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Japanese UFO Museum Hoax/Scam

From: **Ian Read** <i.read@netcom.co.uk>
Date: Sat, 11 Jan 1997 10:32:22 GMT
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>From 'The Crop Watcher' issue 22, Summer 1994. pp 20-22)

Japanese UFO Museum Hoax Scam - by Paul Fuller

Readers will recall that in CW20 we examined claims made to Colin Andrews by the Japanese representative attending the United Nations Society for Enlightenment and Transformation lecture :- "Following last minute discussions at the United Nations with the Japanese representative appearing at the symposium, I was happy to be able to celebrate with the audience the Japanese and Chinese government's decision to openly research and release information on the UFO. The Japanese representative told me of plans, which have now been set in motion, to inform their people of the truth surrounding the UFO. A huge multi-million dollar museum now being built in Japan, is the first phase of the public education program."

Writing in the CPR International Newsletter (Fall 1993, vol 2 no 2) Colin Andrews discusses this claim in some detail. Andrews states that during lunch at the United Nations he was introduced to "a Japanese government official" Mr Johsen Takano, Professor Chiang, Yoang Yung, Chairman of the Taiwan UFO Science Association, John Schuessler, Michael Hessemann and Dr. Rauni Luukanen-Kilde of Norway. During lunch Andrews claims that Takano suddenly produced plans of the proposed Hakui City UFO Museum. Andrews states :-

"[Takano] explained that this was the beginning of a very important government program following adoption of a new policy to educate the Japanese people about the UFO phenomenon within the next three years. ... This was the first I was aware of the Japanese government's decision to reveal information about the UFO and other related phenomena. I could not believe what I was hearing, yet at a deeper level, I have expected similar developments from the west in a similar time frame".

Well, according to Andrews it seems that even the Chinese Government has decided to educate its peoples about UFOs and crop circles ! Andrews claims that he has been invited by the Chinese Government to run a "series of lectures" at "a large University in Taiwan" during April 1994. There is a drawing of what the Japanese UFO Museum will look like ("the conventional Adamski-type UFO") and the subjects to feature in this "museum" will include "aerial phenomena, abductions, crop circles, and radio transmissions related to S.E.T.I.". Andrews quotes Takano stating that the Museum has a budget of 5,400,000,000 yen (approx \$ 50 million US). Hakui is a small coastal town 310 miles to the west of Tokyo.

Expose

Now new evidence has emerged which casts a wholly different light on

these sensational claims. In the Spring 1993 issue of Tim Beckley's "UFO Universe" magazine, Anthonio Huneus has published an article titled "Japan's UFO Mystery Tour". In it he states :- "In 1989, shortly after Kaifu became Prime Minister, the Japanese press reported that the small textile town of Hakui was receiving funds to build a UFO museum. The Japan Times quoted Mayor Kazuo Shiotani saying that 'our idea is that if we build a museum or a library devoted to UFOs, we will be able to attract more conventions and tourists. We want Hakui to be a town that everyone in Japan knows.' The same article quoted excerpts from Kaifu's 1983 letter. According to The Wall Street Journal's Tokyo correspondent, the Hakui funds were part of an 'extravagant # 2.4 billion_furusato sosei_ - or 'home town creation' plan, aimed at boosting communities nationwide'. The plan consisted of giving 100 million yen (about \$ 770,000 US) to various towns and villages. 'All the recipients have to do is find a way to use the money', continued the article, which reported Hakui's 'alien project' of 'building a UFO museum shaped like a flying saucer'."

So, now we see Colin Andrew's claims in a wholly different light. In no way was this an official Japanese Government Project to inform the public about the UFO phenomenon. Neither were there any connections with the Chinese Government or the US Government. Instead it was a crafty attempt by the mayor of a small Japanese textile town to attract tourists and establish his town on the Japanese consciousness! Readers are invited to calculate the huge difference in the sum of money quoted by Andrews and that quoted by the Wall Street Journal!

Further into Huneus' article it becomes clear that Johsen Takano, the "Japanese government official" who spoke to Andrews at the United Nations, is actually an employee of the Hakui City Council, as well as being a long-time UFO buff. According to a UPI press release dated 7 Jan 1994 Johsen Takano, 38, has a personal collection of "thousands" of UFO books and his interest in the subject stems from his student days. According to Takano "We are not seeking to offer any conclusions on the existence of UFOs. Rather, we just want to provide people with information so that they can make their own judgement."

The idea for creating the UFO Museum probably formed following pro-UFO statements made by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in 1983, when he wrote a letter to the leader of his own political party, the Liberal Democratic Party stating:- "When you ask me if I believe in UFOs, I'll say I'd like to though I've never seen them, because the existence of UFOs is a perfect dream."

Kaifu's interest in UFOs stems from a meeting he held in 1967 with Mr Takio Oda, "a very influential person in the Foreign Ministry". Kaifu went on to state : "It's been one of my desires to watch a UFO ever since, but it has never materialised".

Amazingly Kaifu admitted that he had searched for UFOs in trips to the Pacific Islands, Australia, Switzerland and Antarctica. "I hope my dream to encounter a UFO comes true in the future". In November 1989, shortly after Kaifu became the Japanese Prime Minister, Kaifu gave a brief interview to students at Waseda University in Tokyo, where the question of founding an official government UFO organisation was raised. Kaifu responded :- "...If young people display a serious interest in similar phenomena, we should perhaps think of forming a UFO data collecting group under the auspices of the Ministry of Education".

In 1990 the Hakui City School Board organised a Space & UFO symposium which attracted 50,000 people to see the exhibits. The organisers managed to obtain a letter of endorsement from Prime Minister Kaifu to Major Shiotani dated June 4, 1990. Perhaps this letter is one reason why Takano appears to have claimed to Colin Andrews that the UFO Museum was an official Japanese Government-backed project?

Plans for the UFO Museum proceeded from this date, although now four years later it is still only a concept on paper. In late 1991 Prime Minister Kaifu stepped down from his premiership and was replaced by Kichi Miyazawa. However, Tokuo Moriwaki, who is a graduate in political science from Waseda University, has set up the Japan UFO Political Party, one of dozens of single-issue "mini parties" which dot the Tokyo political spectrum. Moriwaki has tried since 1986 to get elected to the Upper House of the Japanese Diet (Parliament), but has so far failed.

So, once again a claim made by Colin Andrews in the public arena has turned out to be quite false. Once again the public have been misled. And once again we call on Andrews to issue a public retraction.

The Crop Watcher is an independant non-profit-making magazine devoted to the scientific study of crop circles and the social mythology that accompanies them. All correspondence should be addressed to: Paul Fuller, 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, ROMSEY, Hampshire, SO51 7TY England.

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