

Marchers Tell of Starships and Secrets

WASHINGTON, July 5 (AP) — The first time she was taken aboard a starship, the woman said, she was only 6 years old and told nobody about it because they would have thought her crazy. Now she talks freely about having traveled at the speed of light.

The woman, who would give her name only as Natra, took part in a demonstration today in front of the White House to demand that President Clinton make "full disclosure of Government U.F.O. secrets and an open, public inquiry into the phenomena."

Forty-five people marched in a circle, carrying signs. They were outnumbered by reporters. Natra was a popular person to interview because she was one of the few to claim to have ridden in unidentified flying objects. Most of the others merely reported having seen something or reading something or feeling a visit from something.

The demonstration was sponsored by "Operation Right to Know," a small group that argues that the Government is withholding 20,000 pages of documents

proving the existence of U.F.O.'s, including the retrieval of a crashed flying saucer in New Mexico in 1947.

The pickets attracted little attention, partly because it was so hot that only true believers and reporters would venture out into the merciless heat. The President was in San Francisco, en route to the economic summit meeting in Tokyo.

"This demonstration is more important than any demonstration ever held in Washington, D.C.," said Hal McKenzie, an organizer from Maryland. "This one affects everyone. We are here to let the world know and here to tell the government. No more lies." Natra said she had been aboard hundreds of starships since that first ride.

She said she communicated with space aliens telepathically and had been taken aboard a starship just last week. She was given an implant, she said, to give her the energy to communicate with those strange beings in Washington: reporters.

UFOs draw attention near White House

WASHINGTON, July 6 — On a holiday Monday when the temperature hit the mid-90s, an unusual demonstration managed to draw reporters outside the White House, where most protests are ignored.



COVERUP? This sign voices a protester's belief

demonstration ever held in Washington," said Hal McKenzie, an organizer from Maryland.

A demonstrator named only Natra said she recently was aboard a starship. "I put my hand on a light and whoosh," she said. "I was flying the craft. It was so fast."

If Bill Refuses to Spill the Beans, Maybe Perot Has Some Answers

WASHINGTON — Protesters plan to march on the White House Monday "to get Bill Clinton to tell the truth" — about UFOs.

Members of Operation Right to Know want the president to acknowledge that unidentified flying objects exist and to release government data documenting sightings. "It used to be that the UFO community was afraid of ridicule, and we were staying home. Now we're not staying home," says Elaine Douglass, a spokeswoman for the group, which has offices here and in Georgia and California.

"Our main goal is to end UFO secrecy," says Donald Ratsch, an organizer at Operation Right to Know, which counts about 150 subscribers to its newsletter. "This is a demonstration to end disinformation regarding government contact with other worlds."

The group claims that the U.S. government has had information documenting the existence of visitors from outer space since 1947. In a press release, the group contends that people claiming to have seen UFOs are everywhere. The release says, for example, that in Union Grove, Wis., a man was driving on Highway 11

and saw a very large UFO "about the size of three football fields."

About a half-dozen members of the group warmed up for the White House march with a protest yesterday outside offices of the Washington Post, charging that the paper's top editors and intelligence reporters wouldn't read their materials. Some carried signs saying "The Post has a flat Earth mindset on UFOs." But Washington Post Managing Editor Robert Kaiser says he did indeed read some of the material, adding that some of it was "provocative" and that the Post is "checking it out."

Various federal agencies have looked into UFOs over the years. But, says David D. Wippel, executive director of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, "I see no reason why the government would withhold information, if there were any information."

Members of Operation Right to Know sent a letter to President Clinton, asking him to meet with the group and to disclose what he knows about UFOs. Ms. Douglass says the president did respond with a form letter saying he will take the group's ideas into consideration and keep them close to his heart. But Mr. Clinton declined to attend a meeting.

UFO believers give testimonials

RICHMOND (AP) — Hundreds of people gathered at a UFO convention over the weekend, trading stories ranging from sightings in the sky to women giving birth to aliens.

"It's probably the most important scientific subject of the century," said Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network. The group held its 1993 International UFO Symposium at a Richmond hotel Friday through yesterday.

The speech topics included world-wide similarities in abductions of humans by aliens; significant sightings in Germany, China and Puerto Rico; and declassification of Spain's version of Project Blue Book, the U.S. Air Force report on Unidentified Flying Objects.

The network says it uses scientific investigative methods to weed out the 80 percent to 95 percent of those

reports that are explainable or unreliable, Mr. Andrus said.

The group says it wants the U.S. government to acknowledge that UFOs are real and that aliens are interacting with human beings.

"The government has denied the existence of UFOs for ages," Mr. Andrus said. "They're continually lying to the public."

Another group claiming the government is withholding UFO information plans a protest today across the street from the White House. Operation Right to Know plans to demonstrate in Lafayette Square from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Attending the Richmond symposium was a woman who said she recently gave birth to her 10th human-alien hybrid child, and a New York woman who reported being abducted from her apartment by aliens using a blue tractor beam.

John E. Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist and winner of a 1977 Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia, said he has spent the past few years counseling people who claim to have been abducted by space aliens.

Sometimes, Mr. Mack told a packed ballroom, the aliens may take the form of helicopters or even animals such as horses and deer.

Some attending were just looking for understanding.

William C. Bishko, a 73-year-old machinery salesman from Richmond, stood in the hotel lobby holding a drawing of three blue circles spaced evenly on a big silver circle.

He said he was at a Richmond swimming hole in 1952 when he heard a humming sound and looked up to see a spaces hip like the one on his diagram. As soon as the ship noticed him, it rose and swooshed away

on its side. "So they had to have swivel chairs, whoever was in there," he said.

Mr. Bishko says he kept silent about the experience for decades.

"I've been wanting to do this for years and years, and I figured this was my chance," he said. "I'm an old man now. . . Maybe my time is up. I got certain things I want to accomplish before I cash in my chips, and this is one of them."

But at least one skeptic attending the convention made his views known.

Philip J. Klass, 73, of the District is a retired editor for Aviation Week magazine. He publishes the bi-monthly "Skeptics UFO Newsletter" and goes to the group's symposiums to taunt UFO believers.

"I am the devil to the UFO believers," said Mr. Klass.



A. Rocky Hoffman protests at Lafayette Square that the government should release the information it has on UFOs.