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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Book Reveals Secret UFO Investigation

From: Stig Agermose <Stig.Agermose@online.pol.dk>
Date: Tue, 6 Oct 1998 03:54:07 +0200
Fwd Date: Mon, 05 Oct 1998 23:49:03 -0400
Subject: Re: Book Reveals Secret UFO Investigation

[List Only, Please]

Source: The Press

<http://www.press.co.nz:80/40/98100537.htm>

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Stig

New Zealand news from The Press - October 05, 1998

Book reveals secret UFO investigation

from The Press

WELLINGTON -- A book on New Zealand UFO sightings reveals the air force, police, and other agencies secretly shared information about a UFO scare off the Kaikoura coast in 1978.

They (the ministry) just made a complete shambles of the whole affair.

--Peter Hassall

Upper Hutt writer

The NZ Files, by Upper Hutt writer Peter Hassall, covers sightings of unidentified flying objects in New Zealand since the 1880s, along with claims of alien abductions.

The book includes a Ministry of Defence report about sightings of bright white lights off the Kaikoura coast in 1978 and 1979. The lights were seen in December 1978 by two air freight pilots and, in January 1979, Australian and New Zealand television news teams filmed the lights.

The report, held at National Archives in Wellington, was not to be released until 2004. However, Mr Hassall said that after an Official Information Act request to view it, the ministry allowed him to reproduce the entire report in his book.

He said the report explained the official line at the time was that the air force, police, the Carter Observatory in Wellington, and other agencies were not co-operating in investigating the sightings.

Mr Hassall said the report detailed several meetings of the agencies.

"They discuss how to deal with the problem of reports and they all agree to co-operate and investigate secretly, but not tell the public they were exchanging information," he said.

"Secretly they were trying to figure it out. No-one wanted to deal with the problem of UFO reporting. They didn't know what to do about them, partly through a lack of resources to adequately investigate them."

The report concluded that the Kaikoura UFOs were Venus or reflections from squid boat, train and car lights -- the same explanation given publicly by scientists in 1979.

Mr Hassall said the report was a whitewash.

"Venus had not risen (over the horizon) when some of the sightings were made," he said.

"No-one knows for sure what the Kaikoura sightings were. It could have been an unusual natural phenomenon . . . they (the ministry) just made a complete shambles of the whole affair."

Mr Hassall also viewed ministry reports on other sightings detailed in the book. He said he remained "a fair-minded sceptic" over whether even one was an alien spacecraft.

-- NZPA

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