

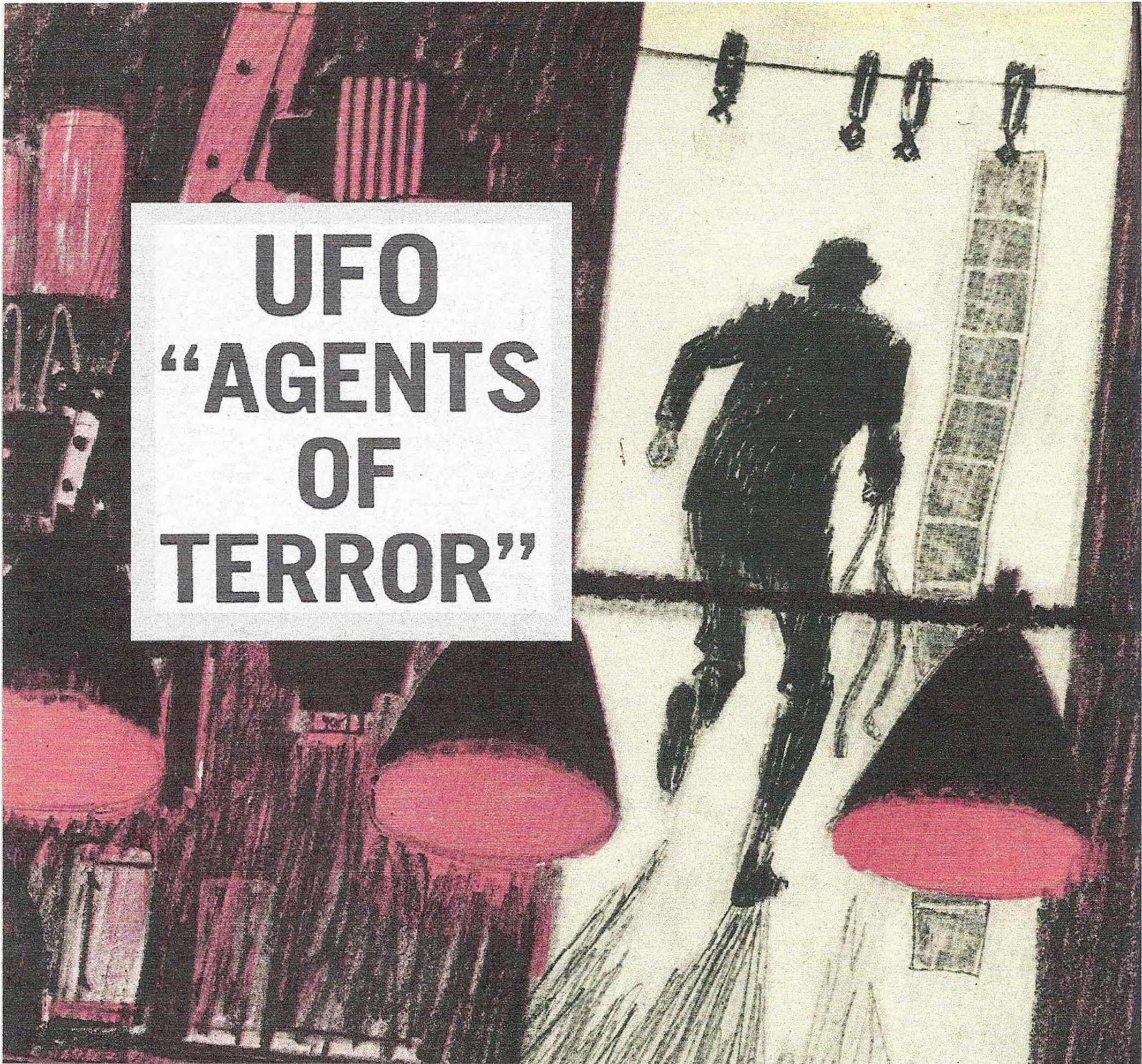
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OCT/1967

## The Mysterious Men in Black



**UFO  
“AGENTS  
OF  
TERROR”**



□ The following story may sound like the plot of the recent hit movie, "Blowup," but it occurred several months before that film was released.

Late in 1966, a professional photographer in California was out on a routine assignment when he heard an eerie whirring sound overhead. He looked out of his car and was stunned to see a huge, unearthly metallic disk hovering directly over him. Fortunately, he was well equipped with excellent cameras and lenses and he was able to click his shutter several times before the machine shot straight up and vanished.

Believing that he might have some sensational—and highly salable—photographs, he rushed back to his studio and dunked the film into the developer. The photos turned out even better than he had expected and the photographer delightedly made several enlargements and hung them up to dry.

Feeling quite pleased with himself, he left his studio for a few hours. He did not tell anyone about the UFO pictures. No one knew that he had taken them. But when he returned to his darkroom later he discovered that *someone had broken in and stolen all the prints and negatives.* They did not touch any of his other pictures, nor did they attempt to steal any of his valuable equipment. It was obvious that whoever entered his studio had been after only one thing: *the UFO pictures.*

Who was responsible for this theft will probably never be known. The baffled photographer finally called a well-known scientist, who was also a civilian UFO investigator, and told him the story in hushed tones, asking that his name be kept secret. After all, no one had seen the pictures and he didn't want to be accused of making up a crackpot tale. We have only his word that the pictures ever existed at all.

A year ago I would have taken this man's account, folded it neatly, and tossed it into the "circular file." But in the past 12

# UFO "AGENTS OF TERROR"

By John A. Keel

**Fantastic truth behind the mysterious "men in black" who masquerade as government investigators but whose real job is to seize pictures of flying saucers, suppress all evidence of sightings and contacts, and frighten all witnesses into complete silence—at the risk of their lives!**

months I have trekked through some 20 states and talked with hundreds of people who have reportedly seen unidentified flying objects and who have even stranger stories to tell, stories which I was able to check out and document. That anonymous California photographer was not the first to lose a set of flying saucer pictures in a bizarre way. Nor will he be the last.

Somebody, somewhere doesn't want certain types of UFO photographs to be seen. In fact, there are several somebodies from several different independent groups, all working to suppress information about UFOs, collect negatives and prints of good photos, and wipe away whatever traces may be left behind by these mysterious objects. Some of these agents are directly employed by the United States Government and are following orders. Others seem to be playing the same game for reasons of their own and are actually being hunted by the government agents! In January of this year Lt. Col. George P. Freeman, current Pentagon spokesman for the Air Force's Project Blue Book, revealed that the government was concerned over frequent reports of men in Air Force uniforms who allegedly attempted to silence UFO witnesses. We discussed several cases which I had been investigating, including the numerous sightings around the Wanaque Reservoir in N.J. in 1966. According to several witnesses there, Air Force officers had harassed them and ordered them to keep quiet.

"We checked with the local Air Force base," Freeman told me, "and discovered that no one connected with the Air Force had visited Wanaque on the date in question. Whoever they were, they weren't from the Air Force."

I wrote a newspaper story about these "mystery men" and it made headlines throughout the world. Although many UFO buffs chuckled over the story, suggesting that it was just another "cover-up" designed to reduce the criticisms against the Air Force, the Pentagon hierarchy took it quite seri-

ously. Within days after the story appeared a confidential letter went out from the Pentagon to all commands (please see letter on page 31)

Who are these men who dare to masquerade in Air Force uniforms? "We haven't been able to find out anything about them," Colonel Freeman admitted. "By posing as Air Force officers and government agents they are committing a Federal offense. We would sure like to catch one."

Of course, we've all heard the endless stories about the U.S. Air Force's attempts to shut up UFO witnesses and suppress evidence. Those attempts have often been clumsy and ineffectual. But I now have documented proof that another group has been engaged in the same kind of activity for years—and has been getting away with it, much to the Pentagon's consternation. Furthermore, this second group has not been afraid to employ wire-tapping, mail tampering, thievery, and even physical violence in order to achieve their goals. After a long and detailed study of this bizarre undercover conspiracy I am forced to conclude that the U.S.A.F. has, through a display of incredible stupidity, unwittingly been aiding these "mystery men."

To understand the complexity of this bewildering conspiracy, we must first examine briefly the basis for the government's policies toward the UFO phenomenon.

After a thorough study of the UFO incidents of 1947-48, the officers of the Air Technical Intelligence Command (ATIC) at Dayton, Ohio, drew up a "Top Secret Estimate of the Situation." Their conclusion was that the unidentified flying objects were interplanetary vehicles. This detailed, carefully-thought-out document was presented to the then Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg. To ATIC's chagrin, Vandenberg threw it back in their faces, declaring that the Air Force could not offer such a conclusion to the public without solid physical proof to back it up. This reaction

## UFO AGENTS

*continued*

**Some UFO investigators who've been warned by the "Silence Group" have desperately burned their files and abandoned all interest in the subject—others have simply vanished!**

caused all the UFO believers in Dayton to backtrack and in 1949 they issued a 600-page report called Project Grudge, which attempted to "prove" that everyone was seeing weather balloons, meteors, and mirages. For the next two years, the Air Force had no official UFO investigating group. Flying saucers, they claimed, did not exist and they weren't going to bother with the persistent UFO reports.

But in 1951, a group of irate scientists and industrialists, all very upset by the continual appearances of flying saucers over their installations and factories, applied pressure and caused the Air Force to reluctantly set Project Blue Book. The late Capt. Edward Ruppelt was placed in charge of the new project and he and his staff, many of whom were ardent UFO believers, worked hard and enthusiastically to make some sense out of the mystery. In those early days they often released details of interesting, "unexplained" cases to civilian UFO investigators and to the press.

A world-wide wave of flying saucer sightings in 1952, including the appearance of 65 unidentified flying objects over Washington,

D.C., in a single day, produced rumblings from the White House on down. The omniscient Central Intelligence Agency bounded into the situation, and, as usual, tripped over its long black cloak and fell flat on its perpetually reddened face.

A top secret panel of leading scientists, Air Force officers, and C.I.A. agents met behind closed doors in Washington in 1953 to reconsider the whole UFO phenomenon. Prior to that conference, an engineer and Intelligence officer named Maj. Dewey Fournet worked for several months preparing an extensive presentation which outlined the best UFO sightings, radar trackings, Air Force incidents, etc. He offered this mass of evidence to the C.I.A. panel, along with the endorsement of his superior officers at ATIC.

"He had eliminated each of the known and probable causes of sightings," the final report of that panel stated, "leaving him 'extra-terrestrial' as the only one remaining in many cases. His background as an aeronautical engineer and technical intelligence officer could not be slighted. However, the Panel could not accept any of the cases cited by him because they were raw, unevaluated reports."

They did not explain why they considered Major Fournet's collection of hard data to be "raw" and "unevaluated."

Another team, a group from the Navy's Photo Interpretation Laboratory (P.I.L.), spent over 1,000 hours analyzing a color motion picture of flying saucers which was considered by everyone to be authentic. They prepared graph plots of each of the 1600 frames in the film, showing the relative motion of the objects and variation in their light intensity. When the P.I.L. team appeared before the Panel they received the same kind of reaction that had disappointed Major Fournet. The learned panelists brushed aside the charts and graphs and rejected outright the team's conclusions that the objects in the film were "self-luminous," "intelligently controlled" and,

naturally, of unknown origin.

Thus the C.I.A. deftly disposed of some important, and expensive, UFO evidence that had been painstakingly prepared by Air Force and Naval investigators. The full text of the 1953 C.I.A. report was kept classified as "Secret" for 14 years. (I have a complete copy of this document in front of me as I write this.) The C.I.A. panel seems to have decided that UFOs were non-existent before they heard the evidence. And their report offers suggestions for the handling of UFO information which clearly explains the confusions and conspiracies which later developed.

Here's another important quote: "The Panel noted that the cost in technical manpower effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousand or more reports received through channels each year (1,900 in 1952) [Author's note:

According to the 1967 Project Blue Book report, there were only 1,501 sightings in 1952—399 sightings apparently have been misplaced.] could not be justified. It was felt that there will always be sightings. . . . Dangers might well exist resulting from overloading of emergency reporting channels with 'false' information. . . . The consensus of the Panel was, based upon the history of the subject, that the number of sightings could be reasonably expected to increase again this summer."

What the Panel was trying to say was simply that, even though the C.I.A. didn't believe in flying saucers, they expected so many sightings to be reported that there was a danger of official communications channels becoming jammed with UFO reports and data. To avoid this, the Panel was recommending that the UFO reports

should be ignored as much as possible.

In addition, the Panel proposed a program for "debunking" sightings and "training" the public. "The 'debunking' aim would result in reduction in public interest in 'flying saucers,'" the Report stated, "which today evokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles." The Panel went on to advise ATIC and Project Blue Book on how to "debunk" sightings and educate the public into believing that it was all nothing but "swamp gas." Viewed in its entirety, the C.I.A. Report's tone is one of total disbelief in the UFO phenomenon, even though it indicated, for unspecified reasons, that sightings would increase.

(Continued on page 72)

## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

1 March 1967

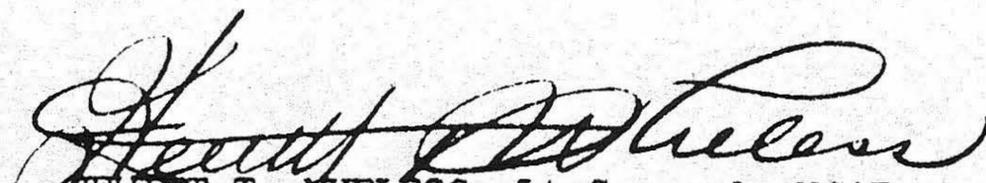


REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: AFCCS

SUBJECT: Impersonations of Air Force Officers

TO: ADC                      AFSC                      HQCOMD USAF                      SAC  
AFCS                      ATC                      CAC                      TAC  
AFLC                      AU                      MAC                      USAFSS

Information, not verifiable, has reached Hq USAF that persons claiming to represent the Air Force or other Defense establishments have contacted citizens who have sighted unidentified flying objects. In one reported case an individual in civilian clothes, who represented himself as a member of NORAD, demanded and received photos belonging to a private citizen. In another, a person in an Air Force uniform approached local police and other citizens who had sighted a UFO, assembled them in a school room and told them that they did not see what they thought they saw and that they should not talk to anyone about the sighting. All military and civilian personnel and particularly Information Officers and UFO Investigating Officers who hear of such reports should immediately notify their local OSI offices.

  
HEWITT T. WHELESS, Lt General, USAF  
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

## UFO "AGENTS OF TERROR"

[continued from page 31]

But the most disturbing section of this document was its open attack against civilian UFO investigators. "The Panel took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the 'Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators' (Los Angeles) [now defunct] and the 'Aerial Phenomena Research Organization' (Wis.) [now in Tucson, Ariz.]," the Report noted. "It was believed that such organizations should be watched because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind."

There, in three sentences, the C.I.A. gave the Air Force and all other agencies carte blanche to harass and abuse civilian UFO investigators. Further on, we will cite several cases of such harassment. Most important, however, this incredible document revealed that despite their apparent disavowal of the reality of "flying saucers," the C.I.A. anticipated what might happen "if widespread sightings should occur." The whole report is so poorly and so illogically assembled that one can only marvel at how it could possibly have been accepted by any General or C.I.A. official. If you or I had been in a position of governmental responsibility and this report had crossed our desk, we probably would have hurled it back at the C.I.A. in disgust and fired everyone connected with it. Perhaps that is the main reason it was kept in the classified files for 14 years.

Could it be, however, that the C.I.A. knew more about UFOs than they were pretending, and that the whole 1953 Panel affair was merely a ruse to keep the Air Force from suspecting? They gave the Project Blue Book personnel a chance to present their case (that the flying saucers were extraterrestrial), and then they rejected the evidence as "insufficient" and literally ordered the Air Force to debunk the subject, suppress the flow of future reports, and clamp down on civilian investigators. Captain Ruppelt, Major Fournet, and the other early Air Force UFO buffs left the service and were replaced by hard-headed types who followed the new "line" without hesitation.

Actually, flying saucers began to appear in large numbers during W.W. II and there is every indication that someone high in government knew something about the subject before the first explosion of UFO publicity in 1947. Pilots over Germany and Japan were seeing things which they called "Foo Fighters" in 1944. In that year, strange objects

were also buzzing around secret experimental stations in Arizona. The pilots and witnesses were reporting these things to Army Intelligence officers and somewhere a file on these incidents was beginning to take shape. Since it was wartime, and since it was not known if these objects were enemy secret weapons, Army secrecy was understandable.

Immediately after the war, in 1946, thousands of mysterious "ghost rockets" were reported over Scandinavia. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle was sent posthaste to Sweden that summer on a secret mission which has never been explained. (The Swedish government established the world's first official UFO-investigating bureau in 1910. During the 1950's this agency and all its files were quietly merged with the Swedish Secret Intelligence Agency.)

Did General Doolittle learn something important about flying saucers in Sweden? Something so hush-hush that only a few men in the upper echelons of the U.S. Government were privy to the information? Was one of these men Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg? From June 1946 to May 1947, General Vandenberg served as head of the Central Intelligence Group, forerunner to the C.I.A. It was, you recall, General Vandenberg who later rejected ATIC's "Top Secret Estimate of the Situation."

The circle narrows. Could General Vandenberg have had some other reason for rejecting that painstaking analysis besides "insufficient evidence"?

Somebody knew a lot about flying saucers before the general public had even heard of the mystery. That somebody was ready to move when, in 1947, the whole thing broke in the newspapers.

On June 21st of that year, two harbor patrolmen, Harold Dahl, Fred Chrisman, and Dahl's young son, were boating on Puget Sound when they saw what they described as "six doughnut-shaped flying machines" which spewed out a great quantity of a slag-like substance. One piece of this "slag" killed Dahl's dog. Another injured the boy's arm and the boat was badly damaged by the barrage. This incident did not appear in the papers until several days later. Yet the *very next morning*, before Dahl and Chrisman really had a chance to spread their tale, a late model car pulled up in front of Dahl's house and a mysterious stranger joined him for breakfast. Later Dahl said the man was about 40 years old and was wearing a dark business suit. He sat down and told Dahl precisely what had happened the day before, almost as if he had been there, and then

he very sternly warned the astounded man to keep quiet about the whole affair *if he valued his job and his family.*

Who was this stranger? He never identified himself and Dahl never saw him again. The Air Force did not formally set up any kind of UFO investigating project until several months later. Although hundreds of people in the Tacoma-Seattle area reported sighting unidentified flying objects a few days after the Dahl-Chrisman incident, Air Force investigators eventually managed to whitewash the whole situation and branded it "The Maury Island Hoax" (much of that "slag" fell onto Maury Island).

Kenneth Arnold, the private pilot who sighted nine flying disks near Mt. Rainier three days after the Puget Sound incident, is generally credited with focusing national attention on the presence of flying saucers in our skies. There have been many "Men in Black" cases (as they are known) since then. Somehow, these unknown agents manage to appear on the scene almost immediately after a sighting. When I first became involved in UFO research I regarded this "Silence Group" (S.G.) as a fiction created by over-imaginative saucer fans. But now I have personally investigated and documented several of these cases and I have even chased after "Men in Black," missing one by a scant hour in West Virginia recently.

Consider this one, which took place near Key West in 1951, at a time when the Air Force had disbanded all UFO investigating groups after having officially decided that the whole business was nonsense.

Several Naval officers and crewmen were in a motor launch when they saw a pulsating cigar-shaped craft hovering over the water. They watched it through binoculars and could see a greenish column of light extending down to the surface of the water. The sea was strewn with dead fish. Suddenly a fast moving fighter plane appeared and the object took off, vanishing in seconds. As soon as that motor launch docked, the Naval men were surrounded by "hush-hush" officials who hustled them away and held them for hours, questioning them in a manner, one of the witnesses said years later, which "seemed more aimed at discrediting" them than anything else.

In 1955, 20 workmen were making repairs on the outside of a large factory building in southern New Jersey when a gigantic circular craft silently descended from the sky and hovered almost at ground level above the 600-car parking lot. The object was so big that it covered the entire lot and the workmen watched it for several minutes, hardly believing

their eyes. Later, as they all filed in to punch out on the time clock, a man in civilian clothes herded them all into a meeting room.

"We want you all to sign an oath of secrecy," he told them grimly, flourishing a sheaf of papers, "promising not to tell about what you saw today. Those of you who don't want to sign needn't come in to work tomorrow—or ever again."

Everyone signed.

Who was this man? What was the purpose of this secrecy oath? One thing is obvious: He had to know that the flying saucer was going to appear that day; he had to be prepared for it, just as the "hush-hush" officials in Florida had to be immediately on hand when that motor launch filled with witnesses reached the dock. These "agents" must also have had the necessary credentials to get them onto the Navy dock, and into the factory building (which was engaged in classified work for the Navy). They had to know what was going to happen in advance, and they had to have a reason for suppressing the stories of the witnesses.

Two "Men in Black" inadvertently gave us a clue to that reason when they confronted a deputy sheriff in Texas back in 1965. Late on the evening of September 3, 1965, Chief Deputy William McCoy and Deputy Robert Goode, both of the Brazoria County, Tex., Sheriff's Department, observed a purplish object some 200 feet in length drifting silently across an oil field. The object turned and moved swiftly toward their car, frightening both men so badly that they took off at over 100 miles an hour. (That same night, the long series of UFO incidents in far-off Exeter, N.H., began.)

Soon afterwards, two strangers turned up in West Columbia, Tex., and tracked down Deputy Goode in a restaurant. Before he could open his mouth, they described to him in detail what he had seen in that oil field—in the same mysteriously knowing manner as Dahl's visitor of 18 years earlier. Then they told Goode that he might see the same thing again. If that happened, they warned, *and if he should have any conversation with the UFO occupants, they advised him to keep the contents of the conversation to himself.*

Reviewing several other "Men in Black" and "silence" cases, we find that both the Air Force and the mystery men seem to have concentrated on debunking the stories of witnesses who claimed either very close UFO sightings, or actual contact with the occupants themselves. They seem more dedicated to getting the witnesses to change their stories than to merely investigating in-

cidents and learning the facts. Until recently, this Silence Group succeeded in suppressing many contact stories.

For example, there were actually dozens of contact cases, some with several witnesses, from coast-to-coast in early November of 1957. But only a few of these incidents ever leaked out to the general press. One of these involved an Ohio house painter named Olden Moore who, on November 6, 1957, observed the landing of a large circular machine with a pointed dome on top in a field near Montville, Ohio. The next day, Kenneth Locke, the Lake County Civil Defense Director, examined the site and found it was highly radioactive. He also discovered six strange footprints in the field and two fresh holes three feet in diameter. Air Force investigators descended on the scene, picked up Olden Moore and drove him to the landing site where a helicopter was waiting. The helicopter carried him to an Air Force base and from there he was flown to Washington, D.C. Two officers closeted him in a "hotel-like room" in Washington and grilled him for *three days*, trying to get him to admit that he had seen nothing but a "fireball." He was literally held prisoner and was never left alone. Finally, he was asked to sign an oath of secrecy and then he was flown back to Ohio.

Why, we wonder, did they go to such extraordinary lengths when Olden Moore's story had already been published in the Ohio papers and Kenneth Locke's findings had already been made public?

These mystery men do not confine their activities to the United States. Shortly after an engineer named Gianpietro Monguzzi took some pictures of a flying saucer in the Italian Alps in 1952, he claims he was visited by "an American secret agent" disguised as an Italian ski mountain policeman who interrogated him through a long night, apparently trying to get him to repudiate his story of having seen a disk-shaped object land on a glacier.

In England, on May 26, 1964, a fireman named James Templeton took some snapshots of his five-year-old daughter in a park near the Chapelcross Atomic Energy Station. When the pictures were developed he was flabbergasted to discover that "someone else had gotten into one of the pictures." That someone was a very tall human-shaped being in a white space suit and space helmet. No one in the park at the time the pictures had been taken had seen such a man. Baffled, Mr. Templeton took the picture and negative to the firm that had processed the film. They couldn't explain it, nor could police photographic experts.

Two sedate gentlemen in bowler hats appeared at the Templeton home a few days later and questioned him carefully about the photograph. This pair did not identify themselves and referred to each other by numbers. Certainly any self-respecting secret agents could invent phony "cover" names for themselves. They could call each other "Charlie" and "George" instead of "Number 9" and "Number 14."

These two numbered agents asked James Templeton several intriguing questions, including: Had he seen any birds in the area when he had taken the pictures? (It is not generally known, but all the sea gulls in Puget Sound vanished for the entire summer of 1947.) From James Templeton's baffled description of this encounter, it is obvious that these two men knew a great deal more about the UFO phenomenon than even a hard-core amateur ufologist. Again, who were they and why were they so interested in a freak snapshot of someone in a space suit?

Still another mystery man, this one claiming to be from "an agency so secret that he couldn't give its name," visited a school in Norwalk, Conn., and carefully interviewed two 12-year-old boys who said they had been pursued by a small flying disk in April 1966.

These tactics don't make much sense. A genuine secret agency would most likely operate behind a very bland front, such as "The Acme Research Company." The quickest way for a secret agent to become conspicuous is for him to refuse to identify himself or the name of his organization. And no agent wants to be conspicuous. At least, not usually.

Our peripatetic "secret" UFO investigators are very talented at making themselves conspicuous. It's almost as if they want to get caught as they leave a wake of confusion and mystery behind them. A few have posed as F.B.I. agents. One fellow is rubbing salt in the Air Force's wounds by openly impersonating Maj. Hector Quintanilla, chief of Project Blue Book, throughout Ohio and West Virginia. He even shows impressive credentials from the Air Force but, from descriptions given to me by several witnesses, he resembles the Major in about the same way that Mickey Rooney resembles John Wayne. The Air Force is supposed to be trying to catch up with him.

The techniques employed by these unknown agents are quite different from the silencing methods used by the U.S. Air Force. Many of the Air Force's "cover-up" efforts have smacked of a comic opera. Major Quintanilla once berated an Ohio police officer and tried to get him to switch his story of a saucer

sighting while a tape recorder was running in full view and recorded the whole discussion. The Major never realized he was "on the air." In other well documented cases, the Air Force shamelessly took evidence from witnesses and later returned shabbily contrived imitations of the original material. They have even been caught in the act of doctoring UFO pictures so they could brand them "fakes." In one instance after another, the Air Force has found its blue trousers at half-mast. And bold investigators like Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, head of the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), have constantly reminded them of their fallibility.

While Project Blue Book's pitifully small staff (two officers, a sergeant, and a couple of secretaries) has struggled to maintain its dignity, this other, far more secret group, has been operating quietly and earnestly. Organized civilian UFO researchers have long been aware of this "Silence Group" and have cautiously followed their operations. A lot of crackpot literature has appeared on this subject, and a wearisome amount of half-educated speculation has been published about these unknown men.

For years, civilian UFO investigators have suspected that this "Silence Group" is really a branch of the Central Intelligence Agency. As we have already pointed out, there is evidence that the C.I.A. does, indeed, know a great deal about the UFO phenomenon and may have established the 1953 Panel so that they could officially clamp down on the Air Force's enthusiasm. Anyone who has ever been in the service knows that our military machine, and our government, runs on fear. The Captain is afraid of the Major, the Major fears his Colonel, etc., up the line. It would be relatively easy to switch the pro-saucer officers to an anti-UFO position. Not many career men will risk their careers bucking the official "line." Those few mavericks who do find themselves being passed over at promotion time. But the thousands of well-documented UFO incidents of the past 20 years indicate that thousands of military men have been involved in official UFO research and investigation. Many of these men have gone into civilian life carrying with them, supposedly, many secrets about government UFO research projects. Yet not a single one of these men has spoken out. It is contrary to human nature and against the law of averages for *all* of them to keep their mouths shut.

One simple explanation comes to mind. Maybe the Air Force doesn't have that much to hide. Perhaps their long-time negative position has resulted in

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equally negative results. The Project Blue Book investigation might be naively sincere. Maybe all of these men do blindly believe in "swamp gas." After all, back in 1953 the C.I.A. told them firmly that there aren't any flying saucers. What Major with his eye on that nice 20-year pension would dare tell the C.I.A. otherwise?

So whenever a sighting comes along that seems to indicate that flying saucers may be real, these men quickly alter the facts to suit the C.I.A.'s orders. I've come across many examples of this.

In the summer of 1966, I visited Presque Isle, Pa., where a UFO landing had been reported on July 31st. The witnesses were badly shaken up by the sudden appearance of some kind of tall, unidentifiable creature, and three large wet spots were later found on the beach where the UFO had allegedly touched down. Policemen and officials of Presque Isle Park had pointedly told Air Force investigators that there were no bears or other large animals there. They also had some of the wet sand analyzed on their own and learned that it contained silicon (*not* silica, which is common sand). When dried, these moist spots formed a transparent, flexible, plastic-like material. However, in their final report on the case, Project Blue Book announced that, "raccoons and *bear* are known to be in the woods in that area" and "there was nothing unusual in the soil sample except urine." Urine, of course, dries up very quickly on a sandy beach in the middle of the summer. These wet spots lingered for over 24 hours and dried into the plastic substance.

Every Air Force base has a UFO officer today. Usually he is a young lieutenant in the Public Information office at the base and he is equipped with a pair of binoculars, a Geiger counter, and a pile of the standard sighting reports. I have met several of these men in my travels, and some of them do a thorough job of investigating UFO activities in their area. Others tend to treat the whole business as nonsense and a chore. The Air Force investigates only those incidents which are reported directly to them by the witnesses. In most such cases, a standard form is merely mailed to the witness to be filled out. Only about 10 per cent of all recorded sightings are ever reported to the Air Force at all. They claim that 1,060 cases were sent to them in 1966. I have over 10,000 clippings and reports in my own files for that same year, and I'm sure that I have managed to collect only a small percentage of the total number of 1966 sightings.

Working full-time and alone, I man-

aged to personally investigate several hundred of these 10,000. In about 50 cases, I learned that the Air Force had also been in touch with the witnesses, usually by telephone. In some of these instances, several different Air Force officers had interviewed the witnesses for as long as three hours on the phone by long distance. It was obvious to the witnesses that whoever they were talking to at the other end was filling out a very long and very complicated form. Far more complicated than the standard form. It would be interesting to see a copy of that form and find out where the completed ones are kept.

One witness at the Wanaque Reservoir sightings, a policeman, received a call from a "Mr. Johnson in Washington" who questioned him at length. The mystery is: the policeman has an unlisted phone and doesn't know how "Mr. Johnson" located him. Colonel Freeman at the Pentagon claims that no one has ever reported the Wanaque incidents to the Air Force and therefore the Air Force has never officially investigated any of the sightings there. "Mr. Johnson" is another of our mystery men.

You can see the puzzling contradictions. The Air Force seems to be disinterested, and determined to prove that it is all "swamp gas." Yet they carefully question some witnesses for hours, and even whisk others to Washington for further questioning. They also lie baldly to newsmen and the public with appalling frequency.

The first time I wandered into the tiny office of Lt. Col. Maston Jacks, then the Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book, I learned first-hand of the Air Force's anti-UFO policy.

"You're wasting your time here," he stated flatly at the beginning of our talk. "There's nothing to this flying saucer business. It's all hearsay."

In the course of that interview in April 1966, Colonel Jacks told me several times that the Air Force did not have any kind of a photo file at all. Nor did the Air Force ever confiscate pictures from citizens, he insisted. A year later, however, a science writer named Lloyd Mallan was given over 100 pictures from that nonexistent file! I examined those photos and was rather disappointed to find that they were mostly spots of light or dark blobs—for I know for a fact that Air Force Officers (or men claiming to be) have seized remarkably detailed UFO pictures taken by honest American citizens. These people have shown me copies of photos whose negatives had been brazenly collected by Air Force officers. I described some of these pictures to Mr. Mallan recently. He was given complete access to a large file of

pictures at Project Blue Book headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, he told me, but he did not see any of *those* pictures. *Where are they? Who has them?*

There has been a "credibility gap" for years between the truth and what the Air Force says is the truth. That gap grows with each new sighting. Some observers, such as Dr. James E. McDonald, a meteorologist at the University of Arizona, believe that the Air Force has simply fallen victim to its own propaganda and is now struggling to adhere to an obsolete and untenable position. It's the old story—when you tell one lie, you have to tell a bigger one to cover it up.

Part of this "cover-up" would naturally involve keeping the press from discovering and reporting on the truth. The UFO buffs have been screaming for years that UFO reports are being kept out of the papers and that newsmen who have gone prying into the situation have been silenced. It's even true that this has happened in a few isolated cases.

When Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the distinguished astronomer who has served as an official Air Force UFO consultant for 20 years, was called before a hearing of the Committee on Armed Services in Washington, D.C., on April 5, 1966, he told the assembled Senators and Congressmen: "Mr. and Mrs. Chase of Kensington, N.H., who live a few miles down route 50 (near the site of the famous Exeter, N.H., UFO sightings) told me that an Air Force officer had gone around to all the stores selling newspapers in Exeter and purchased all copies of the Manchester, N.H., *Union Leader* newspaper which carried a detailed account of these sightings. Mrs. Chase also told me that a friend of hers, a Mrs. Parker Blodgett, works as a correspondent for the Haverhill, Mass., *Gazette* and was asked by the U.S.A.F. not to publish UFO reports."

For the past year, American newspapers have been filled with UFO reports and information about flying saucers. I sometimes receive as many as 300 clippings in a single week. The problem is not that these UFO reports are not being circulated, but rather that *there are too many of them*. The wire services cannot possibly carry all of these stories, nor could any newspaper print them all. So, many papers have simply given up and report only local incidents—and only the most outstanding of those. Newspapers in major cities, where UFO incidents are few, tend to slight all UFO news. Even so, the papers in New York City printed over 100 UFO stories in 1966, but the UFO buffs are still wailing that the New York press has been "suppressed."

Ironically, the Air Force's policy of debunking and ridiculing witnesses has cut them off from the public. Few people bother to report sightings to the Air Force today. Even police departments and other local officials refuse to cooperate with the boys in blue. And now that UFO activity is more widespread than ever, the Air Force simply does not have an intelligence organization big enough to keep up with it. I doubt if even the C.I.A. or F.B.I. has the personnel and facilities necessary to investigate each new outbreak of saucer incidents. The problem is now out of hand. During the past months there have been several "flaps" when UFOs appeared and even landed in hundreds of places in every state, and all within a space of a few hours. The majority of these incidents were never reported to the Air Force, or *even to the local newspapers*. The witnesses were so afraid of ridicule that they talked only amongst themselves.

This backlash might cost all of us dearly if the "flying saucers" are hostile and are ultimately planning to attack or destroy us, as many ufologists now suspect. Another Pearl Harbor could be underway before the Air Force finally became aware of what was happening. Recently, I pointed out to a group of officers in the Pentagon that the most intensive UFO activity today is occurring in areas where there is little or no Air Force protection—in West Virginia and Kentucky, for example, which have no Air Force or military bases of any kind.

As the UFO activities increase, so, too, do the appearances of the mystery men. While this article was being written, my phone rang and a very reliable source told me that three "Men in Black" had turned up on Long Island in an area which has had a continuous UFO flap this spring. A day later a young man, an amateur UFO investigator, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the same area.

Other UFO investigators have simply vanished after being warned by the "Silence Group." Still others have desperately burned their files and abandoned all interest in the subject. James Moseley, publisher of *Saucer News* and a UFO researcher for 15 years, has collected many stories of this type. "In New Zealand, a saucer researcher named John E. Stuart told of having obtained a piece of metal from a flying saucer," Moseley wrote recently, "and of having it taken away from him by a mysterious visitor." From Australia came the story that Edgar R. Jerrald, director of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, had received a strange visit shortly after he, too, had been sent a saucer fragment. Jerrald supposedly wasn't 'hushed up,'

but after his 'visit' he stopped answering his mail, and gradually faded out of the saucer picture. In Brooklyn, N.Y., another leading researcher named Eliot Rockmore suddenly stopped publication of his magazine *Flying Saucer Review*, and refused to answer mail or even talk to anyone on the phone. And from a correspondent whom I consider extremely reliable, I learned of still another weird incident: he had obtained a saucer fragment, and sent it to be analyzed locally. Thereafter he was also visited, by some sort of government agent, who warned him not to divulge the results of the analysis to anyone, and who spoke to him so threateningly that he feared for the safety of himself and his family."

In 1960, a UFO researcher in Miami, Fla., William Dunn, Jr., wrote to Moseley and told him, "My UFO files were broken into—the only damned thing that was broken into in the entire house—and many of my valuable reports were *burned* right in my room, and many of my photos, and so on, were stolen!"

That was the year that a mysterious man with a heavy build, dark olive complexion, and foreign accent, made a tour of the United States, systematically visiting civilian UFO investigators. He called himself "Mr. Alexander" and in St. Louis, Mo. he visited a researcher named George Marlo who later wrote: "I am finished with radio and TV appearances about UFOs. I will talk on other subjects, but this one is too dangerous for me. Since talking to Alexander I know better now."

Was "Mr. Alexander" a C.I.A. man sent out to squelch the UFO buffs? It would be nice to believe that the heavy-handed C.I.A. was taking an interest in the flying saucer problem. But I worry that the agency might believe its own 1953 report. In October 1966, the C.I.A. issued a formal statement declaring that it had no interest in the UFO situation and had not been concerned with it at all since 1953. The F.B.I. has not been able to issue such a denial because it has been directly involved in investigating the wave of mysterious kidnappings which have been occurring from coast-to-coast in the last two years and which appear to be definitely linked to the flying saucers. In some of these cases, *whole families* have vanished after a UFO was sighted near their home or farm. Anyway, F.B.I. men always identify themselves properly. They may be responsible for some of our mystery men cases, but not all.

Since the Air Force investigations are sporadic and are largely conducted by mail and phone, who else could be to blame for these stories? Could some of

these mystery men really be amateur UFO investigators having a little fun? The answer, unfortunately, is a definite "Yes."

In the spring of 1966, a young couple on a beach late at night on Long Island saw what they described as a "large red disk" hovering directly above a bathhouse. Later, when local reporters heard about the incident and tried to talk to the youngsters, they were told: "Somebody from Washington warned us not to say anything about it." It didn't take much digging to find out that that "somebody" was a team of men from the Washington headquarters of NICAP who had made a quick trip to Long Island following a flurry of sightings.

Other NICAPers made such a nuisance of themselves at the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey that one policeman remarked: "If somebody says they're from NICAP, we won't even talk with them." Witnesses in Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio have also complained about NICAP.

"Some of our members get a little carried away," Richard Hall, deputy director of NICAP said recently as we discussed this problem. "When we catch someone being overbearing or misrepresenting himself, we kick him out of our organization."

"I won't let anybody from NICAP into my house anymore," Woodrow Derenberger of Mineral Wells, W. Va., grumbled in April. He said that a local NICAP member had harassed him, ordered him not to talk to anybody but NICAP, and annoyed him daily after he had allegedly experienced a UFO contact.

Derenberger is a robust, ingratiating man of about 40, and until the night of November 2, 1966, he led a quiet, normal life, working as a sewing machine salesman to support an attractive young wife and two small children. Then, around 7 p.m. on that fateful night, as he was driving home on Interstate 77, outside of Parkersburg, W. Va., a flying saucer sailed silently into his life.

According to his story, which has been told and retold in hundreds of newspapers and magazines, a charcoal-colored object shaped something like the globe from an old kerosene lamp settled in front of his truck, stopping him. An average-sized man in a glistening blue uniform got out of it, he says, approached him with a broad grin and spoke to him. The conversation was brief, as Mr. Derenberger tells it, and the UFO occupant did not pass along any earth-shaking message or deep outer space philosophy, but only asked a few polite questions about the area.

Understandably unnerved by the experience, the salesman called the police

and reported the incident. They held a press conference for him which was attended by other people who had reported seeing unidentified flying objects in the immediate vicinity that night. Since his story was made public, Woodrow Derenberger has had no rest. Huge crowds descend on his once-peaceful home every weekend. He is constantly hounded by UFO buffs, religious cranks, skeptics bent on "exposing" him, and just plain curiosity seekers.

Though it may be difficult to believe, Woodrow Derenberger is not unique. Today thousands of people in all walks of life and all parts of the world claim to have had actual contact with the flying saucer pilots. Until recently, such "contactees" were rare and of questionable character. Their stories were ridiculed by the press and, in most cases, probably were psychotic works of fiction. In 1966-67, this situation changed. The majority of the new "contactees" seem to give identical details, even though their stories rarely receive publicity and are often ignored by local newspapers because they are so "far out." But ufologists are carefully examining this new crop of contact cases and wondering just how far out it is to claim that there is somebody riding around in flying saucers.

The general public usually thinks, laughingly, that UFO occupants are short, greenish characters with pop-eyes. But from the some 2,500 cases in which reliable people have claimed to have glimpsed the UFO pilots, it would appear that they are actually of medium height, with angular faces, pointed chins, high cheekbones, and long oriental-like eyes. Their complexion is usually described as "very dark, like a heavy suntan." Many witnesses compare them to Indians or Gypsies. Their manner of speech is said to be slow, halting, a curious monotone of clipped phrases "as if they had taped thousands of conversations and memorized them." Generally, they are said to be dressed in either coverall type uniforms or in black jackets and black visored caps.

There have been other descriptions over the years, of course, of "little men," "seven foot giants," and even hairy monsters. But in the last two years the "Gypsy" type has dominated such reports.

The chilling thing is, some of the mystery men who have turned up over the years have answered this same description. A former UFO researcher named Albert Bender has claimed for years that three such men appeared in his home in Connecticut in 1953 and frightened him so badly that he destroyed his files and gave up his interest in flying

saucers. Not even his friends believed him.

One of the key questions in my investigations is: "Have you had any strange visitors since you saw the UFO?" I never *explain* what kind of visitors the witnesses might expect. But some of them write to me later when a "mystery man" does turn up. Mrs. Mabel McDaniel is one such correspondent. A stable woman with a good reputation in Point Pleasant, W. Va., she has, like so many of her neighbors, sighted UFOs frequently in the past year. On March 12, 1967, she wrote the following: "A man came into my office [she worked for the local Unemployment Office in Point Pleasant at the time] last week and acted terribly strange. He didn't look like a colored person, but still was very dark and his English was so poor I never did really figure out what he wanted. His eyes were funny looking, kind of starey and glassy. From what I could get from him, he was looking for an insurance company, only he kept saying 'trip insurance'."

I immediately phoned Point Pleasant and learned that this man had been dressed in a black coat, a black cap, and that he had also visited the branch office of the Athens, Ohio, *Messenger*. Other witnesses said there were three such men, accompanied by a fourth who looked different and was more shabbily dressed. Grabbing my suitcase, I took off for West Virginia.

This strange quartet had been making systematic visits to many homes in the Ohio Valley. At some houses they presented themselves as magazine salesmen, at others they claimed to be conducting "surveys." Although I found many people who had seen them and spoken to them, I could not find out where they were staying. The few local hotels and motels had not seen them. They had traveled on foot and lingered in the Point Pleasant area for several days—at a time when UFO sightings were at a peak in the region.

Far to the north of Point Pleasant, two other men were visiting homes in the Parkersburg area. They also changed their cover stories at each house. They would visit one family and introduce themselves as encyclopedia salesmen. Then they would go next door and represent themselves as Mormon missionaries. They even visited Woodrow Derenberger's wife, telling her that they were from a vacuum cleaner company and had just come in from Salem, Ore. (Unknown to the Derenbergers, Salem was in the midst of a big UFO flap at the time.) They spent two hours discussing flying saucers with Mrs. Der-

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enberger and didn't make much of an effort to sell her a vacuum cleaner. Later, Mr. Derenberger checked with the vacuum cleaner company's office in Parkersburg and was told that they didn't employ any men answering that description.

In April 1967, while I was racing up and down the hills of West Virginia, trying to catch up with these elusive "salesmen," a woman on Long Island received a visit from four "Indians." This woman lives alone in an isolated area and her home can be reached only by a narrow, almost impassable dirt road. One morning in early April she found four men at her door. Three of them were stately and dark-skinned, with pointed faces. They were neatly dressed in expensive business suits. The fourth man looked different, she said, and was "poorly dressed" in a frayed black jacket.

Identifying themselves as "Indians," they told her that her land had once belonged to their tribe and they were going to try to get it back. What frightened the woman the most, and she *was* frightened she admitted later, was that there was *no mud* on their neatly shined shoes and there was no car in sight. There had been a lot of rain and the road and lawn were practically a sea of mud.

Although there had been frequent UFO sightings in the vicinity of her home throughout March and April, this woman never for a moment considered that the four dark-skinned men could in any way be related to the flying saucers.

Another mystery man, this one wearing a black coat too thin for the bitter cold weather, appeared in January 1967, in Cape May, N. J., after Air Force investigators had openly investigated low-level UFO sightings around a Coast Guard installation there. This character was posing as a "missing heir investigator" and spoke in a monotone, as if he were reciting each word from memory. Why would the C.I.A. or the F.B.I. bother to cover the same ground as the Air Force, using awkward disguises?

There is one frightening and incredible answer to all of this. Who could have known what that California photographer had taken pictures of? Who

could possibly have known what Harold Dahl had seen? Who could have known about the sighting of those two police officers in Texas or the two boys in Connecticut? Who might have the best possible motive for suppressing UFO stories and seizing photographs and physical evidence?

The unlikely solution stares at us: *the UFO occupants themselves!*

If this is true, then how have they managed to trick the U.S. Air Force into playing their game? Have they actually been carrying out many of these outrageous acts while the Air Force has taken the blame?

One final link is missing. Is it possible that sometime between 1945 and 1953, one small, highly placed group in our government stumbled upon some horrible truth about "flying saucers" which made it imperative for us to "do it their way"? Whatever the unidentified flying objects are doing here on Earth, it seems that they wanted to do it as secretly as possible for as long as possible. The U.S. Government has graciously obliged them and helped them, either willingly or through incredible ignorance.

Now the UFOs are continually appearing in great numbers over vast sections of the Earth, largely ignored by our major news media. The Air Force has done its job well. Men like Major Quintanilla and General Vandenberg have successfully cleared the path for Man's greatest adventure—or his greatest catastrophe. Even now, as the UFOs energetically enter what promised to be the final phase of their operation—landing and wide-scale contact—our government shuffles papers and awaits the verdict of a small group of scientists at Colorado University who are "looking into the problem" and trying to sift through 20 years of shocking history. Should Colorado Univ. declare that "there is something to it," then another fat contract will no doubt be handed out to "study the problem further." Perhaps by that time there will be a new colonel sitting in the spokesman's chair in the Pentagon. A colonel with a dark complexion, narrow eyes, pointed chin, and a monotone voice.

★ THE END