

ASSOCIATED INVESTIGATORS GROUP (AIG)

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Freedom of Information Coordinator

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Feb. 7, 1994

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Description of Records Being Sought

All records related to the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) which were originated, collected or received by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the period 1950 to 1980, inclusive.

The term UFO is typically applied to sightings of objects in the sky, air or space (or on the ground after landing or crashing) which are not thought to be of common terrestrial origination, yet appear to be intelligently controlled or guided, and display characteristics not associated with known aerial phenomena, aircraft, missiles or space vehicles.

The records being sought might also be categorized or filed under the following terms: (1) "Flying Saucers;" (2) "Unknown Entities;" (3) "Alien Spacecraft;" (4) "Unidentified (or "Unknown") Aircraft;" (UNK A/C) (5) "FASIWALKER;" (6) "Aerial Phenomena;" or other terms used to denote the same general subject that might be utilized within the intelligence community to disguise or mask the true nature of the subject matter. However, for the purposes of this request and the potential subsequent litigation, the records being sought shall be referred to as "UFO-related."

FOIA REQUESTThe CIA's Interest In and Involvement With UFOs

While the CIA has, in response to FOIA requests and in public statements, claimed its only interest in and involvement with UFOs was a four-day review of the subject in January 1953, the evidence overwhelming contradicts and impugns those statements.

For example, it is vividly clear from documents released by the CIA as the result of a previous FOIA lawsuit (GSW vs. CIA, 1977-79) that the CIA initiated emergency studies of UFOs in July/August 1952, November 1957, January 1965 and October/November 1975. These emergency studies correspond to increased reports of UFO activity (known as "flaps") during those time periods.

The flaps in 1952 and 1965 involved substantial UFO activity over and around Washington, DC; the flap in 1957 began with citizens in Levelland, Texas reporting encountering huge landed UFOs near roadways, during which their automobiles stopped running and failed to function while they were in proximity of giant glowing objects but started up again the instant the UFOs took off; and in 1975 UFOs repeatedly buzzed and hovered over U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-52 bases and missile sites from Maine to Montana, were tracked on radar by NORAD and chased by NORAD interceptors, and were said by Air Force documents released under the FOIA to have displayed a "clear intent" toward nuclear weapons. The 1975 flap also included the reported abduction by a UFO and five-day disappearance of an Arizona woodcutter, Travis Walton, plus hundreds of mystifying mutilations of cattle in Montana, Colorado and New Mexico, et al.

Based upon records released by the CIA under the FOIA, the standard procedure for the CIA to study UFOs during these flaps was for the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence to "levy" a collection requirement to the CIA's Domestic Contact Service (DCS), whose agents then sought out selected American citizens for the purpose of obtaining UFO reports and/or information about UFOs. The collected raw data would then be

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analyzed by experts within the Office of Scientific Intelligence, conclusions drawn, and reports made to superiors in the Intelligence Directorate (DDI). If warranted, such reports would be formed into an intelligence estimate and presented to the National Security Council.

For example, in November 1957 DCS agents in Cleveland, Ohio, contacted Ralph Mayher, a TV news cameraman, in order to obtain information about a film of a UFO Mayher had happened to take in late July 1952 near Miami, Florida, while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps as a photographer. The film itself had been turned over to U.S. Air Force Intelligence in July 1952 and sent to the Pentagon for study, as declassified USAF records now attest, but the Air Force has continuously refused to acknowledge possession of the film and evidently did not share any information about it with the CIA. In November 1957 DCS agents obtained several still photo copies of frames from Mayher's UFO film (all that he had) and sent them to CIA Hqs, where they were "analyzed at the highest levels of the Agency," according to documents released after the FOIA suit.

In January 1965, during another flap, an agent from the DCS Washington, DC field office, Albert Coleman, visited the DC headquarters office of NICAP, then the nation's largest and leading UFO study club. The purpose of Coleman's visit was to obtain UFO sighting reports. A NICAP official, Richard Hall, agreed to cooperate with the CIA and provide UFO reports on a continuing basis. The reports were subsequently returned to Hall by mail without comment, and no further requests were made.

But NICAP was the focus of serious CIA concern, as the requester determined during a lengthy investigation. It was discovered that a long-term, deep-cover CIA covert operative, Col. (USAF-Res.) Joseph Bryan III, had joined NICAP in 1959 and became a member of NICAP's Board of Governors, which at the time included a former Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter. Bryan, it was found, had been the founder and original chief of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff. Although a former Navy officer and member of the Naval Reserve, Bryan, in 1953, switched to the Air Force Reserve and thereafter went on periodic active-

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duty assignments with the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, with which the CIA had established a "cover" arrangement (whereby CIA deep-cover operatives could pretend to be Air Force Reserve officers during covert assignments). These cover arrangements allowed Bryan and another highly-secret CIA Psychological Warfare operative, Charles J.V. Murphy, a TIME-LIFE reporter and editor, to travel to Europe, ostensibly as advisors to the commanding general of NATO, in order to carry out psychological warfare missions. Bryan and Murphy spent considerable time with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (about whom they wrote a book in 1979), during which they were able to hang out with a number of leading European and American publishers and editors.

In December 1969, Bryan, acting as chairman of NICAP's Board of Governors (Directors), led an effort that resulted in the forced resignation of NICAP's dynamic executive director, Major (USMC-Ret.) Donald Keyhoe, a vociferous critic of the government's handling of UFOs. Keyhoe, a graduate of the Naval Academy and classmate of former DCI Hillenkoetter, had written five best-selling books which set forth his thesis that the hierarchy of the government knew UFOs were extraterrestrial spacecraft but orchestrated a cover-up in order to prevent public hysteria over the problems associated with such recognition.

After Keyhoe's ouster, NICAP, under Bryan's control, was transformed from a vocal critic of the government to a passive recipient of civilian sighting reports. Keyhoe had repeatedly attempted to get Congress to investigate the Air Force's handling of UFOs, counting on the testimony of former DCI Hillenkoetter, who had publicly condemned the Air Force's conduct. But Air Force leaned on the CIA to get Hillenkoetter off its back, and the CIA in turn pressured him to resign from NICAP, thereby dealing a severe blow to Keyhoe's efforts to bring about a Congressional investigation. Bryan's 1969 maneuver effectively destroyed NICAP as an influential critic of the government's handling of UFOs and UFO recognition advocate. Thereafter, its membership began to sharply decline, and by 1980 the group, which had once had over 10,000 members, was dead and buried. off

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NICAP, at its peak, consisted of a nationwide series of interlocking local groups scattered across the country called "subcommittees." One of the founders and subsequent "chairman" of the local Washington, DC-area NICAP subcommittee was Karl Pflock, secretly a CIA briefing officer who utilized a 'back-stopped' Department of Army cover. Pflock later became an agent with the Washington, DC field office of the CIA's Domestic Contact Service, all the while continuing as the head of NICAP's local subcommittee. More recently, Pflock, who had been Deputy Director of Operational Test and Evaluation for the Department of Defense and now purports to earn a living as a freelance writer, has been associated with the Fund For UFO Research, a civilian UFO research group based in suburban DC. The former chairman of the Fund For UFO Research, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, has admitted holding secret meetings on UFOs with CIA officials, namely Christopher C. "Kit" Green and Roland "Ron" Pandolfi. The Fund For UFO Research has expended thousands of dollars investigating such matters as the 1947 Roswell crash and an ultra-secret government cover-up group known as "Majestic-12," which appear to be bogus items of disinformation. Maccabee told the requester that the Fund For UFO Research had received "several hundred thousand dollars in covert funding." Pflock himself received a research grant of several thousand dollars from the Fund, and has recently moved to New Mexico, apparently to further his efforts to focus attention on the 1947 Roswell case, which appears to requester to have been the recovery of collapsed TOP SECRET balloon cluster launched from White Sands as part of a program to develop high-altitude photographic reconnaissance balloons to be flown over the Soviet Union.

The CIA vs. the USAF Over UFOs

The Air Force began collecting UFO data in mid-1947, shortly after the first civilian sightings of UFOs were reported. The initial study was codenamed "Project Sign." This was changed to "Project Grudge" in 1948

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In December 1949 the Air Force issued a "Grudge" report in an attempt to have saucer sightings dismissed as post-war or Cold War jitters, then closed down the official study program. In early 1951 the commanding general of Air Force Intelligence at the Pentagon requested UFO studies to be reopened, and in 1952 the revitalized UFO study was assigned the codename "Project Blue Book," the Aerial Phenomena Group of the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. Air Force Intelligence at the Pentagon designated a senior officer to be liaison to Project Blue Book.

In July 1952, in the midst of a nationwide UFO flap, UFOs were simultaneously tracked on radar by air traffic controllers over Washington, DC, and observed visually by fighter pilots scrambled to intercept them. Near the end of July the Air Force held a major news conference in which it was claimed the radar/visual sightings were explainable as resulting from "temperature inversions," a weather condition in which warm and cold layers of air are inverted. This, it was found out 25 years later when Blue Book's records were declassified, was a hastily concocted explanation the Air Force thought up in desperation, having at the time faced demands by President Truman and the news media to come up with some answers. Although the Air Force had merely "suggested" inversions might be the cause of the sightings, the newspapers ran screaming headlines, "AIR FORCE DEBUNKS UFOS AS JUST NATURAL PHENOMENA!"

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, Fred Durant, an officer with the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence, had approached Capt. Ed Ruppelt, C.O. of Project Blue Book, and Maj. Dewey Fournet, AFI liaison to Blue Book, pretending to be a civilian scientist with the Arthur Little Co. and claiming to represent a group of "concerned scientists." The group turned out to be Ralph Clark, Ransom Eng and Phil Strong of the CIA. Durant's clever tactics earned Ruppelt's trust and he began sharing Air Force reports with the CIA. In August and September of 1952 the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence came to the conclusion that the Air Force's efforts to study UFOs were "scientifically invalid," as FOIA-released

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documents revealed 25 years later.

One must take into consideration that the Air Force was charged with safeguarding the nations airspace, and the fact UFOs were buzzing the seat of government implied it was failing to carry out its most important mission. Therefore, it behooved the Air Force to explain away UFOs whenever possible, irrespective of whether such conduct was unethical, "scientifically invalid," and had no relationship whatsoever with determining if UFOs were figments of the American imagination or alien intruders, or both.

In late 1952 the CIA attempted to have the National Security Council (NSC) grant it control over the study of UFOs, citing the AF's lack of scientific validity. But the NSC, wary of offending the powerful military establishment, would only allow the CIA to convene a scientific advisory panel to review the subject and determine if UFOs "represented a direct, hostile threat to national security." The NSC also mandated that the AF would select the evidence to be presented to the CIA's panel, which was sort of like ordering a condemned man to weave the rope with which he'd be hung. The USAF knew it would be humiliated if the scientists found it had been wrong about UFOs, so once again it behooved the AF to be less than candid and forthright about the matter, and in essence it stacked the deck.

Predictably, after four days of secret hearings the CIA's panel found that UFOs were not "a direct, hostile threat to national security." One must bear in mind, however, that these events occurred during the Korean War, and that in July 1952 the Pentagon had been so overwhelmed by calls inquiring about the UFO flap its telephone system was nearly disabled and the Department of Defense unable to function. Thus, the CIA's panel recommended that UFOs be debunked and downplayed in order to prevent the development of a "morbid national psychology" and a "harmful distrust of duly constituted authority." In other words, the public's interest in UFOs was more dangerous than UFOs themselves.

The next big flap occurred in November 1957. The Air Force casually dismissed the aforementioned Levelland, Texas, UFO encounters as resulting from "ball lightning." (See p.2) This absurd explanation angered

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a number of Texans, including powerful U.S. Senator Lyndon Johnson, then the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Johnson asked the CIA to conduct a secret investigation of UFOs, convinced the Air Force had dropped the ball. At one point in November, CIA Director Allen Dulles phoned Dr. Knox Milsap, then the chief scientist at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, at 4 A.M. (local time), to request an investigation of a reported UFO landing in the nearby Organ Mountains. According to Dulles a civilian had reportedly snapped some photos of the landed UFO and the CIA had an urgent need to obtain the photos for study. Dr. Milsap blocked photo development shops throughout the area immediately, but no such photos were found--at least not by him.

After its emergency study, CIA officials once again came to the conclusion the Air Force was arbitrarily and capriciously explaining away UFO reports that might have important scientific or intelligence value. With Sen. Johnson's support, the CIA again proposed to the NSC that it be given control of UFO studies. This time the NSC secretly concurred, reportedly issuing an intelligence directive (NSCID) in early 1958 granting the CIA control over all scientific intelligence, which included the collection and analysis of UFO data.

Although the Air Force continued to operate Project Blue Book until it was disbanded in 1969, Blue Book was not in the loop for classified intelligence reports on UFOs that were originated by military or intelligence components in accordance with JANAP 146E or CIRVIS reporting instructions, whereas the CIA was a primary recipient of such messages.

One might say the CIA got the wheat while the Air Force got the chaff, since after 1957 Blue Book was relegated to collecting sighting reports from civilians, for the most part. The greater percentage of these UFO sightings by civilian witnesses had prosaic explanations or were hoaxes, and the scientific or intelligence value of Blue Books efforts was next to nil. Blue Book never had a staff of more than four or five people, including a secretary, but it bravely strode on, pretending to be the sole UFO investigating body of the U.S. government. The Air Force hierarchy,

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sensing it was getting the shaft as well as the chaff, attempted to transfer Blue Book to the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information (SAFOI). The plan was to respond to attempts to have the Air Force investigate civilian UFO sightings by sending a form letter citing SAFOI's lack of investigating capability. SAFOI, not willing to be saddled with a public relations nightmare, declined the transfer.

Ultimately, the CIA helped the Air Force get off the hook by mounting a diabolical covert operation known as the Condon Committee. Dr. Edward Condon, a great scientist who had helped develop the atomic bomb, radar and heat shields for rockets, missiles and spacecraft, was chosen to head a two-year study of UFOs--a supposed "impartial scientific study" funded by the government that began in 1966. The operation had two highly secret purposes: (1) Conduct the ultimate debunking of UFOs that would result in the Air Force being told to shutdown Blue Book, the great PR debacle; and (2) Allow CIA operatives to travel around the country and world disguised as Condon Committee researchers, such as those who infiltrated the team of Condon member Dr. Gerald Rothberg of Stevens Institute, in order to collect UFO data with hi-tech cameras and devices. The Condon staff even helped the CIA make contact with Soviet scientists on UFOs, and this eventually resulted in a high-level KGB official coming to Washington, DC to work out some sort of secret non-aggression pact on UFO overflights in order to reduce the risks of accidental nuclear warfare.

Coupled with Donald Keyhoe's abrupt dismissal as director of NICAP, the Condon operation was hugely successful in relegating UFOs to the scrapheap of kooks and quirks, where it reposes today.

The CIA's Sources and Methods

Within the United States, throughout the 1950s and 1960s the CIA utilized its Domestic Contact Service (DCS) to collect UFO data from American civilians. Although the CIA was prohibited by charter and law to conduct domestic intelligence operations, the creation of the DCS, which had a stated Purpose of interviewing Americans who had travelled abroad and might have observed something of intelligence value, allowed

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the CIA to circumvent these constraints. Operating out of offices in 30 to 40 U.S. cities, DCS agents normally showed CIA I.D. cards and used real names. This practice, however, presented a problem during UFO data collection programs, in that DCS agents would have to reveal themselves to sources who were not fully vetted or known to be trustworthy. Hence, the agents stressed to the sources not to reveal CIA interest in UFOs, instructions which were sometimes interpreted by the sources to mean they were to keep silent about their UFO encounters.

In 1973, the DCS was transferred from the CIA overt directorate, DDI, to the CIA's covert directorate, DDO, and renamed the "Domestic Collection Division" (DCD). Accordingly, DCD agents no longer had to use real names or even show CIA credentials; as covert operatives, they could ostensibly claim to be affiliated with civilian research or academic groups, or with some non-intelligence government agency. President Reagan's May 1982 Executive Order further expanded the CIA's powers to infiltrate domestic organizations for the purposes of cover and stealth.

As part of its efforts to study the subject of UFOs, the CIA has also sponsored efforts to detect alien civilizations. These projects are commonly called "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (SETI), and usually utilize large radiotelescope arrays. For example, in the early 1960s DCS agents "serviced" a SETI program known as "Project Ozma" at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia. Servicing an account entails providing covert funding and instructions or guidance, and collecting raw data for analysis. "Ozma" was authorized by Dr. Lloyd Berkner, a long-time CIA consultant and Green Bank's chief.

Other CIA sources of UFO data include Intelligence Reports (IR's),* academic/scientific research projects sponsored by the CIA, the CIA's Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), and a link between the Pentagon's National Military Command Center (NMCC) and the CIA's Operations Center known as "DDO Talker." In recent years, the CIA has received UFO data from civilian informants such as Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a leading civilian UFO researcher and advocate. Maccabee has had a number of

*Includes photos by space- or ground-based tracking systems.

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secret meetings with CIA officials about UFOs, primarily with Kit Green and Ron Pandolfi, and at their request gave several briefings on UFOs to CIA employees. Pandolfi, in turn, has provided Maccabee with FBIS translations of Soviet news accounts of UFO sightings and other considerations.

Previous FOIA Litigation

In September 1977, the requester, acting as director of research for GSW, Inc., a Phoenix-based UFO research group, retained New York attorney Peter Gersten to file an FOIA lawsuit (GSW vs. CIA). In July 1978, at a status call hearing on the action in U.S. District Court, Washington, DC, the suit was amended to allow GSW to seek all ufo-related documents in the CIA's files. On Dec. 15, 1978, the CIA released about 900 pages of documents in accordance with the Stipulation & Order that had been agreed upon in July. The CIA claimed to be withholding only 57 documents. The CIA was granted a 60-day extension by the Court to account for its voluminous deletions in the released documents and file affidavits as to its purported search of files. The CIA exceeded the extended deadline by 28 days.

Analysis of the documents released by the CIA found references to over 200 other UFO-related documents the CIA had failed to find and/or acknowledge. Moreover, it was determined that the CIA had failed to find and/or acknowledge any documents related to its analysis of the UFO data collected during emergency studies of UFOs, any interim or final reports based upon these analyses, or any contacts with civilian UFO witnesses other than those mentioned in a discovery motion filed by GSW's attorney. In short, it was overwhelmingly clear the CIA's claims in its filing with the Court were intentionally deceptive.

Accordingly, attorney Gersten set about to file a motion, "An Order To Show Cause Why The CIA Should Not Be Held In Contempt Of Court." This motion was filed 31 days after the CIA completed its filing. Although the CIA had surpassed the 90 days allotted to it in the Stipulation by 88 days, the CIA filed an Out Of Time motion, citing the fact GSW had filed one day late. Judge John Pratt upheld the CIA's motion and dismissed GSW's, thereby effectively ending the litigation and the public's opportunity

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to learn the truth about the CIA's involvement with UFOs.

To add insult to injury, in March 1979 requester learned that Dr. Bruce Maccabee had been meeting with CIA officials about UFOs. One of these officials was Christopher C. "Kit" Green, the head of the CIA's Weapons & Electronics department, which includes UFOs, psychic phenomena, and mind control experiments. Green revealed to Maccabee that he had been the custodian of the CIA's UFO files (reposing in one department, not scattered about as the CIA represented), which he said contained some 15,000 documents, all of which he claimed to have turned over to the CIA's Freedom of Information Staff in response to GSW's FOIA lawsuit. It would appear, then, that the CIA hierarchy made a decision to lie about 14,000 documents which were never acknowledged to GSW, the Court or the American public.

Green's statements about the volume of the UFO holdings make a great deal more sense than the Agency's official claim that after 30 years of UFO activity it had generated only 900 documents, which would mean it originated or received only about 30 documents a year. The requester received over 400 pages of documents from other agencies on the 1975 flap under the FOIA, alone. And contrast the 30-a-year average to the fact that in 1952 alone the Air Force received over 1,500 UFO reports. Green's claim of 15,000 documents would be tremendously more representative of reality than the CIA's absurd claims about the totality of its files!

THE CLOSING ARGUMENT

In the late 1970s, President Jimmy Carter and his science advisor, Dr. Frank Press, attempted to persuade NASA to undertake a new study of UFOs or to at least become the "focal point" for UFO-related inquiries. NASA, however, acting upon advice from the CIA and the Air Force, would only agree to answer UFO-related queries with a form letter re-stating the Air Force's public disclaimer adopted after the Condon debunking operation. It was evident NASA did not want to subject itself to a major public relations boondoggle related to the public's expectations for a more open and honest policy on UFOs, which even NASA couldn't provide.

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Unfortunately, there is very little middle ground in the UFO controversy. On one side there is a small but powerful group of debunkers who call themselves "skeptics." Their position is basically that UFOs cannot possibly be extraterrestrial spacecraft or alien visitors/intruders, and therefore every UFO report can and must be explained away and dismissed. The so-called "skeptics" have an inordinate degree of influence in mainstream scientific and academic circles, even though some of the leading "skeptics" have served as propagandists for the CIA or the intelligence community.

On the other side are UFO believers, commonly called "UFOlogists." They are an almost exact reverse mirror image of the "skeptics," in that while the "skeptics" feel compelled to dismiss everything, the "UFOlogists" are willing to believe just about anything. Thus, the UFO believers are prone to being exploited by hoaxers and pathological liars, as evidenced in recent years by the spread and acceptance of wild stories about vast underground alien bases in New Mexico, captured alien spacecraft being flown at "Area 51" in Nevada, captive aliens with a preference for strawberry ice cream, crashed saucers a-go-go with relatives and friends telling tales handed down by departed loved ones, a woman abducted from her New York apartment by alien creatures in full view of the head of the United Nations (who happened to be passing by), a Gulf Breeze, Florida man whose special relationship with aliens seems more likely a kinship with trick photography, and on and on and on.

Most of the UFOlogists are not stupid or crazy; many of them are in fact quite intelligent, well-educated and otherwise lead relatively normal lives. It would be easy--and very wrong--to dismiss UFOlogists as kooks and thereby justify ignoring the subject of UFOs or regard it as insignificant, for that is precisely the goal of counter-propaganda, disinformation and lies. One can always find excesses and extremes in any movement, but one must never lose sight of the underlying righteousness of a good cause or allow mockery and scorn to be used to undermine logic. After all, it is not the proponents that make the best case for UFOs, but rather the government's own records released under the FOIA, particularly those related to the 1975 flap over SAC bases and missile sites.

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Sadly, anyone who attempts to apply objective rules of evidence in the UFO field stands a good chance of being harassed by the "skeptics," on one hand, or being branded as a heretic by UFO believers, on the other. Now throw in psychological warfare by the CIA, disinformation, misinformation, and deceptive statements and pronouncements by the government in general, and the final results can only be confusion and an obfuscation of the truth.

The purpose of this request is to begin to set the record straight on government's handling of the UFO problem. And isn't it about time? Even the much-despised KGB has opened up its UFO files. What does it say about America when the CIA can't do the same thing?

Reportedly, CIA officer Ron Pandolfi has been telling people that the DCI ordered a review of the CIA's files late last year and, lo and behold, a large cache of UFO-related documents was discovered. Pandolfi claims the recently-found records will "substantially up-grade the data base on UFOs." If true, these statements are the first indication the CIA might be taking steps to clear the air.

In the past, CIA representatives have repeatedly made deceptive statements about the Agency's interest in and involvement with UFOs. These attempts to mislead the public and press persuade one to believe the CIA has shameful secrets related to its involvement with UFOs that it feels compelled to protect. Partly, this may be due its use of the semi-legal Domestic Contact Service to collect UFO data. It might also be to block discovery of its highly secret takeover of UFO studies from the Air Force in 1957-58. More clearly, the CIA has gone to great lengths to prevent disclosure of some of its conclusions about UFOs. If these conclusions had been negative--that UFOs were explainable and therefore dismissed--they would have no doubt been released during the previous FOIA suit. The fact the existence of the conclusions was not even acknowledged can only mean the CIA has determined some UFOs are alien intruders.

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The most troubling aspect of the 1975 flap over SAC bases and missile sites was not that UFOs were able to hover within 10 feet of^a missile silo, or within 150 feet of nuclear bombs, but rather that 25 years of secrecy and lies about UFOs had caused great confusion among our forces, making our most vital and sensitive installations vulnerable to such probes. This paradox was typified by the conduct of USAF Gen. Bob Chapman, the former commanding officer of Loring Air Force Base, Maine (c. 1975), who in 1979 tried to convince a Japanese TV interviewer that the UFOs which hovered over Loring's nuclear weapons storage area three nights in a row in late October 1975 were "tourists" in helicopters.*

Consider, then, this request as an opportunity to prove the validity of the CIA's motto, taken from the Bible, which contends that the truth shall set us free.

Clearly, when it comes to UFOs, everyone--including the government--has been imprisoned by all the lies.

Please respond in a timely fashion.

Most sincerely;

W. Todd Zechel

Director of Research
Associated Investigators Group

cc:

Vice President Al Gore, The Capitol
U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, D-Wisconsin
U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, D-Wisconsin
Rep. Scott Klug, R-Wisconsin
Director of Central Intelligence, James Woolsey
White House Science Advisor, Jack Gibbons
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* Gen. Chapman was interviewed at the Pentagon, surrounded by spin doctors from the Air Force Office of Information, by Mr. Junichi Yaoi, Nippon TV Network, Tokyo, Japan. Yaoi was a producer for Nippon's series, "The Thursday Night Special," at the time Japan's number-one-rated TV series. The requester served as co-producer and technical consultant for that particular 90-minute special, "The CIA & UFOs."

Request for Waiver of Search Fees

Associated Investigators Group (AIG) is a non-profit association of present and former professional investigators. Its members include former government intelligence and security agents. AIG's goal is to apply rigid rules of evidence and high standards of investigative journalism, using intelligence-type methods of collection and analysis, in order to formulate and publish responsible, fact-filled conclusive reports.

The results of AIG's investigations are published as Associated Investigators Report (AIR). These are distributed free of charge to news organizations and interested citizens. The first report, "AIR-1," was distributed last fall, and has resulted in articles in OMNI, UFO and FATE magazines, as well as in numerous newsletters and journals. In the future, AIG plans to tackle a number of challenging issues and to reach out to more mainstream news organizations in an effort to make its information available to a larger and broader segment of the public.

AIG also intends to submit or sponsor important Freedom of Information Act requests, and, if necessary, follow through with FOIA litigation. These requests will be primarily concerned with matters in which there is suspected misconduct on the part of government agencies and/or agents.

AIG does not sell documents or solicit memberships, nor does it sell information. It functions primarily as a watchdog and information gatherer for the public. Therefore, AIG, in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Freedom of Information law, hereby requests that any and all search fees be waived, since the records being sought are primarily and substantially in the public interest, and because any information it derives from records released will be passed onto the public through the news media.

Background of Requester and Request

W. Todd Zechel, 50, is a native and current resident of the Madison area in Wisconsin. From 1963 to 1966 he served with the Army Security Agency (ASA), a component of the National Security Agency (NSA), during which he held a TOP SECRET/Crypto & Special Compartmentalized Intelligence security clearance. Zechel was a communications specialist, cryptographer and concenter crew chief with NSA's Critical Intelligence Communications (CRITICOM) Relay Station-Korea, and in 1964 helped re-write Criticom Operating Instructions (COI's) for NSA's worldwide network.

Zechel later served as an undercover agent for another government agency versus organized crime and helped rid Wisconsin of attempted penetrations by organized crime syndicates from Cleveland, Ohio, New York, NY, and Chicago.

As a result of experiences with NSA, in 1976 Zechel began a quest to establish the truth about UFOs. His intelligence background helped him seek out and become friends with such CIA notables as Arthur Lundahl, the late and great Director of the CIA's vaunted National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC), and Dr. Herbert "Pete" Scoville, the late and great Office of Scientific Intelligence chief and arms control advocate.

In the course of Zechel's research, he has interviewed numerous Air Force and CIA officials about their involvements with UFOs, and has helped gain the release of thousands of UFO-related documents under the FOIA. This request is based upon nearly twenty years of investigations into the government's handling of UFOs, and it contains many revelations about the CIA and the Air Force which have never before been made public.

Every effort has been made to make the disclosures in this request as accurate, candid and forthright as possible. However, certain sensitive information related to the detection of UFOs by satellite or ground-based electro-optical systems has been excluded.

Obviously, the world events of recent years have made unreasonable secrecy about UFOs indefensible, and it is hoped this request will be the beginning of the end of it.