

20 JUNE 1958 BRIEFING
REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON

UNCLASSIFIED

7-3745 - 362

1003840

RETURN TO
USAF Historical Archives
ASI(ASHAF-A)
Maxwell AFB, Ala 36112

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MaJ. Byrne AF CIN/XIA
June 23, 1958

JWS

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Representative Henderson and Colleagues on the Air Force Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Program

1. On 20 June 1958, Major Boland, SAFLL and Major Tacker, SAFIS, assisted by Mr. Arcier, AF CIN-4X1, and Major Byrne, AF CIN-XIA, briefed the following House members, in the Capitol chamber of Representative John E. Henderson, Ohio.

Rep. Henderson, Ohio
Rep. Cramer, Florida
Rep. Magnuson, Washington
Rep. (Mrs.) Walker, Washington
Mr. Mongel (Adm. Aid--Henderson)
Mr. Bachelor (Adm. Aid--Cramer)
Mr. Toly (Adm. Aid--Mr. Magnuson)
Mr. Gordon (Adm. Aid--Griffen, Mich.)

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO:

2. The briefing was prepared in response to a personal request by Rep. Henderson who had previously submitted a series of questions on UFO's. AF CIN prepared the answers to these questions and supplied the necessary briefing material.

3. Members of Congress are constantly besieged by constituents regarding UFO's, by letter, telephone and personal visits. With rare exception, such requests are forwarded to SAFLL for answer. The lack of information on UFO's professed by the Congressman causes a certain amount of professional embarrassment. As a result, a great number of Congressmen and their administrative aids have indicated an interest in first-hand information on UFO's. SAFLL, on the urging of SAFIS and AF CIN, seized this opportunity to prepare a number of briefing kits, containing reproductions of statistical information, charts and graphs, individual case histories, and such other related material that would give the reader a rather comprehensive knowledge of the subject. These kits were submitted at the time of the subject briefing. It is expected that additional requests will be made for kits as word travels regarding their availability.

4. The Congressional audience was favorably impressed by the presentation. One apparent dedicated skeptic, at the conclusion of the briefing, professed his complete faith and confidence in the Air Force's handling of UFO's. Several members indicated that they were now prepared to deal directly with their constituents without calling on SAFLL.

1003843

June 23, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

5. The subject briefing, scheduled for one hour, lasted the full morning, which attests to the Congressional interest in the subject. The following is believed to have accrued from the briefing, with members expressing:

- a. Confidence in the Air Force UFO program.
- b. An understanding of the problems the Air Force faces in administering the program.
- c. Acceptance of responsibility to personally advise their constituents on UFO matters.
- d. Agreement that it would be unwise to give the subject undue publicity, particularly in an open or closed formal Congressional hearing.
- e. Distrust in private organizations and authors, as giving undue impetus to the existence of "flying saucers" and stimulating unfavorable public hysteria.

6. Mr. Arcier addressed the group as a technical consultant. Maj. Byrne, in the capacity as administrative consultant, clarified certain answers given by the SAFLR representative, to preclude possible misunderstanding on how the UFO program is administered Air Force wide.

7. The excellent briefing material prepared by AFCIN-4 and the personal attendance of Mr. Arcier, who impressed the group with his profound council, deserve special note as reason for success of the briefing.

8. Classified portions of the UFO Scientific Panel Report of 1953 were made available to and received for by the Congressmen present.

Rep. Cramer, Florida

Rep. Henderson, Ohio

Rep. Mognuson, Washington

Rep. Mongel Asst. to Henderson

Rep. Gorden Asst. to Griffen, Michigan

Rep. Bachelor Asst. to Cramer

Rep. Telz Asst. to Mognuson

Rep. Walker Asst. to Tolleson, Washington

Rep. Bass New Hampshire

Rep. Alger Texas

Rep. May Connecticut

○ Henderson Briefing

- would be more impressed by the efforts of sources organizations if the effort were not so profitable.
- the message's preface
- little men from Venus are undoubtedly Venetians

- secret class - an original Rpt
Feb. 1949.

Unknown items I & IV were from highly reliable observers - Nos II & III were from unreliable observers - all from ground.

- Unknown item V was from reliable observers & from the air

all Rpts rec^d from sources considered unquestionably true - but Nicol type org^t

Hundreds Rpts not rec^d by AF at all or so late that all possible traces or evidence has disappeared

oo

Chiles -

- auto pilot

- constitution statement by Smill

-

1st Reel of "Gutter" presentation

- 10000 case files
- 88 min take
- Discussion of case
- 1 case procedure throughout
- All matl. documented.
- UFO = Flying Saucers to public
- AF does not deny UFO
- " do not Flying Saucers.
- 2 last Releases to Press.
- Sky gaining popular esp. night sky.
- Ground and Water as well as Sky.
- Ghosts more frequent than UFOs.

- UFO Rpts sent direct to AFIC or sent to AF nearest base. Felt to White House
Screening of

Plot location

Interview using form
Navy delta etc on land strip.

Give me part from Buzz on take.

to
(late reports when no evidence remained)

- 1st responsⁿ of ACS/I is to advise NSC of any threat to US
- Possible anti-USAF feeling in some places
- Profit-motive in people who whip up concern in public mind
-

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[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE RECORD
DATE 13 JUN 58
BY 131530Z

13 JUN 58 13 26

A

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION--PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

FM WEDUJAF WASH DC
TO COMATC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

Sweep 13 June

1- }
2- } 54E4
3- } 4X3
4- } 4X3a
JCD

[REDACTED]

FROM AFICIN 52033

REFERENCE FORTHCOMING UFO BRIEFING OF CONGRESSMAN J. E. HENDERSON,
FOR WHICH AFICIN-454 HAS PREPARED MATERIAL, WAFLL HAS REQUESTED THE
ATTENDANCE OF AN AFICIN TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
THAT MAY ARISE, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING THE FIVE TYPICAL UNKNOWN
CASES. THE BRIEFING IS SCHEDULED FOR 16 JUNE. IT WILL BE IN-
FORMAL, NOT IN THE NATURE OF A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING OR INVESTIGATION.
ON SELECTION OF AN ATIC REPRESENTATIVE, CONTACT MAJOR BYRNE, EXT.
74903, FOR FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

13/1634Z JUN 58 WJEPHQ

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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COORDINATION
AFCIN-4
AFCIN-4X2b
AFCIN-4X2c
AFCIN-4X3
AFCIN-4X4
AFCIN-4X5
AFCIN-4A
AFCIN-4B
AFCIN-4C
AFCIN-4D
AFCIN-4E
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AFCIN-4Q
AFCIN-4R
AFCIN-4S
AFCIN-4T
AFCIN-4U
AFCIN-4V
AFCIN-4W
AFCIN-4X
AFCIN-4Y
AFCIN-4Z
OTHERS

From 1st Deputy File

Copies - Correspondence Re Congressman Henderson Request to DOD for UFO Data and Statistics

AFCIN-XI, Attn: Major Byrne

23 May 1958

AFCIN-4E

1

AFCIN-4E4g/Capt Gregory/kmo/69216

Forwarded for your information and retention, in accordance with existing policies that your office be kept informed of actions of this type.

Nicholas Best
H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

3 Incls:

1. Ltr to DOD
dtd 8 May 58
2. Cy, Ltr SAFIS,
dtd 20 May 58
3. Cy, TT Mag, AFIC
dtd 23 May 58

AFCIN-4E

H. K. Gilbert 26 May 58

*AEH
AE*

PERM	
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90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Letter from Rep. S
8 May

Letter to ATIC 20 May 1958

Suspense 27 May 58 in Pentagon
G.E.

Dear Mr. Arcier:

Here is a letter from Congressman Henderson of the 15th District, Ohio, concerning UFO's.

He asks many questions and we desire to have complete answers to each one in response to his letter.

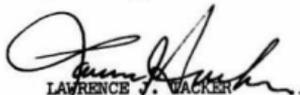
He also wants ten of the best sightings in the last five years which have been classified as "unknowns". Please oblige to the best of your ability.

Major Boland and I intend to hand-carry the reply to Mr. Henderson and brief him on the entire project as Boland did Chairman Vinson and we intend to show him the minutes of the Panel meetings leading to their Formal Report.

I suspect the letter was inspired by a constituent in Ohio but, since the Congressman uses first person, we must handle as a personal congressional inquiry.

I need this information in my office no later than 27 May 1958. ← Note!
Sorry for the time element but their suspense to me is the next day.

Sincerely,



LAWRENCE J. WALKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Inclosure
a/s

Mr. A. F. Arcier
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

ORNL
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

388 MAY 50 30 10

Requirements for ATIC:

1. 16 specific questions submitted to Mr. AF&C by the command of ATIC
2. Story Summary of 10 UFO cases
3. Detailed sketches for 1977 Aug 1958 ✓

ATCH #1

C O P Y

JOHN E. HENDERSON
15th District Ohio

COMMITTEE:
Banking and Currency

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 8, 1958

Hon. Neil H. McElroy
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have read with considerable interest the book, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects," by Edward J. Ruppelt, telling of the work of Project Blue Book.

In order to be brought up to date with respect to information developed since Ruppelt left the project, I should appreciate having the answer to several questions. Briefly, these questions are outlined below.

1. Is Project Blue Book, or some similar project, still in operation to receive, investigate and evaluate UFO reports?

2. Have reports of UFO's still continued to come in? If so, how many since 1953? How are these distributed by year and month?

3. How many have been classified as "unknowns" by year and month?

4. Have any efforts been made to get more scientific data on UFO's than is provided by visual sightings by ground or air observers, or by visual observance of radar equipment? For example, have any films been made or radar screens when a UFO is picked up? Have any efforts been made accurately to track and triangulate UFO's so as to give more accurate information on speed, size and altitude? Have any tests been conducted to ascertain whether there is a connection between background radiation and the presence of a UFO? Have spectrometers been used to try to analyse the light emitted by UFO's? Have films been taken of UFO's? In addition to knowing many of the above or similar efforts have been made, I should appreciate knowing if any of the above or similar experiments have been planned.

5. Could you furnish me reports on say ten of the best sightings in the last five years which have been classified as "unknowns"?

C O P Y

✓
attach # 2

C O P Y

Hon. Neil H. McElroy

-2-

May 8, 1958

16. Has any regular procedure been established to exchange UFO information with our allies? Have any of our allies issued official reports on UFO's?

Sincerely yours,

John E. Henderson

JEH:mh

c o p y

✓

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

23 MAY 58 23 04z

24/0705
PRIORITY
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PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION	PRIORITY	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	AF		
INFO				X			

FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

TO:

SECY OF AIR FORCE, OIS
ATTN: SAFIS-3, Major Tacker *REPH9*UNCLASSIFIED/AFCIN-4E4 *5-1032-E*

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Ref Ltr to Secy of Defense from Congressman Henderson, and your urgent request just rec'd by ATIC for extensive info, statistics, UFO cases and answers to questions requested by Mr. Henderson, and required for personal briefing to be given him, Tues. 27 May 58.
- B. Confirming our telecon. Impossible to provide large mass of info required by Monday, 26 May. Based on similarly imposed requirements in the past. Per our agreement, will transmit info and data desired by TT Msg here, and send summary and 1947-1958 statistics to your office by Monday afternoon.
- C. Before answering questions or providing info, in order which they appear in ltr to Mr. McElroy, a few facts concerning Ruppelt and his book should first be given, inasmuch as it appears to be basis for congressional request to Dept of Defense.

DATE 23 TIME 1600

MONTH MAY YEAR 58

SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4g TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Last name first) GEORGE T. GREGORY, CAPT USAF PHONE 69216 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified	TYPE MSG (Check) BOOK <input type="checkbox"/> MULTI <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACCOUNTING SYMBOL AF	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
	FROM: COMDR, ATIC	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		
	TO: SECY OF AIR FORCE, OIS ATTN: SAFIS-3, Major Tacker <i>REPH9</i> UNCLASSIFIED/AFCIN-4E4 <i>5-1032-E</i>	A. Ref Ltr to Secy of Defense from Congressman Henderson, and your urgent request just rec'd by ATIC for extensive info, statistics, UFO cases and answers to questions requested by Mr. Henderson, and required for personal briefing to be given him, Tues. 27 May 58. B. Confirming our telecon. Impossible to provide large mass of info required by Monday, 26 May. Based on similarly imposed requirements in the past. Per our agreement, will transmit info and data desired by TT Msg here, and send summary and 1947-1958 statistics to your office by Monday afternoon. C. Before answering questions or providing info, in order which they appear in ltr to Mr. McElroy, a few facts concerning Ruppelt and his book should first be given, inasmuch as it appears to be basis for congressional request to Dept of Defense.		
	DATE 23 TIME 1600 MONTH MAY YEAR 58			
SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4g TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Last name first) GEORGE T. GREGORY, CAPT USAF PHONE 69216 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified	PAGE NR. 1 NR. OF PAGES 5	SIGNATURE <i>Paul E. Longman</i> TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE CAPT USAF STAFF DUTY OFFICER		

DD FORM 13 MAY 58 173

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

ATCH # 3

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

D. As with any free-lance author, Mr. Ruppelt's Theories, opinions, and conclusions are his own, and not necessarily those of the Air Force. His book was reviewed and passed on by Hqs USAF from a security viewpoint only. While most of the statements in his book are factual, the inferences and implications that he attempts to leave are definitely questionable. As project officer of UFO program, Ruppelt had good knowledge and appreciation of various technical and scientific fields; competent in monitoring investigations, studies; collecting and correlating data for analyses, and conclusions. However, he was not an expert in highly specialized fields such as astrophysics, meteorological optics, psychological influences, etc., for which Air Force has relied on many scientists and specialists, whose conclusions are considered more valid.

E. Answers and info in order ~~of~~ ^{of} questions submitted in Mr. McElroy's letter: (1) Project Blue Book is a continuous Air Force project; is directly related to Air Force responsibility of defense of Air Space over U.S.; and rigidly prescribed by a standing directive, AFR 200-2, for the detection, identification and analysis of things in the air that may be a threat to U.S. (2) Yes, Reports still continue to come in. (3) Since 1953 a total of 2764 reports have been received, for an average of slightly over 550 per year.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

(4) Distribution by year and month (Statistics to be hand-carried your office) (5) Unknowns by year and month (to be handcarried) (6) Yes (7) Yes. Numerous times, and often involve very experienced radar operators. This is standing requirement for radar operators when object considered UFO and photo equipment available. Examples: Some time ago Navy rushed to ATIC approximately 3000 ft of radar film of UFO observed ~~in Far East~~ ^{in Far East} ~~by Navy Radar Squadron~~. Also, a B-36 radar operator with 11 yrs experience photographed exceptionally sharp UFO's showing on his screen while flying over the South Atlantic. Analysis confirmed the ~~actual nature~~ ^{identity} of the UFO's: ^{from one ship, sea chiller and radar equipment interference; the} (8) Yes. Tracking ^{rather a destroyer and several submarines} has been done through Theodolite, radar and other instruments. Triangulation is a part of the standard analysis technique, and is utilized where two or more observers report the same object from separate locations. (9) Yes. Results negative. For example, Geiger Counter sweeps of some aircraft involved with alleged UFO's at high altitudes shows a slightly higher radioactivity than normal. Reason: Aircraft receive a greater dosage of cosmic rays at high altitudes. Example: Mantell Case, (which apparently prompted this query).

(10) Yes. Specialized combination spectrographic - stereo-camera instruments are located in approximately 60 strategically located sites in the U.S. Results: negative. Only conventional objects in those few spectrographic photos taken.

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

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FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

(11) Yes. Those not found to be hoaxes, photographic flaws, mistaken identification, and optical illusions caused by adverse weather, light exposure or other conditions, are at best, only large and small indeterminate spots of light.

(12) In order to improve its investigative, detection and analytical techniques and capabilities, the Air Force is continuously testing and experimenting in this field. For example, the world-wide "Moonwatch" facilities are often called upon for data to assist in identifying reported unidentified aerial objects. The services of all ~~professional~~⁽¹³⁾ astronomical observatories are at the Air Forces disposal, and ~~including~~^{also} the FBI, OSI, ONI and others where needed. (13) Ten best "Unknowns" of the last five (5) years (Re telecon between Maj. Tacker and Capt. Gregory 1330 hrs, Fri. 23 May 58. The conclusion was that this ~~was repeat one without the~~^{requirement could not be fulfilled during} period, and that interview with Mr. Henderson could cover subject.) (14) The Air Force is advised of foreign sightings by various U.S. government agencies and personnel overseas. Until recently very few foreign UFOs reported. Definitely established increase is proportionate to number of Flying Saucer and UFO books distributed overseas. (15) Only a very small percentage of UFO reports officially issued by foreign governments or our allies. The majority generally qualify them with opinion that objects are probably aircraft

OR other airborne (man-made) vehicles.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

INITIALS

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

FROM:

CONDR, ATTC

F. Recommend that the "Air Force Semi-Annual UFO Report" recently submitted by this Center, be brought to both Senator Saltonstall's and Congressman Henderson's attention, particularly para B.6, which proves that concerted, wide-scale campaign now under way to contact all members of Congress to pressure Air Force re UFO's.

COORDINATION:

Dr. Miley - AFCIN-4E4

Henry G. Miley

Col. Gilbert - AFCIN-4E -

H. K. Gilbert Col USAF 5/23/51

Mr. Arcier - AFCIN-4X

JJ Eichen
 Copy to
 Maj. Byrne - AFCIN-X1

SYMBOL

AFCIN-4E4g

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