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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Astronomer Drakes' ET Announcement?

From: Henny van der Pluijm <hvdp@worldonline.nl>
Date: Sun, 18 May 1997 00:22:00 +0200 (MET DST)
Fwd Date: Sat, 17 May 1997 20:11:52 -0400
Subject: Re: Astronomer Drakes' ET Announcement?

>From: TotlResrch@aol.com
>Date: Wed, 14 May 1997 03:37:47 -0400 (EDT)
>To: Updates@globalserve.net
>Subject: Astronomer Drakes' ET Announcement?

>From: Kal K. Korff
>Date: Thu, 14 May 1997
>To: Updates@globalserve.net
>Subject: Astronomer Darkes' ET Announcement?

>I recently read in a Dutch newspaper that famed Astronomer Frank Drake is on record as saying more or less, after translation into English: "Unfortunately up to now we haven't received any signals coming from extraterrestrial life forms. Despite this, we do have evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial civilizations."

>Drake is alleged to have made these remarks after commenting both on the number of new planets that have been discovered on a new series of very powerful radio telescopes that will come "on line" in the year 2001 and through 2003. These new radio telescopes will purportedly increase our ability to "eavesdrop" on the universe 150,000 times!

As far as I know - and I have read this in De Volkskrant - he has said that the new radio telescope system that was proposed by Dutch astronomers last week will be advantageous to the search for ETs. That was the quote.

It was about the Square Kilometer Array Interferometer (SKAI) that will, if built, consist of several groups of hundreds of flat panel sensors arrayed together in fields, distributed over an area of hundreds of kilometers. Together the thousands of these panels would bring a giant leap in reception power.

The people of the Dutch radio telescope system at Westerbork, who proposed this, were thinking of locating the system partly in the Netherlands partly in Germany, which gives you an idea how big they are thinking. But it was speculated that Australia or China were suitable as well with the head office at Westerbork. I don't think 2001 and 2003 were suggested as the years of getting online, if I remember correctly it would be somewhat later.

I have read in two Dutch papers about it and they mention that the system will increase our ability to eavesdrop a hundredfold. But this is incorrect, because it simply depends on how many panels you install and how powerful the computers and software are that process the data. The SKAI is the limit, so to speak.

Drake was apparently asked for his opinion about the proposal.

>Does anyone know about this and if Drake REALLY said this and IF
>he DID, what "evidence" he's referring to??

I know of no remark from him about evidence, not in the original reports not in a background that was printed last Saturday. But what paper did you read and on what date was Drake quoted? Since I am a journalist myself I can easily ask the reporter about it if you want.

/-----\
Met vriendelijke groet/Best wishes
Henny van der Pluijm
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Leiden, The Netherlands
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