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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Project 1947: Reasons for Historians to Look at

From: Jan Aldrich <[jan@CYBERZONE.NET](mailto:jan@CYBERZONE.NET)>  
Date: Sat, 21 Mar 1998 15:01:46 -0800  
Fwd Date: Sat, 21 Mar 1998 17:52:55 -0500  
Subject: Project 1947: Reasons for Historians to Look at

What effects did UFOs have on national policy or mainstream defense thinking in the 1940s and 1950s. Here are some topics that could prove interesting if examined by historians.

1. The Fugo balloons were suspected of carrying biological agents. One would expect that this war time experience might have an effect on defense thinking. (News stories mentioned that flying saucers might be a manifestation of a potential enemy testing out a biological delivery system.) To what extent was this possibility considered?
2. The "ghost rockets" had previously been considered all the way up to the President Truman. Similar interest was reported at all levels of the French government by Hillenkoetter when he was Naval Attache there. (The Menzel/Condon correspondence had Menzel wanting to write the CIA about the GRs. His thesis was that previous concerns about GRs had trapped the Air Force in a state of mind that prepared it to take flying saucers too serious.) To what extent had the GRs influenced later attitudes on UFOs?
3. In June of 1947, prior to Arnold, the US Military Attache in Moscow picked up a report that the Soviet were manufacturing a large fleet of Horton-like aircraft for reconnaissance and/or attack on the US.
  - a. what effect would this have on US intelligence when what seem like a prophesy is fulfilled by the appearance on the scene of "flying saucers."
  - b. was there thinking within the government similar to the FBI's opinion which seemed to consider that UFOs might be a psychological operation against the US by either internal or external agents? (Some early documents on UFOs are filed under "Rumors" or "Propaganda" in the HQ, AAF Intel Files.)
4. To what extent were UFOs used in the offensive/defensive air controversy? Early in on 1947 the Press noticed the lack of air defense represented by flying discs. (Much of this air defense controversy was not visible to the public.) (The arguments against a strong air defense were:
  - 1) a good offense is the best defense,
  - 2) it would cost billions and divert needed resources to nonproductive areas,

3) the system if built would be obsolete in 5 years.)

(Senator Albert Gore accused the military of concocting or spreading stories of flying saucers and to scare people into supporting higher defense budgets in 1952.)

5. (Maybe a subtopic of four.) To what extent did the ADC, FEAF, and possibly the Alaska Air Command, view UFOs as a Soviet reconnaissance? (Some evidence of this is in the exchanges between White, FEAF, and the ADC Commander.) Some of the "reconnaissance" reports later would end up at in UFO files.

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Obviously the above would take some high powered research. Much of the material needed is not in official sanctioned publicly available versions of events.

Some examples of leads include:

The fact that the Fugo balloon recovery teams were issued biological protective gear was not declassified until years after the Fugo records were first declassified.

COL Friend told me that balloon recovery teams were kept in place until 1953. They did investigate some UFO accounts. (See also JUFOS #4). (The 555th Inf Regt (Para), a Fugo balloon recovery unit in the Northwest, organizational history was not declassified for years after the war.)

The large amount of reserved data in the USAF files in the 1947 era is astonishing compared to other time periods (Even the Top Secret control sheet are reserved so the titles of documents cannot be read.)

The Navy records for ONI are really sparse. Routine to Secret ONI correspondence for all 1947 is missing. In contrast there are 100s of pages of GR information. The only available Technical Air Intelligence Center documents are completed "Air Power Studies."

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Project 1947  
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