

# JUST

# CAUSE



Publisher:  
Lawrence Fawcett

Editor:  
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Address: P.O.Box 218  
Coventry, Conn. 06238  
Subscription:  
4 issues-\$10 (\$15 foreign)

NUMBER 7

NEW SERIES

March 1986

## CAUS GAINS DIA FILE RELEASE

As a result of an FOIA request in March 1985, CAUS received 139 pages of UFO files from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The release came as a surprise, coming as it did 9 months after initially requested, but it was a welcome move and provided additional insight into foreign UFO activity of years past.

Acting as the military's version of the CIA, the DIA collects and analyses foreign intelligence gathered from a variety of sources. Amongst the intelligence received was UFO data.

Previously, we were told that the DIA had little on UFOs and what little did exist had already been released. Included in that released material was the original story of the 1976 Teheran, Iran UFO/jet chase (see CLEAR INTENT, pp. 81-86).

As was usual in our encounters with other agencies, we did not believe that everything was released. The problem was to prove that point. Essentially, the DIA itself would have to be the source of any information for us to proceed. Luckily, we were to get such a break in early 1985.

CAUS managed to obtain an unclassified copy of the DIA's "Defense Intelligence Thesaurus" or DIT from DIA Manual 59-4 dated July 20, 1981. Page 225 clearly lists a reference number (H732.970 5) with the heading "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)." This, we felt, would be the key to unlock some of what has been held back from us. An FOIA request was filed with the DIA on March 25, 1985.

We waited many long months, without as much as an acknowledgement, that the request was received. Considering the lengthy delays granted agencies in their response times under new FOIA regulations, CAUS was in for quite a wait.

In late December 1985, when the request was all but forgotten, we received a parcel of 37 documents from DIA headquarters in Washington, D.C. In a letter dated December 18, from the DIA's Vice Executive Director, Captain James Law, acknowledgement was made that 53 documents were responsive to the request, but that 15 were being withheld under four FOIA exemptions and one was withheld under one exemption. In fact, all of the reasons included national security.

The documents, all legal-sized, date from the late 1950s to 1980, with the majority falling in the 1960s. The reports come from all corners of the globe, with special focus on Communist nations.

One notable curiosity is a thick file on the UFO theories of

Captain Bruce Cathie, a New Zealander who served as an airline pilot with National Airways Corporation of New Zealand. Cathie wrote a number of books on UFOs and the possibility that outer space intelligences had set up a worldwide navigational grid system. He theorized that atom bomb tests could only be conducted on certain geometric positions on the earth. The reasons for this become quite involved, but, for a time, the DIA was interested in Cathie's ideas. They were ultimately rejected as lacking proof. Yet, according to the file, Cathie was described as "Not a typical 'UFO NUT'," meaning to us that there are times when government agencies do listen quietly to UFO proponents and seriously consider what is being said.

Many of the DIA's documents are in such poor condition that they are virtually unreadable. This seems to be the state of much government file material on all subjects, which is a bit frightening. How much history are we losing because of decrepit file keeping? It is beginning to look like some committee is going to have to be formed to start a "Save the File" campaign!

Some selected extracts from the DIA's files:

Rpt.# 1 817 0057 65 - Sighting over Arica, Chile on 9/6/65, by LAN pilot Marcele Cisternas and five crew members.

MC - "During 13 to 14 minutes this strange object followed us. It gave me the impression that when it located us it tried to identify us. At once we requested information from the Flight Control Tower in Arica and Iquique. We were informed that no other flights had been scheduled in that zone. Then I told them what we were watching."

"I have never had a similar experience. I didn't believe in 'them'. It was not an optical vision due to atmospherical reflections. I am sure it was a mechanical apparatus. The plane was flying at an altitude of 8,500 feet, at a speed of 500 Kms. The night was cloudy and without stars. I was not the only one who saw this strange object, the co-pilot, the engineer, hostess and steward also saw it. It emitted a light of an intense color, then changed and turned to radiant white. It was suspended at a distance of about 3 Kms. from us, in a straight line -- it was more or less 2130 hours. Suddenly the same way it appeared it withdrew at an incredible speed, without leaving any track."

Rpt.# 2141262 - Report dated 4/16/60, on Sinkiang, China sighting in Spring 1959.

"At about 11 o'clock one clear starry night in the spring of 1959 an unusual object had been seen in the sky from Kuldja flying from the distant west in an easterly direction at great speed and at a great altitude (at a much higher altitude than the normal one for aircraft in that part of the world). When over and somewhat north of Kuldja the object had abruptly changed it's course from a horizontal one to a vertical one and, as if rotating on it's own axis like a bullet, had shot upwards still higher and disappeared from sight. It had remained in view altogether five or more minutes. The object had a brilliant light yellow color of a star and the size of one of the larger stars. In it's course it had left a trail of light which had changed in color from bright yellow to bright orange and then to a duller orange before fading away."

The report goes on to state that a Russian Radiosonde device had been found in the area during that spring but it is unclear whether it was before or after the sighting.

Rpt.# 2099621 - Finnish/USSR sightings, 1958.

17/11/58 "... a party of six persons sighted a remarkable light phenomenon in the southern sky above Kajauni (spelling uncertain). From a great altitude there fell earthward an orange-red sphere on the left margin of which was a gap (notch). The sphere fell to the height of the treetops, where it glowed for a couple of minutes as if suspended and then plunged into the forest. The sphere appeared larger than the moon. The phenomenon faded away in a southeasterly direction. No natural explanation for the phenomenon has been given."

Rpt.# 6 873 0004 75 - Light phenomenon in Pakistan, 12/18/74.

"...a circular light appeared above the V-shaped mountain overlooking the approach to Patan. The circle around the light went on expanding. As the circle expanded the light emanating from it became less and less. At first he (Mohammad Riaz, Executive Engineer Pakistan PWD, Warsak) thought it was a reflection from the moon but the moon was in a different position. He said that the circular light went on expanding for about 15-25 minutes. Eight days after the appearance of this light, the area was shaken by the earthquake." (Ed. comment: This is similar to light phenomena reported in the north Pacific [see JC #2] and in Kuwait [see CLEAR INTENT, p.91].)

Finally, referring to UFO sightings over Agadir, Morocco, a report dated 1/18/67, describes two articles which appeared in "Petit Marocain", but does not mention the contents. Then, in a most cryptic comment, the report says, "... the page one coverage afforded this sighting demonstrates a high level of local interest in the subject of UFOs and presages future reporting which could be valuable in pursuit of Project MOON DUST." At this writing, we are not familiar with Project MOON DUST, but if anyone knows before we find out ourselves, please let us in on it.

#### EARLY CRASHED DISC DATA UNCOVERED

(We must thank long-time UFO investigator C. Wesley Fitch for the following information, which CAUS regards as of great historical interest to our subject. Fitch is one of a shrinking group of researchers who knew many of the pioneers of UFOlogy. We regard ourselves as fortunate that he chose to give this impressive little tid-bit to us. Keep in mind that it becomes harder for us every day to report on events 30-40 years ago as the links to that time are always decreasing.)

Letters written 25 years ago reveal that former Navy Rear Admiral Herbert B. Knowles was involved in the examination of fragments of a UFO shot at over Washington, D.C. in 1952. The correspondence resulted from inquiries conducted by Ohio UFOlogist, C.W. Fitch, in 1961.

Fitch had been told by former NICAP board member, the Reverend Albert Baller, that Admiral Knowles was a guest at Rev. Baller's home

one evening when the topic of UFOs came up. Knowles was also a board member of NICAP but apparently had not mentioned the UFO tale he was to describe to Rev. Baller.

Fitch took the fragments of the story that Rev. Baller had related to him and proceeded to contact Admiral Knowles at his home in Eliot, Maine. Admiral Knowles was at this time retired. The following extracts from Knowles' letters relate as much as he knew:

August 27, 1961

"Yes, I have had a piece of a small disc in my hands. It was shown me by Mr Wilbert Smith (address given - Ed.). At that time (1952), Mr. Smith was heading the "Flying Saucer" research of the Canadian government and working in very close cooperation with our authorities in Washington, D.C. He is still very much interested in this matter and does independent research. The Canadian Govt. has "officially" abandoned the project."

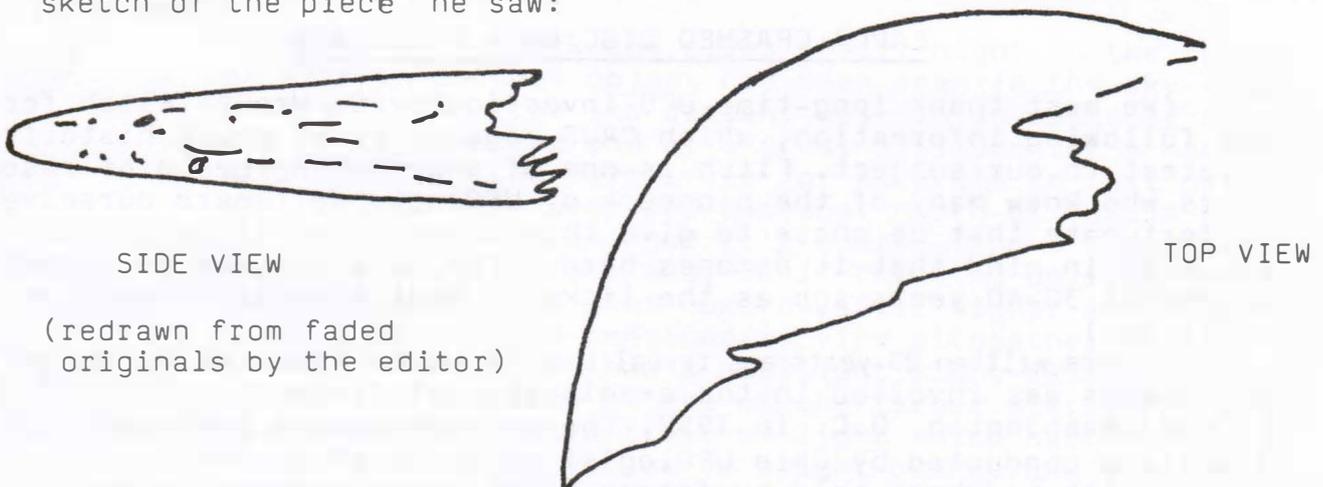
"To the best of my recollection the object was shot down by a plane and seen to fall in the yard of a farmer across the river in Virginia. Upon searching the area several pieces were found, one of which was turned over to Mr. Smith for independent research. In one of his trips down to see me he brought the piece along for my inspection."

"It was a chunk of amorphous metal-like structure, brownish in color where broken, with a curved edge indicating the whole thing to have been not over 2' in diam. The edge was rounded in cross section, perhaps a quarter inch thick and obviously swelled to a considerably greater thickness at the center. The outer surface was smooth but not polished, and at the broken sections there were obviously iron particles and even evidence of iron rust. I would say that the weight was somewhat lighter than if of solid iron, but it was not "extremely light."

"Mr. Smith told me that a chemical test had been made of the piece at hand, that iron had been found in it but little if anything else could be identified."

Admiral Knowles went on to describe his firm belief in UFOs, based on this and other accounts of which he was aware. He thought that the 1952 object may have been a "remotely-controlled observation disc" of a type "seen many times, most often in the vicinity of defense installations."

An October 11, 1961, letter from Knowles included the following sketch of the piece he saw:



We'll have more on this and other matters in our next issue!