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UFO POTPOURRI

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BROOKINGS INSTITUTION REPORT

The December 15, 1960 issue of *The New York Times* claimed that a Brookings Institution report said Earth's civilization might topple if faced by a race of superior beings. Perhaps that report helped to shape to government policy of denial and cover-up of sightings of unconventional flying objects.

The following is a direct quotation from *The New York Times*. "Discovery of life on other worlds could cause the earth's civilization to collapse. a Federal report said today (December 14, 1960). This warning was contained in a research report given to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with the recommendation that the world prepare itself mentally for the eventuality. The report, prepared by the Brookings Institution, said 'while the discovery of intelligent life in other parts of the universe is not likely in the immediate future, it could nevertheless happen at time.' Discovery of intelligent beings on other planets could lead to an all-out effort by earth to contact them, or it could lead to sweeping changes or even the downfall of civilization, the report said. Even on earth, it added, 'societies sure of their own place have disintegrated when confronted by a superior society, and other have survived even though changed.'"

NASA paid Brookings \$96,000 to prepare the report. The authors, headed by Donald N. Michael, also recommended further study of other space activities including the diplomatic and propaganda effects. ... The study went on to say that if contact was made in the next twenty years it would probably be through radio communications.

The cover-up has gone on so long and has involved so many politicians that any immediate release is highly unlikely. The most likely scenario of disclosure, other than an outright alien invasion, will be some leaks made through the groups trying to use radio telescopes to pick up signals, because an announcement that a signal had been received from a body located at a safe distance from earth, would have very little effect on the peoples of earth. Then the process of releasing more and more information over a period of years would ensure that no one would get in trouble for their past misdeeds.

(Thanks to Loren Gross for supplying the *New York Times* newspaper clipping)

LYNDON B. JOHNSON INVOLVEMENT

According to the August 6, 1960 issue of the *Washington Daily News*, The U.S. Senate Preparedness sub-committee was under standing orders from Democratic leader Lyndon B. Johnson to keep "a close watch" on any new developments related to unidentified flying objects. "Senator Johnson, Democratic vice presidential candidate, also has directed the subcommittee staff to report to him any 'significant' sightings of saucers along with an analysis of the Air Force investigation of them." Further, it said: "Congressional sources later confirmed that the subcommittee has been keeping the check for some time."

In a letter to Major Donald Keyhoe, Executive Director of NICAP, Senator Johnson said the following: "I have referred your interesting material to the staff of the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee, which at my direction you know. is keeping a close watch over new developments in this field with standing instructions to report to me any recent significant sightings of unidentified flying objects along with an analysis of the conduct and conclusions of the Air Force investigation of any such sighting."

Perhaps it is time for a FOIA request for the records of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee under Johnson, the previous president and the following three presidents. That might give us an idea whether or not the government is truly prepared.

POLICE OFFICER REPORT

Typical of what was being reported at the time was a report from the Berkeley, Missouri, Police Department and investigated by the St. Louis Detachment of the Military Transport Service at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. An official Department of the Air Force letter written in April 1960 by William Cook, Lt. Colonel, USAF, Commander, documents the event.

Police Sergeant Bryon Schrismer observed three UFOs from the south side of the Lambert Field airport. He was a former Navy Air Force pilot and had experience in reporting UFOs during his military service. The incident was verified by Officer Bobby Eades in a patrol car some distance away.

Three round objects about 9 feet in diameter flew directly over Schrismer's patrol car. Looking up, he could see that they were round with a flat bottom. For about two seconds a bright light illuminated the whole airport area. The objects were going northeast at 5-10,000 feet altitude. The duration of the observation was about 6 seconds. Immediately afterwards Eades contacted Schrismer via radio and verified they had both seen the over flight of three objects.

During the follow-up investigation, a check of the control tower logs by Clark Tucker, Radar Watch Supervisor at Lambert Field revealed no record of the event. And a McDonnell Aircraft representative said he knew nothing of the event. The official Air Force report said "The identity of the objects can not be determined by this HQ, but it is believed that it might be some form of unusual weather phenomena." Case closed!