

JUST CAUSE

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"The Evidence Will Speak for Itself"

A Primer on UFOlogy as a Public Issue

Citizens who are newcomers to the politics of UFOlogy probably wonder what is the best means for acquiring a capsule explanation of the issues and principals involved in this sociopolitical drama of the past 30-odd years. If you're one of those citizens, you might find the answers to your questions by reviewing two recent media events of interest to UFOlogists and ordinary citizens alike.

NYT

The first is the ground-breaking publication by The New York Times Magazine (14 Oct 79) of an in-depth article entitled "UFO Files: The Untold Story," by NYC-based freelancer Patrick Huyghe. Tracing the record of the growing credibility gap between what the Federal Government secretly collects/evaluates on UFO's and what it publicly acknowledges/releases, Huyghe's analysis leaves the reader with a bitter taste over what essentially is a deliberate, continuous UFO-data coverup by such agencies as the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the military-service departments, the Department of Defense, and the State Department. Needless to say, a substantial volume of documentation and commentary digested by Huyghe in the course of his extensive research had to be edited from the piece to conform to the magazine's word-space limitations. But even so, for a big-name medium like The New York Times to sponsor sober coverage of such a journalistically sensitive topic as UFOlogy marks a milestone in providing that investigative specialty its day in court. (Xerographic copies of the article may be ordered direct from the author -- 214 East 83rd Street - #5C, New York, NY 10028 -- postpaid at \$2.50 per copy.)

GSW

And speaking of UFOlogy's day in court: the other media event occurred in Bronx, N. Y., on October 25, 1979, in the form of a press conference held by CAUS legal director Peter A. Gersten. Curiously unattended by local print media representatives (including The New York Times), the conference was called to publicize the latest developments in the litigation of Ground Saucer Watch, Inc. Vs. CIA; to highlight the plans of Gersten to file (on behalf of CAUS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits against the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of the Air Force; and to dramatize the concern of CAUS members and others that the Federal Government's apparent mishandling of legitimate, hard-core UFO data could endanger the national interest. To support his intentions and contentions, Gersten distributed a "press kit" composed, in part, of selected government

documents recently obtained via FOIA actions. Among them was an NSA 1968 monograph, entitled "UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions," the lead paragraph of which reads: "It is the purpose of this monograph to consider briefly some of the human survival implications suggested by the various principal hypothesis [sic.] concerning the nature of the phenomena loosely categorized as UFO." (Xerographic copies of Gersten's 8-page press release (with index to the press kit) may be ordered direct from CAUS at the post-paid price of \$2.00 apiece.)

Call for National Convocation on UFO Secrecy

A CAUS member in the Washington, D. C., area has suggested that a coalition of UFO research groups sponsor and conduct a day-long National Convocation on UFO Secrecy, to be held, appropriately enough, in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the anniversary of the amended U. S. Freedom of Information Act (which took effect on February 19, 1975).

The convocation's objectives would be to --

- Foster wide-open, robust public discussion on the policies and practices of Federal, State, and local agencies in perpetuating official UFO secrecy. This could include (1) a program of speakers on specialized topics related to UFO secrecy/UFO news management; (2) a panel of experts debating one or more of the issues involved; and (3) the publication of the convocation's proceedings for sale to the general public.
- Provide a secure forum for heretofore undeclared witnesses to officially suppressed UFO data, in which their testimony can receive its day in court without being subjected to the whims of repressive, retributive authority. Presumably, this might include confessions of UFO secrecy by past participants in official UFO research. It also could include the coming forward of principals involved in cases of alleged retrieval/storage of "crashed saucers."
- Formulate direction of and plans for an aggressive campaign to end UFO secrecy and to coordinate the release and publication of heretofore secret UFO data in the possession of the U. S. and foreign governments. This could include a workshop on the mechanics of using the Freedom of Information Act as the primary tool by which to ferret desired data. It also could include formation of a lobbying corps to bring legisla-

tive reform to the Executive Branch's continuing efforts at maintaining UFO secrecy.

● Affirm and renew the resolve of concerned citizens to counter any present or future instance of UFO secrecy perpetrated by any official in the course of investigating UFO encounters or in the processing/evaluating of UFO data submitted to government agencies for analysis.

● Honor the work of Major Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.), the "father" of anti-UFO secrecy, as the impetus for "citizens against UFO secrecy." This could include a testimonial, "contributors' plate" dinner in his honor (with "roasting"?), the proceeds of which would be applied to special projects.

MANAGING THE PROJECT

Of course, any undertaking of this magnitude would require thorough planning, sound management, adequate funding, and the dedication and hard work of volunteers. Assuming those resources can be acquired and marshaled within the next year or so, is there anybody out there who'd be interested in becoming the Project Manager for this call to action? And are there any persons able and willing to join him/her in forming the cadre of planners and coordinators necessary for developing and executing the project? If so, please send your names and qualifications descriptors to CAUS headquarters immediately. This is your chance to get involved, to help build on our growing record of success in dispelling ignorance of (and/or apathy toward) the dangers of sustained UFO secrecy.



Foreign Forum

It doesn't take long for U. S.-grown UFOlogists to realize that official UFO secrecy is confined no more to North America than is inflation. A subscription for one or two foreign UFO journals soon bears this out. Of course, in the Soviet Union and other totalitarian nations, everything of political importance starts out a secret. There, even the fact that UFO secrecy exists probably ought to be kept a secret in the eyes of some government leaders. (Which was the case here in the United States when UFO's debuted upon modern man's consciousness; now, with the evidence of Project Blue Book largely declassified, all those official pronouncements of a policy of non-UFO secrecy have a distinctly hollow ring.)

CAUS correspondents in Spain, for example -- having applauded American efforts at ridding the Executive Branch of any hold-over UFO secrecy policy/practices -- acknowledge their own government's poor record in fostering a free-flow of vital UFO data to the citizenry. In recent correspondence with CAUS, Jose Carlos Fernandez Garcia, president of Spain's Instituto Reusense de Investigacion Ufologica, observes: "The reasons of my letter is to express my solidarity with your efforts to get a planification of the information about UFO's; so kept in silence and in secrecy by the governments. We all-studions of this phenomenon know the risks that entrails the want of information and the attitude taken for many

countries of not submission of these objects."

THE MEXICAN CONNECTION

Back on this side of the Atlantic, we find that Mexico might be sitting on a powder keg of UFO data. Case in point: Mexican embassy officials in Washington, D.C., have ignored CAUS inquiries about the Mexican role in the U.S.-led recovery of an alleged flying saucer that crash-landed on Mexican soil on December 8, 1950. According to UFO researcher W. Todd Zechel, the military recovery team out of Carswell Air Force Base, Tex., managed to dupe the Mexicans into thinking that the saucer was nothing more than an experimental American craft -- and hence the province/property of the border-crossing U. S. retrievers.

One easily can speculate on the Mexican embassy's demonstrated reticence about the event. Maybe the Mexican officials merely are embarrassed by this momentous intelligence scoop sprung on them by their neighbor to the north; and so they wish not to reopen that old wound in their international image. Or maybe they're a party to a U.S.-engineered conspiracy to suppress all past/present/future data about the recovery mission, with the understanding that the Mexican government share the wealth of knowledge derived from any on-going analysis of the craft. Then, a third theory would be a hybrid of the first two. Whichever theory survives the test of time, you can be sure that the next UFO that crash-lands in Mexico will receive not only royal treatment by the natives, but also the careful attention of a Mexican-led recovery team, acting on strict orders to resist interference from the greedy gringos from Texas.

In the meantime, CAUS researchers are trying another approach for cracking Mexico's wall of secrecy surrounding not just the 1950 case but also, presumably, any present or future body of valid UFO data. The results of this effort will be reported at a later date.

A NOTE TO CANADIAN CAUSIANS

At least one Canada-based UFO researcher is on the trail of alleged European retrievals (hardware and/or software). If any of the incidents pans out, it will dispel the notion that disabled UFO's somehow prefer to land on our side of the globe. CAUS plans to pursue the secrecy aspect of these incidents, and we commend our Canadian brethren for their investigative prowess to date.



Carter's Broken Promise

LARRY W. BRYANT *

In today's trend toward single-issue candidacy/recall on the part of the electorate, President Jimmy Carter's chances at reelection are slim indeed.

If you objectively can point to a string of broken campaign promises as the culprit in Mr. One Time's decline and fall, you should include among them his apparent failure to, in his words,

"make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists."

Although he did ask his science/technology advisor to look into the advisability of having the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reopen a formal Federal Government examination of the UFO problem (an act comparable to asking the oil cartel to report on the causes of worldwide inflation), President Carter nonetheless lost the chance for a turnabout in the credibility of officialdom's reaction to, and handling of, that problem.

Was his renegeing due to a grand scheme to suppress vital UFO data from public view? Some of the hundreds of citizens who have bothered to write their views to the President probably would think so.

THE PULSE OF DISILLUSIONMENT

Citizens' letters to the President on UFO's -- representing all walks of life, all political/religious persuasions, all extremes of UFOlogical orientation -- carry a popular message, best depicted in quotations from a few of the letters at random:

• In your recent televised talk to the American public, you stated that you were going to honor all of your campaign promises. Mr. President, do you intend to honor the above promise? Having researched the problem of Government documentation regarding UFO's, I am aware of quite a bit of such documentation currently being held by various Government agencies and departments. I would be more than willing to submit specific details of the existence of this documentation to you for any action you deem appropriate.

• I was surprised to learn about your intended action concerning UFO's. The magazine U. S. News & World Report states that the President himself would disclose information on UFO's that will astound and surprise the American public. Is this information derived from the Project Blue Book or any other governmental projects? Or is this new information that has been kept from the public? As the magazine reports, Mr. President, you will disclose this information towards the end of the year. Is this a true statement? I am concerned about UFO activity in the U. S. and their meaning of existence. I would appreciate a letter of reply. May I thank you for being concerned over this important matter.

• Mr. Carter, I have followed the UFO mystery for over 25 years. In that time, I have seen USAF officers make comments about UFO sightings far worse than the comment Paul Rand Dixon made recently about Ralph Nader. I would hope that you will very quickly make "every piece of information" the government has about UFO's publicly available. I would hope that this would include information as to just who in the Federal Government is currently investigating them. Officially, or at least for public consumption, the USAF has been out of it since late 1969, but there are a great many people who feel that theirs was merely the overt investigation and that covertly another agency (a special branch of the CIA has been mentioned by some researchers) has both carried out investigations of UFO reports and harried

sighters into not publicly reporting details of their observations/encounters with UFO's. Your assistance in piercing the "silence Curtain" thrown up around UFO sightings for many years by the USAF and other agencies will be greatly appreciated.

• I have read several books on UFO's, and I am convinced beyond any doubt that they are not mere figments of the imagination, but actually alien spacecraft from other worlds. My own sightings convinced me even more. I have read (in that same article) that you have seen a UFO yourself. When I first became interested in UFO's I was very much a skeptic. But now I am completely the opposite. In these books I have read about government cover-ups, especially Air Force. I have read and I am convinced that both the government and the Air Force do in fact know that most UFO's are alien spacecraft. Of course, I am aware there have been many hoaxes. I have read that the Air Force has even threatened people who have had sightings with good evidence not to talk to the press or anybody about their sightings. This should stop immediately! Should good, decent citizens be intimidated when they have the right to know the truth?! I am sure that by now you know the truth about UFO's. Of course, I have heard theories that there would be widespread panic, but I believe this is terribly underestimating the common sense of the American people. I believe if the government released, for publication, all UFO information over the course of the next few years it would not come as such a shock. After all, in a recent nationwide poll, 15 million Americans say they have seen a UFO. I realize UFO's are not a major national concern, so I can't expect you to do anything about it right away. I strongly believe that releasing all information on UFO's is something you can't put off. I have seen that in just your first month in office you are a man of action, and not afraid to do things differently. For this reason I believe if you don't do it, nobody will for a long, long time.

• I do believe the time has come to lift the lid off and release all the information the government has. Does the government in fact have an intact alien spacecraft hidden at Wright-Patterson A.F.B. along with its frozen occupants? As it stands now there is enough eyewitness testimony to say that something is or was hidden at the base. I realize this information would have to be released slowly because of the effect it would have on some people. But it would be a great step in bringing back an open government -- not one shrouded in secrecy. Reply wanted, please.

The Secretary of the Air Force's replies to these honest expressions of anticipation and concern generally have consisted of a form-letter response that says, in effect, "Thanks for writing, but we neither seek nor need your advice/support on this irksome matter /especially for our various mail processors along the way from White House to Pentagon/." Little wonder that any registered-to-vote recipient of that pat AF response would be disinclined to renew his/her faith in the Carter persona come election time.

Of course, it's possible that the Presidency

is not the fountainhead of official UFO secrecy. Considering Carter's apparent overall naivete on other issues of national concern or commitment, who's to say that, as regards the UFO controversy, he's not merely accepting at face value the put-off answers of his intelligence advisors?

Whether BSer or bungler, President Carter has left a sizable chunk of the electorate disillusioned and dismayed over the nonfulfillment of his al-

leged campaign promise. But, really, when you think about it -- you who've seen previous presidents dodge the UFO issue, term after term -- what UFO-oriented citizen actually ever has expected Jimmy Carter to plunge into the politics of UFOlogy?

* Mr. Bryant is the compiler-editor of an unpublished book entitled Jimmy Carter Answers His UFO Mail: Citizens' Letters to the President on UFOs.

EDITORIAL

The Crashed Saucer Secret: How We're Getting It - Why We'll Tell It

LARRY W. BRYANT

Now that its major issue is settled -- i.e., the right of a magazine to publish information gleaned from unclassified sources -- the celebrated case of the U. S. Government Vs. The Progressive Magazine raises questions about the Federal Government's possible intervention in the present and future efforts of UFOlogy media to publicize the facts/myths surrounding the growing suspicion that downed UFO hardware/occupants have been retrieved/stored by U. S. officials.

If upon sifting through rumor after rumor, claim after claim, unsubstantiated fact after unsubstantiated fact, a researcher stumbles across the crucial clue that unlocks Ali Baba's cave of UFO goodies, what is he to do with that key to the ultimate mystery of UFO's?

A FOOT IN THE DOOR

Well, if the researcher is Leonard Stringfield of Cincinnati, Ohio, the nation's leading specialist in the lore of "crashed saucers," he will proceed on a careful, methodical course of documentation until all the pieces of the puzzle are put in their proper places. In Stringfield's case, this means numerous man-hours of chasing fruitless leads, of enduring the sacrifice of his time needed for family matters, of remaining frustrated because of this or that missing element of data or lack of confirmatory evidence for the diversity of accounts relayed to him. It also means subjecting himself to abuse from persons who can't accept the seriousness of his work or who resent his leadership role in it. And it means exposing one's published interim reports to the critical whims of other researchers and mass-media analysts, who too often forget that what the report offers is not the final solution to the UFO controversy but rather a means for arriving at that solution.

Thus, if you're a Leonard Stringfield hot on the trail of retro-UFOlogy (the collection/evaluation of historical evidence gleaned from newly acquired evidence and testimony), you have every right to be apprehensive over whether your government is going to clamp down the secrecy lid on your findings. Should such a governmental incursion into your private life occur, what recourse do you have to protect your interests as a free citizen and to assure that the public's right to know is maintained free of prior-restraint censorship?

HAVE NO FEAR

If you follow the example of The Progressive's publisher, you'll enlist the aid of such public-interest groups as Citizens Against UFO Secrecy and the American Civil Liberties Union, both of which stand ready to advise you of your legal rights and obligations when Big Brother comes calling. And you'll rely on the glare of widespread publicity as a weapon to counteract any unconstitutional act that government officials might be contemplating using against you.

With that knowledge and assurance in hand, you will remain in a strong position to withstand unwarranted government control and to persevere in your efforts at being a conduit of information from, and among, sources heretofore entrenched in reticence.

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