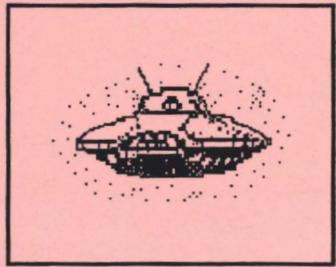
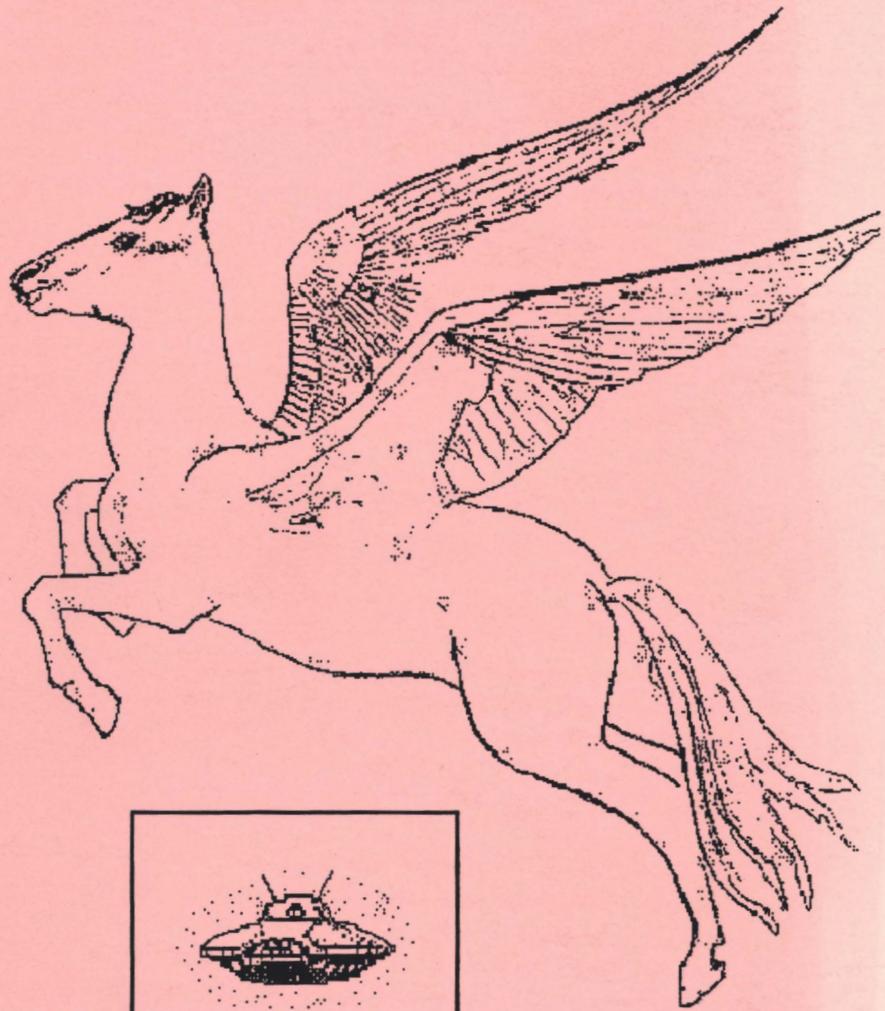


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PEGASUS



Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena

Chairman:
GORDON MILLINGTON
(gordonmill@lineone.net)

Vice-Chairmen:
PAUL WHITEHEAD
IAN WHEATLEY

Web-site: <http://users.tinyonline.co.uk/sigap/>

126 Grange Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU2 9QP
TEL/FAX: 01483 - 821040

THE LEGACY OF SUMER

Sumer was the first recorded human civilisation. If there were societies preceding the Sumerians, they have vanished without a trace. Humanity as we define it was developed in the area between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, now mostly modern Iraq. These Sumerians knew a great deal. Long before western astronomers discovered them, they were familiar with all the planets of our solar system and their satellites.

From them we have inherited the double twelve in our count of the daily hours, the sixty seconds and minutes, and the 360 degrees of the circle and square. These numbers arose from the sexagesimal system derived from the 3,600 earth years required by the planet Nibiru to complete its elliptical orbit round our sun, and were part of the wisdom imparted to the Sumerians by its inhabitants, whom they regarded as gods. They are the best documented extraterrestrials currently known to mankind, thanks almost entirely to the work of the historian Zecharia Sitchin.

The perigee of their planet, Nibiru, occurs in the asteroid belt and will occur again 3,600 years after the Flood, which is said to have been caused by the gravitic action of Nibiru on the unstable antarctic ice cap. The task of astronomers now scanning the Southern skies in search of Nibiru is not an easy one because of its angle of travel, but the approach of a large planet known to be inhabited by an advanced humanoid race which once colonised our planet must be of importance to all the present occupants of Earth.

G.M.

Our Galaxy Should Be Teeming With Civilizations; But Where Are They?

By Seth Shostak, Astronomer, Project Phoenix posted: 07:01 am ET 25 October 2001
Is there obvious proof that we could be alone in the Galaxy? Enrico Fermi thought so -- and he was a pretty smart guy. Might he have been right?

It's been a hundred years since Fermi, an icon of physics, was born (and nearly a half-century since he died). He's best remembered for building a working atomic reactor in a squash court. But in 1950, Fermi made a seemingly innocuous lunchtime remark that has caught and held the attention of every SETI researcher since. (How many luncheon quips have you made with similar consequence?)

The remark came while Fermi was discussing with his mealtime mates the possibility that many sophisticated societies populate the Galaxy. They thought it reasonable to assume that we have a lot of cosmic company. But somewhere between one sentence and the next, Fermi's supple brain realised that if this was true, it implied something profound. If there are really a lot of alien societies, then some of them might have spread out.

Fermi realised that any civilisation with a modest amount of rocket technology and an immodest amount of imperial incentive could rapidly colonise the entire Galaxy. Within ten million years, every star system could be brought under the wing of empire. Ten million years may sound long, but in fact it's quite short compared with the age of the Galaxy, which is roughly ten *thousand* million years. Colonisation of the Milky Way should be a quick exercise.

So what Fermi immediately realised was that the aliens have had more than enough time to pepper the Galaxy with their presence. But looking around, he didn't see any clear indication that they're out and about. This prompted Fermi to ask what was (to him) an obvious question: "Where is everybody?"

This sounds a bit silly at first. The fact that aliens don't seem to be walking our planet apparently implies that there are no extraterrestrials anywhere among the vast tracts of the Galaxy. Many researchers consider this to be a radical conclusion to draw from such a simple observation. Surely there is a straightforward explanation for what has become known as the Fermi Paradox. There must be some way to account for our apparent loneliness in a galaxy that we assume is filled with other clever beings.

A lot of folks have given this thought. The first thing they note is that the Fermi Paradox is a remarkably strong argument. You can quibble about the speed of alien spacecraft, and whether they can move at 1 percent of the speed of light or 10 percent of the speed of light. It doesn't matter. You can argue about how long it would take for a new star colony to spawn colonies of its own.

It still doesn't matter. Any halfway reasonable assumption about how fast colonisation could take place still ends up with time scales that are profoundly shorter than the age of the Galaxy. It's like having a heated discussion about whether Spanish ships of the 16th century could heave along at two knots or twenty. Either way they could speedily colonise the Americas.

Consequently, scientists in and out of the SETI community have conjured up other arguments to deal with the conflict between the idea that aliens should be everywhere and our failure (so far) to find them. In the 1980s, dozens of papers were published to address the Fermi Paradox. They considered technical and sociological arguments for why the aliens weren't hanging out nearby. Some even insisted that there was no paradox at all: the reason we don't see evidence of extraterrestrials is because there aren't any.

This puzzle has burned up a lot of cerebrum cycles when scientists tried to reconcile the lack of company with the expectation that there are many advanced alien societies.

NOT ENOUGH MONEY?

One possible explanation is that interstellar travel is just too costly. Consider how expensive it would be for us to populate another star system. Imagine sending a small rocket to Alpha Centauri, one that's the size of the Mayflower (180 tons, with 102 pilgrims on board). Your intention is to get this modest interstellar ark to our nearest stellar neighbour in 50 years, which requires about 150 billion billion joules of energy.

No one's sure what aliens pay for energy, but here on Earth the going rate is about 10 cents a kilowatt-hour. So the transportation bill per pilgrim would be \$40 billion.

That's a lot of moolah, a lot more than it takes to buy each emigrant a few thousand six-bedroom palaces and set him up for life. The fact that the trip is costly, in whatever currency, is reason enough to deter any alien society from trying to settle distant real estate. With far less expenditure, the extraterrestrials could pursue the good life at home.

NOT ENOUGH STAMINA?

Of course, if energy costs can be brought way down, for example with fusion or matter-antimatter technology, or by capturing more of the radiation spewed into space by the home star, this explanation might not hold water.

But even if the aliens can afford colonisation, maybe they haven't got the stamina to see it through. Subduing the galaxy takes more than sending a ship full of restless nomads to the next star. The nomads have to settle that star, and then spawn pilgrims of their own. And those émigrés have to produce yet more settlers. And so on. If each and every colony eventually founds two daughter settlements (a pretty decent accomplishment), then 38 generations of colonists are required to bring the entire galaxy under control. Even the Polynesians, who

swept across the western Pacific domesticating one island after another, didn't manage this. Maybe the aliens can't do it either.

On the other hand, if a few of them remain committed to expansion, their project might still succeed — just more slowly.

ARE THEY LYING LOW?

Some researchers suggest that the galaxy is colonised, but we just don't notice. Arthur C. Clarke pointed out that truly advanced engineering projects would be indistinguishable from magic. Perhaps the evidence of alien presence is so beyond us that we simply don't recognise it (somewhat like mice in the Louvre checking out the Mona Lisa). Another thought is that the aliens find Earth an interesting nature park, and have arranged matters so that, while they can observe us, we can't observe them. The idea that we may be some aliens' high-tech ecological exhibit is called the "zoo hypothesis."

These explanations, and a bushel-basket more, have been proffered to deal with the Fermi Paradox. Any of them might be true. Nonetheless, some scientists find them too contrived, too unlikely to work in every case. Will *all* the aliens find colonisation too costly? Will they *all* run out of empirical steam? Are we so special that someone has really gone to the trouble to put us behind invisible bars?

Or is there a much simpler explanation?

Seth Shostak is an astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif. You can read some of his earlier dispatches in MSNBC's "Looking for Life" section, or in Space.com's "Arecibo Diary."

Interview with Georgina Bruni

by Alex Trelinski, BBC Radio West Midlands, 31/8/01

Transcribed 1/2 September 2001 by Joe McGonagle

This version is edited to remove spurious words such as "you know", "um", "er", stutters, etc. I have attempted to maintain the original meaning and context throughout. The original transcription has been retained for reference.

[AT]- Tell us a bit more about this title first, "You can't tell the people", where did you get that from?

[GB]- Well that was an answer, given to me by Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, when I asked her about, UFOs, and she came back and said "Well, you have to have the facts, and you can't tell the people." So, we thought that was a great title for the book.

[AT]- But what a fascinating reply, a reply that leads to a million more questions, doesn't it?

[GB]- It does indeed, yes, yes it certainly does.

[AT]- Very interesting. So therefore, one gets the distinct impression that "Lady T" knew a lot.

[GB]- I think she did, and she repeated that twice!

[AT]- Why can't you tell the people?

[GB]- Well, you know, I think the problem is that whatever happened, maybe about fifty or sixty years ago, it was some kind of unwritten rule that it was better not to discuss it, because that would be just after the second world war, when the Roswell incident happened, and various other things were going on in America at that time, and I think they just kind of made a decision not to discuss this with the public, out of concern that they would panic and whatever's happened since then, there's no-one been able to stand up and change that law... or change that rule, and so now we're still treated if you like, like children. We are far more educated on this subject today, and I think it's about time that the people were told.

[AT]- But if you talk of a panic, the classic one, always mentioned, 1938, the American radio spoof, Orson Welles, War of the Worlds, and we got panic, and that was just a spoof!

[GB]- Aaah yes, but I think that was a bit...a bit more exaggerated, Alex, I don't think it was quite as bad as what they made out to be. I read somewhere, anyway, about that; it was not quite as bad.

[AT]- ...but it makes a good tale!

[GB]- yes...[chuckle]...it certainly does!

[AT]- Whenever I discuss this subject, I always come to this particular point, and you mentioned your experience with Margaret Thatcher, I find it extraordinary that no major world leader, or ex-world leader, has come out and said "Look, there's something in this", this is one hell of a conspiracy of silence, isn't it?

[GB]- It is, yes. I mean when I interviewed, and when I say interviewed, I use that word loosely actually because I was out socially when I talked to Michael Portillo for instance, about this, and he was really interested for about fifteen, twenty minutes, and he turned round and he said "look, I know a lot, but I tell a little" .you see, so they know obviously what's going on, and I'm not saying that all Prime Ministers, and all former Secretaries of Defence staff know but I certainly think that the majority of them do, especially while Margaret Thatcher was in power, if you like, during the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident.

[AT]- Hmmm

[GB]- And that is something that the Prime Minister would have known about I'm sure, because it was such a, in my opinion, a threat to national security.

[AT]- We'll talk about that in a moment or two, just going back to the world leaders, correct me if I'm wrong, and I often am on such matters. I believe the only former world leader to say, "Look, there may be something in this" where perhaps he's trying to persuade people to look into this, is former President Jimmy Carter?

[GB]- Yes, well, he had his own sighting, didn't he?

[AT]- Yes.

[GB]- And he promised the American people that when he became, if he became President of the United States he would ask NASA to open the UFO files.

[AT]- He was told to shut up, obviously.

[GB]- Yes, he was, [laugh], and of course, Reagan came out with a few interesting comments from time to time, but no-one, like you say, Alex, no-one has actually turned round and said "Yes this is going on, and we have been in contact", no-one's done that yet.

[AT]- Let's put panic aside, but I suppose that's the main excuse why, because we're more sophisticated these days, and actually, if you did an opinion poll survey, a lot of people, I would suggest a majority of people would say: "Yes, there probably is something out there". Would there be so much panic, and shock-horror if some evidence was produced?

[GB]- I don't think so. No, I'm absolutely sure, I mean, let's look at all the sightings that are going on today, people now, I would say that seventy percent, maybe even more than that, the people are believers that there is something going on out there, that they believe in UFOs, they've seen them in the sky, they've heard about them, or they know someone who's had a sighting, it's no longer the odd sort of UFO incident in the middle of nowhere, in the rural countryside or something like that. No, people are seeing these on almost a daily basis throughout the world now, so it's not that people are afraid, I'm sure that if a Prime Minister or a leader stood up and said "Look, we've been in contact with alien life forms or something for the last fifty years", that might be shocking to the people, and I think it would be a very brave leader that would do that.

[AT]- Let's talk about what happened in Suffolk. This was a US air force base, just over twenty years ago, what happened, Georgina, just give us a précis.

[GB]- Okay, yes, this was a twin base, Bentwaters and Woodbridge, they were separated by five miles of forest, and at that particular time, it was leased to the United States Air Force in Europe. During December 1980, starting on Christmas day, for three or four nights, there were sightings in the forest on the perimeter of Woodbridge, and the US Air Force was sent out to investigate. They thought it was a downed aircraft. They discovered a triangular shaped object that was six by nine foot, and it had landed in the forest. A few nights later, another landing took place, this time with a much bigger ship, it was about thirty foot across and the deputy base commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Halt, took another patrol out, and they investigated it, they took radiation readings, and actually recorded an audio tape, which I have of this incident, whereby they shout, and you can hear them say "My God, it's coming towards us, it's definitely coming towards us". And so that's basically what happened during that week. What happened afterwards, according to the witnesses, they were interrogated, by British and American agents, and told to be quiet, to shut up, and not to discuss this with not even their family or anything, so people disappeared, and were sent away, that's how it started and it wasn't until three

years later, Alex, that the American UFO group, CAUS, managed to get hold of a document, which was a memorandum that had been written by the Colonel, and sent to the Ministry of Defence. Which, if you like, described everything, not everything, but most of what happened on those two incidents, and that's when it really hit the pages of the national newspapers here in Britain, and from that moment on, the Ministry of Defence covered it up, if you like, or said that nothing happened, it was of no defence interest, and that's where it stood at that time.

[AT]- Just going back to those few days where they had the sightings, you mentioned firstly that they found this small object, where is this object? Now?

[GB]- Well it, it disappeared...

[AT]- it just disappeared? What! Did they physically take it? Or did it land, they watched it, and it just went off again?

[GB]- Yes, it sort of made its way through the forest, which is really quite amazing so they [thought?] it, you know, I mean, how did it get into the forest? How both of these objects got into the forest in the first place is interesting. It just sat there, for quite a long time, and in fact one of the witnesses, Sergeant Pennistone, walked towards it, actually touched it, and said it was warm to the touch. When he walked around to the left hand side, he saw symbols on it, these kind of hieroglyphics?

[AT]- Hieroglyphics, yeah...

[GB]- Yeah and then he didn't know what happened, but then all the witnesses lost forty minutes, they had missing time for forty minutes, and the next thing he knew, he was standing next to one of the patrol, about fifty foot away from where he originally was. So it shot off, it just went up into the sky and then just disappeared in the blink of an eye.

[AT]- Was there any video, you mentioned audio tapes, were there any video tapes, or any photographs?

[GB]- Yes, they said that there were video tapes and they said that there were photographs taken. Now, of course, no-ones ever seen these video tapes or photographs...

[AT]- How amazing, yes.

[GB]- But, Alex, I have to tell you this is really interesting, because they also took photographs of the landing site the day afterwards, and they disappeared too, but I managed to find them in 1999, and so you can see these are US Air Force photographs which show a Captain and a British police officer examining the landing site, with three indentations on the ground in the shape of, well, this craft as it landed.

[AT]- So, the years go by, people talk about this, the issue is continually raised, and then it is continually rubbished and then you come along with your book, basically.

[GB]- Yeah! and the book came out in November last year, and it was really interesting, because I was just going to do an article on it, and then the General, who was in charge of the bases at the time, contacted me, now I

don't know how or why he did, whether he'd seen this article that I wrote for the internet or what, but he contacted me, wanted to know what I had found out, even came to Britain to talk to me about it, and I thought "my goodness, this has to be a book!" [Chuckle]

[AT]- Was he doing this at any personal risk, was he aware that, it's highly likely that somebody in America or in this country would be sussing out the fact that he was coming to tell you?

[GB]- Yes, well he didn't really tell me very much.

[AT]- ...hahaha...

[GB]- He was really looking for information, and he didn't get very much from me either!

[AT]- Okay, so in other words, I mean, this sounds like a creation of Chris Carter and the X-files.

[GB]- I know.

[AT]- It's an amazing story. In other words, was he almost a double-agent, trying to find out what you knew?

[GB]- I don't know, I mean, one of the other officers is convinced that he was, if you like, set up to come over and talk to me, but...

[AT]- He was the patsy?

[GB]- Well I don't know, I mean, it's really interesting, because why would he come to the United Kingdom to have a meeting with me, to talk to me about this and see what I knew. Now, maybe he was genuinely interested, but who knows, you see you just don't know [short gap in recording] interesting story there in the book, a chapter on him, and I found lots of other witnesses, and he was very good, he put me in touch with several people, but was very reluctant to discuss the incident himself.

[AT]- Hmmmm, interesting, I watch too much X-files here, I'm just...

[GB]- Alex, it's almost, if you like, in one sense, a little bit like what's happening over with the British side of things-every time I made enquiries, I would always get an answer from the top level.

[AT]- Yeah, but it's an answer designed to fob you off, wasn't it?

[GB]- Yes, in a way it is, but course that didn't work [chuckle]

[AT]- Okay, let's sift through this. The book's out, and the questions are asked in the House of Lords!

[GB]- Exactly. This is Lord Hill-Norton, Admiral of the Fleet, he's been interested in this incident, or this case, since 1983, he asked a staggering sixteen questions in the House of Lords since January of this year and this is a result of the investigation in "you can't tell the people", and he got very cross, because, well, you can imagine the kind of answers that we had back.

[AT]- Yeah, the standard spiel from the civil servants.

[GB]- Absolutely, and he got very cross, and demanded that this information was released, and as a result of that of course, Baroness Simon released the file on Rendlesham forest and this is absolutely amazing because first of all, there weren't supposed to be any! We were told that there was only one

document in the file, and that was Colonel Halt's memorandum. There wasn't supposed to be a file!

[AT]-...and what did the file reveal, that you didn't know already, or was it, let's be honest about it, they're going to reveal a file, but they'll give you what you want or what they want you to have rather than any juicy nuggets?

[GB]- That's true; I mean there are certainly some documents missing from the file.

[AT]- Heh?

[GB]- Yes, like you say, there's noth... well there is, there is something there that we did so, if you like, how can I say, I knew that there was Defence Staff or rather I knew it had gone to a higher level, but I didn't know what level and the Defence Intelligence staff were obviously investigating this, making enquiries with their scientific and other departments, technology departments, which in itself is interesting, what I did know was that the evidence had been taken to Ramstein Air Force base in Germany, which was the headquarters of the US Air Force in Europe, what I didn't know, is that the General of the US Air Force himself had been handed the evidence at RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge here in Suffolk in England. So I didn't know that, and we have the name of the General in one of the documents. The other thing I didn't know was that the camera had been switched off at RAF Neatishead, I didn't know that for instance the film of the sighting was faulty, and also the film prior to and after the sighting was faulty.

[AT]- Oh really, what a surprise!

[GB]- You see.

[AT]- We've only got a minute left here, where are we gonna go with this? Now that you've done the book, people have asked questions, what more?

[GB]- Well I think that we now have to go for a public enquiry. [Chuckle]

[AT]- Are you serious?

[GB]- Well that's what Colonel Halt wants, he is one of the primary witnesses.

[AT]- It's not going to happen.

[GB]- No. He says he has a lot more evidence, tapes, documentation, lots and lots of evidence, but he will not reveal it unless there is a public enquiry. I think you're right, Alex, I think it's a long shot there.

[AT]- But you can't tell the people, as the title of your book suggests.

[GB]- Yes.

[AT]- Mm, interesting. By the way, fifteen more seconds, have you been threatened at all? Have people said to you "Shut up"?

[GB]- I have had some friendly - I call them friendly, threats.

[AT]- ...yeah?

[GB]- If you can take "Oh-be careful you don't walk in front of a bus" [chuckle] as a friendly one. I think they were more concerned than anything else.

[Interview terminated]

The Hybrid Puzzle

Written By Colin Mulligan

According to some ufologists there is startling evidence to suggest that extra-terrestrials are conducting an alien/human hybridisation programme. But if this is really the case, what reasons can aliens have to conduct such a programme?

It is often reported in alleged alien abduction cases that sperm or eggs are taken from the abductees. Further to this there are, of course, the many Villa Boas type cases, people claiming to have been abducted and "made" to copulate with extra-terrestrials. In the Villa Boas case the Brazilian even claimed that after "seduction" the female alien patted her stomach and pointed upwards to the stars. This giving rise to the suggestion among many that the female alien was indicating the child resulting from intercourse would be born on another distant planet. It's reports such as these which have caused many ufologists to reason that the abductors must be intent on some hybrid-breeding programme.

But if this is so, why would extra-terrestrials want to create hybrids?

Well, let us briefly explore a couple of ideas. Firstly, it's always possible that the breeding programme is being carried out for our benefit, to save us from ourselves, and that the alien/human hybrids are improved versions of us. For example, perhaps they are without the psychopathic and sociopathic tendencies so many humans unfortunately display. Perhaps the hybrids are destined to be "planted" among us and work towards eradicating poverty and war. They could, in essence, be more spiritually advanced, in greater harmony with a cosmic ethical code for peace and understanding. In short, they could be less human and greater part alien.

It's all a matter of personal opinion, of course, but for me this idea is just a little bit too New Age and too romantic. It does, in fact, bring to mind the Aetherius Society and their belief in Great Cosmic Masters like Jesus of Venus watching over us. Indeed, I can't help but feel that this way of thinking is merely quasi-religious in origin. In brief, we undoubtedly occupy a troubled planet and some people feel a whole lot better about this fact if they generate a belief system which entails benevolent "Higher Powers". In the case of the hybrid programme the whole puzzle simply becomes, in the eyes of such people, merely another manifestation of "Guardian Angels" ensuring, although rather bizarrely, our ultimate safety and continuation.

Another idea possibly worth thinking about is that the extra-terrestrials are intent upon producing human/alien hybrids for purely selfish reasons. Perhaps they even intend an invasion of the earth and global colonisation. Some ufologists believe, for instance, that there is evidence to suggest that certain aliens may be unable to live on earth and so are busy creating hybrids that are compatible to life here. Taken further, perhaps these hybrids will be deliberately programmed to be servile and susceptible, thus enabling their creators to wield the real power while they are used as mere puppets.

One point which could be argued here is that purpose built robots would do the job just as well. We suppose, after all, that the aliens are highly advanced in technological terms, would it not be less timely and messy to build legions of mechanised drones to exact requirements and let them invade instead? Something to think about perhaps.

Finally, here is another idea which, while basically encompassing the previous two, offers another reason for hybridisation. It is the popular theory that aliens have been carrying out a hybridisation programme on earth for millions of years and they have no other motive than they are impelled by some force or other to colonise as many planets as possible. Perhaps hybridisation and colonisation of planets is their mission in life. Or else perhaps our visitors are simply the tools of other more highly advanced aliens with motives of their own.

Many books have been written in general support of this Von Daniken type theory, of course. And the evidence assembled by some of these people, especially when it is of the historical kind, is often very startling and, at the very least, thought provoking. In the book *'Mankind, Child Of The Stars'*, for instance, the authors, Max H. Flindt and Otto O. Binder, ask us to ponder on whether ancient hybridisation could account for things like mankind's unique sense of destiny, his insatiable curiosity and craving for religion.

Furthermore, they suggest that the giants and monster-men read about in the bible and in myths and legends could actually have been real and, in fact, the first abortive attempts at alien hybridisation. They even suggest that a percentage of the 100,000 plus people who seemingly vanish from the earth each year may be "abducted" by extra-terrestrials in an effort to further the hybrid-breeding programme. Perhaps they suggest we are hybrids ourselves and, out there among distant stars, we may have humanoid relatives.

As stated earlier, the data, especially of the historical kind, mounted up in support of this kind of theory is very startling. And to further presume that the reports of biosexual connotations in recent abduction cases could well be just further evidence for an ongoing breeding programme, does not take a lot of doing. However, despite all this evidence nothing as yet been conclusively proved and the theory like the two before is still open to questions and detractors.

In this short time we have only talked about three possible reasons for the reported removal of sperm and eggs, sexual seduction, in alien abduction cases. I am sure there are many other ideas and theories floating around. I hope so because out of the wild wood of speculation the truth may one day emerge. However, perhaps we should also be ready to accept the possibility that we may never comprehend the actual motive behind all this. Perhaps we are not meant to. We use in these circumstances the only tool open to us - human logic. And we must always remember that we are, after all, dealing with extra-terrestrials here of unknown origin and ethics.

Perhaps they use such lateral thought processes the real truth will always stay just beyond our reach. Maybe, some might say, this is just as well.

MYSTERY SPACE BLAST 'SOLVED'

By BBC News Online science editor Dr David Whitehouse

Astronomers may have solved the puzzle of what it was that brought so much devastation to a remote region of Siberia almost a century ago.

In the early morning of 30 June 1908, witnesses told of a gigantic explosion and blinding flash. Thousands of square kilometres of trees were burned and flattened. Scientists have always suspected that an incoming comet or asteroid lay behind the event - but no impact crater was ever discovered and no expedition to the area has ever found any large fragments of an extraterrestrial object.

Now, a team of Italian researchers believe they may have the definitive answer. After combining never-before translated eyewitness accounts with seismic data and a new survey of the impact zone, the scientists say the evidence points strongly to the object being a low-density asteroid.

They even think they know from where in the sky the object came.

Completely disintegrated

"We now have a good picture of what happened," Dr Luigi Foschini, one of the expedition's leaders, told BBC News Online. The explosion, equivalent to 10-15 million tonnes of TNT, occurred over the Siberian forest, near a place known as Tunguska.

Only a few hunters and trappers lived in the sparsely populated region, so it is likely that nobody was killed. Had the impact occurred over a European capital, hundreds of thousands would have perished.

A flash fire burned thousands of trees near the impact site. An atmospheric shock wave circled the Earth twice. And, for two days afterwards, there was so much fine dust in the atmosphere that newspapers could be read at night by scattered light in the streets of London, 10,000 km (6,213 miles) away.

But nobody was dispatched to see what had happened as the Czars had little interest in what befell the backward Tungus people in remote central Siberia.

Soil samples

The first expedition to reach the site arrived in 1930, led by Soviet geologist L A Kulik, who was amazed at the scale of the devastation and the absence of any impact crater. Whatever the object was that came from space, it had blown up in the atmosphere and completely disintegrated.

Nearly a century later, scientists are still debating what happened at that remote spot. Was it a comet or an asteroid? Some have even speculated that it was a mini-black hole, though there is no evidence of it emerging from the other side of the Earth, as it would have done.

What is more, none of the samples of soil, wood or water recovered from the impact zone have been able to cast any light on what the Tunguska object actually was.

Researchers from several Italian universities have visited Tunguska many times in the past few years. Now, in a pulling together of their data and information from several hitherto unused sources, the scientists offer an explanation about what happened in 1908.

Possible orbits

They analysed seismic records from several Siberian monitoring stations, which combined with data on the directions of flattened trees gives information about the object's trajectory. So far, over 60,000 fallen trees have been surveyed to determine the site of the blast wave.

"We performed a detailed analysis of all the available scientific literature, including unpublished eye-witness accounts that have never been translated from the Russian," said Dr Foschini. "This allowed us to calculate the orbit of the cosmic body that crashed."

The object appears to have approached Tunguska from the southeast at about 11 km per second (7 miles a second). Using this data, the researchers were able to plot a series of possible orbits for the object.

Of the 886 valid orbits that they calculated, over 80% of them were asteroid orbits with only a minority being orbits that are associated with comets. But if it was an asteroid why did it break up completely?

"Possibly because the object was like asteroid Mathilde, which was photographed by the passing Near-Shoemaker spaceprobe in 1997. Mathilde is a rubble pile with a density very close to that of water. This would mean it could explode and fragment in the atmosphere with only the shock wave reaching the ground."

The research will be published in a forthcoming edition of the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.



WE ONLY KNOW IT IS HARMLESS !

Ron Baskerville

Chilean Chief of Naval Operations declares: "UFOs are real"

From Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo Miami UFO Center, ufomiami@prodigy.net
10-21-1

Santiago de Chile - The former Chilean Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jorge Martinez declared: "UFOs are real". The ex-CNO made the shocking statement during an interview with a Chilean television network. The interview was conducted by journalist Rodrigo Ugarte from Teletrece, in Chile. The retired admiral admitted that he personally witnessed the sighting of two UFOs at sea.

According to Admiral Martinez, when he was a young lieutenant, he personally saw a very luminous white object in front of his patrol boat. When he took command of his first destroyer, then Captain Martinez saw another similar object emerging from the water, creating a strong interference with the navigation system and the ship's radar.

Guillermo Jimenez, another former Chilean officer claimed that the sonar system onboard his ship detected two submarine-like objects that caused similar malfunctions with shipboard electronics. "They displayed the same size and metallic resonant characteristics that ordinary subs typically show; however, these objects were too fast to be submarines", said Jimenez.

Both Jimenez and Martinez described how the gyrocompass systems were out of control. "The radar displays went completely blank and the gyro was spinning very rapidly, as if a strong magnetic force was present", said Admiral Martinez.

Some UFO investigators call this phenomenon "UUO" or unidentified underwater objects. Upon learning about this special report, we contacted the Chilean journalist that conducted the interviews. Rodrigo Ugarte, the Teletrece interviewer told us that there were many other officers that described similar events but did not want to go on the air with their accounts. Nevertheless, this is the first time a former Chief of Naval Operations reveals that these phenomena are real.

The CIA's UFO History

By Mark Rodeghier, CUFOS Scientific Director
http://www.cufos.org/TUR_article3.html 8-21-1

After the Cold War ended, the culture of secrecy and the operational style of the CIA began to change. Its director appeared on a radio talk show, and it became possible for citizens to pressure the CIA in ways unheard of during that earlier era. Ufology has been a beneficiary of these changes.

In late 1993, inquiries from several UFO researchers led CIA Director R. James Woolsey to order a review of all CIA files on UFOs. This agency-wide search occurred in 1994 and centralised the CIA's UFO files. Taking advantage of this opportunity, government historian Gerald K. Haines reviewed the documents, conducted interviews, and wrote a study examining the CIA's interest and involvement in UFO investigation and government UFO policy from 1947 until 1990.

Haines's study was published in *Studies in Intelligence*, a classified journal published quarterly for the intelligence community. The article, "*CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*," appeared in the first semi-annual unclassified edition for 1997, on pages 6784. It can be found at <http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies/97unclas/ufo.html>.

This is a rather important document because it is the first time that a government agency has written a review of its involvement with UFOs. Although the study had been available at least since June when I downloaded it from the CIA Web site, it did not receive widespread publicity until early August. But when the press learned about the Haines study, the attention was dramatic. The story was carried in most large newspapers, on the NBC Nightly News, and many other media outlets. A typical headline from the Chicago Sun-Times reads, "CIA feared UFO hysteria." Several columnists used the CIA history as an opportunity to bash the CIA and secrecy in government, as exemplified by the column by David Wise (author of *The Politics of Lying: Government Deception, Secrecy, and Power*) in the New York Times "*Big Lies and Little Green Men*."

The media generally focused on two aspects of the Haines article. In a brief section entitled "*CIA's U2 and OXCART as UFOs*," Haines claims that many UFO sightings in the late 1950s and 1960s were actually misidentified secret American spy planes. Moreover, he alleges that the Air Force's Project Blue Book was in on this cover-up, purposely misled the public, and falsified (Haines didn't use that word but that is plainly what the Air Force would be doing) UFO explanations. This is important news if true, and the media rightly played up this angle.

Note that the CIA is not accused of deception by Haines; rather, it is the Air Force that willingly concocted the bogus explanations. Reporters asked the Air Force for comment, and on August 4, Brigadier General Ronald Sconyers told the press, "I cannot confirm or deny that we lied. The Air Force is committed to providing accurate and timely information within the confines of national security."

General Sconyers sounds a bit like a weasel-worded politician, and his statement hardly serves to reduce the controversy. The second topic seized upon by the press and played up as news was the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel from 1953. Yes, that is

correct, the Robertson Panel, whose report has been well-known to anyone interested in UFOs for over 30 years now. That the press could consider the recommendations of the panel to be news at this late date speaks volumes for the intelligence, reporting skills, and historical knowledge of the Fifth Estate. (The Washington Post, in full damage-control mode, said in an editorial that the study was "not an exposé full of new revelations," but the paper had already published an article claiming the opposite.)

Press coverage focused on the panel's recommendations that UFO reports be debunked (a policy Blue Book followed assiduously after 1953), that UFO groups be watched, and that there was a danger the Soviets might use UFOs to clog the channels of communication and then launch a nuclear attack. The deception about our spy planes was just a small part of this strategy.

Although the press was only late by about 40 years, their coverage of this aspect of the report is a positive note for ufology. What is clear from the tone of most articles is that the CIA's (and Air Force's) lies about UFOs are just further examples of all the many lies the American public had been told during the Cold War. And for once, ufologists are being viewed in a sympathetic light by the media as direct victims of government deception.

Coming on the heels of the Air Force's second report on Roswell, the tide has begun to turn against the government in the UFO debate. More and more, it is becoming apparent the government has lied about UFOs for years, and that it still may be lying today. Although the press gave so much coverage to the Haines article, it missed part of the story, failed to do any independent investigation, and generally swallowed the report as written. As Paul Harvey says, now for the rest of the story.

The CIA's excessive secrecy

The report by Haines is remarkably brief, given the CIA's complex UFO involvement. In its Internet version the full article is 21 pages in length, with eight pages of that for footnotes (with several interesting tidbits buried there). Whole swaths of history, such as the early 1970s, are compressed into a few paragraphs or sentences. Certainly a more complete study could be done, and perhaps the classified version is a bit longer.

Nevertheless, to this credit, Haines several times makes it clear that the CIA bungled the handling of UFOs because of its policies of excessive secrecy, in effect fuelling the idea of a massive UFO cover-up (for which, not surprisingly, Haines finds no evidence). For example, in 1957 Leon Davidson, a UFO investigator who worked at getting the Robertson Panel report released and was a believer in a government cover-up, was working on a UFO case involving a strange tape recording made by the Maier sisters of Chicago. This tape had actually been analysed by the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and found to be "nothing more than Morse code from a US radio station."

When Davidson wrote to Dewelt Walker, the CIA officer who had contacted the Maier sisters, Walker obfuscated and refused to provide a straight answer about his role. When Davidson persisted, the CIA had the Air Force contact Davidson saying that Walker "was and is an Air Force Officer." Then to further screw things up, the CIA had one of its officers dress in an Air Force uniform and contact Davidson, claiming to speak on behalf of the Air Force. One cannot blame Davidson for believing there was a

cover-up because, obviously, there was. As Haines writes, "Thus, a minor, rather bizarre incident, handled poorly by both the CIA and the Air Force, turned into a major flap that added fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs and the CIA's role in their investigation."

In another incident, officers from the Contact Division (CD) of the CIA obtained a UFO photograph from Ralph Mayher in November 1957. After the photos were returned (with no comment or analysis for Mayher), he contacted the CD for the CIA's evaluation because he wanted to mention it on a television program on which he was going to appear. The CIA declined.

Major Donald Keyhoe, head of NICAP, heard about these events and contacted the CIA to confirm the story. But the CIA refused, referring the matter to the Air Force, even though, as Haines writes, "CD field representatives were normally overt and carried credentials identifying their Agency association." No wonder, again, that ufologists would conclude the government was lying about its UFO activities.

Monitoring of UFO investigators

Although the CIA clearly lied to Davidson and Keyhoe, the actual UFO events at the heart of each story were mundane and not of particular importance. More sinister is the suggestion that the CIA (or FBI at the CIA's direction) has monitored UFO groups and investigators. Haines has no direct evidence for this, but it is unclear where such records would be kept or whether they would even be at the CIA (rather than the FBI). Certainly, the FBI has files on various ufologists, including Richard Hall, head of the Fund for UFO Research and long-time staffer at NICAP.

A complete history of the CIA's involvement in UFOs should have discussed this critical issue in depth; after all, the Robertson Panel recommended that UFO groups be monitored for subversive activities. That Haines did not fully discuss this subject can probably be attributed to his ignorance of UFO history, to the lack of documentation about this subject in CIA records, and perhaps, to the scope of his article which is more concerned with the investigation of UFOs rather than the investigation of ufologists.

The one bit of evidence Haines does include involves Leon Davidson again. In 1958, worried about future inquiries about government UFO investigation, the CIA met with the Air Force to discuss what to do with such requests. CIA officer Frank Chapin "hinted that Davidson might have ulterior motives" and he suggested having the FBI investigate Davidson. Haines says the record is unclear as to whether the FBI ever acted on this suggestion, but it is not clear how deeply Haines investigated this possibility.

Although the evidence is circumstantial, there are other hints that the government was monitoring UFO groups long before these discussions. In their book *UFOs Over the Americas*, Jim and Coral Lorenzen detail several rather bizarre incidents of what would seem to be rather clumsy attempts to learn the Lorenzens' motives for their UFO investigations and the work of APRO, the organization they founded. These occurred in several states over at least a dozen years, and the Lorenzens sound more amused by the experience than upset.

In point of fact, just about any ufologist would have been pleased to have the Air Force or CIA approach them and ask for advice about UFO investigations or what types of cases the investigator was receiving. The problem faced by these agencies, as Haines outlines, is that an excessive policy of secrecy kept them from openly contacting UFO

investigators who most likely would have cooperated with government requests for information. As evidence, in early 1965 CIA agents finally did meet openly with Richard Hall at NICAP offices, who gladly gave them copies of UFO reports for the CIA's own review of the UFO situation.

The Robertson Panel

There is no more pivotal event in the CIA's involvement with UFOs, perhaps in the U.S. government's interest in UFOs, than the Robertson Panel of January 1953. Haines devotes just over a page to this critical study, which provides him no room for nuance or much more than a bare reciting of the facts.

In his review of CIA documents he demonstrates the very high-level CIA interest in UFOs engendered by the UFO flap in the summer of 1952 and, especially, the sightings over Washington, D.C. A special study group was formed within OSI to review the UFO situation. Director Walter Bedell Smith "wanted to know whether or not the Air Force investigation of flying saucers was sufficiently objective," and he wondered, "what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts."

Memos and meetings were frequent in late 1952 as the CIA considered what should be done about the UFO problem. Haines's research shows that the Robertson Panel's concerns about the clogging of communication channels and the use of UFOs to disrupt U.S. air defenses were taken straight from CIA concerns expressed in internal memos during the summer of 1952. In other words, the Robertson Panel, despite the eminence of the scientists involved, appears to have been carefully orchestrated by the CIA to come to the conclusions it did, which included debunking UFOs with the help of the Air Force Project Blue Book. Haines does not comment on this element of the CIA's role in determining government policy.

Spy planes and UFOs

I turn now to the issue that so dominated press coverage of Haines's article, the claim that many UFO reports were caused by secret aircraft flights. Given the nature of many UFO reports of objects seen at close range low to the ground, ufologists have uniformly found this claim preposterous. I have over the years personally reviewed the majority of Blue Book reports and know that that they were not caused by misidentifications of spy planes. But because this is such an important claim, here is the full discussion of this issue by Haines.

In November 1954, CIA had entered into the world of high technology with its U-2 overhead reconnaissance project. Working with Lockheed's Advanced Development facility in Burbank, California, known as the Skunk Works, and Kelly Johnson, an eminent aeronautical engineer, the Agency by August 1955 was testing a high-altitude experimental aircraft—the U-2. It could fly at 60,000 feet; in the mid-1950s, most commercial airliners flew between 10,000 feet and 20,000 feet. Consequently, once the U-2 started test flights, commercial pilots and air traffic controllers began reporting a large increase in UFO sightings.

The early U-2s were silver (they were later painted black) and reflected the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset. They often appeared as fiery objects to observers below. Air Force BLUE BOOK investigators aware of the secret U-2 flights tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice

crystals and temperature inversions. By checking with the Agency's U-2 Project Staff in Washington, BLUE BOOK investigators were able to attribute many UFO sightings to U-2 flights. They were careful, however, not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public.

According to later estimates from CIA officials who worked on the U2 project and the OXCART (SR-71, or Blackbird) project, over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States. This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project. While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the cover-up controversy of the 1970s. The percentage of what the Air Force considered unexplained UFO sightings fell to 5.9 percent in 1955 and to 4 percent in 1956.

What exactly is the evidence for the claim that "over half of all UFO reports . . . were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights"? In one footnote, Haines mentions the monograph *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954-1974*, by Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach (1992). A colleague at CUFOS tried to obtain a copy of this reference, which was published by the CIA History Staff, but has been told the monograph is classified. That makes it impossible to verify its accuracy. In a second footnote, Haines mentions a telephone interview with a John Parongosky, who "oversaw the day-to-day affairs of the OXCART program." I would like to call Mr. Parongosky myself, but have been unable to find any listing or address for him.

In any case, there is a very straightforward step which could verify this claim about spy planes, one I am surprised was not taken by at least one reporter. If the Air Force was lying about the cause of UFO sightings to protect the secrecy of our spy planes, then obviously the heads of Blue Book would have been central to the deception. Yet no one seems to have contacted any of these officers, most of whom are still living, for a comment.

I had previously spoken to Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Friend, head of Blue Book from about 1958 to early 1963, on a matter of UFO history, so I called him again recently to discuss this subject. Friend had not heard about the CIA report (he doesn't watch much television and doesn't follow UFO news closely these days), but he was very interested to learn about its existence. He asked me for a copy plus any news stories I had on the report.

I read to him the discussion by Haines reproduced above and then asked for his comment. Almost the first words he said were that it is "absolutely not true" that he or his Blue Book team were covering up spy flights as alleged by Haines. He found the whole idea laughable, and he knew Blue Book did not receive more reports from pilots and air traffic controllers after the U-2 began flying.

I asked him if he had ever concealed classified activities that were reported as UFOs. Friend indicated that, indeed, this had occurred on a few occasions, but it was not a regular occurrence. I inquired as to whether he had regular contact with the CIA at Blue Book. He said that he did because the CIA overlooked no potential source of information and wanted to keep tabs on all government intelligence activities. In

addition, the Air Force had utilised the services of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, the CIA's photo analysis office, to analyse UFO photos. However, in none of his contacts with the CIA or U-2 project staff was Friend ever told to conceal sightings of the U-2 by the CIA.

To be absolutely sure before I ended the conversation, I asked Friend whether the project had ever received a sighting which he recognised as caused by a U-2 (or other secret aircraft). He said, to his recollection, no. Once again, he chuckled about the idea of half of all UFO reports being caused by manned reconnaissance flights. I then read him the statement by Sconyers quoted earlier, in which the general cannot "confirm or deny that we lied." This brought a guffaw from Friend, who wondered why Sconyers, or anyone currently in the Pentagon, should know what happened 30 years ago. We both marvelled at how the press and the military (and Haines) had failed to contact the obvious central figures in this alleged cover-up.

In summary, then, the claim that motivated the press coverage of Haines's report is inaccurate and is not evidence for a CIA and Air Force cover-up of UFO sightings and lies to the American public. Yet the CIA and Air Force did knowingly debunk UFO sightings, and Blue Book personnel often came up with any old explanation so that the yearly summary sheets would have only a small percentage of unidentified sightings. So I'm not too unhappy that the CIA and Air Force were taken to task for something they didn't do, but it is important to set the record straight.

Forcing disclosure of CIA records

Beginning in the mid-1970s, UFO researchers began using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to request government, including CIA, documents on UFOs. Once again, the CIA mishandled the requests. After William Spaulding, head of Ground Saucer Watch, wrote in 1975 requesting UFO records, the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator Gene Wilson wrote to Spaulding that the Robertson Panel was "the summation of the Agency interest and involvement in UFOs." As Haines states, "Wilson was ill-informed."

Not believing Wilson's statements, ufologists sued the CIA for records and won the release of about 800 pages in December of 1978. Since the CIA had, unwisely, been denying its involvement in UFO matters, the media was surprised to learn how many documents were held by the agency. The New York Times claimed as a result that the CIA was probably secretly involved in the study of UFOs.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner was so upset by this that he asked his senior officers "Are we in UFOs?" He received a negative answer from his deputy and so moved to quash a new lawsuit asking for the withheld documents from the first release. Notwithstanding the reply Turner got, Haines found that the CIA continued a few activities during the 1980s. As he writes:

During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Agency continued its low-key interest in UFOs and UFO sightings. While most scientists now dismissed flying saucers [sic] reports as a quaint part of the 1950s and 1960s, some in the Agency and in the Intelligence Community shifted their interest to studying parapsychology and psychic phenomena associated with UFO sightings. CIA officials also looked at the UFO problem to determine what UFO sightings might tell them about Soviet progress in rockets and missiles and reviewed its counterintelligence aspects. Agency analysts from

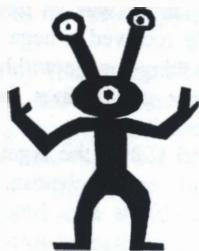
the Life Science Division of OSI and OSWR officially devoted a small amount of their time to issues relating to UFOs. These included counterintelligence concerns that the Soviets and the KGB were using US citizens and UFO groups to obtain information on sensitive US weapons development programs (such as the Stealth aircraft), the vulnerability of the US air-defence network to penetration by foreign missiles mimicking UFOs, and evidence of Soviet advanced technology associated with UFO sightings.

If I hadn't checked the calendar after reading this, I would have sworn this was 1952 and I was reading of CIA concerns about how UFOs could be used by the Soviets against the United States, as eventually expressed in the recommendations of the Roberson Panel report. Some things never change, at least during the Cold War. Haines notes that during this period, "Agency officials purposely kept files on UFOs to a minimum to avoid creating records that might mislead the public if released," and Haines says he found almost no documentation on CIA involvement with UFOs in the 1980s. This certainly is an effective method to circumvent FOIA, but it hardly leads to further confidence in the CIA.

Finally, in an intriguing footnote, Haines says that the "CIA reportedly is also a member of an Incident Response Team to investigate UFO landings, if one should occur. This team has never met." Say what? He offers no evidence for this statement, which, if true, belies the notion that the government completely ignores UFO reports.

In the end, Haines's article is not as revealing as press reports indicated, but it does open a window on CIA activities that have long been closed to the public. Perhaps its chief contribution will be the documents referenced in the footnotes which can now be specifically requested through FOIA by an enterprising UFO historian. His historical analysis is unremittingly pedestrian, but he does admit that CIA errors of commission and omission contributed directly to the notion of a UFO cover-up, and he demonstrates that there was indeed a cover-up, though not of spy planes, of a UFO crash near Roswell, nor other events of similar import.

Another effect of Haines's article is a gradual shifting of media opinion toward granting greater credibility to the statements of UFO groups and investigators and a concomitant greater distrust in government claims about its UFO activities. This is all to the good and here the old phrase "better late than never" surely applies.



BRITISH INTELLIGENCE NO LONGER STUDIES UFO REPORTS

[Original headline: Spies admit it: there are no aliens out there]

Britain's spies have given up looking for aliens after more than half a century of fruitless monitoring of thousands of UFO reports.

Ever since the early 1950s reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects by members of the public and military personnel have been logged by the Ministry of Defence and passed on to its intelligence branch.

But the Directorate of Intelligence, Scientific and Technical, has now abandoned the quest for ET. The directorate specialises in scientific espionage and analysis of advanced technologies but documents seen by *The Observer* show it asked last year that it be sent no further reports of UFO sightings. 'These records, whether from members of the public or service sources, have not proved valuable,' the department concluded.

The decision ends five decades of army intelligence experts investigating UFO sightings from all over Britain, including many from Royal Air Force pilots. 'They are essentially saying they have wasted their time for 50 years and they want nothing more to do with it,' said Dave Clark of the *National Centre for Folklore Studies* at Sheffield University and a leading UFO researcher.

Britain's official search for UFOs began in the late 1940s and peaked with a top-secret government study into the 'flying saucer' phenomenon, commissioned in 1951. That study, details of which were published for the first time in *The Observer* two weeks ago, concluded that no UFO sightings were genuine but attempted to hush up the reports to avoid creating panic at the height of the Cold War.

Clark believes the Government is finally willing to admit that studying UFO sightings is pointless. He said modern radar systems have become sophisticated enough to explain the vast majority of sightings as being aircraft or atmospheric conditions. 'They have looked at the subject and they have simply decided there is nothing in it,' he said.

However, the Ministry of Defence will maintain its small internal UFO desk, which logs and reports all sightings reported to it by members of the public. 'They are not shutting down entirely, but their intelligence experts don't want to know any more. The operation is now just a PR stunt to keep the public happy,' said Clark.

UFO enthusiasts are not likely to be satisfied at the lack of interest shown in the possibility that aliens might be visiting Earth. Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO Magazine, said: 'I find this decision extraordinary. If people are seeing unusual things in the skies of Britain, I am sure the intelligence officials will still want to know about it.'

There has been media speculation that the UFO phenomenon is on the wane. But Birdsall said UFOs were still being seen in their hundreds and that it would be a mistake for the Government to stop investigating sightings.

'The phenomenon is still as intense and busy as ever. The fact remains that UFOs continue to be seen, continue to be reported and continue to be videotaped,' he said.

• **Story originally published by:** The Observer, London / England | Paul Harris - Nov 04.01

UFO And ETs Haunt Construction Site In Chile

From Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo, Miami UFO Center ufomiami@prodigy.net
By Jaime Ferrer, Calama UFO Center, 10-27-1

Investigation conducted by Calama UFO Center on October 18, 2001, 02:30 A.M.

As a result of our investigations in the southern sector of the city of Calama, Chile, we have contacted a lone watchman that has been guarding a construction site for 6 months. His job consists of safekeeping a building under construction, as well as building materials and equipment.

This gentleman of 51 years of age, father of 8 children and native of this city, described an event involving a possible UFO, alien entities and paranormal activity on the night of October 14, 2001.

CONTACTEE'S TESTIMONY

"Ever since I started working here, I have noticed strange sounds at night. Some of my co-workers have mentioned hearing them as well. It is almost normal to hear them. The sounds are similar to hearing children running and playing around. They usually come from outside where the stockpiles of wood and construction equipment are, as if they were playing around with the equipment. However, the possibility of children playing outside at 4:AM in the morning is at the least highly unlikely.

Nevertheless, our job is to watch and safeguard the property; therefore, we are required to go out and check for anything out of the ordinary. I am absolutely positive that I was alone. My only companion is an old TV set and a pregnant stray dog that I feed and have learned to love as my own pet. Soon, she will have puppies.

Although I am used to hear strange noises, that night on October 14 something weird happened to me. It was about 2 in the morning. I was watching TV. Suddenly, my dog started barking and ran towards the back patio, so I lowered the volume to listen to what was going on. I was expecting that someone would be running around on top of the piles of lumber, but this time the noise was stronger, so I immediately reacted thinking that somebody could have been trying to steal the material. I picked up my flashlight and ran towards the door.

As expected, the dog was ready to go outside as she was barking and waiting for me to open the door. She ran as soon as I opened the door, but suddenly, she bounced right back after she only ran a few feet away. Apparently, something scared her. She looked and sounded terrified. I have never seen her moaning and shivering the way she did that time. Then I saw it. I saw a bright oval shaped object floating around near the 55-gallon drums. The object was about 35 feet away from me.

I really do not know what happen to me, I was simply paralysed. I had my flashlight in my hand, but I was not able raise it to illuminate this object. It was like a mental blackout. The only thing that I had in mind was the intense cold and fear that I felt. The only parts of my body that I was able to move were my eyes, as they followed the strange object for about 10 seconds.

The object moved at about 15 MPH. It was not a living being. It was some kind of small airship. It did not emit air, noise, nor left a contrail. The sensation felt in my body during the moments that I saw it is simply indescribable.

The following day, I heard the noises once again. I was too scared to go outside. However, I went upstairs but I did not see anything from the second floor. Later during the week, it happened again, but this time I called another guard. We both went outside but, once again, we could not see anything.

A lot of strange things happen at night down here. Sometimes, the lights turn on and off by themselves, the same with the air compressors, winches and even motor vehicles. Some security guards have mentioned strange looking men dressed in grey roaming around the site. They mention that they are very elusive. When they try to stop them for questioning or to provide assistance to them - because they appear to be looking for something - they walk or run away and disappear."

Translated by Mario Andrade



NEWS IN BRIEF/ SIGHTINGS ROUNDUP

English UFO 'Hot Spot' Produces Another Sighting [Original headline: *Ufo sighted on Halloween night*] *Winster driver 'seconds away' from photographing object.*

A nervous Winster driver was just seconds away from photographing a UFO on Halloween.

Derek Holmes (66) was driving home from Cromford when he spotted a strange bright light in the sky. Mr Holmes, from Lea Croft Road, said: "I thought to myself: Good God what is that. "I could see this very big, bright, white object. At first I thought it was a car coming from the other direction, but then realised it was not moving. I felt nervous, it was a peculiar feeling, I had read before about UFOs thinking there must be some simple explanation."

The UFO was first spotted by Mr Holmes on Bonsall Moor near the Salters Lane junction at 10.32pm. As he drove nearer the light it was obviously not a road vehicle but a round airborne object, with curved edges. Slowing down, Mr Holmes searched for a safe place to stop on the narrow road, to capture the brilliant image on film. But despite having a camera in the back he was too slow.

"The size of the light went down, it was as if someone had hit a dimmer switch and it went yellow," added Mr Holmes. "It started to move into the distance and then disappeared altogether."

- Story originally published by Matlock Mercury - Nov 08.01

UNITED KINGDOM YELLOW LIGHTS

WARWICKSHIRE -- Kevin Yates reports that on October 29, 2001, "My wife and I had pulled off our drive in Bishops Itchington at 6:45 PM, when we both looked up and saw a diamond formation of four bright yellow lights in the shape of a diamond with a red one on the top to the left. It moved very slowly emitting no noise, we followed it for about 10 miles to Leamington Spa. Other people along the way appeared to have seen it as well as cars had stopped by the side of the road. In the time we witnessed it, for 25 minutes it changed shape to two bright yellow lights. They also changed shape from being vertical to horizontal.

When we got off the main road in Leamington Spa by the police building, I noticed another collection of the same diamond shaped lights coming from Leamington and heading towards Stratford Upon Avon. It was truly a memorable day.

Thanks to Joe Trainor and Kevin Yates

CUBA UFO SEEN BY PILOTS -- MANZANILLO -- Nick Balaskas writes that he just got back from Cuba and what may turn out to be a UFO encountered by the pilots of a Canadian charter airplane he was a passenger on:

Our Airbus 320 Skyservice plane (flight SV524) was making a nighttime approach on December 14, 2001, to the airport near Cayo Coco, Cuba.

We were startled when we heard the engines get louder and felt pushed down into our seats. This was shortly followed by a near weightlessness sensation. The captain announced that his instruments detected a false signal of another aircraft in the area and in the interest of safety he took evasive actions. This was the reason for what we felt.

My final destination was the next airport near Manzanillo, Cuba, but all the passengers were asked to disembark at Cayo Coco so the aircraft could be cleaned for new passengers. I spoke with a few of these passengers who said they saw our plane "go around" after seeing a single red light fly low over the airport as we were coming to land. They thought it may have been a small plane but could not explain why only a red light was observed. Apart from our plane, there were no others on the ground at that airport that night.

Getting back in the plane, I told the flight attendant standing by the door next to the cockpit about the red light seen by passengers at the airport (in a loud enough voice so the pilots could hear too who turned their heads in my direction). She suggested it may have been a UFO and said she would find out for me. I never heard back from her. I later told the passengers seating next me who experienced what I did and they thought they would be more comfortable with the explanation of a near collision with a UFO than the thought of flying in an airplane with faulty instruments. Is there anyway of finding out what really happened during that aborted night landing?

Thanks to Nick Balaskas

NEW YORK SCI-FI VIDEO ANALYSIS

NEW YORK CITY -- SCI FI Channel has repeatedly run an advertisement that showed the following has announcement: "Get the Whole Story@SCIFI.com/happens", then "SCIFI Happens in NY." Then a thirty-second video is shown of a woman riding in a helicopter on July 24 2000, near the World Trade Center Towers. She points to a UFO behind one of the towers that suddenly accelerates and flies past the helicopter. As it climbs up out of sight the UFO leaves a contrail. MUFON's Jeff Sainio has analysed the video for us and has made the following findings:

"Since careful analysis of the video shows the expected westward motion of the helicopter, and even cars moving through an intersection, the background video appears real, with presumably the UFO pasted in. The violent motion of the helicopter appears difficult to explain in this scenario, with the chopper below the tops of, and only a few hundred feet away from nearby skyscrapers. Such aerobatics seem like a risk to life or a pilot's licence.

"I improved my image-analysis software, allowing me to stabilise the image of the UFO contrail. Previously, with only cloudy reference images, the field-by-field motion of the UFO couldn't be reliably measured. With stabilization, the UFO motion is shown, toward the end of visibility, the UFO only moves every other field (i.e. every frame, not every field). This is conclusive evidence that the UFO was edited into the video by a lazy faker who didn't bother working on every field as required for a real video.

I re-checked the helicopter motion and merely got better images verifying my previous conclusions that the helicopter did some violent motion, and the blades bounced around quite a bit.

Thanks to Jeff Sainio.

Competition Winners - Congratulations to the winners of the SIGAP Moon Video competition, M.Colenso and J. Shephard. You should have received your videos by now.

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