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From: "Keith Shuler" <keith.shuler@nara.gov>
 Date: Thu, 10 May 2001 16:07:45 -0400
 To: <squishy@altavista.com>
 Subject: Re: Deputy Secretary for Public Affairs

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Grant:
 You're right on target. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) was Thomas B. Ross. Unfortunately, because he was in the Defense Department and not the Executive branch, we don't have the records. You'll have to check with DoD.

Keith
 >>> <squishy@altavista.com> 05/05/01 11:20PM
 >>>
 Keith

I would like to know
 --who was the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs? - a National Enquirer reporter who dealt with him thinks it might have been Ross

--Do you have records from this department, or more importantly correspondence?

Thanks
 Grant

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CARTER - INTERVIEW

THANK YOU, John, for checking this out --
whenever you get a moment to
breathe easily, of course. Please let me
know the cost for the service,
so that I can send you a check therefor.
-- OO

John Schuessler wrote:

>

> Larry,

> I will make a transcript if this tape
is in the Pratt collection. It seems
> to me that I went through this many months
ago and did not find the tape
> there. I agree this is important, so
I will look through it all again.

> John

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Larry W. Bryant" <overtci@bellatlantic.net>

> To: <schuessler@mho.net>

> Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2001 11:10 PM

> Subject: [Fwd: Re: Director of Investigations
Position]

>

>> JOHN S.: Is there any way we could produce a transcript of the subject
>> tape's content? If we could get it done at a reasonable cost, I'd be
>> willing to pay for it. It might make a suitable item for a forthcoming
>> issue of the JOURNAL, right (especially in these politically charged
>> times)? Also, I wonder what White House correspondence Mr. Cameron is
>> referring to here . . . and whether you could put your hands on it
>> readily for my perusal.....

>>

>> The "articles" to which Mr. Cameron refers comprise the several
>> installments of my serialized e-book ("Looking Back upon Jimmy Carter's
>> UFO Mail"), now being posted on the website of
>> <http://www.pilotonline.com> (Talknet/News&Opinion/Public
Forum-Start a Topic) -- a daily-newspaper website
in Norfolk, Va In his own research, Mr. Cameron has
determined that about 9,000 such letters to Carter had been received
at the White House but that only a few hundred survive (on microfilm at
the Pentagon, it seems). --



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From: "Grant Cameron" <gcameron@Ms.UManitoba.CA>
 Reply-To: gcameron@Ms.UManitoba.CA
 Date: Sat, 5 May 2001 16:00:48 -0500
 To: squishy@altavista.com
 Subject: (Fwd) Carter

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----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: "Bob Pratt" <bobpratt@gate.net>
 To: "Grant Cameron" <gcameron@Ms.UManitoba.CA>
 Subject: Carter
 Date sent: Thu, 3 May 2001 10:00:47
 -0400

Hello, Grant:

Unfortunately, you are about a year too late in asking me about the Carter message. In the past year and a half I have been disposing of nearly all of the results of my UFO research -- files, documents, tapes, etc. Most of these I sent to John Schuessler, for his private collection, not as part

of MUFON's holdings. And the carter transcript, as well as (I believe) a copy of the tape recording, was part of the nine or ten cartons of material I sent to John. I imagine he would be willing to search these out for you, but when would be the question. He has been extremely busy as MUFON's new

international director, managing the affairs of MUFON.

I was surprised to see the White House memos and do not recollect pressuring the White House for this information. I did talk to Dr. Frosch at NASA headquarters and talked to Frank Press by phone, but don't recall getting any really useful information from either. However, I did talk to the deputy secretary of defense for public affairs (can't remember his name; Ross?), and he

acknowledged the Pentagon still had some interest in UFOs --- but I don't remember any of the details, although I believe the National Enquirer published my story based on that conversation. That story, too, is

probably part of the material I sent to John Schuessler.

I believe the reporter who had a brief talk with Carter (on the campaign trail) was a Jim McCandlis
h, a Brit who settled in this country and at that time was a free lancer for the Enquirer.
My recol

lection of his exchange with Carter is that Carter seemed somewhat interested in Jim's question about UFOs but was nowhere near as committal as the subsequent Enquirer story made it out to be. But a

If this is now very vague in my mind and I no longer have my files to check.

I know nothing about the 9000 letters that Frank Moore (never heard of him) got in response to the Enquirer article and was not aware of them.

I'll be 75 in August and have been gradually withdrawing from UFO research. I keep only my rather extensive Brazil files, tapes etc. and I continue going to Brazil whenever possible.

Sorry I couldn't be of more help, and thanks for the White House material.

Bob

----- End of forwarded message -----

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By MALCOLM BALFOUR

Jimmy Carter believes in UFOs — because he has seen one himself.

And if he becomes President, he'll release to the public all UFO data in the possession of the government.

Speaking exclusively to The ENQUIRER, the Democratic front-runner declared:

"If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public, and the scientists.

"I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one."

Carter talked frankly and without hesitation about the phenomenon he witnessed one night in Thomaston, Ga., in 1973, after a late-evening speech before the local Lions Club.

"It was a very peculiar aberration, but about 20 people saw it," he said.

"It was the darndest thing I've ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colors and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for 10 minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was.

"One thing's for sure, I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky!"

Carter's 23-year-old son Jeff, campaigning for his father in Flint, Mich., gave The ENQUIRER further details

EXCLUSIVE—Jimmy Carter: The Night I Saw a UFO

about the former Governor's remarkable experience.

"After his speech in Thomaston, my father was stepping out into the parking lot of the club with a group of businessmen when they spotted the UFO," he said.

"It had three lights — clustered together about the size of the moon. My dad said they were changing color from red to green. It was positioned off to one side of the moon.

"He knew it couldn't have been an aircraft of any type we have. Remember, he's a nuclear physicist who served with the Navy.

"He now believes that (UFO sightings) should be investigated."

W. Asbury Stembridge of Macon, Ga., former Georgia district chairman for Lions Club International, remembers Jimmy Carter talking about the UFO.

"Jimmy told me about it himself," he said. "And my wife Charlotte saw the same UFO. She described it to me as a large reddish object that looked similar to the moon, and seemed to be changing colors."

Interviewed by The ENQUIRER,

Mrs. Charlotte Stembridge, a school teacher, said: "The object was three balls of light, clustered in a circle, flashing and changing from red to green. It drifted slowly across the sky — then disappeared quickly."

A former Georgia state representative, attorney Milton Jones of Columbus, Ga., stated: "I vividly remember Jimmy telling me about spotting the UFO.

"I was a skeptic at the time, and in a conversation with him I said I doubted UFOs existed. Jimmy said immediately that he believed UFOs existed because he had seen one. He told me how he had stepped out of a civic club meeting with a group of businessmen, and how he had observed a UFO for about 10 minutes."

Carter's 77-year-old mother Lillian told The ENQUIRER at the family home in Plains, Ga.: "The UFO made a huge impression on Jimmy — he told me about the sighting several times. He's always been a down-to-earth, no-nonsense boy, and the sighting by him, as far as I'm concerned, is as firm as money in the bank."

Alcee Maxfield, former full-time state secretary of Lions Club International in Georgia, said: "I heard Jimmy

talk several times about spotting the UFO.

"I was particularly impressed because Jimmy is a scientist, a specialist in nuclear engineering. He can tell the difference between a meteor, a star formation, or any other natural phenomena — and something that's out of this world."

The director of a leading UFO investigative group, Jack Acuff of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena, in Washington, D.C., told The ENQUIRER: "Material on UFOs is locked up in the National Archives that has never been made public.

"If a President were to have it released, it would be exciting news to the scientific community, and of inestimable benefit to the public.

"It's very significant that someone of Carter's stature has made this statement."



JIMMY CARTER

"The UFO was very bright and about the size of the moon."



Specialist Calls It 'The Most Important Breakthrough'...

New X-Ray Treatment for Rectal Cancer Is 92% Successful

A revolutionary X-ray treatment for rectal cancer, hailed as "the most important breakthrough to date," has proven successful in 92 percent of patients. All are free of

tion, beamed from outside the body," explained Dr. O'Connor.

"But this was abandoned because of the terrible risks of damaging other

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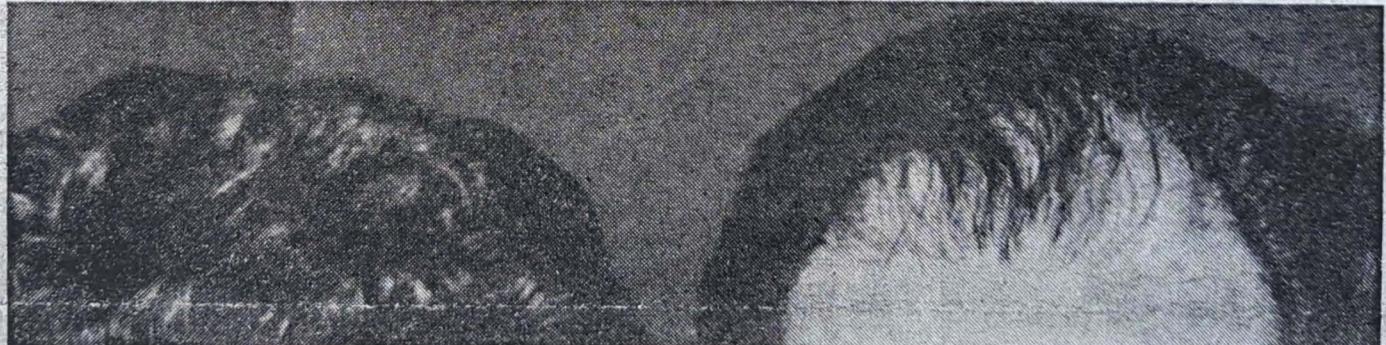
JIMMY CARTER: THE NIGHT I SAW A UFO

...If Elected I'll Make All the Govt's UFO Information Public

PAGE 4

**Amazing New
Device Gives Up to
5-Year Warning
Of Heart Attacks**

page 3



Powpoint
for Vegas

1) The Political Role in the VFO Solution

6 years since media became aware / Has P started

- 1) Crashed saucer disclosure
- 2) Science → Congressional investigation
- 3) Political approach - like other political of social
(quote Hillary on woman's right to vote)
- 4) Esoteric
- 5) Bypass to energy systems

Political Involvement

- President - government of the people deal with issue in secrecy.
 - Truman → McCann
 - Eisenhower → MS12. (following his background sneaking into building)
 - ~~Johnson~~ Nixon - sell to private industry
 - Carter - open promise - now book peddling
 - Reagan - open
 - Clinton Powell investigation

Apologist Role

- are we really ready
- governments act under pressure
- only two questions asked.

500 years from now

start Obama music

- get video clip Hillary on voting
" " " Wright on Obama.
ultimate NB point

we work on emotions

pic of Obama sign

pic of buttons

more of media picked up on Hillary documents

UFO 1982
Carter

PEOPLE

In focus...

Dave Williamson

When producers of the splashy syndicated TV special "UFO Cover-Up? Live" were seeking someone to present our space agency's line on UFOs, they first thought of the SETI folks.

The high tech angle was eventually discarded; a more direct governmental spokesperson was needed to address the charge of "cover-up." So NASA veteran Dave Williamson, special assistant for policy integration, was summarily drafted into the job.

Williamson was called on to represent the Other Side of ufology; the side that allegedly hides things and glosses them over with a stiff, bureaucratic veneer. "Somebody had to do it," Williamson said, recalling the casual, grinning Mike Farrell introducing him as "NASA's point man on UFOs."

"Don't make more of [that job] than it is," Williamson cautions. "It's an additional duty that's assigned as it comes up . . . I'm an administrator for NASA when the agency is too busy to put important people to work on the problem."

Despite the self-effacement, Williamson was obviously important enough to be called back to Washington's NASA headquarters after the Challenger exploded, sending shocked officials running to reevaluate and recoup. Though retired and worn from a long battle with cancer, he agreed to come back to work.

First order of business—smoothing policy in the wake of NASA's—and America's—turmoil and despair. The Discovery shuttle mission was a much-needed win. Now, other important space projects continue to move along, and things are a bit more back on track.

Williamson suggests that the recent TV appearance peeled back a corner on his past official responsibilities regarding UFOs. "I've been involv-



Dave Williamson

ed, from NASA's point of view, from the early '60s, when people have had questions or when studies have been done."

After Jimmy Carter entered the White House in 1976, Williamson was among the members of a NASA-spearheaded group asked to look into the UFO question—an apparent effort to make good on Carter's campaign promise that his administration would open the files on UFOs.

The record shows that Carter didn't get anywhere. The resultant general assumption, among UFO buffs, is that MJ-12 or whomever sits at the helm keeps it all under wraps. Williamson offers the counterview: "[Such] intergovernment groups that deal with problems, real problems—their proceedings are properly classified. Some quite *improperly*. But the fact of their existence after any period of time is almost impossible, in an open society called America, to keep secret. That's number one—

"—Number two, the idea that such a group can in fact control real information of the nature we're discussing—the existence of extraterrestrials, people imprisoned for years and years, well, it's just a . . ." Williamson pauses, ". . . what's a polite way of saying bullshit? It's highly improbable. The system

doesn't work that way. I base that on 30 years of experience.

" . . . If there seems to be a set of [UFO] phenomena, whether they are internally induced or externally real, I don't know," Williamson admits in his clipped tones. "And I'm sure as hell am not going to guess, and I'm not going to make up my mind as a prophet or naysayer. I don't believe or disbelieve."

NASA policy, he says, conforms to that noncommittal attitude. Eleven years have passed since the Carter science committee tackled UFOs. "We came to the notion that if a new era of hard evidence were to come to our attention, it would be appropriate for a NASA laboratory to analyze and report on an otherwise unexplainable organic or inorganic sample," Williamson offers.

NASA, policymakers declare, is still waiting.

In brief...

Richard Henry

Running in the next *Journal for Scientific Exploration*, published by Pergamon Press, is an historical look at NASA's dealings with the UFO question during the Carter years. Its author is Dr. Richard Henry, an astronomy professor at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland.

"I've had a general interest in the UFO subject for over 20 years, but have never done much about it," Henry says—a statement that might be a bit off the mark. Henry was the astrophysics consultant for the now-defunct Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and is also a member of the scientific board of the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois.

Henry's research background looks appropriately stellar. In 1976, he took a two-year leave from the University to become NASA's deputy director of the Astrophysics Division.

Today he names his specialty as cosmic ultraviolet background radiation. "In looking at 'fringe' science, where gigantic breakthroughs are in principle possible, I choose to stick to areas where I judge that a real *possibility* of a breakthrough exists," he has said. "The UFO phenomenon fits that category very well."

In 1978 CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) filed a request for information relating to a NASA report entitled *UFO Study Considerations*, which had previously been prepared in association with the CIA. In his response, Miles Waggoner of NASA's Public Information Services Branch denied this. 'There were no formal meetings or any correspondence with the CIA,' he stated. Following another enquiry by CAUS, NASA's Associate Administrator for External Relations, Kenneth Chapman, explained that the NASA report had been prepared solely by NASA employees but that the CIA had been consulted by telephone to determine 'whether they were aware of any tangible or physical UFO evidence that could be analyzed; the CIA responded that they were aware of no such evidence, either classified or unclassified'.⁷

NASA's statement in the 1978 information sheet that it was not engaged in a research programme involving UFOs, 'nor is any other government agency', is demonstrably false, as is its denial of Air Force investigations. In a leaked secret document purporting to originate with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) headquarters at Bolling AFB, DC, there appears an intriguing reference to clandestine government UFO research, led by NASA. The document is dated 17 November 1980, and includes this relevant passage: 'SEVERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LED BY NASA, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE SIGHTINGS THROUGH COVERT COVER. . . . ONE SUCH COVER IS UFO REPORTING CENTER, US COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852. NASA FILTERS RESULTS OF SIGHTINGS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS WITH INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR SIGHTING.'

I sent a copy to NASA, requesting their opinion. 'We have no information relative to the contents of the document,' NASA replied in 1985. 'Additionally, we have been informed that the . . . document is not an authentic AFOSI document.' Although NASA and AFOSI deny the authenticity of the document, there are grounds for believing that it is substantially legitimate, as I have explained in Chapter 11.

President Carter Seeks to Re-Open Investigations

During his election campaign in 1976, Jimmy Carter revealed that he had seen a UFO at Leary, Georgia, in 1969, together with witnesses, prior to giving a speech at the local Lions Club. 'It was the darndest thing I've ever seen,' he told reporters. 'It was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was. One thing's

for sure; I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky.'⁸

Carter's sighting has been ridiculed by sceptics such as Philip Klapp and Robert Sheaffer. While there appear to be legitimate grounds for disputing the date of the incident, Sheaffer's verdict that the UFO was nothing more exotic than the planet Venus is not tenable.⁹ As a graduate in nuclear physics who served as a line officer on US Navy nuclear submarines, Carter would not have been fooled by anything so prosaic as Venus, and in any case he described the UFO as being about the same size as the Moon.

'If I become President,' Carter vowed, 'I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists.'¹⁰ Although President Carter did all he could to fulfil his election pledge, he was thwarted, and it is clear that NASA had a hand in blocking his attempts to re-open investigations. When Carter's science adviser, Dr Frank Press, wrote to NASA administrator Dr Robert Frosch in February 1977 suggesting that NASA should become the 'focal point for the UFO question',¹¹ Dr Frosch replied that although he was prepared to continue responding to public enquiries, he proposed that 'NASA take no steps to establish a research activity in this area or to convene a symposium on this subject'.

In a letter from Colonel Charles Senn, Chief of the Air Force Community Relations Division, to Lieutenant General Duward Crow of NASA, dated 1 September 1977, Colonel Senn made the following astonishing statement: '*I sincerely hope that you are successful in preventing a reopening of UFO investigations.*' So it is clear that NASA (as well as the Air Force and almost certainly the CIA and National Security Agency) was anxious to ensure that the President's election pledge remained unfulfilled.

Dr James McDonald

Dr James McDonald, senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and Professor in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona, who committed suicide in unusual circumstances in 1971, tried unsuccessfully to persuade NASA to take on primary responsibility for UFO investigations. He reported in 1967:

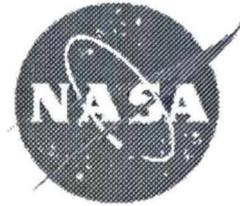
Curiously, I have said this both in NASA and fairly widely reported public discussions before scientific colleagues, yet the response from NASA has been nil. . . . Even attempting to get a small group within NASA to undertake a study group approach to the available published effort seems to have generated no response. I realize, of course, that

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The US Government and Unidentified Flying Objects

No branch of the United States Government is currently involved with or responsible for investigations into the possibility of alien life on other planets or for investigating Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's). The US Air Force (USAF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have had intermittent, independent investigations of the possibility of alien life on other planets; however, none of these has produced factual evidence that life exists on other planets, nor that UFO's are related to aliens. From 1947 to 1969, the Air Force investigated UFO's; then in 1977, NASA was asked to examine the possibility of resuming UFO investigations. After studying all of the facts available, it was determined that nothing would be gained by further investigation, since there was an absence of tangible evidence.

In October 1992, NASA was directed by Congress to begin a detailed search for artificial radio signals from other civilizations under the NASA Towards Other Planetary Systems (TOPS)/High Resolution Microwave Survey (HRMS) program (also known as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project). Congress directed NASA to end this project in October 1993, citing pressures on the US Federal budget. The HRMS did not detect any confirmed signal before it was stopped. However, similar work will continue in a more limited manner through efforts of private groups and through academic institutions. The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute (SETI Institute) in Mountain View, CA, effectively replaced the Government project, borrowing the signal processing system from NASA. The SETI Institute is a nonprofit corporation conducting research in a number of fields including all science and technology aspects of astronomy and planetary sciences, chemical evolution, the origin of life, biological evolution, and cultural evolution.

During several space missions, NASA astronauts have reported phenomena not immediately explainable; however, in every instance NASA determined that the observations could not be termed

"abnormal" in the space environment. The 1947 to 1969 USAF investigations studied UFO's under Project Blue Book. The project, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was terminated December 17, 1969. Of the total of 12,618 sightings reported to Project Blue Book, 701 remain "unidentified."

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;" a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; previous UFO studies; and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports during the 1940's, '50's and '60's. As a result of experience, investigations, and studies since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force was ever a threat to our national security; (2) there was no evidence submitted to, or discovered by, the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge; and (3) there was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" were extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the USAF regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFO's was rescinded. Documentation regarding the former Project Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, in Washington, DC 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

Since the termination of Project Blue Book, nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations by the USAF or NASA. Given the current environment of steadily decreasing defense and space budgets, it is unlikely that the Air Force or NASA will become involved in this type of costly project in the foreseeable future.

Since neither NASA nor the Air Force is engaged in day-to-day UFO research, neither one reviews UFO-related articles intended for publication, evaluates UFO-type spacecraft drawings, or accepts accounts of UFO sightings or applications for employment in the field of aerial phenomena investigation.

UFO Points of Contact

1. For further information on the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, please contact the SETI Institute, 2035 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043, (415) 960-4530.
2. News media requiring Project Blue Book files should contact

the National Archives Public Affairs Office, (202) 501-5525. Public queries should be addressed to the Project Blue Book archivist at (202) 501-5385. For queries not related to Project Blue Book, contact the National Archives receptionist at (202) 501-5400. Documentation is available from: Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408.

3. The Air Force publication, "The Roswell Report: Fact vs. Fiction in the New Mexico Desert," a lengthy document providing all of the details available from the Air Force on the Roswell incident, is available for \$52 from the US Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328.
4. There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations that have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in *Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations*.
5. Persons wishing to report UFO sightings are advised to contact law enforcement agencies.

Responsible NASA Official: Mary F. Bell - [Comments](#)

Web Page Curator: SAIC Information Services

Revised: May 17, 2000

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1 SEP 1977

Lieutenant General Duward L. Crow, USAF (Ret)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
400 Maryland Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear General Crow:

Inclosed are the UFO Fact Sheet and standard response
to UFO public inquiries you requested.

I sincerely hope you are successful in preventing a
reopening of UFO investigations.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. BEVIL, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Attachments

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Action Copy to | ADA |
| 1 to Copy to | ADA |
| A35481 | AB, AC, S.F.L., W.C. |
| Rec'd in NASA | 9-2-77 |
| Response Date | NONE |
| File for | |
| Copy to | |
| 2-1 A) 3/6/11 | |



YOUR LETTER, OF MAY 25, 1977, HAVE TO DO WITH A REPLY TO MY LETTER TO: *PRESIDENT CARTER*? NOTHING! . . . A COPY OF THIS LETTER-REPLY IS BEING SENT TO PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER* ALSO: COPIES OF THIS COMMUNICATION AND YOUR STOCK-LETTER REPLY WILL BE SENT TO MY CONGRESSMAN, VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND PERUSAL.

Clearly, White House efforts to respond to letters from the UFO buffs were not winning any potential second-term votes for the president. And it would not help matters if such letters were simply ignored and left unanswered. And so, on September 14, 1977, Dr. Press wrote to the NASA administrator, Dr. Robert Frosch, asking his agency to take over the task of responding to letters from the public on the UFO issue. This was not an entirely new assignment, inasmuch as the space agency, understandably, had been the recipient of such queries prior to the new administration. NASA sent out a standard information sheet (76-6), dated July 1976, saying that "NASA is not involved in research concerning unidentified flying objects. Reports of unidentified objects entering U.S. air space are of interest to the U.S. military as a regular part of defense surveillance, but no government agency is conducting an ongoing investigation of UFOs at this time."

This statement flatly contradicted a part of the current UFO-buff dogma—that the U.S. Government had not really gotten out of the UFO business in 1969 when the Air Force closed down its Project Blue Book UFO office. At least some UFO buffs were sure this was simply a ruse and that government UFO investigations still were going on, secretly, in another agency.

The NASA information sheet also quoted the conclusions of a National Academy of Sciences panel, created to review the results of the University of Colorado investigation: "On the basis of present knowledge the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings." And the NASA statement concluded by providing the names and addresses of two private UFO groups engaged in the investigation of UFOs.

Within a few weeks the word was out that NASA had been asked for its views on whether it should launch a new government-funded UFO study. The timing could not have been worse for NASA, because Columbia Pictures had opened its multi-million-dollar publicity campaign to promote the new Steven Spielberg UFO-thriller, which previewed in New York and Los Angeles during the third week in November. The story published by the *Christian Science Monitor*, November 17, 1977,

reported: "A White House request to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration asks that the space agency consider becoming the government's focal point for a 'national revival' of interest in reports of UFO sightings." The article quoted an unidentified NASA project officer as expressing some reluctance to become involved in a new UFO investigation.

The widespread news-media coverage included an article by Deborah Shapley in the December 16 issue of the respected magazine *Science*, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The article concluded: "Truth is as strange as fiction. The Air Force, officials say, indeed classifies some results of its inquiries made after UFO 'sightings'—many of which are made near military bases, and by men trained to observe the skies, and a few of which are investigated by Air Force men going up in planes. Press's office says that these facts, together with the conflicting responses the government hands out to UFO buffs who write in, keep alive this belief in a cover-up. Policies like these, officials say, need review and perhaps changing."

(When I called Ms. Shapley to ask whether she had checked out the claim that the Air Force "classifies some results of its inquiries made after UFO 'sightings'—many of which are made near military bases . . .," she told me that she had not, and had accepted the statements given to her by persons in the office of the Presidential Science Advisor. I told her that I believed she had been badly misinformed.)

In late December, NASA's Dr. Frosch wrote the following letter to Dr. Press informing the White House of its conclusions:

Dear Frank:

In response to your letter of Sept. 14, 1977, regarding NASA's possible role in UFO matters, we are fully prepared at this time to continue responding to public inquiries along the same line as we have in the past. If some new element of hard evidence is brought to our attention in the future, it would be entirely appropriate for some NASA laboratory to analyze and report upon an otherwise unexplained organic or inorganic sample. We stand ready to respond to any *bona fide* physical evidence from credible sources. We intend to leave the door clearly open to such possibility.

We've given considerable thought to the question of what else the United States might and should do in the area of UFO research. There is an absence of tangible or physical evidence for thorough laboratory analysis.

And because of the absence of such evidence we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure for investigating these phenomena. To proceed on a research task without a disciplinary framework and an exploratory technique in mind would be wasteful and probably unproductive.

I do not feel that we should mount a research effort without a better starting point than we have been able to identify thus far. I would therefore propose that NASA take no steps to establish a research activity in this area or to convene a symposium on this subject.

I wish in no way to indicate that NASA has come to any conclusion about these phenomena as such. Institutionally we retain an open mind, a keen sense of scientific curiosity and a willingness to analyze technical problems within our competence.

When those who had a hand in composing the NASA letter reviewed their final product, they probably saw it as the best response under the circumstances. It could not possibly give offense to any of the citizens who had reported seeing a UFO, including the president. Nor did NASA dismiss completely the possibility, however remote, of extraterrestrial visitations.

Instead, Frosch's letter sought to place the burden of proof where it rightfully belongs, on those who promote the extraterrestrial hypothesis, to come up with "tangible or physical evidence for thorough laboratory analysis." Knowing that thirty years of UFO reports had yet to produce a single piece of *credible* physical evidence of extraterrestrial visitations, NASA officials seemed to believe that there was in fact little if any *claimed* physical evidence. In this they were grossly in error. Having made this offer without having a thorough knowledge of UFOlogy, or consulting with those who have, NASA may soon regret it.

During the coming years, I predict, NASA will receive hundreds of pieces of tree branches that allegedly were broken by a UFO and burned grass, charred twigs, and soil samples allegedly taken from spots where UFOs reportedly landed. It will receive soil samples, some carefully prepared by hoaxers, to challenge the skills of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center, not far from NASA's own Goddard Space Flight Center.

If rigorous laboratory analysis of five hundred such pieces of "tangible evidence" shows nothing extraordinary, perhaps the five-hundred-and-first will, the UFO buffs will insist. If NASA's patience runs thin, the determination of the UFO buffs is far more long-lived. One such piece of physical evidence submitted earlier to the USAF was the broken head of a hunting arrow, allegedly fired by the submitter at robots seen

near a landed UFO!

But still greater pitfalls await NASA, for it soon will discover that it must take far greater security precautions with UFO samples than it needed in handling lunar samples. For the latter, it was only necessary to ensure that none were stolen or diverted. For UFO samples, NASA must protect itself against later charges that the soil sample or tree branch it returned after analysis was not the same one submitted to it. There will be charges of substitution and claims that the original artifact now resides deep in underground security vaults at NASA or some other governmental agency.

This undoubtedly would seem far-fetched and paranoid to NASA officials today, because they probably are unaware that a NASA scientist already has been charged with such "hanky-panky" in a recent book by UFO-buff Ray Stanford. On April 24, 1964, a lone policeman reported that he saw an egg-shaped UFO land, in broad daylight, on the outskirts of the small town of Socorro, New Mexico. When Stanford visited the site shortly afterward as a UFO investigator, he picked up a rock that reportedly contained "metallic scrapings," seemingly left by the UFO as it brushed the rock.

On July 31, 1964, Stanford came to Washington and together with two other UFO buffs, including Richard Hall, then deputy director of a large UFO group with headquarters in Washington, drove to the Goddard Space Flight Center to give the rock to a NASA scientist there who agreed to analyze its "metallic particles" on an unofficial basis. Stanford claims that he asked the NASA scientist to "leave one-half of the particles on the stone's surface, so that I retain half the evidence" and the scientist agreed.

Stanford also alleges that the NASA scientist later told him: "I am virtually certain that the alloy involved here is not manufactured anywhere on Earth . . . I would make a statement to that effect, if you need it." But subsequently, Stanford charges, the scientist denied having made any such statement and said the "scrapings" on the rock were simply silica, a natural constituent. Stanford also charges in his book that when the Socorro rock sample finally was returned to him all particles had been removed, thereby depriving Stanford of any opportunity to have an independent analysis conducted. Stanford also accuses fellow UFO-buff Hall of having joined forces with NASA to suppress the Socorro evidence, an allegation that Hall flatly disavows along with Stanford's claim of hanky-panky by a top NASA scientist. But the Stan-

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ford book has gained wide acceptance in UFO circles.

Thus, unless NASA handles every broken tree branch and soil sample as it would the Hope diamond, it can expect that Stanford's earlier, if ill-based, charges of hanky-panky will be raised again to "substantiate" the more recent allegations.

Truth in Advertising, UFO Dept.

Columbia Pictures opened its multimillion-dollar publicity barrage to promote the new Steven Spielberg UFO thriller, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, on April 10, 1977, some seven months before the film's preview, with a double-page advertisement in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other major newspapers. The copy was sparse but provocative:

Watch the Skies

Over fifteen million Americans, including leaders in science, astronomy, the space program and government have officially reported UFO sightings. Scientists everywhere concede the overwhelming probability of intelligent life somewhere else in the universe.

Hundreds of verified sightings are reported every day from all over the world by reliable observers—and have been for the past thirty years.

This Christmas, millions of people will experience the most beautiful, frightening and significant motion picture adventure of all time.

It will start in an Indiana town and lead to four words which are becoming more and more apparent to all of us everyday: *We are not alone.*

On April 17, I wrote to the director of public affairs for Columbia Pictures mentioning current truth-in-advertising laws and asked for the names of the "leaders in science, astronomy, the space program, and government [who] have officially reported UFO sightings." Also I asked to whom the "hundreds of verified sightings [were] reported every day from all over the world by reliable observers" and who "verified" the reports.

When two months went by without a reply, I wrote on June 12 to the president of Columbia pictures, enclosing a copy of my original letter. I received no reply.

When *Close Encounters* previewed in New York and Los Angeles in late November, the copy in the Columbia advertisements suggested that my letters had, despite the lack of response, reached their intended mark. The copy read simply: "WE ARE NOT ALONE."—*Philip J. Klass*

(At present, Stanford is director of Project Starlight International, which operates a million-dollar UFO research facility near Austin, Texas. The facility includes elaborate flashing lights to attract UFOs, radar and telescopes to spot UFOs, cameras, and a laser that could be used for communication with the UFO. Stanford has never disclosed the source of the funds for what certainly is the best-instrumented UFO facility in the United States, if not in the entire world.)

Although NASA's decision not to initiate a new UFO investigation will be criticized by many UFO buffs, they can take solace in Frosch's reference, on two occasions, to "these phenomena." Seemingly this implies NASA recognition that UFOs exist as a phenomenon. In reality, the only thing known to exist with absolute certainty are UFO *reports*, suggesting that Frosch might better have used the term "these reported phenomena." For, as President Carter has demonstrated, a "reported UFO" can turn out to be a well-known phenomenon that was identified, and better named, long ago.

NASA, the White House, and UFOs

Philip J. Klass

When any government agency is asked if it would like to expand the scope of its activities, the answer would seem to be a foregone conclusion, according to the well-known Parkinson's Law. Yet last year when the White House asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration whether it believed that still another government investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) should be conducted, under NASA's auspices, the agency's negative response seemed to deny the findings of Professor C. Northcote Parkinson as well as the strident claims of the UFO buffs. A decade earlier, the U.S. Air Force seemed to fly in the face of Parkinson's Law when it eagerly jumped at the opportunity to get out of the UFO business after twenty years, after a University of Colorado UFO study report confirmed USAF findings that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial visitations or any other extraordinary phenomenon.

Parkinson's Law has not been repealed, nor is it fundamentally invalid. But there is a more basic law of self-preservation that says that no government agency is anxious to take on a new task when it is the political equivalent of walking barefoot through a heavily seeded mine-field. And the UFO mine-field was more heavily seeded in 1977 than ever before. One reason is that President Jimmy Carter himself had a UFO-sighting back in 1969 when he was governor of Georgia.

If NASA had agreed to launch a new UFO study, certainly Carter's own sighting would have deserved a high priority on the agency's list of cases to be investigated, since the President could hardly be dismissed as a "UFO kook" or someone whose veracity could be questioned. And if NASA were to do a rigorous investigation, its findings would be embarrassing because the Carter UFO almost certainly would turn out to have been the planet Venus. This was the conclusion of Robert Sheaffer, a

member of the the UFO Subcommittee of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, after his own lengthy investigation and talks with persons who had been with Carter on the night of January 6, 1969. When these witnesses said that the UFO had appeared to them to resemble a bright star, Sheaffer, who studied astronomy, turned to his astronomical records. He discovered that a very bright Venus had been at the same azimuth and elevation angles that night at the time of Carter's sighting (*The Humanist*, July/August 1977).

It ought not embarrass the president to learn this, because Venus and other bright celestial bodies, especially when viewed through layers of haze, probably generate more UFO reports than any other single source. But because of the cloak of infallibility that always envelopes any occupant of the White House, and especially a Naval Academy graduate trained in celestial navigation, a NASA finding that the president's UFO was really Venus could hardly enhance the agency's political standing in White House circles, especially at budget-review times.

It was this Carter UFO-sighting, and an interview given during his presidential campaign to the tabloid *National Enquirer*, that subsequently embroiled NASA in the UFO issue. A long-standing cornerstone of the dogma of UFO buffs is that the U.S. Government "really knows the truth about UFOs" but that administration after administration has conspired to keep this truth under deep security wraps for more than thirty years. (This conveniently ignores the inability of the Nixon Administration to keep the Watergate scandal under wraps and the number of Central Intelligence Agency indiscretions that have emerged under Congressional scrutiny.)

The explanation for this alleged cover-up, according to UFO dogma, is that the "government is afraid that the public might panic" if faced with the prospect of extraterrestrial visitations. In support of this contention, the UFO buffs cite the aftermath of the famous Orson Welles radio dramatization of "The Invasion from Mars," broadcast on Halloween night in 1938. Yet the new Steven Spielberg-produced UFO movie about an extraterrestrial visitation, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, is playing to packed houses without producing panic in the theaters.

The *National Enquirer*, which gives a big play in its pages to UFO reports, put a reporter on Carter's campaign trail after learning of Carter's UFO-sighting. When the reporter asked Carter if he would release all of the government's classified UFO information if elected, it got a useful quote which was featured on the front page of its June 8,

1976 edition under the headlines "Jimmy Carter: The Night I Saw a UFO," with the subhead ". . . If elected I'll make all the Govt.'s UFO Information public." The precise quotation, contained in the accompanying article, was: "If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public, and the scientists. I'm convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one." Not a surprising response from a candidate who was then crusading for greater candor in government operations.

This Carter statement was widely hailed by the UFO buffs in their publications. At long last, after thirty years of secrecy, if Carter were elected, the public would finally learn the truth about UFOs. The new president had barely learned to find his way around the White House before the avalanche of letters and telegrams began to arrive. One typical letter, from a man in California who claimed he had been "zapped" and injured by a UFO, began as follows (and is reproduced exactly as written):

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

DURING YOUR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN; YOU HAD MADE THE COMMITMENT, THAT YOU, SIR, WOULD RELEASE, TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ALL OF THE *U.F.O.* SECRECY NOW HELD IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CONSISTING OF VARIOUS AGENCIES; YOUR ARTICLE WITH THIS COMMITMENT APPEARED IN THE *JUNE 8, 1976* ISSUE OF *THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER* NEWSPAPER. I HAVE VOTED FOR YOU, MAINLY FOR THIS REASON. I DO FAITHFULLY HOPE YOU WILL NOT DISAPPOINT ME, AS ONE OF MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WHO HAS VOTED FOR YOU . . .

When Dr. Frank Press, a noted geophysicist, was named the Presidential Science Advisor, his office was assigned the task of responding to the letters from the UFO buffs, many of them charging that the Defense Department, the USAF, and/or the CIA were withholding significant information on UFOs. Acting as the president's agent, Press's office wrote to the Defense Department and to the CIA to inquire about such alleged secrets and was officially informed that there were none. The Pentagon pointed out that all of the USAF's UFO files were now open to the public, in microfilm form, at the National Archives, and interested citizens could even purchase microfilm copies of the entire Air Force files on the subject.

Dr. Press sent a memo to the president reporting the results of his queries but its contents seemingly were not carefully read by some of the

president's top aides. One, believed to be press secretary Jody Powell, in a background briefing with a reporter for *U.S. News & World Report*, dropped a juicy tidbit that prompted the magazine to publish the following item in the "Washington Whispers" column of its April 18, 1977, issue:

Before the year is out, the Government—perhaps the President—is expected to make what are described as "unsettling disclosures" about UFOs—unidentified flying objects. Such revelations, based on information from the CIA, would be a reversal of official policy that in the past has downgraded UFO incidents.

This was good news to the UFO buffs. Clearly the president had not forgotten his campaign promise! At least one UFO buff, from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, during a trip to Washington, visited Dr. Press's office to volunteer his services to assist in any way in the big event. (My own response was to write a letter-to-the-editor, published in the May 9, 1977 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, offering 100:1 odds that no such "unsettling disclosures" on UFOs would occur by December 31, 1977. I had expected that such generous odds might induce a number of "takers," but I received no response—not even from a reporter on the magazine!)

Meanwhile, after receiving official denials that the Defense Department or CIA was withholding anything of significance on UFOs, Dr. Press's office was responding to the increased flow of mail from the UFO buffs with a form letter indicating that the government was not withholding vital information on the subject. But this did not prompt the UFO buffs to question their own dogma. Rather it brought vitriolic responses that President Carter, like his many predecessors, was trying to "keep the truth from the public."

In some instances, the White House asked the Defense Department to help it respond to the barrage of letters. But when the man from California, cited earlier, received a form-letter response from the office of the Secretary of the Air Force denying that UFO information was being withheld, the indignant UFO buff responded with a letter that included the following paragraph (unedited):

YOUR STOCK-LETTER REPLY TO ME IS ONE THE REPETITIOUS [S/C] STATEMENTS ABOUT "PROJECT BLUE BOOK," ETC., WHICH I AM TOTALLY FAMILIAR WITH SINCE 1969 . . . WHAT THE HELL HAS ANYTHING YOU SAY, IN

men on each car, thus shifting workers to different jobs.

Despite G.M.'s assertion that jobs can be created by adding more options and that the industry will enjoy unit sales gains in coming years, there is no question that jobs are being eliminated. This is true, observers say, even though 15,000 to 18,000 new jobs will probably be created over the next five years.

Effect on Production Workers

Production workers, the assembly-line, stamping-plant and lathe workers, are expected to be hurt most. Some estimates are that their ranks could shrink by as much as 10 percent by the mid-1980's. Hurt least will be the highly skilled machine operators, computer operators and engineers who will be responsible for developing the new car and plant designs.

The U. A. W. says that about 570,000 of its 737,000 members are considered production workers, with 200,000 of them working in final assembly plants.

David Eisenberg, an analyst for the New York investment house of Sanford, Bernstein & Company, said that even if demand for new cars rose 2 percent a year, the demand for semiskilled workers would still decline. "A contraction of 10 percent of the workers in the semiskilled metal ranks would not be surprising to me," he said.

In Detroit, Arvid Jouppi, another veteran auto analyst, expressed a similar view.

"In the first 75 years of the industry it was possible to achieve the goals of high profitability through size, big cars," Mr. Jouppi said. "Now that avenue is closed. As a consequence, the manufacturers are looking for cheaper ways of fabricating, less car-per-car, and jobs will be decreasing even as the number of cars produced increases."

The jobs question emerged as a bone of contention a year ago when the auto companies and the union were negotiating a new three-year contract. They settled on one that gives some workers additional days off each year, with the union apparently hoping that more workers would be brought onto payrolls to fill the additional work hours available.

That program got under way recently, though as yet no assessment of it has been made.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Nov. 26 (AP)—Officials in this flood-stricken city are ready to go to court over how to distribute a quarter of a million dollars in disaster relief donations.

The money, most of which poured into this Cambria County community in the form of personal checks since the July 20 flood, was universally welcomed as a lift toward recovery until the City Council tried to spend it.

"The money that came into this area was to help those afflicted by the flood, not to help bail out City Council from its capital replacement problems," said Mayor Herbert Pfuhl Jr., who intends to veto the Council's recent decision to use \$100,000 of the flood fund for sewer cleaning equipment.

"That money should be going to the Council of Churches and other social service agencies to use as they see fit," Mr. Pfuhl said.

But a majority of the nine-man Council disagrees, saying it had the right to use the money on clean-up projects that it feels will do residents the most good.

Carter Asks Space Agency To Investigate U.F.O.'s

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 (AP)—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is being asked to take up where the Air Force left off a decade ago and investigate reports of unidentified flying objects.

The resumed inquiries come at the request of President Carter, who in 1973, while Governor of Georgia, reported sighting a U.F.O. near Griffin, Ga.

Dave Williamson, the space agency's assistant for special projects, said yesterday that the agency was "not anxious" to get into the controversy because "it's not wise to do research on something that is not a measurable phenomenon."

"There is no measurable U.F.O. evidence such as a piece of metal, flesh or cloth," Mr. Williamson said. "We don't even have any radio signals. A photograph is not a measurement."

But he said a group of technical experts that he headed would recommend by the end of the year what the space agency should do about the White House request to establish the panel of inquiry.

New York Times
November 29, 77 P.A.H.

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NASA asked to coordinate UFO reports

By Clayton Jones
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

From the U.S. agency that rockets strange machines into outer space now comes a close encounter with an intriguing phenomenon: reports of UFOs by Americans.

A White House request to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration asks that the space agency consider becoming the government's focal point for "national revival" of in-

terest in reports of UFO sightings.

NASA officials, who will decide by next week whether to reopen investigations of such reports — including one in 1973 by Jimmy Carter, then governor of Georgia — are wary of such a task, given little hard information. They may ask to jettison the assignment to another agency.

The U.S. Air Force closed out the last government investigation in 1969 with the "Condon Report," which failed to persuade "ufologists" to drop the subject.

But a revival of UFO fascination, noted by White House science adviser Frank Press as coming from the "younger generation," may escalate with the current release of Hollywood's latest sci-fi flick, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," about alien beings saucerizing their way to Earth. Letters on UFOs are pouring in to the White House, officials there say.

The White House has recommended that the agency of space scientists set up a panel of in-

quiry to see if there are any new findings since the Condon Report. Dr. Press has also asked that NASA become the focal point for general correspondence and inquiries.

A NASA project officer, who is studying evidence of UFO reports from the last 10 years to see if a panel of inquiry is justified, says: "To do the research we have to have a starting point. What we're dealing with is a reportorial phenomenon, not hard facts."

"We don't know how to do research on this; we're not parapsychologists. We can't interface with the public with lie detectors. NASA would agree that some phenomena are extremely real to the people that experience them. But it's not proper to judge another person's reaction," he added.

"We have a generation of young people to whom the 'outer limits' and the semimystical are not rejected out of hand. You could turn

the subject over to the U.S. Public Health Service, but then you are calling 51 percent of the American people nuts," he went on.

"Give me one little green man — not a theory or memory of one — and we can have a multibillion-dollar program," the NASA official suggests. "It's a scientific dilemma. How do you prove that something doesn't exist?"

What can NASA do? Several actions are considered, including the following:

- Ask the private community of ufologists to supply the five best examples of sightings or encounters for official study.
- Hold a national symposium on the subject.
- Urge the public to send NASA all material on UFOs to maintain an open file.
- Announce that NASA stands ready to perform laboratory analysis of any physical evidence of UFOs.

Now Available

this new stereo recording and cassette of seven of the most familiar poems by Mary Baker Eddy, arranged in contemporary solo settings, along with solos with biblical texts.



Record \$5.50 Cassette \$6.00
(Both are compatible for playing on monaural equipment)



trial must be compared to the cost of medical care rather than to the cost of doing other kinds of research. Each day a patient spends in a coronary care unit, he says, costs about \$1000. And there

are about 1 million heart attacks each year in the United States. Many of these heart attack victims die before they ever reach the hospital, but Chalmers points out that those who die represent a

significant economic loss to the country.

Critics of the prevention trials contend that the trials would undoubtedly be worthwhile if they indeed showed that particular preventive measures were use-

Briefing

UFO's Just Will Not Go Away

Federal science officials are now being visited by what many of them regard as a nightmare—an upwelling public interest in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) and requests that the government "do" something about the possibility that they exist. One course of action now being considered is another scientific review similar to the report completed in 1969 for the Air Force by a panel led by the late Edward U. Condon.

The issue arose in July, when the mounting number of inquiries began coming into the White House about UFO's. The White House press office asked Presidential Science Adviser Frank Press whether he could do something about answering this mail. Press's investigation of the matter showed that inquiries from UFO buffs get quite a run around: the White House answers one way, the other federal agencies have their own stock answers, and the Air Force, which has chief responsibility for the issue, says something else. So Press wrote the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) asking if that agency would take the lead in answering incoming mail.

It was Press's by-the-by paragraph that kicked off the fuss, when he suggested that it might be time for another study of the issue. He even suggested that a new study panel include well-known scientists such as astronomer Carl Sagan of Cornell, who is something of a media star, but is said not to believe Earth has been visited by UFO's.

It should be no surprise to anyone familiar with science-government matters that NASA officials are not relishing the thought of launching such an inquiry and have sidestepped the request by assigning an official to the job of looking at the need for a study. NASA seems to fear that the reopening of the question of the genuineness of visitors from outer space will legitimize a subject most establishment scientists consider phony and a waste of time.

What makes NASA's damned-if-they-

do and damned-if-they-don't dilemma interesting, and even important, is that there is indeed a resurgence of public feeling about UFO's, perhaps due to the hit movie *Star Wars*. According to its promoters, *Star Wars* has sold more than 400 million tickets (a fact all the more significant because there are only 200 million people in the entire United States). A new film, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, has just been released, about a Citizen Joe whose belief in extraterrestrial visitors is eventually proved right—despite NASA, the Air Force, and everyone else. It is likely to also be a box office hit. Surely it will increase the White House UFO mail.

Indeed, there may be evidence that President Carter once was, or now may be, among the 54 percent of the American public that a recent Gallup Poll found believes in UFO's. While Governor of Georgia, Carter filed a report that he had seen a UFO while standing with a group of men at 7:15 p.m. on an October evening outside the Leary, Georgia, Lions Club. The Naval Academy graduate—apparently not aware that the object was probably the planet Venus—described it as being a big as the moon. He wrote "it came close, moved away—came close then moved away... then disappeared."

Moreover, during his presidential campaign, Carter is said to have promised he would release all government information concerning UFO's—a promise which UFO buffs have not let him forget, because of their fervent belief that for many years the government has been covering up its encounters of the third kind.

Truth is as strange as fiction. The Air Force, officials say, indeed classifies some results of its inquiries made after UFO "sightings"—many of which are made near military bases, and by men trained to observe the skies, and a few of which are investigated by Air Force men going up in planes. Press's office says that these facts, together with the conflicting responses the government hands out to UFO buffs who write in, keep alive this belief in a cover-up. Policies like these, officials say, need review and perhaps changing.

In the present climate, then (and who knows when *Close Encounters* will be shown to the First Family), it may become more difficult to avoid another UFO study. Further, it can be argued that scientists in government incur some obligation to respond to the concerns of the public, which, after all, is paying them. On the other hand, it seems clear that federal science officials hope that if push ever comes to shove on the issue of reopening the government's UFO book, the push does not come from them.

SIPI Sells (Out?)

Environment Magazine

Environment magazine, which broke the first stories on mercury pollution, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), and the hazard of steam explosions in nuclear reactors, will close down in its present form at the end of December—a victim of the problems small-circulation journals have in finding a suitable, profitable niche.

The Scientists' Institute for Public Information (SIPI), which owns and publishes *Environment*, has agreed to sell it for \$20,000 to Heldref Publications, a Washington firm that publishes technical journals such as the *Journal of Environmental Health* and *Current*. SIPI will aid Heldref in soliciting outside manuscripts; but there will be no more staff-written articles, which tended to be the news-making ones.

The decision to cut the SIPI-*Environment* umbilical cord has exposed some of the strains within SIPI, an old, New York-based organization that recently has been growing and expanding into new projects such as sponsoring seminars on energy or genetic engineering for members of Congress in Washington (*Science*, 9 April 1976, p. 122). The sale has sparked a number of resignations, on the editorial board and board of directors, by those who say that *Environment*, which is published in St. Louis, Missouri, is more important to SIPI than SIPI's current leaders think.

By selling *Environment* outright, SIPI

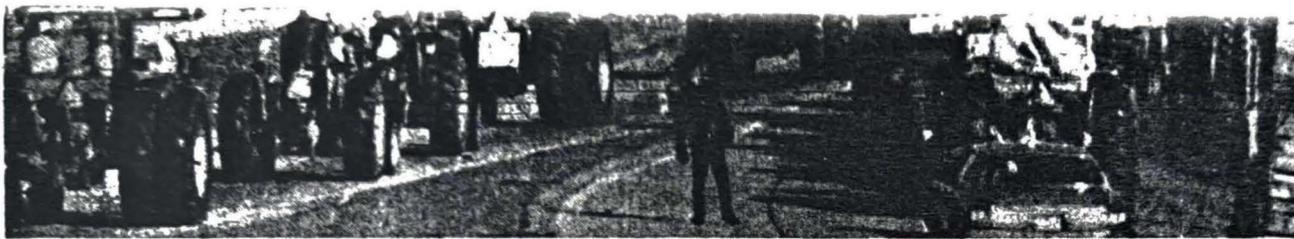
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Associated Press

...and grandson beside American tractor on their farm in Niederelsench, West Germany. At left: Farmers lining up their tractors yesterday in Lenox, Ga., for march to Atlanta to protest low farm prices.

U.F.O. Interest Rising, Stirred by Science Fiction Films

New York Times
Dec 9, 77 P B1

By **BOYCE RENSBERGER**
Popular interest in flying saucers appears to be rising again and, with the rise, reports of U.F.O. sightings have been pouring into Government offices in increasing numbers, according to spokesmen for the White House and the space agency.

One stimulus appears to have been last summer's movie "Star Wars," a science fiction film filled with flying objects piloted by creatures from outer space.

An even greater spur to U.F.O. reports is expected from a new movie called "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Unlike "Star Wars," "Close Encounters" deals with fictional visits to this planet by space ships from elsewhere.

By planting or reawakening the idea in the minds of both the gullible and the hoaxers, the movie is expected to trigger a self-sustaining chain reaction of U.F.O. sightings and interest in the subject.

"There are always many stimuli out there to be seen—meteors, fireballs, aircraft anticollision lights and so on," said Philip J. Klass, an editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine and author of books debunking flying saucer myths. "It just takes something like this movie to get the idea going."

The White House saw the reports coming some weeks ago and asked the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration to take over the job of answering letters on the subject from citizens, NASA agreed.

"Public interest in this has been brewing for several months, slowly building up," said Stanley D. Schneider, an aide to Frank Press, the White House science adviser who made the request to NASA. "It was getting to be more than we could handle."

Mr. Schneider said that the letters began almost as soon as President Carter took office, having once reported a U.F.O. himself and having made a campaign to release all Government files on the subject.

He said that the movie "Star Wars,"

appeared to have spurred an upsurge of inquiries last summer, and he forecast that "Close Encounters" would trigger a far larger response.

Dr. Press asked the administrator of the space agency, Robert A. Frosch, to consider reopening a Government investigation of the validity and significance of U.F.O. reports. The Federal Government has not concerned itself with investigating the subject since 1969, when Edward U. Condon of the University of Colorado issued a federally sponsored report based on more than 30 years of files of the Air Force's Project Bluebook, as the Government inquiry was called. The report said

that there was no hard evidence that U.F.O.'s were anything but conventional phenomena misunderstood.

"NASA is expected to say that no investigation is warranted. One reason, cited by an official of the agency is that no credible physical evidence for the extraterrestrial origin of a flying object has been produced."

"We're a physics agency here," said David Williamson, an assistant administrator for special projects, "and we would have to have, in evidentiary form, something physical to work with."

U.F.O. reports have even entered official deliberations of the United Na-

tions. A Special Political Committee of the General Assembly began debate last week on a proposal to establish a U.N. agency to study U.F.O. reports and establish contact with any alien creatures in spacecraft that might be encountered.

The proposal came from the delegation of Grenada, the Caribbean island nation whose Prime Minister, Sir Eric M. Gairy, has long advocated such an agency.

Mr. Klass, the U.F.O. debunker, is chairman of the subcommittee on U.F.O.'s of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, a relatively young group

of scientists, philosophers and others working in counteract what they see as growing public acceptance of paranormal and pseudoscientific topics for which no credible evidence has been found.

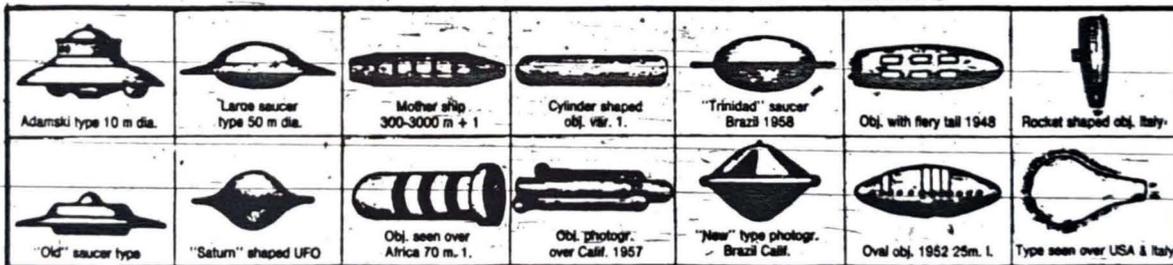
He contends that waves of U.F.O. sightings are not related to waves of U.F.O.'s but to a muted form of mass hysteria. He has traced what he calls "U.F.O. flaps" to the original sightings that triggered a spreading ripple of subsequent purported sightings.

If a U.F.O. report gets a modicum of publicity wherever it occurs, additional sightings are likely to be reported in ensuing days, he said. As the weeks go by, news of the reports spreads and the flap radiates out in an ever-widening circle.

Eventually, Mr. Klass said, the center of the flap loses interest and further sightings get little or no publicity. In about two months, he said, the flap dies down.

He also said he has correlated the success of a flap in spreading with the amount of competing news. In slow news periods, flaps are more likely to propagate, he said.

"All of this, I think, supports my contention that psychological factors are the main ones in a U.F.O. flap," Mr. Klass said. "That's why this 'Close Encounters' movie, I think, is going to have such an effect. If people think there are U.F.O.'s to be seen, they will go out and look for one."



Sachnowski/New Scientist Magazine

Some of the various types of unidentified flying objects purported to have been observed over the Earth

News Summary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1977

International

Saudi Arabia's support of an Arab front against Egypt's peace overtures to Israel is being sought by President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, who went to Riyadh for talks with King Khalid. Saudi Arabia, however, has indicated that it wants to ease the Arab crisis. It is not only in Saudi Arabia Mr. Assad is seeking anti-Egyptian backing. He is going to Kuwait and to other oil-producing countries on the Arabian peninsula. [Page A1, Columns 1-2.]

His Arab critics are "dwarfs," President Anwar el-Sadat charged in a defiant speech at a rally in Cairo in which he urged Egypt to pursue its new course "with our heads held high." Several hundred thousand people, according to police estimates, attended the rally. The meeting was organized by the Government, but the attendance

revenues to finance Social Security benefits, and a higher tax for employers than employees. [A1:6.]

An overhaul of pharmaceutical laws, the most comprehensive since enactment of the Food and Drug Act in 1906, will soon be submitted to Congress by the Administration. The proposals, if adopted, would profoundly change the pharmaceutical industry and change virtually every aspect of Federal regulation of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. A draft of the proposals is being circulated in Congress. [A1:4-5.]

Seat belts are used by comparatively few drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In a study of 84,682 drivers in 16 cities, the agency found that only 18.5 percent of the drivers' cars equipped

with ambitions of the Senate majority leader, Warren M. Anderson. [A23:1-3.]

Skull and brain operations in New York hospitals were participated in by two medical equipment salesmen. They testified that on rare occasions they had helped at the request of surgeons who were using new equipment for the first time. The salesmen's involvement was not known by the patients, but it was not to their detriment, according to testimony to the Medical Practice Task Force of the New York Assembly, Standing Committee on Health. [B3:1-2.]

Business/Finance

Japan has no intention of making a public pledge to turn its large trade surplus into a deficit, as the United States has requested, Nobuhiko Ushiba, the Minister for External Economic Affairs, said in an interview in Tokyo. Mr. Ushiba, a former Ambassador to the United States, will be in Washington this weekend to present his Government's responses to a series of economic demands made by Washington, which maintains that it is the responsibility of major industrialized countries to cut down on foreign trade as a

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Quotation of the Day

"Did you ever try to meet a payroll every two weeks for a bankrupt organization?"—Kenneth M. Curtis, on his resignation as head of the Democratic National Committee. [A12:4.]

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New York Times
Dec 28, 1977, A14

Around the Nation

NASA Refuses to Reopen Investigation of U.F.O.'s

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—The Federal space agency has rejected a White House request that it reopen a Government investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects, saying that such an inquiry would be "wasteful and probably unproductive."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said that while it stood ready to analyze any "bona fide physical evidence from credible sources," such evidence has never been found.

The rejection was made in a letter sent last week by the agency's Administrator, Robert Frosch, to Dr. Frank Press, President Carter's science adviser. Dr. Press said that he accepted NASA's conclusions and did not plan to pursue the matter further.

40% of Hospitals Checked Fall Short of New Codes

CHICAGO, Dec. 27 (AP)—Forty percent of the 2,988 hospitals inspected in the last year failed to meet all of the newly upgraded standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, the commission said today.

Among the 1,207 hospitals that received one-year rather than two-year accreditations, the commission said, were such institutions as the University of Chicago Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the teaching hospital for Harvard University's medical school.

A commission spokeswoman said the one-year accreditation meant that the hospital was in "substantial compliance" with commission standards. In 1973, only 19 percent of 2,735 hospitals inspected received one-year accreditation.

The commission said that 35 percent of the hospitals given one-year accreditation were cited for inadequate building safety; 20 percent for deficiencies in record-keeping; 40 percent for multiple deficiencies, and 5 percent for other factors.

Ex-Pennsylvania Senator To Plead Guilty in Fraud

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27 (UPI)—Henry J. Cianfrani, once one of the state's most powerful politicians, will enter an "unconditional" guilty plea to Federal charges of racketeering, obstruction of justice and mail fraud, his attorney said today.

In addition, the attorney, Nicholas J. Nastasi, said that the former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who resigned from the Senate Dec. 15, would

the September indictment against Mr. Cianfrani would carry a maximum jail sentence of 565 years. All but nine of the counts deal with mail fraud. Both Mr. Marston and Mr. Nastasi said the decision to enter the guilty pleas was not the result of any kind of plea bargain. Mr. Cianfrani, 54 years old, was not available for comment.

"We intend to file a full comprehensive summary of what the trial would have shown," Mr. Marston said. "We feel the public has a right to know." He said the summary would be presented Friday morning, when Mr. Nastasi said Mr. Cianfrani would enter his plea before Federal District Judge Edward R. Becker.

Man Who Drove Into Rally Of Klan Is Recaptured

ATLANTA, Dec. 27 (AP)—Buddy Cochran, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison for driving his sports car through a Ku Klux Klan rally last July in President Carter's hometown of Plains, Ga., injuring 32 people, was arrested here tonight, 17 hours after he escaped from jail in Americus, the authorities said.

A spokesman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, William Alford, said that Mr. Cochran, 30 years old, was arrested in the metropolitan Atlanta area, but no other details were immediately available.

Mr. Cochran and another inmate, Michael Sylvester Proctor, 30, who was awaiting trial for attempted rape, sawed their way out of the Sumter County Jail early today and fled into surrounding woods. The authorities said that the two men were driven to Atlanta by Martha Phillips, a neighbor of Mr. Cochran's, but they would not say whether she was forced to drive them the 200 miles. There was no indication as to whether Mr. Proctor had been captured.

AWOL Stowaway Appears At Hospital in Memphis

HOUSTON, Dec. 27 (UPI)—Dennis E. Feather, a private who left a base in Germany, stowed away with a companion in a container on a freighter bound for Houston and then walked out of a Houston hospital, turned himself in today at a naval hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Hospital officials said they expected that he would be in the hospital at least two to three days. When Private Feather, 18 years old, of Vidor, Tex., entered the Houston hospital, he was suffering from acute malnutrition and dehydration after 15 days locked in the container with no food or water for nine days.

He and Pfc. Randy Boutain, 19, of



Associated Press

In Quincy, Mass., yesterday after a Boston traffic helicopter crashed into it.

Fire Kills 2 and Hurts 4 in Apartment House

(UPI)—The clothes. Flames were rising from the roof as the first of 30 fire trucks arrived.

The injured were identified as Ronald E. Michelson, 28; his wife, Lynn, 26, and their 10-week-old daughter, Dawn.

The fourth injured person was identified as 62-year-old Julia Virga. She was

regular

says that someone else in whom he has the utmost confidence says that he just saw a sea-serpent off the port bow, not even if he insists that he saw it .23 beyond chance expectancy.

In this writer's one and only conversation with Bergen Evans, I asked him how he managed to accumulate all the nonsense he had written about. He replied, "You don't have to look for it. You just stand in one place, and it rolls all over you."

If only there were more like him.
—Robert Sheaffer

NASA's UFO constituency

In some manner or another—I'm really not sure how—my name was placed on a list NASA sends out to people who write in requesting UFO information. The list incorrectly identifies me as the chairman of the UFO Subcommittee of the CSICP. While I am a *member* of the subcommittee, our chairman in fact is Philip J. Klass, *Aviation Week* editor and author of *UFOs Explained*. I have not myself seen the list, although I understand that there are five organizations listed on it. Presumably the other four are NICAP, APRO, MUFON, and CUFOS, which are all composed primarily of dedicated UFO enthusiasts. To my knowledge this is the first time that the name of any noncredulous organization has been widely disseminated to the public as a source of information about UFOs, and hence the first time such a group has been able to get a clear picture of the types of letters that come in.

As it stands today, anyone who writes to NASA or the president for

UFO information gets little more than a polite "thank you" and a list of five organizations to contact, including yours truly for the CSICP. And the letters *have* been arriving. The volume has not been heavy, and I have been able to reply with a few reprints of articles for very little cost. Only a small percentage of those interested in UFOs bother to write to the government for information. Presumably fewer still follow up on NASA's recommendations of where to write for additional information.

And who has been sending in all the letters? Children. Yes, it has been children, of elementary-school age. Only 13 percent of the letters I have received from NASA referral can be deduced to have originated from adults (while virtually 100 percent of my other UFO correspondence comes from adults). *A full 87 percent of the inquiries I have received are obviously written by young people, typically eleven or twelve years old.* Many of the letters state the age of the writer: "I am 12 years old and I am in sixth grade." But even where no age is stated, the distinguishing feature of these letters is that they are typically written on notebook paper, seldom on stationery or typed. In many cases, the paper was simply ripped out of a spiral-ring binder, the kind in widespread use in elementary schools. Some even rip the paper in half—why waste a perfectly good bottom half of paper when you didn't write anything on it? Most of these letters are handwritten, both envelope and letter, in an obviously youthful scrawl.

Here is what some of my correspondents have to say:

Dear Sirs, My name is ——— and I

am 11 years old. I am a firm believer in UFOs and wanted all possible info you could send. Thanks!

Dear Robert Sheaffer, I am 12 years old and I'm interested in UFOs. I wrote to the Government about UFO's and all they sent me was some coverup papers. My friends and I are interested in UFO's, but they aren't near as interested as I am. I'm doing a research on my own. Would you send me some information. Thanks.

Dear Chairman Sheaffer, I am interested in an U.F.O. Studies and ask you if you would send me a copy of Project Blue Book or some pieces and pictures of it. I wish to conduct an investigation on them.

Dear Hynek [sic], I am an 8th grader and I've been interested in UFO's, life on other planets and psychic powers. I buy UFO magazines every chance I get. . . .

Dear Sir: . . . I plan to work for NASA and I am very interested in U.F.O.'s.

Thus we have identified what appears to be the backbone of NASA's UFO constituency. They have not yet reached voting age. They scrawl half-legible notes of fifty words or less on a page torn from an elementary-school composition book. They represent 87 percent of NASA's UFO correspondence, if the sample I have received is in any way representative.

Was it for this constituency that the White House requested NASA to assume responsibility for all government UFO correspondence, and to reopen the question of whether a new government UFO investigation should

be undertaken? In any case, it was to the clear displeasure of this constituency that NASA administrator Dr. Robert Frosch declined, replying to the White House that "because of the absence of (tangible or physical) evidence, we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure for investigating these phenomena." (See "NASA, the White House, and UFOs," by Philip J. Klass, in the Spring/Summer 1978 issue of the *SKEPTICAL INQUIRER*.)

Had NASA complied with the president's request, perhaps it would have been for this ever-so-youthful constituency that a full-scale, taxpayer-supported UFO investigation would now be under way.

—Robert Sheaffer

Million-pound saucer hunt

If you feel dissatisfied with the *National Enquirer's* million-dollar offer for proof that UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft, then try your luck instead with the U.K. Scotch Whisky company, Cutty Sark. Since July 1, 1978, Cutty Sark has offered one million pounds "for a device which can be proved to have been activated to arrive on earth from beyond our solar system." Presumably, a device intended to arrive on Mars that got here by mistake wouldn't qualify. But there's more yet. The company says: "Such a device must be *either* (a) a craft capable of interstellar travel which has transported extraterrestrial beings to earth, *or* (b) an unmanned reconnaissance vehicle, *or* (c) a missile, *or* (d) an artifact."

In announcing this offer, to a background of music from the Voyager space-probe record in the Star-

Force radar screens, but when it suddenly vanished from radar, American troops were sent across the border to search for the object.

They found that a large disk or flying saucer, about 90 feet in diameter, had crashed. A "spaceman" was found aboard the UFO, but "it" was dead. The alien was about four and a half feet tall, and was totally hairless. Its hands had no thumbs.

Several Air Force men later said they had seen the UFO flying, at about 2,000 miles an hour, over Texas before the crash.

The UFO apparently was kept in secret storage and studied. Everyone involved in its capture and investigation was ordered not to talk about the incident. The captured UFO was last reported seen in storage on an Air Force base in this country in the mid-1950s.

That is perhaps the most sensational story of an Air Force encounter with UFOs, out of many such stories which suggest that the Air Force knows much more about UFOs than they are willing to admit. The reason given for the secrecy is usually national security.

Such stories and criticism make good reading in the popular press, but without thorough investigations they quite rightly are taken with a grain of salt by most people. Many leading UFOlogists do not believe there is any government or Air Force cover-up, though they do believe there is a lot of unnecessary secrecy and a lack of open-mindedness toward UFOs.

In 1977, the White House urged that a new, "open" investigation into UFOs be made, to settle once and for all the question of what "Unidentified" UFOs are and where they come from. The move was largely the result of special interest in UFOs by President Carter, who said he had once seen one in the skies over Georgia. He had, in fact, made it part of his campaign promises, to ask the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to set up a board of inquiry and make an in-depth study of UFOs.

But the Air Force shot down the proposed inquiry by saying that its investigations had proved that UFOs did not come from

outer space, they pose no threat to national security, and they are not created by any foreign power with technology beyond our own capabilities.

NASA thereupon rejected the White House request in December 1977, saying that to reopen a government investigation into Unidentified Flying Objects would be "wasteful and probably unproductive."

The rejection was in a letter which NASA administrator Robert Frosch sent to Dr. Frank Press, President Carter's science adviser. Press said he accepted NASA's conclusions and did not plan to pursue the subject any further.

However, NASA said, it was ready to analyze any "bona fide physical evidence from credible sources" regarding UFOs but it emphasized that in its investigations so far, no such evidence has ever been found.

Other efforts to start up a new UFO study also have failed, or been tabled, including a reported attempt by members of the United Nations to join forces in a worldwide study of UFOs.

The most vocal advocates for a new, impartial, and open-minded study of UFOs by mid-1978 were young people and UFOlogists. Young people became very UFO conscious after seeing the realistic motion picture, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and the futuristic space fantasy, *Star Wars*. UFOlogists, many of them serious scientists including astronomers, remain bound as scientists to investigate the unknown. Their argument, and a logical one, is that humankind has not progressed this far without scientific investigation. A new study that might explain UFOs and where they come from might help lead humankind into the space age more meaningfully than have even present space accomplishments.

Humans may be destroying their planet by war and/or pollution. Space colonization is progressing, primarily through research by both the United States and the Soviet Union. Perhaps one day, people will have to find a new planet on which to live. The more humankind knows about space travel and colonization,

Pentagon by a source who claimed that sensitive UFO data originating with the US government was to be turned over to elements of the media. This provoked some concern on the part of the military, and a copy of the letter was made available to the FBI for action. The letter revealed:

In approximately seven months or January, 1972, certain copies of top-secret documents shall be sent to the New York Times as well as two other newspapers. These documents are related to and will be an ostentation of the involvement of the Pentagon in the controversial 'Unidentified Flying Objects' or 'Flying Saucer' subject. It will show that not only the US Air Force was involved in UFO research but the other military branches as well.

Analysis and the actual conclusions of the classic UFO cases shall be revealed. This shall be accomplished by zeroxed documents and photographs that General Wolfe had reviewed when he was head of the Army's UFO support program in the Pentagon during the Eisenhower years.

Sorry, but it is concluded here that this is the best course to take because we feel that the secret UFO investigations are parallel in nature to the Times-Pentagon-Vietnam controversy. If we are wrong in taking this action, time will tell.

With little evidence to go on, the Bureau simply filed the curious letter, but it is worth noting that in the early to mid-1970s, rumours were rife that the American government was contemplating the release of sensational hitherto-unseen UFO data. The investigator Leonard Stringfield recalled one such occasion in 1974:

I knew that a report was quietly circulating among responsible researchers in late 1974 anticipating such an announcement, perhaps jointly by the US and France . . . I was alerted by Walter Andrus, Director of [the Mutual UFO Network], to be prepared as Public Relations Director, to rush to Chicago, joining he and Dr [J. Allen] Hynek of CUFOs in a press conference if official word was released.

On the suggestion of Andrus, I prepared a tentative press release, got both his and Hynek's approval, and we waited. In my UFOlog entry for December 16, 1974, I noted, 'Wonder what President Ford and Giscard d'Estaing, President of France, are discussing in Martinique beside the oil problem?'

If UFOs were on the agenda we can only guess. The Martinique meeting ended with nothing said about UFOs. The biggest story ever, was never told.¹³

The 'biggest story ever' may not have been told; however, a decidedly unsettling, even macabre, issue was waiting in the wings to task the FBI, as we will see in the following chapters.

Documentation generated by the Bureau in 1977 suggests at first glance that meaningful involvement in the UFO subject on its part was by that time practically nonexistent.

On 14 June 1977, Jay Cochran Jr, Assistant Director, FBI, Technical Services Division, was contacted by Stanley Schneider of the Office of Science and Technology at the White House and asked about the Bureau's procedures for handling information received which related to UFOs. In a memorandum generated for internal use, Cochran wrote:

[Schneider] advised that Jody Powell of the President's staff has raised the question as to whether or not there is any coordination within the Executive Branch relating to information concerning [the UFO] subject. He stated that the US Air Force had closed their investigation of these matters several years ago and currently does nothing but refer such information to appropriate local authorities.

I advised him that as far as the FBI is concerned there appears to be no conceivable jurisdiction for us to conduct any inquiries upon receipt of information relating to a UFO sighting and, in the absence of some investigative jurisdiction based upon the information furnished, that information would be referred to the Department of the Air Force without any action being taken by the Bureau.

He thanked me for the information and stated that if any further contact was necessary he would call back.

Has the Bureau been out of the UFO field since 1977, as this letter would seem to imply? No. Between 1974 and 1980 the Bureau was deeply involved in collating and examining data on the subject of so-called 'cattle mutilations' – a subject that many researchers of the phenomenon believe is linked directly to the mystery of unidentified flying objects, and which will be discussed shortly.

Moreover, two investigators, Lawrence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, have learned that, beginning in 1978 (only one year after the White House queried the Bureau), the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, began monitoring and collecting newspaper clippings that dealt with the UFO subject, and that to this day are stored on reels of microfilm at the Academy under the curious file reference of TRANSPORTATION. It may not be entirely coincidental that one of the earliest clippings collected by the Academy came from the 12 January 1979 edition of the *Arizona Republic* newspaper, and concerned the then recent release into the public domain of hundreds of pages of previously classified UFO data which originated with the CIA.¹⁴

Nineteen seventy-eight was also the year that the investigator Robert Todd found himself the subject of FBI enquiries when he began looking – a little too closely for his own good – into a UFO encounter which occurred in Cuban airspace in the 1960s.¹⁵ And in 1982, in conjunction with the US Air Force, the Bureau was involved heavily in an investigation of Simone Mendez, a telecommunications specialist at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

In connection with her work, Mendez was routinely involved with the dispatching and receiving of high-security telecommunication messages, and in the latter part of 1981 was given access to what appeared to be a top-secret message concerning the detection by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) of a group of unknown objects which entered Earth's atmosphere from deep space, and headed towards Moscow.¹⁶

As a result of her viewing this particular document (which the authorities declared was bogus), Mendez was interrogated deeply to the extent

that the combined files generated by the Air Force and the Bureau amount to almost two hundred pages! An FBI document dated 27 January 1982, for example, states:

Investigation has determined that the subject Mendez has access to cryptographic keys and routinely sends and receives cryptographic messages. On a daily basis, Mendez handles classified communications up to and including Top Secret. This information was previously provided to the Bureau and Dallas via Las Vegas Teletype dated January 12, 1982.

A Bureau cable of 25 March 1982 adds: 'The communication related to three UFOs over the Soviet Union and the Air Force was attempting to identify them.'

Although the Air Force ultimately determined that the message was not genuine (but had presumably been constructed by persons unknown who knew enough for it to appear legitimate), to this day much of the paperwork generated by the Bureau and the Air Force on this investigation remains classified, and the USAF now claims that the 'document' itself cannot be located . . .¹⁷

Come 1988, the Bureau was still delving into the hidden world of the UFO, and found itself caught up in the saga of the notorious MJ-12 documents, which purported to be official US government papers relating to the recovery of an alien spacecraft found crash-landed in the desert of New Mexico in July 1947. As the story of MJ-12 is a complex one, I will not elaborate further here, but refer you to Chapter 11 for a full account.

During the course of my research I have spoken with a number of people who have made claims that some of the more advanced species of aliens visiting Earth are able to manipulate the human mind to the extent that the free will of the individual at issue is essentially lost.

One such source (whom I am regrettably unable to name) was employed in the early 1980s with a computer-software company which had close ties with Britain's Ministry of Defence. According to the information imparted to me, a person attached to the British government's Electronic Security Committee (which deals with the



Written by the Users
Edited by the Readers

Date
3/22/01

Readers
31

-Politics-

Bags of U-mail (UFO Mail) to Bytes of E-Mail

by Larry W. Bryant

[AUTHOR's Note: In rummaging through some other presidential UFOana in my files, I just came across my draft of a "Presidential Proclamation on Greater UFO Freedom of Information and Accountability." Originally intended for Ronald Reagan's issuance, the proclamation first was published in the now-defunct New York City newspaper "The News World" for Oct. 10, 1981. An updated version now is being posted upon two websites: <http://www.ufocity.com> (as an installment of my column "LWB Chronicles"); and <http://www.petitionpetition.com> (as a citizens petition for delivery to George W. Bush). Now let's proceed with Installment No. 7 (March 22, 2001) of Jimmy Carter's U-mail.]

1-18. 4 Feb 77; Dear Mr. President:

During your recent "fireside" chat, you made it clear that you hope to have good communications with the citizenry of these United States. I would like at this time to ask you when we might expect you to carry out a promise made during your campaign last summer.

In its issue of June 8, 1976, the National Enquirer newspaper quoted you as saying "If I become President, I'll make every piece of

Mr. President, do you still intend to do this?

I sincerely hope that you do because I feel that the government and the Air Force is keeping the real truth from the American people. I have never seen a UFO, but there have been so many reliable people reporting them, including astronauts, I believe that something must exist and that these people are not seeing things. Some people think that if the government were to say that the earth was being visited by extraterrestrials it would cause a worldwide panic, but I think this is pure nonsense! At any rate I hope you can fulfill this promise to the American people, and if you do I will then have more trust in our government. I am very patriotic, and I have great hopes for you and your administration. Good luck! P.S. I had intended to ask you this on your forthcoming radio program, but since it is being held on a Saturday I will have to work and be unable to phone in.

1-20. May 9, 1977; Dear President Carter:

I am writing to you this evening to ask you a favor. Would you please divulge to the public all the UFO information, evidence and artifacts that our government possesses?

I ask this favor encouraged by a recent article in U.S. News and World Report. April

information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists."

Mr. Carter, I have followed the UFO mystery for over 25 years. In that time, I have seen USAF officers make comments about UFO sighters far worse than the comment Paul Rand Dixon made recently about Ralph Nader. I would hope that you will very quickly make "every piece of information" the government has about UFO's publicly available. I would hope that this would include information as to just who in the Federal Government is currently investigating them. Officially, or at least for public consumption, the USAF has been out of it since late 1969, but there are a great many people who feel that theirs was merely the overt investigation and that covertly another agency (a special branch of the CIA has been mentioned by some researchers) has both carried out investigations of UFO reports and harried sighters into not publicly reporting details of their observations/encounters with UFO's. Your assistance in piercing the "Silence Curtain" thrown up around UFO sightings for many years by the USAF and other agencies will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

1-19. March 3, 1977; Dear Mr. President:

I read in a national newspaper that in an interview you had with Walter Cronkite before you were elected that if elected you promised to release all of the information the government had on unidentified flying objects (UFO's).

18, 1977. This article, in the "Washington Whispers" section, promises that the government will reverse its previous debunking policy on UFO's and give us, the public, the true story via CIA findings.

I ask you, Mr. President, to please let us know all the truth as soon as possible. Many of us private citizens have devoted many years to solving this "elusive phenomena."

Although you, personally, will probably never see this letter, I feel I can still write it knowing your administrative staff will at least give me an honest answer, which I know I never would have received before.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope to hear from you soon.

1-21. April 13, 1977; Dear Mr. President:

I was surprised to learn about your intended action concerning UFO's. The magazine U.S. News & World Report states that the President himself would disclose information on UFO's that will astound and surprise the American public. Is this information derived from the Project Blue Book or any other governmental projects? Or is this new information that has been kept from the public? As the magazine reports, Mr. President, you will disclose this information towards the end of the year. Is this a true statement?

I am concerned about UFO activity in the U.S. and their meaning of existence. I would appreciate a letter of reply. May I thank you for being concerned over this important matter. Thanking you in advance for a quick reply.



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Thread:



Larry W. Bryant: Bags of U-mail (UFO Mail) to Bytes of E-Mail - 3/22/01 **You are here**

WILL NASA ENTER THE UFO ARENA?

by Allan Hendry

In the wake of preliminary details about France's formation of an official UFO research effort comes the news that the U.S.'s own National Aeronautics and Space Administration may indicate by the end of the year that it will undertake a new official study of the UFO problem. IUR has obtained copies of correspondence between the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of the Administrator of NASA which, in conjunction with a number of long-distance phone calls, enable us to reconstruct the sequence of events leading up to this potentially important decision.

Frank Press, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, has been at the hub of the deluge of UFO-related mail addressed to the Executive Office and has even made his own inquiries into Air Force and CIA files on the subject (see IUR "UFO Newsfront", June, 1977). Much of this correspondence undoubtedly arose from UFO researchers who hope that President Carter, a possible UFO witness himself, would be sympathetic to the idea of a meaningful research effort. On July 21, Press wrote to Robert Frosch, the administrator of NASA, informing him of the UFO letters that the White House has received of the "increasing number of inquiries con-

cerning UFO's", and that those in the Executive Office are "ill-equipped to handle these kinds of inquiries". His letter made two recommendations:

1) NASA should form a "small panel of inquiry" to see if any "new significant findings" have occurred since the Condon report of nearly a decade ago.

2) NASA should deal with UFO correspondence aimed at the White House.

Robert Frosch replied that there were "a number of questions which need to be resolved" before any formal program could be undertaken. He submitted a copy of a standard NASA form letter currently mailed out in response to monthly inquiries about UFOs, noting that the Air Force has adopted a similar procedure. Frosch acknowledged that this expedient "fails to provide a recognized focal point for technical appraisal of sightings and understandably results in some frustration to individuals making what they consider to be serious inquiries." But NASA would need additional "resources" to commit themselves to a formal study; so Frosch wanted first to appoint a NASA project officer "to review reports of the last ten years" and report by the end of 1977 whether such a project was justified. Frank Press wrote back, approving the

feasibility study. He also indicated that he would have all UFO-oriented mail addressed to the OSTP and the White House to NASA for response.

Dr. Richard Henry appears to be the candidate at this time for that NASA position. Henry has informed IUR, however, that there has been no official confirmation yet, merely "scuttlebutt", and that progress would probably take weeks. Dr. Henry's appointment would be good news to UFOlogists; he has long been associated with civilian organizations like The Center for UFO Studies and APRO.

It goes without saying that the formation of such a committee would be of singular importance to the UFO subject, particularly if its attitudes and policies were free of the stigmas and controversies that marked the impact of the last government study of UFO reports, the Condon Report (1967-1969). Will the feasibility study lead the way to a NASA-oriented research effort? What influence will the current functioning of France's new official UFO study (GEPAN) have on the NASA decision? While it *should* encourage it, NASA could choose to hold off to avoid "duplicitly". IUR will monitor this developing situation very closely and will report any details which come to our attention.

Report Wrap-ups

ABDUCTION IN WESTERN KANSAS

| CASE | TYPE | DATE | TIME | DURATION | WITNESSES | PLACE |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|
| pre-IUR | CE III | 6-20-76 | post-1 AM | undetermined | 2 | eastern Goodland, KS |

IUR has received many inquiries about a case first discussed as being "in progress" back in the Dec. 1976 issue. It involved a young married couple and their 4-month old child being detained and examined by normal-size humanoids while en route to Colorado through western Kansas. Counsellor/UFO investigator Richard Sigismonde met repeatedly with the couple from July to early October using hypnotic regression techniques to enable the wit-

nesses to recall the incident. The incident was traumatic for the couple; it was as important to provide counselling for the troubled pair as it was to reveal information about the experience. Sigismonde indicates that the individuals have now achieved a healthy state of mind about the incident and the personal implications it held for them. For that reason, it is considered desirable to maintain the anonymity of the witnesses to shield them from further harassment. We will refer to them by their first names. Joe, 19, was a factory worker in Colorado at the time. His wife,

seeing unusual lights in the sky while driving, followed by a sudden period of missing hours and a lack of progress on the road. In search of help, they even contacted the Air Force. Word of this case arrived via the Center for UFO Studies police Hotline, and Richard Sigismonde became involved. Under hypnosis, the details of their story unfolded slowly; each time the story was told, more details surfaced, but complete consistency was maintained over a 4-month period. Both individuals employed the same details, meticu-

UFOs: a volatile topic that can be ignited tomorrow by a New York Times story on a frustrating chase by military planes in Iran or by a network documentary on the abduction of some fisherman in the South. A topic nobody in this city wants to touch with a ten-foot pole. A topic that I am beginning to suspect is as much a puzzle to the military, the intelligence community, and the Science Adviser as it is to the public and to the news media. It is amusing to watch how each sector manages to hide its ignorance behind its own professional rhetoric.

The military has a double standard. In public it keeps a stiff upper lip. Whatever they are, say the generals, UFOs cannot possibly pose a threat to the security of the United States! Why is it, then, that amazed witnesses continue to report the mad scrambling of jet fighters every time a light wanders through the sky? None of the regulations that make it a duty for military personnel to report UFOs and a crime to talk about them has been withdrawn, even after the closing of the Air Force's Project Bluebook ten years ago.

The intelligence community likes to give the impression that it knows all about UFOs but, of course, cannot reveal what it knows. Its job is to pretend that it knows everything. Yet I am beginning to suspect that the real secret in Washington, the secret that must be kept at all costs is that the intelligence community knows nothing, and its files full of tantalizing details nobody has been able to decipher yet.

The scientific community is, at times, fighting rear-guard skirmishes in the name of Rationalism. Academic scholars periodically rally behind some luminary who has just "discovered" the final, rational explanation, and periodically the explanation has to be withdrawn under public ridicule. Flying saucers have been "explained scientifically" as plasma discharges, swamp gas, status inconsistency, cognitive dissonance, refraction effects, and temporal lobe epilepsy. But they keep right on flying, under the noses of the explainers.

That leaves the UFO buffs, who have been collecting stories for thirty years, concentrating on the kinds of data that fit their theories. And they have been bumping each other in an endless, pointless confrontation, not of ideas and theories, but of personalities in egotistical conflict. Some encouraging words by Presi-



Typical of the thousands of "close encounter" cases reported in the last thirty years is this sighting in Quarouble, France, which heralded the major wave of sightings in Europe in 1954. The witness, railroad employee Marius De Wilde, saw a craft that had landed and two occupants of it. French police and Air Force Intelligence regard the object as unidentified. (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)

dent Carter electrified these groups when he asked Jody Powell and Science Adviser Frank Press to see what could be done. The new director of NASA was gingerly approached: would the Agency agree to act as a focal point for public inquiries? The Director said he would. What about a project to investigate the current sightings? NASA was going to think about it.

Seated across the desk from the Science Adviser's assistant, I begin asking my own questions. Why NASA? I would like to know. NASA deals exclusively with space technology. Has the Science Adviser's office already established that the UFO phenomenon is technological in nature, and originates in space? Or is this choice merely a response to the perceptions of the public and the media?

Several serious researchers in this field question the idea that UFOs are extraterrestrial visitors. So why pick NASA rather than the Department of Energy, which could deal better with the

physical effects, or the National Institutes of Health, which are capable of investigating the physiological responses so prevalent among witnesses?

Dr. Schneider is a long-time professional civil servant. His urbane, soft-spoken response brushes the question aside. In the mind of the public, the UFO problem has to do with space and therefore it is appropriate for NASA to deal with it. Are we talking primarily about public relations, then, rather than science? Before our circumspect "Invisible College" (a network of scientists who are privately investigating the mystery) invests time and effort in presenting our data—probably the most detailed and best-investigated set of UFO cases ever selected—we have to know these answers. Is the government thinking of starting a new Project Bluebook? A new Condon Report? If so, we would certainly not participate.

That would not leave the Science Adviser without assistance, however. A file of papers on the desk contains letters from UFO groups, offers from contactees who want to tell the President about their "Space Brothers," recommendations to set up saucer observatories equipped with radar and lasers. They have spent lonely nights on hilltops waiting for visitors from the sky. And some have returned claiming to have met them. Good luck, NASA.

Eleven thirty. I leave the New Executive Office Building, calling to mind another conversation, a few months earlier, with a member of the French Cabinet. His quiet apartment was the setting for a private discussion, which began with a review of French research on the subject, and drifted toward the possible causes of the phenomenon. "Do you think we should not have an extraterrestrial cause, if they were?" "Then what?" I suggested that the phenomenon, or at least its effects, might be under the control of a human group—not necessarily a government. No analysis of the problem would be complete if it did not address the possibility that a group of unknown persons either controls the phenomenon itself or is using public reaction for its own purposes. Preposterous? My host did not seem to think so.

He stood by the window and, for a long time, looked at the darkening streets. He turned around to say, "That possibility does exist. But we know what human beings would do with such

power. I have seen the effects of power, believe me, in my years in government. If your hypothesis turns out to be the answer, I will jump into the Seine without waiting for developments."

Noon. In the bright sun of Washington, the humid hazy air, I remember the chill of that conversation in Paris. Did I sense the same helplessness in the answers I have just heard? No. The Carter administration is acting as if it is concerned only with responding to public interest in the subject. NASA will rapidly sense this attitude and will turn down the assignment. The mood in Washington is far removed from the reality of a phenomenon which may be scaring farmers in Iowa right now, or playing with high-performance aircraft over Japan, Iran, and Spain. Washington is not partial to long-term analyses. Besides, the Potomac is not the Seine. No one ever jumps from the Key Bridge.

The Three Aspects of the UFO Problem

The topic of unidentified flying objects has always posed a thorny problem of public policy, but it has always been approached as a short-term question of public relations. I have followed the application of this policy with interest, both in France and in the United States. When I first became interested in the sightings during the 1954 wave in Europe, the official position was simply to deny the observations. At the time I was a student, had no access to good information, and could only wonder about government attitudes. I became seriously interested in 1961, when I saw French astronomers erase a magnetic tape on which our satellite-tracking team had recorded eleven data points on an unknown flying object which was not an airplane, a balloon, or a known orbiting craft. "People would laugh at us if we reported this!" was the answer I was given at the time. Better forget the whole thing. Let's not bring ridicule to the observatory. Let's not confess to the public that there is something we don't know.

The main argument against UFOs at the time was that "astronomers don't see anything unexplained." Well, there we were, a team of professional astronomers, seeing things we couldn't explain. Not only were we denying it, we had destroyed the data! I wanted to know how many of our colleagues were

I have written this book because I am concerned with the changes which would be triggered by the belief in an outer-space invasion, real or simulated. In the words of a Brookings Institute report on the cultural impact of extraterrestrial life:

The consequences of such a discovery are presently *unpredictable* because of our limited knowledge of behavior under even an approximation of such dramatic circumstances. The fundamentalist (and anti-science) sects are growing apace For them, the discovery of other life would be electrifying.

Genuine "contactees" like Helen are already busy preparing these changes. They mean business. They are sincere. They obey what they believe to be orders coming from a higher cosmic level. Most scientists think this is a delusion of no importance. I differ from them in believing that these contactees are being used in a dangerous way, and that the symbolism they propagate will make a deep impact on our lives.

The new belief is completely lacking in logic. That is the key to its power. It serves to keep scientists away. The more absurd the statement, the stronger its effect. *When the Establishment is rational, absurdity is dynamite.* Through the contactees, the Manipulators are undermining both religion and science.

Contact with alien intelligence is a social issue, too. Yesterday any politician would have avoided UFOs like the plague. Today men like Jimmy Carter proclaim that they have seen unidentified lights in the sky and are "no longer laughing at those who report flying saucers." Various "revelations" by former government employees and the "evidence" of extraterrestrial visitors may cause a change in a man like Arthur Lundahl, former director of the Aerial Phenomena Interpretation Center of the CIA, has stated publicly that he had examined a number of UFO films for the government and had judged them to be authentic. Tomorrow someone might announce that proof has been found for the existence of alien life forms. Such an announcement would make possible astonishing social, political, and economic changes. To pave the way for such changes is the stated goal of many contactees. Their purpose is utopia today. It could be reality tomorrow.

A Social Time Bomb

The idea of contact with higher intelligence is a social time bomb. Several years ago I warned that unless my scientific colleagues undertook a serious and unbiased investigation of the UFO phenomenon, there would be a proliferation of new sects claiming contact with higher intelligences and special communication with outer space.

This prediction has now been fulfilled: in California, Oregon, and Colorado, for example, a group called Human Individual Metamorphosis (H.I.M.) is telling its followers to abandon all earthly possessions in hopes of reaching a higher physical level. In Europe, mysterious organizations recruit people who seriously believe that cosmic messages are coming to them from the "Universal Association of Planets." In France, Great Britain, all



Figure 3.2. Near Bellaire, Michigan, John Shepherd has established this UFO-detecting station in his grandparents' home. The contrast between the two lifestyles is striking as John checks his eight television monitors from the console of his center. His equipment includes radar, sonar, scanners, and homing devices which attempt to attract the "Aliens" he believes are studying the Earth. (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)

"This Authority Was Granted to You from Above . . ."

Jeff, the young man, described the UFO sighting:

I remember that night very well; I was close to my father. At first I thought it was a falling star, and I even told my father to 'make a wish.' But the UFO continued to move and change color. My father was mumbling: 'Look, Jeff, now it's red . . . now it's green . . . My God . . .' I confess that I was beginning to tremble, I do not know why, but I just could not help it.¹

The father was also interviewed, and said:

I was heading for my car, when suddenly I saw an incandescent mass in the starry sky, as brilliant and as big as the Moon. It moved at a terrific speed. Personally, I did not hear any noise, but my son Jeff, who was with me, later told me that he heard a metallic sound coming from the UFO. We stood there with our mouths open for about ten minutes. The UFO flew above us for a few moments; then it went south and changed route repeatedly and moved east. Finally it disappeared on the horizon.²

A typical report? The routine story of a hovering UFO? Perhaps. But the young man who saw it, back in 1973, is named Jeff Carter, and his father is President of the United States. The fact has not escaped the notice of contactee groups around the world. One of them has even published³ a message to Carter coming from outer space, and "channeled" by telepathy:

Terrestrial Brother Jimmy Carter.

Now that you have attained the goal to develop better your programed mission in the world, *Remember*: Do not do as others have done! We remind you that this authority has been granted from above . . .

Our terrestrial operator already knew since a long time of the process which was to bring you to the supreme charge of a continent full of operating strength not always positive, but your action could render it constructive and effective, prosperous, salvaging light for all mankind . . .

Remember: Jimmy Carter, Remember!
From the Heavens to Earth, ADONIENSIS.
Nicolosi, 4 November 1976. Time 12:30

The idea that leaders of a society have received their legitimacy from higher levels, rather than from the people, is funda-

mental to authoritarian forms of government. The Kings of France and the Egyptian Pharaohs were considered to be established by divine right. In recent years, naturally, this concept has become somewhat obsolete. New forms of organization have emerged. We like to think of ourselves as free people like ourselves. We delight in reading the news in the morning newspaper. Occasionally we depose some of these leaders out of office, and we take pride in the feeling of collective control this generates in us.

The UFOs suggest another reality. Therefore they seem to hold another form of power, transcending or restricting our individual ability to make decisions. Most of the contactees, for instance, agree that UFOs watch over the Earth. Mr. T. states that "the Space People protect America." It is but a small step from this view to the idea that they guide us in our political development. Mr. T. started a political party to "put a Contactee into the White House." The channel of Adoniensis claims that the President has been secretly "programmed." Other contactee groups actually believe that the saucers have made contact with us in the '50s. A man named Gerald Light even claims that he made a journey to Muroc Air Base in April 1954, allegedly in the company of Franklin Allen of the Hearst papers, of Edwin Nourse of the Brookings Institute, and of Bishop McIntyre of Los Angeles. Having been cleared to enter the restricted section and to wander around for two days, he stated that he saw five different types of extraterrestrial spacecraft "being studied and handled by our Air Force officials, with assistance and permission of the Etherians!" The same Gerald Light writes that President Eisenhower was "spirited away" to Muroc one night during a visit to Palm Springs, also in April 1954, to meet with the "aliens."

These claims, naturally, are made by small groups who reach only a miniscule audience. Yet what they express and dramatize has been thought by many people who simply have not verbalized the idea. The immense success of the books by von Däniken shows that people today are eager to believe that we are receiving help from above. If *divine* intervention is obsolete for our rational minds, why not have *extraterrestrial* intervention! From the reality of UFO phenomena, it is easy to jump to the conclusion that our space brothers are coming back to help us, and that they are

already influencing our leaders. The danger in this process cannot be underestimated. Can the vision formulated by a few "contactees" mean changes in the lives of many? Can their message make a lasting impact in this rational, computerized world? The answer is found in the activities and the dreams of the UFO subculture, and it will shock you into the realization that as human technology expands, our range of awareness, rationality, and irrationality *grow together* to fill the new voids revealed by science, and heal the new anguish it leaves behind.

The Letter

The mailman brings a letter from Paris. It comes from Ivan, who says he is responsible for the Order of Melchizedek in Israel, Africa, and Europe, as well as India and China. He says that flying saucers have been seen in Paris last December as predicted in his leaflet: "the reports are on file." He is launching several new demonstrations, one of them to obtain freedom for the inmates of the Gulag Archipelago in Russia, another "for the animals." This is, he adds dryly, as far as the terrestrial side is concerned. Politics again.

In addition to his Melchizedek duties, Ivan is the founder of the *Front for Christian Liberation*, an organization called *Jesus Revolution*, another called *Jesus People Europe*, the *Charismatic Christian, Jew, and Arab Movement*, and the *Christian Socialist Party*.

I had asked him how one would go about joining the Order of Melchizedek. The process is simple, he answered: you become a member of the Order by direct divine inspiration, or something close to it.

As part of another communication. This one came from [redacted] was typed on stationery of the "Study Center of Cosmic Fraternity," whose symbol is the Adamski saucer with two stars shaking hands underneath. They are the group responsible for the extraterrestrial message to Jimmy Carter I quoted earlier.

The letter said in part:

Our desire is to contact those who search for the Truth in these Messengers or Angels, who have been visiting us for thousands of

years. The SCCF assumes no characteristic of a human organization. Nor is it a sect. It is a messianic movement guided by Beings who are very evolved coming from space. We have secretariats all over the world which divulge the same activity on their own while offering themselves to this cause.

The SCCF springs from a programming that lends itself mainly to traumatise positively and consciously the souls particularly predisposed to receive the teachings of the Superior Beings...

Here is another organization which attempts to "program" us.

The same group appears to provide the inspiration for the SCCF and for the French contactees. Are they also behind some UFO incidents? Or are they simply another element of confusion? In their newsletter, the SCCF publishes a message from "an extraterrestrial in mission on your planet":

We notice the incapacity of your political, economic, and scientific organizations... We also observe all the other known and unknown activities which engage immense resources for warlike ends...

Certainly, we do not just limit ourselves to observations and we do not believe we have reached the moment of our most solid intervention.

We are working with a methodology of which you are not aware, but which will surely give its fruits. OUR HELP WILL BE REVEALED IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE TIME, WHEN YOU WILL ALL BE CAUGHT "RED-HANDED."

Nicolosi, 13 January 1977. Time 12:25



FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH

Figure 6.3. Insignia of the "Study Center of Cosmic Fraternity." (Courtesy of the Vallee Collection.)

been promising us since Abraham—who got the idea from Melchizedek!

I find it fascinating that there should be a secret group of men spending their time and money keeping these ideas alive: within the symbol of Melchizedek, all paths of belief become one, even those apparently most opposed, like Satanism and Christianity; in the last analysis, man is bearing every stream of knowledge within himself, and the High Council rides higher still, beyond Good and Evil. Raymond Bernard was told that he must transmit what he had seen, and make it public. *He was instructed to write books about his encounters.* This was a deliberate action on the part of his guides to get their symbols and their message out into the world. Their carefully staged rituals would be described in detail. Other books, movies, conversations would then pick up this mass of ideas and carry them farther.

Among the notions they want us to believe is the assumption that they are the guardians of a most ancient tradition coming from the Atlanteans. Where did the Atlanteans get it? Maha stated the answer unequivocally, by insisting that this knowledge came from another galaxy, and was brought to Earth by the founders of Atlantis. The claim is made that the "pure race" of these Atlanteans has continued throughout the millennia. Maha will not reveal where they now live, not even to his dear disciple Bernard. He hinted that they are linked to reports of unidentified beings, coming from elsewhere, who pay for their knowledge with pure gold.²

Spiritual Blackmail

The being of the Canigou, the man with long blond hair and hypnotic eyes, who could not be photographed by Jacques Bordas and paid with pure gold; the scientist who showed Helen the motor; the dwarfs who exhibited the trick map to Betty Hill and gave Vorilhon a fake Gospel: were they of the same origin as Maha?

The U.S. Air Force has made many naive and misguided attempts to understand UFOs. It has tried, patiently at first, desperately sometimes, to get rid of "flying saucers." To that end

it has used power from the scissors of its censors and from the barrels of its guns. It was looking for evidence that the objects were a direct military threat to the United States. It never occurred to the USAF that the threat might be at a different level.

The group of people who will first manage to harness the fear of cosmic forces and the emotions surrounding UFO contact to a political purpose will be able to exert incredible spiritual blackmail.

Such weapons are less flexible, but also less detectable, than tanks and aircraft; they represent a more lasting form of control over the lives of men. It takes a long time to bring their effects to complete fruition, because secrecy is essential for them to work. The contactees and the occult believers have been used as puppets. The public in every country now recognizes the existence of UFOs, and associates it with the idea of wise visitors from space. A majority of the American public has become convinced of the existence of such visitors. They have harnessed Hollywood. And they have made sure the whole subject remains a matter of ridicule and disrepute among scientists. There is in the White House a man who has seen a UFO and is impressed by what he saw. There are small groups and sects of contactees all over the world, using a vague and confusing jargon that protects the unspeakable reality, and claiming that salvation from Heaven is just around the corner.

I don't think we should expect salvation from the sky.

I believe there is a very real UFO problem. I have also come to believe that it is being manipulated for political ends. And the data suggest that the manipulators may be human beings with a plan for social control. Such plans have been made before, and have succeeded. History shows that having a cosmic mythology as part of such a plan is not always necessary. But it certainly helps.