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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Pres. Carter

From: "Jerome Clark" <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
Date: Mon, 25 May 98 10:33:03 PDT
Fwd Date: Mon, 25 May 1998 14:20:26 -0400
Subject: Re: Pres. Carter

> From: DRudiak <DRudiak@aol.com> [David Rudiak]
> Date: Mon, 25 May 1998 01:55:52 EDT
> To: updates@globalserve.net
> Subject: Re: Pres. Carter

> > Date: Sat, 23 May 1998 09:52:58 +0100
> > From: Don Ledger <dledger@istar.ca>
> > To: updates@globalserve.net
> > Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: Pres. Carter

> > > To: "UFO UpDates - Toronto" <updates@globalserve.net>
> > > From: "Jerome Clark" <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
> > > Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Filer's Files #20
> > > Date: Fri, 22 May 98 10:30:09 PDT

> > >Re your remark that no serious ufologist disputes that Carter saw Venus.

> >> I wonder about that. I remember writing his sighting off as well,
> >> but then some time afterward wondered if I might have been hasty
> >> in light of his education and naval experience [which for the
> >> life of me I can't recall, but remember at the time as being
> >> impressive]. Was Carter not a scientist of some sort, physics
> >> perhaps. He was not only a peanut farmer.

> Correct. Carter had a degree in nuclear physics and served as an
> officer on US nuclear submarines. I suspect he had also seen
> Venus a few times down on the peanut farm.

> >From: "Jerome Clark" <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
> >Date: Sat, 23 May 98 11:24:41 PDT
> >Fwd Date: Sat, 23 May 1998 21:45:48 -0400
> >Subject: Re: Filer's Files #20

> >Here is my entry "Carter Sighting" in The UFO Encyclopedia:
> >2nd Ed., p. 174:

> >As they stood outside waiting for a Lions Club meeting to start,
> >Gov. Jimmy Carter and 10 residents of Leary, Georgia, noticed an
> >unusually bright light at about 30 degrees' elevation in the
> >western sky. Carter was to recall it appeared slightly smaller
> >than the apparent size of the moon., It "came close, moved away,
> >came close, then moved away," he reported. He estimated it to be
> >"maybe 300-1000 yards" away. It "moved to [a] distance[,] then
> >"disappeared" ("Jimmy Carter's," 1977). The sighting took place on
> >January 6, 1969, between approximately 7:15 and 7:30 p.m.

> >Except for this sketchily rendered last detail, this object

> >sounds very much like Venus,

> Venus?! Did Jerry Clark say Venus? There are many details in
> this report that don't sound anything like Venus:

You're free to think whatever you wish about what Carter saw. I still think he saw Venus. (For some impressive examples of conventional stimuli imaginatively reinvented by witnesses, see Allan Hendry's The UFO Handbook.) If you feel otherwise, God bless you. I do confess it's hard for me to understand why anyone would get worked up about this monumentally unimpressive sighting, which didn't have any impact even on the other witnesses -- which certainly has not been the case in multiply witnessed observations of REAL UFOs.

As we know from UFO history, even trained observers can sometimes be mistaken about what they have seen in the sky. Carter, however, was not even a trained observer, just another lay witness with no particular education in what is out there (conventionally) in the heavens.

Let's talk about sightings worth discussing. This sure ain't one of 'em.

Jerry Clark

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