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Editorial Address
 19 Cumnor Road,
 Wootton, Boar's Hill,
 Near Oxford, Oxon.

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The Contact (UK) Directory

National Chairman: J.Sears. c/o 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford.

Hon.Secretary: J.Loveridge. 3 Maltfield Road, Headington, Oxford.

Hon.Treasurer: D.N.Mansell. 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford.

Hon.Membership Secretary: Mrs.S.Robb. 28 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield, Oxon.

Public Relations Officer: P.Flatman. 17 Quarhill Close, Over Norton, Oxon.

Research Enquiries: J.Ambler and J.Sears. C/o Wheatley address above.

Senior Research Officer: D.N.Mansell. 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford.

Librarian: J.B.Delair. 19 Cumnor Road, Wootton, Boar's Hill, nr.Oxford, Oxon.

Archivist: E.Cox. C/o Wheatley address above.

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E D I T O R I A L

It is with a mixture of relief and sadness that your editor announces his retirement from the onerous post of editor. This will be effective as from the 1st of April coming.

Your editor's relief is occasioned by the fact that no longer will he have to struggle to get yet another issue of "Awareness" out on time (more or less) nor will he have to poke and prod those contributors who are late in submitting reports and promised articles as a result of being themselves also exceedingly busy. Sadness is experienced since the task of producing "Awareness", while often a struggle against time and countless other obstacles, has always been a challenge and invariably exciting, and these experiences will no longer exist for him.

It is also difficult to appreciate that, except for a solitary issue a few years ago, "Awareness" has been edited by me for over ten years. That is quite a long time, and that, perhaps more than any other reason, is a defence of the argument that it is about time some new blood had a go at producing "Awareness". Without realising it, an editor can in numberless small ways so influence the contents of a magazine that the publication becomes more of a reflection of the editors views and beliefs than that of the organization purportedly publishing it. That is not a desirable situation. One only hopes that issues of "Awareness" produced under my aegis have not fallen into that trap too deeply, although inevitably there must have been some occasions when it will have done so.

On looking back through earlier issues I find that the first few edited by me contained material that still worried about what the Condon Committee's conclusions would do to ufology. These were published before Hickson and Parker got abducted at Pascagoula, before the great ufo wave of 1973, and long before the Travis Walton case and the Dyfed Enigma sightings. We were in fact still in the late 1960's, and were still trying to get over the 1967 British ufo wave. Such memories and realisations makes one feel positively prehistoric. Dr James MacDonald was still a leading figure in ufology then, and Ivar Mackay and Dr John Cleary Baker and Roger Stanway were among the leaders in the British scene. Much has happened since then, oceans of ink have been spilt the world over by those writing about ufos, tonnes of paper used up in almost limitless numbers of journals, bulletins, newsletters, and all manner of ufo "literature", and far too many "experts" have aired their views on the ufological subject. It is sobering to consider that despite all this frenzied activity very little real progress has been made in the subject, the only two items that perhaps deserve isolation being the fact that ufo occupants seem to have intensified their programme of abducting and inspecting human beings and, on a different plane, the subject of ufos actually got debated in the House of Lords. What most certainly has emerged during these ten or more years is that Man's present science does not seem to be able to provide a rational solution to the ufo phenomenon, and that there are no "experts" in the ufo field. Some of us knew that ten years ago.

Yes, "Awareness" has been steadily chugging along publishing on a wide variety of apparently related topics (as it should do) during this long period of time, a period that saw the rise and disappearance of the ill-fated British UFO Documentation Centre (BUDC) and other equally pretentious amateur organizations, and of the emergence of Jenny Randles as a force in Northern ufology, and a marked increase in the size of the Aetherius Society's public image. What new developments will the next ten years produce? Who can say? Whatever they are, details of them will be carried by "Awareness". I take this opportunity of wishing my successor, whoever he or she will be, as much fun writing about them as

I have had. I also wish to thank all those innumerable individuals who, during this ten year period, have assisted me in extremely varied but always most generous ways. Without their help much of what has been accomplished could not have occurred.

There will, I know, be some who will be dismayed to hear that I do not, through the present retirement, intend to desert ufology and that my involvement in it — albeit in a more private capacity than hitherto — will continue. I shall continue to support CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) and all other serious and worth while ufo investigation bodies, and will continue as CONTACT's librarian. Alas, ever mounting business commitments do not permit me to undertake any more positive action. The gigantic size of CONTACT's library, however, will keep me more than busy, and for the first time, perhaps, it may prove possible to get CONTACT's equally huge news-clippings collection into permanent order. In that connection Jeffrey Ambler has been tackling our news-clipping collection very effectively now for the past nine or ten months, and some semblance of organization is seemingly emerging.

It will not be possible to enter into correspondence on the previous scale, while all strictly editorial mail should henceforth be sent only to 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, Oxon. This is much regretted, but for obvious reasons the new editor must deal first with all such correspondence.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to the national committee of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) who have often had to bear with me respecting the contents and/or delivery of "Awareness" issues. I know they will support my successor with equal fervour. My heartfelt thanks to everyone.

THE EDITOR.

S U B S C R I P T I O N R E M I N D E R

All members of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) are respectfully reminded that their annual subscription falls due on April 1st coming. The new annual subscription per individual, applicable from April 1st., 1980, will be £5.00p.

This increase, while regrettable, is unavoidable, and was ratified by all those present at the Annual General Meeting early last month. Unfortunately inflation strikes at CONTACT as forcefully as it does everyone else. We are confident that all members will appreciate the situation.

All subscription renewals should be sent direct to the membership secretary, Mrs Sandy Robb, c/o 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, Oxon. Postal orders, and cheques should be made out to Contact International (UK).

Members' alacrity in renewing subscriptions would be greatly appreciated.

(a fuller account of the Annual General Meeting proceedings, alluded to above, are given elsewhere in this issue).

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1979-1980 was held as previously advertised (see last issue of "Awareness") on Saturday, February 9th. 1980, at Oxford Town Hall, and was a very considerable success. The following summarises the more important decisions taken at the meeting, and gives a short account of the subsequent public lectures and general discussion.

The Annual General Meeting was opened by the National Chairman, Mr Fred. Passey, who also took the opportunity of announcing that he wished to retire from his post as increasing business commitments no longer allowed him to participate in ufology to the extent that his post demanded. Mr Passey's resignation was reluctantly accepted.

In due course, a new National Chairman was elected, and the post is now occupied by Mr John Sears, who is not only a very energetic co-ordinator of field investigators appointed by CONTACT in Britain and a regular lecturer on ufological topics to other bodies in the general Oxford region, but has for long been an active member of the National Committee and is therefore very well qualified for his new appointment. Everyone wishes him endless success in his new capacity.

Mr Sears, in his opening speech thanked all attending members --- who had elected him --- for the confidence in him, and paid a warm tribute to the sterling work accomplished over many years by Mr Passey. It was reassuring to know that Mr Passey intended supporting CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) and that he would continue on the National Committee in an ex officio role.

With the election of Mr Sears to higher office, one place became vacant on the National Committee, and, after a vote, it was agreed that Mr Jeffrey Ambler, who had for over a year been accomplishing much valuable work on the Data Research team, should fill this vacancy. Mr Ambler is therefore now an official member of the National Committee.

The Hon. Secretary then delivered a brief report on the state of the organisation during the past year, and he was followed by the Hon Treasurer, who announced that while CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) was still financially very viable, serious consideration had to be given towards an increase in the size of the annual subscription due to the current appalling inflationary spiral. Information he had received from Data Research and from the editor clearly showed that expenses were now beginning to cutstrip fiscal reserves. He stressed that these expenses were everyday running expenses, such as had always been borne and would recur in the future. He proposed that members consider increasing the annual subscription to £5.00p. per head per annum. This was put to the assembled members. As no objections were forthcoming the motion was passed and the new annual subscription will be £5.00p. per head, effective from April 1st. coming.

Under the heading "any other business" members discussed the need for even more efficient field examination procedures. Especially valuable were the views of two of the leading CONTACT field investigators present --- Mrs Margaret Fry and Mr Brian Pedley. The outcome of the discussion was the inauguration of an annual trophy that would be awarded to the most efficient field investigator at each Annual General Meeting. The recipient would hold it for one calendar year, and the first award would be made at the 1980-1981 meeting.

As no further items were debated, Mr Sears concluded the meeting, invited members to perambulate round the extensive exhibition and advised that the first of the scheduled lectures would commence at the advertised time. Meanwhile members of the

public were admitted, and all remaining seats were quickly filled. Eventually, some 260 individuals were assembled, and the first talk --- a general resume of recent trends in ufology (with particular reference to British sightings) --- was given by John Sears. This generated quite a few questions from the floor and appears to have been favourably received.

The next talk was given by J. Bernard Delair, whose theme on this occasion was the origins of ufos; the alternatives considered. The options were discussed and their apparent merits and demerits reviewed. It was demonstrated that virtually no positive conclusion could be reached in the light of available evidence, and that all publications purporting to dogmatically insist on one particular explanation of ufo origins were accordingly suspect.

The final talk, which dealt with the now celebrated series of west Welsh ufo reports collectively known as the Dyfed Enigma, was delivered by Randall Jones Pugh, who needs no introduction here, illustrated by slides, this was a very informative and interesting talk, which generated more than the usual number of queries and questions from the floor upon completion. All in all a most popular exposition by the leading authority on this set of ufo events.

The final closing remarks were delivered by Mr Sears at approximately 9.0 pm. with the hope that all members would attend next year's Annual General Meeting --- date to be announced --- and that everyone would enjoy much success meanwhile.

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

As a new outlet for members who have opinions on particular aspects of ufology, your National Committee have inaugurated an annual Prize Essay Competition which will be open to all paid-up members of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK). The essays must be submitted by January 1st., 1981, and will be judged by the members of the National Committee between that date and the Annual General Meeting. The result and the award given to the successful candidate will be announced at that meeting. The committee's judgement will be final.

Prospective candidates may select one (only) of the two themes given below.

- (a) How would you react to a personal confrontation with a ufo occupant?
- (b) Is there a Government cover-up on UFOs and if so what is your evidence for such a belief?

The successful essay will be printed in a future "Awareness". No essay should exceed 1500 words in length, but may be provided with references if applicable. MS should be submitted to 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, Oxon., and must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope to guarantee acknowledgement of receipt. Author's membership numbers should accompany their MS.

Every winning essay shall become the copyright of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK), and the factual accuracy of its contents be the responsibility of the author. Accompanying illustrations must be high quality and easily reproducible (i.e., a faint pencil sketch will be unacceptable), but will remain the property of the author.

No member of the National Committee or any other officially appointed officer (field investigators excepted) of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL (UK) are permitted to enter this competition.

"MIBs AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY"

by

Brian Burden *

MIBs appear to have become firmly entrenched in ufo lore and a great deal has been written about who they might be and what their motives are. This article examines some aspects of the problem as enshrined in several well-known cases. It does not pretend to be a definitive study, and more research into the topic is undoubtedly required. Nevertheless, if by highlighting these incidents in conjunction one with another more light is shed upon the relevant problems or new avenues of future investigation are thereby suggested, its publication will have been well worth while.

"Luis Castillo".

In March 1967, an olive-skinned man calling himself Luis Castillo was arrested in Manila (1). After an exhaustive investigation, which included the use of hypnosis (and in which the FBI took considerable interest), the Philippine authorities concluded that Castillo was a "zombie assassin", dispatched to kill President Marcos. When the letters scrawled on a piece of paper in Castillo's possession were recited in a certain order, he would involuntarily turn a gun to his head and press the trigger. More intriguingly, it was discovered that Castillo had been programmed with at least four separate identities, including Castro guerilla, and an officer in the US Air Force. Writer Walter Bowart took up the matter with a high-ranking intelligence officer, who admitted that the "multiple personality" technique was used in intelligence where message-carrying was concerned: "Our guy who is supposed to get the message knows that the first three cues, say, are fake, and he gives the fourth cue and out comes the message. If the courier was in enemy hands he could be there for years before anybody will figure out where he was in all those layers.... Each identity will be that of a real 'cut-out' - a person enough like him so that the enemy will think that they've got the real guy" (elipsis in original).

Just after three years after Castillo's story appeared in the Philippine press, another Latin-American "zombie assassin" tried to stab Pope Paul VI at Manila International Airport (2). Oddly enough, rumours that Pope Paul VI would be assassinated had begun to circulate among American "contactees" at around the time that Castillo was being "grilled" in 1967. Before we leave the case of Castillo we should note that one of his memories --- real or implanted --- concerned his participation in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The hit-team, Castillo alleged, was led by a hook-nosed black-haired man with "oriental" eyes, who drove a shiny black limousine. This seems to be a significant item, as we shall see.

Maury Island.

The first unequivocal appearance of an MIB in UFO lore (as opposed to proven fact) occurred during the Maury Island episode of 1947. Versions vary, but the following is a fairly comprehensive summary of the legend:

On 21st. July, 1947, three days before Kenneth Arnold's history-making experience near Mount Rainier, a man called Dahl was out in the Tacoma Harbour patrol boat near Maury Island in Puget Sound. Glancing upwards he saw six machines, not un-

* 300 Church Street,
Bocking, Braintree,
Essex, CM7 5LQ.

like giant inner-tubes with portholes, about 2,000 feet above him. Five of them were slowly circling one that seemed to be in difficulties. Slowly and soundlessly they sank to within 500 feet of the sea. Then, suddenly, there was a loud boom from the central object, which forthwith began to discharge slag and molten metal which struck the water below with a loud hissing noise, whereupon the whole flight rose and shot off out to sea. Dahl notified his superior, one Fred.L.Crisman, who was initially sceptical until he, too, viewed a "saucer" (or inner-tube) in the area. The men decided to get in touch with publisher Ray "Dero" Palmer.

Now we move into the area of accepted fact. Palmer, who had just printed Kenneth Arnold's own account of the Mount Rainier sighting (an account, incidentally, that differed radically from the doctored version in Blue Book's files), persuaded Arnold to go to Tacoma to check out the story. On arrival, Arnold contacted Dahl, who alleged that, meanwhile, he had been contacted by a mysterious man in black. The man had described the Puget Sound incident as clearly as if he had been sitting beside Dahl in the boat, and then warned Dahl to keep his mouth shut. This visitation proved to be only the first of a series of bizarre events (or pseudo-events) which dogged Arnold's investigations.

It is probable that the MIB in this case was, like the flying inner-tubes, strictly fictitious. In his book "UFOs EXIST" (Ballantyne, 1977), Paris Flammonde argues most convincingly that the whole strange business was an elaborate intelligence scenario, a proposition which will be discussed more fully in the appendix to this article. At any rate, the name Fred.L.Crisman cropped up, briefly, some twenty years later when District Attorney Garrison carried out his own investigations into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Albert Bender.

In a report submitted in 1953, the Robertson Panel (set up by the CIA) warned of the danger to national security posed by a morbid public interest in UFOs, and by the organisations which encouraged this interest (3). Barely seven months later, Albert K. Bender, who headed the then flourishing International Flying Saucer Bureau, was visited by "three men in dark suits" and coerced into dropping out of the UFO "business". Bender had already found his best experts and informants being swallowed up into high-security government jobs (--- the same thing happened later to a number of key witnesses in the JFK assassination case --), and officers in his own organisation had been receiving unfriendly attention from the FBI. In his own book on the subject (4), Bender indicates that the "men" were aliens who, among other things, transported him to a secret UFO base at the South Pole. However, Bender's original account, set forth in Gray Barker's "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers" (Werner Laurie, 1958) (5), makes it clear that the MIBs represented a government agency. One of them said: "In our government we have the smartest men in the country. They can't find a defense for it (the ufo phenomenon). How can you do anything about it?". Another warned him that he might go to gaol, and the men concluded the interview by putting Bender on his "honour as an American". One man evinced alarm at the intelligence-gathering potential of Bender's organization. "One of them went over to the map on the wall, saw all the pins denoting locations of IFSB representatives, and said, 'God, but you're all over the place'" The men confiscated membership lists and noted the serial numbers of Bender's tape recorders.

So far, the Bender experience sounds like a like a routine implementation of the policy advocated by the Robertson Panel. Even in Barker's account, however, there are some tantalising oddities. For example, during the interview, "Two men did all the talking, and the other kept watching me all the time they were here. He didn't take his eyes off me". It sounds as though an attempt was being made to hypnotise

Bender. Furthermore, although Bender admitted that the men had been "pretty rough", he could not or would not explain the form the roughness took. Finally, the encounter left Bender sick and terrified for several days. Barker assumes that Bender was scared by what he had learnt about the UFO mystery, but an alternative explanation is in order. Suppose that Bender's experience followed the following lines:

"After about four questions there was this shock inside my head - I was over in a corner up against the wall. The man was telling me to come back and sit down, and I crawled across the floor. When I sat down again, there was another shock. It went on until I passed out.

"The man kept his hands under the table and I thought afterwards he may have been using some kind of electric shock. My head exploded. It felt as large as the universe and there were plates inside which were kind of separating".

He added that he still suffers nightmares and mental confusion....(6).

The victim in this case was a young private in the US Army called James Thornwell. After a dispute with his commanding officer, Thornwell had purloined a number of classified documents. Hours of orthodox interrogation failed to convince the Army authorities that Thornwell had destroyed the documents, as he claimed, and accordingly they arranged for an intelligence officer, posing as a friendly stranger, to slip the young soldier a large dose of LSD during an informal meal. The incident happened in 1961. Thornwell was not to learn the truth about his experience until a Freedom of Information suit in 1977 brought the facts to light. Like Bender, Thornwell suffered from recurrent head-pains for years after his ordeal.

It is now known that the US Army's experiments with LSD began at Edgewood in 1951. Bowart (op.cit.) reports that the Intelligence Community was excited by the drug's potential for "softening-up" subjects to make them susceptible to hypnotic suggestion.

Pill-Popping.

John A. Keel describes a mysterious character called "Tiny", who called at an isolated West Virginia home in 1967 to ask a UFO witness a series of futile questions (seemingly Mormon-style) about his genealogy (7). In the course of the interview, Tiny's breathing became laboured and he became red in the face. He asked for a glass of water so that he could take a pill, and afterwards soon recovered his composure. As he left the house at the end of the interview, a car pulled up to collect him, a fact which suggests that Tiny's chauffeur and babysitter may have been monitoring the proceedings via a "bug" concealed on Tiny's person. Keel reports other people with a strange compulsion to take pills, and of entities who induced their disciples to do so (8).

In 1958, Dr Louis Gottschalk, an "independent advisor" to the CIA, drew up a report suggesting that intelligence agencies might control people by means of addictions (9). Gottschalk came up with the charming suggestion that wounded GIs who had become addicted to morphine might be ideal recruits for an "addicts' army". Since then, there had been speculation that some such sinister motive lay behind bureaucratic obstacles placed in the way of officials trying to stem the heroin plague among GIs in Vietnam. Keel reports the case of a girl whom he calls Jane, who was given pills by an entity calling himself Apol (10). He does not tell us whether the girl became or remained dependant upon the pills.

Sanitisation.

The MIBs, according to Keel, have a preference for black cars, and their vehicles, even if the model is ten or more years old, are new and immaculate within and

without (11). The licence plates on these vehicles frequently, if not always, carry numbers that have not yet been issued. It is to be noted that a car of any age is "new" at some stage of its existence, and could well remain so if, for example, it were stored in an air-conditioned car-pool. There are several government agencies in the USA which could afford to acquire a "stable" of secret vehicles; there are numerous government agencies, and other bodies, in the USA having access to computers and can tell whether or not a given registration number has yet been issued. Sometimes, of course, the MIB vehicle is on loan from a car-hire firm, in which case it is unsensational. It is interesting to note that none of Keel's informants mention phantom police cars. One such pulled up outside Lee Oswald's lodgings and hooted briefly at just about the time that President Kennedy was officially pronounced dead by hospital staff. Oswald's housekeeper noted the number printed on the side of the vehicle --- only to be later told by the FBI, the Police, and the Warren Commission, that no such vehicle existed.

As for the men who drive these mystery vehicles, their taste in clothing and accoutrements varies between a sartorial perfectionism, whereby every item, including wallets and the soles of the shoes, is brand new, and a devil-may-care guise, whereby clothing is ill-sorted, ill-fitting, and appears to have been borrowed from several different people.

All these factors may be explained in terms of "sanitisation". In discussing the notorious U2 incident of 1960, Colonel Fletcher Prouty describes the normal procedures whereby pilots were prepared for their missions.

"We had a vacant room, I mean bare floor and everything. The pilot for the day was selected from several pilots....Then the selected pilot would walk in the door. He would meet a doctor there. The doctor would say, "strip. We'll check you to make sure you're ready for the flight". So he strips. Does not have anything on. They take his rings off. They take his watch off. Then they give him a brief physical test which is just a cover story. Then they say, "Okay, Gary, you're ready for the flight. Never mind the stuff you wore in there. You come over here". And he would be told to put on clothes, all the way from socks and shorts on up, a flying suit and other equipment which had been manufactured from materials made, for example, in Japan, buttons made in Norway, and a zipper made in India. The government wants to be able to disclaim any connexion with him, what they call 'plausible denial'" (12).

If one assumes, as I do, that many of the MIBs are intelligence operatives, it is necessary to assume also that the encounters with UFO witnesses represent only the tip of the iceberg, and that many of them are meaningless training exercises designed to give agents "field experience". In this connexion, consider the following.

An early mystery car cropped up in connexion with the celebrated Socorro case of 1964. Policeman Lonnie Zamora sighted a grounded UFO, which departed before his colleague, Sgt. Chavez, could answer his radio call and confirm the sighting. Confirmation, however, came from a mystery motorist who called at a filling-station some time after the event. According to the station attendant, the motorist was "buzzed" by a strange aircraft in apparent difficulties. Shortly afterwards, the motorist had seen a police car speeding towards the point where the car had descended. This story was highly convenient, as it confirmed Zamora's account in two respects -- and ensured that rumours of the incident would spread around the community. The strangest part, however, came when Air Force expert J. Allen Hynek tried to trace the mystery motorist: "I tried my best at the time", writes Hynek ("The UFO Experience" (Corgi, 1974), p.196). "to induce the air force to make an

intelligence problem of finding the missing witness, but they evinced no interest whatsoever". The mystery deepens when one considers that the FBI, which was in on the case from the beginning, likewise made no effort to trace the witness.

Phantom Flashers.

Keel devotes a whole chapter of "The Mothman Prophecies" to "phantom photographers". He describes how Point Pleasant journalist Mary Hyre was "photographed" by a man who leapt out of a large black car:

"His flash gun was very bright", she reported. "It blinded me momentarily. While I was standing there rubbing my eyes he got back into his car and it drove off. I couldn't see if there was anyone else in the car" (13).

In another incident, a UFO witness arrived home to find a black-clad intruder in his apartment:

"There was a big flash of light, so bright I couldn't see a thing. While I was rubbing my eyes the burglar darted past me and went out of the open door" (14).

"Burglars with flash-guns" exclaims Keel, as well he might. However, with the recent declassification of an undated CIA memo, the idea suddenly ceased to be preposterous. CIA researchers, reports UPI (15), "proposed subjecting monkeys to blinding flashes of light in an attempt to develop a non-lethal weapon to stun enemy agents". The story continues:

"An undated, barely legible memo suggested the development of a "flash blindness incapacitation" device to create "disorientation, confusion, and impaired vision". The note proposed "sophisticated primate studies" to discover "the functional damage threshold" and "measure of performance decrease" cause by the blindness device" (16).

Keel describes the above incidents as part of a "new game". I would prefer to describe them as "field trials". Why select UFO believers as guinea-pigs? Simply, I would suggest, because such people would tend to explain extraordinary experiences in terms of their involvement with the UFO phenomenon.

Oswald and the FBI.

Any doubts that some, at least, of the MIBs are really intelligence operatives should be laid by the experience of Lee Harvey Oswald's comrades in the Marine Corps after his defection to the Soviet Union in 1959. According to Edward Jay Epstein (17), the base at which Oswald had been serving was taken over by "civilians in dark suits", who quizzed the men about Oswald's access to classified information. Epstein made extensive efforts to determine the origin of these "civilians", but eventually drew a blank. Whoever they were, their activities had the full approval of the base commander.

Conclusions:

The memo concerning the "blindness device" only became public knowledge in 1979. The LSD experiments were not revealed until more than twenty years after their inception. As time goes by, it seems likely that more and more of the exotic forms of harrassment endured by UFO witnesses and researchers will become explicable in terrestrial terms. The prospect is hardly reassuring.

The rot evidently set in with the Robertson Panel's report. Once an easily identifiable group becomes a legitimate target for surveillance, it also becomes a legitimate target for harrassment. Gray Barker was firmly convinced of that, and that the UFO field has been infiltrated by government spies and mischief-makers; and Jacques Vallee documents a case in which government-sponsored sociologists

virtually took over an apocalyptic UFO cult group (18). The fact that the vast majority of MIB incidents occur on the American continent should alert us to the essentially domestic nature of the phenomenon.

This is not to assert that all MIB events can be explained in this way, and, of course, the points discussed above in no way call into question the manifest reality of the UFO phenomena. All the same, it is as well to seek the measure of the opposition, earthly or unearthly.

NOTES & REFERENCES

1. All references and information about the Castillo case are from Walter Bowart's "Operation Mind Control" (Fontana, 1978). The investigation is described in Ch.12; the interview with the intelligence expert in ch.19.
2. John A.Keel. "The Mothman Prophecies" (Dutton & Co., 1975), ch.6, II.
3. E.U.Condon. "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" (Bantam, 1969).
4. Albert K.Bender. "Flying Saucers and the Three Men" (Spearman, 1963).
5. Gray Barker. "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers" (Werner Laurie, 1958), ch.8.
6. The Guardian, 10 October, 1977.
7. John A.Keel. Op.cit., ch.8, II.
8. E.g., Keel, Op.cit., ch.16, III.
9. Walter Bowart. Op.cit., ch.5.
10. John A.Keel. Op.cit., ch.15, I.
11. Abundant references in "The Mothman Prophecies" and "Operation Trojan Horse", both by John A.Keel.
12. Col.L.Fletcher Prouty, USAF retired; interviewed in Gallery by F.Joseph Spierler, Nov., 1975.
13. John A.Keel. "The Mothman Prophecies", ch.13.
14. Ibid.
15. The Guardian, 19 March, 1979.
16. More recently, a similar device has been on sale at the London "security" shop trading as Counterspy.
17. Edward J.Epstein. "Legend" (Arrow Books, 1978), ch.3.
18. Jacques Vallee. "The Invisible College", ch.2. The results of the experiment were, according to Vallee, written up in a book called "When Prophecy Fails". During the course of the experiment, the leader of the cult received a number of visits from MIB-types. Vallee expressed surprise that the sociologists showed no interest in the identity of these individuals.

APPENDIX I: MAURY ISLAND - THE FLAMMONDE THESIS.

The Maury Island incident seems to be the only early case which divides serious ufologists down the middle. Though the incident is supposed to have preceded the Kenneth Arnold sighting, it was not reported until after a whole series of reliable, though unsensational, sightings in the Tacoma area. Even then, the principals preferred to tell their story not to the local press but to a publisher

based in Chicago. Although Crisman and Dahl's story never entirely held water, it is not, from the perspective of 1980, half so weird as the fully authenticated misadventures which befell Kenneth Arnold and others involved in the original investigation.

Officially, the event was a simple hoax contrived by Crisman and Dahl. This thesis, however, simply does not hold water unless one assumes that Kenneth Arnold participated in the hoax. Twenty-two years later, the notorious Condon "Report" (Bantam, 1969) tried to sell this idea to the public. Disconcertingly, the accusation comes not from the obnoxious Condon but from the conscientious William Hartmann who, in the body of the report, infuriated Condon by authenticating the McMinnville photographs of a huge flying disc. According to Hartmann, the Maury Island incident was a hoax involving Crisman, Dahl, and "the investigator" (i.e., Arnold). One witness (Dahl) who vanished, another (Crisman) who vanished but, as we have seen, very briefly turned up again years later only to vanish once more, and an "investigator" still reeling from the shock and excitement of his own epochal sighting near Mount Rainier (Arnold) were the alleged hoaxers. One wishes that Arnold had been more litigious ---- or that his lawyers had been more vigilant. They might, belatedly, care to peruse pp.79-80 of the Condon "Report".

It is difficult to see what point such a hoax had. None of the alleged participants gained anything out of it at all; indeed, rather the reverse.

In "UFOs Exist" (Ballantyne, 1976), Paris Flammonde argues strongly that the incident was an "intelligence scenario":

"If deception was a programmed policy, it is possible that no one could conceive of a publically acceptable solution (to the UFO mystery). In that event, the power clique might intentionally take the path of greatest incredibility, quite reasonably assuming that this would create the widest conflict of opinion and the most durable state of genuine confusion... Masses never act with reason; that is the prerogative of the rare individual." (Op.cit., p.172)

So the Maury Island event was set up --- and so was the unfortunate Kenneth Arnold. Consider the following sequence of events -- outlined in chapters 9 and 10 of Flammonde's book, and drawn from Arnold's own account published in the book he co-authored with Ray Palmer, "The Coming of the Saucers" (Amherst Press, 1952).

After failing to get a room in several hotels, Arnold found that he had been registered by an unknown benefactor in a specific room of a preselected hotel. Extensive leaks to the press concerning Arnold's investigation strongly indicated that the room was bugged. In addition, it proved to contain the only phone book in Tacoma to list Dahl's name and number. Doctoring books by inserting spurious pages is an expensive but commonplace feature of intelligence activity. Another (now) commonplace feature of intelligence operations is the setting up of "safe houses" in derelict or abandoned properties. This is what Dahl seems to have done. Arnold was allowed to view only two rooms of Dahl's tiny dilapidated property -- a small hallway, in which a "secretary" was working, surrounded by documents, and a living room crammed with old, possibly second-hand, furniture. When, much later, Arnold called round to bid Dahl farewell, he was astonished to find that the house was deserted and gave every appearance of having been empty for years.

Arnold, and his co-investigator, Capt.E.J.Smith, were uneasy about the story told by Crisman and Dahl, particularly when the "white metal foil" described by the men proved to be aluminium chips, some of which had recognizable rivet-holes. They decided to call in the two Army Intelligence officers with whom Arnold had had dealings in connexion with his own sighting. Dahl gloomily predicted that

"this whole business is going to end up in a lot of bad luck for somebody", and sure enough it did -- or seemed to. The Intelligence men professed incredulity, though they agreed to accept a box of debris provided by Crisman. Declining, for suspiciously nebulous reasons, to stay the night in Tacoma, the men boarded their B-25, which crashed at 1.30 a.m. Two enlisted men aboard the plane were hustled out in parachutes, but the intelligence men, it is alleged, went down with their ship, setting off a further train of sinister and fantastic speculations. Dahl and Crisman vanished into the woodwork, though the authorities were later to claim that they had been quizzed, and had admitted to perpetrating a futile and, in the event, tragic hoax.

Flammonde assumes that the intelligence men really did die, and he may indeed have access to conclusive evidence to this effect. Meanwhile, I am inclined to be sceptical; the tragic crash fits the scenario too well. Bear in mind that the officers opted to travel in darkness rather than spend the night in Tacoma; the enlisted men were hustled out before they were in danger or there were any signs that the aeroplane was in difficulties; indeed, they subsequently reported that the aircraft continued flying normally for a full ten minutes before beginning its terminal dive. Did the intelligence officers die at the controls? It is an undisputed fact that parachutes are harder to see in the dark than in daylight; subsequently, unauthorized personnel were kept well away from the wreckage on the grounds that the plane had been carrying a classified cargo.

After the crash, Major Sander from McChord Air Force base visited Arnold and Smith and insisted on taking away every last piece of alleged UFO debris --- assuring them meanwhile that they were the victims of a hoax. If so, what sort of hoax?

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"SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE"

by

J.B. D e l a i r

It may not have escaped the notice of informed ufologists that, although I have examined many aspects of ufology in over a score of earlier articles, I have hardly ever mentioned MIBs ("Men in Black"). This should be taken as signifying a disinterest in MIBs or a lack of awareness of them (how can one remain ignorant of MIBs when practically every book of note on the ufo phenomenon refers to them?), but rather as a genuine reluctance on my part to commit to print views and notes that until now have made little sense or could not be substantiated. In the latter connection it should be emphasized that, although much has been written about MIBs and more spoken about them, in reality very little is truly known about them on a factual basis. In ufological circles, MIBs are either written-off as figments of over-worked imaginations or the products of paranoid authors, or are wholeheartedly embraced by gullible individuals and those desirous of investing ufology with dark mystery. Burden's article preceding the present one shows that the probable truth lies somewhere midway between these extremes (as indeed we could expect), and for the first time enables us to examine the MIB problem in some sort of reasonable perspective. This article, artful though it may seem to some, does not pretend to do more than probe certain aspects of the MIBs and as such is no more than a series of pertinent queries and speculations. It certainly does not solve the question of just who, precisely, the MIBs are.

Burden appears to have demonstrated with reasonable clarity, that at least some MIBs are connected with the "intelligence community" and that, in the main, their

activities are confined to the USA and, perhaps, Canada and Mexico. If true, this interpretation undoubtedly accounts for the otherwise inexplicable and often bizarre behaviour attributed to MIBs by numerous recipients of their activities. Acceptance of that interpretation, however, raises many questions, of which some are examined below.

Assuming that MIBs are intelligence operatives, their reported general appearance and methods seem to be the very antithesis of what one would expect of individuals engaged in essentially covert operations. Their style of dress and mode of transport is, in the majority of reported cases, anything but discreet. Indeed, one could go so far as to suppose that a secretly active organization would scarcely ever be reported by even the most harrassed or disconcerted victims of their attention were the operatives attired in common-place clothes and equipped with unmarked vehicles of widely varying ages and colours and styles. Under such circumstances the entire operation would be thoroughly anonymous, and the operatives, far from being conspicuous in their dress and mode of transport, would be so unremarkable as to be practically indescribable. But an adherence to black attire and old but still wonderfully new-looking cars by MIBs generates a conspicuousness that their activities would not seem to warrant. The entire "set-up" is contradictory, and almost akin to dispatching a secret agent on some classified mission by providing him with an Aston Martin and dressing him in light belted raincoat, a snap-brim trilby, and equipping him with dark glasses and a giant magnifying-glass.

Burden touches upon this very preposterousness, and has concluded that it is a deliberate MIB policy to behave in this fashion. After all, tell a big enough lie and people will refuse to believe it, ultimately dismissing the liar as a crank. Adolf Hitler exploited that method very successfully before humanity realised that he was actually serious. Are MIBs persuing the same general policy of deception, perhaps on the grounds that they could get away with it purely because nobody would believe that a repetition of Hitler's ploy would be attempted? I hasten to add that MIBs do not appear to be cultivating Hitlerian or Nazi doctrines, only that they could be using Hitlerian methods of deception.

The real question is, if such methods are being adopted then there must be a very important reason behind them necessitating their implementation. Burden has also indicated that MIBs appear to have high government backing, which must include funding. To allocate obviously sizeable chunks of the national budget to finance MIB operations suggests that a critical factor underlies the very existence of MIBs. Does that factor genuinely have connections with UFOs? Let us explore this possibility further, at the same time remembering Burden's suggestion that UFO oriented MIB activity may merely amount to no more than MIB "training exercises" preparatory to the more deadly work of international espionage.

A possible clue to whether UFOs underlie the existence of MIBs may derive from an analysis of the very perplexing Maury Island episode, which Burden has discussed. It is true that Burden and Flammonde adhere to the MIB involvement in that case as being part of an "intelligence scenario", while the late Captain Ruppelt ("The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects", Ace Books, 1956, see pp.40-41) asserted it was a hoax --- merely on the sayso of, apparently, Dahl and Crisman --- and H.T.Wilkins ("Flying Saucers From the Moon", Peter Owen, 1954, see pp.53-65) concluded that the case was officially suppressed and that there was a cover-up. Now the only reliable source of information concerning the Maury Island case is that set forth in "The Coming of the Saucers", which the principal investigator, Kenneth Arnold, coauthored with Ray Palmer. Palmer's involvement in this case is controversial, but as he appears to have been the publisher not the author of the

greater part of the text (note that Harold T. Wilkins contributed most of the contents of chapters 8 to 11 in this book), we can probably rely on Arnold's accuracy with very considerable confidence. Wilkins seems to have carried out some original investigative research on his own, and his version of the affair bears close study even though he did not, it seems, actually go to Tacoma in person. Ruppelt's statement was based very largely upon USAF files, which are known to have been at variance with the details described by Arnold and Palmer. Wilkins actually castigates the USAF in its handling of the case, it being realised even in the early 1950's that officialdom had mishandled the evidence. Ruppelt's account of the Maury Island affair is not, therefore, too trustworthy. It should, therefore, be upon Arnold's testimony that we judge and interpret the events surrounding this fascinating case, and accept that events happened as he described them.

That MIBs should have been involved in this case at all may well have been due to the reasons put forward by Flammonde and, now, Burden, i.e., that it was some kind of "field training exercise" for intelligence operatives, and that the ufo theme was used deliberately because it was then already "emotive" and, simultaneously, growing at a very fast rate --- perhaps too fast for officialdom to ignore. Just possibly a decision was taken in some government agency to scotch this ufo business before it got too far. By why scotch something that was apparently only just emerging (at least for the public) and which was then still hardly known? This raises the possibility that certain government agencies already knew about ufos, and that, even by 1947, were alarmed at Man's inability to match their recorded performances and characteristics. In this light, the Maury Island MIBs can be seen as agents sent out to discredit Kenneth Arnold (who, remember, had only just become famous through his own Mount Rainier experience, and was a civilian "expert") and thereby lay the entire ufo business so far as the public would be concerned.

As we now know, the scheme failed, a plane crashed, intelligence officers and reputed UFO debris disappeared (Burden is very probably correct in his reconstruction of what happened to the intelligence officers at the time their B-25 crashed), Dahl and Crisman vanished, and Arnold and Capt. Smith were left with an insoluble mess on their hands. But, and this is surely very relevant, the dates of the alleged Maury Island sightings occurred right in the middle of a veritable blizzard of ufo observations made in the USA during late June and throughout most of July 1947 (see T. Bloecher's "Report on the UFO Wave of 1947", privately published in 1967); and at 11.45 a.m. on the same day (June 21st.) several unknown flying objects, silvery, flashing, and with slim outlines, were sighted over Spokane, in Washington State, USA. (loc. cit.). Bloecher records that this sighting originally was on USAF files, and that the first writer to publish a reference to it was Donald Keyhoe ("Flying Saucers Are Real", 1952, pp.24). Thus, neither Dahl, nor Crisman, let alone Arnold or Smith, could have known of this near simultaneous observation of a group of unknown flying objects. The first Maury Island sighting is said to have occurred about 2.0 p.m. (Arnold and Palmer: Op. cit., p.31), while Spokane, of course, is only some 160 miles E. of Puget Sound and Tacoma. Moreover inner-tube shaped objects, such as were allegedly seen over Maury Island, would, when seen edge-on, appear to be elongated slim objects. One must also remember the fact that on June 21st the term "flying saucer" had not been coined, while the other early term "flying disc" had still to be commonly applied to these objects. Significantly, neither the Spokane objects nor the Maury Island objects were likened by witnesses to discs or saucers.

Nor should one overlook the fact that until Bloecher researched the 1947 ufo wave its size and distribution remained unknown to even researching ufologists and almost certainly unappreciated by the USAF, whose ufo files for the period in question were never very large. On the other hand, the huge majority of the many hund-

reds of ufo sightings tracked down by Bloecher had been published by numberless provincial papers in the USA on or shortly after the actual dates of observation. The majority of these reports never received national coverage and very quickly fell into a kind of limbo, not to be resurrected until Bloecher's effort during the 1960's. But any intelligence agency charged with national security may well have systematically monitored American newspapers for reports of unusual aerial phenomenon, and was, perhaps, independently of the USAF, busily amassing cuttings of these published accounts. That such covert monitoring may well have been taking place somewhere is suggested by the US Army's interest in the so-called "ghost rockets" of Scandinavia and the Balkans during the preceding summer (1946), and the fact that two United States experts on aerial warfare, Gen. James Doolittle and David Sarnoff were despatched to Sweden to discuss the mystery objects with military personnel in Stockholm (see Loren E. Gross. "The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets", privately published in 1974, see pp.21-22). These ghost rockets, were successors to the "foo-fighters" seen by aircrews of all combatants during the latter years of WWII, and, like the ghost rockets, have never been satisfactorily explained. Both foo-fighters and ghost rockets exhibited very advanced technical capabilities, some that we have still not been able to emulate. Their presence in Earth's skies not only interested aerial warfare experts but must have alarmed security agencies only just recovering from the problems generated by WWII. Such men were at that time peculiarly sensitive to the appearance of such unknown objects, and almost certainly must have done their best to monitor and record their reported manifestations. Certainly the Swedish military authorities tracked down over 1000 ghost rocket sightings over Sweden alone in 1946 (Loc.cit., p.31). The list compiled of these sightings at the time has never been released or published.

That American intelligence units could have been monitoring unknown airborne objects still earlier, seems more than possible in view of the fact that as early as June 1st., 1945, not long after the end of WWII, a shiny tubular object having a blue tail flame sped over the town of Morganton in North Carolina (loc.cit., p.5). Various other unidentified flying things were observed in American skies during 1945. Surely they would have been of special interest to the US military authorities: after all, hadn't the Germans lost WWII? The Japanese were not known to have possessed comparable rockets, and, in any case, hadn't they lost their Pacific War too? Who, then, was responsible for firing off these missiles? It is a matter of history that initially the Russians were blamed; but as investigations into that possibility showed that the objects had no Soviet connections, military personnel in several countries must, by the end of 1946, have reached other conclusions, e.i., the objects must be extraterrestrial. Naturally nothing was publicly announced on this score, and to all intents and purposes humanity remained blissfully unaware of these visitors until Kenneth Arnold's sensational 1947 sighting occurred and the term "flying saucer" was born.

It is not unreasonable, however, to hazard a guess that intelligence units were industriously compiling records of all unknown post-WWII aerial objects from at least 1945 onwards, and had perhaps begun with the "foo-fighters" of 1943 and 1944. By 1947 they could very well have been more than aware of the potential seriousness of Arnold's sighting and the whole "flying saucer" business. This agency, of whom the MIBs appear to be representatives, would therefore have viewed the early June 1947 American ufo sightings with growing consternation, so that by the time Arnold's report became headline news and the "flying saucer craze" was born they were determined to try and discredit the entire subject until such time as military and scientific experts could discover the true nature of ufos.

It is my conclusion that at least a part of the Maury Island event was related to a genuine ufo sighting, that the rest was a hoax grafted onto it, and that there

were indeed cover-up attempts perpetrated after the B-25 crashed. From the intelligence point of view, neither Arnold nor Smith emerged with radically tarnished reputations, the former in fact going on to become something of a celebrity. Nonetheless, enough mud had been thrown at the embryonic ufo theme via the Maury Island case to apparently satisfy the intelligence community for at least a while. The blizzard of published local ufo sightings in June and July 1947 passed virtually unnoticed by the public while the intelligence units we suggest may have monitored them probably began to smile with relief as the blizzard came to an end. It would not, however, surprise this writer to learn that they had been correlating the reports, and that even in the summer of 1947 they knew very much more about ufos than they admitted or have ever subsequently admitted. The very nature of their work would have virtually demanded that they knew the situation, perhaps even on a day to day basis.

MIBs, therefore, undoubtedly exist; but they are not as some have surmised aliens but trained intelligence operatives from some covert security organization, very much along the lines suggested by Burden. Such a conclusion inevitably leads to a supposition that a gigantic false denial or cover-up is and has for decades been going on at some high official level, and that an interest in ufos in military and security circles predates the Arnold sighting and originated in the later stages of WWII. In recent years much has been said about cover-ups concerning ufos. It would seem that there are considerable grounds for subscribing to such a belief.

The foregoing does not satisfactorily explain the preference by MIBs for black, new-looking old style cars, except, of course, if a serious on-going investigative programme involving MIBs was initiated in the late months of say 1944 or 1945, a pool of cars specially reserved for the use of personnel connected with that programme may have been assembled from vehicles then currently the latest models. A "sanitisation" programme, like that described by Burden, could perpetuate the use of seemingly unused old cars, just as witnesses have reported. Certainly the cars can hardly come from car-hire firms, such as Burden suggests, because no car-hire company could by law issue a customer with a vehicle having a non-issued license plate. Moreover, how many car-hire companies are there that would not offer customers modern up-to-date machines? To offer an old vehicle, even if in pristine condition, would be a move calculated to raise a customer's eyebrows up a few notches. I would suggest, therefore, that the possibility of a car-hire connection existing in this whole syndrome is unlikely in the extreme. In some ways the recent diminution of MIB reports suggests that their former old cars are either too aged now or too conspicuous to be used.

There are many additional aspects of MIBs remaining to be clarified. Perhaps they never will be. Only time will tell.

READERS' LETTERS

Below is a selection of letters received from members since the publication of the last issue of "Awareness". Some of the letters deal with topics previously aired in this section, other break new ground. Those of you who can respond to the writers please do so.

"Dear Mr Passey,

I take this opportunity to express my opinion that Contact's magazine is both interesting and enjoyable to myself as a new member. I also feel that if you were to have Awareness typeset and printed professionally, as was suggested by a reader

recently, it would lose a certain amount of it's individuality and "personality".

I look forward to your reply with anticipation,

Yours faithfully,
B.Pilkington-Tolley (Mr.)"

EDITOR:

This writer, who deserves replies from interested members, lives at 104 Temple Street, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9BJ.

* * * * *

"Dear Editor,

After years of trying to find out "Where" or "How" I have no managed to join Contact International, this week to be exact, and I thought you would be interested to know that I have written to Mrs B.Chittenden of Pine-Town, South Africa.my son lives there, and I have lived there also, and know Pine-Town well, so I hope she feels that I might make a suitable correspondent.

In conclusion, are there please any members of Contact in Hemel Hempstead or near who would like to contact me. If so I would be pleased to hear from them.

Yours sincerely,
D.I.Davies (Mrs.)"

EDITOR:

Mrs Davies lives at 17 Bayford Close, Woodhall Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., so get out your pens and paper everyone in that area and drop a line to Mrs Davies soon.

* * * * *

" Dear Mr Delair,

May I take this opportunity of saying what an excellent magazine "Awareness" is, even though it is not printed by expensive methods. It always manages to include different kinds of ufo material with issue. This is good because reading just another ufo report, after you have read 500 of them, is boring and not very helpful since if you cannot explain one sighting properly you are unable to explain later ones either. A sighting only gives a glimpse of a very small part of the phenomenon and cannot therefore provide the answer to the ufo problem. The summaries and patterns given in "Awareness" from time to time give a better overall ufo picture.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Grange."

* * * * *

"Dear Editor,

In reply to letters that have appeared in 'Awareness' concerning the rights and wrongs of the works of Erich von Daniken; for many people such as myself the books of Erich von Daniken were the first step down the road to the unknown. My family were never religious fanatics but we regularly went to church. I, like them and many millions of people around the world believed whole heartedly that the words in the Bible came directly from God himself. Conditioned or maybe programmed as we all have been down many generations not to wonder and not to question. For me, the fiery chariots and fantastic miracle-like machines that glide through the pages of the Bible were just that -- miracles. I didn't ever stop to think that the machines of yesterday could have any connection with the UFOs of today.

From the first moment I picked up 'Chariots of the Gods' I suppose you could say the blinds were drawn back and I could read the Bible and other such books again but with new eyes. For now I was able to question.

Maybe I will never know if the theories brought out by Erich von Daniken in his books are right or wrong, or if all they succeed in doing is to make people like me stop, think, and question for the first time. If they do only that they can't be all a waste of time.

Yours sincerely,
A.W.Price (Mr.)"

EDITOR:

If previous comments on von Daniken's publications have seemed over-harsh to some, this is regretted. There are few doubts that von Daniken is sincere in his beliefs but unfortunately many of his ideas and theories are constructed out of snippets of information of dubious authenticity or which have been wrenched out of their true original contexts. This has been repeatedly proved by large numbers of individuals, and as such the resultant hypotheses, nice though they undoubtedly seem, must inevitably be based upon very unsure ground. Having said that, it is also a fact that von Daniken's books have probably led more people to develop an interest in UFOs than any other set of publications since the appearance of "Flying Saucers have Landed". From that point of view, von Daniken's efforts have been truly splendid.

Perhaps other members will let us have their views -- for and against -- concerning von Daniken's productions. Mr Price, by the way, resides at 68 Shrubbery Avenue, Barbourne, Worcester, WR1 1QP.

* * * * *

"Dear Sir,

It amazes me that some so-called UFOLOGISTS claim that UFOs are linked with Witchcraft and Devil Worship. Let's hope this is a temporary phase. Let's get this subject (UFOs) back to Earth. There is and never will be any parallel between these two subjects.

Devil Worship and black magic are all linked with evil. Yet we are asked to believe that UFOs go in hand with Witchcraft, yet time and again when we hear of messages from UFONAUTS we are told that they come in Peace and Love. They try to show mankind their follies of warfare, be it physical or bacteriological. There is a complete dissemination of facts involved in this subject and I fear that those UFOLOGISTS would best be given to writing science fiction like Azimov and co. So wake up; let's get it right. UFOs and UFONAUTS are coming here for the sole purpose of helping Man, not taking his soul and putting it into damnation. I don't tell your readers to accept this as it stands, but when somebody can prove without a shadow of a doubt that UFOs are connected with Witchcraft then I may change my mind. But I am afraid that no one will.

Yours faithfully,
B.Pedley (Mr.)".

EDITOR:

Mr Pedley gives considerable food for thought. Do other members have views on this subject? If so, please send in your letters for publication. On a personal note, I would suggest that it might be a trifle naive to believe that UFOs all emanate from a single source, and are thus all evil or all good. A wide range of ufo occupants has been reported. They may come from different origins, and, if so, could very well be pursuing differing policies, which, because of our ignorance of their ways, might seem either evil or benign to us, but which in reality may be neither.

* * * * *

"Dear Mr Delair,

I am writing to you concerning the sighting on page 58 of the UFO Register, vol.9, parts 1-2. Against the date 29th December is a sighting from an L1011 airliner. I would like to bring to your notice that this flight ended in disaster.

Flight 401 crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing 101 passengers.

Would it be possible to see a more detailed report of this UFO sighting from flight 401 published in our magazine?

The book called "THE GHOST OF FLIGHT 401", written by John G. Fuller, and published by Corgi may be of interest to our members. It certainly was to me. Perhaps our UFO counterparts in the USA could help.

Yours sincerely,

D.K. Clark (Mr.)".

EDITOR:

This sounds like a good idea and we will see what can be done to comply with what we suspect is not Mr Clark's wish only. Incidentally, those of you who have not read Mr Fuller's book just cited should do so soon.

* * * * *

"Dear Sir,

What are your views on a British government cover-up concerning UFOs? I think there is one and has been for long. I think the military people are scared stiff at being unable to find a solution to UFOs, which are obviously so much more powerful than our best machines and weapons. Surely the British military machine does not work in such an isolated fashion as to be divorced from that in the USA, where we know there has been a cover-up on UFOs. By implication there must also be a British UFO cover-up. If so, then why is the French government, which is part of NATO, funding a public enquiry into UFOs? can you tell me?

Yours faithfully,

Allan P. Trethwick."

EDITOR:

I am sorry I cannot give you an answer Mr Trethwick. Contact International (UK) is, however, working on the problem, and various "leads" that might resolve at least some of your queries are being followed up. You will appreciate that this kind of detective work is somewhat "delicate" and takes time very often to bear fruit. Immediately we receive concrete evidence of a British cover-up on UFOs we will indeed publish it in this journal. Many of us agree with your conclusions, you may be heartened to learn.

ADVERTISEMENTS & PUBLICITY

News from Essex-based "EARTHLINK" magazine is to hand to the effect that:-

- a) The 'Essex UFO STUDY GROUP' no longer exists, and,
- b) The new subscription rates for EARTHLINK magazine are as follows:

<u>U.K.</u>	£2.75p.(adults), £2.00p.(under 16) for 4 issues. Single copy 70p.
Overseas.	£4.00p. for 4 issues. Single copy £1.00p. Prices include p.& p.

All monies are payable to "EARTHLINK" magazine, and should be sent to 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, RM9 5JR, Essex.

THE CHRISTIAN UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION exists to help.

Mounting evidence indicates malevolent purposes underlying at least some ufo activity. Many are unaware of this and are unprepared for it when it occurs. If you require further information or have already experienced unpleasant ufo events, do please contact the Rev.E.Inglesby at Spring Cottage, West End Gardens, Fairford, Glos., GL7 4JB. Remember CHRUFORA exists to help.

B O O K R E V I E W S

As in previous months, books about ufos and related topics continue to roll off the world's printing presses, and it is impossible read and review all of them in the short interval separating one issue of "Awareness" from another. Nevertheless, some significant new contributions have appeared recently which are critically assessed below.

"The House of Lords UFO Debate" by Lord Clancarty and notes by John Michell. Open Head Press (London), 1979.

Illustrated; pp.118.

Price: £2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 95p.

On January 18th., 1979, Lord Clancarty (perhaps better known as Brinsley Le Poer Trench) inaugurated a now famous debate on UFOs in the House of Lords, Westminster. The public gallery was exceptionally full, and rather larger than usual attendance of peers was also present on that occasion. The debate lasted for some three and a half hours, during which period some very interesting and sometimes opposite points of view were expressed. So much did this debate take the public's imagination that next day every copy of Hansard, which detailed the debate, were sold out --- and long before potential purchasers of it had all been accommodated. That was virtually unprecedented.

Now, Lord Clancarty, in conjunction with ufo author John Michell, have reprinted the entire debate again, this time replete with marginal notes, autobiographic information concerning each of the participants in the debate, and a series of nicely chosen photographs to illustrate specific cases mentioned in the text. The result is laudable in the extreme.

This is not the place to reiterate even the principal points made during the debate, as practically every ufo magazine of note in the country gave generous coverage to the occasion last Spring and Summer, and to do so again here would be tedious and even unnecessary. But those who failed the first time to obtain a contemporary copy of Hansard may now acquire this somewhat better (large type) edition which, of course, is illustrated such as Hansard never was. The debate will go down as an historic occasion in British ufology, so a copy of this little book should be in the possession of every serious ufologist. Highly recommended.

The Open Head Press operates from 2 Blenheim Crescent, London, W11 1MN.

JBD.

"Les Apparitions d'Humanoides", by Eric Zurcher.

Editions Alain Lefevre (Nice), 1979.

Illustrated; pp.338.

Price not announced.

Although printed in French, this tome is destined to be a most important contribution to the ufo literature since it details 202 French ufo landings with occupants, ranging in time from 1906 to late 1977. It is to be hoped that an English language edition of it will appear shortly.

The various cases are fully documented, treated systematically, and form the basis for various types of graphs which throw much new light on ufo occupant cases in general. There are many drawings of different ufo occupant types, and many more of such occupants viewed through windows and doors of airborne or landed ufos. Maps also show where the landings have occurred in France. Sections are devoted to ground traces, and to the effects on human and animal witnesses, etc. All in all a very comprehensive effort, replete with a special chronological

list of ufo landing and occupant cases for France compiled by Alain Gamard, who needs no introduction to members of Contact International (UK).

Each chapter is rounded off with notes and references, and there is an appendix in which a reference (or references) for every case is provided. There is no index, so that it is sometimes difficult to find a particular case if one happens to have forgotten the date on which it occurred. Those who read French, or can get a translation made, should make a special effort to read this book. They will be richly rewarded for making the effort.

Unfortunately there appears to be no price printed on the review copy before me, so all would-be buyers are urged to write direct to the publisher at the following address: Editions Alain Lefevre, 29 Rue Pastorelli, 06000 Nice, France.

JBD.

"The UFO Phenomenon", by Johannes von Buttler.

Sidgwick and Jackson (London), 1979.

Pp.260.

Price £6.95p.

On picking up this soberly headed book one has great expectations of its contents. What a let down. Perhaps a skip through it is too fascile, so one starts again in detail and systematically. The initial impression, sad to relate, is thereby magnified many times over. So many errors, ludicrous new interpretations of cases already solved and well documented, and incredible omissions occur in this book that one plods through it with increasing dismay. The overall impression is of someone hastily cobbling together a ufo book on the basis of the first five or six tomes that fall to hand, and jumping onto the ufo publishing band-waggon. The result in this case is awesomely purile. I must confess to having read one or two other independent reviews of this book in other ufo journals, where most damning appraisals were published. I was, in fact, curious to find out how biased or unbiased those reviews actually were. On actually reading this volume not only did I realize that I was wasting my time, but that those other reviews, harsh though they were, were almost being kind. So I will be kind (to my readers) and waste no more time and space here on a book that quite frankly I cannot recommend on any score. It is to be hoped that this reputable publisher makes emends by engaging a knowledgeable author to write a proper ufo book for them, perhaps in the not too distant future.

JBD.

"FURTHER NEWS ON THE FREDERICK VALENTICH CASE"

by

D.Reneke

Mr D.Reneke of Sydney, Australia, is credited with advising us of an interesting further development in the now well-known Frederick Valentich disappearance case. Neither he or ourselves can vouch for the validity of the new information, but it is reproduced here as follows from the "Sun" (Australia) of April 23rd., 1979.

"Lost UFO Pilot 'Talks' at Seance".

A psychic group today claimed it had made contact at a seance with an Australian pilot who disappeared in a UFO incident about six months ago. The leader of the group, Mr Colin Amery, said Mr Frederick Valentich, who went missing while piloting a light plane over Bass Strait, gave them five pieces of information. Mr Amery claimed the pilot told them: He was quite safe - He was now a light body - His plane was in another dimension - He was working with people from the Great Bear Constellation - And that the Melbourne tape (a recording of the pilot's

conversation with airport control) was inaccurate in that it had one and a half minutes missing.

Mr Amery said the Dunedin group was in contact with Mr Valentich for about eight minutes".

Members will recall that we highlighted the Valentich case in vol.7, no:3 (Autumn) 1978 of "Awareness", shortly after it was headline news in newspapers all over the world. This latest information, while startling, is not exactly confirmable. Nonetheless, one should not forget the authentic but remarkable Bloxham tapes of seemingly genuine contacts with other lives previously led by living people, or the equally extraordinary other-realm contacts detailed with abundant corroboratory data in "The Airmen Who Would Not Die" by John G.Fuller (reviewed in the Winter 1979 issue of "Awareness"). Such material, real or otherwise, is accumulating to the point where we dismiss the Amery assertion given above at our peril. We all await further developments (if any) with great interest.

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