

The Australian
29 January 2009

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Sydney Australian

Cameron pledges to tell all on UFOs

Nico Hines

Tynemouth, England

BRITISH Opposition Leader David Cameron has vowed that if elected prime minister he will end government secrecy over UFOs and extraterrestrials.

Speaking at one of his "Cameron Direct" public meetings yesterday, the Conservative Party leader pledged that a Tory government would be "entirely open and frank" in sharing any information about alien life forms.

At the meeting in Tynemouth, North-east England, he was questioned about a string of recent mysterious incidents.



"I have no idea if there is intelligent life out there," he replied. "I do believe in freedom of information and openness and this question has been asked from time to time, and I think we should be as open and clear as possible."

"What has tended to happen when people have looked at the Roswell incident, or when people have looked at pictures, is a rational explanation tends to be produced to try and show what has happened is not what those who believe in UFOs suggest."

"But I think we should be as open as possible, so I would be quite happy to give you a guarantee that if I became prime minister I would always be entirely open and frank about these things."

"I don't think any of us have any clue whether there's intelligent life out there and it is certainly not something that any government should seek to hide from anyone."

Conservative Party officials were not immediately able to clarify whether any new government would release the cache of existing classified documents or simply introduce a more relaxed policy towards the publication of future discoveries or investigations.

During the question-and-answer session, a member of the audience said to the MP for Witney: "In July last year, the respected scientist and astronaut Dr Edgar Mitchell, who was the sixth man to walk on the moon, spoke on a British radio station."

"He said the American Government had had contact with extraterrestrials on multiple occasions and that these were ongoing. He spoke about the Roswell event in 1947, where wreckage of a downed UFO was recovered and found to contain alien bodies."

"He said this event was real but was covered up by the Government for many years."

"Do you agree with me that the British people have a right to know if we have been visited, and if so, when you become prime minister will you seek to lift the veil of secrecy and give the public the truth that they deserve and that has been covered up for all these years?"

Mr Cameron laughed and replied: "I'm convinced we have been visited by alien life forms — and one of them is the Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson."

He later apologised to the man for the joke, but offered no apology to Lord Mandelson, the Business Secretary.

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Meanwhile, The House of Lords faced fresh "cash for amendments" accusations yesterday after the discovery that a Labour peer proposed law changes that would benefit companies he was paid to represent.

Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan put down amendments this month to the construction bill that would have given commercial advantage to building subcontractors by allowing them greater legal protection when claiming payments.

The peer, who until 2005 was a long-serving MP, withdrew the amendments this week. He felt it "inappropriate in the current climate to pursue them" after corruption allegations against four peers at the weekend, a spokesman said.

The Times