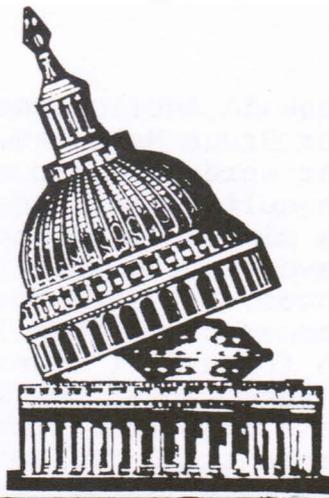


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EDITORIAL

We have noted with mixed feelings the current upswing of UFO interest in the popular media. Yes, mixed feelings! Public awareness of UFOs will certainly bring new members to existing organizations. UFO books are in a bull market and it is now easier to get a book published than it has been for many years. There is more press coverage. Radio and TV programs abound. Even old UFO classics from Vallee to Flammonde have been picked up by publishers and reprinted. This should be an ideal situation for UFOlogy, and it is to a point.

There is a bit of pyrite in the mine however. What is missing from this new wave of interest? Answer: the UFOs.

We are seeing media attention equivalent to the days of yore when sightings were reported daily in the newspapers. National newscasts ran regular features on the latest reports back in 1966, when Michigan was inundated. Exeter, New Hampshire was turned into the Mecca of UFOlogy in the 60s. And remember 1973? But where are the sightings that formerly generated so much reaction? There aren't that many. Look carefully! What do you think is the explanation for all of the new coverage?

Answer: American culture!

We live in a society which lives off bits and pieces of information. One which gets the news of the world every night in just 30 minutes. And let us admit it, we devour the drivel, dreck and tripe that television has to offer quite avidly. All of this is mixed in a brew of flashing lights and special effects so that we won't be bored by the endless streams of information that hit us from all directions.

When the public becomes bored with one thing, they quickly move to something else new or to something which has been out of the picture for a period of time. Thus, UFOs have become "in" again, or at least one aspect of UFOs: Abductions. The sole reason for this new interest is the appearance of a mainstream author on the scene, Whitley Strieber. Strieber's book COMMUNION has mixed several sure-fire ingredients to be a success. He has name recognition as an author of best-selling novels on contemporary problems and pop culture superstitions like vampires, werewolves; etc. In COMMUNION, he has written not only about UFOs but about the most bizarre, controversial aspect of the phenomenon. And he has a well-established public relations machine. The result is

the number one non-fiction book in America, no mean feat. And be assured, if Richard Haines, or Bruce Maccabee, or Larry Fawcett had written the same book word for word it would not be where it is today. Strieber has touched American culture and understands it. He transmits his understanding through the pipelines of pop culture, radio and TV. Like it or not, UFOlogists haven't been able to do this. The public responds to personal experiences, not hard facts and detailed analysis. Then, as quickly as this response comes, it will fade to another topic.

What does this all mean for us? It means that people are talking UFOs now, but basically just abductions. New members of UFO groups often desire to study and investigate only abductions, finding other aspects of UFOlogy anticlimactic. A recent ABC "20/20" broadcast dealt with UFO abductions. What you don't know is that they had planned to do more on government interest in UFOs but cancelled at the last minute because they didn't have time to discuss it.

We encourage research into all areas of UFOlogy. However, we decry a "trendiness" which makes UFOlogy one-dimensional and risks losing an audience for other fascinating fields of our subject.

CONFIRMATION OF MJ-12?

The 1954 memo reproduced in CAUS Bulletin seems to be positive proof that at one time a special study group called MJ-12 existed. Acquisition of the so-called "Cutler memo" was reported in the Nov./Dec. 1986 issue of the International UFO Reporter after it was unearthed by author William Moore. CAUS has reported in full on MJ-12 in the December 1985 Just Cause.

The MJ-12 group was supposed to have been set up to investigate physical evidence of the Roswell, New Mexico UFO crash, according to Lee Graham, our original source who had seen a copy of a full MJ-12 committee report on the incident. Efforts to confirm to existence of MJ-12 have been frustrated by lack of assurance from any agency that MJ-12 files were available, until the National Archives released a copy of the Cutler memo.

The memo itself is not exactly dramatic, as you can see. There is no mention of UFOs, but for those who remember our previous report the name of General Nathan Twining should be very familiar. He was reported by Graham to be an MJ-12 member and this does seem to be confirmed here. The date of the memo indicates that MJ-12 went well beyond the originally reported date of September 18, 1947, meaning that Roswell may not have been it's only objective (note: In a recent conversation, Graham has revised his recollection of the date to September 24, 1947. This due to a recent discovery of the document page containing the correct date).

The memo goes further to connect MJ-12 to the National Security Council, a group very much in the control of the president, then Eisenhower. It is not likely that we can get quick confirmation of MJ-12 from the NSC. We recall an incident a few years ago when an NSC representative, a Colonel Douglas, visited a Cable News Network office in Washington, D.C. in January 1985 to view an advance of the CNN Special Assignment report on the 1980 Bentwaters UFO sightings. Our contact at CNN told us that the colonel took notes and left without comment. Upon later requests to the NSC for the reason behind Colonel Douglas's visit we were told that no such event took place, and further, they didn't even know a Colonel Douglas: (His credentials were checked at the office and appeared to be genuine). We tend to believe that the

NSC does such things and later denies same, a la "Mission: Impossible" (The secretary will disavow etc.). If anyone doubts this you haven't been watching the Iran/Contra hearings.

With all this under consideration we still have some doubts about the Cutler memo. We are not yet satisfied about the bigger picture it paints. If MJ-12 is so "Top Secret", why the blatant slip in security that allows it to be discovered in the National Archives so easily? Why was nothing else found either at the Archives or at the Eisenhower Library which has been checked?

CAUS associate Robert Todd, whose advice we value enormously, has learned that the National Archives itself is beginning to question the document's authenticity. There are format flaws: misplacement of the security marking under the date instead of above; mixture of differing degrees of classification (i.e. Top Secret Restricted); the document having the appearance of a carbon copy but not being labeled as a copy as other documents in our files are so labeled. It also lacked a TS control number which all documents must contain for proper filing and retrieval. An archivist questioned about these concerns stressed that anyone could plant a phony document by walking in, asking for a box of files for research purposes, inserting the hoax into a folder and then leaving. The initial lack of a control number could be evidence of this. Little can be done to monitor every researcher using the files.

We would like to think that this information is true and that history-making revelations are on the way. However, facts dictate our decisions and we are not ready to endorse the Cutler memo as genuine until all questions are answered.

MJ-12 YET AGAIN!

Events on this subject are fast-breaking! Since mid-March, we have heard no less than a dozen rumors of major revelations about UFOs through news media sources. The focus of the rumors circulated around William Moore and contacts and documents which he possessed concerning crashed-discs, MJ-12, Project Aquarius; etc. The media revelations were promised within a month but to date nothing has happened. The CBS show "60 Minutes" was said to be producing a major UFO story as well. Many independent contacts have confirmed this to CAUS, yet once again inquiries to CBS were often met with a terse "no comment."

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by those distributing the documents to the public. On one page of another document one can read under the deletion, simply saying "MJ-12" along with other unreadable terms. The government always copies a document, makes deletions, and then copies the copy for distribution. Another page from the Aquarius document in our possession, but not in this mailing, is the so-called "Sigma/Snowbird" document. Formerly classified "Top Secret", it also bears the stamp "Unclassified." It should have been stamped "Declassified" as there is a distinct difference. "Unclassified" means the document bears no security restrictions while "Declassified" means that the document was downgraded from a higher level of security classification. Therefore, the document was improperly marked with this stamp.

The rest of the report on Project Aquarius describes the U.S. government's investigation of "UFO/IAC" sightings (Identified Alien Crafts) and contacts, and the influence of these on our space program.

The other major document of interest is a three-page briefing paper of what is clearly the same document that Lee Graham saw several years ago on MJ-12. Classified "Top Secret-Eyes Only," it identifies Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, first head of the CIA and former NICAP board member, as "MJ-1." Thus, each member of this group had their own respective code names. According to a footnote in the report, Secretary James Forrestal's death in 1949 created a vacancy on MJ-12 which was filled on August 1, 1950, by General Walter B. Smith, who was at the time the second head of the CIA.

Sizable deletions appear on page 3 of the paper but an obvious reference is made to the Roswell, N.M. crash with the statement that, "a secret operation was begun on 07 July, 1947, to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study."

Also released by Moore is a highly-suspect CIA memo, very cryptic in content and signed by "MJ-5." There are many problems in form and style with this paper which forces us to question it's alleged government origin. The year of the memo is blacked out, making it untraceable. The security markings are misplaced and standard CIA stationery, used to reply to the public, constitutes the paper used by the writer. The inclusion of it with the other documents without any real qualification suggests a "guilt by association," i.e. if the CIA memo is suspect and it comes from the same source as the Aquarius document and the MJ-12 briefing paper, are the others tainted?

These are disquieting little problems and we would advise caution in discussing this information as hard evidence at present until there are assurances that these are bona fide government reports. CAUS will do what it can to help in these efforts.

LATE NOTES

Just as we are going to print we have received a reply from the CIA regarding the above-mentioned CIA memo. According to Lee Strickland, the CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator, in a letter dated May 29, 1987: "We regret that we are unable to assist you in this matter. Your Exhibit 1 (the CIA memo) was not originated by the CIA; it is a rather poorly done fabrication. We suggest that you contact your source for further information on it's origin."

It is evident that there is something of a "disinformation" campaign ongoing from unauthorized internal government sources or outsiders. Is it intended to destroy the reputations of researchers in government UFO secrecy? We must be mindful of this and exercise great skepticism when dealing with extraordinary revelations. Truth can survive a test of fire and CAUS is not afraid to use a flame thrower!