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MJ-12 Fiasco - Just Cause [Part 1] #13 (9/1987)

From: Ed Stewart <ufoindex@jps.net>
Date: Sun, 07 Feb 1999 07:41:08 -0800
Fwd Date: Sun, 07 Feb 1999 14:29:43 -0500
Subject: MJ-12 Fiasco - Just Cause [Part 1] #13 (9/1987)

Excerpts from JUST CAUSE #13, New Series, September 1987

The MJ-12 Fiasco

We can now report to you that, regretablely, the MJ-12 affair appears to be a grand deception and, consequently, a giant black eye on the face of UFOlogy. This conclusion did not come lightly and was the result of extensive inquiries by CAUS. We did have high hopes that perhaps our initial doubts, as reported in our last issue, would have been allayed by additional releases and that a proper explanation would be found for the problems. It was not to be. The deeper we looked, the worse it became.

In dealing with government documents it is vitally important that we know where information comes from. Otherwise, how can one possibly vouch for it's authenticity. It is why CAUS regards cover letters from agency releases almost as important as the releases themselves.

In the case of MJ-12, Moore, Shandera and Friedman (herein referred to as MSF) have not provided this most basic element. The material, save for the 1954 Cutler memo, was sent to Jaime Shandera anonymously on undeveloped 35mm film which was later made into hardcopy. Who is the source? MSF doesn't say. Where did it come from? They don't say that either. This by itself should raise suspicions, but there is much more.

Why did Shandera receive the film? He is not exactly a well-known person in UFOlogy. We have a situation where a "government source" finds it important to release very sensitive, still-classified documents on crashed discs, Roswell, and alien bodies, certainly the story of the century! To whom does he go? Walter Cronkite? Dan Rather? Carl Sagan? No, he goes to MSF who are clearly in the pro-Roswell camp already and need no convincing. And they do have much to gain from these "documents" being made public. It sounds pretty self-serving that someone should anonymously drop proof of Roswell into the laps of only it's chief supporters and no one else who may have more influence in uncovering the "truth."

Why, at the MUFON Symposium in June, did Moore declare that the burden of proof is on those suggesting a hoax (in front of a press conference) while saying in a Ft. Walton Beach, Florida newspaper that he has found no undeniable proof that the document is genuine? In a true scientific investigation the burden of proof is always on the proponent to prove his case, not on the opponent to disprove.

Why did MSF alter the appearance of the MJ-12 documents in their first release of the Focus newsletter without explanation? Whole sections were deleted, giving the appearance of government censorship, but actually was performed by MSF as they later admitted. It smacked of a sensationalist technique to arouse interest.

These are only minor quibbles over technique. The major problems follow.

The Documents *****

The core of MSF's case lies in the documents which have been "released." These are what must survive scrutiny if we are to accept MJ-12 as genuine. Since we have described them in our previous issue, we will report on our study of the papers without extensive re-quoting.

-- The "Project Aquarius" report - A three-page extract of a larger document with title page and two pages of text. Source and date are unknown and no other information is traceable. We direct your attention to the title page (Exhibit 1).

You see in large print "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" and below in typescript is "Executive Briefing." Looks impressive doesn't it? It implies an important presidential paper with the bold phrase "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE." However, there is a problem as you will see next.

Exhibit 2 is a reproduction of a sample sheet of stationery with a clear, plastic cover that had accidentally been sent with an FOIA release to Robert Todd in 1979. The cover says "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" at the top and on the bottom is says "DO NOT WRITE ON THIS COVER AS IT IS INTENDED FOR RE-USE. RETURN IT WITH THE FILE COPIES TO ORIGINATING OFFICE." It is a plastic file cover used internally by various agencies in transmitting and filing paperwork. The bottom portion of the cover takes away much of the presidential flavor of the top phrase.

Now note Exhibit 1 again. While the plastic cover in Exhibit 2 shows the top and bottom printing at the very top and bottom, the Aquarius paper shows "EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE" dropped down about an inch or so, resulting in the bottom phrase vanishing. We believe that this was a deliberate deception to give the paper an appearance of being presidential by moving the top wording downward to cause the more mundane bottom phrasing to disappear off the photocopy.

The emblem on the cover of the Aquarius paper has more the appearance of being drawn on rather than printed on the page. A felt-tipped pen could have done just as well.

Of the various projects mentioned on page 2 of the Aquarius text, one, "Pounce", has appeared in UFO history. It was said to be a proposal for investigating UFOs by Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, according to the CIA's 1953 Robertson Panel. No explanation of "Pounce" appears in the Aquarius paper.

Additionally, "Project Sigma" in the Aquarius paper (said to be an Air Force effort to communicate with aliens) has been located in the massive, two-volume CODE NAME DIRECTORY by the Defense Marketing Services of Greenwich, Connecticut, 1986 edition. It is listed as a "Top Secret Air Force program involving Rockwell International."

If the DMS "Sigma" is not the same as the Aquarius "Sigma," then Aquarius Sigma is probably wrong because duplication of code names in a close time frame is not within normal military procedure. Obviously, two programs with the same code name within the same branch of service (Air Force) would be confused. That's why selection lists of code names exist.

If the two projects are the same, where is the massive security for Aquarius "Sigma" that it appears in a commercially available directory?

Project Snowbird, in a previous issue of Just Cause, was described as a "Joint Army/Air Force peacetime military exercise in the sub-arctic region, 1955," according to Gale Research's CODE NAMES DICTIONARY, 1963. No connection to UFOs is apparent

here and certainly not in the context of the Aquarius paper's description. Snowbird was a training exercise for Army and Air Force units under arctic conditions.

Finally, our last issue dealt with the short-lived confirmation of an Air Force "Project Aquarius" by the NSA. The revelation fizzled however when the NSA retracted its's confirmation based upon a false assumption.

No other independent confirmation of the Project Aquarius document has been possible.

-- The CIA "MJ-5" memo - A one-page document (Exhibit 3) on CIA letterhead, but not released through FOIA. Source and year of memo are unknown. Deletions by MSF. This document first appeared in Moore's newsletter Focus. It has not appeared in any subsequent discussion of MJ-12.

The MJ-5 memo is a real problem. Type style, placement of security markings, use of CIA letter stationery instead of internal forms and language are all atypical of CIA standards. The executive order number quoted in the memo is non-existent. The deletion by MSF of the year forbids accurate follow-up and implies an attempt to cover a deception. We were informed by MSF in a June phone conversation about various points in favor of MJ-12. When discussion focused upon the MJ-5 memo, we stated our concern over the flaws in this paper. A response from the CIA regarding the authenticity of the memo was entirely negative, the CIA labeling the memo a "poorly made fabrication." When informed of this, MSF's only response was, "You believe them?" Indeed we do if the statement agrees with what we can see with our own eyes!

It is notable that MSF have let the memo quietly disappear from later presentations of evidence on MJ-12, even though, according to MSF's phone conversation, it came from the same source as the other documents. Why is this memo no longer being discussed? Suspicious as well is the similarity of the type style in the MJ-5 memo, written on CIA letterhead, and the Aquarius paper, written by the MJ-12 group. If the MJ-5 memo is no longer valid to present as evidence of MJ-12, and it came from the same source as the other documents, then what does this say about the Aquarius paper, or indeed the rest of the evidence?

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Ed Stewart ufoindex@jps.net | So Man, who here seems principal alone,
There Is Something | Perhaps acts second to some sphere unknown.
Going On! ,>'?'<, | Touches some wheel, or verges to some goal,
Salvador Freixedo ( 0 0 ) | 'Tis but a part we see, and not a whole.
-----oo00-(_)-00oo----- Alexander Pope, Essay on Man -----

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