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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: SPI News From England February 1999

From: Peter BrookesmithMendoza <[DarkSecretPB@compuserve.com](mailto:DarkSecretPB@compuserve.com)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Mar 1999 20:40:02 -0500  
Fwd Date: Sat, 20 Mar 1999 21:29:03 -0500  
Subject: Re: SPI News From England February 1999

With the compliments of the Duke of Mendoza:

>From: Roy Hale <[roy.hale@virgin.net](mailto:roy.hale@virgin.net)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>Subject: Re: SPI News From England February 1999  
>Date: Fri, 19 Mar 1999 14:48:17 -0000

>People have been silenced in other Countries around the World  
>for their beliefs or perhaps what they have stumbled across, and  
>yet I hear on this list service the same crap from other  
>ufologist's which is "I dont want to hear the other side of the  
>story because I have already heard the version of events I feel  
>comfortable with".

This is as muddled as Malcolm Robinson's remarks in his SPI News. People can believe what they like. Not only that, they damn' well will believe what they like, whether anyone else likes it or not, and as far as I'm concerned they can shout their beliefs all day and night. (I feel quite strongly about this. I recently published a piece defending racism on the Internet, not because racism has anything to commend it - as I pointed out there, if Operation Sea Lion had succeeded in 1941 my mother would have gone to the gas chambers shortly thereafter - but because I don't need or want that personality in search of a disorder Jack "Boot" Straw to decide what I am man enough to read, but I do like to know my enemy, and for that I want his thinking to be accessible.

Free speech is not, I say again, not, the issue. The issue is standards of research, and what standards BUFORA thinks it can possibly be defending by giving Mad Max a platform. I am comfortable with Dave Clarke's version of events because its pieces fit pretty neatly, with one another and with what one knows about the world at large. I am derisive and dismissive of Max Burns' version of events because none of it fits. Even the "logic" of abductologists works better than this, because it is internally consistent. Mad Max's story is a ramshackle edifice even in its own terms. In the light of the world beyond, it is simply incoherent gibberish.

Of course, BUFORA can present all the incoherent gibberish it likes; it's a relatively free country still (although I would like my pistols back, please), although I do wonder if these days Russians, unencumbered by the thought police of political correctness, may not, in practice, these days enjoy greater freedom of speech than we do. And Secretary of State Jack Boot Spliff is not going to interfere with lunacy like BUFORA's because it's just the kind of thing to stop the plebs thinking about all the people he's proposing to put into jail without

trial, and the assets of others he wants to seize, and his bright wheeze that hearsay evidence should be acceptable in court, and how the government should tell us when to put our children to bed, and so on. (If you want to worry about liberty in the UK, look at some of that stuff, old fruit.) But I should be surprised if BUFORA really wants to be considered - or should that be "recognized"? - as the foremost institution for promoting unbaked rubbish in the land.

The muddle in Hale's and Robinson's thinking is not really about Mad Max, but about what BUFORA should stand for, and what "free speech" actually consists of. I might remind Roy Hale of the analogy I drew with "Nature" before. The civilized world doesn't censor flat earthers, any more than the Internet, or even our own dear Moderator, censors Mad Max. But "Nature" would lose its credibility as a scientific witness somewhat if it started printing articles propounding the flat-earth theory, or Ronald Pearson's whacky ideas about relativity. And for why? Because these notions have no evidence, no recognizable mathematics, and no logic to defend them, while there is a monstrous edifice of evidence to the contrary to expose their shoddy thinking. The parallels with Max's version of events in the so-called "Sheffield case" are hardly difficult to descry.

>How would Peter Brookesmith feel if quite suddenly know one  
>wanted to hear a single word about what his has found out about  
>the UFO subject no-matter how small and insignificant it maybe,  
>would that not be a little irritating, perhaps if such a thing  
>happened would it still be worthwhile investigating UFOs?.

No doubt it would be irritating, but I wouldn't start squeaking about freedom of speech, unless the censorship was government-sponsored. Editors print what they want. That's how it should be. That's freedom of speech in practice.

>Max will have his platform and his side of the story should be  
>told, and for researchers in other Countries not to make their  
>mind up until you have allowed Max to publicly have his side of  
>events broadcasted.

One more time, all together now:

Max has already broadcast his side of the story not only publicly but internationally, right on this List and no doubt elsewhere on the Internet too, and his posts here are archived on the Web for all the electronically-unchallenged to enjoy. And it's not a matter of equality of opinion and "making up your own mind". Anyone with a half a mind can see Max is making it up as he goes along, and has the intellectual capacity of a gnat. It is a matter of BUFORA supporting defensible standards of research and conclusions drawn from that research, or not. At the moment, it's not, no matter how often they may protest they're letting Dave Clarke have his say too. That's just weasely, although it's par for the course for ufology, sometimes even for what claims to be the best of ufology.

best wishes  
Petticoat D. Mithridates  
Piano Leg

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