

GENERAL

OS

FF6-1-1/PURKS, Jim
FE10-1
FF6-2

June 14, 1977

Dear Mr. Tokars, *HARRY*

Thank you for sharing your concerns on information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) with Jody Powell, in your June 5th letter. You can be assured there has not been a "cover up," nor an attempt at one in the Carter Administration.

When President Carter took office he asked Science Adviser Frank Press to look into the UFO situation and determine if government information was being withheld. Dr. Press determined that government information on UFOs had been de-classified and is now part of a 22-year compilation of reports that is public record and available for citizens to examine, or to purchase at a cost of \$1,700 for the total record, at the National Archives.

Dr. Press also checked with the Central Intelligence Agency following the single, unattributed paragraph in the U. S. News & World Report issue and the CIA said there are no further revelations to be made. I suggest you contact U. S. News & World Report directly concerning the accuracy of the unattributed paragraph. Also, as you know, the President appointed a man of the highest integrity, Admiral Stansfield Turner, in charge of the CIA and has great confidence in his work.

It might be helpful to review the overall situation. The CIA said it has not been involved with UFO reports for about 25 years. Over 20 years ago, the Air Force requested the agency to conduct a comprehensive study on UFO reports. A special group was formed at the CIA to determine if UFOs, or whatever they might be designated, constituted a hazard to the national security. This group issued a report, which is available to the public, stating there was no hazard to the national security. The U. S. Air Force disbanded a special unit in 1969, after a similar study determined there was no threat to the national security and UFOs were not a Defense Department matter.

GENERAL PRESS

Mr. Tokars

- 2 -

June 14, 1977

Reports of UFO sightings are directed to local law enforcement agencies, and this has been helpful. For example, a very recent report in Maryland was traced by the local authorities to some aerial advertising that was being done. I hope this information is helpful to you. As I said, the President is noted for his candor and, if he feels something is being covered up, he will speak out.

Sincerely,

Jim Purks
Special Assistant
Media Liaison

Mr. Harry Tokars
P. O. Box 15
Station "A"
Willowdale, Ontario
Canada M2N 5S7

cc: Eleanor Weaver w/copy of incoming

JP/ew

Mr. Jody Powell
Press Secretary
U.S. Capitol
White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Harry Tokarz
P.O. Box 15
Station "A"
Willowdale, Ontario
Canada M2N 5S7
June 5, 1977

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing to you regarding a matter of utmost importance and I trust you will see fit to look into it and respond. As part of President Carter's campaign promises and victory speech he stated implicitly that there would no longer be 'cover-up' situations and that neither he nor his aides would knowingly lie to the public. As a Canadian citizen I and many others are concerned because the U.S. policies on this delicate subject directly affect us here, since we are under NORAD's defence. I am referring to disclosures about UFO's. It was very disparaging to hear that Jim Purks was recently quoted as denying the contents of an article in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (April 18). I know that the statement made in this article came directly from you so I consider the source authoritative and reliable. What gives? Are you people doing an 'about-face' as so many administrations before you? The time for the truth is NOW and I suspect that the CIA has put a 'clamp' on this story that leaked out and that the President, regardless of his honesty, has succumbed to pressure in this matter and fallen down on his promises. May I remind you that in 1973, as governor of Ga. when he himself had a sighting he stated publicly that "if I become President I will release all information to the public on UFO's". The public can no longer be conned into thinking that all UFO data is now available for public scrutiny at the archives. Project Blue Book was nothing more than a public relations outfit, and you know it! Furthermore, UFO investigations and evaluations, as well as UFO policy has ALWAYS (since 1953) been handled DIRECTLY by the CIA and OSI. The public is entitled to the COMPLETE story on this global phenomenon, regardless of the consequences. Remember, the greatest possibility of panic will come from ignorance and not from education!

I am sure that if President Carter is given the COMPLETE story on UFOs by the CIA, he will make a public statement on the subject. After all, he has shown great candor in all other areas. However, many people suspect that the CIA is withholding this data even from him and this reflects on the idea of WHO is really running the country. How many more years must unwitting people be traumatized by UFO encounters, simply because they were brainwashed into thinking they were fictitious, only to have a harrowing experience with them. The records show something on the order of 100,000 'close encounter' cases (documented) in the last 15 years, with 15 million Americans having witnessed a UFO (Gallup). When we eliminate all the misinterpretations we still have an astronomical figure-enough to prompt the President to make all the 'unsettling disclosures' DIRECT to the public. It seems that the Canadian government is awaiting Carter's decision on this matter and will probably follow suit as soon as a public statement is finally made by the White House or the Pentagon.

Thank you for your time and patience and I hope the public is not disillusioned by this administration. I look forward to an honest reply.

Best Wishes

Sincerely


Harry Tokarz

May 31, 1977

Dear Mr. Thornton:

We are sorry you did not receive a response to your letter of March 23.

Soon after being sworn into office, President Carter checked with military authorities and learned that all government records on Unidentified Flying Objects have been de-classified and are now available for the public to review in the National Archives. You can obtain a copy of the report by writing to that agency.

The President's Science Adviser, Dr. Frank Press, has further advised the Administration that the government no longer keeps track of UFO reports, and that these are referred to private organizations.

Sincerely,

Jim Purks
Special Assistant
Media Liaison

Mr. J. D. Thornton
Action Line Editor
Evening Tribune
P. O. Box 191
San Diego, California 92112

JP/ew

RECEIVED
JUN 15 1977
CENTRAL FILES

April 12, 1977

GENERAL

F21-2

4/15/10

03

Dear Ms. de Suarez:

Thank you for writing. I can understand your concern about money being spent to track down UFOs when people are living in poverty.

I know of no special group which is, or will be, authorized to pursue the question of UFOs. Whatever is done will probably be worked out within the framework of the armed forces and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Sincerely

Joseph L. Powell, Jr.
Press Secretary

x
Ms. Marina T. de Suarez
302 Duffaut Street, Stop 19
Santurce, Puerto Rico 00907

JLP/mfs

6

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APR 14 1977

CENTRAL FILES

77

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1977

5/10 informed (3)
Brademas
office of error-
sending corrected
copy-

CG
The Honorable Frank Brademas
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

EXECUTIVE

OS
PB14-8

Dear Mr. Brademas:

Frank Moore has asked me to respond to your letter of May 5 requesting information as to a possible White House statement on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), the request being prompted by a letter from your constituent referring to an item in the April 18 issue of U.S. News and World Report. That item indicated that the Government would make disclosures about UFOs, based on information from the CIA.

At present, we know of no White House plans to make any such new disclosures. Our check with the CIA verifies that they are not conducting any research on this matter and have no new information to report. Official Federal involvement in UFO identification and recordkeeping ended in 1969 when the Air Force terminated its work on this subject. Its entire file on UFOs was declassified and turned over to the National Archives in July 1976, where it is now a matter of public record. There is no other Federal UFO program at this time.

We hope this information is of help to you in replying to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Press
Science and Technology
Adviser

cc: Frank Moore, ✓
Congressional Liaison, White House

JOHN BRADEMÁS

3D DISTRICT, INDIANA

MAJORITY WHIP

1236 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FRANK SULLIVAN, JR.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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ON EDUCATION
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May 5, 1977

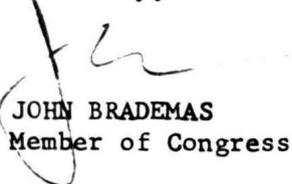
Mr. Frank Moore
Congressional Relations
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Frank:

A constituent of mine, Mr. Charles Tucker of Nappanee, Indiana, has expressed his interest to me in seeing the White House make a statement similar to the one described in the attached U. S. News & World Report column.

I would be grateful for any information that you might be able to provide on when such a statement could be expected.

Sincerely,


JOHN BRADEMÁS
Member of Congress

JB/mg
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1977

MEMO TO: WALT WURFEL
PAT BARIO

FROM: Jim *Jim*

SUBJ: National Enquirer-UFOs

X X
John Pratt of the National Enquirer formally ask that
the following question be formally submitted to Jody:

"Is it the official attitude of the White House that
all government information on UFOs is available through
the material released by the Air Force to National
Archives?"

Please advise and thanks.

JP/ew

EXECUTIVE
PR16 6

03

FE 10-1

FG16

FG149-4

File

RECEIVED
DEC 26 1978
GENERAL



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D C.
20546

Office of the Administrator

SEP 6 1977

Honorable Frank Press
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Frank:

In your letter of July 21 you expressed the view that NASA should be the focal point for UFO matters, and specifically recommended that a panel of inquiry be formed by NASA to see if there are any significant new findings since the Condon report and that NASA become the focal point for general correspondence and inquiries.

While we are inclined to agree with your recommendation, there are a number of questions which need to be resolved before any formal program is undertaken. You may know that the Air Force served as the focal point for UFO matters during the 1960's and devoted considerable resources to the program. It, however, concluded, in the absence of significant findings, that the program warranted no more than routine form letter answers to inquiries and has been handling the program in that manner since about 1970. It now handles a small number of inquiries, perhaps 10 to 12 monthly. NASA, likewise, handles routine inquiries by form letter response, 10 to 12 formal inquiries and a somewhat larger number of public inquiries monthly. NASA uses the information sheet attached in its responses. The Air Force uses similar data.

From the point of view of the Administration as a whole, this is economical. However, it 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.

A panel of inquiry such as you suggest might possibly discover new significant findings. It would certainly generate current

interest and could lead to the designation of NASA as the focal point for UFO matters. It would require some additional resources for the inquiry and for follow-on activity. Before committing to this, I feel that we should assure ourselves that an inquiry is justified. I believe we could do this by naming a NASA project officer to review reports of the last ten years and to provide a specific recommendation relative to any further inquiry by the end of this year. If you concur, I will initiate this action.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Frosch", written in a cursive style.

Robert A. Frosch
Administrator

Enclosure



INFORMATION SHEET

FGM 76-6

Prepared by

FGM/Office of Public Affairs
NASA Headquarters
Washington, D.C. 20546

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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.

An extensive study known as Project Blue Book was undertaken in the 1960's by the U.S. Air Force through a contract with the University of Colorado. Based on the findings of this study as reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences, the Air Force terminated the project December 17, 1969.

The University of Colorado report, entitled Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, was published in paperback by Bantam Books. A three-volume photoduplication (AD 680:975-6-7) may be purchased for \$18 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151. The complete reports were transferred from Air Force storage in July 1976 to The National Archives, 8th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20408. Those wishing to view the report must obtain a researcher's permit from the National Archives and Records Service.

The University of Colorado study reached the following conclusions: (1) there was no evidence that the subject of UFOs had been "shrouded in official security"; (2) UFOs did not constitute any hazard to national security; (3) two decades of UFO study had made no significant contribution to scientific knowledge; and (4) further extensive study of the general topic could not be expected to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of science.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

September 14, 1977

Dear Bob:

I have your letter of September 6 responding to my letter of July 21 recommending that NASA become a focal point for Federal activity in UFO matters.

I am pleased that you agree that NASA can handle the public inquiries on UFOs. The fact that my Office and the White House can direct such inquiries to NASA will relieve my small staff of a responsibility we are not equipped to handle. Therefore, I have asked my assistant, Stan Schneider, who has discussed this matter with your Executive Officer, Ed Andrews, to forward all our UFO inquiries to NASA.

Regarding the recommendation for NASA to become a focal point for the scientific and technical appraisal of the UFO phenomenon, I can understand your reluctance to commit the agency to a formal program before evaluating the current status and recent history of UFO activity and determining what might be involved in conducting a serious study on this matter. Therefore, I concur with your idea of assigning a project officer at NASA to review the situation before deciding whether to undertake a more formal inquiry.

By copy of this letter, I am informing Jim Purks of the White House Media Liaison Office of our exchange of ideas on this subject so that they are in the communications loop on this situation. I will suggest that he forward all public inquiries on UFOs to the White House to NASA (Code 4) for response.

I would appreciate it if NASA could keep my office, through Stan Schneider, informed of any progress the agency makes toward a decision on a possible UFO study.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNED:

FRANK
Frank Press
Director

Honorable Robert A. Frosch
Administrator
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

cc: Jim Purks, W.H. Media Liaison ✓

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

September 14, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO: Jim Purks
Media Liaison

FROM: Frank Press *FP*

SUBJECT: UFO Inquiries

The attached copies of correspondence between Dr. Robert A. Frosch and myself will bring you up-to-date on the current status of our arrangement to have NASA become the focal point of all public inquiries on UFOs.

On the basis of the arrangement indicated in that correspondence, I believe that our offices should routinely forward all future public inquiries on UFOs to NASA (Code 4) for response.

If you wish to reply to the attached letter from Robert Todd, I suggest that you tell him that all UFO records that are not classified are available through Freedom of Information requests to the appropriate sources. Mr. Todd can gain access to the material he seeks through this procedure. We believe that such availability, in effect, fills the President's commitment.

Attachment

- (1) 7/21/77 letter from Press to Frosch
- (2) 9/6/77 letter from Frosch to Press (encl. NASA Info Sheet 76-6 on UFOs)
- (3) 9/14/77 letter from Press to Frosch
- (4) 8/29/77 letter from Todd to Purks

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1977

memo file

MEMO FOR: WALT WURFEL
FROM: Jim *JP*
SUBJ: UFOs- National Inquirer

Bob Pratt of the National Enquirer has been working a long time on the UFO stories, and has the tape of the Carter interview in which he is quoted as saying he saw one once and if elected would make certain that information about them is made available to the public.

Since then, we have said basically all records are unclassified and available at Archives, or through the Freedom of Information Act, and therefore the President's commitment is fulfilled.

However, Pratt is pressing ahead and says there are instances where the armed services have not divulged everything they have occasionally told us -- the Press Office -- stories found not to be true.

He is writing a story now and has formally requested a statement from Jody on UFO policy. He wants to hear within a couple of days. I have usually handled UFO news inquiries from out-of-state, but this one is especially pressing. Could you check with Jody and help me out to see if any kind of "policy statement" requested by Pratt will be made?

For your background, here is the latest report from Dr. Frank Press, our Science Adviser. (We could say that for now the Administration is supporting Dr. Press in asking NASA to handle UFO inquiries and assigning one of their project officers to determine if a new study is needed.)

Thanks.

JP/ew

cc: ✓ Pat Barrio w/Attachments

EXECUTIVE

OS
FG 185
FG 6-14

(2)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1977

TO: Jody Powell
FROM: Frank Press

Following our discussion at the staff meeting this morning, I enclose the correspondence between the NASA Administrator, Bob Frosch, and me concerning the UFO inquiries. By rereading the letter I wrote last July 21, I see that I did ask Dr. Frosch to establish a small panel of inquiry to see if there are any new significant findings. His response, which I agreed to, was to assign a project officer to review the situation before deciding whether to undertake a more formal inquiry.

Jim Purks was sent copies of all of this correspondence, so he should be up to speed on this matter.

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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D C
20546

Office of the Administrator

December 21, 1977

Honorable Frank Press
Director
Office of Science and Technology
Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

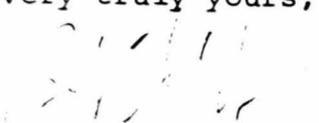
Dear Frank:

In response to your letter of September 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 lines 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 a 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 for such a possibility.

We have 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 available 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 could 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.

Very truly yours,


Robert A. Frosch
Administrator

EXECUTIVE

OS
FG-6-14

(2)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

December 27, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO Jody Powell

FROM: Frank Press

SUBJECT: UFO's

Unidentified Flying Objects

The attached from NASA Administrator Bob Frosch is for your information. It represents a mutually-agreed-upon position between NASA and OSTP about not undertaking an investigation of UFO's at this time, but not closing out the possibility should suitable evidence turn up.

Attachment

MAY 1 1978



SCOTIA AMERICAN PRODUCTIONS • A DIVISION OF MAGENTA FILMS, INC.

August 5, 1977

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

As we understand it, in keeping with a campaign promise you had your Science Advisor, Dr. Frank Press, query the Air Force and the CIA as to whether these agencies were withholding any data pertaining to Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's). Apparently, both agencies responded to the effect they were not withholding any pertinent information on the subject.

Moreover, the CIA has released public statements to the effect that its only involvement in UFO research was the four-day Robertson panel inquiry in January of 1953. The CIA states that following the issuance of the Panel's report, it concluded that UFO's did not represent a threat to national security and therefore discontinued any interest or involvement in the subject.

The Air Force has publicly stated that they also concluded UFO's did not represent a threat to National Security, vis-a-vis their 22 year study of the phenomena and the recommendations of the Condon Committee report, and discontinued any interest or involvement in the subject following the disbandment of Air Force Project Blue Book in 1969. The Air Force also states that all the data it collected regarding UFO's now reposes in the National Archives, where it has been declassified and made available to the public.

Assuming that those statements are accurate, we hereby request that you, Mr. President, issue a statement allowing former military personnel and civilian government employees to speak publicly or privately about their government-related UFO experiences, if they so wish, without fear of retribution or censure by the government, so long as they don't reveal non-related classified or proprietary information.

We make this request, sir, in order to satisfy our own research objectives, which include obtaining for study the details of all UFO sightings, photographs, films and, if it exists, physical evidence. We have been approached by, and have approached,

(cont'd.)



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President Jimmy Carter

August 5, 1977

- 2 -

many former military personnel and civilian government employees who would otherwise give us their full and complete testimony, if they did not feel bound and restricted by oaths they took and caveats that were imposed upon them during their government employment.

Since no government agency claims to be currently engaged in UFO research, it seems that we--the civilian research groups--have the responsibility for studying all UFO sightings and attempting to identify them. We accept this task and hereby pledge to conduct a responsible investigation which seeks only the truth, but we strongly believe that a proclamation allowing military personnel and civilian government employees to give us their testimony is vitally necessary in order to reach that objective.

We would greatly appreciate your personal reply.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned UFO Researchers:

W. Todd Zechel
Technical Consultant
Scotia American Productions
New York, New York

Dr. J. Allan Hynek
Former Scientific Consultant to Blue Book
Director, Center for UFO Studies
Evanston, Illinois

L.J. Lorenzen
International Director,
Aerial Phenomena Research Organization
Tucson, Arizona

William H. Spaulding, Director Ground Saucer Wat
Phoenix, Arizona (cont'd.)



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President Jimmy Carter

August 5, 1977

- 3 -

Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
International Director, Mutual UFO Network
Seguin, Texas

Dr. James Harder
Director Research,
Aerial Phenomena Research Organization
Berkeley, California

James M. McCampbell
Director of Research, Mutual UFO Network
Belmont, California

Dr. Jacques Vallee
Computer Scientist
Palo Alto, California

Dr. Bruce Maccabee
Scientific Consultant
National Investigations Committee on
Aerial Phenomena
Silver Springs, Maryland

Brad Sparks
Assistant to the Director of Research,
Aerial Phenomena Research Organization
Berkeley, California

Larry W. Bryant
Member, Board of Directors,
International Fortean Organization, Inc.
College Park, Maryland

(cont. d)



CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES 924 CHICAGO AVENUE, EVANSTON, IL 60202

a not-for-profit Illinois corporation

February 7, 1978

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Secretary

President James E. Carter
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As a person long involved in serious research into the vexing problem of the UFO phenomenon, I would respectfully like to offer a suggestion as to how this matter might be handled by your office.

I presume to make this suggestion only because of my association with UFO research, first as an astronomical consultant for some 18 years to the Air Force's Project Blue Book and now as Scientific Director of the Center for UFO Studies, an association of scientists from various universities and laboratories, some of whom are listed on the present letterhead. You will note that not only are physical scientists involved but social scientists as well as exemplified by Dr. Margaret Mead. The UFO problem, I believe, is interdisciplinary, having a sociological and even political aspect to it.

Having seen at first hand the problem that the Air Force had in its long encounter with the UFO problem, I can both appreciate and sympathize with NASA for essentially turning down the request that they handle these matters. NASA has done a superb job within the limits of their relatively narrow assigned area of responsibility. They, of course, would be fully competent to deal with the analysis of the many so-called Close Encounters of the Second Kind (of which over 1000 have been catalogued). But the many other aspects (psychological, sociological, and certainly that of public relations) would necessitate not only new staff but new directions of effort not within the purview of NASA's basic assignment.

It is my considered opinion that the problem should be assigned (quietly and without publicity) to the private sector, to a group from various universities answerable directly to your office. In short, I would suggest a personal task force to monitor and study the continuing flow of UFO reports and to report to you the results of such activities. I respectfully offer the assistance and services of the Center for UFO Studies in helping to set up such a study group, and indeed some scientists from the Center roster might well serve as its nucleus.

I have long had prepared a specific plan of attack on the UFO problem and I would be most happy to outline it for you in as much detail as you might wish. I would, of course, be delighted to discuss these matters in person should you so desire. I am taking the liberty of sending under separate cover a copy of my book THE UFO EXPERIENCE, which has been used as a basic text on the subject and even on occasion as a text in several universities.

Sincerely,
J. Allen Hynek
J. Allen Hynek

JAH:emh

CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
924 Chicago Avenue • Evanston, Illinois 60202
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312 / 491-1870

J. Allen Hynek,
Scientific Director
Northwestern University

Fred Beckman
University of Chicago

Murray Dryer
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Admin.

David Finkelstein
Yeshiva University

Carsten Haaland
Oak Ridge National Lab.

Robert L. Hall
University of Illinois at
Circle Campus

Richard C. Henry
Johns Hopkins University

Thornton Page
Johnson Space Center

Claude Poher
French National Center
for Space Studies

Douglass Price-Williams
University of California

Frank Salisbury
Utah State University

David Saunders
Princeton, N.J.

Berthold Schwarz
Brain Wave Laboratory

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~~Jimmy Carter~~
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 14, 1977

Dear President Carter,

Enclosed you will find past issues of a new publication, THE INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER. Knowing of your interest in the subject, I am taking the liberty of sending these on to you. Copies of these issues have also been sent to Dr. Frank Press, Director Designate, Office of Science and Technology Policy. I recently spoke with Dr. Press and am eagerly awaiting his comments on this publication. I would greatly appreciate any comments you may have.

Sincerely,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH/ecp
encl: IUR

Biographical Information provided by Mr. Bryant

Larry W. Bryant, who recently retired from a 36-year career in writing and editing for U. S. Army publications, operates the Washington, D. C., office of the public-interest group Citizens Against UFO Secrecy from his home in Alexandria, Va. A native of Shenandoah, Va., he attended high school and college in southeast Virginia.

"My government career," he says, "paralleled my UFOlogical pursuits, not always amicably. That certainly related to my having filed more UFO-related lawsuits in federal court than has anyone else in the entire universe."

Bryant continues to contribute material to the UFO press and to support such groups as Operation Right to Know in the interest of promoting greater freedom of official UFO information. Since, in his words, "I have no plans to acquire a Komputer," Bryant remains reachable only via mail and telephone

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Looking Back upon Jimmy Carter UFO Mail

by Larry W. Bryant

For, as the records plainly show, poor John Q. Public, the sincere and trusting American, has received nothing but lip service -- or less in some cases.

But lest I turn these prefatory remarks into a time-wasting polemic, let me launch right into those records, so that you might decide for yourself whether the federal government has leveled and is leveling with us about its decades of allegedly passive involvement in the UFO controversy.

The letters represent a cross-section of American citizenry: students and housewives, professionals and non-professionals, political liberals and conservatives, religious fundamentalists and liberalists, visionaries and pragmatists, con artists and kooks, commercializers and cultists. Some of the letters have a spur-of-the-moment, letters-to-the-editor flavor; others reveal careful planning and construction as either dialectic or a literary spoof. As a whole, they represent a valuable reservoir of contemporary Americana, ready to be savored (if not exploited) by sociologists, psychologists, theologians, and, of course, political scientists.

As for the president's replies -- produced by the Presidential Inquiries Office of the secretary of the Air Force -- they rarely show any deviation from the stereotype reproduced below. For this reason, I'm omitting them or am excerpting only the more original parts.

The nine-month gestation period of this correspondence confirms that a number of citizens can and do write the president serious letters of inquiry or concern about UFO's. The offspring of that period offers a memorable testimonial to one way we Americans choose to address public issues, and weigh the government's response to

[AUTHOR's Note: Beginning on Feb. 3, 2001, you now have in your hands the first installment of my book-length manuscript "Jimmy Carter Answers His UFO Mail." Once this Introduction enters the <http://www.im-ur.com> gallery (alongside such items as my recent open letter to Pres. Clinton), I'll proceed with serializing the entire book upon the Politics Magazine of this site.]

INTRODUCTION to "Jimmy Carter Answers His UFO Mail" (Compiled, Edited, and Analyzed by Larry W. Bryant):

On February 6, 1977, when I addressed my own letter to President Jimmy Carter -- the only U. S. president ever to admit having sighted a UFO and the only one ever to endorse in an election campaign the notion that ALL government UFO data and findings should be released to the public -- I had expected to receive no substantive reply. I wasn't disappointed.

After all, considering my then-already 20 years of needling officialdom on its multifaceted

officialdom on its multifaceted failure to grasp the seriousness of the so-called "UFO problem," **how could I expect to receive any more than the dismissive, formula response that I've always received?** I can understand that I and my fellow long-time critics of the official party line on UFO information should hold no great expectations over rumored or actual revelations by the UFOlogical policymakers in the Executive Branch. And I can understand why our pleas to congressmen to remedy the status quo generally have fallen not on deaf ears but on deft ears -- the deftness that tells a senator or representative that the only controversial issues (s)he should support are those that will assure his/her reelection. What congressman in his right POLITICAL mind is willing to avow that the UFO problem remains the world's latent Public Issue No. 1?

public issues, and weigh the government's response to them. If from my choice of nuggets and nudges from several hundred letters you can gain some hope for reform in the way officialdom treats the UFO subject, then I will have achieved my purpose in presenting them.

Now, then, let's proceed with our short, sometimes somber, sometimes frolicsome journey through the wonderworld of presidential UFO correspondence, beginning with my letter of Feb, 6, 1977:

[LWB Note: The next installment will begin with that letter, along with the Air Force's reply thereto. Meantime, I urge you to write to Pres. G. W. Bush and ask him for an update on HIS election-campaign promise to "tell all" about UFO reality. His e-mail address is: president@whitehouse.gov]

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But what I can't understand is why your garden-variety citizen -- who's interested not so much in UFO's as in the orderly processes of government (and who therefore expects to receive straight answers to straight questions) -- must settle for the same kind of response that your crusading, undaunted UFO critic accepts as routine.

When I sought the records comprising this compilation, I had held the faint hope of being mistaken -- that the director of the White House Military Office would've had the courtesy of assuring that each UFO-related inquiry would receive individual attention and point-by-point reply. Again, since my hope was rightly faint, I was only slightly disappointed.



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