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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,640

On November 17th, 1986, a Japanese Airlines Boeing 747 left Paris headed for Tokyo.

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00:00:13,640 --> 00:00:20,640

While flying over Alaska, Captain Kenji Terauchi noticed strange lights moving in front of his aircraft.

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00:00:20,640 --> 00:00:26,140

The unidentified object suddenly headed towards the aircraft.

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00:00:26,140 --> 00:00:34,580

The Japan Air 1628 Roger, we have traffic in sight about one mile, moving off left wing to our six o'clock position.

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00:00:34,580 --> 00:00:42,380

What the flight captain first thought was a fighter jet turned out to be a round craft, twice the size of a jumbo jet.

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00:00:42,380 --> 00:00:45,380

The incident still remains unclassified.

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00:01:26,140 --> 00:01:41,140

On June 24th, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, an American pilot, saw nine unidentified objects about Mount Rainier, Washington.

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00:01:41,140 --> 00:01:49,140

Convinced that these objects were Russian in nature and fearing an invasion, Arnold reported the incident to the local FBI office.

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00:01:49,140 --> 00:01:59,140

In December of that year, faced with a growing number of sightings, the Air Force was officially mandated to investigate these mysterious flying saucers.

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00:01:59,140 --> 00:02:02,140

But the military weren't the only ones recruited.

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00:02:02,140 --> 00:02:06,140

The idea of an invasion also were its security agencies.

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00:02:06,140 --> 00:02:15,140

John Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI and Admiral Roscoe Hillencoder, director of the recently created CIA, quickly became interested in the sightings as well.

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00:02:15,140 --> 00:02:24,140

However, the public was not to discover their real role in the UFO matter until 30 years later, thanks to the Freedom of Information Act.

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00:02:24,140 --> 00:02:33,140

For many years, it was the contention of all government offices in the United States that the sole investigator of UFOs was the Air Force.

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00:02:33,140 --> 00:02:36,140

We now know this is absolutely untrue.

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00:02:36,140 --> 00:02:45,140

We know that UFO reports were distributed throughout the United States military, all of the branches, the Air Force, the Army, the Navy.

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00:02:45,140 --> 00:02:47,140

There were Marine Corps sightings.

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00:02:47,140 --> 00:03:00,140

The CIA initiated an interest in UFOs as early as 1948, a very strong interest covering worldwide sightings and collected, in fact, some very, very good reports.

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00:03:00,140 --> 00:03:08,140

We also know that the FBI collected many UFO reports, not just in 1947, but beyond that.

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00:03:08,140 --> 00:03:22,140

Other government agencies, such as the Defense Intelligence Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff, there were, my goodness, emergency UFO reports that went to the White House at various times.

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00:03:22,140 --> 00:03:39,140

So that none of this was known until the era in the United States of the Freedom of Information Act, which really the Freedom of Information Act became effective in practice after 1974.

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00:03:39,140 --> 00:03:52,140

You might call the first ten years of the Freedom of Information Act a kind of glory age in which it was relatively, relatively easy for UFO researchers to get some good documents out of the government.

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00:03:52,140 --> 00:04:01,140

In particular, I think under Jimmy Carter, President Carter in the late 70s, who seems to have encouraged a somewhat liberal interpretation of the Freedom of Information Act,

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00:04:01,140 --> 00:04:13,140

which meant basically that it would not be overly expensive for people to request such documents and that government agencies would have to respond quickly.

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00:04:13,140 --> 00:04:30,140

By the mid-1980s, this was really no longer the case, but for a good ten years in the United States, UFO researchers were able to get thousands upon thousands of documents from the CIA, the FBI, the DIA, Navy, Army,

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00:04:31,140 --> 00:04:45,140

Air Force, and elsewhere pertaining to UFOs. National Security Agency, the NSA, sometimes known as no such agency, appears to have had a very strong interest in UFOs.

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00:04:45,140 --> 00:04:59,140

We have one NSA UFO report going back to 1953, a few months after the agency was founded, despite the fact that the NSA had maintained that they had absolutely no interest in UFOs at all.

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00:04:59,140 --> 00:05:03,140

So we now know that none of this was the case.

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00:05:03,140 --> 00:05:15,140

Well, in the 1970s, the United States government released, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, thousands of pages of documents relating to UFO reports and to the subject in general,

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00:05:15,140 --> 00:05:24,140

from agencies such as the FBI, CIA, and later many other agencies produced reports.

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00:05:24,140 --> 00:05:31,140

Interestingly, this was after years of denial that they had any such reports.

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00:05:31,140 --> 00:05:45,140

However, many documents remain classified at what amounts to an above-top secret level, and even many top secret documents are still being withheld in the interests of national security,

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00:05:45,140 --> 00:05:56,140

and that information is not guesswork. That is actually stated within the context of the security classifications in the documents that have been released.

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00:05:56,140 --> 00:06:01,140

But it's quite clear that there's still a lot being withheld, in my opinion.

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00:06:01,140 --> 00:06:07,140

And I think the most sensitive material is not contained in any document.

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00:06:07,140 --> 00:06:16,140

I think if you talk to anybody in the intelligence community, they'll tell you that the most

sensitive information is not written down on the United States government memoranda.

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00:06:16,140 --> 00:06:20,140

So there's still a lot to be, there's still a lot being withheld.

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00:06:20,140 --> 00:06:33,140

But what has been released quite clearly evinces evidence, if not proof, of serious government involvement and the delicacy of classification.

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00:06:33,140 --> 00:06:52,140

I mean, there's an FBI document going back to 1949 which says that the subject matter of flying disks, flying sources, unidentified objects, and so forth, is considered top secret by a number of the military agencies such as the United States Air Force, Army, and Navy.

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00:06:52,140 --> 00:06:56,140

So that information alone is very, very important.

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00:06:57,140 --> 00:07:09,140

National Security Agency was taken to the Supreme Court in 1982 to disclose the reasons why there were withholding a certain amount of documents.

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00:07:09,140 --> 00:07:19,140

And they gave their reasons for withholding the documents in a 21-page above top secret affidavit, which was classified top secret umbra.

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00:07:19,140 --> 00:07:29,140

I should mention right now top secret means information, the unauthorized disclosure of which can reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the security.

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So already we're talking about sensitive material.

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00:07:31,140 --> 00:07:38,140

But the fact that material about UFOs is being classified at an above top secret, I think tells the whole story.

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00:07:38,140 --> 00:07:44,140

As it happens, I've spoken to somebody who has seen that 21-page above top secret affidavit.

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00:07:44,140 --> 00:07:54,140

And I don't know the details, but I know that the gist of it is that it doesn't talk about recovered alien bodies, United States government contact with aliens, and everything.

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00:07:54,140 --> 00:08:02,140

If there's any information like that, it's unlikely to be on any documents which are shown even in the United States Supreme Court.

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00:08:05,140 --> 00:08:12,140

Release documents reveal that the CIA initially believed that the UFO phenomenon was simply a rumor spread by subversives.

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00:08:12,140 --> 00:08:17,140

In July 1952, an incident occurred that seemed to support their theory.

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00:08:17,140 --> 00:08:25,140

On July 19 and 26, unidentified objects were detected on radar screens at the National Airport in Washington, D.C.

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00:08:25,140 --> 00:08:32,140

These objects were flying around the White House and the Pentagon, where airspace was restricted at all times.

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00:08:32,140 --> 00:08:37,140

F-94 fighter jets were dispatched, but they never caught up with the speedy objects.

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00:08:38,140 --> 00:08:48,140

While the situation was getting out of control in the air, on the ground, telephone switchboards in the nation's capital were literally paralyzed by calls from concerned citizens.

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00:08:48,140 --> 00:08:52,140

An unexpected turn of events which threatened public safety.

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00:08:52,140 --> 00:08:59,140

A press conference was held on July 27, and the only explanation put forth by the Air Force was temperature inversions.

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00:08:59,140 --> 00:09:04,140

To the CIA, it was beginning to look as if they had a national crisis on their hands.

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00:09:04,140 --> 00:09:11,140

If enemies of the state had wanted to paralyze the country's emergency response teams, they couldn't have found a better way to do it.

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00:09:11,140 --> 00:09:15,140

The CIA demanded a meeting to discuss the flying saucer problem.

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00:09:15,140 --> 00:09:20,140

This meeting took place in January 1953 and was known as the Robertson Panel.

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00:09:20,140 --> 00:09:25,140

Its conclusions had a major impact on the future of UFO investigations.

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The Robertson Panel is one of the most important turning points in the history of the American study of UFOs.

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Most people don't really appreciate the significance of it.

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00:09:38,140 --> 00:09:48,140

In 1952, the UFO wave in the United States reached an absolute peak in terms of the quality and the quantity of what was being seen.

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00:09:48,140 --> 00:09:54,140

As a result of that, the U.S. Air Force held a major press conference in July 52 that said,

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00:09:54,140 --> 00:09:58,140

no, no, it's all temperature and weather phenomena.

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00:09:58,140 --> 00:10:02,140

In the public matter, in the public domain, that laid the matter to rest.

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00:10:02,140 --> 00:10:07,140

But in the classified world, I think people understood that this was not a true explanation.

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00:10:07,140 --> 00:10:13,140

Now, the Harry Truman presidency was ending in January of 1953.

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00:10:13,140 --> 00:10:24,140

Very hastily, a panel of Nobel and Nobel caliber scientists was assembled by the CIA to do a classified study of UFOs.

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00:10:24,140 --> 00:10:29,140

This became known as the Robertson Panel after H.P. Robertson who led it.

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00:10:29,140 --> 00:10:36,140

We now know that the Robertson Panel conclusions were written before the panel convened.

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00:10:36,140 --> 00:10:41,140

And in fact, this panel convened during the very final weekend of the Truman presidency.

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00:10:41,140 --> 00:10:52,140

Rather significant. What the panel said was that UFOs were not a matter of national security.

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00:10:52,140 --> 00:10:55,140

They did not represent any alien technology.

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00:10:55,140 --> 00:11:05,140

And that furthermore, it would be important for the American government to debunk and educate the public on the true nature of UFOs,

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00:11:05,140 --> 00:11:09,140

which was that they were all explainable natural phenomena.

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00:11:10,140 --> 00:11:17,140

Following the Robertson Panel, it seemed that the FBI, the CIA, and even the NSA, the National Security Agency,

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00:11:17,140 --> 00:11:20,140

took an avid interest in UFOs.

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00:11:20,140 --> 00:11:27,140

This interest was heightened during periods of political unrest, like the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

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00:11:27,140 --> 00:11:34,140

Why? Did these federal agencies all believe that UFOs could be used to destabilize the balance of world power?

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00:11:34,140 --> 00:11:39,140

Were they aware of something more significant with regards to the phenomenon?

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00:11:39,140 --> 00:11:44,140

Unfortunately, documents released to the public do not give us much of a clue.

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00:11:44,140 --> 00:11:50,140

We do know that some of the sightings classified as unidentified objects by Project Blue Book,

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00:11:50,140 --> 00:11:58,140

the team set up to investigate UFOs between 1952 and 1969, were actually CIA spy planes.

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00:11:58,140 --> 00:12:05,140

Did their desire to hide the existence of these spy planes from the American public justify their interest in UFOs?

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00:12:05,140 --> 00:12:09,140

One thing is clear from the thousands of pages of released documents.

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00:12:09,140 --> 00:12:17,140

The primary motivation of information agencies was not to undertake any serious research into the true nature of these UFOs.

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00:12:17,140 --> 00:12:30,140

Many people say that the federal governments, the American CIA, the NSA, and whatever intelligence organizations there are,

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00:12:30,140 --> 00:12:41,140

and in Canada as well, that these various organizations are really overtly displaying no interest whatsoever in the subject,

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00:12:41,140 --> 00:12:48,140

but in fact have sort of a secret concern with it and are interested in the subject, and that might very well be true.

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00:12:48,140 --> 00:12:56,140

We have almost no evidence of this, however, and it might be just sort of a triumph of hope over fact.

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00:12:56,140 --> 00:13:02,140

But my guess is that they really don't care much about the subject at all.

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00:13:02,140 --> 00:13:11,140

I think that the Canadian government and the American government gets its cues essentially in a subject like this from the scientific community,

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00:13:11,140 --> 00:13:19,140

and the scientific community is resolutely hostile to the subject, and it's gotten worse with the scientific community.

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00:13:19,140 --> 00:13:23,140

There's this very little wiggle room, as they say.

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00:13:23,140 --> 00:13:36,140

And so in my own research on the subject, I have found no serious evidence of any kind of major studies going on for any country, at least in North America.

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00:13:42,140 --> 00:13:48,140

In the United States, there was another agency that was often associated with UFOs. NASA.

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00:13:48,140 --> 00:13:54,140

According to some authors, every spaceflight was accompanied by extraterrestrial vehicles.

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00:13:54,140 --> 00:13:58,140

Obviously NASA has been tight-lipped about these incidents.

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00:13:58,140 --> 00:14:05,140

One such incident was filmed during the Space Shuttle Discovery's mission STS-48 in September 1991.

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00:14:05,140 --> 00:14:11,140

The film was analyzed by University of Nebraska physics professor Jack Kasher.

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00:14:12,140 --> 00:14:23,140

The Space Shuttle Discovery was flying near Australia at the time, and they had the television cameras on, and it was looking out at the night sky because nothing interesting was going on.

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00:14:23,140 --> 00:14:31,140

And suddenly there appeared a bright light on the right-hand side. There were a number of bright lights that were significant, but this was the most important.

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00:14:31,140 --> 00:14:36,140

And it had started drifting slowly to the left, and it got to a certain point.

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00:14:36,140 --> 00:14:46,140

Suddenly there were two quick flashes on the lower left-hand part of the screen, and apparently in reaction to that, the object shot back up very sharply to the right,

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00:14:46,140 --> 00:14:55,140

and shortly after that two streaks went through the picture. One right where it had been, or very close to that, and another over here.

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00:14:55,140 --> 00:15:04,140

There was also a second object that had been drifting up. It reacted by moving off also, and there were some over on the right, and they reacted as well.

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00:15:04,140 --> 00:15:11,140

So you had several objects, a double flash reaction, and then streaks going into where the objects

had been.

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00:15:11,140 --> 00:15:16,140

The NASA answer is a reasonable one because it does happen.

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00:15:16,140 --> 00:15:22,140

They said that they were ice particles that were close to the shuttle, and there are ice particles close to the shuttle frequently.

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00:15:22,140 --> 00:15:31,140

And they said that the attitude of jester rockets went off, and the exhaust from those rockets then blew those ice particles away, and that's what happened.

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00:15:31,140 --> 00:15:41,140

That can happen. And to someone just casually looking at the video, if that's all you do, then it probably seems like a reasonable explanation.

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00:15:41,140 --> 00:15:48,140

I went far beyond that though because I took the video and I took the position locations as functions of time,

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00:15:48,140 --> 00:15:58,140

and I made graphs and I made a very careful scientific study of how the objects reacted and how they moved and how the flashes would interact with that.

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00:15:58,140 --> 00:16:08,140

And basically bottom line, I developed what I consider five fairly significant and strong proofs that the objects could not have been ice particles.

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00:16:08,140 --> 00:16:16,140

The film produced during mission STS-48 is not the only one of its kind in NASA archives.

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00:16:16,140 --> 00:16:24,140

Countless numbers of strange objects have been filmed from the time of the Mercury program in the early 1960s to recent shuttle flights.

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00:16:24,140 --> 00:16:39,140

In July 1969, the day before the first astronauts landed on the moon, the crew of Apollo 11 filmed two odd lights, which were later rationalized as reflections off the windows of the lunar excursion module.

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00:16:39,140 --> 00:16:43,140

I can't say for sure that they were hiding information in this case.

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00:16:43,140 --> 00:16:54,140

I do suspect that NASA has been involved with UFOs and it really would seem reasonable to me that if they are involved with UFOs, they would tend to cover it up.

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00:16:54,140 --> 00:17:02,140

UFOs are very interesting objects and it's not really a matter of whether the government is covering up UFO information.

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00:17:02,140 --> 00:17:09,140

It's a matter of court record that the government has documents that deal with UFOs and they are classified.

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00:17:09,140 --> 00:17:14,140

So there are those documents that exist and so quite possibly NASA has some too.

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00:17:14,140 --> 00:17:30,140

I cannot say for sure that they are specifically involved in the STS-48 as a cover-up, but I do have confidence in my study and I think that I can establish fairly well that these were actually spacecraft of some kind, not ice particles.

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00:17:30,140 --> 00:17:41,140

I've spoken to many astronauts. The majority of them, I believe, have not in fact seen UFOs and they become distressed when a lot of reports have been attributed to them.

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00:17:41,140 --> 00:17:52,140

But there certainly have been a number of unexplained reports. For example, James McDivitt told me that he was puzzled by an object that he saw in one of the Germany flights.

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00:17:53,140 --> 00:18:00,140

And I've had letters from other astronauts saying they've been puzzled by certain things, some of which have been explained.

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00:18:00,140 --> 00:18:11,140

I think all the so-called smoking gun, I don't know if you're familiar with the smoking gun, the shuttle footage, I'm totally unconvinced.

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00:18:11,140 --> 00:18:21,140

I think that nearly all those pictures show ice crystals being blown away by the directional thrusters on the shuttle. That's my own opinion.

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00:18:21,140 --> 00:18:31,140

So I think that's all nonsense about those things. The idea that NASA would release all this stuff openly every day to the public is ridiculous if they were actual UFOs.

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00:18:31,140 --> 00:18:38,140

They don't look like UFOs, they don't behave like UFOs and they're not UFOs in my opinion.

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00:18:38,140 --> 00:18:48,140

NASA has released a number of documents which in fact I've published in Beyond Top Secret, which is the revised and updated edition of Above Top Secret.

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00:18:48,140 --> 00:18:55,140

And I've published quite a lot of information also in Above Top Secret, my first book, which is now out of print.

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00:18:55,140 --> 00:19:01,140

And quite clearly that indicates a serious involvement on the part of NASA.

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00:19:02,140 --> 00:19:11,140

NASA itself classifies a lot of information at Confidential Secret, Top Secret and Above Top Secret.

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00:19:11,140 --> 00:19:20,140

We know that, I know that from their physical security handbook. And I'm quite sure that a lot of material by NASA is being withheld.

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00:19:21,140 --> 00:19:27,140

In Canada, the UFO matter was never really assigned to civil authorities as it was in the States.

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00:19:27,140 --> 00:19:32,140

The only significant episode dates back to the early 1950s.

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00:19:32,140 --> 00:19:46,140

Wilbert Smith, an engineer working for the Federal Department of Transport, undertook an initiative of his own with the support of his superiors to study all of the UFO reports collected by the Department of National Defense and Transport Canada.

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00:19:47,140 --> 00:19:54,140

Smith was hoping to draw valuable scientific information from these reports. His study was known as Project Magnet.

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00:19:56,140 --> 00:20:12,140

In 1950 and 51 and in 1952, Canadian scientist and government official, Wilbert Smith, with the Department of Transportation, had a very, very strong interest in UFOs.

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00:20:12,140 --> 00:20:18,140

And I think what appears to be on his own initiative did a tremendous amount of research on this topic.

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00:20:18,140 --> 00:20:29,140

Spoke to many American officials, including a defense scientist named Robert Sarbacher, who told him that UFOs in America were considered the highest matter of security.

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00:20:29,140 --> 00:20:35,140

Wilbert Smith also became very close with Donald Kehoe, who organized NICAP several years later.

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00:20:36,140 --> 00:20:43,140

Wilbert Smith was able to get approval for something known as Project Magnet, which occurred in Canada.

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00:20:43,140 --> 00:20:58,140

And this was a study that would attempt to measure the appearance of UFOs by setting up instrumentation that would detect them through electromagnetic means.

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00:20:59,140 --> 00:21:07,140

It is believed, in fact, that the project did record a success shortly before it was closed down in the early 1950s.

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00:21:07,140 --> 00:21:18,140

It has been said that the project was going to be closed down anyway due to either lack of interest or an unwillingness on the part of the Canadian government to support the project.

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00:21:19,140 --> 00:21:31,140

Following Project Magnet is very similar in a sense to the closing of Project Blue Book in the United States, which was basically a policy of debunking and shutting off of good UFO information.

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00:21:36,140 --> 00:21:41,140

Smith did not hide the fact that he believed the UFOs were interplanetary craft.

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00:21:41,140 --> 00:21:48,140

So in anticipation of Smith's conclusions, the Department of Transport withdrew its support in 1954.

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00:21:48,140 --> 00:21:52,140

He was told to cease all activities related to Project Magnet.

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00:21:52,140 --> 00:21:56,140

Smith ended his study and submitted his conclusions.

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00:21:56,140 --> 00:22:02,140

As expected, the engineer wrote that the phenomenon was definitely extraterrestrial in nature.

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00:22:02,140 --> 00:22:10,140

Another study was being carried out at the same time by the Second Story Committee, a joint venture by the Department of Transport and DND.

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00:22:10,140 --> 00:22:13,140

This committee's conclusions were far more conservative.

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00:22:13,140 --> 00:22:16,140

After that, UFOs were relegated to no man's land.

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00:22:16,140 --> 00:22:23,140

The Department of Transport didn't want anything more to do with the matter, and DND didn't see the point in collecting these reports.

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00:22:23,140 --> 00:22:30,140

In 1967, the reports were turned over to the Ottawa-Hersburg Institute, part of the National Research Council.

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00:22:30,140 --> 00:22:34,140

But their primary interest in the reports had nothing to do with UFOs.

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00:22:35,140 --> 00:22:42,140

The Hardsburg Institute was the centre for geophysical studies, in particular many astronomy studies.

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00:22:42,140 --> 00:22:56,140

A number of individuals there, particularly Dr. Peter Millman, were studying how meteor observations can lead to the discovery of the meteorites themselves on the ground.

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00:22:56,140 --> 00:23:10,140

To do that, he got the cooperation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to collect reports of unusual lights in the sky, reports of UFOs in some cases,

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00:23:10,140 --> 00:23:20,140

and take the reports from the RCMP to the National Research Council, which was the repository in the Hardsburg Institute.

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00:23:21,140 --> 00:23:33,140

These reports were then examined to see if they were, in fact, possible reports of a fireball or meteor that may have landed on the earth for possible recovery by the geophysicists themselves,

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00:23:33,140 --> 00:23:36,140

in which case it would be very important scientifically.

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00:23:36,140 --> 00:23:42,140

If they were not considered to be meteors, they were considered non-metioric,

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00:23:42,140 --> 00:23:54,140

and the Hardsburg Institute had a very small file every year of perhaps 20 to 30 cases of reports from people who had seen unusual objects in the sky,

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00:23:54,140 --> 00:23:58,140

which were not meteors and were something else, something much more mysterious.

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00:23:58,140 --> 00:24:04,140

You see, the National Research Council itself was not interested in UFOs,

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00:24:04,140 --> 00:24:11,140

but the possibility that UFO reports might lead to the recovery of meteorites.

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00:24:11,140 --> 00:24:16,140

But in order to do so, they had to collect the case reports and the sighting reports themselves.

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00:24:16,140 --> 00:24:26,140

So every year, the file accumulated larger and larger and was transferred at the end of each year to the National Archives of Canada,

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00:24:26,140 --> 00:24:35,140

and these files of UFO reports can be seen today by anyone who wishes to do so at the National Archives.

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00:24:36,140 --> 00:24:46,140

Gathering of information is basically left up to the discretion of federal, provincial and municipal police forces.

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00:24:46,140 --> 00:24:53,140

Whenever a complaint is filed by a Canadian citizen, a police officer is sent to investigate the matter.

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00:24:53,140 --> 00:24:59,140

Most officers just smile to themselves when they find out that it's an alleged UFO sighting.

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00:25:00,140 --> 00:25:08,140

To them, it just means more paperwork to be done, extra work for them to do, and they don't consider it much fun.

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00:25:08,140 --> 00:25:14,140

They investigate the matter anyways, but only because they have to since a complaint was lodged.

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00:25:14,140 --> 00:25:19,140

Of course, in the best of scenarios, the police officers would arrive at the scene and see the UFOs still there,

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00:25:19,140 --> 00:25:22,140

making them witnesses to the incident as well.

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00:25:22,140 --> 00:25:26,140

This did in fact happen in Satayas since five, six years ago.

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00:25:26,140 --> 00:25:30,140

It also happened in Quebec City, in Cochrane and in other places.

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00:25:30,140 --> 00:25:35,140

It has certainly happened a lot more often than we think, but they never tell us about it.

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00:25:44,140 --> 00:25:51,140

On November 7th, 1990, dozens of people, including local police officers and national RCMP agents,

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00:25:51,140 --> 00:25:55,140

saw a bright object hovering over the Bonaventure Hotel in Montreal.

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00:25:55,140 --> 00:26:03,140

The round object, which was surrounded by an amber light, stayed visible for hours before disappearing into a thick cloud covering.

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00:26:03,140 --> 00:26:11,140

Two years later, Richard Haynes, a senior research scientist working with the Space Human Factors Office of the NASA Ames Research Center,

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00:26:11,140 --> 00:26:19,140

produced a report concluding that the object was indeed a physical apparition and not simply a reflection or the aurora borealis.

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00:26:19,140 --> 00:26:25,140

According to Haynes, the object was flying at an altitude of 3,500 to 9,000 feet.

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00:26:25,140 --> 00:26:32,140

After analyzing a photo taken by a local journalist, Marcel Arash, as well as weather conditions at the time of the sighting,

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00:26:32,140 --> 00:26:40,140

it was concluded that the unidentified flying object was approximately 1,783 feet across.

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00:26:40,140 --> 00:26:45,140

The length of five football fields. The incident is still unclassified.

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00:26:45,140 --> 00:26:49,140

Several police officers witnessed the UFO over the Bonaventure Hotel.

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00:26:49,140 --> 00:26:53,140

But do any special procedures exist for reporting this type of incident?

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00:27:02,140 --> 00:27:09,140

If you're asking me whether we have specific procedures for reporting unidentified flying objects, then the answer is no.

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00:27:09,140 --> 00:27:13,140

They're reported the same way as anything else that happens each day.

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00:27:13,140 --> 00:27:20,140

If a person sees something suspicious in the sky, or something that has just landed on the ground or in the water,

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00:27:20,140 --> 00:27:26,140

then we open a calling card and gather information.

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00:27:26,140 --> 00:27:35,140

Our telecommunications agent then assigns a police vehicle to the case, and the vehicle is dispatched to investigate the incident.

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00:27:35,140 --> 00:27:40,140

These officers are my eyes and ears.

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00:27:40,140 --> 00:27:50,140

The men or women who check into the incident report back to me and the telecommunications agent that assigned the case.

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00:27:50,140 --> 00:27:58,140

We depend on the skills and judgment of the officers who investigate the scene and prepare a preliminary report.

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00:27:58,140 --> 00:28:03,140

They meet with witnesses and verify any evidence that is submitted.

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00:28:03,140 --> 00:28:07,140

They then make a decision based on those elements.

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00:28:07,140 --> 00:28:14,140

Their job is to gather and relay the facts, and then we decide what action to take based on those facts.

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00:28:14,140 --> 00:28:32,140

Sometimes we send forensic specialists, or if it seems to be a case of a genuine UFO, we send support staff to secure the area or assist with the investigation.

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00:28:33,140 --> 00:28:41,140

Obviously, in the event that the incident poses a threat to national security, police forces have mechanisms in place for passing on information.

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00:28:41,140 --> 00:28:47,140

In the case of the UFO over the Bonaventure Hotel, the Air Force was called.

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00:28:47,140 --> 00:28:53,140

Unfortunately, with nothing showing on their radar screens, officers at the Trenton Military Base in Ontario,

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00:28:53,140 --> 00:29:00,140

who were responsible for the safety of Eastern Canada, did not feel that it was necessary to send out fighter jets.

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00:29:00,140 --> 00:29:05,140

If they had done so, the incident may have turned out differently.

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00:29:05,140 --> 00:29:15,140

If we see that a case is not well founded, we don't bother contacting the RCMP or the Canadian forces.

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00:29:15,140 --> 00:29:20,140

They have a lot of better things to do with their time, and so do we, for that matter.

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00:29:20,140 --> 00:29:28,140

If a case is genuine, then yes, we have an agency, or rather, I should say an office called the Territory Surveillance Bureau.

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00:29:28,140 --> 00:29:33,140

They are the ones with the official connection to the Canadian forces in the RCMP.

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00:29:33,140 --> 00:29:43,140

If we see that there is something worth further investigation, a national security concern, then the Territory Surveillance Bureau goes into action.

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00:29:43,140 --> 00:29:47,140

It advises the RCMP or the Canadian forces.

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00:29:47,140 --> 00:29:52,140

We also see the Canadian forces and the security of the country depending on that.

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00:30:17,140 --> 00:30:24,140

The agency, independent of any military structure, but having the same investigative privileges as police detectives,

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00:30:24,140 --> 00:30:31,140

and whose primary objective would not be to protect Canadian territory, but rather to study UFOs.

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00:30:31,140 --> 00:30:40,140

Utopia? No. An agency such as this does exist. It is the only one of its kind in the world, called CIPRA.

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00:30:41,140 --> 00:30:49,140

Within France's National Space Research Center, CNES, there is a civil agency dedicated to studying aerospace,

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00:30:49,140 --> 00:30:59,140

since CNES's mission is to study satellites, rockets, and anything else that passes through France's aerospace.

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00:31:00,140 --> 00:31:10,140

In 1977, when Minister Robert Galli was interviewed by a journalist regarding the strange apparitions seen after the war,

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00:31:10,140 --> 00:31:21,140

commonly referred to as UFOs, the minister admitted to the journalist that the French police force had received accounts of bizarre incidents,

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00:31:21,140 --> 00:31:31,140

and that they were planning on studying them. But more from a scientific point of view, rather than a journalistic perspective,

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00:31:31,140 --> 00:31:33,140

or simply for media hype.

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00:31:36,140 --> 00:31:45,140

CNES was tasked with setting up an agency for this purpose, and it was given the name JAPAN.

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00:31:45,140 --> 00:31:57,140

JAPAN was monitored by a scientific council. It was not just left on its own to study these matters.

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00:31:57,140 --> 00:32:05,140

It was told that the scientific council had laid out a path for JAPAN so that it could gather information, analyze it,

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00:32:05,140 --> 00:32:10,140

and formulate conclusions on what was behind this flying saucer phenomenon.

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00:32:16,140 --> 00:32:30,140

When JAPAN was created in 1977, CNES set up agreements and protocols with all civil and military agencies, defining the roles of each agency.

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00:32:31,140 --> 00:32:40,140

The French police force and air force are responsible for collecting information, since pilots naturally observe objects in the sky as part of their job.

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00:32:41,140 --> 00:32:47,140

Pilots report any strange sightings to the police, who pass the information on to us here at CEPRA.

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00:32:48,140 --> 00:32:53,140

We then analyze the reports and offer our expert opinion on the matters.

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00:32:53,140 --> 00:33:12,140

The system has been working this way since 1977. Today, we have all of the information stored in a database.

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00:33:12,140 --> 00:33:16,140

Every incident reported is entered into the computer.

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00:33:16,140 --> 00:33:24,140

We now have a very large volume of information, with close to 6,000 reports.

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00:33:32,140 --> 00:33:39,140

This will enable us to prepare an analysis of the sightings reported over the past 50 years or so.

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00:33:40,140 --> 00:33:47,140

The cooperation established between the agencies has allowed for vital exchanges of information.

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00:33:52,140 --> 00:34:01,140

When we first set up this cooperative effort, procedures were put in place, and each police officer knows what to do if an incident occurs.

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00:34:02,140 --> 00:34:10,140

If it's simply a case of a person reporting something that they saw in the sky, a report is filled out and it ends there.

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00:34:10,140 --> 00:34:15,140

The report is sent to our office a few weeks later.

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00:34:20,140 --> 00:34:25,140

But when the incident is more complicated and difficult to understand,

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00:34:26,140 --> 00:34:32,140

especially when there are physical elements to be examined, such as marks on the ground,

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00:34:32,140 --> 00:34:42,140

then the police contact us directly, and we respond quickly with tools for analyzing these elements that the police and army do not have.

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00:34:42,140 --> 00:34:48,140

The police and army do not carry out any actual investigations of the UFO phenomenon.

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00:34:48,140 --> 00:34:52,140

They leave that up to the CNES.

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00:34:55,140 --> 00:35:00,140

They are not involved in the investigation of the UFO phenomenon.

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00:35:00,140 --> 00:35:05,140

They are completely involved in the investigation of the UFO phenomenon.

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00:35:26,140 --> 00:35:31,140

The police found out of polished metal and was about the size of a compact car.

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00:35:31,140 --> 00:35:36,140

It didn't have any visible traits to help identify what type of aircraft it might be.

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00:35:36,140 --> 00:35:43,140

The object remained on the ground for a few seconds, then silently took off and disappeared into the sky.

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00:35:43,140 --> 00:35:52,140

At the scene of the incident, the witness noticed that the object had left a circular trace on the ground, approximately 7 feet in diameter.

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00:35:52,140 --> 00:35:57,140

The police, who then advised Jipun, as CEPRA was known at the time,

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00:35:57,140 --> 00:36:02,140

analysis of the site revealed abnormalities in both the soil and the vegetation.

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00:36:02,140 --> 00:36:08,140

No satisfactory explanation was ever given, and the incident remains unclassified.

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00:36:14,140 --> 00:36:21,140

The most difficult part of the process is getting from the point where a person has seen something

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00:36:21,140 --> 00:36:25,140

of what has been seen.

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00:36:25,140 --> 00:36:31,140

Information is lost along the way, from the time that the incident is first reported

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00:36:31,140 --> 00:36:35,140

to the time that an explanation is proposed.

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00:36:35,140 --> 00:36:40,140

We have to try and come up with something that can be understood.

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00:36:44,140 --> 00:36:48,140

What did these phenomena represent on a global scale?

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00:36:48,140 --> 00:36:54,140

Of the cases reported since the 1950s, approximately 12% remain unexplained.

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00:36:54,140 --> 00:36:58,140

What exactly does this 12% correspond to?

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00:36:58,140 --> 00:37:05,140

It's a variety of phenomenon with a particular set of physical and technologically advanced characteristics.

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00:37:05,140 --> 00:37:09,140

It could be an object that zigzags across the sky,

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00:37:09,140 --> 00:37:14,140

or it could be a craft that moves silently

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00:37:14,140 --> 00:37:18,140

and causes lights to flicker in a nearby car.

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00:37:26,140 --> 00:37:30,140

It could be people who see strange forms near the ground,

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00:37:30,140 --> 00:37:34,140

which suddenly disappear into thin air.

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00:37:34,140 --> 00:37:39,140

It's a whole slew of incidents that cannot be lumped in with known phenomena.

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00:37:44,140 --> 00:37:57,140

On January 28, 1994, while flying at an altitude of approximately 39,000 feet,

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00:37:57,140 --> 00:38:03,140

the crew of an Air France Airbus noticed a large red disk flying to the left of their aircraft,

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00:38:03,140 --> 00:38:07,140

approximately 25 nautical miles away.

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00:38:07,140 --> 00:38:13,140

The object remained visible for a few seconds, then changed shape and disappeared.

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00:38:13,140 --> 00:38:20,140

Controllers at the Taverni Air Defense Operations Center, who were ensuring radar coverage of the area at the time,

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00:38:20,140 --> 00:38:25,140

saw an unidentified radar blip on their screens, which was crossing the Airbus' path.

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00:38:25,140 --> 00:38:28,140

Then it disappeared off their screens.

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00:38:28,140 --> 00:38:34,140

As unusual as this may seem, this sighting by the Air France crew was not an isolated incident.

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00:38:34,140 --> 00:38:40,140

Each year, agencies that ensure air transportation safety face incidents such as this.

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00:38:40,140 --> 00:38:46,140

Most of these agencies are overseen by IKAL, the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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00:38:46,140 --> 00:38:50,140

These inexplicable sightings rarely make the headlines.

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00:38:50,140 --> 00:38:55,140

However, in a lot of these cases, the passenger's safety has been compromised.

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00:38:55,140 --> 00:39:02,140

On August 9, 1997, a Swiss Air Boeing 737 on its way from New York to Philadelphia

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00:39:02,140 --> 00:39:06,140

barely missed colliding with an unidentified flying object.

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00:39:06,140 --> 00:39:12,140

On January 6, 1995, a few minutes before touching down at Manchester Airport in England,

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00:39:12,140 --> 00:39:18,140

a British Airways Boeing 737 almost collided with a bright, triangular-shaped object.

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00:39:18,140 --> 00:39:23,140

The UFO was moving silently and was undetected by radar.

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00:39:23,140 --> 00:39:30,140

In August 1984, a Condair Airlines aircraft had to make an emergency landing at Ipswich Airport in England

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00:39:30,140 --> 00:39:33,140

after hitting an unidentified flying object.

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00:39:33,140 --> 00:39:39,140

British Civil Aviation Inspectors reported that the aircraft had sustained major damage to one of its engines,

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00:39:39,140 --> 00:39:44,140

a window, part of its fuselage, one of the ailerons and the hydraulic cables.

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00:39:44,140 --> 00:39:49,140

In every one of these cases, no one was ever able to offer a rational explanation,

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00:39:49,140 --> 00:39:54,140

neither the Civil Aviation Investigators nor Jean-Jacques Velasco of CEPRA.

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00:39:55,140 --> 00:40:07,140

With regards to these unexplained cases, CEPRA's position is that we often see phenomena

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00:40:07,140 --> 00:40:13,140

that do not correspond to any technology that we are aware exists today.

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00:40:13,140 --> 00:40:19,140

If we don't have this technology, then it must come from somewhere else.

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00:40:19,140 --> 00:40:29,140

And if it comes from somewhere else, then the only reasonable theory we could put forth is that it comes from outer space.

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00:40:29,140 --> 00:40:36,140

This cannot be verified in itself because obviously we do not have the means to interpret these phenomena,

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00:40:36,140 --> 00:40:43,140

but it's a theory that scientists can work with.

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00:40:43,140 --> 00:40:51,140

In France, we have had a unique situation since 1977 when CNES created an agency dedicated to studying UFOs.

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00:40:51,140 --> 00:40:55,140

It was created by Claude Poirier, an engineer who is now retired.

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00:40:55,140 --> 00:40:59,140

At the time, he was head of the Systems and Projects Division at CNES,

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00:40:59,140 --> 00:41:03,140

and he became interested in the subject after reading the Condom Report

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00:41:03,140 --> 00:41:08,140

and concluding that the subject must be interesting if you can write a thousand pages about it

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00:41:08,140 --> 00:41:11,140

and then turn around and reject what was written.

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00:41:11,140 --> 00:41:15,140

Then launched a series of investigations which continued over time.

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00:41:15,140 --> 00:41:21,140

In the early 80s, CEPRA took over from Japan since CNES no longer considered the matter a priority.

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00:41:21,140 --> 00:41:28,140

It had never really been a top priority, but in the 1980s, CNES became more interested in other issues.

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00:41:28,140 --> 00:41:33,140

What I'm saying is that for some time now we've had a group studying UFOs.

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00:41:33,140 --> 00:41:40,140

This group has raised controversy over the years since UFO researchers believe that they might be hiding the truth,

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00:41:40,140 --> 00:41:45,140

just like the American government has been accused of hiding the truth about UFOs.

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00:41:45,140 --> 00:41:48,140

The question is just how much can be done.

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00:41:48,140 --> 00:41:53,140

I find it interesting that the French scientific community has undertaken such a task

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00:41:53,140 --> 00:42:00,140

because it requires an open dialogue between them and the public.

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00:42:00,140 --> 00:42:08,140

In the first few years, a lot was accomplished by Claude Poirier and Alain Esther, the founders of Japan.

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00:42:08,140 --> 00:42:14,140

Unfortunately, in the later years, CEPRA was not able to keep up with demand

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00:42:14,140 --> 00:42:18,140

and it did not release much information.

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00:42:18,140 --> 00:42:28,140

Its primary mission was to study phenomena in the atmosphere.

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00:42:28,140 --> 00:42:36,140

They were also investigating UFOs, but they seemed to put a lot less time and effort into that side of their operations.

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00:42:36,140 --> 00:42:46,140

And there was no clear policy on follow-up of investigations.

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00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:50,140

Controversy sprung up between CEPRA and UFO researchers,

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00:42:50,140 --> 00:42:58,140

who wanted to be the spokesperson on the subject since they were so familiar with it.

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00:42:58,140 --> 00:43:02,140

But Poirier and Alain Esther would just give him the brush off saying,

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00:43:02,140 --> 00:43:06,140

oh, we're working on it. Just wait and see what we're doing.

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00:43:06,140 --> 00:43:10,140

We can't always be answering letters and phone calls. They're just too much to handle.

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00:43:10,140 --> 00:43:16,140

This created a polarization between the two groups and CEPRA was suspected of hiding the truth.

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00:43:16,140 --> 00:43:20,140

I don't think that CEPRA has been hiding anything. You're just trying to do their jobs.

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00:43:20,140 --> 00:43:25,140

The problem lies in the fact that scientists feel that UFOs aren't important.

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00:43:25,140 --> 00:43:27,140

They have other things to do.

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00:43:27,140 --> 00:43:32,140

The scientists feel that UFOs are important and efforts should be focused solely on them.

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00:43:32,140 --> 00:43:35,140

They're caught between a rock and a hard place.

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00:43:35,140 --> 00:43:40,140

To add to the problems, CNES has never considered CEPRA a priority,

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00:43:40,140 --> 00:43:45,140

so it has never provided the group with the means that it requires to do its job properly.

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00:43:45,140 --> 00:43:50,140

The group still exists and is still carrying on its work, but at a slower pace.

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00:43:50,140 --> 00:43:54,140

No reports have been produced since Japan became CEPRA.

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00:43:54,140 --> 00:44:00,140

Progress doesn't seem to get past the discussion stage, as is the case for the 1981 Trans-en-Provence incident,

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00:44:00,140 --> 00:44:04,140

in which a witness saw a spacecraft landing on the ground.

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00:44:04,140 --> 00:44:08,140

The case was investigated by Japan and is still being discussed,

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00:44:08,140 --> 00:44:12,140

but hardly any progress has been made since the original investigation.

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00:44:12,140 --> 00:44:19,140

Since the end of World War II, several civil agencies have come face to face with UFOs.

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00:44:19,140 --> 00:44:23,140

The number of unclassified cases keeps on growing.

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00:44:23,140 --> 00:44:28,140

Although a lot of information is still inaccessible, the thousands of pages of information released to the public

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00:44:28,140 --> 00:44:36,140

over the past few years only go to prove that the phenomenon is a lot more significant than we were led to believe.

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00:44:36,140 --> 00:44:44,140

Throughout the public and the media, skeptics and believers continue to debate the theory of visitors from outer space.

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00:44:44,140 --> 00:44:49,140

Discussions might be more productive if we could study the facts without prejudice,

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00:44:49,140 --> 00:44:53,140

instead of simply judging a book by its cover.

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00:44:53,140 --> 00:44:57,140

In the end, people will believe what they want to believe.