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For reasons of national security.

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But sightings has spoken with former government personnel

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who charge that not only does the government keep certain projects secret,

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it also creates bogus projects to divert the pride eyes of the American public.

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It's called disinformation.

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What does the United States government and the military know about UFOs?

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And when did they know it?

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For nearly 50 years, researchers and private citizens have been asking for answers to no avail.

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Have we made contact with an extraterrestrial intelligence?

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Are we being kept from the truth through a systematic plan of disinformation?

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Certainly there is a cover-up.

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That's not the important question. That's a given.

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The ability to maintain a cover-up is directly proportional

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to the magnitude of the secret that's being kept.

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If the secret is only that there are UFOs,

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that there are extraterrestrials coming here visiting the planet,

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then I submit to you that's not much of a secret.

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It has to be something so potentially shattering to the basic sociological structure of the planet

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that anybody privy to it takes one look at it and says,

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oh my god, we've got to keep the lid on this.

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How are we going to tell the public?

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Charges of government conspiracy are nothing new,

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but what is new are revelations that not all secret government projects

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have been for the greater public good.

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As recently as the early 1970s, LSD was given to unwitting human subjects.

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In the 1940s, people received plutonium injections without their knowledge or consent,

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and during the Cold War, human guinea pigs were used to determine the effective nuclear bombs

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dropped within close range.

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These experiments and hundreds of other secret military projects

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proved that the government is capable of large-scale deception.

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clandestine operations in the name of national security

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came to public attention for the first time in the 1950s with the U-2 spy plane.

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Just before it became operational in 1954, a plan was developed

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in which they said, how do you hide an airplane with a 60-foot wingspan?

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You don't.

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Leo Janus worked in the Johnson White House before becoming a correspondent for Time Magazine.

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In Skunk Works, Janus investigates the top secret test center where the U-2 was developed.

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So they made up a story, and the story was that this airplane was being developed

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to study high altitude weather and so on and so forth,

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and put out an official news release lying to the American people.

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But keeping the wraps on a new generation of spy plane is a far cry for maintaining a massive UFO conspiracy.

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Skeptics charge that if our government does have evidence of alien craft or life forms,

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someone, somewhere, would leak it.

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That a secret this big just could not be kept.

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Nonsense. Nonsense. You can do it. I'm convinced of that.

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George Knapp is another investigative reporter who believes that the U.S. government consistently hides the truth from the public.

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He showed sightings documents that outline government procedures for launching a disinformation campaign called cover stories.

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Our government does it all the time.

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There are even printed guidelines for how cover stories disinformation are supposed to work.

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In April of 1994, there was even a review of the cover story policy by something called the Joint Security Commission,

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something hidden in the bowels of the Pentagon, and they said it in a very delicate way,

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we're doing this too much. We're doing it too much for the wrong reasons.

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It's too expensive. It's not getting the job done.

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But it recommended rewriting the guidelines for cover stories.

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In other words, let's revise the way we lie to the American public and the rest of the world.

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Robert O. Dean is a retired Army Sergeant Major who served on the front lines in Korea and Vietnam

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and was later assigned to NATO's Supreme Headquarters Command.

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He claims to have had NATO's highest security clearance, which is called, strangely, a cosmic top

secret clearance.

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It was during his tenure at NATO that Dean claims he read a 12-inch thick intelligence report on UFOs.

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I have to be honest with you and tell you that that information literally changed my life,

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because I knew for the first time that this subject was not fantasy, it wasn't myth, it wasn't legend, it was real. It was true.

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But why is Dean breaking his silence now, nearly 30 years after reading that life-changing report?

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One of the reasons I'm violating my national security oath is that I believe that the American people are losing their constitution

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because of the secrecy and the cover-up.

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We've got people in positions of power that are making national policy that were never elected for this.

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They're not accountable, they're not responsible to either the executive or the legislative branch.

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And that's got to stop.

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Dean and others charged that secret government enterprises called Black Projects are far more widespread and far more damaging than most people believe,

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and the best minds in the country are in charge of keeping them secret.

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The people who engage in disinformation are a lot better at it than we are at figuring it out.

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This document from the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence reveals that the agency was proposing a UFO disinformation plan as early as 1952.

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The document also details an investigation of NICAP, a private UFO watchdog group.

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They spied on it, they infiltrated it, they became officers in it, and soon thereafter the regular members who'd kept this thing going for a number of years lost interest.

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Despite hundreds of pages of documentary evidence, the only officially recognized government investigation of UFOs is Project Blue Book.

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Now, I look upon Blue Book itself as a little bit of disinformation.

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To tell the people, yes, we're doing something, when in reality Blue Book, as we understood it, was simply a public relations front.

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And those of us who really dug into it know that Blue Book was a cover.

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It was a PR cover that they didn't really address the reality of the issues.

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It was a PR attempt to show the public, well, we're doing some research.

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Yeah, we're really paying attention to it.

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But most of the real solid material never went to Blue Book, and Air Force pilots knew this.

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And according to Dean, this information continues to this day.

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To give you an example of the most recent example of absurd disinformation, was this incident involving the Roswell incident.

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First, the Air Force says it was a weather balloon.

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And 50 years later, they said, gee guys, we're sorry, it really wasn't a weather balloon.

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It was much more than that, but it was a balloon.

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Project Mogul.

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Well, I'm tempted to use terms that you'll have to bleep out.

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This is garbage.

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That's disinformation.

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That's lying through your teeth to the American people.

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That isn't disinformation. I don't know what is.

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What Dean is referring to is this 23-page statement about the Roswell incident released by the Air Force in late 1994.

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In it, the Air Force attempted to link veteran researcher Stanton Friedland to ludicrous stories in the tabloid.

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They said, in 1978, an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper, The National Enquirer.

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The fact of the matter is, there wasn't an article in the Enquirer.

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It's not only wrong information.

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It has a purpose to create a false picture of what was going on.

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After all, it's just tabloid nonsense.

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Bob Dean believes that there have also been attempts to discredit his UFO investigations.

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We're not merely dealing with probably the most important issue of our time.

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We're probably dealing with the most important issue in the history of the human race.

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This is something I believe in my heart, that the truth on this issue will literally set us free.

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George Knapp is not so optimistic.

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I don't see any way it's ever going to end. The nature of the information itself.

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I mean, we all say we have a right to know. We want to know we're ready. I'm not sure we are ready.

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You know, some of the more outrageous aspects of alien visitation, UFOs, are downright scary.

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We can say we're ready all we want, but I think when you get right down to it, it would have severe

ramifications.

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Sightings is in the midst of its own investigation into charges of a government UFO conspiracy.

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We have examined hundreds of documents, including this Air Force study that concludes that there is a possibility of alien visitors to our planet,

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or at least of alien-controlled UFOs.

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We'll bring you our full report on upcoming editions of sighting.