

American Computer Company

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February 23rd, 1998

DELIVERED BY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20500-0001

Dear Mr. President:

In a recent appearance, you told a citizen of the Russian Republic, a young person, that there was no "UFO" that landed near Roswell, N.M. in 1947. Then, speaking more frankly, you admitted that you tried to find out, and that the Defense Department either didn't or wouldn't tell you. I think my point to you that this issue is one of those issues that could potentially unite our fragmented world together, is well taken by the young lady's question in that far off land.

For the Record: all of us, at ACC (and I think a very large number of Americans) who believe this entire issue is still an open question, STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU CHANGE YOUR OFFICIAL PUBLIC POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, THE PENTAGON AND THE AIR FORCE, HAVE A SPACE CRAFT OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN. SEVERAL NOTED PERSONS FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD DISAGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAID TO THAT LITTLE RUSSIAN GIRL!

Open Letter to President William J. Clinton
Page 2 (cont'd)

In support of this end, the American Computer Company is

offering a reward to the Public as set forth here.

The American Computer Company hereby offers a \$1,000,000 REWARD to the first person who provides us confidential information which leads to the exposure of the whereabouts and leads to the public viewing of an Extra-Terrestrial Space Craft, that is: a Space Craft or other Flying Object designed and built by other than Humans or Human employed robotic devices, such as may be in the possession of the United States Department of Defense, the United States Army, United States Air Force, The Pentagon, or any other Agency or Organization of the United States Government.

Said reward is to be paid upon formal verification by Public Auditors employed by the American Computer Company, and General Public viewing of the Craft. Excluded from the right to collect this reward are all employees of the American Computer Company and their families, and any person for whom such a reward would be prohibited by law.

Mr. Clinton, we politely remind you of your OATH OF OFFICE, in which you agreed to uphold the Laws of the United States of America, one of which laws PROHIBITS YOU FROM LYING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Sincerely,

**Jack A. Shulman
President**

American Computer Company

<http://american-computer.com>:

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GOVERNMENT

Subject: ACC

Date: Tue, 24 Feb 1998 00:24:59 +0000

From: Philip Mantle <el51@dial.pipex.com>

To: 76750.2717@CompuServe.Com

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>
> *****
> Jack's jackpot
> *****
>
> - ACC offers \$ 1 million reward for wherabouts Roswell
> UFO
>
> An open letter to the president of the United States
>
> American Computer Company
> 6 Commerce Drive, 2nd Floor, Cranford, N.J. 07016
>
> February 23rd, 1998
> DELIVERED BY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
> HON. PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
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> WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20500-0001
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> Sincerely,
> Jack A. Shulman
> President
> American Computer Company

>
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>
> *****
> ACC's Grand Strategy
> *****

>
> - Jack Shulman: 'One bomb shell per month'

>
> Journalist Pat McCartney of the Lake Tahoe Tribune
> interviewed Jack Shulman of American Computer Co.
> last January.

>
> 'Personally, I find their story, and Philip Corso's,
> pointing to an unexpected direction of UFO research,
> namely the private sector. I think you will find
> Shulman's goals as interesting as I did. Unfortunately,
> there doesn't seem to be much of a way to speed
> the process up, unless you can help with their research.

>
> I will be writing about ACC and Corso spoiling Bell
> Labs' 50th anniversary of the transistor for my
> paper, so if anyone has an informed and opinionated
> comment they'd like to share, you can e-mail me
> or call me at the Trib (530-542-8012).

> As others have described, interviewing Shulman is
 > quite an experience. He's extremely voluble, and
 > you really have to work to break in and ask a question
 > or redirect his monologue.
 >
 > Having said that, he's also quite friendly, very
 > open to a point, and fluent about computers in a
 > way I can only envy. We spoke for more than 90 minutes,
 > when he returned a call I left in the morning asking
 > to talk to someone about the company's Roswell
 >
 > page.
 >
 > My main interest was to see what kind of care and
 > research they are exercising with regards to the
 > "lab shopkeeper's notebook" they acquired that kicked
 > off their current "investigation."
 >
 > If their claim -- that the notebook is evidence
 > that Bell Lab's 1947 "discovery" of the transistor
 > was based on their receiving debris from a crashed
 > saucer -- proves to be true, than this document
 > may come as close to being the smoking gun as anything
 >
 > we could wish.
 >
 > When you think about it, it only makes sense that
 > such documents would surface in the private sector,
 > which by definition is not under the direct control
 > of the federal government. And, as much evidence
 > suggests, unacknowledged programs have been privatized
 > to a large degree over the years.
 >
 > Following are points he made about the documents,
 > in answer to my questions.
 >
 > 1) The notebook bears the "eyes only" security
 > stamp of the then-War Department, along with the
 > printed names of Bell Labs and General Electric.
 >
 > 2) Shulman said the notebook wasn't a hardbound
 > diary, but rather a ring binder with individual
 > pages and reports. Some of the reports are typed,
 > others are mimeographed or handwritten.
 >
 > 3) If I followed him correctly, the consultant's
 > initial acquisition of a journal came from the "estate
 > of the deceased shopkeeper."
 >
 > 4) The unnamed consultant then somehow acquired
 > 28 boxes of supporting material, perhaps from inside
 > Bell Labs was the implication, but he did not specify
 > how. Shulman first said each box contained 300 pages
 > -- which would be under 10,000 in all -- but described
 > the complete collection as 20,000 pages!
 >
 > 5) The old cardboard boxes are rotting and some
 > of the papers in terrible condition. They smell

> to high heaven, Shulman said. His staff wear masks
 > and gloves while working with the documents, and
 > are using sealants and plastics to restore and protect
 > the pages.
 >
 > 6) Because of the instability of the decaying pages,
 > the investigators have photographed, rather than
 > photocopied them.
 >
 > 7) Age analysis (unspecified) has confirmed the
 > age of the paper as being from early 1940s to 1947,
 > indicating it was written on different stores of
 > paper.
 >
 > 8) A university forensics expert (unnamed) is analyzing
 > the style of the reports for inconsistencies and
 > other information.
 >
 > Shulman told me the company is planning some kind
 > of public event within 90 days, publicizing what
 > it has learned about the shopkeeper's notebook,
 > and the revolutionary ideas that it may contain.
 > He was very vague about what he planned to disclose,
 > and I simply advised him to go with a hired gun
 > public relations firm that could get the attention
 > of the mainstream media.
 >
 > During our dialogue, Shulman said his Grand Strategy
 > is to force the government to make its own disclosure
 > by releasing top secret information from the notebook
 > and supporting documents at a rate of one bombshell
 > a month.
 >
 > "Let's say there are 600 such details in all," Shulman
 > said. "We can release one a month for 50 years,
 > devastating military secrecy, until they realize
 > the public losses are so great that they will have
 > to throw in the towel."
 >
 > He identified the transcapacitor, announced Dec.
 > 5, and the photonitron, announced Jan. 4, as the
 > first two exposes. I did not ask about future announcements.
 >
 > He said he has given representatives of the major
 > players, including the Air Force, National Security
 > Agency, Army Intelligence and Office of Special
 > Investigations a certain (unspecified) deadline
 > to come forth, or he will upload the entire collection
 > of 20,000 pages of documents onto the Internet.
 >
 > "If they don't prove the case of Roswell, we'll
 > go public," Shulman said. Shulman describes himself
 > as a patriot who is outraged by the action of his
 > government (and its contractors). Today's political
 > leaders, and other keepers-of-the-secret, "have
 >
 > inherited a responsibility that is outside Constitutional
 >

> authority," he said.

>

> In other words, no matter what the original need
> was to hide information about the Roswell crash,
> the government now has an obligation to reveal it.

>

> "I think the answer to Roswell is apparent," Shulman
> said. "I think the answer needs to be disclosed,
> and the government needs to own up to it." Shulman
> said he has made certain his plan to release the
> material will not be affected if he is harmed or
> thwarted in some other way. "We set up a mechanism,
> a process that will outlast me," he said.

>

> He was not so helpful in steering me to people knowledgeable
> about the notebook or the transcapacitor who are
> independent of the American Computer Co., or who
> have not signed non-disclosure agreements. I will
> have to scrape to get comments from other insiders.

>

> That's the gist of Shulman's remarks. He is a meteoric
> speaker, much given to sprinting away on a tangent
> until reined in. Someone who knows more about computers,
> or the companies and agencies he talked about, might
> have gleaned more than I from the conversation,
> but, as I say, interviewing Jack Shulman is a challenge.
> You'd need at least a weekend to debrief him. At
> the end, he was even trying to give me computer
> advice when I mentioned my love/hate relationship
> with computers.

>

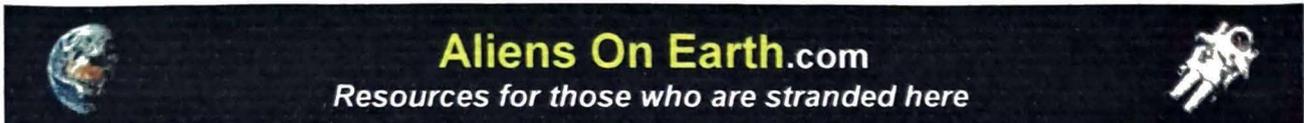
> I plan to do more interviews before writing a piece
> for my paper within the next two weeks.

>

> I can hardly wait for the ACC story to unfold. The
> proof, of course, will be in the successful operation
> of the devices the notebook, but at least we won't
> have to wait until the transcapacitor to go into
> production to learn more.'

>

>



Aliens On Earth.com
Resources for those who are stranded here

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Bookstore is <u>OPEN</u> <i>Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!</i></p> <p>Topics: UFOs - Paranormal - Area 51 - Ghosts - Fortean - Conspiracy - History - Biography - Psychology - Religion - Crime - Health - Geography - Maps - Science - Money - Language - Recreation - Technology - Fiction - Other - New</p>	<p>Search... for keyword(s) <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in Page Titles <input type="button" value="v"/></p>
<p>Location: Mothership -> UFO -> Updates -> 1998 -> Feb -> 'UFOs & Social Security?' Clinton's Speech 02-09-98</p>	

UFO UpDates Mailing List

'UFOs & Social Security?' Clinton's Speech 02-09-98

talks
UFO

From: Ufojoel@aol.com [Joe Muargia]
Date: Mon, 9 Feb 1998 21:29:56 EST
Fwd Date: Mon, 09 Feb 1998 23:15:31 -0500
Subject: 'UFOs & Social Security?' Clinton's Speech 02-09-98

Found at :

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/html/19980209-15022.html>

Hi All,

Thanks to my lovely, alert wife Desiree Murgia, I am able to share this with all of you. Today, she was searching through the transcript of President Clinton's speech on Social Security. Why? I have no idea! Clinton gave the speech today at Georgetown University. The entire transcript is found at the address above. I think Mr. President is starting to give us more hints regarding his own special interests.

-6th paragraph from the top-

[Begin Quote]

"You know, there was a recent poll which said that young people in the generation of the students here felt it was far more likely that they would see a UFO than that they would draw Social Security. (Laughter.) And others may think that it's a long way off, as Mannone said, and the Vice President said he thought it was a long way off."

[End Quote]

-And 27th paragraph from the top-

[Begin Quote]

"Now, if you look at that plus the present investment patterns of the funds of which are designed to secure 100 percent security and, therefore, get a somewhat lower return in return for 100 percent security for the investments, that's what will cause the problem. So if you look at the presently projected retirement and the presently projected returns, that will cause the problem."

It's very important you understand this. Once you understand this, you realize this is not an episode from the X Files, and you're not more likely to see a UFO if you do certain specific things. On the other hand, if you don't do anything, one of two things will happen -- either it will go broke and you won't ever get it; or if we wait too long to fix it, the burden on society of taking care of our generation's Social Security obligations will lower your income and lower your ability to take care of your children to a degree most of us who are your parents think would be horribly wrong and unfair to you and unfair to the future prospects of the United States."

[End Quote]

Could our dream of Open Congressional Hearings be around the corner? Get ready Dr. Greer! Am I reading too much into this speech? We just found it curious that UFOs would come up twice during a speech on social security.

Joe & Desiree Murgia

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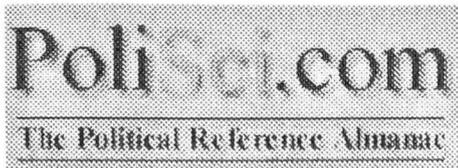
Clinton UFOs

10. Feb 1998 Social Security Speech

Dec 21, 97 ~~When~~ Clinton Interest in UFOs

"and Clinton has always been interested in
space and whether UFOs and space aliens are real." ✓

National Enquirer site Dec 20, 1997 story 509



Last updated March 1999

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Source: U.S. Congressional Directory

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Marine Corps Aide to the President	Maj. Duffy White
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January 9, 2000

Old executive Office Building
Attn: FOIA Officer (Barbara Ann Ferguson)
Old Executive Office Building, Room 431
Washington, DC 20502

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request that documents containing the following information be provided to me:

Correspondence or records of meeting with Dr. Carl Sagan, and files related to the movie
"Contact."

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am an individual
seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of \$ 20.00. If you estimate that the
fees will
exceed this limit, please inform me first.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Grant Cameron
649 Silverstone Ave.
Winnipeg Manitoba
Canada R3T 2V8
204-269-8940

Greer Briefed CIA head - Bell Show, O1-05-
From: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
Date: Tue, 06 Jan 1998 04:20:38 -0500
Fwd Date: Tue, 06 Jan 1998 04:20:38 -0500
Subject: Greer Briefed CIA head - Bell Show, O1-05-97

Very rough notes on a most intriguing broadcast.
be more full information forthcoming.

Stephen G. Bassett, UFO lobbyist in Washington.
Richard C. Hoagland
Stephen Greer, MD
Edgar Mitchell, former-Astronaut

Hoagland met with close associates of Clinton after the President was stonewalled' on his questions on UFOs.

Hoagland suggests that is concerted deep entrenched opposition to UFO revelations. He proposes that the President still wants to know viz his statement in Ireland. The real and secret government relates among other things, to off-planet-type scenarios. The elected government deals with mundane day to day issues. He feels the elected government is basically honest but is being manipulated. But the public has spent recent times wising-up.

Webster Hubble's (Janet Reno's assistant Attorney General) new book reveals that he was asked to check out JFK and UFOs by the newly-elected President. Vince Foster's office was cleaned out of documents after his death and questions about UFOs faded. Clinton's political capital ran out as he was hit with everything but the kitchen sink since.

Based on 15 years Mars/Moon work Hoagland has discovered a secret clique with little or no allegiance to the constitution. In Little Rock he gave a briefing over two nights. The first night went well, the second night was headed-off and attendees were told that he had left for Texas

"What puts it in context is the death of Vincent Foster.", said Hoagland.

A state of the union address is coming up. Hubble's book affirms the interest of the President in UFOs. What will help the revelation process are faxes and e-mail to the White House encouraging the President to 'go for it'. And asking for investigation of the machinations of the 'secret' government.

There has been extraordinary 'disposal' by The United States Archives and Navy of documents from their archives.

Stephen Greer & Contacts that have not been talked about previously.

In 1993 CSETI's Starlight Initiative was launched to expose the covert cover up of UFO

information.

In April, 2007, Greer met for 5 hours with Jim Woolsey, Director of the CIA, who had not been able to find UFO information via his channels. He took the President's enquiries "very seriously". There has been a lack of proper procedures for release of information. Woolsey seemed to be using a euphemism for being lied to. It was a grave, serious meeting. The Director had seen a UFO in the past. He knew that something was very wrong with not being able, as the CIA's Director, to get any information on UFOs. The Director held his head in his hands, uttering "Oh my God" as the implications of UFOs were brought home to him.

Greer handed Woolsey a strategic outline that the Executive Branch and the CIA should take. The CIA were told, as was Congressman Steven Schiff, that the documents "weren't there". Just as Webster Hubble was told by M. R. J. D. that there were no documents, Laurence Rockefeller asked Greer to provide him with a best evidence package to be given to Clinton at his summer vacation retreat in 1995.

The President's "people" told Greer that they cannot hold hearings without full information. They are either being left out of the information-loop or they "know".

When the Naval Research Laboratories destroyed documents it raised the specter of plausible deniability - destroyed evidence cannot be used against anyone.

If the President's chief people in the Executive Branch cannot obtain adequate information on the subject, there must be an open Congressional Hearing at which over a hundred witnesses can give evidence on UFOs.

Greer quoted Eisenhower's last address to the nation, the admonition to beware of the power of the military/industrial complex. The disappearance of information that should have been available to the US Constitutional Government.

There are now over a hundred "Top Secret" witnesses to UFOs who are coming forward.

The timing for this is because 15 key committees who need to investigate

Bruce Lindsay, a close associate of the President & Al Gore were also briefed by Greer.

Clinton's 'Legacy', in 2000, could be full-disclosure.

"We have tracked and shot at 'craft' in space, endangering national and world security"

See the letter to the President and US Congress.

Memories of Richard Nixon Grossset & Dunlap, NY 1978

- P. 289 Eisenhower of Laird "smuggest of the lot, but he is too obvious" elected Laird 1968. "Of course Laird is obvious, but for anyone who has to run the Pentagon and get along with congress, that is a valuable asset."
- P. 339 Laird "expert on defense appropriations" 17 years in House

- Lake prof of intern relations "On the Edge: The Clinton Presidency" Elizabeth Drew Simon & Schuster NY 1994
- Warren Christopher ^{head of} transition team - won Clintons trust for discreet and successful search for running mate (cal. attorney)
- P. 21 Bruce Lindsey set around six feet (Little Rock attorney) helped pick cabinet very few people with Washington experience "We came here, we thought, to change things" Bruce Lindsey
29. Clinton big interest ^{in Warren Christopher} "domestic economy" part of Lake job to keep foreign policy from distracting domestic agenda. ran transition campaign headquarters in Little Rock didn't know how DC worked
- ^{of Bruce Lindsey} senior advisor - 1st 9 months coordinating appointment of all sub-cabinet officials in government
- Christopher secretary of state
46. Lake known as a "first second" ^{not formal decision maker} only speak up for policy once someone else recommended it.
- { "Highway: From Backroads to the Beltway - The Education of Bill Clinton." John Brummett Hyperion NY. 1994
- Thomas F (Mack) Mc Larty III ^{1st} chief of staff - running Arkansas Louisiana Gas company Fortune 500 company in trouble

U. S. Ended UFO Probes in '60s. (Pentagon briefing.)

CLINTON

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
Date: Wed, 2 Apr 1997 21:30:16 -0800
Subject: U. S. Ended UFO Probes in '60s. (Pentagon briefing.)

[via CloudRider@aol.com]

04/01 - U. S. Ended UFO Probes in '60s. (Pentagon briefing.)

.c The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Convinced there is no extraterrestrial threat, the U.S. military long ago stopped keeping track of UFOs, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday.

The suicide last week of 39 members of Heaven's Gate, a high-tech UFO cult, prompted a question at Tuesday's Pentagon briefing on whether the military follows UFOs.

Bacon said the Air Force investigated UFO reports from 1947 to 1969 but out of 12,618 reported sightings found no evidence of extraterrestrials or even of any aircraft representing exotic technology or a threat to the United States.

The Air Force stopped the practice because virtually all the UFOs it investigated were explainable as aircraft or weather phenomena and posed no threat.

Asked about the possible existence of UFOs, Bacon said the U.S. government ``cannot substantiate that they exist.''

AP-NY-04-01-97 1656EST

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Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).

dred-year-long Renaissance: To wit, the capacity to initiate another by opening the Martian frontier. If we fail to do so, our culture will not have that capacity long. Mars is harsh. Its settlers will need not only technology, but the scientific outlook, creativity, and free-thinking inventiveness that stand behind it. Mars will not allow itself to be settled by people from a static society—those people won't have what it takes. We still do. Mars today waits for the children of the old frontier. But Mars will not wait forever.

SPECIAL ADDENDUM: THE MARS
METEORITE DISCOVERIES OF 1996

On August 6, 1996, NASA administrator Dan Goldin released a statement to the press that read, in part, "NASA has made a startling discovery that points to the possibility that a primitive form of microscopic life may have existed in Mars more than three billion years ago. . . ." The following day crackled with excitement. Headlines announced that NASA had discovered possible evidence for ancient life on Mars, more to come at a press conference that afternoon. Prior to the event, President Clinton stood on the South Lawn of the White House to share his enthusiasm over the NASA findings. If confirmed, he said, the discovery would rank as "one of the most stunning insights into our universe that science has ever uncovered" and he vowed that the space program would "put its full intellectual power and technological prowess behind the search for further evidence of life on Mars." Soon after, NASA presented to the world a nondescript chunk of stone. Mounted on a blue velvet cushion within the protective walls of a Plexiglas case, the potato-sized stone was introduced as ALH84001, a rare type of meteorite that had its genesis on the planet Mars. Rarer still was the cargo it carried. Over the course of the preceding two and a half years, a team of NASA researchers and outside collaborators examining the meteorite had uncovered mineralogical,

Meantime, work continued on the mineral chemistry and composition of the stone. Gibson, McKay, and Thomas-Keptra continued both scanning and transmission electron microscopic work through the summer and fall of 1995. During one summer evening, Gibson and McKay stumbled across an object they would later dryly describe as a “tubular, segmented structure” some 0.4 microns long. The words don’t quite describe the object, which looks for all the world (Earth or Mars) suspiciously wormy. You can look at the image they captured and imagine a front end to the “structure” and a back end and a middle. You can imagine it wriggling along. Chemical clues of life were one thing, but this infinitesimal, wormy-looking thing shook both researchers to the core. It was hard sleeping that night, for both.

Other discoveries were made. During the fall of 1995 the team, with the help of a new member, Hojatollah Vali, positively identified minerals within the carbonates that, at least on Earth, are often created by bacteria. The size, shape, and chemistry of the mineral grains were identical to compounds produced by anaerobic bacteria and other earthly microscopic organisms. Additional high resolution images of “unusual features” and “interesting morphologies” were obtained. Thomas-Keptra’s doubts fell away as she positively identified minute grains of the mineral greigite, which, in the size range she discovered, is more often than not produced by bacteria, at least here on Earth. Finally, in February 1996, Gibson wrote the first draft of a paper that would be submitted to *Science*, one of the most prestigious journals in the scientific community. The paper was officially submitted to *Science* in April with David McKay as first author, and eight other co-authors, including Gibson, Thomas-Keptra, Romanek, Vali, Zare, and two of Zare’s graduate students, Simon Clemett and Claude Maechling, along with Stanford postdoc Xavier Chillier.

It took nearly four months and several iterations for the paper to wend its way through the peer-review and editorial process, but on July 16th, *Science* accepted the paper, entitled “Search for Past Life on Mars: Possible Relic Biogenic Activity in Martian Meteorite ALH84001.”

News of the paper’s acceptance quickly traveled up the NASA chain of command. NASA administrator Dan Goldin was undoubtedly pleased to find himself fretting over whether to tell the president

that researchers within his organization had possibly discovered evidence for life on ancient Mars. After a night of pondering the question, Goldin called the White House for a meeting with the president’s chief of staff, Leon Panetta. The next day Goldin found himself briefing not only Panetta, but President Clinton and Vice President Gore, and, unknowingly, setting the stage for one the more bizarre news leaks in recent memory.

NASA had kept a lid on the research for months, in part out of respect for the journal *Science*’s strict policy regarding prepublication publicity or announcements of research papers. In a word, it permits none. NASA planned to hold a press conference in mid-August, immediately following publication. News of the discovery, though, leaked out. The first mention came in a small piece by Leonard David in *Space News*. The basic details were there in the aerospace weekly’s report: NASA researchers had discovered what they believed to be evidence for past Martian life in their investigations of a Martian meteorite. Later, though, word abounded that galley copies of the *Science* article were available soon after Goldin’s White House meeting, and from an unusual source—the mistress of Richard Morris, a close political advisor to President Clinton. Whether the work of a scribe, or a strumpet, the word was out and the rest, as they say, was history.

Carl Sagan is credited with having once noted that “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” It was an oft-repeated quote in the days following the announcement, and one that should be kept in mind as researchers line up to take shots at McKay, Gibson, and their colleagues’ work. The evidence the team presented will have to withstand what will undoubtedly be numerous challenges. It’s sometimes easier to think in terms of disproof rather than proof in scientific arguments. Absolute proof is hard to come by, especially in the case of the claim of fossilized Martian life. Disproof on the other hand can require no more than one small crack in the argument, and can be far easier to establish. So, will the claim for Martian life hold up? Let’s take a closer look at the NASA team’s arguments, their strengths as well as their potential weaknesses.

McKay, Gibson, and their colleagues base their claims on five lines of evidence. There are, according to the team, alternative explanations

for the phenomena present in each separate line of evidence. However, when viewed collectively, the researchers hold that life on Mars is the simplest explanation for the occurrence of all five lines of evidence. The evidence presented by the researchers thus far is as follows.

ALH84001 Is an Ancient Piece of Mars

There's little doubt that ALH84001 originally came from Mars. During the 1970s, researchers began to suspect that a small class of meteorites dubbed "SNCs" (after three sample types that were discovered in, respectively, Shergotty, India; Nakhla, Egypt; and Chassigny, France) may have come from Mars. All were igneous rocks—that is, formed from the crystallization of lava—and all were relatively young (about 1.3 billion years old) compared with the known ages of other igneous meteorites. Mars was one of the few planets in the solar system believed to have had active volcanoes that recently (in solar system terms), and the inclusion of water-bearing minerals in the SNCs helped point to Mars as the parent body for these strange rocks. Then, in 1983, researchers discovered Martian atmospheric gas in an SNC and, since then, in nearly all SNCs, including ALH84001. While far older than other SNCs, few would argue ALH84001's Martian origin.

Formed more than four billion years ago, ALH84001 was blasted off the Martian surface some sixteen million years ago and plummeted to Earth sometime around 11,000 B.C. The age of the stone has been determined via a technique known as mother-daughter isotope measurement. Researchers measure the relative amounts of specific radioactive chemical isotopes and what they have decayed to. Two isotope suites have been measured for ALH84001; samarium-neodymium and rubidium-strontium. Both have given ages of approximately 4.5 billion years for the time since the stone crystallized. Some time after the rock formed, it was apparently crushed and heated once again, most probably by a meteorite slamming into the Martian surface. This event fractured the rock and, according to McKay and colleagues, provided the fracture lines later filled by carbonates. Researchers have placed the age of this "shock event" (the "shock age") anywhere from 4 billion to 1.39 billion years ago, again based on mother-daughter isotope measurements, though the NASA team points to a 3.6 billion year age for the

shock event and subsequent formation of carbonate globules. A later impact on Mars blasted the stone into space, where it journeyed for millions of years before its plunge to Earth. During that time, high energy elementary particles—cosmic rays—walloped the stone, transforming chemical elements into new isotopes. Measurements of isotopes of helium, neon, and argon indicate that ALH84001 drifted through space for sixteen to seventeen million years. Finally, the "terrestrial age" age of the meteorite, how long ago it fell to Earth, has been determined via carbon-14 dating, a technique well known to archaeologists.

The Carbonate Globules Formed at Low Temperatures

The chronology of events that brought ALH84001 into being and onto Earth is fairly well established. The events that led to the creation of the carbonate globules, however, are not as well established. McKay and colleagues hold that carbon dioxide enriched liquid water filled the fissures in the Martian stone, with the carbonates being formed in temperatures below 80°C. Other researchers, however, have proposed that the carbonates formed when carbon dioxide rich fluids percolated into the fissures at temperatures approaching 450°C, perhaps during one of the "shock events." Of course, 450°C is something less than a hospitable environment for life. However, it seems pretty clear to me that the NASA researchers have rebutted these arguments successfully by countering with evidence that supports low-temperature formation. This evidence includes the oxygen isotope ratio data, the presence of greigite within the carbonates, and the presence of organic molecules—all would be destroyed or degraded if heated to 450°C.

The Chemistry and Mineralogy Within the Carbonate Globules Indicate Biologic Activity

Under extremely high magnification, the carbonate globules revealed the presence individual mineral crystals that, on Earth at least, are generally produced by bacteria. (The NASA researchers selected a 50-micron diameter globule and sliced it into about fifty thin sections.) These mineral crystals were identified as magnetite, pyrrhotite, and greigite. All of these minerals can, however, sometimes be produced by nonbiologic as well as biologic processes on Earth. But the team

compared the crystals found within the carbonate to known samples of biologic origin, and discovered that they closely resembled their terrestrial counterparts in size, shape, and structure. Furthermore, the minerals appeared to be extremely pure, free of contaminants. Given this resemblance and the crystals' purity, Gibson, McKay, and colleagues argue that the crystals they discovered were "biogenic" in origin—they were the products of biological activity.

They supported this claim with an interpretation of the overall mineralogy of the globules based, in part, on the texture of the carbonates. They point out that one region of their sample was more porous than others, and believe that the carbonate in this area was partially dissolved by acidic fluids. However, inorganic precipitation of magnetite and pyrrhotite require just the opposite conditions: high pH rather than low (acidic) pH conditions. If the two minerals had somehow formed, the researchers add, the particles should show some sign of corrosion or dissolution. In essence, the researchers hold that the combination of magnetite, pyrrhotite, and carbonate could not have formed nonbiologically.

This is a tough argument to refute.

ALH84001 Contains Organic Molecules Associated with the Carbonate Globules

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are organic compounds made up of carbon and hydrogen ("hydrocarbon") and that have specific arrangements of their atoms and molecules ("aromatic" and "polycyclic"—aromatic was originally used to describe these compounds because they literally stank). If you've sniffed mothballs you've had a whiff of a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (naphthalene). PAHs are ubiquitous on Earth, formed in numerous ways, from burning fossil fuels to searing meat, to the decay of once living matter.

Zare and his Stanford co-workers discovered small amounts of PAHs associated with the carbonate globules within ALH84001 via a method termed microprobe two-step laser microscopy. This process is exceptionally sensitive, capable of measuring trace levels of organic compounds, and has an extremely fine spatial resolution, down to 0.04 microns for the detection of PAHs. In the process, one laser hits

a sample with a powerful but short (one ten-millionth of a second) pulse, causing organic molecules to detach from the surface. A more powerful laser then blasts this cloud of molecules with an even shorter pulse (a billionth of a second), exciting certain types of molecules and knocking an electron off the molecule, thereby ionizing it. All this takes place inside a very high vacuum, electrically charged chamber, so the now-ionized molecules travel out of the vapor cloud to a time-of-flight mass spectrometer. This device then determines the mass of the molecule. The second laser in the two-step system can be tuned to pick out certain families of organic molecules, in this case PAHs. It can also be set to detect amino acids—protein building blocks—as well as DNA bases.

The discovery of PAHs within ALH84001 was newsworthy in that no organic compounds had previously been detected on Mars or within an SNC. The discovery of PAHs within a meteorite, though, was old news. One class of meteorites, carbonaceous chondrites, carry an abundance of PAHs, and rarely has there been a claim that these PAHs resulted from biologic activity. Further, because PAHs are so common, the NASA researchers had to convince not only other researchers but themselves as well that the PAHs they measured were not laboratory contaminants or terrestrial PAHs that contaminated ALH84001 during its residency in Antarctica. One of the longest footnotes to the *Science* paper details the extensive precautions and tests taken to prevent contamination. In the research team's opinion, "no evidence can be found for laboratory-based contamination." Likewise, contamination checks and control experiments, according to the NASA team, indicated that the PAHs measured were indigenous to ALH84001. They noted that PAH accumulations on the Greenland ice sheet range from ten parts per trillion for pre-industrial times to one part per billion for recent times. The PAHs detected in ALH84001 are present in the parts per million range, a thousand times higher than could be expected from terrestrial contamination alone. Further, studies of two other Antarctic meteorites showed no evidence of indigenous PAHs. The authors term these comparison samples "equivalent desorption matrix blanks"—essentially equivalent sponges. If ALH84001 had picked up PAHs in Antarctica, these samples should have too.

Already, however, by November 1996 additional evidence has been turned up by British investigators who have found strong evidence of biogenic gases with another SNC meteorite—EETA79001—this one less than two hundred million years old. The British team, including Ian Wright and Colin Pillinger of the Open University in Milton Keynes, and Monica Grady of the Open University and Natural History Museum in London, found organic compounds within their rock that are usually produced from microbe-generated methane. Moreover, they were able to measure the ratio of carbon isotopes found within these compounds, and found that they matched those which are typical of life and anomalous for nonlife. This is strong evidence, and if it holds up, the odds are high for life on Mars not just in the distant past, but in the present.

A CHANGE IN THE AGENDA

While not constituting final proof of Martian life, the discoveries in ALH84001 and EETA79001 are powerful, so powerful in fact that they will necessarily change the course of NASA's and the world's Mars investigation programs. While the question of life on Mars has (rightly) always been the central scientific question regarding the Red Planet as far as the public was concerned, among the post-Viking professional priesthood of planetary scientists, exobiology has been frowned upon. Indeed, at gatherings of NASA's Mars Science Working Group (MarsSWG) held over the past decade, the few exobiologists present were generally regarded as grad students who never grew up. Instead, according to the dominant factions in the MarsSWG, the real, serious questions of scientific investigation concerning Mars had to do with seismology, meteorology, and geochemistry.

The Mars rock discoveries have changed all that. Now exobiology and paleontology have moved to the fore. And while seismology and meteorology can be done well, and geochemistry done badly, with robotic probes, exobiology and paleontology cannot be done competently without human explorers on the surface. Fossil hunts require the ability to hike miles across unimproved terrain, to climb up boulder fields, to do both heavy work and delicate work, and to exercise

subtle forms of perception and intuition, all of which are far beyond the capabilities of robotic rovers. To find the fossil beds that will reveal the ancient Martian biosphere in its true glory will take human explorers, real live rock hounds, on the scene. To drill deep into the ground to bring up subsurface water in which Martian life may yet exist will take human prospectors and drill-rig teams working out of a permanent Mars base.

President Clinton has called for putting "the full intellectual resources and technological prowess of the United States behind the search for life on Mars." If this commitment is to be honored, then the United States will have to send human explorers to Mars. Administrator Goldin is leery, at least publicly, of using the NASA team's findings as a reason to launch an immediate, aggressive campaign of Mars missions, especially human missions. Having weathered several years of fairly vicious budget cuts and sensing a distinct hostility toward new, possibly big programs on the Hill, Goldin has been cautious. "Our missions should be driven by scientific potential," he notes, "and the potential for economic opportunity." If we go to Mars, via robotic missions or human missions, we should know "why we're there." Goldin wants mission planning to be "science driven," not the result of an "emotional" response.

Goldin, of course, has to play to an audience that includes not only the president and Congress, but also White House science advisor Jack Gibbons, a long-time skeptic of human space exploration, and therefore may deem it wise to keep his comments enthusiastic but conservative. A slightly different view of the future was offered by Richard Zare during the August 7 press conference. "It's very important to this country to really keep its sense of exploration, the pioneering spirit, the same thing that brought our forebears to the New World," he said. "I think there are new worlds to explore in space and elsewhere, but we people must be willing to invest in them. When we turn inward, when we forget to make these investments, when we lose that will, such nations perish."

I couldn't have said it better.

From: Henny van der Pluijm <hvdp@worldonline.nl>
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 1997 03:47:07 +0100 (MET)
Fwd Date: Sun, 14 Dec 1997 23:57:37 -0500
Subject: UFO News International 33

Clinton
ACC

ACC sues US Air Force for hiding an alien spacecraft

By Ed Wang, slightly edited

ACC has been persistent. I understand that they have fired off a lawsuit (four weeks ago) with the Judge Advocate General of the US Air Force and have obtained a Court Order against the Air Force Engineering Installations and IT Divisions that may eventually compel them to release:

- a) the documents they failed to about Project Blue Book and the Roswell UFO
- b) the actual debris from Roswell and an unclaimed craft that was found by the Air Force in the vicinity of Corona California in July of 1947.

- Corona is in New Mexico, - HvdP

The craft is not "classified", ACC's president Jack Shulman told me. It has been dubbed "experimental military aircraft", so that it ordinarily would not be available to the public and all documents about it subject to perpetual classification. I understand that the Air Force has until the second week in January to respond and is bound irrevocably by the Order of Protection, being monitored by the Department of Justice and the US Marshall Service.

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The lawsuit is based on "fraudulent representation of property of the United States Government" and includes writs of Habeas Corpus demanding production of documents, things and corpses, connected with the Roswell matter. ACC says it may be pending for several years, given the immediate effort by the Air Force to slow the fast track of the lawsuit, and to quell production.

ACC has also cornered President Clinton, sending one of their lobbyists to meet with him: they got him to release a statement that he has a "personal interest" in UFOlogy and wants the ultimate facts surrounding any military dossiers and Alien Hardware in the US Government's possession released to the public. But admitting that despite the fact that he is the Commander in Chief, he may not have the ability to cause the release, due to the problem with ultra-classified materials from the past, he has not yet been able to get the DoD to brief him on the project allegedly assigned to the Roswell craft, or so he said.

ACC has approached both Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf about the possibility of organizing a Pro Bono Observation Team (PBOT) to enter and examine the alleged storage facility housing the craft. It is my understanding that the Judge Advocate General of the Army and Air Force has issued a ruling ordering a protective order on the facility, barring removal of any materials from it by the NSA and by the DoD, or any agent thereof.

ACC has asked General (ret.) Alexander Haig to join the PBOT. Apparently Al Haig was one of the sources of the ACC story, although I have not confirmed this, and may be the consultant, the identity of whom Jack has been protecting. Haig is working on Defense Communications based on high altitude blimps, and they have adopted the name of the Air Force's secret extra-terrestrial flyby monitoring system: Skystation, which is referred to in the FAX sent to ACC's technical support desk. But Haig is not the source of that document - ACC has confirmed it came from Langley Air Force Base, and was sent them not so by accident, after the posting of their story on the Internet.

Editor's comment:

Interestingly, there is a reference to Skystation in the November

1997 issue of Byte, the world's leading computer magazine. The article 'Fiber in the Sky' by John Montgomery describes various projects to put systems of communications satellites into orbit. In the table 'The Air up There' on page 68, under High Altitude Long Endurance platforms (HALE), we find 'Skystation'. HALEs are described as solar powered lightweight airplanes or lighter than air craft that hover over an unmoving spot some 70,000 feet above the earth. Not often talked about, and now primarily a research venture. An example of HALE that uses blimps is Skystation.

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The author John Montgomery claims not to know whether this was the same Skystation as was mentioned by Jack Shulman. The Byte article does mention however that Skystation is a system that uses blimps, exactly like the Skystation that Shulman et al. are talking about.

However, there appear to be two Skystations, one that is a communications platform for Internet transmissions and one that is a top secret US Air Force asset. Jack Shulman sheds further light on this:

'Alexander Haig's "Skystation Blimp" is a form of mass Internet Communications System based on not yet built nor launched Lighter Than Air Craft (blimps) proposed by Skystation, Inc. This system is based on radio waves with such a high frequency that rain, clouds and even smog could interfere with it, and which has been discredited lately on this account. But this system is verifiably NOT the same thing as the US Air Force's "Skystation Satellite". They are two different things.

Apparently, the Air Force's Skystation is a CLASSIFIED Space Communications Platform, while Haig's Skystation, Inc. is a COMMERCIAL Network of Hydrogen/Helium blimps with two-way digital Internet re-transmitters.

None of Haig's Skystation blimps have been built or launched yet, nor have they been licensed yet to use the key radio frequencies by the FCC, and the entire commercial Skystation, Inc. plan may be infeasible due to its sensitivity to bad weather - that kink hasn't been worked out yet.

On the other hand, the Air Force's Classified Skystation Space Platform appears to be in full operation and appears to have sent us an outage message at the end of July by Fax transmission. The similarities end at the Air Force's choice of code name, and Skystation, Inc's use of its marketing-hype name. Is the commercial one designed to provide cover for the Air Force satellite? I don't know.'

- HvdP

Ed Wang continued.

ACC has also met with estate management trustees for Walter Brattain, one of the co-inventors of the transistor, about some documents that were in his estate when he passed away. These documents were, despite his published writings, dispositive about his having been convinced by his superiors at Bell Labs to put his name on phony patent disclosures surrounding the AT&T Transistor. I understand that the lawyers who Brattain had originally hired for his estate had passed copies to ACC for examination. I also understand that a document that was drawn up to protect them from AT&T and signed by Brattain, Shockley and Bardeen, may be being sought, in that it was filed with their

- 6 of 17 - - UFO News International 33 -

lawyer as a means by which to convince AT&T that "if anything should happen to us, then our lawyers will release this letter to the public, the press and the government".

ACC has indicated they will not be adding new information to their website until almost New Years, and have asked me to serve as a "go between", limiting my postings to those who have sent me their email addresses, and to Francisco Lopez's list server. I believe however that they are still taking calls, but keeping their heads down and also having a very busy holiday sale season on their PCs. Shulman told me he didn't want the Public coming to his website and buying PCs for the holidays as a result of any earth shattering news posted there about Roswell, so he has locked the Roswell story-well. But many of us are trying to convince him to change his mind. There are about 50 pages of things ACC does NOT want me to release in my letters to you that

have my mind boggled.

ACC has also indicated that while it has received numerous offers about books and movies concerning its story, it has withheld any agreement to the many offerers, and is working mainly on the effort to get the UFO and documents (and bodies?) produced by the Air Force for public inspection... I applaud them. I heard that they have put a lawyer between them and the many requests coming from companies, from ghost writers, from screenplay writers and many others and aren't committing to anything.

The CBS Evening News - March 1997

Transcripts of "The CBS Evening News" cost \$9.00 per program. Following is a list of subjects covered during March 1997:

March 13, 1997

FBI asks the public to identify people who are in photographs taken at Centennial Park before the bombing; Man arrested for the shooting death of Ennis Cosby and two other suspects are being sought; Stephen Jones, attorney for Timothy McVeigh, comments on the recent publication of an alleged confession from McVeigh; ... Janet Reno testifies that she tried to tell Anthony Lake about the Chinese

possibly trying to buy influence during the campaign; Lease to China of the Long Beach naval shipyard could be in connection with donations made to political campaigns and has many wondering if it would be a threat to national security; Bryant Gumbel joins CBS to host a prime-time newsmagazine; Martian meteorite found in Antarctica contains fossil evidence of primitive life on Mars; Hale-Bopp comet, just discovered 19 months ago, will be on view all this week

March 14, 1997

President Clinton recovering from knee surgery after slipping on stairway and tearing a tendon; Procedure used to repair the damage caused to the quadriceps tendon; US Marines continue to evacuate Americans from Albania as the country falls into total anarchy; Airlift of Americans from Albania suspended after escort helicopters are fired upon; Stephen Jones, Timothy McVeigh's lawyer, asks that the trial be moved or delayed due to the publication of defense memos last week; Suspect in Ennis Cosby's murder to be charged in two weeks; FBI receives help from the public in identifying seven of the people in photographs they released yesterday; Upper Midwest prepares for flooding as record amount of snowfall will lead to heavy spring meltdown; US government gives automakers permission to make air bags deploy with less power, one parent who lost a child says not enough; Device recommended for approval to help Parkinson's patients with tremors caused by the disease; Approval given for use of protease inhibitors in children as young as two to fight AIDS; New York City becomes nice, polite city under Mayor Giuliani

March 18, 1997

Anthony Lake, President Clinton's nominee for CIA director, withdraws; Anthony Lake, President Clinton's nominee for CIA director, was losing support on Capitol Hill even before withdrawing; President Clinton talks with reporters about his knee injury and how he is coping with crutches and a wheelchair

March 19, 1997

President Clinton nominates George Tenet to be director of the CIA; George Tenet, CIA director nominee, accused of giving CIA secrets to reporters;