

Press Release

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Subject: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE FOR MEDIA AND NEWSGROUPS

CSETI HEADQUARTERS, ASHEVILLE, N.C.
25 JANUARY 1997

BEGIN:

The Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI) through its Project Starlight initiative, has identified a significant number of first hand United States government, military and intelligence programs witnesses to UFOs of extraterrestrial origin.

In an effort to widen the scope of these investigations, CSETI is calling for additional government UFO witnesses to come forward, and for the US Congress to hold open hearings where these witnesses may testify without fear of reprisal.

CSETI has received legal opinions that the ongoing, extra-constitutional covert management of this subject is in violation of the US constitution, and that therefore the witnesses to these events are not legally bound to silence by pre-existing national security oaths on this subject (see attached documents).

In a letter dated 15 November 1996(enclosed) CSETI stated this position, and asked for relevant feedback from the White House, key members of Congress, the CIA, and other government officials. The letter also stated that, unless otherwise directed (UNODIR) we would regard these witnesses as free to speak openly about this matter as of 1 January 1997. None of the agencies or government leaders, all of whom acknowledged receipt of the letter, provided any policy, guidance or refuting materials by 1 January 1997 to correct this position.

Additionally, under current legal opinion, these witnesses are now considered free to speak without penalty, punishment or reprisal because of provisions provided by the Congress within the so-called 'Whistle Blower' legislation. This legislation, designed to allow government employees and government contractor employees to come forward with information regarding corruption and wrongdoing, protects these government UFO witnesses from any punishment or reprisals. This protection extends to both government employees and civilian employees of private government contractors.

Given the illegal and extra-constitutional nature of current covert projects dealing with these issues, CSETI maintains that government and government contractor witnesses to UFO programs and events have a constitutional obligation to come forward with information on this subject, and are encouraged to do so .

CSETI will be convening a closed meeting of such witnesses in the early spring of 1997, and will be asking members of Congress to hold open hearings where these witnesses may testify.

Since the current covert management of this issue constitutes a grave and growing threat to the national security of the United States, CSETI is asking that these hearings take place by this summer.

Any government employee or government contract UFO witnesses who would like to cooperate with this initiative should contact CSETI's International Director Steven M. Greer M.D. as soon as possible. CSETI has determined that assembling numerous such witnesses in a coalition, to come forward in unison, is the safest

and most credible way to move this subject to public disclosure.

These prospective witnesses should contact Dr. Greer at:

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END PRESS RELEASE

EVALUATING THE VALIDITY OF NATIONAL SECURITY
OATHS RELATED TO THE UFO/EXTRATERRESTRIAL
SUBJECT

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A number of first hand military, intelligence and government-associated witnesses to covert projects dealing with UFOs and Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI) have been identified by CSETI's Project Starlight effort. Over the past three years, we have located several dozen such potential witnesses as part of a comprehensive strategy to collect adequate evidence for a global, definitive disclosure on this subject. The story which these important government witnesses can tell will make a credible, undeniable case for the reality of UFOs and the existence of extraterrestrial life forms in proximity to the earth.

One of the persistent obstacles to this testimony coming out into the public arena has been the issue of so-called national security oaths and restrictions placed on these witnesses. Some feel that they are not free to speak unless 'released' from these national security oaths and restrictions, and so we have been working to encourage Congress and the White House to take actions which would remove these restrictions.

In the summer of 1995, a number of these witnesses gathered at a witnesses summit, and we all signed a letter to President Clinton asking him to take actions leading to the release of these restrictions. While receipt of this letter was acknowledged by a special assistant to the President, we still await specific action from the executive branch of the US government.

With this said, it is important to visit the question of whether or not such national security oaths and restrictions are themselves legally valid.

We have compelling witness testimony that the operations dealing with this subject currently exist, and have existed for several decades, outside of normal governmental projects. Members of the Project Starlight Team have met with very senior members of the Administration, Congress, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA and other relevant government agency operatives. The picture which emerges from these discussions is that of an operation dealing with UFOs which is functioning outside of the normal channels of government, as it is usually considered. Indeed, we have found that the most senior levels of the executive branch, Congress, the military etc. are totally out of the loop on this extraordinary matter.

This then brings up the sobering question of who is in the loop, and under what authorization are such projects operating? It is our assessment that for the large part, these operations do not fall under any constitutionally sanctioned avenues of authorization, and as such are, perforce, illegal.

Aside from the lack of oversight and authorization from the executive branch and Congress, these operations have, from time to time, engaged in deceptive practices which have frustrated the organs of constitutionally legal inquiries and democratic processes. Any such operation which behaves in this fashion unilaterally removes itself from the inherent legality and protection which exists for projects which are consonant with constitutional law.

This being the case (we are eager - nay, desperate- for someone to prove otherwise...) all of the so-called 'national security oaths' and other 'restrictions' placed on military, intelligence and government contract workers are null and void. That is, they appear to have no legal validity since the operations for which they were obtained are themselves illegal. In a constitutional democracy, it is a basic

requirement of law that such operations be constitutionally legal, and if they are not, then all that flows from them - including such 'oaths'- are illegal and therefore non-binding. IF these operations are legal, nobody in the Congress, executive branch or senior military with whom we have spoken knows of it. The production of a single current executive order or congressional directive authorizing these projects, which can be independently verified, would convince us otherwise.

More than one covert contact has told us that, indeed, any such witnesses can and should speak out at the right time and place since no legal entity would - or legally could - do anything about it. We agree.

Beyond this, it is the legal, moral and patriotic duty of such witnesses to come together, and at the highest, best and most credible venue possible, speak out in unison regarding the truth on this matter. Granted, if only one or two such persons come forward, the case will be weak, and the risk will be unacceptable. But if ten, twenty or more such witnesses come together, and united, resolve to share their information and experiences on this subject, then a definitive case will be made, and a great service to the world and their country will be fulfilled.

The return of this matter to the legal channels of government and the deliberation of the people is one of the great unfulfilled tasks of the post cold war era. Over half a decade has elapsed since the end of the cold war, and there can no longer be a justification (if there ever was) for this type of extraordinary secrecy and covert agenda. Both national and world security requires that this matter be returned to the world community as soon as possible.

We recommend that men and women of vision, courage and dedication join with us in fulfilling this task. Far from being a legal violation of 'security oaths', the public testimony by such witnesses is a highly moral and legal act. Further, is it not true that the continuation of this secrecy itself is illegal and immoral, given the inherent unconstitutionality of such programs? Credible witnesses, joining together and providing their testimony in a united strategy can return this subject to legal oversight and control, and thereby enable the people of our country and of the world to begin the public deliberations which should have occurred 50 years ago.

National Security Implications of the
UFO/ETI Subject: A brief summary

National Security Implications of the UFO/ETI subject are profound and far-reaching, albeit currently largely unrecognized.

These implications may be considered in separate but related aspects: those intrinsic to ET activity and those arising from current covert management of the issue.

Historical Background:

Early National Security considerations dealt with concern over public panic arising from the detection of near earth and earth-landed extraterrestrial spacecraft (ETS) and from the technological implications of advanced Extraterrestrial material as it may impact the arms race and cold war. Additional concerns were related to the impact on religious belief systems, the political order and economic systems.

Importantly, once actual ETS were retrieved in 1947, thereby allowing Extraterrestrial hardware to be studied and back-engineered for possible human military applications, the need for complete secrecy regarding the matter was deemed paramount by authorities at that time. Given the tensions of the early atomic era and the mounting 'cold war' with the USSR, it is understandable that the introduction of Extraterrestrial technology was thought to be destabilizing to an already dangerous situation. Moreover, given the history of technological secrets related to atomic and hydrogen weapons being stolen by agents of the USSR, there was understandable concern that any technological breakthrough related to Extraterrestrial technology might find its way into Soviet hands. If such an event enabled the USSR to produce actual military applications before the US, obviously this would have placed the US military capability in a potentially catastrophic disadvantage.

Since the 1970's, we have reason to believe that a degree of cooperation on this matter has evolved with the USSR and the US and perhaps other nations. Certainly the end of the cold war has largely removed earlier concerns vis a vis technological breakthroughs and the fear of Soviet aggression.

Moreover, the psychological reasons for secrecy related to public panic are not valid today. At least 57% of the population accept that UFOs are real and are of Extraterrestrial origin. And 30-40 years of space exploration by human society has prepared the population for the possible existence of other Extraterrestrial civilizations capable of space travel. In short, the previous concerns motivating secrecy are not relevant today.

Intrinsically, there is no reason to believe that the Extraterrestrial presence poses a threat to the national or world security. If hostility and aggression were related to their purpose here, it is likely that events congruent with hostility would have transpired long before now. It is our assessment that the Extraterrestrials are not hostile, but are very concerned with human capability related to warfare and the militarization of space. Activity by Extraterrestrial assets related to the neutralization of ICBM facilities and to containing military oriented space exploration should be understood in light of their concern over a known history of human aggression which has been coupled with the advent of weapons of mass destruction and space exploration. Indeed, given the past history of human military assets focusing on and pursuing Extraterrestrial Spacecraft, we believe the Extraterrestrials have responded with remarkable restraint.

Ironically, the threat to national security exists not with the Extraterrestrial presence, but the current covert management of the subject. In the absence of Extraterrestrial hostility over 50 years, current secrecy cannot be justified on the basis of fear of Extraterrestrial aggression. A disclosure related to the Extraterrestrial presence, if calmly and rationally presented, will not cause public panic in the US or elsewhere. 1995 is not 1945, and world society has evolved to the point where this information can be assimilated in a positive fashion.

In contrast, the covert and apparently extra-constitutional management of this matter is a real threat to national and world security, and undermines constitutional freedom and democracy. Unless it is terminated, this covert management will greatly harm US national security and the chances of a lasting world peace.

It is our assessment that the current covert management of this issue involves the following elements which are a direct, immediate and ongoing threat to the national security:

1. The continued denial of the Extraterrestrial presence creates a situation where a sudden, undeniable, public Extraterrestrial event could induce panic, since proactive disclosure efforts which could ameliorate public fears are non-existent. It is likely that such a public Extraterrestrial event will transpire within the next 2-10 years or sooner. Therefore secrecy and denial are a real threat to national and world security.
2. The current covert management of this issue appears to be operating independently and outside of the constitutional chain of command. The group controlling these operations, which involve reconnaissance, Extraterrestrial technology reverse-engineering, and space - based targeting of ETS (among others) is non-responsive to congressional or Executive branch oversight and control. This constitutes a real threat to the national security and to constitutional democracy and freedom.
3. We have credible, first hand sources who insist that extraterrestrial spacecraft have been targeted by human covert space weapons and on at least two occasions have been destroyed. If true, the risks to world peace and security are real and imminent, and the continuation of these covert activities constitute the gravest dangers to national and world security. Hostile actions taken by human covert assets against Extraterrestrial assets constitute a grave and immediate threat to the national security. A relatively small, covert entity, acting without consultation with the United Nations, the Congress, the President of the United States or the public is engaging in actions on behalf of all humans which endanger the earth and world peace. Unless controlled, these actions could precipitate interplanetary conflict and a disaster for the world

generally and the United States specifically. This covert management must be terminated and control of this issue returned to constitutional authority and to the public domain.

4. The concentration of the technological advances related to the reverse-engineering of Extraterrestrial technology into the hands of a small covert operation constitutes a threat to the national security, to world security and to the future of the earth. These Extraterrestrial technologies, which have been the object of covert research and development for over 45 years, are potentially of great benefit to humanity if used wisely for peaceful purposes, but are of immense danger when concentrated into a small covert operation which is unresponsive to the public or the legal and constitutional chain of command. The threat this poses to the US and world security is great, and the longer this situation continues, the greater the concentration of advanced technological power in the hands of a relative few. The secret control of such powerful technologies is inherently a threat to freedom, democracy and to our nation and the world. Its utilization for covert agendas outside constitutional control represents a grave danger to our country and must be restrained and reversed.

5. Importantly, secrecy and covert operatives per se constitute a real threat to the national security, since national security in a constitutional democracy can only be legitimately related to freedom and democratic government. Only in very rare and well-justified circumstances can extreme secrecy and covert operations exist, since by nature freedom and democracy cannot co-exist with unrestrained secrecy and secret power. The profound implications of the detection of Extraterrestrial civilizations cannot be allowed to be the exclusive domain of covert operations which are unrelated to public discourse and consultation. To do so is to undermine the US Constitution, democracy and freedom, and this constitutes a serious threat to the national security.

6. Finally, exclusive covert control of this matter has resulted and continues to result in the loss of opportunity for the world to come to terms with the Extraterrestrial presence in a peaceful and mutually beneficial fashion. This means that the people of the world, the United Nations and other international and national institutions are deprived of the opportunity to deal rationally with this issue. National and world security are therefore negatively impacted by the loss of opportunities in the following areas:

>The Environment, which is seriously at risk for large scale collapse over the next 100 years, would be profoundly improved if extraterrestrial technologies could be peacefully deployed. So-called zero point or free energy systems, which are non-polluting, would permit a sustainable technological civilization to exist on earth and would transform the earth environmentally and economically. Establishing peaceful and mutually beneficial relations with extraterrestrial civilizations would eventually permit us to understand and apply such technologies.

>World unity and peace will be enhanced by the global realization that we are not alone in the universe. The acknowledgement of this fact will enhance the awareness that we are really one people living on the shared homeland of earth, and many of the conflicts currently afflicting the earth will be seen in a new perspective. This can be achieved without either deifying or demonizing the extraterrestrial presence, but rather placing it in a fair, scientific and neutral light. Eventually, world peace and a significant enhancement in the current geopolitical situation may result from the disclosure that we are not alone. An international infrastructure, and institutions capable of dealing peacefully with relations with extraterrestrial civilizations would, of necessity, evolve, and this in turn would strengthen world unity and cooperation.

>World culture, ideas, science and many other diverse areas may benefit through the development of peaceful relations with other worlds. While this process may take decades, if not centuries, its delay only puts off the time when the people of the earth will be united not only globally, but with other planetary civilizations as well.

In summary, it is imperative to the national security that the President and Congress undertake measures to terminate the secret, covert management of the UFO/ETI subject. Failure to place this matter in open, public discourse and control constitutes the gravest failure of democracy and government in the history of the world.

That we do this is the test of our faith in democracy and our faith in the people. As the 21st century approaches, we must roll up the cancerous excesses of secrecy which are the legacy of the cold war and unfurl a new era wherein democracy is reaffirmed and a lasting world peace is given a chance.

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