-Twining memo was written, he completely and conveniently fails to mention that the Eisenhower Library provided a copy of a memo from Cutler to James Lay and J. Patrick Coyne (referred to very unfortunately and inaccurately as Cutler's "assistants") instructing them to "Keep things moving OUT of my basket." There is NO SIGNATURE on this memo, just as there is no signature on the C-T memo itself, nor does either of them bear a symbolic /s/ next to the name indicating that Cutler had signed an original. Furthermore, Lay was not just a Cutler "assistant". He had been an assistant to Sidney Souers (MJ-12 member) when Souers was appointed the first Executive Secretary of the National Security Council in 1947. Lay replaced Souers at that powerful position (virtually a Cabinet-level post) in 1950 and continued in that role for a number of years into the Eisenhower administration. As such, he actually ran the NSC and its meetings. Twining was also a holdover from the Truman era. Surely Lay would have had the authority to pump out a quick classified administrative memo concerning details of an already scheduled meeting to be held two days later on Ike's instructions. Surely Mr. Lay, acting upon Cutler's previous instruction, could have had a secretary prepare the memo over Cutler's name and then had it passed on to Twining through appropriate channels. Yet because none of this fits into the way Klass thinks it should have been done, everyone else should automatically consider it impossible. (Remember, in Klass' fantasy version of reality, the world is filled with robots who perform every task in precisely the same way (HIS way) all of the time with absolutely NO variations. If this were not so, the world could not exist.)

His reliance upon the National Archives letter's statement that "All documents created by Mr. Cutler while... on the NSC staff have an eagle watermark in the onionskin paper" falls flat, as both the Archives and the Eisenhower Library now admit, when a more extensive examination of Cutler memoranda is made. In fact a large number of onionskin copies have been brought to light which do NOT bear such a watermark. Klass was certainly aware of this, but for some reason chose not to inform his S.I. readers of it. Nor did he see fit to mention that both the format and wording of the C-T memo closely match those of other Top Secret memoranda originating within the same office during the same era: or that the Eisenhower Library holds in the neighborhood of a quarter million pages of NSC records from the Eisenhower years (many certainly involving Cutler) which, due to staff and budget limitations, NO ONE has yet examined. But then, considering it's Phil Klass, what can one expect?

Part One of his S.I. article closes with Klass gleefully quoting from Just Cause newsletter editor Barry Greenwood's premature assessment of the MJ-12 affair as "a grand deception and consequently a giant black eye on the face of UFOlogy." Nowhere, however, does Klass critique the woefully inadequate arm chair "investigation" upon which Greenwood based his unfortunate rush to judgement-- a process which, if one applies that now famous Klassical logic, might lead one to conclude that no matter what sins you may have committed in the past (Clear Intent, for example), you're all right in Mr. Klass' book as long as you speak the words he wants to hear most.

Thus ends Part One of our response to Part I of Phil Klass' Skeptical Inquirer article. We are currently assessing Part II, and our response to it will appear in the March issue of FOCUS. Meanwhile, the references cited in this article are as follows:

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(4) Klass, P.J., "The MJ-12 Crashed-Saucer Documents", THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER, Vol. 12, Winter '87-'88. pp. 137-46.

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(9) Menzel, D.H., & Boyd, L.G., The World of Flying Saucers, Doubleday, 1963.
(10) Menzel, D.H., & Taves, E.M., The UFO Enigma, Doubleday, 1977.
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"FACTS NEVER MENTIONED", CONTINUED FROM P6. 2:

pointing out that Moore (in a previously published piece) and the briefing memo both "erroneously" spell the word "Materiel" in the phrase "Air Materiel Command" with an "e" instead of with an "a". Klass quickly jumped on this as proof that the document was a forgery, only to be forced shortly thereafter to admit that the error was MIS and that Materiel is indeed correctly spelled with an "e" in this instance! Two minutes of checking beforehand would have saved him the embarrassment... but of course he couldn't be bothered. His only comment, after virtually libelling Moore with his vicious innuendo, was a smug "I goofed." Moore has never received the courtesy of a written apology and is currently considering a lawsuit.

The entire matter of Donald Menzel's being one of the original MJ-12 is also extremely important to the authentication process, even though the skeptics tend to pooh-pooh it out of hand. The one point they tend to ignore because they cannot explain it is precisely HOW any hoaxer could have known that Menzel would pass muster, when certainly no one I know had this information BEFORE the film was received or the Cutler-Twining memo found as a result of a painstaking four-day search through over 125 boxes of files. It should be noted that my review of Menzel's papers required prior approval from no less than three different individuals and that my review of Forrestal's papers also required prior approval. In the case of the Menzel files, I was the FIRST member of the public to have been granted such access; and it is a matter of record that this came AFTER the arrival of the briefing document and the discovery of the C-T memorandum. The story of Menzel's secret life has never before been published. How, therefore, could any hoaxer have known about it? Rather than deal with this very important question, Klass and the other skeptics have conveniently chosen to ignore it.

Also not explained (or even mentioned) is why Klass flat-out LIED in a letter to R. Collins dated October 5, 1987. To quote Klass' very unprofessional language: "Fine, wise guy. How are you going to talk away the results of the recent FBI Laboratory analysis of the onionskin paper used for the 'Cutler-Twining memo' of July 14, 1954. I hear that the FBI Lab analysis shows the paper used is no more than 10 years old and probably is less than five years old."

Not only has there been NO analysis of the paper by the FBI according to both Ed Reese and Jo Ann Williamson at the National Archives, but careful research by Bill Moore has determined that the onionskin paper on which the carbon of the memo appears was only made between January, 1953, and 1975 at the very latest, and then ONLY in response to large bid orders many of which were made by the government. Thus, the paper which surely looks aged around the edges, has to be of a vintage earlier than 1975 and could NOT have been found in an ordinary stationery shop or office supply store. Klass could easily have performed the same research, but preferred to lie about it instead. Why, I can only guess.

Klass lied again in his statement in his S.I. article that "It did not occur to Friedman to ask that Moore send him a copy of the MJ-12 papers, nor did he request a copy during the subsequent two years." The facts on this matter can be found in the article which appears above and don't need to be repeated.

Yet another Klass lie took place during our battle on the ABC Nightline program of June 24, 1987. In response to a question from Ted Koppel about my statement that five different abductees had independently drawn symbols allegedly seen while on board UFOs and that a committee of six persons had agreed that all five renditions bore a striking similarity to one another, Klass stated disparagingly that the symbols were as much alike as Klass and Koppel. The two are indeed very much alike (white males, Jewish background, well educated, each with a pair of eyes, ears, arms, legs, etc.), but much more important here is the simple fact that Klass HAS NOT EVER SEEN those five sets of drawn symbols! In other words, he couldn't possibly have known what he was talking about, yet he deliberately tried to deceive a national television audience into thinking that he did!

Clearly "numerous flaws and inconsistencies reveal" that Philip J. Klass' research on the MJ-12 papers is either fraudulent or non-existent! As a professional scientist, I object strenuously to the use of the word "scientific" in CSICOP's name. Massive misrepresentation, flat-out lies, deliberate deceptions and professional propaganda are NOT equivalent to science.

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FEBRUARY, 1988

MORE ON THE VATICAN AND E.T.

In our October 1, 1987 issue we ran a front page story entitled "Vatican Begins Training Priests to Meet UFO Aliens in Space." The piece was based upon an article which appeared in the July 21, '87 issue of the London (UK) Evening News which, in turn, claimed an official Vatican press release as its authority. Since that time we have been trying without success to obtain further information. Letters to both L'Osservatore Romano (the official Vatican press) and the Vatican Secretariat of State have remained unanswered. Equally so with a letter of inquiry to the Alphonsian Academy in Rome- the institution mentioned in the Evening News article as being the seat of the new training program. A letter from Stan Friedman to the Holy See Press Office asking for verification of the information in the article brought only the response that there is indeed an Alphonsian Academy in Rome, but offered no comments whatsoever on the issue at hand. A telephone conversation between Bill Moore and a spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles produced no knowledge of the story, nor did an inquiry to the editorial desk of the official catholic newspaper Tidings. We had just about given up on the matter when on December 3, '87 the following letter arrived from subscriber John Andrews of San Diego. Since it seems to be the nearest thing to settling the issue we've seen yet, we print it here in its entirety for your information and so that the record may be set straight:

1 DEC 1987
TO: Those who will listen
FROM: John Andrews
SUBJ: EVENING NEWS, London, Eng., 21 July 1987
RE: Vatican/UFO

Most of you are familiar with the article supplied by Timothy Good to Lucian Farish of the UFO Clipping Service. When I first saw the article I said, "Good!" and proceeded to pass it about.

I then wrote a letter, on 10 September 1987, to the father mentioned in the article- Fr. Pierre Thorel (also apparently sp. "Sorel", Ed.) at the Vatican University. No reply was forthcoming.

Later I contacted the editor of a regional Catholic magazine, The Southern Cross, here in San Diego. Dan Pitre (619-574-6394) was enlisted to help verify the story. I supplied him with the article and he, in turn, contacted the Catholic Media Office in New York.

They had heard of the story. Apparently there is no Fr. Pierre Thorel, there is no chair at the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, and there is no effort to develop "...missionaries in space...." The article and quote from Thorel is BOGUS. The only verified fact is that Austrian Professor Resch comes to the Vatican University twice a year and gives a talk on the paranormal.

Sorry crew. It proves the reason to verify whatever we hear. I, too, was taken in... but only for a little while.

Regards,
John

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A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE?

QUOTE: "And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; "And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters because they were made bitter."

Revelations 8; 10-11.

FACT: In Russian, "Chernobyl" means "wormwood".

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FOCUS

FEBRUARY, 1988

UFOs DOWN UNDER

By Jimmy Ward

It was quiet on the Nullarbor Plain as Mrs. Faye Knowles and her three sons approached Mundrabilla in Western Australia en route to Melbourne. Suddenly a glowing object appeared on the road ahead of them. They swerved to miss it and almost hit a car and a van going the other way.

"It was a weird-looking thing and we stopped to go back and have a look at it", Sean, 21, reported. It was a bright object, white with a yellow center, shaped like an egg in an egg-cup and about a meter wide. Before they reached the object they became frightened, made a "U" turn and began going in the other direction again. "It chased us and at one stage when we were trying to get away we were doing up to 200 km/hr", he added.

The object seemed to land on the roof of their Ford Telstar and lifted it from the road. Mrs. Knowles went into shock after she felt the top of the car and touched what she thought was the object. It felt like a huge rubber suction cup. The dogs in the car went wild and windows were rolled up for obvious safety. The car began to fill with a foul-smelling smoke or gas which, according to son Patrick, 24, smelled "Like dead bodies or something." The entire family agreed that during the period that their car was suspended, their voices were distorted and it appeared as though they "were talking in slow motion." When the car was finally released, it dropped to the roadside with such force that one tire blew out. At that point, everyone scrambled from the car and hid in the bush. After about 30 minutes, they had calmed down some and decided that apparently the thing was not going to come back. The tire was then changed and they drove to Mundrabilla where they met a truck driver who said he had seen the light as well. Their car was covered with a soot-like material inside and out, the luggage that had been tied on the roof was missing, four dents "as though the car had been picked up by a magnet" were discovered, and the inside springs in the front wheel wells showed distinct signs of shearing from violent up and down motion.

Three other reports were made to the police that morning. The crewmen aboard an offshore tuna boat about 50 miles south said a UFO had buzzed and hovered over their boat for a few minutes and that their voices also had become unintelligible. A truck driver reported he had been followed by a UFO along the same road. A second tuna boat reported a bright light near the highway running along the edge of the Great Australian Bight.

Something was definitely afoot in the Outback that morning of January 20, 1988. But what? This was not the first UFO sighting from that general area, nor was it the first "flying egg" reported. A prominent Launceston businessman reported that on December 14, 1987 he had been driving his white Mercedes-Benz in a deserted area at about 10:30 PM when a bright white light came down and hovered over his car. He thought it might be a helicopter until the light landed on the road in front of him. He slammed on his brakes and put on the handbrake. The engine suddenly stopped and the headlights went out. He panicked and ran back down the road. From a safe distance, he turned and watched as his expensive car was being pulled closer and closer to a glowing, oval-shaped object. Just then, as another car was seen to be approaching, the object "took off at an angle and disappeared into the night sky." When the owner came back to his Mercedes, it was found to be covered with a sooty type of carbon, the electrical system was found to have been damaged, there were skid marks on the road where the vehicle had been dragged for some distance, and the tar on the road where the object had landed was melted.

We continue to receive information on these cases from Australia and will have more for you in the next issue.

FWF Z

FOCUS

JANUARY, 1988

"MJ-12: DEBUNKING A UFO-BASHER", CONTINUED:

association with the super-secret National Security Agency than any other person, held a Top Secret Ultra security clearance, had done classified work for the CIA and numerous other organizations, had very close connections with Bush and other alleged members of MJ-12, and, in short, led a double life--all of which strongly suggested that IF such a group as MJ-12 had existed, Menzel certainly could have been part of it (Ref. 7). Indeed, it turns out that he was a world-class expert on cryptanalysis, had mastered a symbolic language (Japanese), had written science fiction and many popular newspaper articles, and was certainly an obvious choice for review of the strange symbols reported to have been found amidst the Roswell wreckage. He was also the obvious choice for disinformation-- a role he clearly filled with relish. Indeed, his presumed involvement with MJ-12 makes clear why his many prosaic explanations for UFOs could have been so bad, and why he didn't ever in his three fantasy UFO books (Ref. 8,9,10) refer to the largest official scientific investigation on UFOs ever published for the government, Project Blue Book Special Report 14 (information on 3201 sightings), even though he had reviewed a copy. (Curiously, Klass also failed to refer to this report in his first three UFO books, although he, too, was certainly aware of it.)

The remainder of Part I of Klass' S.I. piece goes on to quote various portions of a National Archives letter on the Cutler-Twining memo, which includes several comments from the Eisenhower Library staff. Apparently because these comments please him, he has made no effort whatsoever to determine their accuracy. Although our extensive refutation of the contents of the National Archives letter has been in print for some time, (Ref. 11; & FOCUS, Vol.II, #[illegible]), a few additional comments on the matter do seem to be in order. For example, although Klass makes much of the fact that Cutler was out of the country when the Cutler-Twining memo was written, he completely and conveniently fails to mention that the Eisenhower Library provided a copy of a memo from Cutler to James Lay and J. Patrick Coyne (referred to very unfortunately and inaccurately as Cutler's "assistants") instructing them to "Keep things moving OUT of my basket." There is NO SIGNATURE on this memo, just as there is no signature on the C-T memo itself, nor does either of them bear a symbolic /s/ next to the name indicating that Cutler had signed an original. Furthermore, Lay was not just a Cutler "assistant". He had been an assistant to Sidney Souers (MJ-12 member) when Souers was appointed the first Executive Secretary of the National Security Council in 1947. Lay replaced Souers at that powerful position (virtually a Cabinet-level post) in 1950 and continued in that role for a number of years into the Eisenhower administration. As such, he actually ran the NSC and its meetings. Twining was also a holdover from the Truman era. Surely Lay would have had the authority to pump out a quick classified administrative memo concerning details of an already scheduled meeting to be held two days later on Ike's instructions. Surely Mr. Lay, acting upon Cutler's previous instruction, could have had a secretary prepare the memo over Cutler's name and then had it passed on to Twining through appropriate channels. Yet because none of this fits into the way Klass thinks it should have been done, everyone else should automatically consider it impossible. (Remember, in Klass' fantasy version of reality, the world is filled with robots who perform every task in precisely the same way (HIS way) all of the time with absolutely NO variations. If this were not so, the world could not exist.)

His reliance upon the National Archives letter's statement that "All documents created by Mr. Cutler while... on the NSC staff have an eagle watermark in the onionskin paper" falls flat, as both the Archives and the Eisenhower Library now admit, when a more extensive examination of Cutler memoranda is made. In fact a large number of onionskin copies have been brought to light which do NOT bear such a watermark. Klass was certainly aware of this, but for some reason chose not to inform his S.I. readers of it. Nor did he see fit to mention that both the format and wording of the C-T memo closely match those of other Top Secret memoranda originating within the same office during the same era of that the Eisenhower Library holds in the neighborhood of a quarter million pages of NSC records from the Eisenhower years (many certainly involving Cutler) which, due to staff and budget limitations, NO ONE has yet examined. But then, considering it's Phil Klass, what can one expect?

Part One of his S.I. article closes with Klass gleefully quoting from Just Cause newsletter editor Barry Greenwood's premature assessment of the MJ-12 affair as "a grand deception and consequently a giant black eye on the face of UFOlogy." Nowhere, however, does Klass critique the woefully inadequate arm chair "investigation" upon which Greenwood based his unfortunate rush to judgement-- a process which, if one applies that now famous Klassical logic, might lead one to conclude that no matter what sins you may have committed in the past (Clear Intent, for example), you're all right in Mr. Klass' book as long as you speak the words he wants to hear most.

Thus ends Part One of our response to Part I of Phil Klass' Skeptical Inquirer article. We are currently assessing Part II, and our response to it will appear in the March issue of FOCUS. Meanwhile, the references cited in this article are as follows:

(1) Friedman, S.T., Review of UFOs Explained by P.J. Klass. In SKYLOOK, Nov. '75 and ASTRONOMY, Jan. '76.

(2) Friedman, S.T., "Flying Saucers, Noisy Negativists and Truth", June '85. Presented at MUFON Conference in St. Louis. Available from UFORI, POBX 3584, Sta. "B", Fredericton, N.B. E3A 5J8 Canada. $2.00

(3) CSICOP "Top Secret UFO Documents Labeled 'Forgery' by Skeptics", News release, Aug. 20, '87.

(4) Klass, P.J., "The MJ-12 Crashed-Saucer Documents", THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER, Vol. 12, winter '87-'88. pp. 137-46.

(5) Greenwood, B., "The MJ-12 Fiasco", JUST CAUS, Sept. '87.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 8....