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Anthony Lake denies UFO briefing

From: **Bob Durant** <70232.17@compuserve.com>

Date: Fri, 17 Apr 1998 08:36:06 -0800

On March 30 Washington columnist Sarah McClendon published a report claiming, among other things, that "a community of scientists and technicians employed by the government" believe UFOs "are actual visitors from other worlds." Her report has received wide distribution on the Internet.

[See <http://www.ufomind.com/people/m/mcclendon/#1>]

McClendon states that a number of senior Clinton advisors received UFO briefings. Among those named officials is Anthony Lake, who served as the President's National Security Advisor. Lake was nominated for the position of Director of Central Intelligence, but his nomination was withdrawn in the face of Republican opposition. He resigned from public life, and now teaches at Georgetown University.

On April 14 Lake delivered the annual George W. Ball Lecture at Princeton University. I attended the lecture, and approached him after the talk to ask about McClendon's report. The following is a transcript of our short but unambiguous conversation.

Durant: Two weeks ago Sarah McClendon, a Washington reporter,

Lake: Right, right

Durant: wrote a real fire burner about UFOs. And she indicated that this was taken very seriously by the Clinton administration. Your name was mentioned in it, as somebody having received a briefing on this topic. Do you know anything about this?

Lake: This is very highly classified. But if you looked at Independence Day, the contact with the space aliens, the description of the aliens is just about perfect. No, that's just nonsense. Absolute nonsense. I never got a briefing. There is no, what, what is it, Roswell. Unless, I never heard of Roswell, in fact, until I was on the Diane Reems (sp?) show about a year ago, and a caller said, so are you going to tell us about Roswell, Roswell and what's it called, 51 or 52?

Durant: Area 51

Lake: Oh, Area 51. I never heard of it, and so I went back to the Air Force and said, what's this all about? And they denied it. Maybe they lied to me. This is nonsense. And I think the explanation is,

uh, I can't remember now, it may have had something to do with satellites, reconnaissance, going over, flights, planes going over that convinced people something was happening. Now, the problem is, as I said on the Diane Reems (sp?) show, I never heard about this, I don't know about this. You can either conclude, one, that I'm lying to you, or two, that I'm naive and nobody ever tells me anything, or three, that I'm telling the truth. All I can do is tell you what the truth as I know it is. But Independence Day was a good movie!

Durant: OK, gotcha. Thank you.

Earlier in the day, a colleague of mine telephoned Sarah McClendon to inquire about her source for the claim about Lake's UFO briefing. She was unable to answer that question at the moment.

Robert J. Durant
15 April 98

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RELEVANCE OF THIS MESSAGE: Gov't UFO involvement

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