

The background of the image is a composite of space imagery. The top half shows a dark blue space with a large, detailed Moon on the right side. The bottom half shows a bright blue Earth with white clouds. The text is overlaid on this background.

2014 Border Zone UFO Conference

The Search for Alien Life

1
00:00:15,049 --> 00:00:03,290
you're listening to Ira the inception

2
00:00:18,710 --> 00:00:15,059
radio network Chicago Illinois you're

3
00:00:23,990 --> 00:00:18,720
listening to I RN 2014 orders of

4
00:00:26,810 --> 00:00:24,000
international yoga conference one of the

5
00:00:28,820 --> 00:00:26,820
neat things about being a researcher is

6
00:00:31,250 --> 00:00:28,830
that we don't get to see each other

7
00:00:33,290 --> 00:00:31,260
often so when we have conferences like

8
00:00:36,020 --> 00:00:33,300
this it's kind of nice for all of us to

9
00:00:38,119 --> 00:00:36,030
get together and share information and

10
00:00:41,780 --> 00:00:38,129
visit it and get to know each other

11
00:00:44,299 --> 00:00:41,790
again author journalist and TV

12
00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:44,309
personality Nick pole was in charge of

13
00:00:49,520 --> 00:00:46,890

the British government x-files for 21

14

00:00:52,310 --> 00:00:49,530

years at the british ministry of defence

15

00:00:54,229 --> 00:00:52,320

he investigated UFO sightings looking

16

00:00:57,229 --> 00:00:54,239

for evidence of a potential threat to

17

00:01:00,500 --> 00:00:57,239

national defence his highly classified

18

00:01:02,479 --> 00:01:00,510

work included alien abductions crop

19

00:01:05,359 --> 00:01:02,489

circles and government psychic

20

00:01:06,859 --> 00:01:05,369

experiments when details and Nick's work

21

00:01:09,950 --> 00:01:06,869

were released under the Freedom of

22

00:01:13,219 --> 00:01:09,960

Information Act the media called in the

23

00:01:14,390 --> 00:01:13,229

real Fox Mulder nick is now recognized

24

00:01:17,480 --> 00:01:14,400

as one of the world's leading

25

00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:17,490

authorities on UFOs the unexplained

26

00:01:23,450 --> 00:01:20,400

conspiracy theory theories and French

27

00:01:25,760 --> 00:01:23,460

science he has worked as a consultant on

28

00:01:29,060 --> 00:01:25,770

numerous Hollywood films and TV shows

29

00:01:30,980 --> 00:01:29,070

about aliens and outer space he is also

30

00:01:34,609 --> 00:01:30,990

the best-selling author of four books

31

00:01:37,670 --> 00:01:34,619

one on UFOs one on alien abductions and

32

00:01:47,960 --> 00:01:37,680

two science fiction novels ladies and

33

00:01:54,390 --> 00:01:50,670

well thank you very much indeed for that

34

00:01:59,340 --> 00:01:54,400

introduction Dennis and also my profound

35

00:02:02,010 --> 00:01:59,350

thanks to noe to Brad to everyone else

36

00:02:05,130 --> 00:02:02,020

who has helped with the organization of

37

00:02:07,050 --> 00:02:05,140

the border zone UFO fest of all the dude

38

00:02:10,230 --> 00:02:07,060

of the Dead event and all the other

39

00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:10,240

festivities and of course above all to

40

00:02:15,840 --> 00:02:12,610

the city of Presidio itself for playing

41

00:02:18,450 --> 00:02:15,850

host to this event it's my first time

42

00:02:20,820 --> 00:02:18,460

here I hope it's going to be the first

43

00:02:23,490 --> 00:02:20,830

of many times because I sense that this

44

00:02:27,060 --> 00:02:23,500

festival is going to grow and grow and

45

00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:27,070

that there is really the we're in at the

46

00:02:30,840 --> 00:02:29,260

beginnings of something exciting here

47

00:02:35,400 --> 00:02:30,850

and I'm sure it's going to go from

48

00:02:39,650 --> 00:02:35,410

strength to strength so I'm very glad to

49

00:02:43,710 --> 00:02:39,660

be here and in this first of my two

50

00:02:46,770 --> 00:02:43,720

presentations today I want to be a

51
00:02:51,750 --> 00:02:46,780
little bit more speculative and I think

52
00:02:54,949 --> 00:02:51,760
very often in the UFO community one gets

53
00:02:59,310 --> 00:02:54,959
bogged down into what I call a sort of

54
00:03:03,360 --> 00:02:59,320
skeptic versus believer dogfight no is

55
00:03:06,830 --> 00:03:03,370
this real is this not real are we being

56
00:03:09,440 --> 00:03:06,840
visited or not is it really

57
00:03:11,970 --> 00:03:09,450
extraterrestrials or is it all just

58
00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:11,980
misidentifications hoaxes or delusions

59
00:03:21,930 --> 00:03:18,010
and it seems to me that there is quite a

60
00:03:26,040 --> 00:03:21,940
kind of entrenched viewpoint on probably

61
00:03:28,440 --> 00:03:26,050
on both sides so very often you're not

62
00:03:32,400 --> 00:03:28,450
really going to change people's minds by

63
00:03:36,449 --> 00:03:32,410

getting into that what is it is it or

64

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:36,459

isn't it a kind of dog fight so rather

65

00:03:43,380 --> 00:03:40,530

than try to make a case for the UFO and

66

00:03:45,690 --> 00:03:43,390

I'm guessing that as we're all here at a

67

00:03:47,490 --> 00:03:45,700

UFO festival it would be kind of like

68

00:03:49,229 --> 00:03:47,500

preaching to the choir anyway I'm

69

00:03:50,729 --> 00:03:49,239

suspecting there is quite a lot of

70

00:03:52,949 --> 00:03:50,739

people here who are pretty much

71

00:03:55,440 --> 00:03:52,959

convinced anyway so what's the point my

72

00:03:57,660 --> 00:03:55,450

my spending time trying to convince you

73

00:04:01,500 --> 00:03:57,670

let's get beyond

74

00:04:04,130 --> 00:04:01,510

and that kind of question and ask what I

75

00:04:08,580 --> 00:04:04,140

think are the more interesting questions

76

00:04:11,790 --> 00:04:08,590

it is the well okay the search for alien

77

00:04:15,240 --> 00:04:11,800

life is one thing but what happens if we

78

00:04:19,460 --> 00:04:15,250

find it what next what will be the

79

00:04:22,740 --> 00:04:19,470

effects on political structures on

80

00:04:25,650 --> 00:04:22,750

science and technology on religious

81

00:04:29,129 --> 00:04:25,660

belief on personal paradigms and

82

00:04:31,530 --> 00:04:29,139

worldview how will this affect us will

83

00:04:34,530 --> 00:04:31,540

it be the greatest game changer of all

84

00:04:37,530 --> 00:04:34,540

time or actually will life go on pretty

85

00:04:41,340 --> 00:04:37,540

much as normal and that's really the

86

00:04:48,930 --> 00:04:41,350

meat of what I want to get into in this

87

00:04:52,940 --> 00:04:48,940

presentation now one of the possible

88

00:04:55,530 --> 00:04:52,950

scenarios for how this might unfold and

89

00:04:58,620 --> 00:04:55,540

I know that a lot of people in the UFO

90

00:05:00,930 --> 00:04:58,630

community are not great fans of this but

91

00:05:03,360 --> 00:05:00,940

I think it is important to recognize

92

00:05:07,170 --> 00:05:03,370

what other people in the field are doing

93

00:05:11,600 --> 00:05:07,180

out there one of the main ways that we

94

00:05:14,300 --> 00:05:11,610

might get absolutely irrefutable

95

00:05:18,830 --> 00:05:14,310

scientific you can take that to the bank

96

00:05:22,260 --> 00:05:18,840

proof of all this is picking up a

97

00:05:25,890 --> 00:05:22,270

verifiable repeatable signal from

98

00:05:29,250 --> 00:05:25,900

another civilization this is a great way

99

00:05:32,310 --> 00:05:29,260

of actually taking us beyond evidence

100

00:05:37,969 --> 00:05:32,320

and into definitive proof because it

101

00:05:42,290 --> 00:05:37,979

fulfills that the scientific concepts of

102

00:05:44,940 --> 00:05:42,300

repeatability and and verification and

103

00:05:46,730 --> 00:05:44,950

one of the ways in which this might

104

00:05:49,800 --> 00:05:46,740

happen is the use of radio telescopes

105

00:05:54,600 --> 00:05:49,810

and how many of you here have seen the

106

00:05:58,710 --> 00:05:54,610

sci-fi movie contact great it is one of

107

00:06:01,500 --> 00:05:58,720

my favorite science fiction movies for a

108

00:06:03,779 --> 00:06:01,510

couple of reasons firstly arguably it's

109

00:06:07,159 --> 00:06:03,789

not really a movie about aliens at all

110

00:06:11,540 --> 00:06:07,169

it's a movie about us also

111

00:06:14,239 --> 00:06:11,550

it is a movie which i think is based on

112

00:06:16,730 --> 00:06:14,249

some very good science it was based on a

113

00:06:19,879 --> 00:06:16,740

book written by the late great carl

114

00:06:22,309 --> 00:06:19,889

sagan the great astronomer and science

115

00:06:25,100 --> 00:06:22,319

communicator and for those of you who

116

00:06:29,029 --> 00:06:25,110

haven't read the book how many have read

117

00:06:32,510 --> 00:06:29,039

the book ism ah interesting the book is

118

00:06:36,409 --> 00:06:32,520

very much worth your time because in an

119

00:06:39,309 --> 00:06:36,419

even more thorough and thought provoking

120

00:06:43,610 --> 00:06:39,319

way than the movie it gets into the

121

00:06:46,959 --> 00:06:43,620

fundamental i will say conflict but i

122

00:06:50,239 --> 00:06:46,969

think it might be fairer to say

123

00:06:52,999 --> 00:06:50,249

relationship between science and

124

00:06:59,149 --> 00:06:53,009

religion and it does so in a very

125

00:07:02,929 --> 00:06:59,159

thoughtful way i think and so for many

126
00:07:05,300 --> 00:07:02,939
years a number of radio astronomers just

127
00:07:09,529 --> 00:07:05,310
as we see in the movie the the character

128
00:07:12,469 --> 00:07:09,539
of le hour away in the movie is loosely

129
00:07:15,439 --> 00:07:12,479
based on a real person dr. Jill tarter

130
00:07:19,040 --> 00:07:15,449
from the SETI Institute and in fact

131
00:07:22,879 --> 00:07:19,050
jodie foster spent some time talking to

132
00:07:26,869 --> 00:07:22,889
to dr. tartar about her passion for this

133
00:07:29,450 --> 00:07:26,879
and it's one of the great tions between

134
00:07:33,050 --> 00:07:29,460
science fact and science fiction and

135
00:07:38,119 --> 00:07:33,060
ufology and and all these different but

136
00:07:40,279 --> 00:07:38,129
interrelated subjects so what we didn't

137
00:07:43,040 --> 00:07:40,289
see in the movie contact is what's going

138
00:07:46,700 --> 00:07:43,050

on right now the construction of the

139

00:07:48,649 --> 00:07:46,710

world's largest and most powerful radio

140

00:07:54,429 --> 00:07:48,659

telescope called the Square Kilometre

141

00:07:57,800 --> 00:07:54,439

Array and you can see there it's it's

142

00:08:01,639 --> 00:07:57,810

going to be it's based on multiple

143

00:08:06,230 --> 00:08:01,649

dishes based in number of different

144

00:08:09,260 --> 00:08:06,240

countries around the world construction

145

00:08:12,230 --> 00:08:09,270

is is pretty soon gonna get underway and

146

00:08:16,470 --> 00:08:12,240

it is going to be fully operational and

147

00:08:19,600 --> 00:08:16,480

on stream in the year twenty 24 so

148

00:08:23,290 --> 00:08:19,610

very often you'll hear people say when

149

00:08:26,200 --> 00:08:23,300

are we going to get disclosure when will

150

00:08:29,950 --> 00:08:26,210

the human race know that we are not

151
00:08:33,070 --> 00:08:29,960
alone and if you ask me to pick a date

152
00:08:35,970 --> 00:08:33,080
I'm going to go with 20 24 why because

153
00:08:40,480 --> 00:08:35,980
that's when this Square Kilometre Array

154
00:08:44,650 --> 00:08:40,490
telescope comes fully online and just to

155
00:08:51,900 --> 00:08:44,660
give you an idea of the sensitivity and

156
00:08:55,900 --> 00:08:51,910
power of this machine if you imagine the

157
00:09:00,150 --> 00:08:55,910
typical air traffic control radar system

158
00:09:02,950 --> 00:09:00,160
that you have at any American Airport

159
00:09:06,310 --> 00:09:02,960
this Square Kilometre Array radio

160
00:09:10,510 --> 00:09:06,320
telescope would be able to detect that

161
00:09:15,690 --> 00:09:10,520
Airport radar at a distance of around

162
00:09:19,690 --> 00:09:15,700
about 50 light-years translation if

163
00:09:22,720 --> 00:09:19,700

there are other civilizations in our

164

00:09:26,430 --> 00:09:22,730

little part of the galaxy doing the sort

165

00:09:29,920 --> 00:09:26,440

of thing that we're already doing this

166

00:09:33,280 --> 00:09:29,930

Square Kilometre Array telescope will

167

00:09:38,200 --> 00:09:33,290

find them now I'm not in any way in

168

00:09:41,200 --> 00:09:38,210

validating the UFO phenomenon and may be

169

00:09:45,970 --> 00:09:41,210

long before 2024 will yet disclosure

170

00:09:48,040 --> 00:09:45,980

through other means maybe we will get I

171

00:09:51,910 --> 00:09:48,050

suppose the UFO communities ultimate

172

00:09:53,860 --> 00:09:51,920

fantasy you know interruption to normal

173

00:09:57,670 --> 00:09:53,870

broadcasting routines there's going to

174

00:10:00,190 --> 00:09:57,680

be a special presidential address my

175

00:10:05,380 --> 00:10:00,200

fellow Americans people of the world we

176
00:10:07,450 --> 00:10:05,390
are not alone or maybe maybe we'll get

177
00:10:09,730 --> 00:10:07,460
the archetypal landing on the White

178
00:10:12,490 --> 00:10:09,740
House lawn or maybe we'll get something

179
00:10:17,620 --> 00:10:12,500
else but maybe we won't and if we don't

180
00:10:20,890 --> 00:10:17,630
science and radio telescopes might be

181
00:10:25,050 --> 00:10:20,900
the way that this is going to unfold and

182
00:10:27,820 --> 00:10:25,060
if it does unfold that way or in fact

183
00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:27,830
whichever way it unfolds some very

184
00:10:34,930 --> 00:10:29,810
interesting questions

185
00:10:36,970 --> 00:10:34,940
actually arise now I went back in and

186
00:10:41,200 --> 00:10:36,980
one of the great things that you often

187
00:10:46,300 --> 00:10:41,210
hear at UFO conferences is people

188
00:10:49,420 --> 00:10:46,310

complain why is it that the scientific

189

00:10:52,329 --> 00:10:49,430

community is not more interested in this

190

00:10:55,810 --> 00:10:52,339

subject why aren't they seeing what

191

00:10:59,170 --> 00:10:55,820

we're seeing why does science not look

192

00:11:02,470 --> 00:10:59,180

at these sorts of questions well some

193

00:11:07,560 --> 00:11:02,480

good news they are starting to do just

194

00:11:11,920 --> 00:11:07,570

that around about a month ago in

195

00:11:14,680 --> 00:11:11,930

Washington DC there was an event put on

196

00:11:18,900 --> 00:11:14,690

jointly sponsored by NASA and the

197

00:11:22,810 --> 00:11:18,910

Library of Congress an astrobiology

198

00:11:26,710 --> 00:11:22,820

symposium entitled preparing for

199

00:11:30,400 --> 00:11:26,720

discovery now I did not attend that

200

00:11:33,490 --> 00:11:30,410

event so I really I can't discuss that

201
00:11:38,920 --> 00:11:33,500
in in any great detail but what I can

202
00:11:42,130 --> 00:11:38,930
discuss is to Royal Society discussion

203
00:11:44,890 --> 00:11:42,140
meetings that took place in the United

204
00:11:49,329 --> 00:11:44,900
Kingdom back in 2010 now I did go to

205
00:11:52,540 --> 00:11:49,339
both of those and the Royal Society for

206
00:11:54,660 --> 00:11:52,550
those not familiar with it is arguably

207
00:12:00,310 --> 00:11:54,670
the world's oldest and most prestigious

208
00:12:04,540 --> 00:12:00,320
scientific organization it just a few

209
00:12:07,600 --> 00:12:04,550
years ago celebrated its 300th

210
00:12:12,520 --> 00:12:07,610
anniversary pretty impressive previous

211
00:12:17,790 --> 00:12:12,530
fellows include Sir Isaac Newton Albert

212
00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:17,800
Einstein more recently Stephen Hawking

213
00:12:24,730 --> 00:12:21,010

so this is a pretty eminent body and in

214

00:12:31,630 --> 00:12:24,740

2010 as I say they put on these two

215

00:12:34,420 --> 00:12:31,640

discussion meetings and they had I think

216

00:12:36,550 --> 00:12:34,430

the most provocative titles that I've

217

00:12:39,750 --> 00:12:36,560

ever come across at a scientific meeting

218

00:12:43,050 --> 00:12:39,760

the first one was called

219

00:12:47,340 --> 00:12:43,060

the detection of extraterrestrial life

220

00:12:52,940 --> 00:12:47,350

and the consequences for science and

221

00:12:57,080 --> 00:12:52,950

society and the second one was called

222

00:13:01,080 --> 00:12:57,090

towards a societal agenda for

223

00:13:07,200 --> 00:13:01,090

extraterrestrial life now some of the

224

00:13:09,930 --> 00:13:07,210

presentations were very data-rich fairly

225

00:13:13,770 --> 00:13:09,940

dry heavy scientific you know this is

226

00:13:17,010 --> 00:13:13,780

the composition of interstellar gas

227

00:13:21,330 --> 00:13:17,020

clouds that that sort of thing way above

228

00:13:23,490 --> 00:13:21,340

my head I have to say but what was

229

00:13:26,990 --> 00:13:23,500

really interesting about these two

230

00:13:30,900 --> 00:13:27,000

meetings I thought was that they were

231

00:13:33,510 --> 00:13:30,910

incredibly multidisciplinary in other

232

00:13:38,040 --> 00:13:33,520

words you didn't just have astronomers

233

00:13:44,780 --> 00:13:38,050

and cosmologists and astrophysicists but

234

00:13:48,600 --> 00:13:44,790

also psychologists anthropologists

235

00:13:51,720 --> 00:13:48,610

theologians all coming together to say

236

00:13:56,160 --> 00:13:51,730

not just hey how's the search for alien

237

00:13:58,560 --> 00:13:56,170

life going but as I say in the right at

238

00:14:02,190 --> 00:13:58,570

the beginning of this talk what happens

239

00:14:05,630 --> 00:14:02,200

if and when we find it what next now one

240

00:14:12,180 --> 00:14:05,640

of the big questions that came up is

241

00:14:16,350 --> 00:14:12,190

first contact how might things unfold if

242

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:16,360

we receive a message from the stars

243

00:14:24,150 --> 00:14:21,010

should we reply well it might sound kind

244

00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:24,160

of obvious but I have to tell you this

245

00:14:29,010 --> 00:14:26,470

led to a huge rous and rouse at

246

00:14:31,500 --> 00:14:29,020

scientific conferences are very

247

00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:31,510

interesting to see you know they're they

248

00:14:36,810 --> 00:14:34,210

kind of polite but voices still get

249

00:14:39,300 --> 00:14:36,820

raised and people still kind of answer

250

00:14:41,880 --> 00:14:39,310

back to each other and it's a yeah it's

251

00:14:45,270 --> 00:14:41,890

pretty interesting and one of the most

252

00:14:47,850 --> 00:14:45,280

controversial subjects was if we get an

253

00:14:51,930 --> 00:14:47,860

alien message should we reply and here's

254

00:14:53,430 --> 00:14:51,940

why it's controversial stephen hawking

255

00:14:56,790 --> 00:14:53,440

probably articular

256

00:14:59,460 --> 00:14:56,800

ated it best a couple of years ago when

257

00:15:03,420 --> 00:14:59,470

he was asked about this and he said well

258

00:15:06,660 --> 00:15:03,430

you know if the human race ever

259

00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:06,670

encounters extraterrestrials it will be

260

00:15:14,400 --> 00:15:09,880

a little bit like when the European

261

00:15:19,380 --> 00:15:14,410

explorers first encountered the Native

262

00:15:23,540 --> 00:15:19,390

Americans only this time he said we will

263

00:15:26,700 --> 00:15:23,550

be the Native Americans and therefore

264

00:15:30,390 --> 00:15:26,710

Stephen Hawking argued it might not be

265

00:15:32,520 --> 00:15:30,400

so bright to immediately reply to this

266

00:15:39,380 --> 00:15:32,530

message from the cosmos and say hey yeah

267

00:15:43,260 --> 00:15:39,390

here we are done come over yeah so

268

00:15:46,590 --> 00:15:43,270

Stephen Hawking has said no we should

269

00:15:49,550 --> 00:15:46,600

not reply it would be suicide or it

270

00:15:54,960 --> 00:15:49,560

might be suicide and why take the chance

271

00:15:59,760 --> 00:15:54,970

Seth Shostak one of the best known of

272

00:16:04,820 --> 00:15:59,770

the SETI scientists said well what are

273

00:16:09,450 --> 00:16:04,830

you going to do about it in a sense it's

274

00:16:12,500 --> 00:16:09,460

too late anyway the horse has left the

275

00:16:15,660 --> 00:16:12,510

barn we have been a detectable

276

00:16:18,360 --> 00:16:15,670
civilization four decades already

277

00:16:21,090 --> 00:16:18,370
because of our military radars because

278

00:16:25,140 --> 00:16:21,100
of our radio our television because of

279

00:16:27,720 --> 00:16:25,150
some of the active SETI that we've done

280

00:16:30,450 --> 00:16:27,730
because scientists are not just

281

00:16:34,290 --> 00:16:30,460
listening for messages some of them have

282

00:16:36,300 --> 00:16:34,300
sent them proactively to so whole bunch

283

00:16:40,110 --> 00:16:36,310
of other people at the Royal Society

284

00:16:43,890 --> 00:16:40,120
said no it's too late I understand

285

00:16:46,440 --> 00:16:43,900
Stephen Hawking's objection but it's too

286

00:16:52,130 --> 00:16:46,450
late and in any case what are you going

287

00:16:56,900 --> 00:16:52,140
to do about it if a Russian radio

288

00:17:00,890 --> 00:16:56,910

telescope decides proactively to

289

00:17:05,460 --> 00:17:00,900

broadcast messages out into the cosmos

290

00:17:07,900 --> 00:17:05,470

to try and contact other civilizations

291

00:17:10,060 --> 00:17:07,910

what are we going to do we're going to

292

00:17:13,960 --> 00:17:10,070

launch a cruise missile strike against a

293

00:17:16,630 --> 00:17:13,970

radio observatory these are the sorts of

294

00:17:18,069 --> 00:17:16,640

arguments that that come up so but

295

00:17:22,480 --> 00:17:18,079

that's a big one in the scientific

296

00:17:27,430 --> 00:17:22,490

community so should we reply if we reply

297

00:17:29,820 --> 00:17:27,440

who replies and what should we say well

298

00:17:34,180 --> 00:17:29,830

that's that's the Stephen Hawking

299

00:17:36,900 --> 00:17:34,190

objection do we send a reply he very

300

00:17:40,930 --> 00:17:36,910

strongly said no another scientist

301
00:17:45,870 --> 00:17:40,940
professor Simon Conway Morris also from

302
00:17:50,830 --> 00:17:45,880
the UK he said if the cosmic phone rings

303
00:17:56,770 --> 00:17:50,840
don't answer again other people said

304
00:17:59,190 --> 00:17:56,780
it's too late who should reply that's a

305
00:18:05,790 --> 00:17:59,200
really interesting question I think

306
00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:05,800
because it raises a wider philosophical

307
00:18:15,550 --> 00:18:10,130
political question who truly speaks for

308
00:18:18,430 --> 00:18:15,560
planet Earth let's suppose we switch on

309
00:18:22,900 --> 00:18:18,440
the Square Kilometre Array and we get a

310
00:18:25,660 --> 00:18:22,910
message and then the question is asked

311
00:18:29,280 --> 00:18:25,670
okay who replies well let's see

312
00:18:32,260 --> 00:18:29,290
President of the United States arguably

313
00:18:36,190 --> 00:18:32,270

the most powerful person on the face of

314

00:18:42,220 --> 00:18:36,200

the planet but the United States is only

315

00:18:45,580 --> 00:18:42,230

one nation amongst many and arguably any

316

00:18:46,990 --> 00:18:45,590

sitting president didn't get voted for

317

00:18:49,030 --> 00:18:47,000

by a whole bunch of other people who

318

00:18:52,840 --> 00:18:49,040

voted for the other party or who didn't

319

00:18:55,870 --> 00:18:52,850

vote at all so you know is the president

320

00:18:56,980 --> 00:18:55,880

really the right person to speak for

321

00:18:59,400 --> 00:18:56,990

planet Earth what about the

322

00:19:03,880 --> 00:18:59,410

secretary-general of the United Nations

323

00:19:07,150 --> 00:19:03,890

arguably it's more representative but do

324

00:19:11,890 --> 00:19:07,160

we really want to a bureaucrat speaking

325

00:19:13,840 --> 00:19:11,900

for all of us interestingly the United

326

00:19:19,020 --> 00:19:13,850

Nations

327

00:19:21,520 --> 00:19:19,030

has something called the committee for

328

00:19:25,630 --> 00:19:21,530

know they have pardon me they have an

329

00:19:28,150 --> 00:19:25,640

office for outer space affairs who have

330

00:19:30,370 --> 00:19:28,160

briefly looked at this issue and they

331

00:19:34,320 --> 00:19:30,380

also have something called the committee

332

00:19:37,330 --> 00:19:34,330

for the peaceful uses of outer space and

333

00:19:40,299 --> 00:19:37,340

so the United Nations has kind of

334

00:19:43,779 --> 00:19:40,309

grappled with this question of who

335

00:19:48,070 --> 00:19:43,789

speaks for planet Earth and there is a

336

00:19:54,159 --> 00:19:48,080

Malaysian astrophysicist called dr.

337

00:19:56,529 --> 00:19:54,169

Maslin Othman and she chairs the office

338

00:19:58,840 --> 00:19:56,539

for outer space affairs and a few years

339

00:20:01,240 --> 00:19:58,850

ago she was one of the speakers at the

340

00:20:04,149 --> 00:20:01,250

second Royal Society meeting and she was

341

00:20:08,049 --> 00:20:04,159

one of the people put forward as a

342

00:20:11,860 --> 00:20:08,059

potential ambassador for Earth so to

343

00:20:13,720 --> 00:20:11,870

speak if if we ever made contact what

344

00:20:17,850 --> 00:20:13,730

about a religious leader what about the

345

00:20:20,590 --> 00:20:17,860

Pope well we you know read a few

346

00:20:23,080 --> 00:20:20,600

positive stories about the new pope in

347

00:20:25,360 --> 00:20:23,090

the press and how he seems to have

348

00:20:26,700 --> 00:20:25,370

impressed a lot of people but I don't

349

00:20:30,220 --> 00:20:26,710

have to tell you that the church is

350

00:20:32,830 --> 00:20:30,230

pretty controversial because of various

351

00:20:36,159 --> 00:20:32,840

allegations at the moment and in any

352

00:20:39,580 --> 00:20:36,169

sense Catholicism is only part of

353

00:20:42,340 --> 00:20:39,590

Christianity Christianity is only one of

354

00:20:46,419 --> 00:20:42,350

the world's religions and what about

355

00:20:49,990 --> 00:20:46,429

people who have no religion so again do

356

00:20:54,190 --> 00:20:50,000

we really want a religious leader being

357

00:20:57,880 --> 00:20:54,200

our spokesperson if if we communicate

358

00:20:59,950 --> 00:20:57,890

with other civilizations I probably

359

00:21:05,049 --> 00:20:59,960

don't have to tell you that the whole

360

00:21:08,100 --> 00:21:05,059

question of religion and aliens was the

361

00:21:11,649 --> 00:21:08,110

most controversial part of these

362

00:21:14,529 --> 00:21:11,659

scientific conferences I don't think

363

00:21:15,970 --> 00:21:14,539

some scientists have forgiven or

364

00:21:18,490 --> 00:21:15,980

forgotten people being burnt at the

365

00:21:20,620 --> 00:21:18,500

stake for daring to suggest that the

366

00:21:22,690 --> 00:21:20,630

earth goes around the Sun and not the

367

00:21:24,070 --> 00:21:22,700

other way around and some people

368

00:21:29,320 --> 00:21:24,080

probably still need a bit of persuading

369

00:21:32,320 --> 00:21:29,330

on that but there was a huge stand up

370

00:21:36,280 --> 00:21:32,330

Wow at the first Royal Society meeting

371

00:21:38,380 --> 00:21:36,290

between Ted Ted Peters a theologian

372

00:21:41,799 --> 00:21:38,390

whose thought about this question and

373

00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:41,809

paul davies a physicist and science

374

00:21:51,370 --> 00:21:48,830

communicator and again you know that

375

00:21:53,980 --> 00:21:51,380

here's here's an interesting question

376

00:21:55,419 --> 00:21:53,990

about science and religion and and

377

00:21:57,880 --> 00:21:55,429

things and this is one of the things

378

00:22:00,899 --> 00:21:57,890

that came up at the first meeting one of

379

00:22:04,770 --> 00:22:00,909

the great cliches that you'll hear about

380

00:22:08,110 --> 00:22:04,780

what happens when we find out for sure

381

00:22:11,110 --> 00:22:08,120

that it's not just us that there are

382

00:22:14,200 --> 00:22:11,120

other civilizations out there other life

383

00:22:16,120 --> 00:22:14,210

other civilizations some people say well

384

00:22:19,770 --> 00:22:16,130

they'd be panic in the street it would

385

00:22:23,980 --> 00:22:19,780

shatter the economic system people's

386

00:22:28,200 --> 00:22:23,990

faith in religion would be destroyed one

387

00:22:30,340 --> 00:22:28,210

of the things that these scientific

388

00:22:31,960 --> 00:22:30,350

meetings that the Royal Society

389

00:22:34,630 --> 00:22:31,970

attempted to do was address those

390

00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:34,640

cliches and say are they true turns out

391

00:22:40,060 --> 00:22:38,210

they're not true why aren't they true

392

00:22:43,870 --> 00:22:40,070

why would there not be panic in the

393

00:22:47,080 --> 00:22:43,880

streets if the president was to announce

394

00:22:51,399 --> 00:22:47,090

that hey there are other civilizations

395

00:22:53,320 --> 00:22:51,409

out there we found aliens the reason

396

00:22:55,930 --> 00:22:53,330

there would not be panic in the streets

397

00:23:01,049 --> 00:22:55,940

is because over fifty percent of people

398

00:23:04,930 --> 00:23:01,059

believe that anyway and it's a kind of

399

00:23:07,750 --> 00:23:04,940

truism that you don't shock or scare

400

00:23:11,260 --> 00:23:07,760

people just by simply telling them

401
00:23:15,850 --> 00:23:11,270
something they already believe so short

402
00:23:18,970 --> 00:23:15,860
of some sort of Hollywood war of the

403
00:23:22,600 --> 00:23:18,980
worlds alien invasion nightmare the

404
00:23:26,740 --> 00:23:22,610
simple act of saying we have found other

405
00:23:29,919 --> 00:23:26,750
life other civilizations wouldn't cause

406
00:23:31,740 --> 00:23:29,929
panic in the street finally enough

407
00:23:36,159 --> 00:23:31,750
people seem to forget that we've got a

408
00:23:38,290 --> 00:23:36,169
real world example of that how many

409
00:23:42,250 --> 00:23:38,300
people remember that in

410
00:23:43,840 --> 00:23:42,260
96 NASA did actually announced that they

411
00:23:46,690 --> 00:23:43,850
had found what they believed was

412
00:23:49,770 --> 00:23:46,700
scientific evidence of extraterrestrial

413
00:23:53,170 --> 00:23:49,780

life the so-called Martian meteorite

414

00:23:56,470 --> 00:23:53,180

remember that well it was on the front

415

00:24:00,250 --> 00:23:56,480

page of almost every single newspaper on

416

00:24:03,400 --> 00:24:00,260

the face of the planet NASA said we

417

00:24:06,700 --> 00:24:03,410

found evidence of fossilized microbial

418

00:24:11,980 --> 00:24:06,710

life okay it's not as exciting as aliens

419

00:24:14,230 --> 00:24:11,990

like that but alien life is alien life

420

00:24:16,720 --> 00:24:14,240

and NASA said you know the very

421

00:24:19,180 --> 00:24:16,730

organization that many people believed

422

00:24:21,970 --> 00:24:19,190

to be at the heart of a cover-up on this

423

00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:21,980

we're shouting it from the rooftops and

424

00:24:28,030 --> 00:24:26,090

saying we've found alien life arguably a

425

00:24:31,380 --> 00:24:28,040

lot of other scientists were we're

426
00:24:34,300 --> 00:24:31,390
saying to NASA you're being a little bit

427
00:24:38,620 --> 00:24:34,310
presumptuous on this but NASA said we

428
00:24:43,180 --> 00:24:38,630
found alien life Bill Clinton made a

429
00:24:46,450 --> 00:24:43,190
nice speech about it the radio stations

430
00:24:49,480 --> 00:24:46,460
play David Bowie song life on Mars like

431
00:24:52,990 --> 00:24:49,490
there was no tomorrow but you know what

432
00:24:55,510 --> 00:24:53,000
happened the very next day pretty much

433
00:24:58,780 --> 00:24:55,520
everyone went back to normal and that is

434
00:25:00,030 --> 00:24:58,790
likely the most realistic scenario of

435
00:25:03,880 --> 00:25:00,040
what will happen the day after

436
00:25:05,680 --> 00:25:03,890
disclosure the day after contact my good

437
00:25:07,750 --> 00:25:05,690
friend who many of you in the UFO

438
00:25:11,400 --> 00:25:07,760

community will be familiar with John

439

00:25:16,300 --> 00:25:11,410

Alexander has a little sound bite on

440

00:25:19,090 --> 00:25:16,310

disclosure and he says well that's great

441

00:25:24,340 --> 00:25:19,100

but does any of this mean I don't have

442

00:25:26,230 --> 00:25:24,350

to go to work tomorrow and sadly the

443

00:25:28,540 --> 00:25:26,240

answer to the question is well actually

444

00:25:32,290 --> 00:25:28,550

you probably do have to go back to work

445

00:25:36,070 --> 00:25:32,300

tomorrow so if it was announced that we

446

00:25:39,930 --> 00:25:36,080

found alien life good news no panic in

447

00:25:42,520 --> 00:25:39,940

the streets bad news you go back to work

448

00:25:46,810 --> 00:25:42,530

would it shatter people's religious

449

00:25:49,120 --> 00:25:46,820

faith as I say that the cliché soundbite

450

00:25:51,150 --> 00:25:49,130

that you often hear is yes it would the

451
00:25:53,880 --> 00:25:51,160
actual answer seems to be no it

452
00:25:56,520 --> 00:25:53,890
wouldn't Ted Peters one of the few

453
00:26:00,570 --> 00:25:56,530
theologians who have done direct

454
00:26:02,670 --> 00:26:00,580
research on to this did some polling and

455
00:26:07,050 --> 00:26:02,680
then some follow-up interviews here's

456
00:26:11,220 --> 00:26:07,060
what he found he found that far from

457
00:26:15,480 --> 00:26:11,230
shattering people's religious faith it

458
00:26:19,290 --> 00:26:15,490
would strengthen it and the reason that

459
00:26:22,230 --> 00:26:19,300
people said was hey well I believe in

460
00:26:24,360 --> 00:26:22,240
God but if we find that there's a whole

461
00:26:27,930 --> 00:26:24,370
bunch of other life out there in the

462
00:26:32,400 --> 00:26:27,940
universe doesn't that just make God's

463
00:26:36,150 --> 00:26:32,410

creation look bigger and and more varied

464

00:26:38,420 --> 00:26:36,160

and wonderful so so actually you

465

00:26:40,650 --> 00:26:38,430

sometimes get these counterintuitive

466

00:26:43,290 --> 00:26:40,660

findings with all these cliches about

467

00:26:47,250 --> 00:26:43,300

alien life with the interesting thing

468

00:26:51,570 --> 00:26:47,260

about religion and aliens wasn't so much

469

00:26:54,450 --> 00:26:51,580

what people's personal faith would be

470

00:26:59,280 --> 00:26:54,460

but it's what they thought about other

471

00:27:02,730 --> 00:26:59,290

religions so in other words Christians

472

00:27:04,980 --> 00:27:02,740

said well we would have no difficulty

473

00:27:09,720 --> 00:27:04,990

with this but I'm not sure about the

474

00:27:11,550 --> 00:27:09,730

Jews or the Muslims Muslims said yeah we

475

00:27:14,940 --> 00:27:11,560

could incorporate this into our

476

00:27:18,660 --> 00:27:14,950

religious faith but not not sure about

477

00:27:23,910 --> 00:27:18,670

the the Christians Buddhists were fine

478

00:27:30,530 --> 00:27:23,920

with it kind of yeah that's okay it's

479

00:27:33,840 --> 00:27:30,540

cool bring it on so anyway I digress

480

00:27:38,700 --> 00:27:33,850

bites the question who speaks for planet

481

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:38,710

Earth or in all this discussion about

482

00:27:45,900 --> 00:27:42,010

President the Secretary General of the

483

00:27:48,750 --> 00:27:45,910

United Nations the Pope one of the

484

00:27:54,660 --> 00:27:48,760

suggestions was what about a committee

485

00:27:57,470 --> 00:27:54,670

of sages this sort of thing happens at

486

00:28:01,740 --> 00:27:57,480

scientific conferences a committee of

487

00:28:03,840 --> 00:28:01,750

sages and someone said what you know and

488

00:28:04,680 --> 00:28:03,850

it was like yeah a committee of wise

489

00:28:07,800 --> 00:28:04,690

people

490

00:28:10,410 --> 00:28:07,810

who could speak for Earth and one of the

491

00:28:13,980 --> 00:28:10,420

other scientists in the audience raised

492

00:28:16,290 --> 00:28:13,990

her hand and angrily said hey do the

493

00:28:22,170 --> 00:28:16,300

other seven billion of us get a say in

494

00:28:25,500 --> 00:28:22,180

any of this and that I think we leads to

495

00:28:28,110 --> 00:28:25,510

another quite profound question what

496

00:28:32,660 --> 00:28:28,120

about the billions of people who have no

497

00:28:36,110 --> 00:28:32,670

voice who arguably have no power and no

498

00:28:43,280 --> 00:28:36,120

say in any of this who speaks for them

499

00:28:47,850 --> 00:28:43,290

and I think if we do ever make contact

500

00:28:50,970 --> 00:28:47,860

with intelligent civilizations maybe

501
00:28:54,600 --> 00:28:50,980
they'll have some questions for us and

502
00:28:57,180 --> 00:28:54,610
maybe one of those questions will be hey

503
00:29:00,240 --> 00:28:57,190
how come is it that on this civilized

504
00:29:03,240 --> 00:29:00,250
planet where you're spending so much on

505
00:29:07,680 --> 00:29:03,250
on you know nuclear weapons and space

506
00:29:10,670 --> 00:29:07,690
probes each day tens of thousands of

507
00:29:13,800 --> 00:29:10,680
children die of preventable diseases and

508
00:29:15,990 --> 00:29:13,810
so maybe the question isn't so much what

509
00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:16,000
would our questions be for the

510
00:29:20,220 --> 00:29:18,010
extraterrestrials maybe we should ask

511
00:29:25,110 --> 00:29:20,230
ourselves what questions they might ask

512
00:29:29,270 --> 00:29:25,120
of us and I think that takes us to an

513
00:29:37,010 --> 00:29:29,280

interesting place to and maybe quite a

514

00:29:41,970 --> 00:29:37,020

disturbing place what should we say to

515

00:29:48,180 --> 00:29:41,980

another civilization you know what what

516

00:29:50,100 --> 00:29:48,190

should our message be well you know

517

00:29:52,710 --> 00:29:50,110

arguably that's the that's the best one

518

00:29:55,290 --> 00:29:52,720

to start with to reach out the hand of

519

00:29:58,170 --> 00:29:55,300

friendship and it's interesting if you

520

00:30:03,360 --> 00:29:58,180

look if you read I don't have the text

521

00:30:07,590 --> 00:30:03,370

on me but we have already sent space

522

00:30:12,870 --> 00:30:07,600

probes out into the cosmos pioneer 10

523

00:30:17,670 --> 00:30:12,880

pioneer 11 voyager 1 Voyager 2 and those

524

00:30:20,610 --> 00:30:17,680

probes have taken messages out and and

525

00:30:24,480 --> 00:30:20,620

I think the Voyager message read

526

00:30:28,550 --> 00:30:24,490

something like we take these first

527

00:30:33,180 --> 00:30:28,560

tentative steps out into the cosmos in a

528

00:30:38,550 --> 00:30:33,190

spirit of exploration and a spirit of

529

00:30:41,430 --> 00:30:38,560

peace and friendship we hope one day we

530

00:30:45,090 --> 00:30:41,440

may be called upon to learn and perhaps

531

00:30:49,650 --> 00:30:45,100

to teach and you know we look forward to

532

00:30:53,310 --> 00:30:49,660

that so but this is a big question what

533

00:30:55,290 --> 00:30:53,320

if we do pick up a message once we get

534

00:30:59,460 --> 00:30:55,300

beyond this should we reply what should

535

00:31:01,250 --> 00:30:59,470

we say SETI the SETI Institute search

536

00:31:05,190 --> 00:31:01,260

for extraterrestrial intelligence

537

00:31:09,060 --> 00:31:05,200

launched a kind of initiative a few

538

00:31:11,850 --> 00:31:09,070

years ago to gauge public opinion on

539

00:31:13,650 --> 00:31:11,860

this and test the water and see what

540

00:31:16,950 --> 00:31:13,660

people thought how many people have even

541

00:31:18,750 --> 00:31:16,960

heard of Earth's Peaks yeah they're not

542

00:31:21,450 --> 00:31:18,760

doing that you're the job I think of

543

00:31:24,630 --> 00:31:21,460

them putting it out there but it it

544

00:31:27,650 --> 00:31:24,640

basically asked the question well we're

545

00:31:30,930 --> 00:31:27,660

looking for some ideas what would you

546

00:31:34,530 --> 00:31:30,940

people say and they got some interesting

547

00:31:40,350 --> 00:31:34,540

answers back one a very clever person

548

00:31:42,780 --> 00:31:40,360

replied in binary code I think my

549

00:31:47,520 --> 00:31:42,790

favorite message that somebody suggested

550

00:31:57,110 --> 00:31:47,530

was it is very boring here and we are

551
00:32:07,190 --> 00:32:01,140
arguably we might find something a

552
00:32:11,130 --> 00:32:07,200
little bit more interesting to say hear

553
00:32:14,730 --> 00:32:11,140
hear what I think might be some

554
00:32:18,990 --> 00:32:14,740
questions that we we might like to think

555
00:32:21,060 --> 00:32:19,000
about asking meaning of life does

556
00:32:24,530 --> 00:32:21,070
consciousness survive death of the

557
00:32:27,450 --> 00:32:24,540
physical body is there a guard

558
00:32:30,930 --> 00:32:27,460
you know how can we overcome all our

559
00:32:33,750 --> 00:32:30,940
problems and the last one for definitely

560
00:32:35,910 --> 00:32:33,760
for the UFO community what what really

561
00:32:38,220 --> 00:32:35,920
happened at Roswell you know what what

562
00:32:42,300 --> 00:32:38,230
was it with you guys I once heard a

563
00:32:46,140 --> 00:32:42,310

skeptic who say to Stanton Friedman what

564

00:32:48,030 --> 00:32:46,150

would you do if aliens landed on the

565

00:32:50,790 --> 00:32:48,040

White House lawn and said yeah we're

566

00:32:57,540 --> 00:32:50,800

absolutely real but I absolutely promise

567

00:32:59,370 --> 00:32:57,550

you we didn't crash at Roswell so but

568

00:33:03,360 --> 00:32:59,380

those are the sorts of questions that

569

00:33:06,840 --> 00:33:03,370

people might be tempted to ask and in a

570

00:33:10,110 --> 00:33:06,850

sense no great surprises they are

571

00:33:19,110 --> 00:33:10,120

arguably the the big questions that we

572

00:33:24,740 --> 00:33:19,120

all want to know but I think this in and

573

00:33:29,760 --> 00:33:24,750

of itself kind of raises a dilemma and

574

00:33:33,890 --> 00:33:29,770

the dilemma is this throughout human

575

00:33:38,010 --> 00:33:33,900

history perhaps we've been at our best

576

00:33:43,500 --> 00:33:38,020

when we have struggled to overcome

577

00:33:47,130 --> 00:33:43,510

obstacles arguably it's hardwired into

578

00:33:49,500 --> 00:33:47,140

us it's what makes us human is dealing

579

00:33:52,470 --> 00:33:49,510

with problems whether it's very basic

580

00:33:56,280 --> 00:33:52,480

problems like feeding ourselves and

581

00:34:00,050 --> 00:33:56,290

clothing ourselves or whether it's more

582

00:34:04,040 --> 00:34:00,060

fundamental and more complex difficult

583

00:34:07,290 --> 00:34:04,050

problems if we encounter other

584

00:34:12,060 --> 00:34:07,300

civilizations we must face the

585

00:34:14,640 --> 00:34:12,070

possibility and indeed if if we are

586

00:34:17,490 --> 00:34:14,650

dealing with civilizations that come

587

00:34:19,500 --> 00:34:17,500

here not the possibility but almost

588

00:34:23,160 --> 00:34:19,510

certainly the absolute fact that we're

589

00:34:26,420 --> 00:34:23,170

dealing with civilizations orders of

590

00:34:32,340 --> 00:34:26,430

magnitude more advanced than our own and

591

00:34:34,440 --> 00:34:32,350

that being the case they might be in a

592

00:34:36,270 --> 00:34:34,450

position to give us the answers to some

593

00:34:36,990 --> 00:34:36,280

of these questions but would we want

594

00:34:44,310 --> 00:34:37,000

them

595

00:34:47,159 --> 00:34:44,320

that might might sound crazy why

596

00:34:50,070 --> 00:34:47,169

wouldn't we want these big answers well

597

00:34:53,550 --> 00:34:50,080

kind of same reason why it might not be

598

00:34:56,669 --> 00:34:53,560

a good idea to give a child learning a

599

00:34:59,370 --> 00:34:56,679

particular subject and coming up to an

600

00:35:02,010 --> 00:34:59,380

examination a crib sheet with all the

601
00:35:04,920 --> 00:35:02,020
test answers yeah they might get a

602
00:35:08,880 --> 00:35:04,930
hundred percent but will they truly

603
00:35:14,820 --> 00:35:08,890
develop and learn I would say no they

604
00:35:17,730 --> 00:35:14,830
won't so if we switch on the Square

605
00:35:20,820 --> 00:35:17,740
Kilometre Array and if we download if

606
00:35:25,380 --> 00:35:20,830
there is such a thing the Encyclopedia

607
00:35:28,350 --> 00:35:25,390
Galactica with all the knowledge and

608
00:35:30,960 --> 00:35:28,360
wisdom of other civilizations maybe

609
00:35:35,090 --> 00:35:30,970
millions of years more advanced than our

610
00:35:41,180 --> 00:35:35,100
own yeah we might get a short-term gain

611
00:35:44,520 --> 00:35:41,190
but would we get a long-term benefit

612
00:35:47,040 --> 00:35:44,530
aren't we as I say arguably at our best

613
00:35:50,940 --> 00:35:47,050

when we have to struggle to overcome

614

00:35:53,400 --> 00:35:50,950

adversity where we have to both

615

00:35:56,430 --> 00:35:53,410

personally and collectively as a

616

00:36:00,960 --> 00:35:56,440

civilization develop and learn and

617

00:36:07,230 --> 00:36:00,970

evolve and find out things for ourselves

618

00:36:09,450 --> 00:36:07,240

so yeah it would be good to get a cancer

619

00:36:13,050 --> 00:36:09,460

cure but maybe we should discover it for

620

00:36:16,290 --> 00:36:13,060

ourselves but that's very easy for me to

621

00:36:18,930 --> 00:36:16,300

say here but what if one of my loved

622

00:36:21,150 --> 00:36:18,940

ones was currently ill with cancer I

623

00:36:24,420 --> 00:36:21,160

expect I would change my mind this is

624

00:36:27,180 --> 00:36:24,430

why i would suggest there are very few

625

00:36:29,160 --> 00:36:27,190

black and white answers when it comes to

626

00:36:32,280 --> 00:36:29,170

these sorts of philosophical questions

627

00:36:35,550 --> 00:36:32,290

there are a lot if you'll excuse the

628

00:36:40,290 --> 00:36:35,560

youthful logical pun of gray areas here

629

00:36:42,870 --> 00:36:40,300

and but i think they are questions that

630

00:36:46,290 --> 00:36:42,880

it might be wise to think about because

631

00:36:47,540 --> 00:36:46,300

it might be 20-24 with the Square

632

00:36:50,630 --> 00:36:47,550

Kilometre Array

633

00:36:52,190 --> 00:36:50,640

it might be late today that we pick up a

634

00:36:54,710 --> 00:36:52,200

signal with our existing radio

635

00:36:58,780 --> 00:36:54,720

telescopes or it might be today that

636

00:37:02,450 --> 00:36:58,790

some whistleblower with an absolutely

637

00:37:05,030 --> 00:37:02,460

verifiable bank story says hey yeah it's

638

00:37:07,730 --> 00:37:05,040

all real or it might be later today that

639

00:37:10,570 --> 00:37:07,740

the president thinks hey end of two

640

00:37:16,430 --> 00:37:10,580

terms why not I'll just disclosed okay

641

00:37:20,240 --> 00:37:16,440

it's real so it's arguably worth

642

00:37:23,900 --> 00:37:20,250

thinking about these questions sooner

643

00:37:27,710 --> 00:37:23,910

rather than later some other you know

644

00:37:31,240 --> 00:37:27,720

the here are some of those things I

645

00:37:34,160 --> 00:37:31,250

think I think one of the great

646

00:37:36,500 --> 00:37:34,170

imponderables with all of this is you

647

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:36,510

know we kind of assume that if we

648

00:37:42,650 --> 00:37:40,010

encounter an advanced civilization that

649

00:37:45,410 --> 00:37:42,660

they'll be almost indistinguishable from

650

00:37:49,060 --> 00:37:45,420

gods and indeed there is that classic

651
00:37:52,280 --> 00:37:49,070
arthur c clarke quote any science

652
00:37:55,040 --> 00:37:52,290
sufficiently advanced from our own will

653
00:37:59,410 --> 00:37:55,050
be indistinguishable from magic and it

654
00:38:01,670 --> 00:37:59,420
may be that to us some of these advanced

655
00:38:08,540 --> 00:38:01,680
civilizations are almost

656
00:38:10,520 --> 00:38:08,550
indistinguishable from God's but if we

657
00:38:14,270 --> 00:38:10,530
look at some of the folklore that we are

658
00:38:18,410 --> 00:38:14,280
told about you know Greek and Roman gods

659
00:38:20,840 --> 00:38:18,420
and the gods were great tricksters so

660
00:38:25,780 --> 00:38:20,850
why should we assume that anything that

661
00:38:32,120 --> 00:38:25,790
we are told by extraterrestrials is true

662
00:38:35,450 --> 00:38:32,130
hey humans lie why shouldn't aliens more

663
00:38:37,700 --> 00:38:35,460

likely scenario if we find alien life

664

00:38:39,200 --> 00:38:37,710

we're not just going to find one other

665

00:38:41,810 --> 00:38:39,210

planet out there we're going to find a

666

00:38:44,120 --> 00:38:41,820

whole bunch of them some of the more

667

00:38:46,310 --> 00:38:44,130

advanced than us some less some pretty

668

00:38:49,010 --> 00:38:46,320

much at the same level you know it's the

669

00:38:50,630 --> 00:38:49,020

kind of science of of probability

670

00:38:52,850 --> 00:38:50,640

chances are we're in the middle of

671

00:38:56,320 --> 00:38:52,860

things you know we are not going to be

672

00:38:58,740 --> 00:38:56,330

the most advanced planet in the universe

673

00:39:00,900 --> 00:38:58,750

that'd be pretty scary

674

00:39:03,900 --> 00:39:00,910

we probably won't be the least either

675

00:39:06,690 --> 00:39:03,910

will chances are statistically you'll be

676
00:39:07,920 --> 00:39:06,700
somewhere in the middle and therefore

677
00:39:09,870 --> 00:39:07,930
there'll be a whole bunch of other

678
00:39:12,660 --> 00:39:09,880
civilizations and they won't all speak

679
00:39:15,150 --> 00:39:12,670
with one voice maybe David can talk in

680
00:39:17,400 --> 00:39:15,160
his presentation about the kind of Star

681
00:39:19,020 --> 00:39:17,410
Trek Federation idea the United

682
00:39:21,120 --> 00:39:19,030
Federation of Planets there may be

683
00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:21,130
something like that there may not there

684
00:39:25,110 --> 00:39:22,390
may be a whole bunch of different

685
00:39:27,870 --> 00:39:25,120
Federation's but it's unlikely that

686
00:39:30,660 --> 00:39:27,880
there'll be a single universal truth and

687
00:39:34,740 --> 00:39:30,670
a single Universal answer we might not

688
00:39:38,040 --> 00:39:34,750

like some of the answers what if planet

689

00:39:41,520 --> 00:39:38,050

Earth is a science experiment what if

690

00:39:47,130 --> 00:39:41,530

planet Earth is a farm what if planet

691

00:39:50,940 --> 00:39:47,140

Earth is a mental in Sylum or prison

692

00:39:56,610 --> 00:39:50,950

planet what if planet Earth is a reality

693

00:39:59,250 --> 00:39:56,620

TV show and as I say what if the answers

694

00:40:01,620 --> 00:39:59,260

harm us what if we get everything on a

695

00:40:07,400 --> 00:40:01,630

plate and then we kind of lose the that

696

00:40:12,170 --> 00:40:09,980

what if we don't understand the message

697

00:40:17,930 --> 00:40:12,180

wouldn't that be one of the most

698

00:40:21,060 --> 00:40:17,940

interesting and possibly frustrating

699

00:40:23,190 --> 00:40:21,070

situations of all that you would pick up

700

00:40:25,500 --> 00:40:23,200

a signal and you would know for a fact

701

00:40:28,830 --> 00:40:25,510

but there are other civilizations out

702

00:40:31,410 --> 00:40:28,840

there but maybe we'd never meet them and

703

00:40:34,590 --> 00:40:31,420

maybe we'd never be able to understand

704

00:40:37,560 --> 00:40:34,600

them or their mice and that would be

705

00:40:40,320 --> 00:40:37,570

very kind of but one of those really

706

00:40:43,860 --> 00:40:40,330

truly interesting philosophical debates

707

00:40:46,230 --> 00:40:43,870

and here's another question what if the

708

00:40:49,290 --> 00:40:46,240

scientific community pick up a message

709

00:40:51,810 --> 00:40:49,300

they can't understand now SETI have said

710

00:40:54,720 --> 00:40:51,820

if we find a signal number one will

711

00:40:56,700 --> 00:40:54,730

verify with other scientists and number

712

00:40:59,730 --> 00:40:56,710

two will tell everyone remember that

713

00:41:02,670 --> 00:40:59,740

great line in the movie contact where

714

00:41:06,870 --> 00:41:02,680

they say to Ellie Arroway who do we tell

715

00:41:09,150 --> 00:41:06,880

now and she says everyone well can you

716

00:41:11,430 --> 00:41:09,160

imagine the government being comfortable

717

00:41:13,620 --> 00:41:11,440

with the scientific community picking up

718

00:41:18,329 --> 00:41:13,630

signal that we can't understand and then

719

00:41:23,250 --> 00:41:18,339

releasing it what if it's the formula

720

00:41:27,620 --> 00:41:23,260

for some fantastic device that will

721

00:41:34,050 --> 00:41:27,630

enable us to generate almost unlimited

722

00:41:36,809 --> 00:41:34,060

cheap clean energy great you might say

723

00:41:41,309 --> 00:41:36,819

but do we not on this planet have a

724

00:41:43,800 --> 00:41:41,319

habit of abusing things like that one of

725

00:41:46,770 --> 00:41:43,810

my other favorite movies is the Medusa

726

00:41:50,370 --> 00:41:46,780

touch one of Richard Burton's movies and

727

00:41:53,460 --> 00:41:50,380

as a scene in there where he says we

728

00:41:59,910 --> 00:41:53,470

discover we find out what powers the Sun

729

00:42:03,240 --> 00:41:59,920

and we make a bomb out of it what if an

730

00:42:05,940 --> 00:42:03,250

extraterrestrial message is this

731

00:42:09,300 --> 00:42:05,950

incredibly powerful source of energy

732

00:42:13,410 --> 00:42:09,310

won't there be someone here that decides

733

00:42:15,359 --> 00:42:13,420

to weaponize it maybe that'll be your

734

00:42:19,160 --> 00:42:15,369

government but maybe it will be a

735

00:42:21,960 --> 00:42:19,170

jihadist terrorist so there are some

736

00:42:25,859 --> 00:42:21,970

questions about the whole

737

00:42:28,410 --> 00:42:25,869

interrelationship between the scientific

738

00:42:33,030 --> 00:42:28,420

community and the governmental community

739

00:42:35,309 --> 00:42:33,040

I have pretty much used out my time but

740

00:42:36,900 --> 00:42:35,319

I think I might manage to squeeze in two

741

00:42:39,089 --> 00:42:36,910

or three minutes of questions so thank

742

00:42:48,380 --> 00:42:39,099

you very much for listening and thank

743

00:43:06,019 --> 00:42:50,779

I I do have time to take a few very

744

00:43:10,339 --> 00:43:06,029

brief questions close your have already

745

00:43:12,799 --> 00:43:10,349

happened happened 40 2067 babies

746

00:43:15,950 --> 00:43:12,809

mountains by the ground and he puts

747

00:43:25,009 --> 00:43:15,960

applying slowly on the news media not

748

00:43:28,579 --> 00:43:25,019

paying attention yep the military yes

749

00:43:33,259 --> 00:43:28,589

that's certainly true that if you placed

750

00:43:35,180 --> 00:43:33,269

end to end the information on UFOs that

751

00:43:39,859 --> 00:43:35,190

governments around the world have

752

00:43:42,980 --> 00:43:39,869

already put out arguably that does

753

00:43:44,900 --> 00:43:42,990

constitute a form of disclosure now I

754

00:43:47,269 --> 00:43:44,910

think it might be disclosure with a

755

00:43:48,890 --> 00:43:47,279

little D as opposed to with a big d

756

00:43:51,710 --> 00:43:48,900

which is a debate that I've had with

757

00:43:54,049 --> 00:43:51,720

people like steve bassett before but yes

758

00:43:57,130 --> 00:43:54,059

the british government who i worked for

759

00:44:00,349 --> 00:43:57,140

is a good example of what you just said

760

00:44:02,569 --> 00:44:00,359

for years we told parliament the media

761

00:44:05,240 --> 00:44:02,579

and the public that this was a subject

762

00:44:07,759 --> 00:44:05,250

where we put out you know we had very

763

00:44:11,329 --> 00:44:07,769

little interest when we released the

764

00:44:13,069 --> 00:44:11,339

files there were 55,000 pages of

765

00:44:16,579 --> 00:44:13,079

documents so there's a lot of

766

00:44:18,589 --> 00:44:16,589

information already out there any other

767

00:44:22,400 --> 00:44:18,599

questions particularly on science

768

00:44:27,559 --> 00:44:22,410

religion disclosure and anything anyone

769

00:44:34,940 --> 00:44:31,859

what did they come up with yeah the

770

00:44:38,640 --> 00:44:34,950

Royal Society came up with no definitive

771

00:44:41,220 --> 00:44:38,650

answer to that question who speaks for

772

00:44:45,180 --> 00:44:41,230

planet Earth all of the people that I

773

00:44:50,370 --> 00:44:45,190

put up there were mentioned I think the

774

00:44:52,950 --> 00:44:50,380

sense that I got was that the scientists

775

00:44:55,559 --> 00:44:52,960

would rather that scientists speak for

776

00:44:58,319 --> 00:44:55,569

planet Earth as opposed to politicians I

777

00:45:00,000 --> 00:44:58,329

can see the merit of that but I'm sure

778

00:45:02,250 --> 00:45:00,010

that the politicians would see it

779

00:45:05,940 --> 00:45:02,260

exactly the other way around I kind of

780

00:45:08,460 --> 00:45:05,950

think that it's a self-selecting kind of

781

00:45:11,460 --> 00:45:08,470

situation that because this was a

782

00:45:13,980 --> 00:45:11,470

scientific conference of course the

783

00:45:15,990 --> 00:45:13,990

sense of it was probably that scientists

784

00:45:19,230 --> 00:45:16,000

would have a better case for speaking if

785

00:45:21,870 --> 00:45:19,240

it was a theological conference I'm sure

786

00:45:25,589 --> 00:45:21,880

they would feel theologians had a better

787

00:45:28,190 --> 00:45:25,599

case but there was no definitive hey

788

00:45:37,309 --> 00:45:28,200

this is the personal this is the group

789

00:45:45,480 --> 00:45:42,420

yes well this is the one of the most

790

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:45,490

compelling waves of UFO sightings in

791

00:45:51,690 --> 00:45:48,010

modern history but the so-called Belgian

792

00:45:54,240 --> 00:45:51,700

wave late nineteen ninety and

793

00:45:57,450 --> 00:45:54,250

particularly the night of March 30th and

794

00:46:01,260 --> 00:45:57,460

31st 1991 where the belgian air force

795

00:46:05,609 --> 00:46:01,270

actually scrambled two f-16 fighters in

796

00:46:10,109 --> 00:46:05,619

an unsuccessful attempt to intercept a

797

00:46:14,250 --> 00:46:10,119

UFO that was being tracked on radar the

798

00:46:16,400 --> 00:46:14,260

belgian air force and government said we

799

00:46:19,380 --> 00:46:16,410

don't know what this is but it was real

800

00:46:21,750 --> 00:46:19,390

the Americans were asked through the

801
00:46:24,030 --> 00:46:21,760
embassies I was peripherally involved

802
00:46:27,750 --> 00:46:24,040
and ask some questions through the

803
00:46:31,740 --> 00:46:27,760
British Embassy again I think it it ties

804
00:46:34,309 --> 00:46:31,750
back into the point that Kenneth just

805
00:46:38,839 --> 00:46:34,319
made about maybe disclosure has already

806
00:46:41,760 --> 00:46:38,849
happened maybe we should get beyond this

807
00:46:43,559 --> 00:46:41,770
you know is it real or is it not and say

808
00:46:46,319 --> 00:46:43,569
hey yeah you know there's enough

809
00:46:48,390 --> 00:46:46,329
information out there verified by

810
00:46:52,740 --> 00:46:48,400
governments itself I mean General de

811
00:46:54,930 --> 00:46:52,750
Brouwer you know the Belgian chief of

812
00:46:57,990 --> 00:46:54,940
staff for the Air Force he was the one

813
00:47:02,400 --> 00:46:58,000

saying and he continues to say this is

814

00:47:05,700 --> 00:47:02,410

real this is solid and his kind of under

815

00:47:07,680 --> 00:47:05,710

the breath postscript was you know thank

816

00:47:10,200 --> 00:47:07,690

goodness they weren't hostile because if

817

00:47:12,300 --> 00:47:10,210

they had have been the speeds and

818

00:47:14,069 --> 00:47:12,310

maneuvers of that thing we would not

819

00:47:15,839 --> 00:47:14,079

have been able to do a thing about it so

820

00:47:17,460 --> 00:47:15,849

maybe that's a good sign I I've been

821

00:47:33,080 --> 00:47:17,470

told we have time for one last very

822

00:47:38,550 --> 00:47:36,660

yes I think there is an argument that

823

00:47:41,070 --> 00:47:38,560

says they would be doing exactly that

824

00:47:43,560 --> 00:47:41,080

but they suppose the question is then

825

00:47:46,200 --> 00:47:43,570

how would they be speaking to scientists

826

00:47:49,440 --> 00:47:46,210

one answer to that is that they would be

827

00:47:54,360 --> 00:47:49,450

using something that they know we use IE

828

00:47:56,490 --> 00:47:54,370

radio so that's I guess one reason why

829

00:47:59,070 --> 00:47:56,500

listening for a radio signal with a

830

00:48:02,180 --> 00:47:59,080

radio telescope is logical but in my

831

00:48:05,730 --> 00:48:02,190

mischievous moments which I do have I

832

00:48:07,740 --> 00:48:05,740

suspect that extraterrestrials will be

833

00:48:10,200 --> 00:48:07,750

able to do rather more advanced things

834

00:48:13,050 --> 00:48:10,210

one of the things that I kind of

835

00:48:16,410 --> 00:48:13,060

speculate is they would have the

836

00:48:18,630 --> 00:48:16,420

capability to simultaneously send every

837

00:48:21,960 --> 00:48:18,640

single person on the face of this planet

838

00:48:25,050 --> 00:48:21,970

who has an internet connection and an

839

00:48:26,610 --> 00:48:25,060

email account an email and if every

840

00:48:29,820 --> 00:48:26,620

single person on the face of the planet

841

00:48:32,640 --> 00:48:29,830

got the same email in a way that's quite

842

00:48:34,800 --> 00:48:32,650

an egalitarian way of them making

843

00:48:39,320 --> 00:48:34,810

contact with us in a way that doesn't

844

00:48:43,140 --> 00:48:39,330

favor any one particular country

845

00:48:46,230 --> 00:48:43,150

politics religion etc so what's your

846

00:48:53,490 --> 00:48:46,240

inbox an email from et thank you very