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Date Sent : 9/23/94

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To: Dr. John Gibbons ↓

Congress.ID :

Date Completed :9/23/94

From : Berliner, Don, Exec. Comm Of Fund For UFO Research, Inc.

Topic : Encloses 2-page statement with analysis of the Air Force's report of the "Roswell Incident" released on 9/8 by Air Force Public Affairs.

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Action: Direct Reply ↓

Division: Technology ↓

Assnd1 :

Copy1 : Dr. Gibbons

Assnd2 :

Skip Johns

File : Sci/UFO's

Remarks :

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Sept. 23, 1994

Dr. John Gibbons  
Presidential Science Advisor

Dear Dr. Gibbons,

The enclosed two-page statement is our analysis of the Report of Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident", released on Sept. 8 by Air Force Public Affairs.

I thought you might find it of interest.

Sincerely,



Don Berliner  
Executive Committee

Date Rec'd 9-23-94  
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## AIR FORCE EXPLANATION OF 1947 "Roswell" UFO CRASH A LOT OF HOT AIR

The U.S. Air Force recently "explained" the highly controversial story of material recovered from an alleged UFO that crashed in central New Mexico in 1947 as a once-secret Project Mogul balloon. A careful analysis of the 23-page official report, by the Fund for UFO Research, has revealed enough holes in the Air Force theory to bring down the sturdiest of balloons.

Project Mogul was intended to detect sound waves from the first Soviet nuclear test, using a scientific payload suspended beneath a constant-altitude balloon. The clusters of off-the-shelf balloons flown in the early summer of 1947 were merely tests aimed at developing an operational system. They were not actual operational flights with highly classified scientific instruments.

According to the "Report of Air Force Research Regarding the 'Roswell Incident'", "the material was...most probably from Flight 4". But the Flight Log (Attachment #27) does not list a Flight 4, but rather begins with Flight 5, launched on June 5. There is no known evidence that there ever was a Flight 4.

Had there been such a flight, it would have have been launched no later than June 5, and thus at least a month before the debris was found on the Foster Ranch, near Corona, NM, by ranch foreman William "Mac" Brazel. The debris was on a frequently-inspected section of the ranch, and thus would have been found much sooner than early July.

Moreover, an Air Force-quoted statement from Prof. Charles B. Moore, a recognized authority on balloons, and a participant in the Project Mogul program, is curiously at odds with the official conclusion. According to Prof. Moore, the neoprene balloons used in the first test flights were susceptible to rapid degradation in the sunlight, and "would look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days."

In a week, let alone a month or more, such "flakes or ashes" would have been so widely scattered by the frequently strong winds that no one could possibly have noticed them. Even if they could have been seen, they would hardly have been described by witnesses as resembling metallic foil.

Maj. Jesse Marcel, Intelligence Officer of Roswell Army Air Field, and one of the first two military persons on the scene, is on videotape describing an area 2/3 of a mile long and several hundred feet wide, littered with strange material. He said there was a large quantity of what looked like metallic foil, but was both lighter and much stronger

than common household aluminum foil. He said it could not be creased, cut, punctured, burned or even dented with a 16-pound sledge hammer.

He said that he and Counter-Intelligence Corps officer Sheridan Cavitt loaded their two vehicles with a small portion of the material and took it back to Roswell Army Air Field. Could the remains of a cluster of small balloons possibly account for the quantity (to say nothing of the nature) of what first-hand witnesses said they saw, handled and helped transport?

Prior to disintegrating, the balloons would have been intact, though some of them would have been damaged by the punctures or rips which caused them to descend. But the whole assembly would have still been tied together, and would have covered a very limited portion of the estimated 50 acres.

The balloons would have had to explode in order to distribute their pieces over such a large area. But helium-filled Project Moqul test balloons could not have exploded, since helium is an inert gas. Thus each of them would have been in one piece when it landed. And if what was found was neoprene, either the just-landed pieces would have been in good shape and thus recognizable as neoprene, or they would have been in the process of disintegrating, and would have crumbled when picked up by Marcell and Cavitt.

Among the items of videotaped eye-witness testimony ignored by the Air Force report is that of the son of Maj. Marcel, Dr. Jesse Marcel, who is now an M.D., Army National Guard helicopter pilot and flight surgeon. He describes, in great detail, not only the odd metallic foil, but also slender metallic I-beams which he says displayed unrecognizable symbols embossed in a strange pinkish-purplish color on their webs.

Just what it was that crashed on the New Mexico sheep ranch in 1947 is unknown. But no evidence exists to show that it was any kind of balloon, experimental airplane, test missile or anything else mundane, as suggested by the Air Force. The repressive behavior of military personnel at the time is not consistent with this view.

Was it an alien spacecraft, as so many are now suggesting? We don't know, but unless a convincing alternative explanation is forthcoming, that remains an open possibility.

For further information, contact Don Berliner, Fund for UFO Research, at (703) 684-6032.