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Nick Redfern Responds to Nick Pope

From: **Andy Roberts** <Brigantia@compuserve.com>
Date: Sun, 21 Mar 1999 11:22:00 -0500
Fwd Date: Sun, 21 Mar 1999 17:39:19 -0500
Subject: Nick Redfern Responds to Nick Pope

Nick Redfern (author of 'A Covert Agenda' and 'The FBI Files' has asked me to distribute the following statement concerning Nick Pope. In light of what Pope has been saying over the past few years about his place in the governmental UFO scheme of things this should make interesting reading.

Nick isn't on email but if anyone has any comments they would like to have passed on I will gladly do so.

Listers who kept up with the 'Pope On A Rope' thread should note that his silence on the matter belies his 'behind the scenes' attempts to cause trouble to a 'leading UK ufologist'.

When will ufologists learn to do things in the open eh?

Nick Redfern writes.....

In the article 'The Fall Guy' which appeared in the March /April 1999 issue of 'UFO Magazine', Nick Pope specifically addressed comments made by myself at last September 17th Leeds International UFO Conference. Let's get a few things straight: First, I have never denied that during his time with the Secretariat of the Air Staff Pope got to see a number of British military originated UFO reports (he described several such cases in his book, 'Open Skies, Closed Minds'). What I have consistently said is that his office got to see very few military reports.

Moreover, on the record sources have told me (and continue to tell me - see my next book, 'Cosmic Crashes') that the vast majority of military originated UFO reports (and largely those filed by military pilots) are handled and investigated by the RAF's Provost and Security Services (P&SS).

And on a related matter: in 1995 RAF Rudloe Manor (which at the time was the HQ of the PSS) admitted that up until 1992 the P&SS had served as the official co-ordination point for UFO reports for the entire RAF; and moreover, that it had possibly fulfilled such a function as far back as 1950! However, when I conducted a tape recorded interview with Pope in 1994, he told me that Rudloe Manor had no role to play in the UFO subject (either from an investigative or co-ordination point of view) and he felt that the stories linking UFOs with Rudloe were nothing more than 'white elephants'. I submit that if Pope *really* was at the forefront of the British Government's UFO investigations, then he should have known about the Rudloe link. But the fact is, he did not.

The most incredible fact of all, however, is one I have seldom discussed. But I will now: When Ruldoe Manor admitted in 1995 that the P&SS had acted as the RAF's official co-ordination point for UFO reports since possibly 1950, I began to make extensive enquiries to determine the full facts; and when I did do, Pope asked me to keep him informed of what I found out - the reason being that he was as surprised and mystified as everyone else by the P&SS's sudden admission!

On another matter: in 1997 I conducted a lengthy interview with Pope and he informed me that during his tenure with the Air Staff he attempted to make contact with his 'opposite number' in the US Department of Defense, only to be told that the US Government shut down its UFO investigations in 1969 with the close of Project Blue Book.

However, via the FOIA, I was able to fully confirm that in precisely the same time frame that Pope was being given the brush-off by the Americans, the US Defense Intelligence Agency was sending raw UFO data to the British MOD's Defence Intelligence Staff. Moreover, when I showed Pope copies of this material, he confirmed to me on the record and on audiotape that the papers in question did not reach him - yet he would have us believe that he was the focal point for all UFO data in the British government!

And there are two further points worth mentioning when it comes to Pope's involvement in the UFO issue:

1: When I interviewed Pope in 1992 and asked him if he had ever come across a UFO report that compromised national security or the defence of the realm, he told me: 'No. There's no evidence of a threat to the UK that I've come across.' However, when 'Open Minds....' was released in 1996, Pope made it very clear that he considered the 'flying triangle' encounters of March 30-31 1993 were of prime defence significance! And these particular encounters occurred a full twelve months *before* he told me there was no such defence threat!

Moreover, it cannot be argued that Pope made the 'defence threat' determination after I interviewed him in 1994, because in 1997 he admitted to me that following the 1993 sightings he sent a summary of the events in question to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and, to quote Pope himself: 'I came to the conclusion that this was of extreme defence significance!'. So why, in 1994, did he tell me there was no such defence threat? Was I, a member of the British public, misled by an MoD civil servant, or had Pope forgotten about the events of twelve months previously?

2: Pope makes the highly laughable comment that doesn't mind people 'trying to make a name for themselves'. However, as anyone who knows me well will be aware, I have absolutely no interest in 'trying to make a name for myself', simply trying to put across to people the facts as I see them. However, every time I speak to Pope it is not the latest findings with respect to UFOs that we discuss; he is rather more keen to discuss his latest appearance on Newsnight, This Morning, Talk Radio etc! Now who's trying to make a name for themselves?

Pope is entitled to his views, as am I. This is, after all, a free country (I think). But if Pope wants us to accept that he was indeed for three years the British Government's very own 'Fox Mulder', then let's have a few reasonable and complete answers from him regarding his ignorance of the still-mysterious involvement in the UFO subject on the part of the Provost and Security Services, and why in 1992 and 1993 certain UFO data sent to him via the MoD by the American Department of Defence by-passed him. I await Pope's reply with interest.

A final point to think about: in 1997 Matthew Williams and I succeeded in tracking down a retired RAF Squadron Leader who was, in the mid-1960s, attached to an MoD office of a far more covert nature than that to which Pope was attached. Moreover, Matthew and I were able to conclusively link the man with the UFO mystery. He, however, told us that he was unable to discuss the UFO work he undertook for the MoD three decades ago. How curious, then, that Nick Pope can speak so publically and vocally about his official UFO investigations undertaken on behalf of the MoD in the early 1990s; however, a senior figure

in an elite MoD division is still unable to comment on his UFO work undertaken more than thirty years ago. Something doesn't gel.....

Nick Redfern March 17th 1999

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