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Letter



Status: **Complete**



Date Sent : 12/2/94

Date Rcd : 12/5/95

Due Date : 12/15/95

To: Dr. John Gibbons



Congress.ID :

Date Completed :12/8/94

From : **Jones, C.B. Scott, Human Potential Foundation**

Topic : Forwards thoughts and update on Roswell Incident and the report released by the Air Force.

Action: None



Division(s) Technology



Director's



Assnd1 :

Copy1 : Dr. Gibbons

Assnd2 :

Skip Johns

File : Science/UFO

Remarks : Books sent by Jones in 431. . . .



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174

SEP 2 1993

*see S.T.F
response
attached*

AUG 25 1993

Dear Ms. Murray:

This is in reply to your inquiry to the Secretary of Defense in behalf of Mr. Michael C. Atkins regarding events occurring near Roswell, New Mexico, in July, 1947.

The Air Force possesses no records regarding this incident. We are not aware that any other governmental department or agency, other than the National Archives, possesses any records pertaining to UFOs.

As information, the Air Force began investigating UFOs in 1948 under a program called Project Sign. Later, the program's name was changed to Project Grudge and, in 1953, it became known as Project Blue Book. On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book. The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on a number of factors, including reports and studies by the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as past UFO studies and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

As a result of these investigations, studies, and experience, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: 1) no UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever, given any indication of threat to our national security, 2) there has been no evidence submitted to, or discovered by, the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge and, 3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Similar information is being sent to several Members of Congress in response to their inquiries.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

THOMAS W. SHUBERT, Lt Col, USAF
Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

P.O. Box 4771

Mount Rainier, MD 20719

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ROSWELL IN PERSPECTIVE



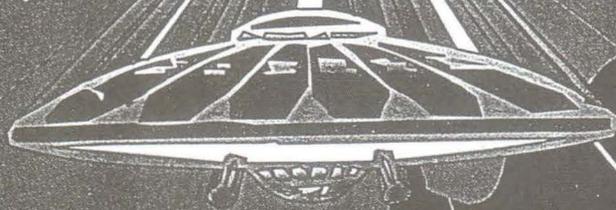
Karl T. Plock

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The conclusions, opinions, and ideas expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Fund for UFO Research, its officers, or its board members.

West Virginia

UFOs



Close Encounters In The Mountain State

By
Bob Teets

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON UFO INFORMATION:
ITS ORIGINS AND STATUS

Essays analyzing Government reactions to UFO sightings, the origins of military and intelligence agency secrecy, public policy considerations, and barriers to release of hidden information.

Issue Paper No. 1

Richard Hall, Editor

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Fund for UFO Research
P.O. Box 277
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

The Roswell Incident; The USAF
and the New York Times

Sept. 26, 1994

Stanton T. Friedman
79 Pembroke Crescent
Fredericton, NB Canada
E3B 2V1 506-457-0232

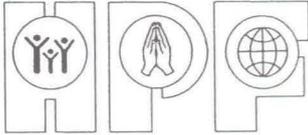
Assessment and Recommendation for Action

Report of Air Force Research Regarding the

Roswell Incident

Human Potential Foundation

Human Potential Foundation



Date Rec'd DEC 05 1994

got cover
sheet of each
enclosure; full cc:
of "HPF
assessment December 2, 1994
paper"

ACTION to _____

INFO to JHG
Jonas

SIG of _____

Stationery _____

DATE DUE _____

John H. Gibbons, Ph.D.
Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology
Old Executive Office Building, Room 424
17th and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jack:

I much appreciate the Air Force getting pulled back into the arena, and all the efforts that forced them to do so. Their statement on Roswell is helpful. The Air Force tried to put the best face they could on their admission that the weather balloon explanation of the debris field was a 47 year old lie. Some of the researchers who had known about Project Mogul well before the Air Force's July 1994, *Report of Air Force Research Regarding the Roswell Incident*, wondered if it could possibly explain the debris field. The Air Force report makes a reasonable case that it was a crash of one of their early Mogul test flights. That may have actually happened. But there are important other issues that the AF Report skirts with deliberateness. That suggests that for some reason the cover up continues. The question can now be restated: in addition to a possible landing of a Project Mogul balloon train in July 1947, what else happened around Roswell at that time that the government does not want the public to know, and what is the reason for the continuing cover up?

Attached to this letter is an assessment I made of the AF Report, *Assessment and Recommendation for Action*, and a much more detailed one by Stanton Friedman, *The Roswell Incident, The USAF and the New York Times*. The AF was correct in their assessment that the report will not satisfy their critics - and for good reasons. In my opinion the AF is incorrect in their assertion that they will have no more to say about Roswell. Their dodging of the reported recovery of bodies by apparently failing to interview the few remaining alive witnesses to this part of the mystery was a serious mistake that will haunt them in the future.

Jack, I hope that you got a fuller briefing from the Air Force than the public, self-serving statement released by them. And if you did, I hope that

7503

you have taken an aggressive and positive position within the White House staff to share with the American public every thing the U.S. government knows about UFO phenomena. A want for basic integrity of the democratic process argues for this. There may even be a more powerful reality for getting the public involved if the evidence exists to support some sort of interaction with other worldly intelligence. That reality is that the U.S. government, and no other government, is adequate to handle such an issue without the fullest possible public participation. Like it or not, when cosmic cultures meet, it is not a government thing. I suspect that this point will naturally arise without rancor during the May 1995 conference, *When Cosmic Cultures Meet*. President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton are both being invited to speak at that conference.

Results of the recent election may play a role in reversing the government's policy of silence and secrecy on the subject of UFO phenomena. I suspect that several efforts will be made by some researchers and research groups to get the new congressional majority to hang this issue on the president. I don't know if Republican members and staffers will show any more interest in the subject, per se, than their Democratic counterparts. But the temptation to try to nail the president with the issue may arise. The president could try to defuse any potential political vulnerability on the subject by going to the Congressional leadership with a complete briefing on what has been going on and what he inherited when he came into office. He need not be politically damaged by this, but the old policy will have to change in a hurry.

There are three additional attachments to this letter that provide some recent research on Roswell, thoughts about government policy on the UFO issue, and a very recent book about what is going on at the grass roots. The first document is by Karl T. Pflock, *Roswell in Perspective*. Pflock is very close to Congressman Steve Schiff. The second document gives the view point of seven individuals on *Government Policy on UFO Information: Its Origins and Status*. I am one of the contributors to this collection. The final attachment is a book recently published by a friend and colleague, Robert G. Teets. Bob is the editor of the Human Potential Foundation Press, living and working in Terra Alta, West Virginia. A former journalist and now publisher by trade, Bob decided to see for himself what is going on at home on this subject. The book speaks for itself. It is Bob's conclusion that a similar book could be written from and about every state in the Union. Bob, more that ever before is a true believer that something real is going on. It is impacting the American public, probably in increasing numbers, and the perception is growing that the Clinton administration, as were previous administrations, is an unknown part of the problem.

How hard can it be to change the policy of secrecy and denial? Will it be any harder than surviving condemnation from the American public if the U.S. is forced by another's country's announcement, or other action that preempts Clinton's opportunity for honest initiative?

The Foundation is ready to assist in any way we can. My best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

C.B. Scott Jones

Attachments as stated

Rec'd
12/5/94

Assessment and Recommendation for Action
Report of Air Force Research Regarding the
Roswell Incident

Human Potential Foundation

September 14, 1994

Assessment and Recommendations for Action on the

Report of Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident"

On September 8, 1994, the U.S. Air Force issued press release No. 235-M, entitled: "Memorandum for Correspondence." This one page document announced that "at the request of Congressman Steven H. Schiff (R-NM), the General Accounting Office in February 1994 initiated an audit to locate all records related to the Roswell incident and to determine if such records were properly handled."

The important consequence of the Schiff/GAO action is that for the first time since the 1960's when a House Committee hear researchers talk about UFO phenomena, the Congress is at least minimally engaged in the subject of UFO phenomena. There is no evidence that the leadership of the Congress is paying any attention at all to this current effort, but the involvement of the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the Congress, charged with examining all matters relating to the receipt and disbursement of public funds, is significant. Supporting the Congress is GAO's fundamental responsibility. The Office is required to perform work requested by committee chairpersons. As a matter of policy it assigns equal status to requests from ranking minority Members. The GAO also responds to individual Member requests, as possible. This is the case for the Schiff request, not only as an individual Member, but specifically because of his House assignment on the Committee on Government Operations, and on its Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture. Additionally, Schiff's assignment to the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, appears to give him a subject matter interest in UFO phenomena if it is in fact space related, and most certainly from scientific and technological viewpoints.

If Congress gets significantly into the game, there is some possibility of a final resolution, i.e., full disclosure, from wherever the secrets are held. If the office of primary responsibility has been sourced out of government, i.e. hidden within a government contractor under a primary contract that has absolutely nothing to do with UFO phenomena, it may be immune to budgetary reduction threats from Congress.

The President remains the critical player in this drama. Maybe each President is not automatically briefed on the subject. But somewhere around the President, someone knows where to task for the briefing. My guess is

that it is someone within the National Security Council. Someone in the directorate who survives administration after administration. Dangerously (for democracy and accountability) it could be someone in the private sector, a major government contractor who agreed to run the office without direct charge to the government as long as they continued to be a very major government contractor in other areas. If the Presidents asks for it with force, it cannot be withheld. If he merely shows casual interest, he might be kept in the dark.

One message from the Air Force Report is that they still have confidence that this issue can be "managed." There are other messages of equal importance which suggest that the game is changing. The Air Force must deeply regret that it was forced to say anything public about Roswell. They know the tenacity of the small group of UFO researchers who will follow any lead to the grave, and in this report they have been forced to expose additional leads.

The most important event is that after December 1969, when the Air Force closed Project Blue Book and announced that they were out of the game, they are now back on the field. It may turn out that they actually are not a major player, but they have been forced to suit up again.

Report Format and Dimensions

At the Pentagon Library, (Room 1A518) the public Air Force report is available for review, bound in three separate three-ring folders of near equal size. The collection is accessed under TL 789.3 .R46 1994, v.1, v.2, v.3. A copy of the 23 page basic report without tabs may be obtained from Major David Thurston, USAF, SAF/PAM, by calling (703) 695-0640. The full report is titled:

1. Report on Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident" - Basic Report w/Attachments. The Basic Report is 23 pages in length. The 33 attachments to it total an additional 223 pages.

2. Appendix to Tab 32 of Basic Report, Synopsis of Balloon Research, Volume 1. This is composed of Tabs 1 to 13, with approximately 377 total pages.

3. Appendix to Tab 32 of Basic Report, Synopsis of Balloon Research, Volume 2. This is composed of Tabs 14 to 25, with approximately 345 total pages.

The total report length is approximately 974 pages. It is marred by poor copying of some of the documents. Some have been reduced in size

and essentially are unreadable. Others have lines cut off at the bottom. Copies of all photographs were done on a copy machine with marginal photo copy capability. Most photo detail has been lost. One major tab was assembled in a jumbled order. Fortunately this tab was repeated in one of the other two volumes, and a complete document therefore was available.

The covering letter of the Basic Report is dated July 27, 1994, signed by Colonel Richard L. Weaver, USAF, Director, Security and Special Program Oversight. The administrative chain to this office is:

Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/OS)
Honorable Sheila E. Widnall

Office of the Administrative Assistant (SAF/AA)
William A. Davidson (as of June 15, 1994), prior to that date the position was held by Robert J. McCormick

Deputy, Security and Investigative Programs
Col. Richard L. Weaver

In other words, the Air Force response came from the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the highest political level of the Air Force.

In the basic report, (page 9) there are a series of statements intended to be show stoppers:

In addition to the above Air Staff and Secretariat Offices, SAF/AAZ also reviewed appropriate classified records for any tie-in to this matter. With regards to highly classified records, it should be noted that any programs that employ enhanced security measures or controls are known as Special Access Programs (SAPs). The authority for such programs comes from Executive Order 12356 and flows from the Department of Defense to the Services via DoD Directive 5205.7. These programs are implemented in the Air Force by Policy Directive 16-7, and Air Force Instruction 16-701. These directives contain detailed requirements for controlling and reporting, in a very strict manner, all SAPs. This includes a report from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense (and ultimately to Congress) on all SAPs submitted for approval, and a certification that there are no "SAP-like" programs being operated. These reporting requirements are stipulated in public law.

It followed then, that if the Air Force had recovered some type of extraterrestrial spacecraft and/or bodies and was exploiting this for

scientific and technology purposes, then such a program would be operated as a SP. SAF/AAZ, the Central Office for all Air Force SAPs, has knowledge of, and security oversight over, all SAPs. SAF/AAZ categorically stated that no such Special Access Program(s) exists that pertain to extraterrestrial spacecraft/aliens.

Likewise, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff, who head the Special Program Oversight Committee which oversees all sensitive programs in the Air Force, had no knowledge of the existence of any such program involving, or relating to the events at Roswell or the alleged technology that supposedly resulted therefrom. Besides the obvious irregularity and illegality of keeping such information from the most senior Air Force officials, it would also be illogical, since these officials are responsible for obtaining funding for operations, research, development, and security. Without funding, such a program, operation, or organization could not exist. Even to keep such a fact "covered-up" in some sort of passive "caretaker status" would involve money. More importantly, it would involve people and create paperwork.

The message above is that the people with all the top security clearances, and complete knowledge of all Air Force Special Access Programs (SAP), had responsibility to assemble the report. As a psychological gambit this is an "appeal to authority." In other words, the Air Force is announcing: this is the pronouncement, what we have said is the final and authoritative word.

The Air Force is not shy about this point. Early in the report the Air Force states:

. . . the following research and assistance efforts were conducted in support of the GAO. This report is intended to stand as the final official Air Force response regarding this matter.

And the final sentence of the report is:

It is recommended that this document serve as the final Air Force report related to the Roswell matter, for the GAO, or any other inquiries.

That certainly is the Air Force's desire. But I doubt seriously if they can successfully wash their hands of the issue.

The "Project Mogul balloon explanation" of the debris field is not

unreasonable, and might even have happened. The Air Force assembled close to 1,000 pages trying to prove that explanation.

However, several important issues from Roswell remain unanswered. To their credit, the Air Force didn't ignore the "alien bodies" issue. On the final page of the Basic Report, a 20 line paragraph takes on that problem. In summary it notes:

It should be noted here that there was little mention in this report about the recovery of the so-called "alien bodies." This is for several reasons: First, the recovered wreckage was from a Project Mogul balloon. There were no "alien" passengers therein. The review of Air Force records did not locate even one piece of evidence to indicate that the Air Force has had any part in an "alien" body recovery operation or continuing cover-up.

In one of the tabs to the report, an Air Force researcher mentions during an interview of a Roswell witness that his team had gone through millions of pages of documents in this research effort. This is probably a true statement, and the Air Force certainly hopes that the focus of attention now goes to the old records of Project Mogul. However, in the report, the Air Force provides this disclaimer:

This search for records was purposely limited to Air Force records and systems since:

- (a) The Air Force had no authority to compel other agencies to review records;
- (b) The Air Force would have no way to monitor the completeness of their efforts if they did; and
- (c) the overall effort was the task and responsibility of the GAO - not the Air Force.

In the Executive branch, only the President can order a complete executive branch-wide search similar to that being reported by the Air Force. Until that is done, either en mass or department by department, agency by agency, and office by office, the issue will remain open and unresolved.

The GAO effort under way has a possibility of considerable completeness. But if we assume that there is a completely unknown and unnamed office that has the primary responsibility in this field, it is unlikely that the GAO will get a handle on it. This is particularly so if the action has been given to a civilian contractor specifically to "get it out of government,"

and thereby make it invisible to the type of effort the Air Force has just gone through. A willful transfer and purging of all records that mention a few key words would insulate the program from all conventional search procedures.

The President's involvement still remains critical.

A longer, but potentially successful secondary strategy, would be to engage the interest of a senior Congressional chairman with general government investigatory committee responsibilities, or a Chairman with committee subject matter interest, i.e., space. The GAO investigation has some potential to enlist this type of interest.

In the report there are several instances of the Air Force demolishing a straw man of its own creation and a mild use of ridicule, a technique used so very successfully by someone in the government on this subject for many years. Several straw men are created and demolished in the following paragraph:

The above are but two small examples that indicate that if some event happened that was one of the "watershed happenings" in human history, the US military certainly reacted in an unconcerned and cavalier manner. In an actual case, the military would have had to order thousands of soldiers and airman, not only at Roswell but throughout the US, to act nonchalantly, pretend to conduct and report business as usual, and generate absolutely no paperwork of a suspicious nature, while simultaneously anticipating that twenty years or more into the future people would have available a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act that would give them great leeway to review and explore government documents. The records indicate that none of this happened (or if it did, it was controlled by a security system so efficient and tight that no one, US or otherwise, has been able to duplicate it since. If such a system had been in effect at the time, it would have also been used to protect our atomic secrets from the Soviets, which history has showed obviously was not the case). The records reviewed confirmed that no such sophisticated and efficient security system existed.

Straw man #1 - thousands of soldiers and airmen would have been put on alert. For what purpose, because of a crashed disc in a remote part of New Mexico?

Straw man #2 - Anticipating the Freedom of Information Act. The drafters of the document either apparently do not know or want the reader to believe that all anyone has to do is to ask for information and the government gives it to you. Issues of National Security are specifically exempted from FIOA action.

Straw man # 3 - We couldn't keep atomic secrets therefore couldn't keep UFO secrets. The facts are that we kept far more atomic secrets than we lost. In the New York Times, February 28, 1960, the first head of the CIA, Vice Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, was quoted: "Behind the scenes, high ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFO's. . . . but through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense."

A mixture of ridicule and the use of straw men may be seen in this statement:

Likewise, there was no indication in official records from the period that there was heightened military operational or security activity which should have been generated if this was, in fact, the first recovery of materials and/or persons from another world. The post-War US Military (or today's for that matter) did not have the capability to rapidly identify, recover, coordinate, cover-up, and quickly minimize public scrutiny of such an event. The claim that they did so without leaving even a little bit of a suspicious paper trail for 47 years is incredible.

What if this was not the first event experienced by or known to the US government? Would that explain why there was no apparent heightened security activity? Or perhaps it was the first, and it took some time to really understand what it represented, and by that time it was realized that a quiet, reflective approach to the issue was appropriate. The Air Force can say anything they want about its paper trail, or absence thereof, but does that mean that nowhere in the government there is a paper trail? Cannot an argument be made that the absence of a paper trail is in itself an extraordinary situation? When the Air Force turned over to the National Archives the benign records of Project Blue Book, only a small group of frustrated UFO researchers felt that this act failed to balance the fact that an Air Force officer, former head of Blue Book, declared that Blue Book was a public relations ploy, and that none of the important sightings were allowed into the project - they went somewhere else.

The Air Force may or may not have little additional to say about Roswell, but there are a thousand other legitimate questions waiting in the wings.

Colonel Weaver's cover letter to the Air Force report anticipate the worse from the "pro-UFO groups" in their response to the report:

The Air Force effort did not identify any indication that the "Roswell Incident" was any type of extraterrestrial event or that the Air Force has engaged in a 47 year conspiracy or "cover-up" of information relating to it. Therefore, it is assumed that pro-UFO

groups will strongly object to the attached report and denounce it as either shortsighted or a continuation of the "cover-up" conspiracy. Nevertheless, the attached report is a good faith effort and the first time any agency of the government has positively responded officially to the ever-escalating claims surrounding the Roswell matter.

The Air Force should not be defensive about this pioneering paper. The greatest sadness about it is that it is decades late. There was nothing revealed here that could not have been safely said 40 years ago, and I strongly suspect this to be the dominant theme for subsequent statements from the Air Force and other parts of the government on this subject.

They should be congratulated for their effort. If it is the truth, honor can go with the congratulations. If it is a continuation of a cover-up they will be caught and pay heavily for their duplicity.

Several important precedents have been established by the Air Force effort:

1. The subject of UFO phenomena and government knowledge about it is now viably in the public domain.

2. Interviewees were provided with authorizations from either the Secretary of the Air Force or the Senior Security Official of the Air Force that would officially allow discussion of classified information, if applicable, or free them from any prior restrictions in discussing the matter, if such existed.

It is important that responsible additional action take place to buttress the opening this report presents.

In this category are HPF projects currently under way: the "Editor's Guide to UFO Phenomena," the conference, "When Cosmic Cultures Meet," and continuing related research.

Continued pressure should be maintained on the Executive branch to open up additional files and directly address other precise issues.

The GAO research should be followed closely and a strong effort made to get senior people in Congress involved in the investigation.

Immediately after the Air Force released their report, Congressman Steven Schiff issued the attached news release. He was miffed because the Air Force did not notify his office before they made their press release about the Air Force report. I expect him to make another statement after he has had time to go over the report.

Being forced to publish this report has given the Air Force a major problem to handle. The strident, defensive tone in the report suggests that their strategy will be to attempt to swing the pendulum as far in the opposite direction as it was previously being maintained in the silence, secrecy, position, i.e., go for maximum favorable publicity. If this is what they are going to try, they would have already provided all the documentation being made available to the public in the form of one copy in the Pentagon library, to a major paperback publisher. Additionally, they would have facilitated interviews with well known and respected retired Air Force generals to provide a very supportive forward and introduction to the book. The messages will be, "The Roswell incident and all other wild speculation about extraterrestrials and UFOs have very prosaic and believable explanations. Trust the Air Force, go back to sleep." If that is the Air Force strategy, the book should hit the stores soon and with a big noise - "Truth of UFOs revealed!"

Attachments:

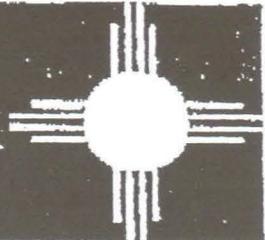
1. Congressman Steve Schiff news release, September 8, 1994.
2. Rep. Schiff's letter, March 11, 1993, to Secretary of Defense Les Aspen.
3. Office of the Secretary of Defense letter, April 20, 1993, to Rep. Schiff.
4. GAO letter, February 17, 1994, to Rep. Schiff.

News Release

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Steve Schiff

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW MEXICO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Louis Vega
(202) 225-6316

September 8, 1994

SCHIFF RESPONDS TO AIR FORCE REPORT ON ROSWELL '47 EVENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C., -- U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., today commended the Secretary of the Air Force for supporting the General Accounting Office's (GAO) audit of the '1947 Roswell Incident' by conducting a search of their own records, Schiff's office announced.

Schiff, however, is concerned that the Air Force seemed to focus on UFOs and extraterrestrial beings and not the request that the GAO has been acting on since approached by the Congressman.

"My question about the Air Force report is whether it provides a complete accounting of all records dealing with the Roswell incident, regardless of their content. That was my specific request," Schiff said. "At no time did I or the GAO state that my intent was to search for UFOs."

Schiff has asked the GAO to assist him in finding the existing files that relate to Roswell and report back to him. At this time, the GAO's audit, entitled "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents" is not complete.

"I am hopeful that the Air Force's report will assist the GAO as they continue to work on their comprehensive audit," said Schiff. "Similarly, I am confident that the professionals at GAO will do their best to provide the American people with a timely and well documented review of their findings."

08/14/94 14:35

003/007

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-310
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ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
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March 11, 1993

The Honorable Les Aspin
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last fall I became aware of a strange series of events beginning in New Mexico over 45 years ago and involving personnel of what was then the Army Air Force. I have since reviewed the facts in some detail, and I am writing to request your assistance in arriving at a definitive explanation of what transpired and why.

In brief, according to contemporary newspaper, wire service, national radio newscast, and numerous eyewitness accounts, on or about July 3, 1947, rancher William W. (Mac) Brazel found a large amount of unusual debris on property he managed northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, near the town of Corona. He brought his find to the attention of Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox, who then contacted the Roswell Army Air Field, home of the 509th Bomb Group (Atomic) commanded by Colonel William H. Blanchard (who later became vice chief of staff of the Air Force). According to testimony of the group intelligence officer, Major Jesse A. Marcel, he and the Counter Intelligence Corps officer in charge at the field, Captain Sheridan W. Cavitt, then accompanied Mr. Brazel to the discovery site.

Marcel testified that he and Cavitt found an area measuring about three-quarters of a mile long by 200 to 300 feet wide densely strewn with large amount of extremely lightweight, extremely strong materials neither could identify. Samples of these materials were flown to Eighth Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

On July 8, a press release announcing the find was issued by Colonel Blanchard's public information officer. This produced such a high level of press interest that, according to the Associated Press and a SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER front-page story of July 9, 1947, Army Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff Hoyt S. Vandenberg personally handled media inquiries at the Pentagon.

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A few hours later, Eighth Air Force Commanding General Roger M. Ramey told reporters in Fort Worth that what had been found in New Mexico were the initially misidentified remains of a weather balloon and its Rawin radar target. Recently, in written and videotaped depositions, Brigadier General Thomas J. DuBose, USAF(ret.), General Ramey's chief of staff at the time of the incident, testified that the balloon explanation was a cover story.

Similarly documented testimony given by a number of still living and seemingly credible witnesses suggests that, in addition to the cover story, Federal authorities sought to intimidate witnesses and their families into silence. Those alleged to have been subjected to such intimidation include Brazel; his son Bill, who says that, more than two years later, military authorities confiscated bits of debris he had found and told him not to talk about the incident; Sheriff Wilcox and his wife Inez; Glen Dennis, a Roswell mortician who provided contract services to Roswell AAF; and the co-owners of Roswell radio station KGFL, one of whom has stated that he was told their broadcast license would be revoked if KGFL aired an interview with Brazel.

It is my understanding that, to date, all inquiries to the Executive Branch have resulted in denials of any knowledge or record of this incident. Yet it is clear that something was recovered by the Army Air Force (see the enclosed), and if testimony of apparently honest witnesses is taken at face value, it seems likely to have been something other than a weather balloon and its radar target. Likewise, it is claimed that authorities took extraordinary measures on the matter, measures that would seem to have been unnecessary in connection with a routine balloon retrieval.

The inconsistency between repeated official denials and the public record and testimony of those involved has led to a great deal of sensational speculation and called into question the credibility of the Departments of Defense, Army, and the Air Force. Moreover, the lives of several of my fellow New Mexicans and their families have been and continue to be disrupted as a result of the incident. I believe a full and honest review and reporting of the facts of the case would serve the interests of both the United States Government and affected citizens, and help put the matter to rest once and for all.

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Therefore, Mr. Secretary, I respectfully request that you direct such a review be undertaken on a priority basis and that a representative or representatives of the Department of Defense and the responsible Military Departments promptly arrange to brief and provide me with a written report providing a current, complete, and detailed description and explanation of both the nature of what was recovered and all official actions taken on the matter. I have asked Mary Martinek, my Legislative Director, to coordinate all activities concerning this request, and she can address any questions your staff may have.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

/S/

Steven Schiff

SS:m2

Enclosures (7)

cc: The Honorable Joe Skaen

09/14/94 14:37 ☎

☑ 008/007



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

April 20, 1993

The Honorable Steve Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Schiff:

This is in regard to your recent letter to Secretary Aspin regarding alleged events which occurred in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. I, too, find these unexplained occurrences of great interest; however, these records are too old to be available here at the Pentagon.

I would, therefore, recommend that you contact the National Archives for additional information as I believe Colonel Shockley has already done on your behalf.

I regret that my response is not more favorable, but I trust you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rudy de Leon".

Rudy de Leon

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United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

National Security and
International Affairs Division

94-0692

February 17, 1994

The Honorable Steven K. Schiff
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Schiff:

This letter confirms our meeting with you on January 26, 1994, where we discussed the issue of government accountability with regard to the handling, retention, and subsequent disposition of official government records.

In this regard, you asked the General Accounting Office to review the policies and procedures of the Department of Defense, the National Archives, and others governing records involving crash incidents similar to that reported to have occurred at Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947. As part of our review, we plan to examine whether government agencies adhered to established policies, procedures, and other controls in carrying out their record stewardship activities.

We have already begun preliminary work on this review, and expect to begin on-site work at the Department of Defense within the next week. We will keep you and your staff informed of our progress.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 512-3504; or, in my absence, please contact Gary K. Weeter, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-4603.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Davis
Richard Davis
Director, National Security
Analysis