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Re: Congress in Acapulco

From: werd@interlog.com [Drew Williamson]
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 1997 17:36:11 -0500 (EST)
Fwd Date: Tue, 09 Dec 1997 05:10:25 -0500
Subject: Re: Congress in Acapulco

SOURCE: Globe and Mail - p.C3 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
DATE: December 8, 1997

Alien encounter films hurt UFO experts

BY DAN TROTТА
Reuters News Agency

ACAPULCO - Most of the UFOs and extraterrestrials sighted lately on earth have not come from far-away galaxies but from Hollywood studios, raising a serious dilemma for professional UFO investigators.

Some experts attending the Second World UFO Congress in Acapulco this weekend argue that popular science-fiction films are welcome publicity for their cause.

But others say the string of hit movies, such as last summer's Men in Black and Contact, and television shows like The X-Files, should be scorned for reinforcing stereotypes and giving UFO debunkers more ammunition.

"Of course, everything helps, including parodies like Men in Black," said Jaime Maussan, Mexico's top "ufologist" and organizer of the congress. "It suggests to the masses that there really was a group called Men in Black that was connected to military intelligence," he told Reuters.

Even Independence Day, the 1996 blockbuster about aliens bent on invading Earth and enslaving humans, helped to increase the number of people who say they believe in UFOs and that governments are covering up proof of their existence, he said.

The movie took advantage of the core beliefs of many UFO proponents: that in 1947 an alien spacecraft crashed near Roswell, N.M., and their bodies were recovered by the U.S. military and kept in the so-called Area 51 of a nearby base.

"It speaks to us about Roswell, about Area 51, that there were aliens recovered and that the President of the United States is not always informed," Maussan said. "All of this conditions human beings more and more to believe it is true."

Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman called Independence Day "a hoot" that he enjoyed for its special effects. He said nobody who went to see the film thought it was a documentary.

But others at the conference lambasted Independence Day as practically sacrilegious for exploiting the Roswell story. Budd

Hopkins, a leading investigator of supposed alien abductions of earthlings, called it "a terrible movie."

Robert Dean, a former soldier who claims to have seen "Cosmic Top Secret" NATO documents proving that many UFOs were actually alien space ships, said he preferred more sober classics such as Close Encounters of the Third Kind and The Day the Earth Stood Still. "I found Independence Day distracting because it is typical Hollywood," Dean said.

Dean said he and other UFO investigators have been working with producers, directors and writers in Hollywood to "tell the true story" about extraterrestrial visitors. "The true story is much more incredible than any horror movie you could make," he said.

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