

During 1954 and the early part of 1955 my friends in Europe tried to keep me up-to-date on all of the better reports, but this soon approached a full-time job. Airline pilots saw them, radar picked them up, and military pilots chased them. The press took sides, and the controversy that had plagued the U.S. since 1947 bloomed forth in all its confusion.

An ex-Air Chief Marshal in the RAF, Lord Dowding, went to bat for the UFO's. The Netherlands Air Chief of Staff said they can't be. Herman Oberth, the father of the German rocket development, said that the UFO's were definitely inter-planetary vehicles.

In Belgium a senator put the screws on the Secretary of Defense—he wanted an answer. The Secretary of Defense questioned the idea that the saucers were "real" and said that the military wasn't officially interested. In France a member of parliament received a different answer—the French military was interested. The French General Staff had set up a committee to study UFO reports.

In Italy, Clare Boothe Luce, American Ambassador to Italy, said that she had seen a UFO and had no idea what it could be.

Halfway around the world, in Australia, the UFO's were busy too. At Canberra Airport the pilot of an RAAF Hawker Sea Fury and a ground radar station teamed up to get enough data to make an excellent radar-visual report.

In early 1955 the flap began to die down about as rapidly as it had flared up, but it had left its mark—many more believers. Even the highly respected British aviation magazine, *Aeroplane*, had something to say. One of the editors took a long, hard look at the over-all UFO picture and concluded, "Really, old chaps—I don't know."

Probably the most unique part of the whole European Flap was the fact that the Iron Curtain countries were having their own private flap. The first indications came in October 1954, when Rumanian newspapers blamed the United States for launching a drive to induce a "flying saucer psychosis" in their country. The next month the Hungarian Government hauled an "expert" up in front of the microphone so that he could explain to the populace that UFO's don't really exist because, "all 'flying saucer' reports originate in the bourgeois countries, where they are invented by the capitalist warmongers with a view to drawing the people's attention away from their economic difficulties."

Next the U.S.S.R. itself took up the cry along the same lines when the voice of the Soviet Army, the newspaper *Red Star*, denounced the UFO's as, you guessed it, capitalist propaganda.

In 1955 the UFO's were still there because the day before the all-important May Day celebration, a day when the Soviet radio and TV are

normally crammed with programs plugging the glory of Mother Russia to get the peasants in the mood for the next day, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences had to get on the air to calm the people's fears. He left out Wall Street and Dulles this time—UFO's just don't exist.

It was interesting to note that during the whole Iron Curtain Flap, not one sighting or complimentary comment about the UFO's was made over the radio or in the newspapers; yet the flap continued. The reports were obviously being passed on by word of mouth. This fact seems to negate the theory that if the newspaper reporters and newscasters would give up the UFO's would go away. The people in Russia were obviously seeing something.

While the European Flap was in progress, the UFO's weren't entirely neglecting the United States. The number of reports that were coming into Project Blue Book were below average, but there were reports. Many of them would definitely be classed as good, but the best was a report from a photo reconnaissance B-29 crew that encountered a UFO almost over Dayton.

About 11:00 A.M. on May 24, 1954, an RB-29 equipped with some new aerial cameras took off from Wright Field, one of the two airfields that make up Wright-Patterson AFB, and headed toward the Air Force's photographic test range in Indiana. At exactly twelve noon they were at 16,000 feet, flying west, about 15 miles northwest of Dayton. A major, a photo officer, was in the nose seat of the '29. All of the gun sights and the bombsight in the nose had been taken out, so it was like sitting in a large picture window—except you just can't get this kind of a view anyplace else. The major was enjoying it. He was leaning forward, looking down, when he saw an extremely bright circular-shaped object under and a little behind the airplane. It was so bright that it seemed to have a mirror finish. He couldn't tell how far below him it was but he was sure that it wasn't any higher than 6,000 feet above the ground, and it was traveling fast, faster than the B-29. It took only about six seconds to cross a section of land, which meant that it was going about 600 miles an hour.

The major called the crew and told them about the UFO, but neither the pilot nor the copilot could see it because it was now directly under the B-29. The pilot was just in the process of telling him that he was crazy when one of the scanners in an aft blister called in; he and the other scanner could also see the UFO.

Being a photo ship, the RB-29 had cameras—loaded cameras—so the logical thing to do would be to take a picture, but during a UFO sighting logic sometimes gets shoved into the background. In this case, however, it

CHAPTER 6

SOCORRO AND BEYOND

ONE OF THE MORE UNUSUAL UFO CASES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF the Bureau in the 1960s was that involving Joseph Perry of Grand Blanc, Michigan, who was interviewed by agents of the Detroit FBI office on 5 March 1960, and four days later became the subject of the following memorandum:

Mr Perry advised that he operates a Pizza House at 3075 Edwards Street, Grand Blanc, and that he has been a professional photographer for thirty years. He explained that he has a hobby of taking photographs of the moon through a home-made telescope. At about 1.00 a.m. on February 21, 1960, he took some photographs of the moon and after developing same, he put them in his viewer and in one photograph he observed what appears to be a flying object somewhere between the end of his telescope and the surface of the moon. He said that when blown up, this object is flat on the bottom, is oval shaped, and appears to have a fluorescent glow around the entire object, and that it is apparently moving as it has a vapor trail running behind it. He has taken over one thousand pictures of the moon and has never seen anything resembling this object.

Certain that he had photographed something truly anomalous, Perry duly furnished the FBI with the relevant photograph for expert analysis.

As a teletype message of 9 March 1960 shows, the FBI in turn contacted the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Selfridge Air Force Base, who assumed custody of Perry's picture. However, the Bureau continued to monitor aspects of the case, particularly in light of the fact that Perry's

FBI	
Date: 3/28/60	
Transmit the following in _____ <small>(Type in plain text or code)</small>	
Via	AIRTEL AIR MAIL <small>(Priority or Method of Mailing)</small>
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI	
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (65-2677)	
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; JOSEPH PERRY, Grand Blanc, Michigan- COMPLAINANT	
Re Doairtel, 3/9/60 and Detel, 3/9/60.	
An article appeared in the "Plint Journal", Plint, Mich., dated 3/27/60 by Reporter ALLAN R. WILHELM. This article appeared on Page 13. The article reflects an interview with PERRY and in part states that PERRY had received at least 50 letters and calls in regard to the photograph he had taken. One letter was from National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomenon. The article contains the following quote from this letter, "From past experience with photographic evidence we consider it unlikely that you will ever see your picture again." PERRY had advised the newspaper that all he knew was that the picture was in Air Force hands. The FBI only says that it is in "proper hands", according to PERRY. The article continued, "So last week PERRY wrote to the President telling him he can't find out where his slide is and asking assurance that he will get it back." PERRY was quoted as saying, "The only way I will be satisfied if I don't get it back is if the Government tells me it is top secret."	
The photograph referred to above was on a .35 mm slide which was furnished to OSI, SAPB, by letter dated 3/9/60.	
OSI, Selfridge Air Force Base, Mt. Clemens, Mich., advised of the above. Additional information follows which will include a copy of clipping.	
3 - Bureau 1 - Detroit WLS/mac (4)	EX-135 REC-15 62-83894-411 AIRTEL 13 MAR 29 1960
52 APR 5	Per [Signature]
Approved: _____	Sent _____ Special Agent in Charge

In 1960, the Detroit office of the FBI monitored the activities of UFO witness Joseph Perry.

photograph had caught the attention of the media. A Bureau Airtel of 28 March to the FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, reveals:

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In the weeks and months that followed, a considerable file was built up by the Bureau with respect to Perry's photograph, much of which dealt with his concerns about retrieving his property from the Air Force.

'Perry by letter dated 3-21-60 wrote to President Eisenhower pointing out he did not know where his photographs were but he would like assurance that they would be returned to him,' it was recorded in a memo of 21 April 1960. 'He pointed out that "thousands are looking forward" to viewing the photographs.'

Matters were resolved, to the satisfaction of the FBI and the Air Force at least, when, according to Bureau records, Perry was duly advised that 'what appeared to be a flying object in this slide is actually a part of the negative which was not properly developed'. Naturally, this did little to satisfy those who insisted that the photograph genuinely showed some form of structured vehicle: '[An acquaintance of Perry] reportedly told the "Detroit Times" that he does not believe this story as he knows that Joe Perry is very meticulous when he develops pictures; therefore he feels the

slide actually does contain a picture of a flying object,' reported the FBI Michigan office.

Possibly recognising that the controversy surrounding this particular case was likely to run and run, the FBI insisted to all enquirers that this was a matter for the Air Force, not the Bureau, and steered all letters in the Air Force's direction. Indeed, such was the interest in the Perry case that six years later, the Bureau was still receiving correspondence from interested members of the American public: 'Inasmuch as your communication is of interest to another governmental agency, I am referring a copy of it to the Office of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force,' wrote J. Edgar Hoover on 15 April 1966 to an enquirer asking about the status of the FBI's investigation of Perry's photographs.

Interestingly, Hoover's final comment on the case refers to a local newspaper (possibly the aforementioned *Flint Journal*), which reported that the FBI had had involvement in the Perry affair. As Hoover ominously stated, 'it was necessary for this Bureau to straighten the record with that newspaper . . .'

On 24 April 1964, the FBI found itself implicated in the investigation of what is now considered one of the most credible UFO cases on record. Although there is evidence to suggest that there were a number of witnesses to the encounter, the prime participant was one Lonnie Zamora, a sergeant with the Socorro, New Mexico, Police Department.¹

At approximately 5.45 p.m. on 24 April, 31-year-old Zamora was pursuing a car which was flagrantly flouting the speed limits on US Highway 85. While still in hot pursuit, Zamora was suddenly startled by a loud roar and brilliant blue 'cone of flame' which emanated from an area to the southwest, some 2,400 feet away.

Realising that this was not an everyday occurrence, Zamora broke off chasing the speeding car and drove his white 1964 Pontiac patrol car in the direction from which the flames and roar surfaced. In order to reach the area in question Zamora was obliged to travel along a little-used road which passed over a number of hills and gullies.

After two or three attempts to drive his car up a gravel-covered incline, Zamora reached a crest, got out of his patrol car and was astonished by the sight that confronted him. Sitting on girder-like legs was a strange 'egg-

Doc 15,54 News conference

You have to do it as it comes up, and I believe that the kind of system we are trying to develop is best developed, best molded, best devised for that kind of a theory.

Q. Clark R. Mollenhoff, Des Moines Register: Mr. President, it has been reported in the last week that Senator John Williams of Delaware had to enlist your personal support to get the Treasury to take action on some personnel cases involving persons linked with the Truman administration tax scandals. I wonder if you could tell us precisely what you did in that; whether it was a routine referral or there is some follow through, and what your policy is when these things come to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT. Frankly, I don't recall any specific report to me. I have talked to Senator Williams from time to time, starting before I was inaugurated. I always listened to whatever he has to report to me, and I passed it along, because I believe we have there a very honest, concerned individual. But I can tell you what the policy is without any question whatsoever.

Everybody in this Government who has a position of responsibility is instructed if there is anything that comes to his attention that looks like it is off-color or there is someone that has been criminally negligent or is otherwise to blame for anything that goes wrong in Government, it is to be immediately reported to the proper authorities, and the prosecution to the limit.

Now, there are no exceptions to it.

Q. Mr. Mollenhoff: Have you had any indication, either from Senator Williams or from any other Cabinet members, of his dissatisfaction since his meeting with you last April? At a press conference on April 29, you did confirm that you had talked with Senator Williams with regard to a bad situation in the Internal Revenue Service.

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I haven't had another word about it that I know of; so far as I can remember, not a one.

Q. Garnett D. Horner, Washington Star: Mr. President, if I can change the subject rather drastically, recent news reports indicate that some European governments are investigating quite seriously the flying saucer problem. And not too long ago there was a book published in this country that purported to show that our Air Force thought that some of these flying objects, at least might come to be of extraterrestrial origin. I wonder if you could tell us if our authorities really do suspect

something of that kind or, if not, what is the form of the things?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, with regard to these recent reports, nothing has come to me at all, either verbally or in written form. And I must say, when I go back far enough, the last time that I heard this talked to me, a man whom I trust from the Air Forces said that it was, as far as he knew, completely inaccurate to believe that they came from any outside planet or otherwise.

Q. Raymond P. Brandt, St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Mr. President, have you worked out the mechanics of consultation with the Democratic leaders step by step?

THE PRESIDENT. As a matter of fact, I don't know, Mr. Brandt, whether it will just conform to any pattern.

I made this one statement yesterday, and it probably was published: I invited them at any time that they saw fit—responsible officials on the Hill—that they saw anything in this whole field we covered yesterday, that they believed would need my attention, to bring it up.

But beyond that, I am preparing a draft now, asking each of the Cabinet officers that deal with these subjects, any time that they are proposing a new plan, before it is crystallized, before it is presented to Congress, themselves to confer with the security committees, the foreign committees, and so on.

Q. Edward T. Folliard, Washington Post and Times Herald: Mr. President, your able Press Secretary, Mr. Hagerty, made some news the other night. He was on a radio program, and he was asked this question: "Mr. Hagerty, would it be foolhardy for the Republican Party to approach the 1956 election with any other idea than to draft President Eisenhower as a candidate?" Mr. Hagerty gave it as his personal opinion that it would be foolhardy.

Mr. President, is there any point in asking you to comment? [*Laughter*]

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I would like to say this: Mr. Hagerty is included as one of those staff officers, I have told you before, to whom I accord the great privilege of having his own opinion; and, as a matter of fact, as long as he expresses it, and there has been no established administration policy, why, I support his right as Voltaire did to say what he thinks. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mrs. May Craig, Maine Papers: Mr. President, some time ago Secretary Humphrey said on a television program that he approved of

PRESIDENT STRADDLES SAUCER FACTS IN WORLD CRISIS: On December 15, President Dwight Eisenhower talked up saucers, but with an eye first on duty, he over looked the facts, and talked them down. In his seeming off-the-cuff statement to the press, the President said that an Air Force official in whom he has complete confidence told him some time ago* there is no reason to believe the reported objects come from some other planet. To the saucer-tired press this was good news. It was especially good billing when coupled with another story making the headlines -- that of Dr. Loughead and his prediction, based on warnings from space people, that Chicago would be engulfed by a tidal wave. Hopefully, the press married the two stories -- and, hopefully, saucers would look silly.

On December 17, this writer, using CRIFO stationery, answered Ike by registered letter. To quote an excerpt: "As director of CRIFO, I challenge both the veracity of this statement and the wisdom of this trusted officer in making such a statement. He, this unnamed officer, is either deliberately misinforming you, or he himself is misinformed -- therefore he cannot be considered an officer in whom you should have complete confidence."

"If, as he suggests, flying saucers are not of an interplanetary origin ... a conclusion which is diametric to much of the secret bona fide evidence in Air Force files, then he is intimating that flying saucers, or UFO's, do not exist. Being, however, that flying saucers do exist and can be proved not to be in the main, a U. S. or British or Russian secret product, then his advice to you, and hence your statement to the press, is erroneous and misleading."

The letter closed by listing "evidence" known to be in Air Force possession and a request that it be cleared for this writer and the public. To get around past experiences of a letter being "buried" I informed the local press services. In Cincinnati, newscasters Stan Matlock and George Palmer aired the "letter" soberly. The Services, save for INS, were stand-offish. While A. P. checked with the New York office and hedged, the Cincinnati Post "roadblocked" U. P. Only INS carried the story. In evidence, to date, is a datelined clip from the Salt Lake City Tribune.

EVIDENCE OF WORLD CRISIS: While anyone might guess on the outcome, no guesswork was needed to perceive the serious saucer-probe behind the scenes. The President had straddled the true facts not without purpose. In truth the world was confronted with a crisis. While the world's artificial boundaries became increasingly violated by discs, fireballs and shooting moons, most governments were seriously investigating ... the latest, Yugoslavia.

INDIA: (Case 34, Kadori, Borsi, Mangalda, Sept. 15, 1954) About 800 people witnessed a saucer in three adjoining villages in Manbhum, Bihar. Mr. Ijapada Chatterjee, manager of a mica mine at Kadori owned by a Calcutta business man, Mr. S. N. Ghose, told The Times of India News Service that he was sitting in the verandah of his house on the afternoon of Sept. 15, when he saw a disc-like object descending about 500 yards away.

Villagers came out from their huts to see the strange sight. Shaped like a saucer, it came down to a height of about 500 feet above the earth making a sound like the whirring of a motor car engine. It hovered for a few minutes: then, suddenly, the two sides seemed to get inflated. This was followed by what seemed like smoke billowing from the two ends. Immediately the object soared upwards at an incredible speed. (Continued over)

*Question: how long ago? And, what has happened since, in view of the evidence being concealed?

U F O SOURCES AT NLE

1. White House Central Files, General File, Box 1155, "GF 145-F Satellites, Space Travel, and Flying Saucers "(1).
---Special Report No. 14, Project Blue Book, Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Aerial Objects, May 5, 1955 (approx. 100 pp.).
2. NSC Staff Papers, NSC Registry File, Box 3, "CIA 5 (3)".
----CIA report on UFO's, Jan. 17, 1953, (8 pp.).
3. NSC Staff Papers, Executive Secretary's Subject File, Box 17, "Special No. 2 (4)".
----Air Force memo, 10-13-55 re sighting in Soviet Union, (1 p.).
4. Public Papers, 1954, pp. 1111-1112.
----Press Conference transcript, December 15, 1954--this is the only public comment made by DDE on subject of UFO's.
5. White House Central Files, Alphabetical File, Box 3197, "Vant".
----Telegram from G. W. Van Tassel to the President, 4-6-54, re space craft convention at Giant Rock Airport, Calif. Re investigations of UFO's, (2 pp.). (Telegram not seen or answered by Pres.).

ALLEGED INCIDENTS INVOLVING DDE AND U F O 'S

1. Nov. 18, 1952. DDE traveled to Washington, DC for briefings at the White House and the Pentagon. Our documents contain schedule for the day. (DDE Diary Series).
---UFO crowd is circulating a fake briefing document alleging that DDE was briefed at the Pentagon on MJ-12, the alleged secret government operation on UFO's.
2. Feb. 20, 1954. DDE was vacationing in Palm Springs, California. In the evening he broke a cap off a tooth and made an emergency visit to a dentist to repair the damage. DDE's appointment books and Hagerty's diary mention the incident.
---UFO buffs allege the dental emergency was a cover for a secret visit to a local Air Force base (Edwards ?) where DDE viewed the bodies of aliens which had been recovered at Roswell in 1947 and kept in cold storage ever since, plus wreckage of their ship. Some UFO writers have even alleged the aliens were still alive and that DDE met with them.