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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

Date opened (Date of first enclosure) 23/09/97

Registered file number D/Sec(AS)64/1

Part No. C

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH
Sec(AS) 2A

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT UFOS - Policy

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

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1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

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MOD Form 329C
(Revised 7/90)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

0084336610022048, 11/94, C2000, 70297

Date opened
23 SEPT 97

Registered file number
0 / SEC(AS) 64/1

Part No. C

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap
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DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH
SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT
" UFOs"

POLICY

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

[redacted] action
[redacted] taken
to this
FILE
PART
continued on :-
PART D
Last enclosure E 55.

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DOWNGRADING
(to be completed when the file goes out of current use)
This file may be downgraded to:

***Restricted**

***Unclassified**

Section 40 [redacted]

Certifying Officer
AIR COMMAND

Appointment and Branch

14 March 2011
Date

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 10/97)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
"UFO's"
Policy

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/SEC(AS) 64/1
Part: C

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 30.4.98

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

	✔
Destroy after _____ years	☐
Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years for permanent retention	☑
No recommendation	☐

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). ✔ ☐

b. (i) To be retained for _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

	✔		✔
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐ [_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☐

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐ ✔

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☐ ✔

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

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Section 40

Plse put this copy on 64/1.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/5

30 Apr 98

APS/USofS
(thro Section 40)

Copy to:

DPO(RAF)
ADGE1
AD OR(ICS)1
PSO/ACAS

UFO ARTICLES - DAILY MAIL AND DAILY EXPRESS - 27 APRIL 1998

ISSUE

1. To provide advice following the Daily Mail and Daily Express articles of 27 April alleging a 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To note.

BACKGROUND

3. On Sunday 26 April the MOD Press Office received calls from the Daily Mail and Daily Express about an alleged 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea involving an object 'the size of a battleship' travelling at around '17,000 mph' (the published articles subsequently alleged 24,000 mph). No additional information about the date of this alleged incident was provided at the time or has been since. A further 20 phonecalls from the print and broadcast media have now been received.

Source of the Story

4. The Daily Mail has said that Section 40 was the source of the story. Section 40, a former editor of the RAF News, is believed to have left the paper under a cloud and has, we understand, been contributing material to the national Press on a freelance basis since that time. Section 40 is known to be rather inventive of the facts.

RAF Fylingdales, Yorkshire

5. The Fylingdales radar is tasked only to detect and track objects in orbit and those with a ballistic trajectory. The Officer Commanding at RAF Fylingdales has confirmed that for the

35 years it has operated, no 'UFOs' have been tracked. It is the case that the radar is not configured to track such objects, particularly in the reported areas, and there is therefore no substance to the claim that recorded data of this nature is held at RAF Fylingdales.

6. OC Fylingdales also confirmed that the station has not been approached to provide supporting information for the Space Symposium at RAF Cranwell in June. The RAF Fylingdales Crew Commander received a call from a journalist on Sunday but was asked only about RAF Fylingdales' involvement with the Symposium. The Crew Commander denied all knowledge of any involvement and referred the journalist to the MOD Press desk.

Symposium at RAF Cranwell

7. The Air Warfare Centre and the MOD branch Operational Requirements (Information & Communication Services) are jointly hosting a *'Military Exploitation of Space'* Symposium on 3-4 June at RAF Cranwell. It is open to Service and MOD civilian personnel and industrialists with an interest in this subject and is mentioned on the Internet.

8. The newspaper articles allege plans for one of the speakers at the Symposium to present radar tapes from RAF Fylingdales to substantiate the 'UFO' claims. Neither the Air Warfare Centre's focal point for this event, nor OR(ICS) staff, have knowledge of any material of this nature on the agenda and have confirmed that the Symposium has nothing whatsoever to do with 'UFOs'. A copy of a brochure about the Symposium is attached for information.

Conclusion

9. All enquiries indicate that there is nothing of substance in the claims made by the media.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

Administration Office,
OD & T
RAFC Cranwell,
Sleaford,
Lincs.
NG34 8HB

Section 40

Please fill in the reverse of this form and send to the above address by 18th May 1998

Sponsored by
The Air Force Board

ROYAL AIR FORCE

AIR WARFARE CENTRE

OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE & TRAINING
RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
UNITED KINGDOM
NG34 8HB

COMMERCIAL
WITHIN UK 01400-261201 EXT 6474
OUTSIDE UK 44-1400-261201 EXT 6474
Internet Mail Address: ASCM@OD-T.demon.co.uk
www.raf.mod.uk/awc/asd

1998 Aries Symposium
Military Exploitation of Space

A 2-day operational and technical symposium on the military exploitation of space, sponsored by the Air Force Board, will be held at RAFC Cranwell, UK, on Thur 4 - Fri 5 June. The aim of the symposium is to raise the profile of Space within the defence community, both military and industrial at 3 levels: very senior officers, who are already well aware of MOD space policy but probably less aware of future technological trends; middle-ranking MOD personnel, whose professional knowledge would benefit significantly from greater exposure to the potential benefits of space exploitation; and industry, who wish to be informed about MOD interest in space as an operational environment and are keen to gain an opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities and concepts they may offer in support of space objectives. All the briefings at the symposium will be presented at an unclassified level; however, arrangements can be made for participants to discuss technology issues at a classified level. The symposium is being run jointly by the Air Warfare Centre (AWC) at RAFC Cranwell and OR(ICS) staff from MOD. The AWC point of contact for the symposium is Mr J West, RAFC Cranwell (01400-261201) Ext 6474.

Thursday 4 June

1030 Registration & coffee in Whittle Hall

1100 Welcome and Opening Remarks
Chairman

1110 Keynote Opening address
DGICS

Concepts

1125 Space Technology and Concepts
OD Space AWC

1215 Lunch in College Hall

1330 UK Space Policy and Programmes
AD OR(ICS)1

Trends

1415 Future Developments and Trends - UK MOD *DERA*

1500 Tea in College hall

1530 Future Developments and Trends - UK/European Industry *BNSC*

1615 View from the Pentagon
US DoD

1700 Close

1930 Pre-Dinner Drinks at The Lawns

2000 Symposium Dinner at The Lawns

Friday 5 June

0900 Introductory Remarks
Chairman

Communications

0905 Teledesic *Boeing*

0945 Celestri *MMS*

1030 Coffee in College Hall

Remote Observation

1100 Spaceborne AWACS
Boeing

1145 EOSAT *LM Space Imaging*

1230 Lunch in College Hall

1345 SBIRS *LM/TRW*

Launch Systems

1430 TSTO/Re-usables
US Industry

1515 Tea in College Hall

1545 Sea Launch
Boeing/Krunichev

1630 Closing Address *ACAS*

1645 Discussion *Chairman*

1700 Close

(Contents may change due to the availability of speakers)

Registration Form

Please register the following delegate for:

The Military Exploitation of Space Symposium

RAFC Cranwell 4 and 5 June 1998

Surname: .....

First Name: .....

Title/Position/Function: .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Signature: .....

Fee per Delegate: Non-MOD employee £220 ☐
MOD employee £20 ☐

The fees include tea/coffee and buffet lunches for both days

Symposium Dinner: I would like to attend the dinner on the night of Thursday 4 June 1998 to be held at The Lawns, Lincoln and enclose an additional cheque for £30. YES ☐ NO ☐

Because of the large numbers expected to attend you are advised to book early. All applications must be received by 18 May. Cheques will be refunded if over-subscribed.

Dress: Uniform/jacket and tie for symposium, lounge suit for dinner.

Method of payment: By Cheque(s) Sterling made payable to Nexpos RAF Cranwell.

To: Aerosystems Course Manager,
OD&T, RAFC Cranwell,
Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 8HB.

Tel: 01400 261201 Ext. 6474/6425/6410

Accommodation: Due to the reorganisation of Cranwell there will be no Service accommodation available at RAF Cranwell. Neighbouring stations at Waddington, Digby & Coningsby will be able to offer some accommodation if requested early and booked direct, quoting Space Symposium. A list of local hotels and maps are enclosed.

64/1

Section 40 Section 40

ENCLOSURE 54 NUMBER

NEED TO KNOW?

We spoke.

HOME

NEED TO KNOW?

WHITE PAPER

HAVE YOUR SAY

Sender	Section 40
Email	
Organisation	None
URL (if any)	
Subject	White Paper Submission
Date	26 Jan 1998
Submission	[Next submission (by date) | Previous Submission (by date)] [Index of submissions]

Dear Section 40

1. I read with interest the recent publicaUon of the FOI White Paper and look forward to the new age of open Government that is clearly on the agenda.

2. I have been in regular correspondence with my MP Mr Rhodri Morgan who has in turn been in touch with the USoS for Defence, Mr John Spellar. The correspondence has been over matters relating to unidentified aerial phenomena (RAF Terminology) more commonly known as unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

3. I feel that I speak for a lot of people when I express my concern over the way these UFO-related issues have been handled over the last fifty years. I also feel that our Government will never be truly open until the day when we actually see an RAF Officer (or even the SoS for Defence himself!) appear on the evening news sharing UFO-related information with the viewers.

4. A good start would be to come clean on some of the inddents from the 1950s such as RAF Lakenheath, the interception at St Margaret's Bay, West Freugh, RAF Church Lawford and RAF Topcliffe- details of these are already available in historically authenticated documentation available from the Public Record Office at Kew and it seems silly for the Government not to acknowledge these. What makes the situation even more incredulous is that a civil servant is actually writing books and appearing on TV saying these things are genuine.

5. I am grateful for your attention on these matters and trust that they will be given due consideration for the final legislation

Yours

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SEC (AS)1 22 APR 1998 FILE

NEED TO KNOW?

Sender	Section 40
Email	None
Organisation	None
URL (if any)	
Subject	FOI and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena
Date	30 Jan 1997
Submission	[Next submission (by date) | Previous Submission (by date)] [Index of submissions]

FOI AND UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Section 40 and my PhD is in Chemistry, it was conferred upon me by Exeter University in 1996. I am a Member of The Royal Society of Chemistry and a writer for Quest Magazine. I spend a lot of my spare time researching the MoD's history with respect to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), the bulk of my information comes from historically authenticated documents held in The Public Record Office.

It is clear from my researches that advanced aerial craft with design and performance parameters far outstripping our own state of the art engineering have on occasion penetrated our airspace. My enquiries have also clearly demonstrated that successive governments in the UK have failed to share this information with the people.

I do not make this claim lightly, further into this discussion you will see an article on the West Freugh Incident of 1957 which I have included for illustrative purposes. I regret using such an old example; however, you will appreciate, the MoD does not make a habit of broadcasting these incidents and obtaining information of subsequent sightings by trained observers (eg pilots) is both time consuming and expensive.

A cursory glance at Hansard Parliamentary abstracts will clearly demonstrate that incidents like West Freugh are still occurring (eg 24.7.96, col 424, written answers; 17.10.96, cols 1092-1094, written answers) and that the MoD still will not publicly acknowledge these incursions.

I applaud the comments in the FOI White Paper (Cm 3818) stating that.-

1. Unnecessary secrecy in government leads to arrogance in governance and defective decision- making. The perception of excessive secrecy has become a corrosive influence in the decline of public confidence in government. Moreover, the climate of public opinion has changed: people expect much greater openness and accountability from government than they used to.

2. The purpose of the [FOI] Act will be to encourage more open and accountable government by establishing a general statutory right of access to official records and information.

3. The Act will have a far broader scope than .....other openness measures in government. It will cover.-

·Nationalised Industries, Quangos and the UK Atomic Energy Authority
·The National Health Service
·The Public Service Broadcasters
·Local Authorities
·Administrative functions of Courts, tribunals, Police and Police Authorities
·the Armed Forces

Good as these proposals are, it is a shame that Intelligence Services are exempt from the Act since it is clear from the West Freugh article how the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence played a significant role in dealing with unidentified aerial phenomena in the 1950s. We also know as fact that there is/ or was a specialist military division which cast an expert eye over UFO Reports, as part of its normal duties concerned with the air defence of the UK. This specialist division, known as Air Intelligence, Technical Branch 5b, came into existence around about 1962 according to a Memo in PRO File AIR 2/16918.

Whilst I appreciate a lot of intelligence related work is vital for our National Security and agree in principle with the need for secrecy here, I feel extending this kind of secrecy to UAP-related incidents is unnecessary-it certainly undermines my confidence in Government. I also believe a large number of academic and industrial institutions would welcome some form of acknowledgment by the Government on the existence of unidentified craft with superfluous design and performance. This would create tremendous research opportunities and whilst there is no evidence of extraterrestrial involvement, certainly the inferences to be drawn would, I feel, help bring the nations of Earth closer together.

I think we could improve on the Act by making some specific clauses dedicated to UAP.-

1.Since the Act is going to cover the armed forces, I would suggest that whenever our armed forces encounter an unidentified craft that displays design and performance characteristics clearly in excess of cutting edge technology, that the information be fed to the public by means of a televised press conference. The Press Conference should give full details of radar returns, size, shape, speed, flight characteristics etc of the unidentified craft. I note that a PQ was raised to this effect-Hansard (18.12.96, col 628, written answers). I think the answer given to this question was illustrative of the breathtaking arrogance of our former Government

2. I would forcefully express the desire that the Armed Forces when encountering such craft as outlined in 1. above should also share the full and uncensored details with relevant scientific bodies in the UK such as The Royal Astronomical Society and The Royal Society of Chemistry.

3. I also strongly believe that certain science orientated matters that are clearly in the public interest, especially those related to Public Health and awareness (though perhaps embarrassing to certain politicians) should not be the subject of any form of extended closure and that all such documentation currently held under extended closure should be released forthwith. These to include diseases (eg BSE), chemical and radioactivity-related illnesses (eg Gulf War Syndrome) , human guinea pig type experiments (eg releasing agents on Waterloo Bridge) and miscellaneous (to include all military/intelligence reports on UAP).

4. I would also strenuously advocate legislation that would allow for the establishment of Independent Commissions with extensive powers of search and interview. These commissions would be made up of professional people from all walks of life (Barristers, Police Officers, Scientists, Doctors) who though initially signatory to The Official Secrets Act could forcefully recommend that issues be bought out into the Public Domain if it was clear that their extended closure was not in the Public Interest.

Without further ado, I will now relate the details surrounding the incident at West Freugh.-

Incident at West Freugh

By Section 40

Cast your mind back if you will to Thursday, 4th April 1957. Tom Finney of Preston North End FC had just been voted Footballer of the Year and the recently elected MacMillan Government had come to the bitter conclusion that the sun was setting on the British Empire. Consequently, it was announced on the day that there was going to be a radical change in the defence policy of the UK, more reliance was going to be placed on a nuclear deterrent and large cut backs would be made in conventional forces; especially those serving overseas. The world was also becoming a dangerous place to live as Britain was one month from exploding its first H-Bomb over the Pacific and the USSR was about to announce that it had developed long range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

With all the confusion over the defence cuts, it was small wonder that little attention was being focused on incredible events that were happening near Stranraer in South West Scotland. On the morning of the 4th, radar operators at the Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object. The first return was picked up on the screen of a radar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about ten minutes, its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 feet. A second radar was switched on and verified this return as the unidentified flying object was detected at the same range and height. The radar sets used were capable of following the objects automatically and the information was obtained in the form of polar coordinates. These could then be converted to give plan position indication and were printed out onto a plotting board via an electronic pen, the heights were read off a meter. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table and after ten minutes, it moved in a north-easterly direction with a gradual increase in speed (70mph groundspeed at 54,000 feet). Further confirmation of the unidentified object came from a radar station twenty miles away from Balscalloch which was equipped with similar height/position monitoring equipment. After the radar return had traveled about twenty miles, it did a sharp turn and proceeded in a south-easterly direction whilst increasing its speed. The Balscalloch radar tracked an object at 50,000 feet moving at a speed of 240 mph while the other station tracked four objects at 14,000 feet and 4,000 yards line astern from each other. The Balscalloch radar also picked up these returns. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. In fact they considered that the size was nearer a ship's echo.

In the previous December, a memo marked SECRET had been issued by RAF HQ No 11 Group (Ref. 11G/S.1803/7/Air Int. Paragraph 3 of this memo stated.-

"It will be appreciated that the public attach more credence to reports by Royal Air Force personnel than to those by members of the public. It is essential that the information should be examined at Air Ministry and that its release should be controlled officially. All reports are, therefore, to be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" and personnel are to be warned that they are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed, unless officially authorised to do so"

Despite these standing orders, it appears that the Evening Standard must have gotten a handle on the story as a reference was made to West Freugh in the Saturday edition (6th April). It would seem that the newspaper's Air Reporter was told by an Air Ministry spokesman that the radar returns were attributable to a weather balloon which had been

sent up from Aldergrove airfield in Northern Ireland. This rather mundane explanation seems to have been accepted, the reporter had his story and the case was to all intents and purposes closed. The Evening Standard was not the only newspaper to have reported a UFO that Saturday for The Daily Sketch quite sensationally had obtained a photograph of a UFO from a 25-year-old cabinet maker called Reginald Queree. He had taken the picture at his home at First Tower, Jersey and the tabloid's "photographic experts" were absolutely convinced as to its authenticity. You can imagine the embarrassment felt by the tabloid editor when told that the Jersey photograph was not authentic and on Monday, 8th April 1957, The Daily Sketch published a small paragraph stating that the "flying saucer" was in fact a fake and had been constructed of cardboard and silver paper suspended from a clothes line. Mr Queree confirmed that he took the photograph some months prior to going public and was waiting until someone else reported "something strange in the sky", he also wanted to demonstrate how easy it was to "fake" a photograph of a flying saucer. It would seem that the Daily Sketch missed out on another major exclusive, namely, the apparent clairvoyant skills of the First Tower Snapper. He would have had to have given the newspaper the photograph and story by about a 10.00 pm deadline on Friday the 5fd April - The Evening Standard did not publish until Saturday 6th April ! It is apparent from historically authenticated Public Record documents that The Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical) took a rather unusual interest in this particular faked story although I would not like to speculate upon the reasons for this. Suffice to say, it will be interesting to see the full intelligence dossier on the Daily Sketch article and the background of "Mr Queree" if, and when Britain's Intelligence Files are released from this particular era (If I am still around, I will be visiting the Public Record Office for these answers in 2057 !).

Returning now to the West Freugh incident, it would be interesting to see what the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence thought of this. In a report dated the 30th April 1957 (Ref. DDI (Tech)/C.290/3/, the following observations were made.-

It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 feet while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 mph. Nothing can be said of physical construction except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena (author's note.- clouds, like balloons would also be unlikely to move against prevailing winds at high speed).

It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

It is interesting to note that observation 2 states that there were no meteorological balloons in the vicinity at the time in question which contradicts the version of events given to The Evening Standard by an Air Ministry spokesman. Was this a blatant cover-up of the facts ? Certainly the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were unhappy that the radar incident fell into the hands of the press and this is alluded to in a secret memo (Ref DDI (Tech)/S290/). However, even more damning

were the draft notes prepared for Mr George Ward, The Secretary of State for Air. A Parliamentary Question was tabled by Mr Stan Awberry, a Labour MP for one of the Bristol constituencies on Wednesday, 17 April, 1957 (Hansard, col 206). The question read.-

To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on the subject.

Extracts from the Ministerial notes prepared for George Ward read.-

3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that that no service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.
4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines:-
"That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

You will notice from these draft notes that the Minister was not informed of.-

The size of the object
The appreciable height
The fact that it was hovering

Also, no mention was made of objects ; was there a cover-up ? Certainly if you consider the witholding of information from a Government Minister and the blatant misrepresentation of facts to the press as a cover-up then clearly, this is indeed the case.

I have given several talks on the West Freugh case, and time after time, people have said to me that surely there must be a more mundane down to earth explanation for this incident. As a scientist, I would tend to agree with Occam's Razor that all things being equal, the simple explanations are most likely to be the best answers. It is easy to explain UFOs with everyday objects such as clouds, conventional aircraft, weather balloons and such like, so, let us consider the alternatives.-

Helicopters.- I agree that helicopters can hover and reach speeds in excess of 290 mph; however, in 1957, helicopters were an emerging technology and I am certainly not aware of any, even today, that could reach a height of 70,000 feet.

Clouds/weather balloons.- No, these do not move against prevailing winds.

Powered Airship.- I think 290mph is a little excessive as is 70,000 ft.

Meteorites/bollards.- These do not fly in formation or change direction and are very susceptible to the laws of gravity

Flock of birds.- I do not know of any birds that can fly at 70,000 ft

Harrier Jump Jet.- There may well have been harriers prototypes about in 1957; however, I don't think the service ceiling of the harrier exceeds 40,000 ft and it certainly would not give a radar return the size of a ship (note.- in an interview with Sir Ralph Noyes, Jenny Randles was told that the West Freugh returns were more akin to battleships !).

U2 Spyplane.- Although this gave a large radar return, it would have

been incapable of giving a stationary one.

Applying Occam's Razor, the simplest explanation is that this was clearly a case of an unidentified craft with design and performance characteristics well in excess of the then state of the art technology. Indeed, it would be difficult even now, for an aircraft to emulate the radar returns taken at West Freugh on that day in 1957. Let us be honest about this, any powered craft that hovers from 50,000 to 70,000 feet, changes direction and speed has to be under intelligent control. Otherwise, the object would fall down to Earth with a resounding thud. I understand the laws of gravity are very stringent on this point.

I must stipulate that this article is not one of speculation but of fact based on historically authenticated documentation. The source material is held in Files AIR 20/9320, AIR 20/9321 and AIR 20/9444 obtained from Public Record Office, Kew (Telephone 01818763444). Putting it into its proper perspective, the incident at West Freugh is just as much part of our national heritage as The Spannish Armada, The Magna Carta or The Suffragette Movement and it is for this reason that we must start taking the whole UFO issue extremely seriously.

Is West Freugh the only evidence I have to offer, certainly not. Consider for example The RAF Topcliffe Incident.-

Flt Lt J Kilburn and five of his associates observed a Gloster Meteor descending at 500 feet at RAF Topcliffe in Thirsk, Yorkshire during Operation Mainbrace. The time was 7.10pm and the date was 19 September 1952. a UFO was seen approximately 5 miles astern at approx. 15000 feet and described as circular and silver in colour, it was moving at a slow speed on a similar course to the Meteor and then began a descent swinging in a pendular motion not too dissimilar to that of a falling sycamore leaf. The descending Meteor had turned towards Dishforth and the UFO, whilst still descending, appeared to follow suit. The pendulous motion then ceased and the object initiated a rotary motion about an axis perpendicular to its horizontal plane before dissappearing in a westerly direction and turning on a south easterly bearing. The observers stated that its movements were not identifiable with anything that they had seen in the air and acceleration was in excess of that of a shooting star. The duration of the incident was 15 to 20 seconds. (Source. File AIR 16/1199, Flt Lt J Kilburn's Memo to Coastal Command Det., RAF. Available from Public Record Office, Kew)

In conclusion, I hope that I have persuaded participants within this exercise in democracy to

1. Respectfully ask that whenever our armed forces encounter an unidentified craft that displays design and performance characteristics clearly in excess of cutting edge technology, that the information be fed to the public by means of a televised press conference. The Press Conference should give full details of radar returns, size, shape, speed, flight characteristics etc of the unidentified craft.

2. Respectfully and forcefully express the desire that the Armed Forces when encountering such craft as outlined in 1. above should also share the full and uncensored details with relevant scientific bodies in the UK such as The Royal Astronomical Society and The Royal Society of Chemistry.

3. Respectfully and forcefully request that certain science orientated matters that are clearly in the public interest, especially those related to Public Health and awareness (though perhaps embarrassing to certain politicians) should not be the subject of any form of extended closure and that all such documentation currently held under extended closure should be released forthwith. These to include diseases (eg BSE), chemical and radioactivity-related illnesses (eg Gulf War Syndrome) , human guinea pig type experiments (eg releasing agents on Waterloo Bridge) and miscellaneous (to include all military/intelligence reports on

No such docs exist in the case of UFO's

UAP).

4. Respectfully and strenuously advocate legislation that would allow for the establishment of Independent Commissions with extensive powers of search and interview. These commissions would be made up of professional people from all walks of life (Barristers, Police Officers, Scientists, Doctors) who though initially signatory to The Official Secrets Act could forcefully recommend that issues be bought out into the Public Domain if it was clear that their extended closure was not in the Public Interest.

The author of this article can be contacted at Section 40
Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 53

LOOSE MINUTE

[redacted]/54/1

21 Apr 98

OMD14

FoI CONSULTATION EXERCISE

1. In a series of written PQ answers on 1 April (copy attached), the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster said that during the recent public consultation exercise 557 responses were received. The PQ answer goes on to mention that a paper copy of the full set of responses is available from the Cabinet Office. Has DOMD acquired a copy of this document to see what comments might have been made about the MOD? If you have it would be most useful if I could have a copy of any of the responses which touch upon the subject of "UFOs".

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

Section 40

Enc:

1. Official Report 1 Apr 98.

child support officer in deciding whether they are habitually resident and therefore whether the Child Support Agency has jurisdiction.

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many representations she has received from hon. Members on CSA matters in each month since 1 May 1997; and how many representations the Chief Executive has received in the same period. [36987]

Mr. Keith Bradley: The information is set out in the table.

The number of letters received from hon. and right hon. Members about the child support scheme for each month since May 1997

Month	*Ministerial*	*Chief Executive*
May 1997	58	411
June 1997	185	698
July 1997	241	928
August 1997	162	581
September 1997	184	549
October 1997	217	837
November 1997	245	713
December 1997	202	634
January 1998	173	687
February 1998	222	739

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Millennium Dome

Mr. Baker: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what steps he has taken to ensure a full environmental assessment has been carried out in respect of *(a)* the land on which the Dome is to be built, *(b)* the construction process of the Dome and *(c)* the operation of the Dome. [35930]

Mr. Mandelson *[holding answer 24 March 1998]:* An environmental statement was submitted to the London Borough of Greenwich as part of the Millennium Experience planning application in October 1996. The subsequent approval of the application was conditional upon the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) establishing procedures to ensure that environmental issues properly inform the decision making process both for construction and operation. A draft environmental plan to meet this condition has been submitted to the London Borough of Greenwich and consultations on it are underway. The NMEC has also commissioned assessments which address a wide range of environmental matters including the health and safety of employees and visitors. Together with English Partnerships, the NMEC is undertaking an audit of the remediation work that has been done to prepare the site for the Millennium Experience.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Freedom of Information

15. **Mr. Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the conclusions he has drawn from the consultation on his freedom of information proposals. [35816]

24. **Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what responses he has received to the White Paper on open government. [35826]

27. **Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations he has received on freedom of information. [35829]

Dr. David Clark: Consultation on "Your Right to Know" drew over 550 responses. The overall reaction to our proposals was very positive, as the hon. Members will see if they study the material in the Library. I am considering detailed points from the consultation in preparing a draft Freedom of Information Bill.

21. **Mr. Campbell-Savours:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what is his proposed date for the introduction of Freedom of Information legislation. [35823]

22. **Mr. Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to publish the Freedom of Information Bill. [35824]

Dr. David Clark: I expect to publish a draft Bill later in the year, which will continue the consultation process started with the White Paper *Your Right to Know*. In the light of comments on this, a Bill will be introduced into Parliament as soon as the legislative timetable permits.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what response he has received to the consultation exercise he held on the Government White Paper, Your Right to Know. [37659]

Dr. David Clark: I am delighted to say that the consultation exercise on the Government's Freedom of Information White Paper, *Your Right to Know*, received a very good response with some 557 replies received from a wide variety of individuals and organisations, as shown in the breakdown in the table. The great majority of the comments we received, even where they suggested changes or expressed disagreement with some aspects, were in favour of the fundamental content and broad direction of our proposals. This shows the wide support that exists for legislation of the sort proposed in our Manifesto, and set out in detail in the White Paper.

Although the consultation period formally ended on 28 February, many responses were still coming at the stage and, in the interests of full inclusiveness and fairness, we have included in our analysis as many replies as possible which were received after the end of February.

I am pleased to report that 172 (or 31 per cent.) of the replies were made by e-mail and 48 of these replies came via the Internet site set up for an open discussion of the proposals by UK Citizens' Online Democracy (UKCOD) with the support of the Cabinet Office. This shows the important role information technology can play in consultation exercises of this type.

I am today placing in the libraries of the House a list of those responded (except where they requested anonymity) and copies of the responses received (except for those respondents who wished their comments to remain confidential). The apparently substantial number of replies requesting anonymity or confidentiality very largely consists of responses concerning the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 made by licence holders under the Act. Replies of this sort made up 100 of the 117 responses in these categories.

In addition to being placed in the libraries of the House, the responses are also being placed on the Internet and will shortly be available for viewing and downloading on the Internet. There is a direct link from the FOI Unit home page—http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm — to the UKCOD site where the submissions are posted—http://foi.democracy.org.uk.html/submissions.index.html. A paper copy of the full set of responses is available from the Cabinet Office.

The consultation exercise has been extremely valuable in focusing public attention on our proposals for Freedom of Information. I am now considering the main points arising from the consultation, and how we will need to take account of them in preparing a draft Bill for publication later this year. That publication will, in itself, mark a further major stage in the consultation process.

The breakdown of responses by category is:

	Total number of responses	*Responses by e-mail*	*On-line discussion*
Individuals	160	103	38
Business	65	11	2
Media	6	1	0
Academics	59	14	0
Charities, Lobby Groups and Campaign Group	82	21	4
Members of either House	5	0	0
Public Authorities	152	15	1
Members of the European Parliament	0	0	0
Others	28	7	3
Totals	557	172	48

Ministerial Residences

17. **Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent in total to refurbish official residences and offices of members of the Cabinet since 1 May. [35819]

Mr. Kilfoyle: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is not responsible for expenditure on all Government Ministers' residences and offices. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear on 9 February, the cost of maintaining and refurbishing Ministerial residences for 1997–98 which is estimated at £1.1 million. Information on the cost of refurbishing departmental offices of Cabinet Ministers is not held centrally.

Arms Exports

18. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if information on the United Kingdom suppliers of the components of chemical and biological weapons exported to Iraq would be available under his proposed freedom of information legislation. [35820]

Dr. David Clark: All requests for information falling within the scope of the proposed Freedom of Information Act will be considered against the access provisions of the Act.

Departmental Efficiency

19. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to increase efficiency in Government Departments. [35821]

Dr. David Clark: We are working to the target that, by 2002, one quarter of the public's dealings with government can be done electronically—through television, telephone or computer. This should result in better quality, more cost effective government services.

European Commission Documents

20. **Helen Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to press for the greater use of plain language in European Commission documents during the United Kingdom presidency. [35822]

Dr. David Clark: Using plain language is important if the European Commission is going to communicate effectively with the citizens of Europe. British linguists in the Commission's translation service are holding a 'Fight the Fog' campaign to encourage the use of plain language by the Commission's authors and translators. The UK Government are fully supporting this work. Plain language is also vital in legislation so that citizens and business can know what is required of them. As Presidency, the UK is working with the Commission, European Parliament and other Member States on an initiative to improve the quality of drafting of EU rules.

Print Media

23. **Mr. Kirkwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he next proposes to meet the civil servants' unions to discuss the Government's relationship with the print media. [35825]

Dr. David Clark: I met with the General Secretaries of the Council of Civil Service Unions on Wednesday 25 March as part of a regular series of meetings to discuss key issues affecting their members. The Government's relationship with the print media is not an issue that has been raised.

Electronic Information

25. **Mr. Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he has taken to permit individuals to supply information electronically to Government. [35827]

Dr. David Clark: I intend to publish later this year a White Paper on *Better Government*, which will set out in more detail ways in which IT will enable individuals to supply information to the Government electronically. As a prelude to this, last December I launched the Intelligent Form project, which converts what were once six paper forms on notification of self-employment into one electronic form, and in so doing enables individuals to supply several departments with information simultaneously via the Internet.

Regulatory Process

26. **Mr. Casale:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations he has received from his European counterparts on the reform of the regulatory process. [35828]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 +6411

16 April 1998

MISSING ENCLOSURES PLACED ON FILE D/SEC(AS)/12/2/1 PT A

1. A close examination of the enclosures on this file and closed files recalled from MOD archives has confirmed that many enclosures have been removed from their original location. The full details of the enclosures placed on D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 are as follows:

Enc no	Removed from:
E132	- D/DS8/10/209 part D
E2	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E121	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E122	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E159	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E180	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E1/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E6	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E63	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E64	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E65	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E66	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E67/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E67/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E68/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E73	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E75	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E81	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E82	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E83	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E84	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E85	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E86	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E87	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E88	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E89	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E90	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E91	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E95	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E96	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E97	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E98	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E100/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E100/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E101/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E104	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E113	- D/DS8/10/209 part F

E6 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E7 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E8 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E9 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E10 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E12 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E13 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E14 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
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E114 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E115 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E125 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E126 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E127 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
E128 - D/DS8/10/209 part G

2. Enclosures 2, 3, 9, 25 and 26 appear to have been removed from D/DS8/10/209 part H but that file has been destroyed and I am unable to positively confirm this.

3. This file (D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 part A) claims to have been opened as a registered file on 25 October 1982. This is not possible because Sec(AS) was not in being at that time. Sec(AS) was previously DS8 until late '84/early '85. It is not possible to ascertain exactly when this file was created.

Section 40

[redacted]

SEC(AS)2
MB8247 [redacted]MB

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI55/108/15

16 Apr 98

Sec(AS)2a

Copy to:

DDI Sec
AD/DI55 (file copy)

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

References:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 Apr 98.
B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 7 Apr 98.
C. D/DI55/108/15 dated 7 Apr 98.
D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 27 Sep 95.

1. Following your References A & B, and my Reference C seeking advice, I have today agreed with DDI Sec a line to take in making a statement about the role of DI55. We note the previous statements made at Reference D (enclosed), which specifically links DI55 with interests in air defence matters. Accordingly, we are content for you to make the following statement:

> *"DI55 is a branch within the MOD which is concerned with scientific and technical intelligence in matters of air defence."*

2. We are not prepared to be more specific than this about the function of DI55; in this respect the policy line taken by Min(AF) in Oct 96 stands. Should you need to quote an exemption under the Code of Practice, it is: *"1a. Information whose disclosure would harm national security or defence"*.

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DI55c
WH273A Section 40 MB

Enclosure:

D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 27 Sep 95.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

27 Sep 95

DI55c - Wg Cdr [redacted] Section 40

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES - DI55 ASSOCIATION

1. Thank you for your recent response D/DI55/108/15 to my minute of 25 Aug.

2. We accept your comments at para 3b and have recast our lines as follows:

- Our interest in reported "UFO" sightings is to establish whether what was seen might represent something which is of defence concern.

- As part of our assessment of reported sightings we copy such reports, as appropriate, to branches within the MOD which have an interest in air defence matters. DI55 is one such branch.

- The MOD does not undertake research into the "UFO" phenomena; we have not undertaken any such research and we only would if there were good reason for doing so - ie. evidence of potential defence interest.

3. You will note that we only go as far as to confirm the existence of DI55 and that DI55 has an interest in air defence matters, both of which I hope you are content with. Other than this we believe your comments about research are adequately covered in bullet 3.

4. I should be grateful if you could let me know if you are now content with our proposed lines. I shall then formally notify Hd CS(RM)1 that we are content for the internal distribution of "UFO reports" to be revealed when the files are sent to the Public Records Office at the 30 year point.

[redacted] Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 [redacted] Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI55/108/15

7 Apr 98

DDI Sec

Copy to:

AD/DI55 (file copy)

[redacted]

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

References:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 Apr 98 (Enclosure 1).
B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 7 Apr 98 (Enclosure 2).

1. At Reference A Sec(AS)2 seeks a statement on DI55's role for public release. After a telecon in which I stated that I believed it not to be our policy to disclose the specific responsibilities of DIS branches, Reference B was faxed, which changes the request to confirmation of a line which was taken in reponse to a PQ in Oct 96. Research into my files of previous requests of a similar nature has unearthed only one piece of correspondence, in which it was stated that reported UFO sightings are copied to branches within MOD having an interest in air defence matters, and that DI55 was such a branch.

2. I can't imagine that we have changed our line on this issue. However, I would be grateful for your confirmation or otherwise that the policy statement provided in Oct 96 stands. Also, Sec(AS)2a in her fax seeks reference to an exemption rule under the Code of Practice. Could you also advise on this aspect? The response is required by Sec(AS)2 by 17 Apr 98.

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DI55c
WH273A MB
Section 40

Enclosures:

1. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 Apr 98 (Enclosure 1).
2. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 7 Apr 98 (Enclosure 2).

E1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

3 Apr 98

DI55c

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

1. Section 40 is currently drafting a response to a very persistent correspondent on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. In fending off detailed queries about DI branches she wants to include the following paragraph in her reply:

> *"I am unable to provide any details about DSTI branches from 1967 onwards or how they might have been reorganised. You will, I am sure, know that DI55 is responsible for ....."*

2. I should be grateful if you could fill in the gap with a few words describing DI55's general role in the MOD. I should be most grateful for a response please by Tuesday 7 April.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

E2

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 7 APR Time:
From: SEC(AS)	Fax Number: Section 40 MB
	Tel Number: Section 40 MB
Authorised by: Rank / Name / Appointment: EO Section 40	
Signature:	

Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1	
Total number of pages including this one: 3	
To: WG-CDR Section 40 Room 277 OWO13	Fax Number: Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank / Name / Tel Number	
Signature:	

Subject: PUBLIC LINE ON ROLE OF DI BRANCHES

Dear Section 40

We spoke. Grateful if you would confirm with DI Sec that the line highlighted in the attached paperwork, which was used by the former Min(AF) in response to a question about the role of DI55, is the current DI line on such questions from the public.

Under Open Government if we are withholding information we need to quote which exemption under the Code of Practice is applicable. Can they confirm which exemption applies.

A response by the end of next week would be appreciated.

Thanks Section 40

PS. For your info Sec(AS) coordinated the 30 odd 'UFO'-related PQs tabled by Martin Redmond in Oct 96. The Min(AF) response was coordinated and cleared with DI Sec at the time.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

6414

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

3711

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2103H/2110H/2113H/
2120H/2122H/96/M

28 October 1996

Section 40

I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your Parliamentary Questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Section 40

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

Martin Redmond Esq MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of those records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [40911]

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5112

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 7 APR Time:
From: SEC(AS)	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40
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Signature:	

Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1	
Total number of pages including this one: 3	
To: WG CDR Section 40 Room 277 OWOB	Fax Number: Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank / Name / Tel Number	
Signature:	

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Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

64/4

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2103H/2110H/2113H/
2120H/2122H/96/M

28th October 1996

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Section 40

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

Martin Redmond Esq MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for *(a)* 50 years, *(b)* 75 years and *(c)* 100 years; how many of those records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax[redacted]

** Transmit Conf. Report **

7 Apr '98 13:46

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> [redacted]	
No.	1965
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'36"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

3 Apr 98

DI55c

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

1. Section 40 is currently drafting a response to a very persistent correspondent on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. In fending off detailed queries about DI branches she wants to include the following paragraph in her reply:

> *"I am unable to provide any details about DSTI branches from 1967 onwards or how they might have been reorganised. You will, I am sure, know that DI55 is responsible for ....."*

2. I should be grateful if you could fill in the gap with a few words describing DI55's general role in the MOD. I should be most grateful for a response please by Tuesday 7 April.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5144

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

1 April 1998

Chief Paper Keeper, MOD Archives

1. Having looked through a closed file held in our office, it has been noted that some of the enclosures appear to have been taken from files now stored in archives. I would be grateful if you could forward the files (listed below) to this office so they can be double checked and a note inserted informing the reader where each enclosure has now been placed.

Files required:
D/DS8/10/209 part D
D/DS8/10/209 part E
D/DS8/10/209 part F
D/DS8/10/209 part G
D/DS8/10/209/1 part A
D/DS8/10/209/1 part B

For ease, our full address is:
Sec(AS)2a
Room 8245
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

2. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In advance, many thanks.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1a
MB8245
FAX: Section 40
Section 40

NDPB	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Advisory Committee on JPs in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside	192	0	2	27	0	163	35
Total	—	—	6	29	7	226	68

[1] 1 member re-appointed from De-Regulation Task Force
[2] 8 members re-appointed
[3] When the Committee on Standards in Public Life was established in October 1994, the Chairman and members were appointed for three years in the first instance. When those appointments expired in October 1997, five members of the Committee decided they did not wish to serve for a further term
[4] Members only serve for an Administration and were re-appointed
[5] 1 current member has been appointed Chairman

Notes:

a. Number of places on each NDPB
b. Number of places at are currently unfilled on each NDPB
c. The total number of members that have resigned since 1 May 1997
d. The total number that have retired since 1 May 1997
e. The total number that have not had their contracts renewed since 1 May 1997
f. The total number that have remained in place since 1 May 1997
g. The total number that have been appointed since 1 May 1997

Freedom of Information

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what financial provisions will be made available to public authorities to process applications for information, following the implementation of his Freedom of Information proposals. [35776]

Dr. David Clark: Public authorities will be expected to allocate resources to fulfil their duties under the Freedom of Information Act from within overall expenditure ceilings.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what figure he plans to set as a disproportionate cost or diversion of resources under the Gateway provisions of his Freedom of Information proposals. [35777]

Dr. David Clark: We do not envisage the Freedom of Information Act specifying a fixed sum for what would amount to disproportionate cost or diversion of resources from other priorities. This would depend on the circumstances of the public authority concerned and the nature of the request.

As proposed in the White Paper, *Your Right to Know*, a decision by a public authority not to provide the information requested on these grounds would be appealable to the Information Commissioner who would take account of other discretionary cost thresholds such as that for answering Parliamentary Questions.

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Millennium Dome

Mr. Baker: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what evaluation was made of the option of using an air-conditioning system for the Millennium Dome powered by hydrocarbons. [35928]

Mr. Mandelson *[holding answer 24 March 1998]:* The New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) received no bids proposing the use of hydrocarbons during the procurement process for air chille[illegible]. Subsequent inquiries made by the NMEC suggested that suppliers were reluctant to offer a hydrocarbon system for a project of the scale and nature of the Dome. I also understand from the NMEC that hydrocarbons would require additional and more complex precautions to ensure optimum safety in a project the size of the Dome.

Mr. Baker: To ask the Minister without Portfolio if he will list the sponsorship secured by contract for the Millennium Dome by 18 March giving in each case *(a)* the company or individual, *(b)* the amount and *(c)* details of undertakings given to sponsors in return for their sponsorship. [35931]

Mr. Mandelson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Ms Cooper) on 24 February 1998, *Official Report*, column *204*. Negotiations on the contractual details are continuing in each case.

Millennium Experience

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what are the specifically Christian elements of the Millennium Experience. [36173]

Mr. Mandelson: The New Millennium Experience Company is holding regular discussions, facilitated by the Archbishops' Officer for the Millennium, with representatives of the Lambeth Consultation Group. The purpose of these discussions is to ensure that the "Spirit Zone" of the Millennium Experience contains appropriate and inclusive references to Christianity and the Christian heritage of the United Kingdom.

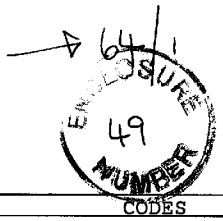
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

EU Fisheries Council

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the outcome of the Fisheries Council held in Brussels on 24 March; and if he will make a statement. [36569]

Dr. John Cunningham: I chaired the meeting of the Fisheries Council in Brussels on 24 March. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, represented the United Kingdom together with my noble friend the Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, Lord Sewel.

The Council discussed the introduction of a ban on high seas drift nets. Views were divided. The UK, with a majority of other Member States, argued for the phasing out of such nets because of the by-catch problems associated with them, particularly by-catches of dolphins. Several Ministers opposed a ban. However, at the end of the discussion I was able to conclude that there was an expectation that there will be a qualified majority in support of a ban. This helps clear the way for a formal agreement before the end of June. In the meantime, the European Commission will prepare measures such as decommissioning or conversion, to be applied within existing funding provisions, for fishermen affected by the ending of drift netting for tuna, swordfish and other high seas species.



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
27/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	Section 40 & AHB(RAF)	[ ]

Sent: 27/03/98 at 13:48
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1711
Subject: Section 40 & AHB(RAF) HELD 'UFO' FILES

Text: Section 40 You're proposed response to Section 40 couldn't be clearer. It's fine by me. Our experience has shown he doesn't listen to what he's told though anyway.
You'll be interested to know that Section 40 brought all the S4(Air) files over here this morning covering 1974 and 75 - they didn't need asking twice!!!!
Section 40

Priority: Normal View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [ ]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4
(Revised 5/84)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 48

To: Sec(AS)2 - Section 40	**From:** AHB(4)RAF - Section 40
Date: 27 Mar 98	**Tel:** Section 40
Your Ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/1	**Our Ref:** D/AHB/5/12

Subject: **Ex- S4f(Air) UFO FILES ARCHIVED BY AHB**

1. Further to yesterday's morning's Telecon I am transferring the attached S4f(Air) files to Sec(AS) as successor organisation to S4f, and MoD focal point for UFO queries with the approval of Gp Capt Section 40 Deputy Head of AHB. The 1974 files will be due for review by CS(RM) in 1999, and the 1975 files in 2000. Please sign the attached receipt, and make your own arrangements to transfer the files to CS(RM) when appropriate.

Rank/ Appointment: * EO

Name In Block Letters: Section 40

Signature: Section 40

1D	48/47-54			UFO Reports		Jan/Sep 74		U
1D	48/55			UFO Reports		Sep74/Feb75		U
1D	48/56			UFO Reports		Oct/Nov 74		U
1D	48/57			UFO Reports		Nov 74		U
1D	48/58			UFO Reports		Dec74/Jan75		U
1D	48/59-65			UFO Reports		Jan/Jun 75		U
1D	48/66			UFO Reports(Edited)		Aug75/Jun76		U

Received [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] for Sec (1 5)

27-03-98

To: Section 40
AHB4(RAF)

ENCLOSURE 47

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

26 Mar 98

Head of AHB(RAF)

Copy to:

AHB4(RAF)

This should be with Section 40 by tomorrow morning. If you could send over the 1974 UFO report files by immediate post — Monday will do — that'd be helpful.

Section 40

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' FILES HELD BY AHB(RAF) Section 40

1. It came to my attention during a recent search for surviving 'UFO' report files from the mid 1970s that some files from this period are stored in your Branch.

2. I spoke this morning to AHB4(RAF) and asked if I could see a list of the files AHB(RAF) currently hold (this is attached for ease). In view of Sec(AS)2's responsibility for answering queries and correspondence on this subject of (unfortunately) ever increasing public interest, I believe it would now be more appropriate for these files to be held here. Having looked through them we may of course decide that it would be better for the files to be kept together with all the other archived 'UFO' report files at Hayes.

3. I should be most grateful if you would consider transferring any 'UFO' report files with S4(Air) branch references held by AHB(RAF) back to Sec(AS)2. Incidentally, I do have a need to see the file starred on the attachment within the next week as I have a specific outstanding query from two members of the public on an incident which is alleged to have occurred in January 1974.

4. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

** Transmit Conf.Report **

26 Mar '98 16:08

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> Section 40	
No.	1807
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'44"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	O K

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
26/03/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	S4 UAP files	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 26/03/98 at 9:11 Delivered: 26/03/98 at 9:11
To: SEC(AS)2A1
CC:
Ref: /GUID:1002711F0CC4D111B39400005A422BE6
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: S4 UAP files

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Section 40 We spoke a few weeks ago about missing "uap" files and I agreed to speak to my contact in AHB.
I am advised by AHB they were[and for a few files still are] the custodians of the S4(Air) UAP files. Files for the period 1964 to 1973 have been passed to CS(RM). The years 64 to 72 have been assigned to PRO classes AIR 2 and 20.1973 awaits listing.
Years 1974 to 1976 (June?) will follow as and when review is due, currently at the normal 25 year point ie 1974 during 1999 (for release in 2005) etc. I hope this fills the gap? Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

26 Mar 98

Head of AHB(RAF)

Copy to:

AHB4(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' FILES HELD BY AHB(RAF)

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4. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

1D	47/272	Air2/17528-7		S4f(Air) UFOReports	7-8	Jan64/Jul65		U
1D	47/272	Air2/16918		S4f(Air) UFOReports	5-6	Dec61/Jan64		U
1D	47/272	Air2/17982-4		S4f(Air) UFO Reports	9-11	Jul65/Jan67		U
1D	47/273	Air2/18115-17	AF/CX38/67	S4f(Air) UFOReports	1-3	Jan67/Feb68		U
1D	47/274	Air20/12399		S4f(Air) UFO Reports	4	Jun71/Dec72		U
1D	47/274a	Air2/18564		S4f(Air) UFO Reports W Freugh: Disclosure Request	1	Feb57/Sep71		U
1D	48/44-46	Air20/11887-90		UFO Reports		Aug/Oct 67		U
1D	48/47-54			UFO Reports		Jan/Sep 74		U
1D	48/55			UFO Reports		Sep74/Feb75		U
1D	48/56			UFO Reports		Oct/Nov 74		U
1D	48/57			UFO Reports		Nov 74		U
1D	48/58			UFO Reports		Dec74/Jan75		U
1D	48/59-65			UFO Reports		Jan/Jun 75		U
1D	48/66			UFO Reports(Edited)		Aug75/Jun76		U
1D	48/67-8	Air20/11891-3		UFO Reports		Nov/Dec 67		U
1D	48/69-79	Air20/11894-90	2	UFO Reports		Jan68/Jan69		U
1D	48/80	Air20/11693		UFO Reports		Dec 68		U
1D	48/81-93	Air20/12055-67		UFO Reports (held S3(4))		Jan 69/Jan70		U
1D	48/94-103	Air20/12297-30	6	UFO Reports		Feb/Dec 70		U
1D	48/104-16	Air20/12376-88	S4f(Air)	UFO Reports		Nov70/Dec71		U
1D	48/117-28	Air20/12400-11	S4f(Air)	UFO Reports		Jan/Dec 72		U
1D	48/129-40	S4f(Air)	Air20/?????	UFO Reports (Reviewed 1998 - PRO numbers not yet allocated)		Jan/Dec 73		U

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 44

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form [redacted]
(Revised 5/84)

To: Sec(AS)2 - [redacted]	From: AHB(4)RAF - [redacted]
Date: 26 Mar 98	Tel: [redacted]
Your Ref: *	Our Ref: *

Subject: <u>Ex- S4f(Air) UFO FILES ARCHIVED BY AHB</u>

1. Further to this morning's Telecon I attach a list of the relevant files. Those with PRO numbers in Air Class 2 or 20 have been reviewed by CS(RM), though their release date/status may need to be checked. The remaining files covering 1974/5 are still held by AHB.

26 MAR 1998
64/1

Rank/ Appointment: * EO

Name In Block Letters: [redacted]

Signature: [redacted]

[redacted]

1D	47/272	Air2/17528-7		S4f(Air) UFOReports	7-8	Jan64/Jul65		U
1D	47/272	Air2/16918		S4f(Air) UFOReports	5-6	Dec61/Jan64		U
1D	47/272	Air2/17982-4		S4f(Air) UFO Reports	9-11	Jul65/Jan67		U
1D	47/273	Air2/16115-17	AF/CX38/67	S4f(Air) UFOReports	1-3	Jan67/Feb68		U
1D	47/274	Air20/12399		S4f(Air) UFO Reports	4	Jun71/Dec72		U
1D	47/274a	Air2/18564		S4f(Air) UFO Reports W Freugh: Disclosure Request	1	Feb57/Sep71		U
1D	48/44-46	Air20/11887-90		UFO Reports		Aug/Oct 67		U
1D	48/47-54			UFO Reports		Jan/Sep 74		U
1D	48/55			UFO Reports		Sep74/Feb75		U
1D	48/56			UFO Reports		Oct/Nov 74		U
1D	48/57			UFO Reports		Nov 74		U
1D	48/58			UFO Reports		Dec74/Jan75		U
1D	48/59-65			UFO Reports		Jan/Jun 75		U
1D	48/66			UFO Reports(Edited)		Aug75/Jun76		U
1D	48/67-8	Air20/11891-3		UFO Reports		Nov/Dec 67		U
1D	48/69-79	Air20/11894-902		UFO Reports		Jan68/Jan69		U
1D	48/80	Air20/11693		UFO Reports		Dec 68		U
1D	48/81-93	Air20/12055-67		UFO Reports (held S3(4))		Jan 69/Jan70		U
1D	48/94-103	Air20/12297-306		UFO Reports		Feb/Dec 70		U
1D	48/104-16	Air20/12376-88	S4f(Air)	UFO Reports		Nov70/Dec71		U
1D	48/117-28	Air20/12400-11	S4f(Air)	UFO Reports		Jan/Dec 72		U
1D	48/129-40	S4f(Air)	Air20/?????	UFO Reports (Reviewed 1998 - PRO numbers not yet allocated)		Jan/Dec 73		U

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

March 1998

Sec(AS)2a1
DDI Sec

Copy to:
OMD(AD)(Management)

A FURTHER LETTER FROM Section 40 - UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - SURVIVAL OF NON-AIR INTELLIGENCE (TECHNICAL)5b PAPERS

1. Addressees will be all too familiar with Section 40 s area of interest.

2. His new letter, whilst seemingly accepting my earlier advice, raises the question of what happen to the information originally passed to AI((Tech)5b that "clearly will have survived in one form or another and possibly in another Department".

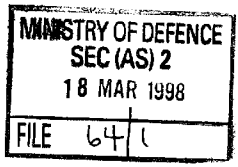
2. Unless addressees have information to the contrary my draft reply again expresses the position about the fate of the information he believes the Ministry of Defence still holds.

3. I would welcome comments by cop 3 April 1998.

Section 40

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3 Section 40



DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 February 1998 (sic) in response of my letter of 4 March 1998 again asking about intelligence-related records from more than 30 years ago relating to the UFO phenomena you believe are being held by the Ministry of Defence that would be useful to your research.

The advice given in my earlier letters in response to your specific enquiry about the fate of AI(Tech)5b records explained that intelligence-related records are treated in the same way as other Ministry of Defence records. As with the AI(Tech)5b if the records you seek are not preserved amongst the more than 15,000 defence intelligence-related records at the Public Record Office they have not survived.

As I explained in my last letter the White Paper on **Open Government** (Cm 2290), published July 1993 gives a good description of how the public records system works. I commend it to you.

Section 40
[redacted]

14 February 1998

Section 40
~~D8/2~~ A8/3
MoD
Metropole Building
Northumberland Ave.
LONDON
WC2N 5BL

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 4th March reference CS(RM)/4/6/37 and please accept my profound apologies for going over ground we had already covered.

Whilst I appreciate key UFO-related AI(T) 5b files are no longer available, the information that was passed onto them clearly will have survived in one form or another and possibly in another Department (eg DCDS (I), DMSI, DI55, DSTI, JIC etc). For example, scientists in DSTI would have looked at similarities between the visual sighting at RAF Topcliffe in 1952 and drawn correlations with the physical radarscope evidence of Lakenheath in 1956 and Church Lawford in 1957. From the information gleaned, they would have prepared Identification/Specification briefing documents which I understand to be still in use today (based on actual testimony). There may also be a similar system in operation to that used by the Civil Aviation Authority which contains abstracts of each incident reported by commercial pilots held on a main database.

Once again, under the terms of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and in the spirit of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Legislation, is there anyone I can approach and appeal to for the release of this documentation on the grounds of its scientific value.

I appreciate that I am going over ground we have already covered (albeit from a slightly different angle); however, I also think we can be very positive about this. For example, Sqdn Leader Humpston's memo in DEFE 31/119 clearly indicated the lack of resources available for DI55 and DSTI to carry out research into sightings. If the relevant Intelligence Dept put key UFO-related details into the public domain, then these would act as a catalyst for further study in both industry and academia. One day, we could be grateful for those further studies.

Kind Regards

Section 40
[redacted]

Sec(AS) - [redacted]

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/9/7

6 March 1998

This may be general interest. [redacted]

Hd NHB
Hd HB(A)
Hd AHB
Sensitivity Review

DID WALDEGRAVE WORK? THE IMPACT ON OPEN GOVERNMENT UPON BRITISH HISTORY by DR RICHARD ALDRICH

1. The attached article (rough proof only) is forwarded for information only.

[redacted]

Intelligence and National Security

An inter-disciplinary journal

18 2 98

Dear Section 40,

Thankyou for your kind advice and time during our telephone conversation the other day.

I thought I should send you the enclosed, which is a rough proof only. (There is no need to return this copy)

Thankyou again

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

A FRANK CASS JOURNAL

Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., Newbury House, 890-900 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7HH
Telephone: 0181 599 8866 Fax: 0181 599 0984 E-mail: info@frankcass.com
Registered Office: Newbury House 890-900 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7HH Registered No. 608025 (England)
Director: Frank Cass (Managing) A.E. Cass M.P. Zaidner FCMA, ACIS

9.1.5

RICHARD J. ALDRICH *The University of Nottingham*

READ BRIEFLY

Did Waldegrave work? The Impact of Open Government Upon British History

'abstract' — Copy to follow

The Waldegrave Initiative on Open Government

It is now almost exactly four years since the announcement of the Waldegrave Initiative on Open Goverment in July 1993.[1] The change of administration in May 1997 points to the probability of further revisions in the regime for the declassification of public records, perhaps with some sort of freedom of information legislation in the lifetime of the current parliament. Was the Waldegrave Initiative a signicant development which has materially changed our understanding of aspects of Britain's recent

[1] *Open Government*, Government White Paper, July 1993 Cmnd 2290.

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past? Or was it a mere publicity, opportunity for government which involved major claims, accompanied by only marginal change? Did the pattern of declassification reflect the genuine needs and concerns of historians, or did departments merely take the opportunity to 'clean house' and rid themselves of overclassified files, some dating back to the 1970s? This article addresses these questions by analysing the impact of the Waldegrave Initiative upon a range of recent research.[2]

It is perhaps worth observing at the outset that 'open government' and the accelerated declassification of historical materials does not stand alone as an isolated issue. Its context has been a much wider discussion about governance, transparency, information, and citizenship, and a wide range of initiatives across Whitehall and Westminster, including important developments in the legal regulation of the secret services. The inner nature of these changes has been vigorously contested. **On the one hand, government press releases maintained that there had been nothing short of a major revolution, with the default setting of Whitehall now upon releasing, rather than withholding, information.** This has been accompanied by some startling changes, not least the Security Service (MI5) openly advertised for recruits in the pages of *The Guardian* in May 1997.[3] On the other hand, these developments have been characterized as representing nothing more than a transition from the secrecy of the Thatcher era, to a more sophisticated form of active 'information control' for the 1990s prompted by a reluctant recognition that mechansims such as the European Court made some change inevitable.[4]

Openness, or secrecy, relating to secret service issues has been at the centre of the debate over the Waldegrave Initiative. This is partly because a large proportion of the files withheld for more than thirty years has been retained because they contain material related to secret service, but also because William Waldegrave deliberately chose to make 'revelations' in the area of secret service history, and also current secret service practice, a flagship element in the presentation of Open Government to the media.[5] The Conservative government correctly presumed that revelations about even the most antiquated aspects of secret service would

[2] Because of the survey nature of this article I am more than unusually indebted to others who have been kind enough to relate their experiences with open government materials to me, and to point me in the direction of new literature which draws upon it. Notwithstanding this, the author must take full responsibility for the opinions expressed here.

[3] *The Guardian*, 20 May 1997.

[4] The most sophisticated version of this argument, drawing on an area of the sociology of knowledge which has been termed 'information control', can be found in Peter Gill, 'Reasserting control: Recent Changes in the Oversight of the UK Intelligence Community', *Intelligence and National Security*, 11 (2), (1996), 313–31.

[5] For example, in October 1993, William Waldegrave launched a booklet describing the work of the Joint Intelligence Committee in co-ordinating the activities of the secret services, *Central Intelligence Machinery* (London, 1993) with a foreword by John Major.

guarantee headlines such as 'MI5 thrills historians by opening up its files' with each successive trance of material. There can be no doubt that the Waldegrave Initiative has enjoyed a good press, but was it justified?[6]

Intelligence History

Unsurprisingly, it is upon the history of foreign intelligence and special operations prior to 1945 that the Waldegrave Initiative has had the most impact. There are several reasons for this. First, these sorts of materials represent the majority of hitherto closed files retrospectively released into the Public Record Office (PRO). Churchill's Ultra decrypts (HW1), specially selected for him from the work of Bletchley Park, alone represent a class of several thousand files, with more to come. The Special Operations Executive (SOE), Britain's wartime sabotage organization, constitutes another important release (HS1-4). Released region by region, its files will be eventually number over 10,000. There are also many single files retrospectively released into existing classes. Secondly, the recognition in the 1980s that scholarly research on British intelligence history was possible, even pre-Waldegrave, resulted in the growth of a specialist body of historians who were then poised to descend on the new material as it arrived. Thirdly, the level of public interest in this area has ensured quick exploitation by journalists and popular historians as well as academics. The great volume of material released has ensured that its importance is only beginning to be explored.

Two patterns of impact by the Waldegrave Initiative can already by discerned in the area of intelligence history. The first, and most radical, is upon subjects that are specialist and technical and, accordingly, were hitherto almost completely closed. The release of Ultra decrypt material is a good example. While Ultra resulted in a complete reshaping of the history of the Second World War as early as the mid-1970s, this reflected the impact of memoir literature and official history.[7] These sustained close analysis of this very arcane subject requires substantial quantities of core primary materials. Only with the gradual opening of the detailed files of Bletchley Park, its outstations, and collaborators have we seen the development of a substantial body of non-official Ultra-based history. The extent to which this new work has already begun to challenge official history on fundamental issues, such as the 'shortening' of the duration

[6] See most recently, 'MI5 thrills historians by opening up its files', *The Sunday Times*, 18 May 1997.

[7] Zara Steiner, 'Deception and its Dividends', *Times Literary Supplement*, 7–13 December 1990, pp. 1, 310.

of Second World War by Ultra, underlines the importance of this new work.[8]

The second pattern concerns its impact upon broader subjects that were already partly open, such as the SOE. Because SOE was highly dependent upon the RAF and the Navy for transport, and were required to co-ordiante their plans (very imperfectly) with regional commands and the Foreign Office, many types of file have long abounded with SOE material. As a result, well-documented and authoritative non-official studies of SOE have been appearing in profusion since the mid-1970s. This process was accelerated after 1982 by the availability of a very large body of material from SOE's American partner, the OSS. Accordingly, the impact of the release of the new SOE material into the PRO has been different. New and intriguing aspects of this organization have been investigated, and a fuller picture achieved, but there has been, as yet, not radical shift in our overall picture of SOE.[9]

There is also a continuity of practice here. In the 1980s historians worked 'through' military and diplomatic files to discover otherwise 'closed' SOE documentation. In the 1990s historians are working through newly released SOE files to open up the history of its still-closed British sister service, MI6 or the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) during the Second World War. Here too, new debates have been ignited and old arguments re-examined. For example, the credibility of the picture of a bankrupt and broken SIS offered by Kim Philby in his controversial KGB-sponsored memoir *My Silent War*, has been at the centre of this discussion. Some former practitioners have long condemned this book as an unreliable product of Soviet propaganda, while non-official historians have come to the conclusion that the new material reveals a picture of SIS that was, if anything, worse than Philby's caricature.[10]

Beyond these two patterns, the release of Second World War secret service files under the Waldegrave Initiative has had a further, rather unexpected, effect. Some intelligence historians are clearly attracted to their subject by the challenge of an awkward and inaccessible subject, of undertaking an intellectual puzzle wherein a number of pieces are missing. They are repelled by ordinary twentieth century diplomatic history because

[8] Ralph Bennett, *Behind the Battle: Intelligence in the War with Germany, 1939–1945* (London, 1994), pp. xx–xxi. A limited quantity of detailed Ultra material was released into the class DEFE 3 as early as the late 1970s, but a great deal has only just been released and there is more to come.

[9] For an example of new work on SOE see Martin Thomas, 'The Massingham Mission: SOE in French North Africa, 1941–1944', *Intelligence and National Security*, 11 (4), (1966), 696–721.

[10] Robert Cecil, 'Philby's Spurious War', *Intelligence and National Security*, 9 (4), (1994), 764–8; E. D. R. Harrison, 'More Thoughts on Kim Philby' *My Silent War*', *Intelligence and National Security*, 10 (3), (1995), 514–26; Richard J. Aldrich, 'The British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Pacific War', *Modern Asian Studies*, 31 (4), (1997).

such a high proportion of the records are readily available. Accordingly, as many more intelligence records are released for the Second World War, there are clearly some historians who will be dismayed by the super-abundance of files and who will transfer their attentions to more recent, still classified, events.

There can be no denying that the Waldegrave Initiative has resulted in substantial change for intelligence history, but the extent to which it has brought radical revision remains unclear. Those who wish to minimize its importance point out that much of the material might have been expected about now, at the fifty-year point, even under the previous regime. The fact that some bodies of Ultra material began to make their way to the PRO in the late 1970s supports this argument. Ambiguity even extends to the more surprising release of some postwar intelligence materials such as 'Venona'.[11]

Venona' is the code-name for the KGB communications traffic decrypted by both GCHQ and the Americans in the 1940s, leading to the initial exposure of members of the 'Cambridge Comintern': Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt, and John Cairncross. Much of it was recently released in the class HW15. This is not material that historians would have expected to see before Waldegrave. Yet sceptics would argue that this release has not been motivated by a new British spirit of openness, but instead by pressure from GCHQ's American partners, the National Security Agency. It has long been the case that documents unavailable in Britain could be obtained in the USA, and this has been studiously ignored by the authorities. But the internet has given this disparity a sharper edge. A large selection of the American 'Venona' material has been put on the NSA's worldwide web site in a way that would have been much more difficult for the UK to ignore. Perhaps the internet will act as an agent of 'globalization' in the area of declassification policy.[12]

The record is therefore patchy on British intelligence and it is not easy to cast up a satisfactory generalization. This is partly because Whitehall departments have continued their time-honoured tradition of interpreting the same guidelines differently and some are much more generous than others. Some have placed postwar materials of a genuinely new type into the PRO. The arrival of about 200 files generated by the MoD's Directorate of Scientific Intelligence during the early cold war, focused upon British efforts to look at Eastern bloc military science, is nothing short

[11] 'Release of Records of GCHQ: Signals Intelligence Relating to the Venona Project (HW15), 1 October 1996, PRO Press Pack.

[12] This argument is based on a number of unattributable conversations with officials in December 1996. The NSA's website is available at http://www.nsa.gov:8080/docs/venona/venona.html.

of a major breakthrough.[13] The same can be said of the release of the files of the British Military Mission or 'BRIXMIS' in the GDR, which engaged in massive legal and semi-legal surveillance of Eastern bloc military activities.[14] For the first time this has permitted the detailed study of intelligence operations at the front line of the cold war.

Nuclear History

One way in which the impact of new information can be measured is to focus upon events whose important commands universal assent, and then to try to establish how far our understanding of those events has been changed. In the field of nuclear history, the Cuban missile crisis constitutes one such landmark event. The Cuban missile crisis is especially interesting because (in common with Venona) it underlines the extent to which the Waldegrave Initiative does not stand alone, but is instead part of a vast global programme of archival disbursement. In 1994, almost before the Waldegrave Initiative had begun to take effect in Britain, British academics were surveying the extent to which our picture of the Cuban missile crisis had already been radically changed by 'glasnost' in Russia and American. New interpretations of the crisis have re-examined the relative importance of Cuba in Kruschev's decision to deploy the missiles; the thinking behind Kennedy's 'quarantine' of Cuba; the extent to which nuclear forces were placed on a 'hair trigger' at the height of the crisis. Perhaps most remarkably, new material has demonstrated the extent to which Kennedy, as well as Kruschev, retreated in the face of nuclear peril, offering secret assurances to the Soviets that US Jupiter missiles in Turkey would soon be withdrawn. It has now been admitted that the account of this latter issue was deliberately falsified in the published version of Kennedy's diary.[15]

Surprisingly, despite radical changes in our understanding of the international crisis, little has emerged from British materials released specifically under Waldegrave. Peter Boyle has had the most extended experience of the Waldegrave Initiative in this regard and has usefully quantified his experiences:

> When the British government papers for 1962 were opened in January 1993, 17 documents remained closed in the file of the Prime Minister's Papers on the Cuban missile crisis . . . and 69 documents remained closed in the Foreign

[13] This material, deposited in DEFE 41, is the subject of a major ongoing study by Paul Maddrell of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

[14] This material has been deposited in DEFE. The British Military Mission or 'BRIXMIS' has been the subject of a recent study by Tony Geraghty.

[15] Len Scott and Steve Smith, 'Lessons of October: historians, political scientists, policy-makers and the Cuban missile crisis', *International Affairs*, 40 (4), (1994), 659–84.

> Office files. In response to the author's requests . . . two of the closed documents in the Prime Minister's papers were opened and 32 of the closed Foreign Office documents were opened in July 1993. None of the documents . . . opened in July 1993, were of great significance.

This enumeration underlines a further point. 1962 probably represents about the last year for which these sorts of comparative distinctions can be drawn about pre- and post-Waldegrave material. By 1993 files were being processed under the new guidelines, obviating the needs for 'special review'.[16]

By contrast, the experience for the history of the development of the British hydrogen bomb has been very different. Here the Waldegrave Initiative has not just opened up greater detail, it has also unleashed new controversies. As John Baylis recently remarked: 'The gradual opening up of British archives as the result of the Waldegrave "Open Government Initiative" in 1992, has spawned debate amongst nuclear historians about the British test programme in 1957 and 1958 and the claims by the government at the time to have developed thermonuclear weapons.' Some writers had gone so far as to suggest that the British nuclear deterrent policy in the late 1950s was a huge bluff by the Macmillan government which sought to convince, not only the Soviets, but also the Americans, that Britain was much further ahead than she really was. The Waldegrave Initiative has also had the most pleasing effect of further encouraging official and non-official nuclear historians to interact, not least on the H-bomb issue. Gone are the days when official historians manifested themselves only momentarily at conferences, coyly refused to answer some questions, and then vanished before coffee-time.[17]

The divergent experience of historians with the Cuban missile crisis and the British nuclear tests in 1957 and 1958 serves to underline Simon J. Ball's observation that there are broadly two types of defence history that are addressed by the Waldegrave Initiative. The first type consists of major issues and the broad outlines of policy. These are already to some degree self-evident and the abundance of open material both archival and otherwise ensures that these subjects can be approached successfully without the help of 'special review'. This is reinforced by the time-honoured practice, common to many fields, of trawling low-level files in a successful

[16] Peter G. Boyle, 'The British Government's View of the Cuban Missile Crisis', *Contemporary Record*, 10 (3) (1996), 36. On the British perspective see also Gary D. Rawnsley, 'How Special is Special? The Anglo-American Alliance During the Cuban Missile Crisis', *Contemporary Record*, 9 (3) (1995), 586–601.

[17] John Baylis, 'The Development of Britain's Thermonuclear Capability 1954–61: Myth or Reality?', *Contemporary Record*, 8 (1), (1994), 159–174; Katherine Pine, 'Art or Article? The Need for and Nature of the British Hydrogen Bomb 1954–8', *Contemporary Record*, 9 (37), (1995), 562–85. The debate was triggered by Norman Dombey and Eric Grove, 'Britain's Thermonuclear Bluff', *London Review of Books*, 22 October 1992.

attempt to glean material withheld elsewhere. The second type consists of narrow subjects such as the more operational and technical aspects of nuclear history, which are much more impermeable and would be much more difficult to pursue without the possibility of requesting declassification. The historical project on the command and control of British nuclear weapons, currently underway at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, is a good example of this second category, making extensive use of special review.[18]

Accordingly, there are strong parallels in the fields of nuclear history and intelligence history. Wider aspects of these subjects, which are integrated into mainstream policy, have always been fairly accessible and here Waldegrave represents no more than a welcome improvement at the margins. But there are other more specific projects that would have been difficult to initiate without the Waldegrave Initiative.

Nuclear historians must, however, contend with some special problems which are probably unique to their field. Guidelines for the release of nuclear papers are particularly informed by the dangers of nuclear proliferation. Ironically, while more recent papers, detailing sophisticated systems, are being passed for release, papers relating to the production of Britain's first, more basic, weapons remains closed. This is because earlier papers relate to the problems of producing just the sort of basic weapons that a nuclear terrorist might attempt to create. It is for this reason that photographs of the first British nuclear weapon were only revealed to the public for the first time at a conference in early 1997. Official historians have explained that some material from the early stages of the British nuclear programme may have remain closed in perpetuity. There are clearly special problems in this area on which no change in the climate of Westminster and Whitehall will have much effect.[19]

The broadest conclusions that have been drawn from the new analyses of nuclear history are thought provoking. Scott and Smith have challenged the very possibility of arriving at any one definitive version of events observing that 'more and more evidence may simply make things less and less clear', an observation that is notably similar to that made by historians of Pearl Harbour. Their conclusions draw upon (partly psuchological) reflections about the nature of policy-making as revealed by new material. One is tempted to add the more mundane observation that, with new releases, it is increasingly difficult for even a team of scholars to sift all the available evidence. Super-abundant data provides extended scope for controversy, which academics have always preferred to consensus.[20]

[18] Simon J. Ball, 'Harold Macmillan and the Politics of Defence: The Market for Strategic Ideas During the Sandys Era Revisited', *Twentieth Century British History*, 6 (1), (1995), 99–100.

[19] 'Britain and the Bomb', Historical Conference held jointly by the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston, and the University of Reading, February 1997.

[20] Scott and Smith, 'The Cuban missile crisis', p. 677.

Diplomatic History

Perhaps the most extended commentary concerning the impact of the Waldegrave Initiative upon recent British diplomatic history is that offered by Keith Kyle who, in 1995, surveyed the new material unavailable to him at the time he writing his study, *Suez*. Kyle warns us not to hold our breath in expectation of surprises since 'the items range from the trivial to the intriguing' but do not modify his story significantly. Kyle is nevertheless anxious to make two points. First he registers his surprise at the extent to which records for Suez still remain closed beyond the thirty-five-year point. Secondly, he contends that the material now released by Waldegrave has resulted in the 'exposure of the vacuity of the previous prevailing systems for ''weeding out'' any dangerous substances' which could 'scarcely be more total'.

Few pieces of new information are sufficiently 'new' to excite Kyle. Even these are mere cul-de-sacs of policy options not taken. One of these is Nasser's attempt to open up a back-channel for discussions with Eden through the newspaper proprietor Ali Amin. This was very much Nasser's diplomatic style, but the approach was abandoned when Eden launched into a personal attack on Nasser in his television speech. Interesting new releases, Kyle maintains, are instead to be found in the records of the BBC at Caversham, relating to the media during Suez, rather than in the PRO. Kyle, perhaps better than anyone, captures the work-a-day sentiments of many diplomatic historians, a disbelief that anyone could have ever found grounds for retaining much of the material now released, combined with a sense of irritation that its eventual opening has allowed government to create a positive impression of openness. What it really reveals is the absurd and fantastical secrecy for which some would like it called to account.[21]

Very interesting material is still being withheld for the Suez period, not least GCHQ records relating to the interception of diplomatic and military radio traffic in the Mediterranean and the Middle East during the Suez campaign. We are unlikely to see these records for some considerable time. When they do appear, they are likely to change our understanding of Suez quite considerably. This is certainly the case for the diplomatic history of the 1930s, wherein many British intercepts have recently been released. Anthony Best's *Britain, Japan and Pearl Harbor* represents one of the first full-length diplomatic surveys to exploit the newly released intercept material produced by the Waldegrave Initiative. This has not only resulted in a much richer account of Anglo-Japanese relations than has hitherto been possible, it has also changed our picture of international

[21] Keith Kyle, 'Suez and the Waldegrave Initiative', *Contemporary Record*, 9 (1), (1995), 378–93.

relations. British diplomacy of the 1930s now appears to have a much more technical aspect than we had hitherto suspected. meanwhile recent studies that have neglected these new sorts of records, and the insights they provide, risk rapid obsolescence.[22]

The recent wave of release under the Waldegrave Initiative has occurred mostly in the domain of international affairs. Nevertheless, some important materials have been released relating to domestic developments, not least Cabinet, Home Office, and Joint Intelligence Committee papers relating to state surveillance of Fascists and Communists before and during the Second World War. The ongoing work of Richard C. Thurlow on the domestic secret state and the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) represents a good example of such work. Although Thurlow had to wait almost two years to obtain some materials, he credits the Waldegrave Initiative for 'the early declassification of important files'.[23]

Reviewing, 'Weeding', and Sanitization

The constant refrain of Departmental Records Officers responsible for implementing the Waldegrave Initiative has been that there have been no extra resources. When one takes this into account their achievements seem extraordinary. But at the same time the consequences of efficiency drives and the 'more for less syndrome' are beginning to show. The experience of those requesting postwar files of all types has been very unsatisfactory in terms of proportion of requested material released, the slowness of release, and the quality of 'weeding'.

Departments that have given considerable time to releasing retained files have had difficulties simultaneously processing routine material at the thirty-year point. Examples of failure to meet statutory requirements include . . .[23] Yet this lamentable development has still not allowed departments to deal with the specific requests of researchers quickly, and some have waited over a year for requests for a few dozen files to be released, only to find that more than half are refused.[24] One suspects that in some cases both statutory duties and also the requests of individual researchers have been given less priority than the release of some bodies of 'headline-grabbing' material.

[22] Anthony Best, *Britain, Japan and Pearl Harbor* (London: Routledge, 1995). Compare this with Nicholas Tarling, *Britain, Japan and South East Asia* (Cambridge, 1996) which studiously avoids all reference to newly released records.

[23] ????

[24] Richard C. Thurlow, ' "A Very Clever Capitalist Class". British Communism and State Surveillance, 1939–1945', *Intelligence and National Security*, 12 (2) (1997), 1–21.

The quality of 'weeding', which was never good, has also deterioriated. It has long been accepted that weeders sometimes know relatively little about the material they are processing and are not much concerned with uniformity even within their own department. But matters appear to be getting worse as the pressures of implementing the Waldegrave Initiative are clearly beginning to show. Two examples serve to underline this point.

The first is the peculiar treatment of material relating to the Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary's Department (PUSD). PUSD was the Foreign Office's central co-ordinating department, developed in the first postwar decade, to some extent emulating George Kennan's Policy Planning Staff. PUSD is widely discussed in the open literature and many of its files are now open to public inspection. Yet in a recent run of material retrospectively released under 'special review', a weeder has expended many happy hours sanitizing every page that makes use of the initials 'PUSD', substituting a xeroxed page with a small blank in its place. Nothing else on these pages has been sanitized. Yet the nature of the missing initials on these sanitized pates is immediately obvious to any historian with a knowledge of this period. Moreover, the weeder confirms this for us by xeroxing the reverse side of some of the original pages, allowing the sanitized contents of the previous page to show through (albeit in mirror writing).[25]

This oversensitivity probably relates to the fact that PUSD duties included secret service matters, for example obtaining clearance for intelligence operations. But the authorities seems quite unaware that the intelligence and security aspects of PUSD were discussed as early as 1956 in Lord Strang's memoir, *Home and Abroad*. Since then they have been discussed *ad nauseam*. A Deputy Head of PUSD from the same period has written more recently that this 'department among its other duties kept an eye on the workings of MI6 (SIS), our foreign intelligence service, and MI6 was known in Whitehall as 'P.U.S.D'' '. Members of MI6 were regularly seconded to PUSD for co-ordination purposes.[26] But, as is so often the case, the official weeding the file has no knowledge of the open literature. This sort of example evokes mixed feelings. Initially one senses possible advantage in the possibility that some of one's institutional adversaries are so transparently ill-informed and/or overworked. But this quickly turns to irritation when one receives letters from officials explaining that requests for declassification are further delayed because resources are so stretched. Much time is clearly wasted in this way.

[25] See for example various documents of March 1956, JI023/19/G, FO 371/118687, PRO and January 1956, JA1022/1/G, FO 371/118745, PRO.

[26] Lord Strang, *Home and Abroad* (London, 1956), pp. 269–86; Sir Arthur de la Mare, *Perverse and Foolis: A Jersey farmer's Son in the British Diplomatic Service* (Jersey, 1994), p. 99.

Nuclear historians have encountered similar problems. Here too a basic lack of knowledge results in unnecessary delays and retentions. In 1993 material from the Prime Minister's files was released relating to the briefing of Harold Macmillan by Americans during the Cuban missile crisis. The American diplomats involved were accompanied by two senior officials of the CIA, Chet Cooper and Sherman Kent. Several full accounts of this meeting, naming both CIA officials, have been published, including Kent's own account which appeared in 1978. Yet in 1993 their names were deleted from the relevant PREM files whilst British officials sought clearance from the United States to 'name' two people whose identities had been revealed fifteen years earlier. As the Cabinet Office has observed, 'clearance with the US authorities is a very slow process'. It must be conceded that under the old regime the whole file might have remained closed, and under Waldegrave it has been opened immediately. However, the lack of specialist staff and the reluctance of weeders to seek advice from those with specialists knowledge, is resulting in unnecessary closure.[27]

The example of the Cuban missile crisis also highlights a related problem of tracking new releases. Only the Foreign Office has produced a definitive listing of all materials retrospectively released by its 'Special Review Team'. In other areas, researcher who have been working on a long project are faced with the prospect of literally repeting much of their research to find the new additions. In 1996, historians who had completed a detailed survey of the Cuban missile crisis, learned only by accident that crucial transcripts of the Macmillan–Kennedy telephone conversations had been added retrospectively to PREM files. No record of this new release was available. With the possibility of placing a release list on the internet, where it could be continually amended, such practice is hard to defend.[28]

Anecdotal evidence also suggests an increase in the presence of 'second copies' of withheld documents, often within the same file or adjacent files. Such inconsistencies are not just a tactical success for the researcher. They are also of real interest to the student of 'information control', for they give fairly clear examples of what, in practice, Whitehall is attempting to continue to withhold under the new guidelines. It also indicates how the weeding process can tend towards the manipulation of historians, even in an era of open government.

[27] See for example Sir P. Mason to FO, No. 165, 22 October 1962, PREM 11/3689, PRO. I am greatly indebted to Len Scott, of the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, for drawing my attention to this material, for allowing me to consult his correspondence with the Cabinet Office on this matter.

[28] Ibid. Historians working on the Second World War have encountered similar experiences with the retrospective, but uncatalogued, release of MI6 paper into existing fields in the class WO 208.

This is illustrated by the intriguing case of newly released British documents concerning the Soviet electronic eavesdropping programme in high-security Western buildings in the 1950s. In July 1950, the British accidentally discovered evidence of Soviet 'bugging' in the British Embassy in Moscow. In 1952 a Soviet 'bugging' device was discovered hidden inside a decorative seal at the United States Embassy complex in Moscow, with the assistance of a special British detection system. The offending seal was later displayed by the Americans in a session at the United Nations. The intention was to create indignation, but as so often with public revelations about special activities, the atmosphere was instead one of high farce, and the assembled delegates struggled to contain their amusement.

In London, Churchill viewed the matter with great seriousness. 'This is most important' he minuted, 'Please keep me constantly informed.' A long-term programme of investigation was initiated and Alexander, the Minister of Defence, was eventually able to reassure Churchill that:

> . . . a small inter-departmental committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederick Brundrett has been charged with the co-ordination of research and development on eavesdropping devices. The first task of the Committee was to investigate the possibilities of the device discovered in the United States Ambassador's residence in 1952.[29]

In many of the recently released documents relating to the work of the Brundrett Committee a single paragraph has been deleted under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Office Act. However, a comparison of the various copies reveals what appear to be inconsistencies in the sanitization of similar drafts. It is fairly clear that the purpose of sanitization was to disguise the extent to which the work of the Brundrett Committee was not merely defensive. It other brief was 'consideration of the prospects of developing devices suitable for offensive action by ourselves'.[30] That the British were eager to repay the Soviets in kind is hardly surprising, but had the attempt to suppress the fact been successful, the construction historians placed on these document would have been materially changed.

The Waldegrave Initiative has introduced a more complex and seemingly discriminating range of criteria for restricting documents, with the intention of weeking more selectively and releasing portions of files that would previously have suffered blanket closure. Inescapably, this more

[29] Churchill minute, 14 October 1952, quoted in Colville to Morrison, DEFE 13/16, PRO; Alexander (MoD) to Churchill, 18 july 1954, ibid. Alexander dates the Committee to 1953, but from other evidence in the file he clearly meant 1952. DEFE 13/16 is one of a number of files from this class that have been released retrospectively under Waldegrave.

[30] Morrison to Colville, 13 October 1952, enclosing 'Russian Eavesdropping', 13 October 1952, DEFE 13/16, PRO.

complex process requires more time, care, and expert knowledge. These extra resources have not been made available. We know that the review staffs in many departments have been cut rather than expanded and the results are there for all to see.

Conclusion

Despite edging slowly towards a more American-style system, British historians have not yet encountered problems of the alarming sort faced by researchers in the United States. There, evidence has recently been uncovered of the deliberate corruption of the written record by officials. There have also been alarming instances of fringe groups manufacturing evidence an introducing it into files retrospectively, in a desperate attempt to 'prove' their exotic versions of history.[31] But even in Britain, some of the files that are now being opened to public inspection have been so savagely dealt with by weeders, and their integrity is so hopelessly damaged, that professional historians reading them cannot avoid a feeling of being manipulated.[32]

Other substantial problems are gathering on the horizon. The possibility of some sort of freedom of information legislation is now being widely discussed. But withough substantial additional resources and more specialist staff to implement this, there is every prospect of a disaster. Departmental Records Officers will be inundated with Freedom of Information Act requests which have legal force. As the United States discovered, the result will be that these requests will take two or three years to process, while the routine declassification of records also falls hopelessly behind.

It is not only in the United States that openness has brought problems. In both Canada and Holland, historians have found that legal forms of access to documents has resulted directly in an unwillingness by officials to commit real policy to paper. Some officials maintain their own personal 'working notes' which are never committed to a registry. In these countries one suspects that freedom of information has merely served to accentuate a more general problem of declining record keeping, as the

[31] Ball, 'The Politics of Defence', p. 98. These American concerns relate particularly to the recent release of the Warren Commission files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and to the US Air Force 'Project Blue Book' files on UFO sightings.

[32] An example of this is the FO 371 files on the downing of the Gary Powers U-2 aircraft. Not only have the pages within the files suffered some rather serious reshuffling, but the files, relating to 1960, have been released into a run of files for 1963 and are to be found in the hand list for 1963.

speed of government business accelerates and fax, phone, and e-mail occlude more traditional forms of conducting business.[33]

This issue is starkly illustrated by the work of Anthony Forster on the Maastricht Treaty of 1991. In his discussions with officials he discovered that, at an early stage, an internal official history of Maastricht had been commissioned by the Foreign Office, with a view to being fully prepared for 'Maastricht II'. But before long, it was apparent that the limited written record was hopelessly far removed from the reality of the negotiation process. On sight of drafts of the first chapters, senior officials ordered the history to be abandoned and condemned it as likely to be misleading.[34]

The problem of an evaporating body of written records in the face of modern bureaucratic practice, perhaps exacerbated by freedom of information legislation, now confronts British historians. If they are to deal with this they will need to adopt a more sophisticated approach and a longer-term view. To badger officials to release more of the surviving record sooner is a marginal exercise and more important task await us. There must be some constructive engagement with officials over which records are preserved and which do not survive reviews. There must also be a more energetic programme of aural history. Without this the limited paper records generated in the 1990s might mislead as much as they will inform.[35]

The importance of proper dialogue over what is chosen for preservation is one of the most important issues emerging from the Waldegrave experience. Encouraged by talk of openness, historians have requested important bodies of records, only to be told that they have 'not been chosen for preservation'. For example those wishing to conduct work on British policy towards Axis prisoners of war, whose numbers in Britain were at one time close to 300,000, have found that these records have been almost totally destroyed.[36] Equally the records of the Intelligence Division of the British occupation of Germany, which is reputed to have generated close to a million files, have been destroyed. Less than ten files survive. This latter body of material represented a unique record of German history in the crucial first postwar decade.[37]

[33] Ian Leigh, 'Legal Access to Security Files: The Canadian Experience', *Intelligence and National Security*, 12 (2), (1997), 126–53; Bob de Graff, 'Accessibility of Secret Service Archives in the Netherlands, ibid., 154–160.

[34] I am very grateful to Anthony Forster for sharing these insights with me. They are explored more fully in his forthcoming study of the Maastricht negotiations.

[35] The Diplomatic History Programme at the Centre for Diplomatic Studies, University of Leicester is a good example.

[36] I am grateful to Bob Moore for his observations on this matter; this work can be followed more closely in bob Moore and Kent Fedorowich (eds), *Prisoners-of-War and Their Captors in World War II* (Oxford, 1996).

[37] In 1995 the MoD wrote to the author to explain that these materials had not been deemed worthy of preservation.

Research that has exploited material released by the Waldegrave Initiative is only just beginning to make its way into print, thus any verdict must be a tentative one. Nevertheless, two assertions can be made with confidence. In the short term Waldegrave can claim a qualified success. The sheer quantity of material that has been released, partly in response to specific requests, and the material change that has resulted in some areas is undeniable. The major qualification concerns the lack of resource for the quality and quantity of work now required. In the long term, the Waldegrave Initiative has probably changed the way in which the dialogue between officials and non-officials is conducted. This, in turn, has encouraged historians to raise some very major issues about issues such as selection, but they do not appear to have identified the right forum in which to get to grips with thim. This too is a symptom of the pressures on the system. Officials are overwhelmed by the task of processing new materials, and historians seem too busy reading them.

From: Section 40 Room A8/3
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP

Telephone: (Direct dialling) Section 40
(Fax) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 43

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
CS(RM)/4/6/37

Date
4 March 1998

Section 40

1. I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 February 1998 raising again the question of the release of Air Intelligence (Tech))5b papers.

2. I am sorry if the information given in my letter of 23 January 1998 was unclear but it is not the case that AI((Tech)5b files, being "intelligence-related documents, are clearly not due for imminent release", rather that, as with many other apparent omissions at the Public Record Office, the records simply have not survived.

3. Ministry of Defence intelligence-related files are reviewed in the same was as other departmental papers and as with other government departments the MOD aims to strike a balance between the administrative and historical value of records. Review is initially conducted by branches creating the records; those records which survive this local review are subsequently examined by Departmental Record Officer staff. This means that a great majority of records are destroyed within a few years of creation. You will find a good description of how the public records system works in Chapter 9 of the White paper on **Open Government** (Cm 2290), published July 1993.

4. I hope that has clarified the position about the fate of AI(Tech)5b records.

Section 40

Deputy Departmental Record Officer

Copy to:
Section 40
DDI Sec
OHD/AD(Management)

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 5 MAR 1998
FILE 64/1

641

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 42

Wed 25 Feb, 1998 12:54 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
25/02/98	OMD/AD(Management)	FW: Section 40	1

Intended:
Sent: 25/02/98 at 12:47 Delivered: 25/02/98 at 12:47
To: SEC(AS)2
CC:
Ref: /GUID:B6E025A453AAD1119C6D00A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: FW: Section 40

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Section 40

I do not think that we will have a problem with this - the second point is the one I made as well

Section 40

I am forwarding the attached to you as I got a non-delivery message for Sec(AS)2A1. I have also got a copy of the Cabinet Office's Internet response which I will send by post as it has reproduced poorly over the fax.

Section 40

From: OMD/AD(Management)
Sent: 25 February 1998 12:01
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
Cc: DDISEC; SEC(AS)2A1
Subject: Section 40

PSA - the attached document was produced in CSV8 and is UNCLASSIFIED.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3

25 Feb 98

Hd CS(RM)

Copy to:
Sec(AS)2a1
DDI Sec

Section 40 AI(Tech) FILES

Reference:
A. CS(RM)4/6/37 dated 24 Feb 98

1. Thank you for passing me your draft reply to Section 40 at Ref A. My main suggestion is that you delete the reference to DOMD in the final paragraph. You are informing Section 40 that we do not have the files, rather than withholding files that we do have, and he seems to be very happy with the service that he has received. Should he have any further queries or a complaint, it would make more sense for him to address them to you in the first instance, rather than us. Your final paragraph might therefore end with something on the lines: "I hope that has clarified the position about the fate if AI(Tech)5b records."

2. On a drafting point, the second sentence of the second paragraph is a little unclear. I suggest that you redraft as: "Review is initially conducted by branches creating the records; those records which survive this local review are subsequently examined by Departmental Record Officer staff."

{signed}
Section 40
OMD/AD(Management)
NH617 [redacted] MB
Section 40

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

24 February 1998

Passed proposed amendments to Section 40 Section 40 BPS.

ENCLOSURE 41 NUMBER

[redacted]
DDI Sec
OMD(AD)(Management)

FOLLOW UP LETTER FROM Section 40 - UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - AIR INTELLIGENCE (TECHNICAL)5b PAPERS

Reference: A. CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 15 January 1998) (copy to OMD(AD) excluding
B. CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 23 January 1998) draft reply)

1. Addressees, not OMD(AD)(Management), will be familiar with Section 40 area of interest. His new letter yet again raises the question of the release of AI(Tech)5b UAP files.

2. It may be the case my original letter was insufficiently clear on the fate of these files, or perhaps he prefers to remain oblivious to the advice given? You will also note he raises the question of an appeals procedure to effect the release of the files he insists we hold (contrary it should be said to current UK legislation!).

3. My draft reply hopefully clarifies the situation in respect of AI(Tech)5b's UFO files. I have deliberately not used the word "appeal" in my final paragraph as this would only confirm his worst suspicions that we do indeed have these papers!

4. I would welcome comments by cop 3 March 1998.

Section 40 Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
24 FEB 1998
FILE 64/

DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 February 1998 raising again the question of the release of Air Intelligence (Tech)5b papers.

I am sorry if the information given in my letter of 23 January 1998 was unclear but it is not the case that AI(Tech)5b files, being "intelligence-related documentation, are clearly not due for imminent release", rather that, as with many other apparent omissions at the Public Record Office, the records simply have not survived.

Ministry of Defence intelligence-related files are reviewed in the same way as other departmental papers and as with other government departments the MOD aims to strike a balance between the administrative and the historical value of records. ~~With~~ review is initially conducted by branches creating the records and for records surviving this local review by Departmental Record Officer staff. ~~This means~~ a great majority of records ~~are~~ destroyed within a few years of creation. You will find a good description of how the public records system works in Chapter 9 of the White paper on **Open Government** (Cm 2290), published July 1993.

I hope there is now no confusion about the fate of AI(Tech)5b records ~~but~~ if you ~~remain~~ unhappy with the way I have handled your request for information, and wish to complain, you should write to: MOD, OMD14, Rm 617, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

Section 40
[redacted]

14 February 1998

Section 40
D8/2
MoD
Metropole Building
Northumberland Ave.
LONDON
WC2N 5BL

Dear Section 40

I am very grateful for your reply to my correspondence of the 26 December and for sharing details of the two PRO References. I subsequently purchased DEFE 31/118 which I found incredibly fascinating.

Over the last eighteen months, I have purchased a large number of other documents from the PRO and to my regret, I have not been able to find any details relating to RAF radar/aircrew sightings since the St Margaret's Bay Incident of 1957. It is clear from documentation in DEFE 31/118 that these incident reports were passed on to A.I.(T)5b, and, being intelligence-related documentation, are clearly not due for imminent release.

Under the terms of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and in the spirit of the forthcoming Freedom of Information Legislation, is there anyone I can approach and appeal to for the release of this documentation on the grounds of its scientific value.

I have been invited by the Royal Society of Chemistry to put questions before the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology on the 17th March. I would be grateful for the opportunity to analyse as much of the hitherto unreleased UFO-related intelligence documentation as possible prior to this meeting.

Once again, I am truly very grateful for the invaluable assistance and information your Department has shared with me. I appreciate that I am asking for a lot of raw data; however, please be reassured that my motives for trying to bring these details into the scientific arena are entirely honourable.

Kind Regards

Section 40
[redacted]

64/1

Mon 2[redacted]Feb, 1998 12:44 mailbox log Page 1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 40

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
23/02/98	USofS/Mailbox	Draft Letter for No 10 (ref	[ ]

Sent: 23/02/98 at 12:43
To: USofS/Mailbox
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS),Hd of CS(RM)1

Ref: 932
Subject: Draft Letter for No 10 (ref D/USofS/JS/28/1/0 of 4 Feb)

Text: [redacted] - We spoke and you agreed to extend the deadline. Thank you. The book will be walked down. [redacted]

Section 40

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

23rd February 1998

APS/USofS

Copy to:

Head of Sec(AS)
DI Sec
CS(RM)1
Cabinet Office FoI Branch - Section 40

'A COVERT AGENDA' BY NICHOLAS REDFERN

Reference: D/USofS/JS/28/1/0 dated 4 Feb 98

Issue

1. To provide a PS/Prime Minister reply for No 10 to send to Nicholas Redfern, author of 'A Covert Agenda'.

Recommendation

2. That PS/USofS writes to No 10 using the draft attached.

Background

3. You will recall that advice was provided for USofS in respect of the 'People' coverage of Mr Redfern's book (D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 10 Nov 97). The book was published last year, the 50th anniversary of the first 'recorded' sighting of a 'UFO'.

4. We have not had an opportunity during this Administration to spell out to No 10 the limit of MOD's interest, or indeed the Government's lack of interest, in 'UFO'-related issues. The draft PS reply therefore does so in detail. Mr Redfern does, however, know the facts very well and the draft for No 10 to send to him is much shorter.

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40 MB

DRAFT PS/USofS LETTER TO PS/PRIME MINISTER

1. Thank you for your letter of 3 February forwarding a copy of Nicholas Redfern's book, 'A Covert Agenda'.

2. By way of background it might be helpful if I explain that the MOD has only a limited interest in 'UFO' matters. We are not aware of any other Government Department interest or of any Government sponsored research into the 'UFO' phenomena (including 'flying saucers'). MOD's interest involves examining reported 'UFO' sightings and correspondence (including that passed on by OGDs) solely to establish if what is alleged to have been seen might have some defence significance - namely whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of such a threat, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence (aircraft lights and natural phenomena account for the vast majority of reports), no further action is taken. We have no interest, expertise, or role with respect to questions about the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, but we know of no evidence to prove that these phenomena exist.

3. Within the MOD, Secretariat (Air Staff)2's duties include acting as the focal point for 'UFO'-related issues. Mr Redfern, a full time 'UFO' researcher believes that 'UFO/flying saucers' and extraterrestrial lifeforms are a matter of fact and has written to them some 25 times about the Department's policy in respect of these issues. He is convinced that the MOD/Government has evidence to support his claims and is withholding the information from the public. The majority of the MOD's correspondence with Mr Redfern took place between 1992 and 1994 when Nicholas Pope worked in Sec(AS)2. One of Mr Pope's duties was to reply to 'UFO' letters and, as necessary, sighting reports from members of the public. Since leaving Sec(AS)2, Mr Pope has written two books (one about 'UFOs' and the other 'alien abductions') and although always careful to explain that the views in his books are his own personal opinions, his publishers have made much of his previous

job when promoting his books. It is clear that Mr Redfern continues to communicate with Mr Pope given the latter's introduction to 'A Covert Agenda'.

4. Turning specifically to Mr Redfern's letter and his assertion of clandestine 'UFO' investigations. The role of RAF Rudloe Manor is constantly misrepresented by 'ufologists' and elements of the media who maintain that investigations were carried out there in the past and continue today. This is not the case. Until 1992 all 'UFO' reports made to RAF Stations from whatever source were forwarded to a the RAF Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of HQ Provost and Security Services (UK) located at RAF Rudloe Manor. FCF's function was a post box, recording receipt and forwarding reports to Sec(AS)2 for any further action. Since 1992, all RAF Stations including Rudloe Manor have forwarded reports directly to Sec(AS)2.

5. Mr Redfern mentions DI55, the Defence Intelligence Branch interested in aerodynamic missiles. DI55 acts as the DI repository for 'UFO' reports passed on by Sec(AS)2 which might contain information of a terrestrial nature of interest to them. We have publicly acknowledged that we consult Air Defence staffs and others including DI55 about 'UFO' sighting reports but stress that we only do so when what has been reported falls within the terms of our remit at paragraph 2 above.

6. The evidence Mr Redfern claims to have uncovered about 'UFO' investigations has been culled from files released to the Public Record Office under the 30 year rule. During the early 1960s the number of 'UFO' reports received by MOD was some 50-70 annually. Given emerging satellite technology then, MOD Intelligence Branches were keen to explore all possible sources of information for scientific and technical intelligence in respect of terrestrial military threats. However, media speculation about 'UFOs' and interest in science fiction generally has risen rapidly in recent years and the number of reports received has increased to the extent that several hundreds are now routinely received each year, the majority of which contain less than credible information. Intelligence gathering is now much more sophisticated and little if any information can be drawn from

'UFO' reports.

7. Mr Redfern is keen that all sighting reports be released in advance of the provisions of the Public Record Act. Although the files concerned do not, for the most part, contain classified information, each report (and there are some 9000 paper records for the period 1969-97) was provided in confidence and contains information about what was alleged to have been seen as well as the personal details (full name and home address) of the witness. Releasing this information in advance of the 30 year point (deemed as an acceptable period of time to preserve witness confidentiality) would necessitate the removal of all personal details or, alternatively, advising each witness in advance that their details were to be made public, something the majority would not agree to. Sanitizing the reports would require substantial resources to be diverted from defence related tasks, something we would be reluctant to sanction since it is the personal details 'ufologists' want so that they can approach witnesses direct.

8. I apologise for the length of this note but I thought it important to set out in full the background to the case. In summary, there is no defence reason at all to identify 'UFO' sightings unless what has been seen might represent an external military threat to the UK. Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region. However, a small but vociferous group of 'ufologists' want Government funds devoted to an examination of the 'UFO'-phenomenon in the widest sense and hope that continual lobbying of Ministers and MPs will bring results.

9. Mr Redfern is well aware of the MOD's position in respect of 'UFO' sighting reports. The draft reply therefore touches only briefly on this, and deals with the request that official files be released in advance of the 30 year rule. The book is returned.

DRAFT REPLY FROM PS/PRIME MINISTER TO NICHOLAS REDFERN

Thank you for your letter of 31 January to the Prime Minister enclosing a copy of your book 'A Covert Agenda'.

The Prime Minister receives a very large number of letters from the public every day on a wide range of issues and it simply not possible for him to read or reply to each one himself. I have therefore been asked to reply.

I understand that you are already aware of the Ministry of Defence's limited interest in 'UFO' matters and I will not, therefore, go over this ground again. I should add that there is no Government sponsored research into the 'UFO' phenomena and there are no plans to initiate such work.

'UFO' sighting reports and associated correspondence held by the Ministry of Defence is treated in exactly the same way as all official information held by Government in that files selected for preservation are released to the Public Record Office in general after 30 years. Since 1967 it has been the policy that Ministry of Defence 'UFO' files should be preserved in the public interest but, the files are not released any earlier in order to protect the confidentiality of those who have provided the information.

Under the Freedom Of Information proposals set out in the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's recent White Paper 'Your Right To Know', information can be requested from Departments. Release will, however, be subject to seven specified interests (including Personal privacy and Information Supplied in Confidence) where it can be withheld if disclosure would cause substantial harm. It would then be for the independent Information Commissioner to order disclosure if he or she thought that the decision not to disclose was wrong.

I hope the above is helpful. Copies of the White Paper are available from the Stationery Office or your local public library might be able to help. Alternatively you can view the document on

the Internet at 'http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm'.

Thank you for sending a copy of your book which is returned herewith.

64/1

575

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 39

COVERING ~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/RESTRICTED/MANAGEMENT~~

REFERENCE D/US of S/JS 28/1/0

Sec (AS) 2.1

"A Covert Agenda" - by Nicholas Rodgers

I am attaching a letter/~~minute~~ from Nicholas Rodgers

to Tony Blair dated 31/1/98

(The book has to be returned to Mr. Rodgers)

Will you please consult other Departments, divisions and branches as necessary and submit advice, together with a draft reply, in (PS to PS to the Prime Minister)

order to reach ~~US of S~~ this office not later than 16/2/98

I am sending copies of this to:

....

....

....

The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4 April 1994 and you should ensure that replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with its procedures.

Section 40

APS/US of S
MB6215 MB

Section 40

CHOTS: USofS/Mailbox

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-5 FEB 1998
FILE

Date: 4/2/98

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary 5 FEB 1998 3 February 1998

Dear Section 40

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Nicholas Redfern, together with a copy of his book "A Covert Agenda".

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature, to reach this office by 17 February. I should also be grateful for return of the enclosed book.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Lt Col Section 40
Ministry of Defence

TEL: Section 40

Nicholas Redfern
Section 40

31 January 1998

Dear Mr. Blair,

I am enclosing for your attention a copy of my recently-released book, 'A Covert Agenda', which deals with the issue of the British Government's involvement in the investigation of reported UFO incidents from 1947 to 1997.

Perhaps unlike some books on this emotive and controversial subject, I have relied heavily on those accounts filed with the Ministry of Defence by qualified sources such as military and Royal Air Force pilots.

More disturbing, I have uncovered evidence pointing to clandestine (and decidely classified) investigations undertaken into the UFO subject by: (a) the RAF's Provost and Security Services at RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire; and (b) the Ministry of Defence's Defence Intelligence Staff.

I have also cited in the book a wealth of official documentation on the UFO subject de-classified under the terms of the British Government's 'Thirty Year Ruling', and which is currently housed at the Public Record Office at Kew.

Regardless of one's opinions as to whether or not elements of the British Government and military are actively participating in a 'cover-up' of UFO data, I would urge you to consider making available for public scrutiny all of the many and varied UFO reports and associated data compiled by the Government which is currently withheld. To date, those files which have been released cover the period 1950-1968. I would urge that those files covering the period 1969-1998 be declassified - if only to allay the very real rumours pointing towards an official cover-up of data.

I thankyou for taking the time to read my letter and hope you find the book useful and interesting. One thing to note: the introduction for the book was written by a serving employee of the MoD who is convinced that there is on earth an active alien presence.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Help Home Search

Freedom of Information Unit

The Government's Commitments

"We are pledged to a Freedom of Information Act, leading to more open government." (Labour Election Manifesto, April 1997)

"My Government is committed to open and transparent government....A White Paper will be published on proposals for a Freedom of Information Bill." (Queen's Speech to Parliament, 14 May 1997)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Rt Hon Dr David Clark MP, announced on 14 May 1997 the establishment of a Freedom of Information Unit in the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service) to carry through these commitments.

The Way Forward

A Freedom of Information Act is an important priority for the Government. It will place open government on a statutory footing, replacing the present (non-statutory) *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*

The Chancellor of the Duchy, published the Government's White Paper, Your Right to Know, setting out its proposals for a Freedom of Information Act on 11 December 1997.

 The Chancellor of the Duchy said:

"Openness is fundamental to the political health of a modern state. This White Paper marks a watershed in the relationship between the government and people of the United Kingdom. At last there is a government ready to trust the people with a legal right to information. This right is central to a mature democracy.

"There are matters, such as national security or personal privacy, where information has to be protected. Government itself needs some protection for its internal deliberations. This White Paper strikes a proper balance between extending people's access to official information and

preserving confidentiality where disclosure would be against the public interest. It is a new balance with the scales now weighted decisively in favour of openness.

"The Government will be publishing a draft Freedom of Information Bill next year. The Government believes that the proposals outlined in this White Paper will contribute positively to the progressive opening up of the British state."

For a copy of the Chancellor of the Duchy's Parliamentary statement please click here.

For the full press release please click here.

For a summary of the White Paper please click here.

Fulfilling a commitment made while the Whit Paper was being prepared, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster published on 4 February 1998 a paper setting out factual and background material relevant to the production of the White Paper. To see the background material click here. Hard copies can be ordered by contacting Paul Kitchen on 0171 270 1880 or by e-mailing him on foi@gtnet.gov.uk

Draft Bill

A draft Freedom of Information Bill will be published in the new year and its introduction to Parliament will be an early priority. In developing the proposals in the White Paper into a draft Bill it would be helpful to have any views you may have. You should send written comments to:

Robert Cayzer
Freedom of Information Unit
Room 65d/1
Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service)
Horse Guards Road
London
SW1P 3AL

Electronic mail responses should be sent to: foi@gtnet.gov.uk.

Comments should be received by 28 February 1998.

All submissions will be published on the Internet unless respondents give clear instructions that their comments should be treated in confidence.

To promote further public discussion of the Government's proposals the submissions will be placed, as and when we receive them, on the "Informing Government" website which has been set up by the UK Citizen's Online Democracy (see below).

To see the submissions made so far click here.

UK Citizens' Online Democracy

An independent web site supported by the Cabinet Office has been set up to allow the public to provide the Government with feedback on the proposals within the Freedom of Information White Paper. The web site will feature a wealth of useful background information, press comment, interactive discussion fora and the chance to pose questions directly to Dr David Clark, Cabinet Minister for Public Service, between 12 and 24 February.

The web site is managed by UK Citizens' Online Democracy, a non-partisan, not for profit organisation that promotes public education and participation in the democratic process.

Data Protection

The Government is also committed to ensuring the proper protection and disclosure of personal information through a Data Protection Bill in the first session of this Parliament. For further details please write to:

Home Office
Liquor, Gambling and Data Protection Directorate
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AT

Tel: 0171 273 3755
Fax: 0171 273 3205

Further Information

If you would like further information on the Government's Freedom of Information policy please contact the Freedom of Information Unit at the address above.

Interim

The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information will continue until the Freedom of Information Act is in force.

Machinery of Government and Standards Home page

64/1

WHITE PAPER

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WHITE PAPER
IN BRIEF
WITH NOTES
TEXT IN FULL
HAVE YOUR SAY
YOUR OPINION
CHAT
SUBMISSIONS
MEET THE MINISTER
YOU, THE JURY

White Paper in brief

note: if you want to find out more abut the timing of the White Paper please visit the How Will the White Paper become law? page

The government's White Paper on Freedom of Information (FOI), published on December 11 1997, sets out proposals for an Act of Parliament which will "give everyone a legal right to see information held by national, regional and local government and some other organisations working on behalf of government".

The government claims it is a result of a "root and branch examination of the whole area of Freedom of Information" and careful study of foreign FOI legislation.

The Act will allow members of the public to see information held by:

Government departments and agencies

The National Health Service

Local councils and local registered bodies

Quangos, nationalised industries and public corporations

Courts and tribunals

The Police

The Armed Forces

Schools, colleges and universities

Public service broadcasters

Privatised utilities

Private sector organisations working for the government

However information about the security and intelligence services and the special forces, personnel files, and information vital to crime prevention is excluded from the act.

All information held by the authorities listed above created in fulfilling their public function will be available subject to seven reasons to withhold the information or "exemptions":

"substantial harm" to any of :

1. national security, defence and international relations

2. internal discussion of government policy

3. law enforcement

4. personal privacy

5. commercial confidentiality

6. safety of individuals, the public and the environment

7. references, testimonials or matters given in confidence

The government has also committed itself to publishing more information on how public services are run and decisions are made as a matter of course.

In order to look at this information, the government has proposed that members of the public need merely write to, or possibly telephone or email, the body from which they wish to receive information. The government expect a charge will be levied for retrieval, and has set a limit of ten pounds for each item of information retrieved. In addition, some bodies may be allowed to levy reasonable fees for retrieving information.

If any organisation denies members of the public access to information members of the public have the right to appeal to an Information Commissioner who will determine whether their request to see information is reasonable under the terms of the Act.

HAVE YOUR SAY

HOME

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YOU, THE JURY

Meet The Minister

Between the 12th and 24th February Section 40, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the minister in charge of the White Paper, took part in an exchange of email questions and answers with site users.

See Section 40 latest responses on personnel records, internal memos and UFOs on the Q&A page.

Later in the year he will participate in a live one hour online chat with members of the public. Everyone who has visited this site will be invited to put questions to the minister directly or by email.

HAVE YOUR SAY

HOME

NEED TO KNOW?
LATEST NEWS
BACKGROUND
WHAT'S AT STAKE?
WHO'S INVOLVED?

WHITE PAPER
IN BRIEF
WITH NOTES
TEXT IN FULL

HAVE YOUR SAY
YOUR OPINION
CHAT
SUBMISSIONS
MEET THE MINISTER
YOU, THE JURY

Meet the Minister: Q & A

The Questions:

1- 5 On job clubs and security services, internal council memos, consumer data acquisition, personnle records and UFOs. (this page).

6 -11 On Internal discussion and advice and matters given in confidence, journalists' accountability, the definition of substantial harm, government contractors and the Local Government (Access to Information) Act.

1. [redacted] asks about information gathered by Job Clubs and why the security services are excluded from the proposed Act. The minister responds.

2. [redacted] asks about internal council memos. The minister responds.

3. [redacted] asks whether the collection of information by supermarkets and other businesses should be more tightly regulated, or even yield an information society tax. The minister responds

4. [redacted] asks why personnel records have been excluded from the white paper. The minister responds

5. [redacted] asks if the government will release UFO information under FOI. The minister responds

6. [redacted] asks the minister to define 'substantial harm'. The minister responds.

7. [redacted] asks about government contracts and disclosure under FOI. The minister responds.

8. [redacted] asks about FOI and the Local Goverment (Access to Information) Act 1985. The minister responds.

9. Section 40 asks about FOI and development. The minister responds.

1. Section 40 asks:

In December 1996 I was thrown off a JobClub in the town where I live. I tried to sue the JobClub, but they wouldn't allow me access to the notes which they took during my "interview" with the Job Club Leader.

Under the proposals which this Government is publishing concerning FOI, would I be allowed to get the notes taken during my interview at the JobClub?

Also why are the Security and Intelligence Agencies, such as MI5 and SIS not included in the FOI proposals? Would I be allowed access to my security files under the FOIA?

Regards,

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your questions. Your first question was whether under the proposed FOI Act you would have access to any notes that may have been taken during your recent Job Club "interview".

I am sorry, but I can't give a simple yes or no answer to the question of whether a particular piece of information will be available under the proposed FOI Act or not. As the White Paper explains in paragraph 3.8, disclosure decisions will have to be based on an examination of the records or information in question. So while the information you are interested in would clearly be within the scope of the proposed Act its disclosure would depend, as for all information, on:

(i) whether its disclosure would cause substantial harm to one of the seven proposed specified interests and whether its disclosure would be contrary to, or in, the public interest; and

(ii)on decisions on the continuation of any relevant statutory prohibitions to disclosure. [There are more than 200 of these 'bars' to disclosure which the Government intends to review, and where appropriate amend or repeal, in the light of its commitment to an FOI Act.]

You also asked why the Government intended to exclude the security and intelligence agencies from the legislation.

The White Paper makes clear that whilst we intend the Act to have very wide application, there are a few public bodies who will be excluded from the Act because of the nature of their role. It is generally accepted that certain very limited parts of the public service have to be able to operate in complete confidence, if they are able to operate effectively at all. I am clear that the security and intelligence agencies could not carry out their duties effectively in the interests of the nation if their operations and activities were subject to Freedom of Information legislation in the same way as the rest of the public sector. Our FOI proposals are about opening up Government wherever it is safe and right to do so. They are not about putting our security and defence at risk. We could have nominally included the security and intelligence agencies in our proposals and then added all sorts of additional protection to ensure that they were protected properly but believed that would have been a dishonest approach.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

2. Section 40 asks:

I have been asking the above Council [North Devon District Council] for a simple answer to the question: Why did a Planning Officer from Development Control say that a windfall
building plot was "inadvertently" included in the New Local Plan (and he only said this after I refused to sell the plot to a local developer. The plot had by then been a windfall plot for eighteen months without comment from the Development Control officer) when ALL the Strategic Planning
Officers denied his claim. The inference is that there is something seriously wrong here. Will the proposed FOI Act allow me to see internal memos which relate to this matter? or Will the Act force senior officers of the Council to get me an answer from their records?

Section 40

Dear Section 40

Under our proposals local government would be covered by the FOI Act. You would therefore have a right of access to the internal memos to which you refer in your e-mail. However, I am able to say whether the records would have to be released or not. As the White Paper explains, disclosure decisions will have to be based on an examination of the actual records or information in question and will depend on the outcome of the substantial harm and public interest tests set out in the Act.

The aim of the proposed FOI legislation is to encourage more open and accountable government. It is not intended as a mechanism for investigating or resolving complaints about misconduct or maladministration. There are already well established complaints procedures throughout the public sector for doing so. For example, if you have a complaint against your local council, as you appear to have, you should, in the first instance, complain directly to the council by contacting the head of the relevant department or the Chief Executive. You can also ask a local councillor to look into the matter for you. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, or if no action is taken, you can then complain to your Local Government Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

3. Section 40 **asks:**

Section 40

My question concerns the responsibilities and obligations of large private corporations like Tesco, BT etc. in holding information on private individuals.

I am concerned at the way personal information is discreetly collected via electronic transactions, like cash tills in super markets or calling patterns on telephone networks. This information once collected and processed is used to profile a customer and then passed on for marketing purposes. This information has significant financial value to these corporations.

I am also very concerned that the general public are not aware that through bonus schemes such those as operated by Super Markets that they are in fact being given financial inducements to provide personal information about their preferences and behavior. Should

such schemes be more openly vetted?

If we are moving towards an Information Society should we, as some commentators in the area suggest, expect each information transfer, like above, to involve some contractual agreement, perhaps with the supplier of the information i.e. the customer. Perhaps such information should be valued and the customer receives direct payment for the information they supply. Do you have a view on this?

Finally would the collection of such information by corporations provide a useful basis for a Information Society tax that could be used to fund the 'have not' groups in our Society?

Thank you

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail. You raised the question of the responsibilities and obligations of large private corporations in holding information about private individuals.

The issues you raise are principally about Data Protection (which is the responsibility of my colleague, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary) rather than Freedom of Information as such.

A new Data Protection Bill has just been introduced to Parliament. The Bill is designed to replace the Data Protection Act 1984 and will implement the EC Data Protection Directive (94/46/EC). As you will probably know, Data Protection legislation is designed to protect an individual's personal information from misuse by organisations, in either the public or private sector, which process such data as part of their activities.

Under Article 10 of the EC Data Protection Directive all issuers of loyalty cards and similar schemes have to make clear to members of the public the purposes for which they are collecting the data. As a further protective measure the Directive only allows the data to be used in ways which are compatible with the purposes for which it was collected. Where direct marketing is envisaged organisations must also allow their customers to object to the use of their data for this purpose. These provisions in the EC Directive are reflected in the new Data Protection

Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

4. Section 40 asks:

Could you please tell me why personnel files are excluded from the Freedom of Information act?

I would like to view my personnel file as I believe it contains false information about me. I think that I should have the ppportunity to challenge what has been written about me.

I have read thousands of personnel files so I know the kind of
information they contain.

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

Freedom of Information is about opening up government and improving the accountability of government to the people by giving them a legal right to official information. Freedom of Information is therefore about the relationship between government and citizen rather than the relationship between government as employer and citizen as employee. In particular, the Government did not wish to introduce a regime which would give more extensive rights to public sector employees as opposed to private sector employees. People do, of course, already have the right to see information held about them on computer (and the right to correct it) under the 1984 Data Protection Act. The new Data Protection Bill, which is currently before Parliament, would extend this right to certain paper files.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

5. Section 40 [and 4 others] asked:

Please release all of the information held about UFOs, there is no point in keeping it secret anymore.
Thank you
Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

Information about unidentified flying objects is treated in exactly the same way as all other official information held by government - ie files selected for preservation are released to the Public Record Office in general after 30 years. Since 1967 it has been the policy that MOD "UFO" report files are to be preserved in the public interest. However, such files are not normally released earlier to protect the confidentiality of those who have provided the information. This is, of course, information that you are entitled to ask for under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, but Personal Privacy and Information Given in Confidence are two of the categories under which information may be withheld.

Under our Freedom of Information proposals you would still be able to request this information but, as with all information, it would be subject to the seven specified interests (notably Personal Privacy and Information Supplied in Confidence) where information could be withheld if disclosure would cause substantial harm. However, the independent Information Commissioner would have the power to order disclosure if he or she thought that the decision not to disclose was wrong.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

ENCLOSURE NO 36

CABINET OFFICE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
Machinery of Government and Standards Group
Horse Guards Road • London SW1P 3AL
TELEPHONE: 0171-270 1880 • FAX: 0171-270 1883 • EMAIL foi@gtnet.gov.uk

1. Copy - Section 40 - hope this helps.
2. Section 40
3. File 2/3/4

FAX

To: Section 40

Fax: Section 40

From: Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Date: 25 February 1998

Page: 1 of 2

Message:

Section 40 - Copy of CDL's e-mail on UFO's. I was very* grateful to your colleagues for all their help.

* I should think so!!!

Section 40.

Section 40 At least he did include the final bits of paragraph as agreed.

Section 40

URGENT Yes/No CONFIRM RECEIPT Yes/No

.exb@democracy.org, 17:57 23/02/98 +0, FOI White Paper - On-line Disc

To: Section 40
From: MCU
Subject: FOI White Paper On-line Discussion
Cc:
Bcc:

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

Information about unidentified flying objects is treated in exactly the same way as all other official information held by government - ie files selected for preservation are released to the Public Record Office in general after 30 years. Since 1967 it has been the policy that MOD "UFO" report files are to be preserved in the public interest. However, such files are not normally released earlier to protect the confidentiality of those who have provided the information. This is, of course, information that you are entitled to ask for under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, but Personal Privacy and Information Given in Confidence are two of the categories under which information may be withheld.

Under our Freedom of Information proposals you would still be able to request this information but, as with all information, it would be subject to the seven specified interests (notably Personal Privacy and Information Supplied in Confidence) where information could be withheld if disclosure would cause substantial harm. However, the independent Information Commissioner would have the power to order disclosure if he or she thought that the decision not to disclose was wrong.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

64/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 35

RENDLESHAM FOREST/RAF WOODBRIDGE LINES TO TAKE

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question.

As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 17 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

Passed to Section 40 DPO(RAF)

for use in response to Section 40

(News of the World) enquiry into Rendlesham.

Late Feb 98.

64/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 34

Mon 23 Feb, 1998 9:04 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
20/02/98	OMD/AD(Management)	RE: Freedom of Information Act	[ ]

Intended: SEC(AS)2
Sent: 20/02/98 at 16:43 Delivered: 20/02/98 at 16:43
To: SEC(AS)2
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS)
Ref: /GUID:6F26E13D8EA9D1119C6D00A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management) Auth by:
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act

Text: The attached document was produced in CSV8 and is UNCLASSIFIED.

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Section 40 [redacted]

Not a lot of help as you will see. I'm not as reassured as they are that there is 'no problem because it's only for another two weeks'

Section 40 [redacted] 23/2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3/4

20 Feb 98

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:
DOMD
Hd of Sec(AS)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - CABINET OFFICE INTERNET WEB SITE

Reference:
1.D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 18 Feb 98

1. Thank you for your note at Ref A about the request you received from the Cabinet Office for advice in relation to their Internet debate on Freedom of Information (FOI).

2. I am sorry you felt "bounced" by the request, but as it seemed urgent when put to us, we felt that the best way of dealing with it was to put the Cabinet Office directly in touch with you - and I spoke to one of your staff on your number in advance to give you a `heads up'. In fact, although we were aware that the Cabinet Office had set up this site, I understand that that they have been able to deal with virtually all questions put to them without contacting other Departments. This was the first time that they had been in touch with MOD for advice. Against that background (and the debate only runs this week and next), I do not think that we need to take any special measures, but should deal with questions if and when they arise - hopefully there will be no more. In terms of handling, any replies should be treated in the same way as any other response to a member of the public. The Cabinet Office will, however, use us as a first point of contact, so should you have any concerns I hope we can help deal with them. If you wish, I can ask the Cabinet Office for a hard copy of the question and answer that finally went out in this instance.

3. I hope that this helps, but please give me a call if you want to discuss the issue further.

{signed}
Section 40
OMD/AD(Management)
NH617 MB Section 40

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 33

THE CABINET OFFICE

Attn: Section 40

== by fax ==

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/1

Date
19 February 1998

Dear Section 40

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

1. You asked for comments on your proposed draft reply to Section 40, whom you spoke to yesterday, is absent on leave today and tomorrow, although she did brief me on your discussion and I am happy to answer in her absence having consulted our Records Management colleagues.

2. I suggest the following:

Para 1. Information about unidentified flying objects is treated in exactly the same way as all other official information held by government - ie. **files selected for preservation are** released to the Public Record Office **in general** after 30 years. **Since 1967 it has been the policy that MOD "UFO" report files are to be preserved in the public interest.** However, **such files are not** normally released earlier to protect the confidentiality of those who have provided the information. **You may of course be entitled to ask for certain information** under the current *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*.

Para 2. Okay as drafted.

3. I should be most grateful once you have read my proposed changes if you would call me on the above number so that I may explain in detail why these changes need to be included.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Discussed with Section 40. He explained ⊛ says they're entitled to ask but not necessarily get. I said subtlety will be lost on average UFO person. They will assume ask means have. He intends to reword to say (subject to exemption on Privacy (s. effectively won't get!).

Section 40 19/2.

CABINET OFFICE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
Machinery of Government and Standards Group
Horse Guards Road • London SW1P 3AL
TELEPHONE: Section 40 FAX: Section 40 • EMAIL foi@gtnet.gov.uk

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 32

FAX

To: Section 40

Fax: Section 40

From: Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Date:

Page: 1 of 2.

Message: DRAFT REPLY FOR CDL
COMMENTS PLEASE EARLY
THIS AFTERNOON.
FOR Section 40
FOI UNIT ON ABOVE FAX.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (A) 2
19 FEB 1998
FILE

URGENT Yes/No CONFIRM RECEIPT Yes/No

ON-LINE DISCUSSION OF THE FOI WHITE PAPER: QUESTIONS TO CDL

Draft Reply To: Section 40

Information about unidentified flying objects is treated in exactly the same way as all other official information held by government - ie it is released to the Public Record Office after 30 years. It is not normally released earlier to protect the confidentiality of those who have provided the information. Although it is, of course, ~~information~~ that you are entitled to ask for under the current *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*

Under our Freedom of Information proposals you would still be able to request this information but, as with all other information, it would be subject to the seven specified interests (notably Personal Privacy and Information Supplied in Confidence) where information could be withheld if disclosure would cause substantial harm. However, the independent Information Commissioner would have the power to order disclosure if he or she thought that the decision not to disclose was wrong.

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

19 Feb '98 14:40

Secretariat(Air Staff)--->	
No.	1316
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'50"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	O K

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

18th February 1998

OMD/AD(Information)

Copy to:

Head of Sec(AS)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - CABINET OFFICE INTERNET WEB SITE

1. Having received a call from one of the Cabinet Office FOI staff this morning (my details passed on to them from your area), I learnt that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster not only has a web site on the Internet inviting questions from the public about the Governments proposals for a FOI, but that he expects answers to be provided on the web site within 24 hours. The aim, I understand, is to stimulate discussion.

2. It may be that you have already given publicity to the fact that desk officers might receive such calls direct from the Cabinet Office and will need to answer in this sort of time scale (I was expected to respond instantly), but I confess to having been caught unprepared - the more so because the question, whilst generally within my area of expertise, was couched in provocative terms, and required a detailed background explanation before a simple answer could be given.

3. Understandably, the Cabinet Office is keen to be as helpful to the public as possible. However, as far as I am concerned this first question will, almost certainly, encourage many more and with this in mind I would find it helpful to have some advice on handling. For example, should I expect to have anything in writing from the Cabinet Office? Unlikely I would have thought given the fast response required. And, is someone, in DOMD perhaps, acting as a Departmental focal point for questions and answers in the event that scrutiny of what is put on the Net in the name of MOD is desirable? I should be grateful for any thoughts you have to offer.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : MB Section 40

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
18/02/98	OMD/AD(Management)	Freedom of Information Act	[ ]

Sent: 18/02/98 at 18:58
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS)

Ref: 929
Subject: Freedom of Information Act

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

PS- haven't yet got a delivery report or view acknowledge from DOM D — Machine switched to by at 19.20 !!

Section 40 [redacted]

Sent by CHOTS - can you do a flook - file copy Please.

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 20 FEB Time:
From: SECRETARIAT (AIRSTAFF) ROOM 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDING	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40
Authorised by: Rank: EO Name: Section 40 Appointment: SecCAS)2A1 Signature: Section 40	

Document Reference: D/SecCAS)/641/	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
To: Section 40 CS(RM)1	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number	
Signature:	

Subject: CABINET OFFICE WEB SITE

Section 40

Section 40 thought you might like to see this.

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

20 Feb '98 11:00

Secretariat(Air Staff)—> Section 40	
No.	1325
Mode	NORMAL
Time	5'53"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 29

File Note

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. Call received from Cabinet Office FOI Branch Section 40 this morning. DOMD called shortly beforehand to warn that they had given my details to cabinet Office for them to ring direct. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has a web site on the Internet inviting questions on FOI Act. Answers should be provided by Cabinet Office within 24 hours.

2. **Question:**

> Please release all information about UFOs. There is no point in keeping it secret any more.

The questioner had not provided details of their name or address but used their Internet name of Section 40

After explaining in full to the background ie MOD's limited interest, what was held on file, and the need to respect witness confidentiality at least for 30 years, quantity of paper records that would need to be sanitised etc, I provided the following:

> **Answer:** Files will be released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point under the terms of the Public Record Act. MOD currently has no plans to change this in order to protect witness confidentiality.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

18 February 1998

Section 40

For the file. A thought - Maybe they should learn Section 40 about the Internet - and tell him what the question and answer was

Section 40

Telefax
To: Sec (AS)
Fax: Section 40
From: Section 40
Date: 2 Feb 98
Pages: 3

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

2 Feb 98

Sec(AS)*
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor*
CPRO

* by fax

SECURITY NUISANCE - Section 40

Reference:

A. D/CSSE/CMT/46/23/2359 dated 21 January 1998

1. Please find attached a copy of a Loose Minute from (Sec)SS about Section 40 following his ongoing queries about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor.

2. A recent letter included questions about the Corsham Computer Centre (CCC), which comes under the auspices of the Procurement Executive (PE) and addressees may be interested to see the proposed draft reply from (Sec)SS.

Section 40

CS(Fin Sec)1a
F158 Section 40 BRA

Section 40

Section 40 Section 40

Sec (AS)
CPRO
referring to our letter which gave rise to his approach to ABW.

LOOSE MINUTE

Section 40 Section 40

D/CSSE/CMT/46/23/2359
21 January 1998

ABW Press Office

Copies to:

To Section 40
From MO RUDLOW
Company CSSE
Tel No ABW Section 40

FAX
Post-it® Fax Note

HQLC
D Nuc Pol2a
PC(SSE)
CCC Unit Security Officer

SECURITY NUISANCE - Section 40

Reference: D/CSSE/CMT46/23/2359 dated 23 September 1997

1. The reference, copy attached, alerted you to a security nuisance in the form of a journalist from "The Truthseekers Review" who believes that aliens and space craft are being hidden underground by the MOD at various sites around the country. He has been a nuisance correspondent of the RAF for some time and they have now been advised by the Cabinet Office and the Minister for the Armed Forces that they may "draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him". However, this does not extend to ignoring any new question he may raise.

2. Amongst his intrusions on the RAF he included raids, armed with video cameras, on the Corsham Computer Centre (CCC) three times last year. The RAF were obliged to inform him that this facility was not part of RAF Rudloe Manor but belonged to MOD(PE). As a result, and as we expected, he has written his first letter to the PE requesting information about CCC.

3. From the reference above, you will note the reasons why we would prefer to allay his suspicions at the outset, rather than arouse them further and therefore, as agreed in September, we would be grateful if you would reply on behalf of CSSE.

4. I attach at ANNEX A a draft response for you to adapt to your customary format and would be grateful if you could reply to Section 40 as soon as possible. We should reply within 20 days of receipt of an enquiry from a member of the public and his letter did not reach us until 8 January. I will forward by post hard copies of Section 40 Section 40 letter and the letter from MIN(AF).

5. If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 40

(Sec)SS
ABW R1a
ABW Section 40

ANNEX A to D/CSSE/CMT/46/231/2359
dated 21 January 1998

Draft Letter from the AEW Press Office

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 1997 asking about the Corsham Computer Centre. I can confirm that it is the responsibility of the MOD Procurement Executive (PE). The PE's task is to obtain the equipment required by the Armed Forces. About 100 people work at the site, which is of modest size occupying what was once a chamber of the old quarry workings. It is not connected with RAF Rudloe Manor.

The facility is not a planning and operations centre. It houses a suite of PE computers which are sited underground so that (like those of London Transport) they are insulated from environmental effects.

I regret to have to inform you that access to the Computer Centre is confined to MOD personnel and MOD Contractors. We are unable to offer facilities to journalists.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
MOD(PE) Press Office
MOD Abbey Wood #1
Bristol BS34 8JH

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

29 Jan 98

DI Sec

LETTER FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ENQUIRING ABOUT THE WORK OF DI55 AND DSTI

1. The attached letter at TAB A, was recently forwarded to Sec(AS)2 by DI55 for action. On examination of its contents though, the correspondent [redacted] is seeking the public line on the work and activities of DI55 and DSTI. Although Wg Cdr [redacted] believes that the correspondent is interested in "UFO" research, no mention of this is made in the letter and we should not make the connection. I believe that it would be more appropriate for the letter to be answered by DI Sec in a more general manner, at least in the first instance. If, on receipt of such a response, [redacted] then seeks to braoden his enquiries into "UFO" matters, we will of course pick up any necessary action at that time.

2. I also attach (at TAB B), a hastener from [redacted] which we received this morning.

[redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI55/108/15

26 Jan 98

Sec(AS)2 (MB8247)

LETTER FROM Section 40

1. Please find enclosed a letter from a Section 40 requesting information on DI55. It has been routed to us because of the mention of DI55, but it is actually addressed to Air Staff 2a, which I believe may be your former post title.

2. I suspect that Section 40 research concerns UFOs and that it may be more appropriate for you to provide a response on our behalf.

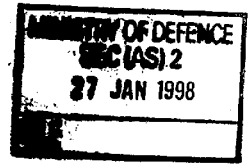
Section 40

[redacted]

Wg Cdr
DI55c
WH273A MB Section 40

Enclosed:

Letter + Envelope from Section 40



FROM. [redacted]

[redacted]

MITCHAM. SURREY

[redacted]

7/1/90

(MAIN BUILDING)
TO. M.O.D
WHITEHALL.
LONDON. SW1
(AIR STAFF 2A)

Dear Sir / Madam.

I am conducting a research study into your Depts. D155/DSTL any information relating to these depts held in the M.O.D. would be most welcome

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

FROM: Section 40

Section 40

MITCHAM, SURREY

Section 40

TO M.O.D
WHITEHALL.
LONDON SW1.
(AIR STAFF 2A)

26/1/98.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
29 JAN 1998
FILE

Dear Sir / Madam.

RE: D155 / DSTI.

Further to my letter of 7/1/98 (Copy attached) as of to-day's date I have not as yet received a reply from your dept.

I would therefore be grateful to receive your reply / Comments as soon as possible

Yours Faithfully

Section 40

(COPY ATTACHED)

FROM. Section 40

Section 40

MITCHAM. SURREY

Section 40

(MAIN BUILDING)

TO. M.O.D

WHITEHALL

LONDON. SW1

(AIR STAFF QA)

7/1/92

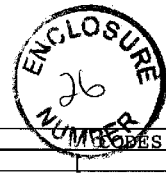
Dear Sir / Madam.

I am conducting a research study into your Depts' DSS/DSTL any information relating to these depts would in the M.O.D. would be most welcome

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

64/1



Wed [redacted] Jan, 1998 14:22 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	M CODES
28/01/98	OMD14	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 28/01/98 at 14:17 Delivered: 28/01/98 at 14:18
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: /GUID:E0DCDA2B8996D1119C6C00A02461F4C4
From: OMD14 Auth by:
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

PSA document regarding Freedom of Information in response to your e-mail of 22 January.

Section 40

OMD14

NH617

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3/4

28 January1998

Sec(AS) 2a1 - Section 40

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22 January to Section 40 Section 40 enquiring about progress on a freedom of information white paper. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as his replacement at DOMD and to provide you with some background information on developments since you last got in touch.

2. Things have really moved on in terms of open government over the past six months or so - the most important development being the publication on 11 December of the Freedom of Information White Paper, entitled "*Your Right to Know* - the Government's Proposals for a Freedom of Information Act". The consultation period for the White Paper lasts until the end of February and will be followed by a draft Bill this Spring - the formal Bill is expected to be laid before Parliament during the 1998/99 session. Until that time, the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information will remain, unchanged, as the reference for the provision of information.

3. I hope this summary provides you with the information you were seeking. A copy of the White Paper can be ordered using form 609 from the Registry or by ringing the Stationery Office Publications Line on Section 40 [quote Cm Section 40 ou can also access the White Paper on the Internet at: `http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm'

4. If you have any further questions or queries, or any comments you would like considered in discussions over the next few months, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 40
OMD14
NH617 Section 40 MB

with the compliments of

Ministry of Defence

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40

[redacted]

MOD Form 195 (7/94)

→ 64/1

,LO 25 MBE

From: [redacted] Room A8/3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Metropole Building Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5BP

Telephone:(Direct dialling) [redacted]
(Fax) [redacted]
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000

[redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
CS(RM)/4/6/37

Date
23 January 1998

[redacted]

1. Thank you for your letter dated 26 december 1997 raising a number of questions that would assist your research into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

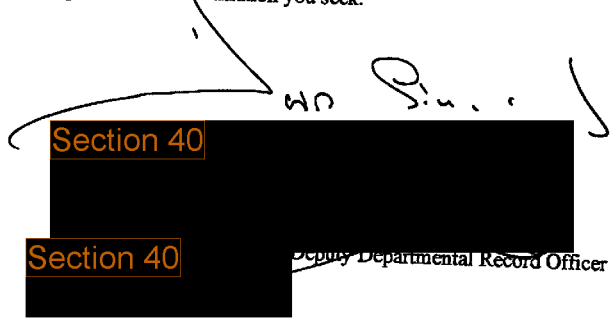
2. To your first question, the Public Record Office references assigned to the two recently discovered UAP files are **DEFE 31/118** and **119**.

3. On the question of UAP files created by Air Intelligence, AI 5b, until incorporated into the new Defence Intelligence organisation in 1964, I regret to advise you I have been unable to trace any such papers surviving in the Ministry of Defence.

4. You may be interested to learn that under the terms of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967, all government departments are required to review their records selecting those thought worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Selected records are transferred into the custody of the PRO, or some other suitable museum, for release to the public after 30 years, assuming sensitivity permits. Records assessed as too sensitive for release at the normal point are closed with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor until release is possible. Lists of preserved records, whether open or closed, are of course available to researchers at the PRO.

R:\WOR[redacted]REPLY.DOC

5. Finally, you asked about radar at West Freugh during 1957. A check of our records has not identified any files containing the kind of information you seek.



Deputy Departmental Record Officer

Thu 22 Jan, 1998 14:42 mailbox log Page 1

64/1

24

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
22/01/98	Hd of CS(RM)1	Section 40 [redacted] DRAFT	[ ]

Sent: 22/01/98 at 14:41
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1550
Subject: Section 40 [redacted] DRAFT

Text: Please see attached

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

22 Jan 98

Head of CS(RM)1

Section 40 LETTER

1. Section 40 recently spoke to you about your proposed draft response to Section 40 forwarded under cover of your CS(RM)4/6/37 of 15 Jan, and suggested some changes over the phone to you, ie:

(1) Para 2: First sentence as drafted. Second sentence change to: "I can also tell you both pieces were collected by the PRO from the MOD." and delete the rest of the paragraph.

(2) Para 3. Delete: "It must therefore be presumed that had they once existed they have not survived the passage of time." - a potential hostage to fortune.

2. Now that you have had an opportunity to recall the file which mentions West Freugh and have discussed its content with Section 40 she has a suggested amendment to paragraph five as follows:

Para 5. Delete current text and replace with: "Finally, you asked about radar at West Freugh during 1957. A check of our records has not identified any files containing the kind of information you seek."

3. Any queries please give me a call. Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

64/1
ENCLO 23
NUMBE

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
22/01/98	OMD 4	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT	[ ]

Sent: 22/01/98 at 11:12
To: OMD 4
CC:

Ref: 1549
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Text: Please see attached

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

22 Jan 98

OMD 4 - [redacted]

FORTHCOMING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - LINES TO TAKE

1. It has been a while since I touched base with you on the up-to-date position on the forthcoming FoI Act. As you can imagine we continue to receive letters touching upon the subject and I should therefore be grateful if you could let me know what the Department is currently saying.

2. The last time we checked with you the position was roughly along the following lines:

> "The Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before the end of the year."

3. I expect we could go on to mention plans for consultation etc and the timescales for this if known. I should be grateful for your guidance.

[redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

64/1

Section 40

2211

26 December 1997

Section 40
D8/2
MoD
Metropole Building
Northumberland Ave.
LONDON
WC2N 5BL

Dear Section 40

I am a Member of The Royal Society of Chemistry and a writer for Quest Magazine. I spend a lot of my spare time researching the MoD's history with respect to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

In a recent correspondence with Rhoddri Morgan MP, the USoS for Defence, Mr John Spellar MP remarked that in a recent search, two UAP-related files were unearthed. I understand from PRO-related correspondence that these files will be available towards the end of January. I would be grateful if you could share with me the file reference codes so that I may expedite the PRO search when the documents are available.

I am also interested in any information on UAP-files generated by Air Intelligence, Technical Branch 5b, who succeeded DDI (Tech) around about 1962. For example, are there plans in the pipeline to make these files available with the forthcoming Freedom of Information legislation.

Finally, I am not sure if you can help me here; however, are there any technical files relating to the types of radar that were available to the Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trial Unit at West Freugh between January and December 1957. To my knowledge, the technology was fairly state of the art at the time as they were able to plot objects at 70,000 feet.

I thank you in anticipation and appreciation of any assistance

Section 40

A.I Tech 5b → D.I(A.I)B-67 (65 - ref) 4 Dec 1964

Section 40

Reporting to D.D.I (Tech)

Section 40 said Ro'd checked the file and it contained nothing about radars. Can you pass on the comments on the draft. I did mention those for paras 2+3 but you might want to remind him. The final para (as amended) leaves it - I think - the fact that Ro did'n find anything

Section 40

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

15 January 1998

Sec(AS)2a1 (Fax only Section 40
DDI Sec (Fax only [redacted]

ENQUIRY FROM Section 40 - UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP)

1. I attach a copy of Section 40's recent letter to me raising three questions the answers to which would assist his research into UAPs. Also attached is my proposed reply.

2. The answers to his first two questions are straight forward: the two recently discovered files have been assigned the PRO references **DEFE 31/118 and 119** and the MOD holds no cache of Air Intelligence papers (thus release under the forthcoming FOI legislation is academic).

3. To his third question, radar at West Freugh, a preliminary search through the most likely classes has, unsurprisingly, produced no records. I have though identified an as yet unreleased file on the incident at West Freugh. **AIR 2/18564 1957-1971 UFO reports: West Freugh 1957** transferred to the PRO August 1997 for release in 2002. I am arranging for this file to be recalled from Kew just in case it contains any relevant information.

4. Section 40 will be unaware of the existence of this file because it is current PRO practise not to publicly reveal the titles of records under 30 years old unless other files within the vicinity of that record on their published lists have been released either at the normal point or in advance of 30 years. I think we can assume that once the existence of this file is known there will be demands for its release together with the other 50 or so unreleased UFO files earmarked for Kew covering the period through to 1972.

5. Comments on my proposed reply to Section 40 are welcome together with any views re the early release of UFO files.

Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]
Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 1
15 JAN 1998
FILE

DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26 December 1997 raising a number of questions that would assist your research into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

To your first question, the Public Record Office references assigned to the two recently discovered UAP files are **DEFE 31/118** and **119**. I can also tell you both pieces ~~were~~ have been collected by the PRO ~~on 4 December 1997~~ from the MoD. ~~It is hoped all residual administrative action will be completed towards the end of January thereby enabling researchers to access these files.~~

On the question of UAP files created by Air Intelligence AI5b, until incorporated into the new Defence Intelligence organisation in 1964, I regret to advise you I have been unable to trace any such papers in the Ministry of Defence. ~~It must therefore be presumed that had they once existed they have not survived the passage of time.~~ isn't this a hostage to fortune - what if they do exist in a cupboard somewhere?

You may be interested to learn that under the terms of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967, all government departments are required to review their records selecting those thought worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Selected records are transferred into the custody of the PRO, or some other suitable museum, for release to the public after 30 years, assuming sensitivity permits. Records assessed as too sensitive for release at the normal point are closed with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor until

release is possible. Lists of preserved records, whether open or closed, are available to researchers at the PRO.

Finally, you asked about radar at West Freugh during 1957. ~~On the basis that surviving material will be identifiable on the lists at Kew~~ I have asked my staff to make an examination of the most likely ~~MOD classes for any relevant files. With other more pressing tasks I am sure you will appreciate this research will take a number of weeks. I hope to be in a position to advise you of the out come in early February~~. A check of our records has not identified any files containing the kind of information you seek

64/1

with the compliments of

Ministry of Defence

FILE

[illegible] DEC 1997

Sec (AS) - Section 40 [redacted]

One of my 'chaps' received this - which may be of interest.

See page 4 - I believe the scientist was Tissot not a me.

Section 40 [redacted]

10 Dec 97.

MOD Form 195 (7/94)

HdCS(RM)

cc See (A8)

22 +1

A Die-Hard Issue

CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90

Gerald K. Haines

An extraordinary 95 percent of all Americans have at least heard or read something about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), and 57 percent believe they are real. (1) Former US Presidents Carter and Reagan claim to have seen a UFO. UFOlogists--a neologism for UFO buffs--and private UFO organizations are found throughout the United States. Many are convinced that the US Government, and particularly CIA, are engaged in a massive conspiracy and coverup of the issue. The idea that CIA has secretly concealed its research into UFOs has been a major theme of UFO buffs since the modern UFO phenomena emerged in the late 1940s. (2)

In late 1993, after being pressured by UFOlogists for the release of additional CIA information on UFOs, (3) DCI R. James Woolsey ordered another review of all Agency files on UFOs. Using CIA records compiled from that review, this study traces CIA interest and involvement in the UFO controversy from the late 1940s to 1990. It chronologically examines the Agency's efforts to solve the mystery of UFOs, its programs that had an impact on UFO sightings, and its attempts to conceal CIA involvement in the entire UFO issue. What emerges from this examination is that, while Agency concern over UFOs was substantial until the early 1950s, CIA has since paid only limited and peripheral attention to the phenomena.

Background

The emergence in 1947 of the Cold War confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union also saw the first wave of UFO sightings. The first report of a "flying saucer" over the United States came on 24 June 1947, when Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot and reputable businessman, while looking for a downed plane sighted nine disk-shaped objects near Mt. Rainier, Washington, traveling at an estimated speed of over 1,000 mph. Arnold's report was followed by a flood of additional sightings, including reports from military and civilian pilots and air traffic controllers all over the United States. (4) In 1948, Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining, head of the Air Technical Service Command, established Project SIGN (initially named Project SAUCER) to collect, collate, evaluate, and distribute within the government all information relating to such sightings, on the premise that UFOs might be real and of national security concern. (5)

The Technical Intelligence Division of the Air Material Command (AMC) at Wright Field (later Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio, assumed control of Project SIGN and began its work on 23 January 1948. Although at first fearful that the objects might be Soviet secret weapons, the Air Force soon concluded that UFOs were real but easily explained and not extraordinary. The Air Force report found that almost all sightings stemmed from one or more of three causes: mass hysteria and hallucination, hoax, or misinterpretation of known objects. Nevertheless, the report recommended continued military intelligence control over the investigation of all sightings and did not rule out the possibility of extraterrestrial phenomena. (6)

Amid mounting UFO sightings, the Air Force continued to collect and evaluate UFO data in the late 1940s under a new project, GRUDGE, which tried to alleviate public anxiety over UFOs via a public relations campaign designed to persuade the public that UFOs constituted nothing unusual or extraordinary. UFO sightings were explained as balloons, conventional aircraft, planets, meteors, optical illusions, solar reflections, or even "large hailstones." GRUDGE officials found no evidence in UFO sightings of advanced foreign weapons design or development, and they concluded that UFOs did not threaten US security. They recommended that the project be reduced in scope because the very existence of Air Force official interest encouraged people to believe in UFOs and contributed to a "war hysteria" atmosphere. On 27 December 1949, the Air Force announced the project's termination. (7)

With increased Cold War tensions, the Korean war, and continued UFO sightings, USAF Director of Intelligence Maj. Gen. Charles P. Cabell ordered a new UFO project in 1952. Project BLUE BOOK became the major Air Force effort to study the UFO phenomenon throughout the 1950s and 1960s. (8) The task of identifying and explaining UFOs continued to fall on the Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson. With a small staff, the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) tried to persuade the public that UFOs were not extraordinary. (9) Projects SIGN, GRUDGE, and BLUE BOOK set the tone for the official US Government position regarding UFOs for the next 30 years.

Early CIA Concerns, 1947-52

CIA closely monitored the Air Force effort, aware of the mounting number of sightings and increasingly concerned that UFOs might pose a potential security threat. (10) Given the distribution of the sightings, CIA officials in 1952 questioned whether they might reflect "midsummer madness." (11) Agency officials accepted the Air Force's conclusions about UFO reports, although they concluded that "since there is a remote possibility that they may be interplanetary aircraft, it is necessary to investigate each sighting." (12)

A massive buildup of sightings over the United States in 1952, especially in July, alarmed the Truman administration. On 19 and 20 July, radar scopes at Washington National Airport and Andrews Air Force Base tracked mysterious blips. On 27 July, the blips reappeared. The Air Force scrambled interceptor aircraft to investigate, but they found nothing. The incidents, however, caused headlines across the country. The White House wanted to know what was happening, and the Air Force quickly offered the explanation that the radar blips might be the result of "temperature inversions." Later, a Civil Aeronautics Administration investigation confirmed that such radar blips were quite common and were caused by temperature inversions. (13)

Although it had monitored UFO reports for at least three years, CIA reacted to the new rash of sightings by forming a special study group within the Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and the Office of Current Intelligence (OCI) to review the situation. (14) Edward Tauss, acting chief of OSI's Weapons and Equipment Division, reported for the group that most UFO sightings could be easily explained. Nevertheless, he recommended that the Agency continue monitoring the problem, in coordination with ATIC. He also urged that CIA conceal its interest from the media and the public, "in view of their probable alarmist tendencies" to accept such interest as confirming the existence of UFOs. (15)

Upon receiving the report, Deputy Director for Intelligence (DDI) Robert Amory, Jr. assigned responsibility for the UFO investigations to OSI's Physics and Electronics Division, with A. Ray Gordon as the officer in charge. (16) Each branch in the division was to contribute to the investigation, and Gordon was to coordinate closely with ATIC. Amory, who asked the group to focus on the national security implications of UFOs, was relaying DCI Walter Bedell Smith's concerns. (17) Smith wanted to know whether or not the Air Force investigation of flying saucers was

sufficiently objective and how much more money and manpower would be necessary to determine the cause of the small percentage of unexplained flying saucers. Smith believed "there was only one chance in 10,000 that the phenomenon posed a threat to the security of the country, but even that chance could not be taken." According to Smith, it was CIA's responsibility by statute to coordinate the intelligence effort required to solve the problem. Smith also wanted to know what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts. (18)

Led by Gordon, the CIA Study Group met with Air Force officials at Wright-Patterson and reviewed their data and findings. The Air Force claimed that 90 percent of the reported sightings were easily accounted for. The other 10 percent were characterized as "a number of incredible reports from credible observers." The Air Force rejected the theories that the sightings involved US or Soviet secret weapons development or that they involved "men from Mars"; there was no evidence to support these concepts. The Air Force briefers sought to explain these UFO reports as the misinterpretation of known objects or little understood natural phenomena. (19) Air Force and CIA officials agreed that outside knowledge of Agency interest in UFOs would make the problem more serious. (20) This concealment of CIA interest contributed greatly to later charges of a CIA conspiracy and coverup.

Amateur photographs of alleged UFOs

Passoria, New Jersey, 31 July 1952

Sheffield, England, 4 March 1962
& Minneapolis, Minnesota, 20 October 1960

The CIA Study Group also searched the Soviet press for UFO reports, but found none, causing the group to conclude that the absence of reports had to have been the result of deliberate Soviet Government policy. The group also envisioned the USSR's possible use of UFOs as a psychological warfare tool. In addition, they worried that, if the US air warning system should be deliberately overloaded by UFO sightings, the Soviets might gain a surprise advantage in any nuclear attack. (21)

Because of the tense Cold War situation and increased Soviet capabilities, the CIA Study Group saw serious national security concerns in the flying saucer situation. The group believed that the Soviets could use UFO reports to touch off mass hysteria and panic in the United States. The group also believed that the Soviets might use UFO sightings to overload the US air warning system so that it could not distinguish real targets from phantom UFOs. H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director of OSI, added that he considered the problem of such importance "that it should be brought to the attention of the National Security Council, in order that a communitywide coordinated effort towards it solution may be initiated." (22)

Chadwell briefed DCI Smith on the subject of UFOs in December 1952. He urged action because he was convinced that "something was going on that must have immediate attention" and that "sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major US defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles." He drafted a memorandum from the DCI to the National Security Council (NSC) and a proposed NSC Directive establishing the investigation of UFOs as a priority project throughout the intelligence and the defense research and development community. (23) Chadwell also urged Smith to establish an external research project of top-level scientists to study the problem of UFOs. (24) After this briefing, Smith directed DDI Amory to prepare a NSC Intelligence Directive (NSCID) for submission to the NSC on the need to continue the investigation of UFOs and to coordinate such investigations with the Air Force. (25)

The Robertson Panel, 1952-53

On 4 December 1952, the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) took up the issue of UFOs. (26) Amory, as acting chairman, presented DCI Smith's request to the committee that it informally discuss the subject of UFOs. Chadwell then briefly reviewed the situation and the active program of the ATIC relating to UFOs. The committee agreed that the DCI should "enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories" and draft an NSCID on the subject. (27) Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Director of Air Force Intelligence, offered full cooperation. (28)

At the same time, Chadwell looked into British efforts in this area. He learned the British also were active in studying the UFO phenomena. A [redacted] British scientist, R. V. Jones, headed a standing c[redacted] created in June 1951 on flying saucers. Jones' and his committee's conclusions on UFOs [redacted] Agency officials: the sightings were not enemy aircraft but misrepresentations of [redacted] phenomena. The British noted, however, that during a recent air show RAF pilots and se[redacted] officials had observed a "perfect flying saucer." Given the press response, according to th[redacted] Jones was having a most difficult time trying to correct public opinion regarding UFOs. The public was convinced they were real. (29)

In January 1953, Chadwell and H. P. Robertson, a noted physicist from the California Institute of Technology, put together a distinguished panel of nonmilitary scientists to study the UFO issue. It included Robertson as chairman; Samuel A. Goudsmit, a nuclear physicist from the Brookhaven National Laboratories; Luis Alvarez, a high-energy physicist; Thornton Page, the deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Operations Research Office and an expert on radar and electronics; and Lloyd Berkner, a director of the Brookhaven National Laboratories and a specialist in geophysics. (30)

The charge to the panel was to review the available evidence on UFOs and to consider the possible dangers of the phenomena to US national security. The panel met from 14 to 17 January 1953. It reviewed Air Force data on UFO case histories and, after spending 12 hours studying the phenomena, declared that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most, if not all, sightings. For example, after reviewing motion-picture film taken of a UFO sighting near Tremonton, Utah, on 2 July 1952 and one near Great Falls, Montana, on 15 August 1950, the panel concluded that the images on the Tremonton film were caused by sunlight reflecting off seagulls and that the images at Great Falls were sunlight reflecting off the surface of two Air Force interceptors. (31)

The panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the UFO sightings. Nor could the panel find any evidence that the objects sighted might be extraterrestrials. It did find that continued emphasis on UFO reporting might threaten "the orderly functioning" of the government by clogging the channels of communication with irrelevant reports and by inducing "hysterical mass behavior" harmful to constituted authority. The panel also worried that potential enemies contemplating an attack on the United States might exploit the UFO phenomena and use them to disrupt US air defenses. (32)

To meet these problems, the panel recommended that the National Security Council debunk UFO reports and institute a policy of public education to reassure the public of the lack of evidence behind UFOs. It suggested using the mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney corporation to get the message across. Reporting at the height of McCarthyism, the panel also recommended that such private UFO groups as the Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators in Los Angeles and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Wisconsin be monitored for subversive activities. (33)

The Robertson panel's conclusions were strikingly similar to those of the earlier Air Force project reports on SIGN and GRUDGE and to those of the CIA's own OSI Study Group. All investigative groups found that UFO reports indicated no direct threat to national security and no evidence of visits

by extraterrestrials.

Following the Robertson panel findings, the Agency abandoned efforts to draft an NSCID on UFOs. (34) The Scientific Advisory Panel on UFOs (the Robertson panel) submitted its report to the IAC, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and the Chairman of the National Security Resources Board. CIA officials said no further consideration of the subject appeared warranted, although they continued to monitor sightings in the interest of national security. Philip Strong and Fred Durant from OSI also briefed the Office of National Estimates on the findings. (35) CIA officials wanted knowledge of any Agency interest in the subject of flying saucers carefully restricted, noting not only that the Robertson panel report was classified but also that any mention of CIA sponsorship of the panel was forbidden. This attitude would later cause the Agency major problems relating to its credibility. (36)

The 1950s: Fading CIA Interest in UFOs

After the report of the Robertson panel, Agency officials put the entire issue of UFOs on the back burner. In May 1953, Chadwell transferred chief responsibility for keeping abreast of UFOs to OSI's Physics and Electronic Division, while the Applied Science Division continued to provide any necessary support. (37) Todos M. Odarenko, chief of the Physics and Electronics Division, did not want to take on the problem, contending that it would require too much of his division's analytic and clerical time. Given the findings of the Robertson panel, he proposed to consider the project "inactive" and to devote only one analyst part-time and a file clerk to maintain a reference file of the activities of the Air Force and other agencies on UFOs. Neither the Navy nor the Army showed much interest in UFOs, according to Odarenko. (38)

A nonbeliever in UFOs, Odarenko sought to have his division relieved of the responsibility for monitoring UFO reports. In 1955, for example, he recommended that the entire project be terminated because no new information concerning UFOs had surfaced. Besides, he argued, his division was facing a serious budget reduction and could not spare the resources. (39) Chadwell and other Agency officials, however, continued to worry about UFOs. Of special concern were overseas reports of UFO sightings and claims that German engineers held by the Soviets were developing a "flying saucer" as a future weapon of war. (40)

To most US political and military leaders, the Soviet Union by the mid-1950s had become a dangerous opponent. Soviet progress in nuclear weapons and guided missiles was particularly alarming. In the summer of 1949, the USSR had detonated an atomic bomb. In August 1953, only nine months after the United States tested a hydrogen bomb, the Soviets detonated one. In the spring of 1953, a top secret RAND Corporation study also pointed out the vulnerability of SAC bases to a surprise attack by Soviet long-range bombers. Concern over the danger of a Soviet attack on the United States continued to grow, and UFO sightings added to the uneasiness of US policymakers.

Mounting reports of UFOs over eastern Europe and Afghanistan also prompted concern that the Soviets were making rapid progress in this area. CIA officials knew that the British and Canadians were already experimenting with "flying saucers." Project Y was a Canadian-British-US developmental operation to produce a nonconventional flying-saucer-type aircraft, and Agency officials feared the Soviets were testing similar devices. (41)

Adding to the concern was a flying saucer sighting by US Senator Richard Russell and his party while traveling on a train in the USSR in October 1955. After extensive interviews of Russell and his group, however, CIA officials concluded that Russell's sighting did not support the theory that the Soviets had developed saucerlike or unconventional aircraft. Herbert Scoville, Jr., the Assistant Director of OSI, wrote that the objects observed probably were normal jet aircraft in a steep climb. (42)

Wilton E. Lexow, head of the CIA's Applied Sciences Division, was also skeptical. He questioned why the Soviets were continuing to develop conventional-type aircraft if they had a "flying saucer." (43) Scoville asked Lexow to assume responsibility for fully assessing the capabilities and limitations of nonconventional aircraft and to maintain the OSI central file on the subject of UFOs.

CIA's U-2 and OXCART as UFOs

In November 1954, CIA had entered into the world of high technology with its U-2 overhead reconnaissance project. Working with Lockheed's Advanced Development facility in Burbank, California, known as the Skunk Works, and Kelly Johnson, an eminent aeronautical engineer, the Agency by August 1955 was testing a high-altitude experimental aircraft--the U-2. It could fly at 60,000 feet; in the mid-1950s, most commercial airliners flew between 10,000 feet and 20,000 feet. Consequently, once the U-2 started test flights, commercial pilots and air traffic controllers began reporting a large increase in UFO sightings. (44) (U)

The early U-2s were silver (they were later painted black) and reflected the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset. They often appeared as fiery objects to observers below. Air Force BLUE BOOK investigators aware of the secret U-2 flights tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions. By checking with the Agency's U-2 Project Staff in Washington, BLUE BOOK investigators were able to attribute many UFO sightings to U-2 flights. They were careful, however, not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public.

According to later estimates from CIA officials who worked on the U-2 project and the OXCART (SR-71, or Blackbird) project, over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States. (45) This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project. While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the coverup controversy of the 1970s. The percentage of what the Air Force considered unexplained UFO sightings fell to 5.9 percent in 1955 and to 4 percent in 1956. (46)

At the same time, pressure was building for the release of the Robertson panel report on UFOs. In 1956, Edward Ruppelt, former head of the Air Force BLUE BOOK project, publicly revealed the existence of the panel. A best-selling book by UFOlogist Donald Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps major, advocated release of all government information relating to UFOs. Civilian UFO groups such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) immediately pushed for release of the Robertson panel report. (47) Under pressure, the Air Force approached CIA for permission to declassify and release the report. Despite such pressure, Philip Strong, Deputy Assistant Director of OSI, refused to declassify the report and declined to disclose CIA sponsorship of the panel. As an alternative, the Agency prepared a sanitized version of the report which deleted any reference to CIA and avoided mention of any psychological warfare potential in the UFO controversy. (48)

The demands, however, for more government information about UFOs did not let up. On 8 March 1958, Keyhoe, in an interview with Mike Wallace of CBS, claimed deep CIA involvement with UFOs and Agency sponsorship of the Robertson panel. This prompted a series of letters to the Agency from Keyhoe and Dr. Leon Davidson, a chemical engineer and UFOlogist. They demanded the release of the full Robertson panel report and confirmation of CIA involvement in the UFO issue. Davidson had convinced himself that the Agency, not the Air Force, carried most of the responsibility for UFO analysis and that "the activities of the US Government are responsible for the flying saucer sightings of the last decade." Indeed, because of the undisclosed U-2 and OXCART flights, Davidson was closer to the truth than he suspected. CI, nevertheless held firm to its policy of not revealing its role in

UFO investigations and refused to declassify the full Robertson panel report. (49)

In a meeting with Air Force representatives to discuss how to handle future inquires such as Keyhoe's and Davidson's, Agency officials confirmed their opposition to the declassification of the full report and worried that Keyhoe had the ear of former DCI VAdm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, who served on the board of governors of NICAP. They debated whether to have CIA General Counsel Lawrence R. Houston show Hillenkoetter the report as a possible way to defuse the situation. CIA officer Frank Chapin also hinted that Davidson might have ulterior motives, "some of them perhaps not in the best interest of this country," and suggested bringing in the FBI to investigate. (50) Although the record is unclear whether the FBI ever instituted an investigation of Davidson or Keyhoe, or whether Houston ever saw Hillenkoetter about the Robertson report, Hillenkoetter did resign from the NICAP in 1962. (51)

The Agency was also involved with Davidson and Keyhoe in two rather famous UFO cases in the 1950s, which helped contribute to a growing sense of public distrust of CIA with regard to UFOs. One focused on what was reported to have been a tape recording of a radio signal from a flying saucer; the other on reported photographs of a flying saucer. The "radio code" incident began innocently enough in 1955, when two elderly sisters in Chicago, Mildred and Marie Maier, reported in the *Journal of Space Flight* their experiences with UFOs, including the recording of a radio program in which an unidentified code was reportedly heard. The sisters taped the program and other ham radio operators also claimed to have heard the "space message." OSI became interested and asked the Scientific Contact Branch to obtain a copy of the recording. (52)

Field officers from the Contact Division (CD), one of whom was Dewelt Walker, made contact with the Maier sisters, who were "thrilled that the government was interested," and set up a time to meet with them. (53) In trying to secure the tape recording, the Agency officers reported that they had stumbled upon a scene from *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "The only thing lacking was the elderberry wine," Walker cabled Headquarters. After reviewing the sisters' scrapbook of clippings from their days on the stage, the officers secured a copy of the recording. (54) OSI analyzed the tape and found it was nothing more than Morse code from a US radio station.

The matter rested there until UFOlogist Leon Davidson talked with the Maier sisters in 1957. The sisters remembered they had talked with a Mr. Walker who said he was from the US Air Force. Davidson then wrote to a Mr. Walker, believing him to be a US Air Force Intelligence Officer from Wright-Patterson, to ask if the tape had been analyzed at ATIC. Dewelt Walker replied to Davidson that the tape had been forwarded to proper authorities for evaluation, and no information was available concerning the results. Not satisfied, and suspecting that Walker was really a CIA officer, Davidson next wrote DCI Allen Dulles demanding to learn what the coded message revealed and who Mr. Walker was. (55) The Agency, wanting to keep Walker's identity as a CIA employee secret, replied that another agency of the government had analyzed the tape in question and that Davidson would be hearing from the Air Force. (56) On 5 August, the Air Force wrote Davidson saying that Walker "was and is an Air Force Officer" and that the tape "was analyzed by another government organization." The Air Force letter confirmed that the recording contained only identifiable Morse code which came from a known US-licensed radio station. (57)

Davidson wrote Dulles again. This time he wanted to know the identity of the Morse operator and of the agency that had conducted the analysis. CIA and the Air Force were now in a quandary. The Agency had previously denied that it had actually analyzed the tape. The Air Force had also denied analyzing the tape and claimed that Walker was an Air Force officer. CIA officers, under cover, contacted Davidson in Chicago and promised to get the code translation and the identification of the transmitter, if possible. (58)

In another attempt to pacify Davidson, a CIA officer, again under cover and wearing his Air Force

uniform, contacted Davidson in New York City. The CIA officer explained that there was no super agency involved and that Air Force policy was not to disclose who was doing what. While seeming to accept this argument, Davidson nevertheless pressed for disclosure of the recording message and the source. The officer agreed to see what he could do. (59) After checking with Headquarters, the CIA officer phoned Davidson to report that a thorough check had been made and, because the signal was of known US origin, the tape and the notes made at the time had been destroyed to conserve file space. (60)

Incensed over what he perceived was a runaround, Davidson told the CIA officer that "he and his agency, whichever it was, were acting like Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamster Union in destroying records which might indict them." (61) Believing that any more contact with Davidson would only encourage more speculation, the Contact Division washed its hands of the issue by reporting to the DCI and to ATIC that it would not respond to or try to contact Davidson again. (62) Thus, a minor, rather bizarre incident, handled poorly by both CIA and the Air Force, turned into a major flap that added fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs and CIA's role in their investigation.

Another minor flap a few months later added to the growing questions surrounding the Agency's true role with regard to flying saucers. CIA's concern over secrecy again made matters worse. In 1958, Major Keyhoe charged that the Agency was deliberately asking eyewitnesses of UFOs not to make their sightings public. (63)

The incident stemmed from a November 1957 request from OSI to the CD to obtain from Ralph C. Mayher, a photographer for KYW-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, certain photographs he took in 1952 of an unidentified flying object. Harry Real, a CD officer, contacted Mayher and obtained copies of the photographs for analysis. On 12 December 1957, John Hazen, another CD officer, returned the five photographs of the alleged UFO to Mayher without comment. Mayher asked Hazen for the Agency's evaluation of the photos, explaining that he was trying to organize a TV program to brief the public on UFOs. He wanted to mention on the show that a US intelligence organization had viewed the photographs and thought them of interest. Although he advised Mayher not to take this approach, Hazen stated that Mayher was a US citizen and would have to make his own decision as to what to do. (64)

Keyhoe later contacted Mayher, who told him his story of CIA and the photographs. Keyhoe then asked the Agency to confirm Hazen's employment in writing, in an effort to expose CIA's role in UFO investigations. The Agency refused, despite the fact that CD field representatives were normally overt and carried credentials identifying their Agency association. DCI Dulles's aide, John S. Earman, merely sent Keyhoe a noncommittal letter noting that, because UFOs were of primary concern to the Department of the Air Force, the Agency had referred his letter to the Air Force for an appropriate response. Like the response to Davidson, the Agency reply to Keyhoe only fueled the speculation that the Agency was deeply involved in UFO sightings. Pressure for release of CIA information on UFOs continued to grow. (65)

Although CIA had a declining interest in UFO cases, it continued to monitor UFO sightings. Agency officials felt the need to keep informed on UFOs if only to alert the DCI to the more sensational UFO reports and flaps. (66)

The 1960s: Declining CIA Involvement and Mounting Controversy

In the early 1960s, Keyhoe, Davidson, and other UFOlogists maintained their assault on the Agency for release of UFO information. Davidson now claimed that CIA "was solely responsible for creating the Flying Saucer furor as a tool for cold war psychological warfare since 1951." Despite calls for

Congressional hearings and the release of all materials relating to UFOs, little changed. (67)

In 1964, however, following high-level White House discussions on what to do if an alien intelligence was discovered in space and a new outbreak of UFO reports and sightings, DCI John McCone asked for an updated CIA evaluation of UFOs. Responding to McCone's request, OSI asked the CD to obtain various recent samples and reports of UFO sightings from NICAP. With Keyhoe, one of the founders, no longer active in the organization, CIA officers met with Richard H. Hall, the acting director. Hall gave the officers samples from the NICAP database on the most recent sightings. (68)

After OSI officers had reviewed the material, Donald F. Chamberlain, OSI Assistant Director, assured McCone that little had changed since the early 1950s. There was still no evidence that UFOs were a threat to the security of the United States or that they were of "foreign origin." Chamberlain told McCone that OSI still monitored UFO reports, including the official Air Force investigation, Project BLUE BOOK. (69)

At the same time that CIA was conducting this latest internal review of UFOs, public pressure forced the Air Force to establish a special ad hoc committee to review BLUE BOOK. Chaired by Dr. Brian O'Brien, a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the panel included Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer from Cornell University. Its report offered nothing new. It declared that UFOs did not threaten the national security and that it could find "no UFO case which represented technological or scientific advances outside of a terrestrial framework." The committee did recommend that UFOs be studied intensively, with a leading university acting as a coordinator for the project, to settle the issue conclusively. (70)

The House Armed Services Committee also held brief hearings on UFOs in 1966 that produced similar results. Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown assured the committee that most sightings were easily explained and that there was no evidence that "strangers from outer space" had been visiting Earth. He told the committee members, however, that the Air Force would keep an open mind and continue to investigate all UFO reports. (71)

Following the report of its O'Brien Committee, the House hearings on UFOs, and Dr. Robertson's disclosure on a *CBS Reports* program that CIA indeed had been involved in UFO analysis, the Air Force in July 1966 again approached the Agency for declassification of the entire Robertson panel report of 1953 and the full Durant report on the Robertson panel deliberations and findings. The Agency again refused to budge. Karl H. Weber, Deputy Director of OSI, wrote the Air Force that "We are most anxious that further publicity not be given to the information that the panel was sponsored by the CIA." Weber noted that there was already a sanitized version available to the public. (72) Weber's response was rather shortsighted and ill considered. It only drew more attention to the 13-year-old Robertson panel report and CIA's role in the investigation of UFOs. The science editor of *The Saturday Review* drew nationwide attention to the CIA's role in investigating UFOs when he published an article criticizing the "sanitized version" of the 1953 Robertson panel report and called for release of the entire document. (73)

Unknown to CIA officials, Dr. James E. McDonald, a noted atmospheric physicist from the University of Arizona, had already seen the Durant report on the Robertson panel proceedings at Wright-Patterson on 6 June 1966. When McDonald returned to Wright-Patterson on 30 June to copy the report, however, the Air Force refused to let him see it again, stating that it was a CIA classified document. Emerging as a UFO authority, McDonald publicly claimed that the CIA was behind the Air Force secrecy policies and coverup. He demanded the release of the full Robertson panel report and the Durant report. (74)

Bowing to public pressure and the recommendation of its own O'Brien Committee, the Air Force announced in August 1966 that it was seeking a contract with a leading university to undertake a

program of intensive investigations of UFO sightings. The new program was designed to blunt continuing charges that the US Government had concealed what it knew about UFOs. On 7 October, the University of Colorado accepted a $325,000 contract with the Air Force for an 18-month study of flying saucers. Dr. Edward U. Condon, a physicist at Colorado and a former Director of the National Bureau of Standards, agreed to head the program. Pronouncing himself an "agnostic" on the subject of UFOs, Condon observed that he had an open mind on the question and thought that possible extraterritorial origins were "improbable but not impossible." (75) Brig. Gen. Edward Giller, USAF, and Dr. Thomas Ratchford from the Air Force Research and Development Office became the Air Force coordinators for the project.

In February 1967, Giller contacted Arthur C. Lundahl, Director of CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC), and proposed an informal liaison through which NPIC could provide the Condon Committee with technical advice and services in examining photographs of alleged UFOs. Lundahl and DDI R. Jack Smith approved the arrangement as a way of "preserving a window" on the new effort. They wanted the CIA and NPIC to maintain a low profile, however, and to take no part in writing any conclusions for the committee. No work done for the committee by NPIC was to be formally acknowledged. (76)

Ratchford next requested that Condon and his committee be allowed to visit NPIC to discuss the technical aspects of the problem and to view the special equipment NPIC had for photoanalysis. On 20 February 1967, Condon and four members of his committee visited NPIC. Lundahl emphasized to the group that any NPIC work to assist the committee must not be identified as CIA work. Moreover, work performed by NPIC would be strictly of a technical nature. After receiving these guidelines, the group heard a series of briefings on the services and equipment not available elsewhere that CIA had used in its analysis of some UFO photography furnished by Ratchford. Condon and his committee were impressed. (77)

Condon and the same group met again in May 1967 at NPIC to hear an analysis of UFO photographs taken at Zanesville, Ohio. The analysis debunked that sighting. The committee was again impressed with the technical work performed, and Condon remarked that for the first time a scientific analysis of a UFO would stand up to investigation. (78) The group also discussed the committee's plans to call on US citizens for additional photographs and to issue guidelines for taking useful UFO photographs. In addition, CIA officials agreed that the Condon Committee could release the full Durant report with only minor deletions.

In April 1969, Condon and his committee released their report on UFOs. The report concluded that little, if anything, had come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years and that further extensive study of UFO sightings was unwarranted. It also recommended that the Air Force special unit, Project BLUE BOOK, be discontinued. It did not mention CIA participation in the Condon committee's investigation. (79) A special panel established by the National Academy of Sciences reviewed the Condon report and concurred with its conclusion that "no high priority in UFO investigations is warranted by data of the past two decades." It concluded its review by declaring, "On the basis of present knowledge, the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings." Following the recommendations of the Condon Committee and the National Academy of Sciences, the Secretary of the Air Force, Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced on 17 December 1969 the termination of BLUE BOOK. (80)

The 1970s and 1980s: The UFO Issue Refuses To Die

The Condon report did not satisfy many UFOlogists, who considered it a coverup for CIA activities in UFO research. Additional sightings in the early 1970s fueled beliefs that the CIA was somehow involved in a vast conspiracy. On 7 June 1975, William Spaulding, head of a small UFO group, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), wrote to CIA requesting a copy of the Robertson panel report and all

records relating to UFOs. (81) Spaulding was convinced that the Agency was withholding major files on UFOs. Agency officials provided Spaulding with a copy of the Robertson panel report and of the Durant report. (82)

On 14 July 1975, Spaulding again wrote the Agency questioning the authenticity of the reports he had received and alleging a CIA coverup of its UFO activities. Gene Wilson, CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator, replied in an attempt to satisfy Spaulding, "At no time prior to the formation of the Robertson Panel and subsequent to the issuance of the panel's report has CIA engaged in the study of the UFO phenomena." The Robertson panel report, according to Wilson, was "the summation of Agency interest and involvement in UFOs." Wilson also inferred that there were no additional documents in CIA's possession that related to UFOs. Wilson was ill informed. (83)

In September 1977, Spaulding and GSW, unconvinced by Wilson's response, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Agency that specifically requested all UFO documents in CIA's possession. Deluged by similar FOIA requests for Agency information on UFOs, CIA officials agreed, after much legal maneuvering, to conduct a "reasonable search" of CIA files for UFO materials. (84) Despite an Agency-wide unsympathetic attitude toward the suit, Agency officials, led by Launie Ziebell from the Office of General Counsel, conducted a thorough search for records pertaining to UFOs. Persistent, demanding, and even threatening at times, Ziebell and his group scoured the Agency. They even turned up an old UFO file under a secretary's desk. The search finally produced 355 documents totaling approximately 900 pages. On 14 December 1978, the Agency released all but 57 documents of about 100 pages to GSW. It withheld these 57 documents on national security grounds and to protect sources and methods. (85)

Although the released documents produced no smoking gun and revealed only a low-level Agency interest in the UFO phenomena after the Robertson panel report of 1953, the press treated the release in a sensational manner. *The New York Times*, for example, claimed that the declassified documents confirmed intensive government concern over UFOs and that the Agency was secretly involved in the surveillance of UFOs. (86) GSW then sued for the release of the withheld documents, claiming that the Agency was still holding out key information. (87) It was much like the John F. Kennedy assassination issue. No matter how much material the Agency released and no matter how dull and prosaic the information, people continued to believe in a Agency coverup and conspiracy.

DCI Stansfield Turner was so upset when he read *The New York Times* article that he asked his senior officers, "Are we in UFOs?" After reviewing the records, Don Wortman, Deputy Director for Administration, reported to Turner that there was "no organized Agency effort to do research in connection with UFO phenomena nor has there been an organized effort to collect intelligence on UFOs since the 1950s." Wortman assured Turner that the Agency records held only "sporadic instances of correspondence dealing with the subject," including various kinds of reports of UFO sightings. There was no Agency program to collect actively information on UFOs, and the material released to GSW had few deletions. (88) Thus assured, Turner had the General Counsel press for a summary judgment against the new lawsuit by GSW. In May 1980, the courts dismissed the lawsuit, finding that the Agency had conducted a thorough and adequate search in good faith. (89)

During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Agency continued its low-key interest in UFOs and UFO sightings. While most scientists now dismissed flying saucers reports as a quaint part of the 1950s and 1960s, some in the Agency and in the Intelligence Community shifted their interest to studying parapsychology and psychic phenomena associated with UFO sightings. CIA officials also looked at the UFO problem to determine what UFO sightings might tell them about Soviet progress in rockets and missiles and reviewed its counterintelligence aspects. Agency analysts from the Life Science Division of OSI and OSWR officially devoted a small amount of their time to issues relating to UFOs. These included counterintelligence concerns that the Soviets and the KGB were using US citizens and UFO groups to obtain information on sensitive US weapons development programs (such as the

Stealth aircraft), the vulnerability of the US air-defense network to penetration by foreign missiles mimicking UFOs, and evidence of Soviet advanced technology associated with UFO sightings.

CIA also maintained Intelligence Community coordination with other agencies regarding their work in parapsychology, psychic phenomena, and "remote viewing" experiments. In general, the Agency took a conservative scientific view of these unconventional scientific issues. There was no formal or official UFO project within the Agency in the 1980s, and Agency officials purposely kept files on UFOs to a minimum to avoid creating records that might mislead the public if released. (90)

The 1980s also produced renewed charges that the Agency was still withholding documents relating to the 1947 Roswell incident, in which a flying saucer supposedly crashed in New Mexico, and the surfacing of documents which purportedly revealed the existence of a top secret US research and development intelligence operation responsible only to the President on UFOs in the late 1940s and early 1950s. UFOlogists had long argued that, following a flying saucer crash in New Mexico in 1947, the government not only recovered debris from the crashed saucer but also four or five alien bodies. According to some UFOlogists, the government clamped tight security around the project and has refused to divulge its investigation results and research ever since. (91) In September 1994, the US Air Force released a new report on the Roswell incident that concluded that the debris found in New Mexico in 1947 probably came from a once top secret balloon operation, Project MOGUL, designed to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests. (92)

Circa 1984, a series of documents surfaced which some UFOlogists said proved that President Truman created a top secret committee in 1947, Majestic-12, to secure the recovery of UFO wreckage from Roswell and any other UFO crash sight for scientific study and to examine any alien bodies recovered from such sites. Most if not all of these documents have proved to be fabrications. Yet the controversy persists. (93)

Like the JFK assassination conspiracy theories, the UFO issue probably will not go away soon, no matter what the Agency does or says. The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to traditional scientific studies of rational explanation and evidence.

Notes

(1) See the 1973 Gallup Poll results printed in *The New York Times,* 29 November 1973, p. 45 and Philip J. Klass, *UFOs: The Public Deceived* (New York: Prometheus Books, 1983), p. 3.

(2) See Klass, *UFOs,* p. 3; James S. Gordon, "The UFO Experience," *Atlantic Monthly* (August 1991), pp. 82-92; David Michael Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy in America* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975); Howard Blum, *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990); Timothy Good, *Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up* (New York: William Morrow, 1987); and Whitley Strieber, Communion: *The True Story* (New York: Morrow, 1987).

(3) In September 1993 John Peterson, an acquaintance of Woolsey's, first approached the DCI with a package of heavily sanitized CIA material on UFOs released to UFOlogist Stanton T. Friedman. Peterson and Friedman wanted to know the reasons for the redactions. Woolsey agreed to look into the matter. See Richard J. Warshaw, Executive Assistant, note to author, 1 November 1994; Warshaw, note to John H. Wright, Information and Privacy Coordinator, 31 January 1994; and Wright, memorandum to Executive Secretariat, 2 March 1994. (Except where noted, all citations to CIA records in this article are to the records collected for the 1994 Agency-wide search that are held

by the Executive Assistant to the DCI).

(4) See Hector Quintanilla, Jr., "The Investigation of UFOs," Vol. 10, No. 4, *Studies in Intelligence* (fall 1966): pp.95-110 and CIA, unsigned memorandum, "Flying Saucers," 14 August 1952. See also Good, *Above Top Secret,* p. 253. During World War II, US pilots reported "foo fighters" (bright lights trailing US aircraft). Fearing they might be Japanese or German secret weapons, OSS investigated but could find no concrete evidence of enemy weapons and often filed such reports in the "crackpot" category. The OSS also investigated possible sightings of German V-1 and V-2 rockets before their operational use during the war. See Jacobs, *UFO Controversy,* p. 33. The Central Intelligence Group, the predecessor of the CIA, also monitored reports of "ghost rockets" in Sweden in 1946. See CIG, Intelligence Report, 9 April 1947.

(5) Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 156 and Quintanilla, "The Investigation of UFOs," p. 97.

(6) See US Air Force, Air Material Command, "Unidentified Aerial Objects: Project SIGN, no. F-TR 2274, IA, February 1949, Records of the US Air Force Commands, Activities and Organizations, Record Group 341, National Archives, Washington, DC.

(7) See US Air Force, *Projects GRUDGE and BLUEBOOK Reports 1- 12* (Washington, DC; National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1968) and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* pp. 50-54.

(8) See Cabell, memorandum to Commanding Generals Major Air Commands, "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft," 8 September 1950 and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 65.

(9) See Air Force, *Projects GRUDGE and BLUE BOOK* and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 67.

(10) See Edward Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI, "Flying Saucers," 1 August 1952. See also United Kingdom, Report by the "Flying Saucer" Working Party, "Unidentified Flying Objects," no date (approximately 1950).

(11) See Dr. Stone, OSI, memorandum to Dr. Willard Machle, OSI, 15 March 1949 and Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum for DDI, "Recent Sightings of Unexplained Objects," 29 July 1952.

(12) Stone, memorandum to Machle. See also Clark, memorandum for DDI, 29 July 1952.

(13) See Klass, UFOs, p. 15. For a brief review of the Washington sightings see Good, *Above Top Secret,* pp. 269-271.

(14) See Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum to DDI Robert Amory, Jr., 29 July 1952. OSI and OCI were in the Directorate of Intelligence. Established in 1948, OSI served as the CIA's focal point for the analysis of foreign scientific and technological developments. In 1980, OSI was merged into the Office of Science and Weapons Research. The Office of Current Intelligence (OCI), established on 15 January 1951 was to provide all-source current intelligence to the President and the National Security Council.

(15) Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI (Philip Strong), 1 August 1952.

(16) On 2 January 1952, DCI Walter Bedell Smith created a Deputy Directorate for Intelligence (DDI) composed of six overt CIA organizations--OSI, OCI, Office of Collection and Dissemination, Office National Estimates, Office of Research and Reports, and the Office of Intelligence

Coordination--to produce intelligence analysis for US policymakers.

(17) See Minutes of Branch Chief's Meeting, 11 August 1952.

(18) Smith expressed his opinions at a meeting in the DCI Conference Room attended by his top officers. See Deputy Chief, Requirements Staff, FI, memorandum for Deputy Director, Plans, "Flying Saucers," 20 August 1952, Directorate of Operations Records, Information Management Staff, Job 86-00538R, Box 1.

(19) See CIA memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 11 August 1952.

(20) See CIA, memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 14 August 1952.

(21) See CIA, memorandum, unsigned, "Flying Saucers," 19 August 1952.

(22) See Chadwell, memorandum for Smith, 17 September 1952 and 24 September 1952, "Flying Saucers." See also Chadwell, memorandum for DCI Smith, 2 October 1952 and Klass, *UFOs,* pp. 23-26.

(23) Chadwell, memorandum for DCI with attachments, 2 December 1952. See also Klass, *UFOs,* pp. 26-27 and Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952.

(24) See Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952 and Chadwell, memorandum, "Approval in Principle - External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects," no date. See also Philip G. Strong, OSI, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Executive Vice President and Provost, MIT and Dr. Max Millikan, Director of CENIS." Strong believed that in order to undertake such a review they would need the full backing and support of DCI Smith.

(25) See Chadwell, memorandum for DCI, ""Unidentified Flying Objects," 2 December 1952. See also Chadwell, memorandum for Amory, DDI, "Approval in Principle - External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects," no date.

(26) The IAC was created in 1947 to serve as a coordinating body in establishing intelligence requirements. Chaired by the DCI, the IAC included representatives from the Department of State, the Army, the Air Force, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the FBI, and the AEC.

(27) See Klass, *UFOs,* p. 27.

(28) See Richard D. Drain, Acting Secretary, IAC, "Minutes of Meeting held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, CIA," 4 December 1952.

(29) See Chadwell, memorandum for the record, "British Activity in the Field of UFOs," 18 December 1952.

(30) See Chadwell, memorandum for DCI, "Consultants for Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects," 9 January 1953; Curtis Peebles, *Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994). pp. 73-90; and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* pp. 91-92.

(31) See Fred C. Durant III, Report on the Robertson Panel Meeting, January 1953. Durant, on contract with OSI and a past president of the American Rocket Society, attended the Robertson panel meetings and wrote a summary of the proceedings.

(32) See Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects (the Robertson Report), 17 January 1953 and the Durant report on the panel discussions.

(33) See Robertson Report and Durant Report. See also Good, *Above Top Secret,* pp. 337-38, Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 95, and Klass, *UFO's,* pp. 28-29.

(34) See Reber, memorandum to IAC, 18 February 1953.

(35) See Chadwell, memorandum for DDI, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 10 February 1953; Chadwell, letter to Robertson, 28 January 1953; and Reber, memorandum for IAC, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 18 February 1953. On briefing the ONE, see Durant, memorandum for the record, "Briefing of ONE Board on Unidentified Flying Objects," 30 January 1953 and CIA Summary disseminated to the field, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 6 February 1953.

(36) See Chadwell, letter to Julius A. Stratton, Provost MIT, 27 January 1953.

(37) See Chadwell, memorandum for Chief, Physics and Electronics Division/OSI (Todos M. Odarenko), "Unidentified Flying Objects," 27 May 1953.

(38) See Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 3 July 1953. See also Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Current Status of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOB) Project," 17 December 1953.

(39) See Odarenko, memorandum, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 8 August 1955.

(40) See FBIS, report, "Military Unconventional Aircraft," 18 August 1953 and various reports, "Military-Air, Unconventional Aircraft," 1953, 1954, 1955.

(41) Developed by the Canadian affiliate of Britain's A. V. Roe, Ltd., Project Y did produce a small-scale model that hovered a few feet off the ground. See Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Flying Saucer Type of Planes" 25 May 1954; Frederic C. E. Oder, memorandum to Odarenko, "USAF Project Y," 21 May 1954; and Odarenko, T. M. Nordbeck, Ops/SI, and Sidney Graybeal, ASD/SI, memorandum for the record, "Intelligence Responsibilities for Non-Conventional Types of Air Vehicles," 14 June 1954.

(42) See Reuben Efron, memorandum, "Observation of Flying Object Near Baku," 13 October 1955; Scoville, memorandum for the record, "Interview with Senator Richard B. Russell," 27 October 1955; and Wilton E. Lexow, memorandum for information, "Reported Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft," 19 October 1955.

(43) See Lexow, memorandum for information, "Reported Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft," 19 October 1955. See also Frank C. Bolser, memorandum for George C. Miller, Deputy Chief, SAD/SI, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers, Check On;" Lexow, memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers, Follow Up On," 17 December 1954; Lexow, memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers," 1 December 1954; and A. H. Sullivan, Jr., memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers," 24 November 1954.

(44) See Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach, *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954-1974* (Washington, DC: CIA History Staff, 1992), pp. 72-73.

(45) See Pedlow and Welzenbach, *Overhead Reconnaissance,* pp. 72-73. This also was confirmed in a telephone interview between the author and John Parongosky, 26 July 1994. Parongosky oversaw

the day-to-day affairs of the OXCART program.

(46) See Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 135.

(47) See Peebles, *Watch the Skies,* pp. 128-146; Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday, 1956); Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (New York: Holt, 1955); and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* pp. 347-49.

(48) See Strong, letter to Lloyd W. Berkner; Strong, letter to Thorton Page; Strong, letter to Robertson; Strong, letter to Samuel Goudsmit; Strong, letter to Luis Alvarez, 20 December 1957; and Strong, memorandum for Major James F. Byrne, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence Department of the Air Force, "Declassification of the `Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects,'" 20 December 1957. See also Berkner, letter to Strong, 20 November 1957 and Page, letter to Strong, 4 December 1957. The panel members were also reluctant to have their association with the Agency released.

(49) See Wilton E. Lexow, memorandum for the record, "Comments on Letters Dealing with Unidentified Flying Objects," 4 April 1958; J. S. Earman, letter to Major Lawrence J. Tacker, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Information Service, 4 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Berkner, 8 April 1958; Berkner, letter to Davidson, 18 April 1958; Berkner, letter to Strong, 21 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Tacker, 27 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Allen Dulles, 27 April 1958; Ruppelt, letter to Davidson, 7 May 1958; Strong, letter to Berkner, 8 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Berkner, 8 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Earman, 16 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Goudsmit, 18 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Page, 18 May 1958; and Tacker, letter to Davidson, 20 May 1958.

(50) See Lexow, memorandum for Chapin, 28 July 1958.

(51) See Good, *Above Top Secret,* pp. 346-47; Lexow, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with the Air Force Personnel Concerning Scientific Advisory Panel Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, dated 17 January 1953 (S)," 16 May 1958. See also La Rae L. Teel, Deputy Division Chief, ASD, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with Mr. Chapin on Replying to Leon Davidson's UFO Letter and Subsequent Telephone Conversation with Major Thacker, [sic]" 22 May 1958.

(52) See Edwin M. Ashcraft, Chief, Contact Division (Scientific), memorandum to Chief, Chicago Office, "Radio Code Recording," 4 March 1955 and Ashcraft, memorandum to Chief, Support Branch, OSI, 17 March 1955.

(53) The Contact Division was created to collect foreign intelligence information from sources within the United States. See the Directorate of Intelligence Historical Series, *The Origin and Development of Contact Division, 11 July 1946-1 July 1965* (Washington, DC; CIA Historical Staff, June 1969).

(54) See George O. Forrest, Chief, Chicago Office, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division for Science, 11 March 1955.

(55) See Support Division (Connell), memorandum to Dewelt E. Walker, 25 April 1957.

(56) See J. Arnold Shaw, Assistant to the Director, letter to Davidson, 10 May 1957.

(57) See Support (Connell) memorandum to Lt. Col. V. Skakich, 27 August 1957 and Lamountain, memorandum to Support (Connell), 20 December 1957.

(58) See Lamountain, cable to Support (Connell), 31 July 1958.

(59) See Support (Connell) cable to Skakich, 3 October 1957 and Skakich, cable to Connell, 9 October 1957.

(60) See Skakich, cable to Connell, 9 October 1957.

(61) See R. P. B. Lohmann, memorandum for Chief, Contact Division, DO, 9 January 1958.

(62) See Support, cable to Skakich, 20 February 1958 and Connell (Support) cable to Lamountain, 19 December 1957.

(63) See Edwin M. Ashcraft, Chief, Contact Division, Office of Operations, memorandum for Austin Bricker, Jr., Assistant to the Director, "Inquiry by Major Donald E. Keyhoe on John Hazen's Association with the Agency," 22 January 1959.

(64) See John T. Hazen, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division, 12 December 1957. See also Ashcraft, memorandum to Cleveland Resident Agent, "Ralph E. Mayher," 20 December 1957. According to this memorandum, the photographs were viewed at "a high level and returned to us without comment." The Air Force held the original negatives. The CIA records were probably destroyed.

(65) The issue would resurface in the 1970s with the GSW FOIA court case.

(66) See Robert Amory, Jr., DDI, memorandum for Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence, "Flying Saucers," 26 March 1956. See also Wallace R. Lamphire, Office of the Director, Planning and Coordination Staff, memorandum for Richard M. Bissell, Jr., "Unidentified Flying Saucers (UFO)," 11 June 1957; Philip Strong, memorandum for the Director, NPIC, "Reported Photography of Unidentified Flying Objects," 27 October 1958; Scoville, memorandum to Lawrence Houston, Legislative Counsel, "Reply to Honorable Joseph E. Garth," 12 July 1961; and Houston, letter to Garth, 13 July 1961.

(67) See, for example, Davidson, letter to Congressman Joseph Garth, 26 June 1961 and Carl Vinson, Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, letter to Rep. Robert A. Everett, 2 September 1964.

(68) See Maxwell W. Hunter, staff member, National Aeronautics and Space Council, Executive Office of the President, memorandum for Robert F. Parkard, Office of International Scientific Affairs, Department of State, "Thoughts on the Space Alien Race Question," 18 July 1963, File SP 16, Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, National Archives. See also F. J. Sheridan, Chief, Washington Office, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division, "National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)," 25 January 1965.

(69) Chamberlain, memorandum for DCI, "Evaluation of UFOs," 26 January 1965.

(70) See Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy,* p. 199 and US Air Force, Scientific Advisory Board, Ad Hoc Committee (O'Brien Committee) to Review Project BLUE BOOK, *Special Report* (Washington, DC: 1966). See also *The New York Times,* 14 August 1966, p. 70.

(71) See "Congress Reassured on Space Visits," The New York Times, 6 April 1966.

(72) Weber, letter to Col. Gerald E. Jorgensen, Chief, Community Relations Division, Office of Information, US Air Force, 15 August 1966. The Durant report was a detailed summary of the Robertson panel proceedings.

(73) See John Lear, "The Disputed CIA Document on UFOs," *Saturday Review* (September 3, 1966),

p. 45. The Lear article was otherwise unsympathetic to UFO sightings and the possibility that extraterritorials were involved. The Air Force had been eager to provide Lear with the full report. See Walter L. Mackey, Executive Officer, memorandum for DCI, "Air Force Request to Declassify CIA Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)," 1 September 1966.

(74) See Klass, UFOs, p. 40, Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 214 and Everet Clark, "Physicist Scores `Saucer Status,'" *The New York Times*, 21 October 1966. See also James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," submitted to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 29 July 1968.

(75) Condon is quoted in Walter Sullivan, "3 Aides Selected in Saucer Inquiry," *The New York Times*, 8 October 1966. See also "An Outspoken Scientist, Edward Uhler Condon," *The New York Times*, 8 October 1966. Condon, an outgoing, gruff scientist, had earlier become embroiled in a controversy with the House Unamerican Activities Committee that claimed Condon was "one of the weakest links in our atomic security." See also Peebles, Watch the Skies, pp. 169-195.

(76) See Lundahl, memorandum for DDI, 7 February 1967.

(77) See memorandum for the record, "Visit of Dr. Condon to NPIC, 20 February 1967," 23 February 1967. See also the analysis of the photographs in memorandum for Lundahl, "Photo Analysis of UFO Photography," 17 February 1967.

(78) See memorandum for the record, "UFO Briefing for Dr. Edward Condon, 5 May 1967," 8 May 1967 and attached "Guidelines to UFO Photographers and UFO Photographic Information Sheet." See also Condon Committee, Press Release, 1 May 1967 and Klass, *UFOs*, p. 41. The Zaneville photographs turned out to be a hoax.

(79) See Edward U. Condon, Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects (New York: Bantam Books, 1969) and Klass, UFOs, p. 41. The report contained the Durant report with only minor deletions.

(80) See Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, News Release, "Air Force to Terminate Project BLUEBOOK," 17 December 1969. The Air Force retired BLUEBOOK records to the USAF Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. In 1976 the Air Force turned over all BLUEBOOK files to the National Archives and Records Administration, which made them available to the public without major restrictions. Some names have been withheld from the documents. See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 6.

(81) GSW was a small group of UFO buffs based in Phoenix, Arizona, and headed by William H. Spaulding.

(82) See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 8.

(83) See Wilson, letter to Spaulding, 26 March 1976 and GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859.

(84) GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859, p. 2.

(85) Author interview with Launie Ziebell, 23 June 1994 and author interview with OSI analyst, 21 July 1994. See also affidavits of George Owens, CIA Information and Privacy Act Coordinator; Karl H. Weber, OSI; Sidney D. Stembridge, Office of Security; and Rutledge P. Hazzard, DS&T; GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859 and Sayre Stevens, Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment, memorandum for Thomas H. White, Assistant for Information, Information Review Committee, "FOIA Litigation Ground Saucer Watch," no date.

(86) See "CIA Papers Detail UFO Surveillance," *The New York Times,* 13 January 1979; Patrick Huyghe, "UFO Files: The Untold Story," *The New York Times Magazine,* 14 October 1979, p. 106; and Jerome Clark, "UFO Update," *UFO Report,* August 1979.

(87) Jerome Clark, "Latest UFO News Briefs From Around the World," *UFO Update,* August 1979 and GSW v. CIA Civil Action No. 78-859.

(88) See Wortman, memorandum for DCI Turner, "Your Question, `Are we in UFOs?' Annotated to The *New York Times* News Release Article," 18 January 1979.

(89) See GSW v. CIA Civil Action 78-859. See also Klass, *UFOs,* pp. 10-12.

(90) See John Brennan, memorandum for Richard Warshaw, Executive Assistant, DCI, "Requested Information on UFOs," 30 September 1993; Author interviews with OSWR analyst, 14 June 1994 and OSI analyst, 21 July 1994. This author found almost no documentation on Agency involvement with UFOs in the 1980s.

There is a DIA Psychic Center and the NSA studies parapsychology, that branch of psychology that deals with the investigation of such psychic phenomena as clairvoyance, extrasensory perception, and telepathy. The CIA reportedly is also a member of an Incident Response Team to investigate UFO landings, if one should occur. This team has never met. The lack of solid CIA documentation on Agency UFO-related activities in the 1980s leaves the entire issue somewhat murky for this period.

Much of the UFO literature presently focuses on contactees and abductees. See John E. Mack, *Abduction, Human Encounters with Aliens* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994) and Howard Blum, *Out There* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990).

(91) See Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore, *The Roswell Incident* (New York: Berkeley Books, 1988); Moore, "The Roswell Incident: New Evidence in the Search for a Crashed UFO," (Burbank, California: Fair Witness Project, 1982), Publication Number 1201; and Klass, *UFOs,* pp. 280-281. In 1994 Congressman Steven H. Schiff (R-NM) called for an official study of the Roswell incident. The GAO is conducting a separate investigation of the incident. The CIA is not involved in the investigation. See Klass, *UFOs,* pp. 279-281; John H. Wright, Information and Privacy Coordinator, letter to Derek Skreen, 20 September 1993; and OSWR analyst interview. See also the made-for-TV film, *Roswell,* which appeared on cable TV on 31 July 1994 and Peebles, *Watch the Skies,* pp. 245-251.

(92) See John Diamond, "Air Force Probes 1947 UFO Claim Findings Are Down to Earth," 9 September 1994, Associated Press release; William J. Broad, "Wreckage of a `Spaceship': Of This Earth (and U.S.)," *The New York Times,* 18 September 1994, p. 1; and USAF Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1st Lt. James McAndrew, *The Roswell Report, Fact Versus Fiction in New Mexico Desert* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1995).

(93) See Good, *Above Top Secret;* Moore and S. T. Friedman, "Philip Klass and MJ-12: What are the Facts," (Burbank California: Fair-Witness Project, 1988), Publication Number 1290; Klass, "New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax," *Skeptical Inquirer,* vol. 14 (Winter 1990); and Moore and Jaime H. Shandera, *The MJ-12 Documents: An Analytical Report* (Burbank, California: Fair-Witness Project, 1990), Publication Number 1500. Walter Bedell Smith supposedly replaced Forrestal on 1 August 1950 following Forrestal's death. All members listed were deceased when the MJ-12 "documents" surfaced in 1984. See Peebles, *Watch the Skies,* pp. 258-268.

Dr. Larry Bland, editor of *The George C. Marshall Papers,* discovered that one of the so-called

Majestic-12 documents was a complete fraud. It contained the exact same language as a letter from Marshall to Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey regarding the "Magic" intercepts in 1944. The dates and names had been altered and "Magic" changed to "Majic." Moreover, it was a photocopy, not an original. No original MJ-12 documents have ever surfaced. Telephone conversation between the author and Bland, 29 August 1994.

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with the compliments of

Ministry of Defence

Sec (AS) - Section 40 [redacted]

Key e-mail, 9 Dec 97 re Pers File

Attached DEFE 10/496 + 497 extract to be released early 1998 (date to be determined)

6 of the 7 items were released in '96 (DEFE 41/74, 75 + 76)

Also attached extract from AIR 22/93 - this might include part of the 'lost' Report No 7.

Section 40 [redacted]

10 Dec 97

Hd Sec(AS)

MOD Form 195 (7/94)

DEFE 10/496 (EXTRACT) 64/1

SECRET

D.S.I./J.T.I.C. Series

21 NUMBER

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JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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Section 40

I guess we'll have to play it by ear —

could be a rocky ride.

I wonder what other files/papers we don't know about!

Section 40 Section 40

Section 40

Oh Dear!

This makes our line no interest in "flying saucers" look suspect. I know not now but may be then.

Also makes it look like we were in Cahoots with the Americans on this subject ---- Oh dear

Section 40

D.S.I./J.T.I.C.

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			13. PURCHASES OF MERCURY BY RUSSIA.
			14. METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.
			15. VISITS TO FACTORIES ABROAD.
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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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8. ORGANISATION OF COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS — SECRET

The Meeting had under consideration a note by the Deputy Director of Scientific Intelligence concerning the above subject (Paper No. DSI/JTIC (50) 11).

MR. YOUNG said he had wished to be satisfied that there was the organisation for speedily informing departments such as D.S.I. of incidents similar to the appearance in the English Channel of the Russian trawlers in order that necessary operations could be mounted. He also thought that there should be some inter-service body responsible for co-ordinating proposed operations.

MR. TURNEY thought that the Joint Intelligence Committee was the body responsible for executive action.

The view was also expressed that the delay in working through the Committee organisation would be unacceptable and that it was desirable for incidents to be reported direct to D.S.I. in order that immediate action could be taken.

After further discussion THE CHAIRMAN summed up by saying that he thought the Joint Intelligence Committee was the right body to deal with the problems he had raised but that it would be necessary to ensure that D.S.I. was kept informed and fully consulted. He would bring out these points at the next J.I.C. meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Took note that THE CHAIRMAN would be raising the subject at the next meeting of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

[redacted] (50) 10th mtg

[redacted] SECRET

THE CHAIRMAN said that Sir Henry Tizard felt that reports of flying saucers ought not to be dismissed without some investigation and he had, therefore, agreed that a small D.S.I./J.T.I.C. Working Party should be set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Turney to investigate future reports.

X After discussion it was agreed that the membership of the Working Party should comprise representatives of D.S.I.1, A.D.N.I.(Tech.), M.I.10 and A.D.I.(Tech.). It was also agreed that it would probably be necessary at some time to consult the Meteorological Department and O.R.S. Fighter Command but that these two bodies should not at present be asked to nominate representatives.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

(1) Approved the setting up of a Working Party on Flying Saucers.

(2) Invited the branches mentioned at X above to inform Mr. Turney of their nominations to the Working Party.

4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

THE CHAIRMAN reported on Dr. Truscoe's visit to the International Physiological Conference at Copenhagen from 12th - 15th August. A D.S.I. Report on this subject will be issued. Since there seemed reason to suppose that International Conferences may be a fruitful source of Intelligence in the future, the Chairman informed the Joint Meeting that Branch representatives were being nominated to watch D.S.I. interests in connection with this subject. Nominations so far were:-

D.S.I. 1 - No nomination as yet
D.S.I. 2 - Dr. Griffiths - Mr. Gater
D.S.I. 3 - Dr. Manders

MR. GARRARD said he hoped to supply a nominee for D.S.I. 1 in a few days.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Took note of the above statement.

5. KOREA - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE
(Previous reference: D.S.I./J.T.I.C.(50) 10th Meeting, Minute 5)

THE CHAIRMAN asked for a review of the subject in accordance with the decision at the previous meeting.

COL. NEVILLE stated that Air ~~Marshal~~ VICE Bouchier was in touch with General MacArthur in Tokio and all arrangements were progressing favourably.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

(1) Agreed that the arrangements being made for the procurement of Scientific and Technical Intelligence on Korea were satisfactory.

(2) Agreed to review the subject at each subsequent meeting.

DSI / JTIC (50) 11th Mtg

[redacted]
(Previous reference: D.S.I./J.T.I.C.(50) 10th Meeting, Minute 9)

THE JOINT MEETING had under consideration the proposed Terms of Reference* for the Working Party.

MR. TURNEY suggested that No.3. should read: "to report to DSI/JTIC as necessary".

* DSID/50/315

WING COMMANDER FORMBY suggested that No.2 should read: "To examine from now on the evidence on which reports of British origin of phenomena attributed to 'Flying Saucers' are based".

He also suggested a new No.4. as follows: "To keep in touch with American occurrences and evaluation of such."

After discussion it was agreed to amend the Terms of Reference accordingly.

WING COMMANDER FORMBY said that, as requested, he had informed Headquarters, Fighter Command, of the existence of this Working Party.

MR. TURNEY stated that so far he had not received the nominations called for under conclusion (2) of the last meeting. This was, no doubt, due to misunderstanding as the marginal side-line had inadvertently been incorrectly shown on the record of the meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

(1) Agreed to the amendments suggested by Mr. Turney and the amendments and addition suggested by Wing Commander Formby.

(2) Noted that Wing Commander Formby had informed Headquarters, Fighter Command, of the existence of the Working Party.

7. THE USING OF FIRMS FOR OBTAINING OVERT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he hoped very shortly to visit the Director of Research, Engineering Electrical Company, as a first experiment. He would be accompanied by a J.I.B. Representative.

In discussion it was agreed that the use of firms ought to prove a valuable source.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Took note of the statement by the Chairman.

8. SERVICE TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN OVERSEAS EMBASSIES

THE JOINT MEETING considered the question of visits by such officers to firms or departments of firms with a view to ensuring there was no duplication of effort.

10. STAFF CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON TOP SECRET GUARD

DR. TRUSCOTT gave a summary of his recent visit to Washington in connection with the above Conference. In the course of his summary he expressed the view that American Intelligence Machinery was now equal to the British and might well surpass it in the very near future, as they were putting in greater efforts in manpower and money. He was also impressed with their Indexing System and suggested discussing the subject with Mrs. Dunne.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Thanked Dr. Truscott for his interesting account of his visit.

DSI/JTIC(50) 14th Mtg

[redacted] SECRET

(Previous reference DSI/JTIC(50) 11th Mtg, Minute 6).

MR. YOUNG stated that the above Working Party had now held its first meeting and Mr. Turney sought the approval of the Committee to alterations in the Terms of Reference.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Approved the revised Terms of Reference for the above Working Party.

[redacted]

12. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRET

MR. YOUNG informed the Joint Meeting that Professor Stratton had reported to him on a meeting he attended in Stockholm, to make arrangements for the meeting of the International Astronimical Union in Moscow in August 1951. He met several Russians and reported: (a) Russians behave very differently when outside the Iron Curtain; (b) they read and carry about English and American newspapers; (c) they listen to B.B.C. broadcasts at set-home in Russia and (d) they had read controversial articles in "Nature" like Huxley's on Lysenko. Professor Stratton had promised to watch our interests when he attends the 1951 Meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:

Took note of the above statement by Mr. Young

TOP SECRET

ANNEX

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING PARTY ON FLYING SAUCERS, AS AGREED AT DSI/JMC(50) 14th MEETING. SECRET

1. To review the available evidence in reports of "Flying Saucers".

2. To examine the evidence on which future reports of British origin of phenomena attributed to "Flying Saucers" are based.

3. To report as requisite.

TOP SECRET

WING COMMANDER FORMBY said that the Working Party of which he was now Chairman, had met that morning and had agreed that,

(a) It would be more appropriate for them to be called the Guided Missiles Working Party.

(b) They were not in favour of increasing the membership as it would tend to make the Party top-heavy.

(c) That their "Terms of Reference" should be revised on the lines of the draft they had prepared and which he would submit.

COMMANDER ELLUM wondered whether it would not be more advantageous for the fuels aspect of guided missiles - for which DSI/2 representation on the Working Party was principally sought - to be examined by a separate body and for this purpose it might be worth considering the advisability of reintroducing the now defunct Fuels Working Party.

After full discussion, the JOINT MEETING agreed that:

(i) The Guided Weapons Working Party should henceforth be known as the Guided Missiles Working Party and reconstituted as at Annex. to include DSI/2 representation

(ii) The position be reviewed in six months' time.

(iii) Commander Ellum be invited to report on the advisability of reconstituting the Fuels Working Party.

DSI/JTIc(51) 5th Mtg (6)

[redacted] Working Party

THE CHAIRMAN said that as further information was still awaited, he suggested that the decision whether this Party should remain in being should be deferred for six months.

The JOINT MEETING agreed with the above suggestion.

TOP SECRET

7. "DRAGON RETURN"
(Previous reference: DSI/JTIC (50) 16th Mtg., Min.9)

THE CHAIRMAN said that they had not discussed this operation for some time and he invited Dr. Lees and Wing Commander Formby to give the Joint Meeting the latest information they had on the subject.

DR. LEES said that three or four returnees had been interrogated, but the results had been rather disappointing; Mr. Graham was in Herford at the moment and on his return he (Dr. Lees) would be in a position to report more fully and perhaps more favourably.

WING COMMANDER FORMBY told the Joint Meeting that the yield from his angle had been very good, both as regards aircraft and guided missiles intelligence.

THE JOINT MEETING took note.

6. "SHAPE"

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS said that his Branch was somewhat uneasy about the position of field teams and he was very anxious to preserve direct linkage. He was therefore preparing a brief for ACSI to enable him to present a case to General Airey before liaison arrangements had become finally agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN thought that the Joint Meeting would be interested to learn the outcome, and invited Group Captain Collins to keep them informed.

THE CHAIRMAN went on to say that he thought that the inclusion of "SHAPE" as a regular item on the Agenda of the Joint Meeting had now served its purpose and suggested that it should be omitted in the future.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note and agreed that "SHAPE" should no longer be a regular item on the Agenda, but that anything pertaining thereto, should be raised under "Any Other Business".

7. METHODS OF IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE ON RUSSIAN ELECTRONICS

The JOINT MEETING had before them a note ϕ by the Secretary covering extracts from the recent Joint US/UK Electronics Study.

DR. LEES, who sponsored the paper, said that he thought it would be sufficient at this stage, if the Joint Meeting approved the principles involved, as a further document was being prepared for the consideration of the Joint Meeting and for ultimate submission to JIC.

The JOINT MEETING:

Approved the paper subject to the deletion of the word "military" in paragraph (a), line 4, and deferred further discussion until the document referred to at "X" above was ready for consideration.

ϕ DSI/JTIC(51)10

DSI/JTIC(51) 11th mtg

The JOINT MEETING had before them a Report ϕ by the "Flying Saucers" Working Party.

MR. TURNEY said that he thought that the document should be regarded as a final report by the Working Party and in view of the conclusions reached, suggested that it should now be dissolved.

He went on to say, that following the lead given by the Americans on this subject, the Report should he thought, have as little publicity as possible and outside circulation should be confined to one copy to Sir Henry Tizard.

The JOINT MEETING:

(i) Approved the Report.

(ii) Agreed that the "Flying Saucers" Working Party should be dissolved forthwith, and

(iii) Invited the Chairman to forward a copy of the Report to Sir Henry Tizard.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Intelligence in China

THE CHAIRMAN said that he had learnt of the existence of a Father Gherzi who was the Head of a Meteorological Mission at MACAO and was, he understood, an authority on Typhoons and Ionospherics. He suggested that TCS might like to pass the information to their representative in Hong Kong.

DR. FERRIDAY thought that it was more than likely that contact had already been made, but he would make enquiries and report.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note with approval.

(b) GCHQ

MR. YOUNG said that Mr. Coulson would be bringing the GCHQ, Washington Liaison Officer to see Heads of Branches tomorrow and he suggested that it would be an opportune moment for him to meet Dr. Chadwell.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note and invited Mr. Young to make the necessary arrangements.

(c) ~~Overseas~~ AD T OVERSEAS Science ~~Working~~ Party

DR. LEES said that since the Ministry of Defence had assumed administration of this ~~Working~~ Party, the Air Ministry had been somewhat divided in continuing

Defe 10/497 (EXTRACT)

SECRET

D.S.I./J.T.I.C. Serie

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND
JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

No. of Meeting	Date of Meeting	Papers Considered	Subjects Discussed
			1952
17th	23.9.52		1. MR. SNELLING 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3. SOVIET AND SATELLITE WAR POTENTIAL 4. OTHER BUSINESS RUSSIAN RADAR
[redacted]			1. MINUTES OF THE LAST JOINT MEETING 2. PHOTOGRAPHY FOR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE [redacted] OTHER BUSINESS [redacted] PUBLICATION OF EXTRACTS FROM D.S.I./J.T.I.C. REPORT NO. 7 ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS" (b) U.K./U.S. CONFERENCE ON GUIDED WEAPONS
[redacted]			1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [redacted] ACTION ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES [redacted] PUBLICATION OF EXTRACTS FROM D.S.I./J.T.I.C. REPORT NO. 7 ON UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS 3. STUDY OF SOVIET GUIDED WEAPONS 4. AMERICAN GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT 5. RUSSIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 6. GROUND INTELLIGENCE PHOTOGRAPHY 7. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ANGLO-AMERICAN GUIDED WEAPONS CONFERENCE 8. [redacted] VISIT TO AMERICA (a) DSI CANADA (b) THE STANDING GROUP CONFERENCE (c) THE STANDING GROUP INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE (d) (e) J.I.C. WASHINGTON (f) ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE IN U.S.A.

Section 40

(c) That Services provide their own cameras, and to facilitate training and after service, a standardised camera - preferably a "Rebet", COI should be used.

After further discussion the JOINT MEETING:-

(i) Approved the proposal that with the exception of the provision of cameras the Air Ministry should accept responsibility for the photographic needs of all Service Attachés and the distribution of the resulting material to interested agencies and,

(ii) Invited Group Captain Collins in consultation with Captain Whittle, Colonel Moore and J.I.B. to prepare a memorandum for the approval of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. and ultimate submission to J.I.C.

3. OTHER BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL

(a) Publication of Extracts from D.S.I./J.T.I.C. Report No. 7 on "Unidentified Flying Objects"

WING COMMANDER CRIBB informed the Joint Meeting that D.D.I. (Security) Air Ministry were contemplating the issue of a statement on "Flying Saucers" and they had enquired whether the security grading of the D.S.I./J.T.I.C. report could be modified to enable them to make use of certain material contained in the document.

"X" THE CHAIRMAN said that ~~as~~ the ~~document contained infor-~~ subject was of considerable interest to ~~mation derived from~~ Americans ~~sources~~ he felt that the American should be consulted before any decisions were taken. It was his view however that from paragraph 10 onwards it could be declassified, but he would like to see a draft of the Air Ministry statement before it was published.

After further discussion, the JOINT MEETING:-

Invited D.D.I.(Tech.) to convey their views at "X" above to his Security Branch, and to inform the Joint Meeting if and when there were any firm proposals to publish material contained in D.S.I./J.T.I.C. No. 7.

(b) U.K./U.S. Conference on Guided Weapons SECRET

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS gave a brief account of the proceedings. He said that the British team had not achieved complete agreement with the Americans and nothing had emerged from the Conference which materially altered the views they previously held; they had however received several pointers as to where to look for certain information which should help them in making future assessments.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the 18th Meeting were approved subject to the following amendments:-

Item 2(c) " ..... preferably a 'Robot'"
Should read "..... preferably a 'Contax'"

Item 3(a) second paragraph to read:-

"THE CHAIRMAN said that as the subject was of considerable interest to the Americans he felt that they should be consulted before any decision was taken ..... "

2. ACTION ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Publication of extract from Brief Intel Rpt on Unidentified Objects.

Item 3(a). GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS stated that he had conveyed the views of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. to the Air Ministry Security Branch.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Took note.

3. STUDY OF SOVIET GUIDED WEAPONS

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS said that until his papers returned from America he had nothing further to say on the subject.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Took note.

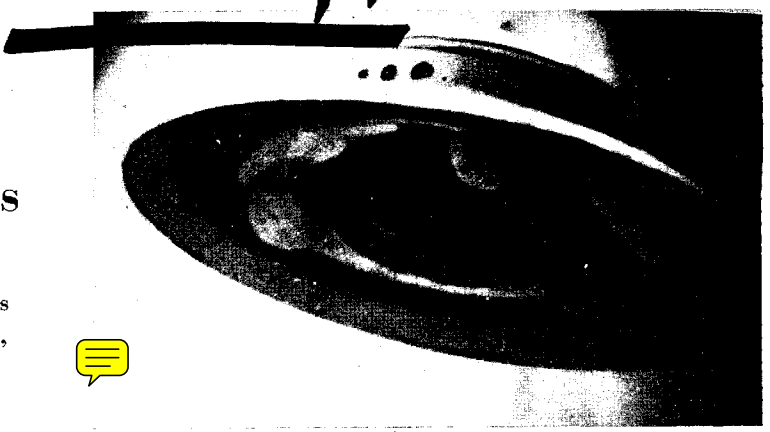
4. AMERICAN GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT

SQUADRON LEADER HEWITT made a statement amplifying his paper*

THE CHAIRMAN thanked him on behalf of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. for his interesting talk, and also, as S/Ldr. Hewitt was leaving, for his work as Secretary of the Guided Weapons Working Party.

* DSI/JTIC (52) 25.

Flying Saucers



"An Object was reported . . ."

The origin of the term "flying saucer," as applied to strange objects sighted in the sky, remains obscure, although authorship is claimed by a British journalist. According to him, whilst sitting in a Bronx café talking with three New York reporters, one of whom was doodling on a piece of paper, he observed that the drawing looked like a "flying saucer." One of the Americans decided that they "had something" there and, within the hour the term was in use. Within two, it is claimed that ninety people had reported having seen one.

(Restricted)

Man has always instinctively looked to the sky for signs and portents, nor has he, even to-day, quite lost his inclination to discern and report celestial manifestations. It is not the object of this article to decry or deprecate such reportings—as Shakespeare wrote "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"—but it is the intention to encourage a rational approach both to the objects themselves and to the method of their reporting.

Generally, reports are of commonplace objects which would normally pass unobserved but which attract attention in the light of more sensational stories, and lend support to them. Thus a meteor or a radio sonde balloon, or even a conventional aircraft, assumes in the perception of some observers speeds, shapes and movements which are entirely uncharacteristic. A well-known astronomer has declared that his experience of the reports of ordinary observers prompts him to reject 95 per cent of what they say, particularly when he knows that they have been startled by a sudden phenomenon which they could have observed for no more than a few seconds.

With such reports we are not seriously concerned. There are a number of other reports on flying saucers which are emphatic statements of visitations from neighbouring planets, and suchlike; these derive both from the imaginings of zealots, admittedly quite serious and sincere in their beliefs, and from charlatans.

VISUAL SIGHTINGS

Reports of sightings themselves reveal certain stereotyped patterns. They usually describe objects as being projectile-shaped, round, oval, or ellipsoidal; they are dazzling-bright, light, shiny, blue-green and generally speaking, irridescent. They move at fantastic speeds in lateral and longitudinal directions; they also hover. Such are the basic lines of description, with inevitable variations.

Practically all of these objects can be roughly identified as follows:—

(*a*) conventional aircraft viewed by the observers from unaccustomed angles

(*b*) present-day jet aircraft, flying at great speeds and great heights, mistaken by untrained and, on occasion, by experienced observers

(*c*) sunlight reflections from aircraft and balloons which themselves are too distant to be observed

(*d*) car headlights reflected on low cloud

(*e*) meteorological, radio sonde and cosmic research balloons of all types

(*f*) bright meteors and fireballs

(*g*) planets observed at certain times of the year

(*h*) birds

(*j*) cloud formations

(*k*) meteorological phenomena, such as mock moons and mock suns.

There are other reports of visual sightings which are admittedly very strange and difficult to classify. They tell of objects which appear to change shape quickly, which move erratically and at fantastic speeds across the sky. Under no consideration could these reports be classified in terms of the objects listed above. It is firmly believed that these reports are made in all sincerity and are in fact

actual sightings—but of reflections from conventional objects.

To give a simple and practical illustration, consider the erratic movements of the reflection on a ceiling from a mirror held under a light and moved even slightly by hand. Similarly, on a vaster and more extended scale, reflections from planets, meteors, aircraft and objects on the ground may be projected on to cloud formations and haze. Then there are the sightings of those planets which are low on the horizon at certain times of the year and which appear to change colour and move erratically, and at fantastic speeds, when observed through haze, or misty atmospheric conditions.

Many reports of such sightings have been received and here is an example of a particular instance where a satisfactory answer was provided. A report made by an experienced B.O.A.C. pilot of a sighting at 19,000 ft. over Goose Bay, Labrador, on Wednesday 30th June 1954 stated that objects had been observed, one primary and six secondary, which " accompanied " the B.O.A.C. aircraft for a distance of about 80 miles ; all the time they were under observation, the main object was constantly changing shape. An investigation was carried out by the Americans who obtained a subsequent report from a ship at sea in the same vicinity. This described what was apparently the same phenomenon. Members of the ship's company, however, definitely identified the sighting as the planet Mars, and gave full details of the mirage conditions which were prevailing on that day.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Of photographic evidence little needs to be said. There is nothing in the world more easy to fake than a photographic film or plate and the majority of photographs which have been seen certainly invite suspicion. There are the few pictures that have been published in the press from time to time which are obviously of natural phenomena, such as mock moons and suns, and which emphasise the probability that the objects in the others are faked.

The two reproductions on pages 3 and 4 illustrate clearly the considerable opportunities for faked photography on this subject. That on page 3 in particular could, so easily, be an industrial or operating theatre lamp-shade complete with bulbs.

RADAR SIGHTINGS

Radar " sightings " constitute the remaining source of flying saucer reports and these reports, generally speaking, fall into certain explainable categories.

Radar Echoes

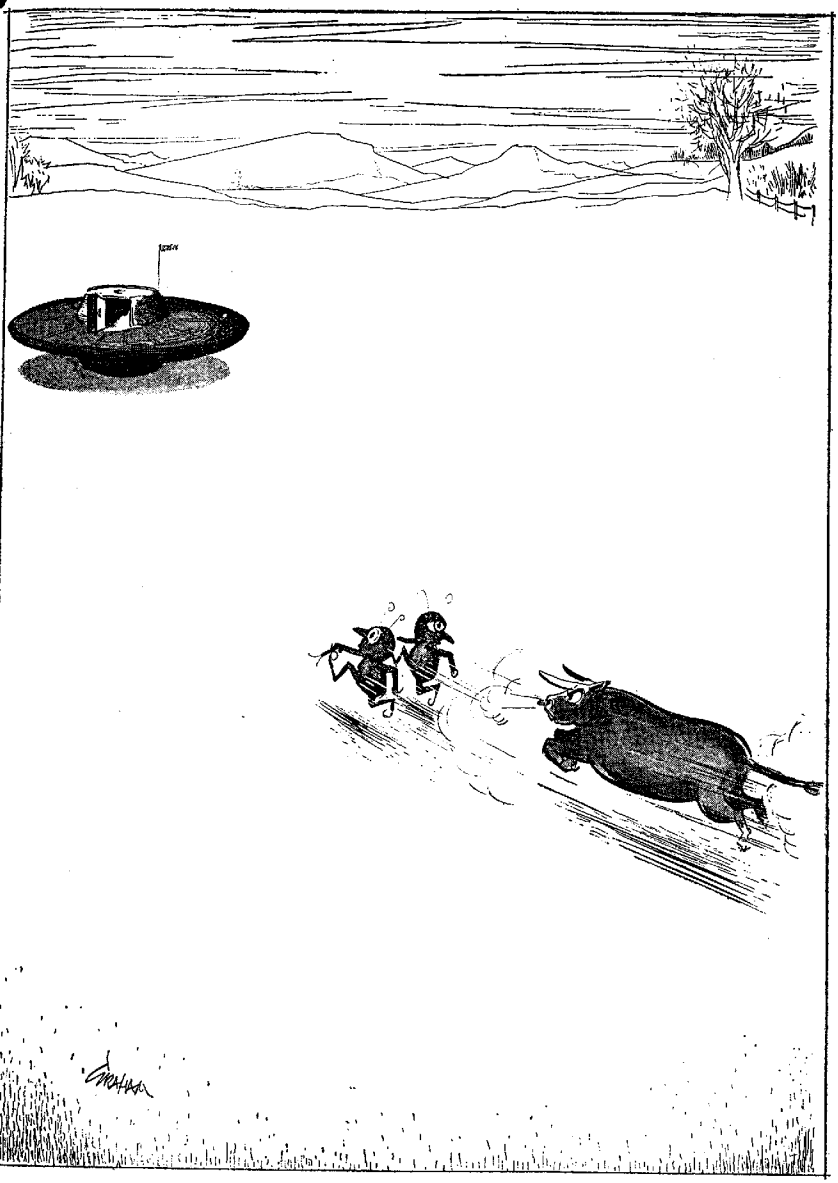
Radar echoes can be produced by a variety of objects, not all of which are visible to the human eye. The majority of solid objects which return radar energy produce responses on the radar operator's tube which are easily recognised : moving objects such as aircraft and birds are normally readily identifiable by the size and shape of the response and by the velocities, altitudes and movement they exhibit. Meteorological balloons might also be included in this group of identifiable objects as they normally produce quite distinctive echoes, particularly as many of them carry reflectors specially designed to assist in the plotting of their course by radar. However, some balloons, such as those used for ionospheric sounding, fly at altitudes beyond the reach of aircraft and travel with the upper winds at speeds often in excess of 100 m.p.h. Radar returns from such balloons, when first encountered, could mystify a radar operator and give the impression that a flying saucer has been sighted. On the rare occasions when reports of unidentified objects have their origin in one of these solid bodies it is usually a comparatively simple matter to identify the object by enquiries addressed to the appropriate authority.

Within a group of radar targets which are not controlled or released by man can be included birds, meteorological and astronomical targets. Birds are of little concern as their smallness prohibits responses from them except at very short ranges but, from the other targets, responses with quite unusual characteristics may be obtained.

Echoes from Precipitation

Radar echoes may be produced by condensed water vapour in the form of raindrops, ice crystals or snow, a phenomenon which has been put to good use in civil aviation to assist pilots in avoiding dangerous cloud formations.

Responses on a radar tube from these targets may cover a considerable area, exhibit irregular, diffused boundaries and have a rapidly fluctuating intensity. Movement will generally be related to the speed of the main air current in which the rain is situated, and it may be anything from zero to 100 m.p.h. or more, whilst the target



altitude may range from ground level to 40,000 ft. Generally the nature of the target is obvious by its size and by the pattern of the responses, but the picture changes with time and may appear unusual and confusing to an inexperienced operator.

Non-Standard Atmospherical Conditions

Under certain meteorological conditions inhomogeneities occur in the atmosphere, and these may be responsible for some unusual radar echoes. The required condition can occur up to heights in the order of 200 miles, but the strength of signals returned from such nebulous targets is likely to be too low to produce a distinguishable response except on very rare occasions. Perhaps it is this very rarity which assists in the creation of another saucer.

Unusual meteorological conditions can also cause radar signals to be returned from objects at distances far in excess of the normal range of the radar equipment. Responses caused by this anomalous propagation are superimposed on the usual radar picture of the area and can lead to confusion. The effect occurs most frequently in tropical and sub-tropical areas and usually persists for an appreciable time, sometimes for an hour or more. The effect is well known and because of its relative stability and duration would not normally give rise to unusual reportings.

Ionised Gases

It has been suggested that ionised gas clouds in the atmosphere produce a type of radio echo which may be confused with those from tangible objects. Although radio energy is undoubtedly reflected and refracted by ionised gases (long distance, short wave communications depend on this very fact) the effect falls off very rapidly above, say, 30 Mc/s, whilst 60 Mc/s appears to be the upper limit at which it has been recorded. Some of the early radar equipment still in use does operate within these frequency limits but it is quite incapable of the definition necessary to contribute to the notion of flying saucers. Further, except for the very short-lived effects in the wake of meteorites, ionised gases in the quantities required appear rarely to exist at heights as low as 35 miles.

Meteors and Meteorites

It has been known for many years that radio energy is reflected by meteors, and knowledge of the fact has proved valuable in the hands of astronomers. Meteors reach the outer fringe of the earth's atmosphere in numbers as high as 100,000 per hour but only very few survive long enough to come within the range of radar, the majority being vaporized by frictional heat. Meteors approach the earth at all angles of incidence, from vertical to glancing, and at velocities in the order of 10,000 m.p.h. Radar responses from these astronomical targets appear to be rare, but such targets may produce responses at any range or altitude, subject only to the capabilities of the radar set itself and to the size of the meteor.

Unlike aircraft and balloons the presence of these meteorological and astronomical targets cannot be verified after the event except in the most general way : by carefully sifting operators' reports, and studying meteorological conditions on the paths of expected meteor showers at the time of the incident, it is often possible to produce a tentative explanation for the responses but, because of the transitory nature of the target, it is seldom conclusive.

Radar Equipment Interference

Another possibility which deserves consideration is interference from other radar equipment. Generally, the cause of this type of spurious response is immediately obvious but it can happen that the characteristics of the two radar sets bear such a relationship that the interference gives rise to one, sometimes two, bright spots on the radar tube, which may for a short time exhibit some of the characteristics of an actual target. Even in this case, the true nature of the response can usually be quickly determined except when the interfering radar set is mobile and the operator is unaware of its presence.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation of reports of flying saucers presents very apparent difficulties, the major one of which is that, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, the scent is completely cold. It is only fair to point out that in every other case, *i.e.* when reports are telephoned and promptly checked on the spot, the sighted object has been identified as a balloon or a conventional aircraft. For the investigation of cold-scent reports there are various media through which information and assistance are obtained: the Royal Observatory and the Meteor Section of the British Astronomical Association give information on meteors, fire balls and all astral phenomena ; the Meteorological Office, Royal Air Force Station, Cardington, London Airport and Bristol University cover radio sonde, cosmic research and other balloons ; Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force units and formations give details of aircraft movements ; and the civil police assist in the investigation of all types of reports.

From these sources has come most of the information leading to the true identity of reported flying saucers, and their co-operation in the tedious processes of investigation is invaluable. An instance is given of a report by a man who, returning home late one night, stated emphatically that he had seen a flying saucer hovering in a field quite a short distance from his point of observation. The " thing," according to his story, hovered and moved slowly up and down. Evidence was obtained from the local police to the effect that on that night, at that time, and in that place, an unfortunate farmer had lost a hayrick by fire !

Generally it can be accepted that, of all reports received, the vast majority are of things identifiable as one of the conventional objects enumerated above ; the remainder are unexplained because the evidence is either too sparse, too vague, or too contradictory.

As a matter of interest, where the reports received are explained it is mainly in terms of meteors, planets, balloons, and aircraft. Noteworthy among the other explanations are included aircraft with rocket-assisted take off, car headlights reflected on low cloud, and the recently adopted navigation lighting system of American civil aircraft.

Conclusion

The civilised world has become conscious or, perhaps it would be more apt to say, it has been made conscious of flying saucers or unidentified flying objects : whenever an airborne body is not clearly recognised as something conventional it becomes a mystery whose magnitude varies according to the observer's susceptibility. Most people are very susceptible to the influence of the Press or the radio. A news item on a flying saucer promptly induces a spate of reported new sightings.

Sensible and rational reporting of unidentified flying objects is the duty of all who are concerned with flying. Apart from astral or meteorological phenomena, which are of interest to specialists in these matters, there is always the chance of observing foreign aircraft of revolutionary design. As for controlled manifestations from outer space, there is no tangible evidence of their existence.

"LC/356805/3/4/F&S

10 Dec 97

Telefax
To: See (AS)2a1
Fax:
From: [redacted]
Date: 10 Dec
Pages: 3

64/1

20

PSO/AOCSS
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor
Sec(AS)2a1
CPRO

REPLY TO [redacted]: RUDLOE MANOR

1. Attached is a copy of the letter I intend to send to [redacted] in reply to his letter of 10 November (not received at HQLC until 5 December). All the information supplied is already in the public domain, either from answers to previous questions or from the Station handbook.

2. With my apologies for the short deadline, would addressees please advise of any amendments required by **COP Thursday 11 December**, after which I will assume a nil return.

[redacted]

CS(Fin Sec)1
F160 [redacted]BRA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 1
10 DEC 1997
FILE

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN Section 40
Fax Section 40

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: 10 December 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 November, addressed to the Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor, about the underground facilities at the station. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Addressing each of your points in turn, I can advise you that there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial life.

RAF Rudloe Manor is built on the site of underground quarries. There are therefore tunnels underneath the station, although most of these are now unused. The lake to which you refer is an emergency water supply, and is one of several in the area. A loop track off the main London to Bristol railway line was established so that ammunition could be stored and distributed safely during World War 2. It was decommissioned in the 1960s and has not been used since.

I am pleased to enclose the photograph you requested of the Manor House, which is used as office accommodation by personnel at RAF Rudloe Manor.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
For Air Officer Commanding in Chief

L033/97
-5 DEC 1997
[illegible]

[redacted]

Royal Air Force
Rudloe Manor
Hawthorn
Wiltshire
SN13 0PQ

10th November 1997

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to ask you what Rudloe Manor has or had to do with UFO reports also about the secret underground levels also the reservoir/lake which you have underground. Also the underground railway line which was constructed during world war two and to what location it goes to also if you could send me any photographs of the manor I will be waiting for your reply

Thanks

[redacted]

[Emergency Water Tank]

3 Sites

Tue 9 Dec, 1997 9:34 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
09/12/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	UFO DATABASE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 09/12/97 at 9:33 Delivered: 09/12/97 at 9:33
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 583
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: UFO DATABASE

Text: Section 40 attach an updated list of "ufo" files selected for preservation. You will notice a number of additions originating from DI (DEFE 10, 31 - the recently discovered files - and 41). Copies of the DEFE 10s are on their way to you. We have not been able to locate the DSI/JTIC report on "Unidentified Flying Objects". Regards Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

TOP ENCLOSURE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES - AS AT 9 DECEMBER 1997

Already open	-	19	
To be released:			
1998	-	14	
1999	-	14	
2000	-	13	
2001	-	12	
2002	-	2	
2003	-	14	(1 awaiting assignment to AIR 2)
Total	**-**	**88**	

AIR CLASSES - RECORDS CREATED OR INHERITED BY THE AIR MINISTRY AND SUCCESSOR, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, AND RELATED BODIES

AIR 2 - AIR MINISTRY: REGISTERED FILES

16918	1961-63	UFO's: sightings; reports by members of the public	AF/X59/64 Pt 5
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17318	1963	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 6
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17526	1964	UFO files	AF/X59/64 Pt 7
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17527	1965	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 8
17982	1965-66	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 9

17983	1966	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 10
	[Pieces 17527, 17982 and 17983 OPEN - released 1997]		
17984	1966-67	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 11
18115	1967	Unidentified flying objects: reports	AF/CX38/67 Pt 1
18116	1967	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 2
	[Pieces 17984, 18115 and 18116 due for release 1998]		
18117	1967-68	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 3
	[Due for release 1999]		
18183	1968-69	Unidentified flying objects	AF/7463/72 Pt 2
	[Due for release 2000]		
18564	1957-71	UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957	
18565	1970-71	UFO Reports	
	[Pieces 18564 and 18565 due for release 2002]		
TBA	April 1972	UFO's	10/45/120
	[Awaiting allocation of piece no. To be released 2003]		

AIR 14 - BOMBER COMMAND

2800	1943	No 115 Squadron: news sheet "Bang On" No 1.	
	[OPEN - released 1972]		

AIR 16 - FIGHTER COMMAND

1199	1952 Sept	Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	IIH1/188/1/17
	[OPEN]		

AIR 20 - UNREGISTERED PAPERS

7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects): reports	II/127/3/48
9320	1957	Parliamentary question on UFO's	MR 008614/193
9321	1957	ditto	MR 008614/213
9322	1957	ditto	MR 008614/220
9994	1953-57	Reports on aerial phenomena	IIH/273/10/4

[Pieces 7390, 9320 - 9322 and 9994 OPEN]

11612	1967-68	Unidentified flying objects	MR 073414
11694	1968 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)512
11695	1968 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)513
11696	1968 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)523

[Pieces 11612, 11694 - 11696 due for release 1999]

11887	1967 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)507
11888	1967 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)508
11889	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
11890	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
11891	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
11892	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
11893	1967 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)511

[Pieces 11887 - 11893 due for release 1998]

11894	1968 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)514
11895	1968 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)515
11896	1968 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)516
11897	1968 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)517

11898	1968 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)518
11899	1968 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)519
11900	1968 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)520
11901	1968 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)521
11902	1968 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)522
	[Pieces 11894 - 11902 due for release 1999]		
12055	1969 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)524
12056	1969 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)525
12057	1969 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)526
12058	1969 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)527
12059	1969 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)528
12060	1969 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)529
12061	1969 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)530
12069	1969 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)531
12063	1969 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)532
12064	1969 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)533
12065	1969 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)534
12066	1969 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)535
	[Pieces 12055 - 12066 due for release 2000]		
12067	1970 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)536
12297	1970 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)537 ID/48/94
12298	1970 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)538 ID/48/95
12299	1970 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)539 ID/48/96
12300	1970 May	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)540 ID/48/97

12301	1970 June	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)541 ID/48/98
12302	1970 July	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)542 ID/48/99
12303	1970 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)543 ID/48/100
12304	1970 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)544 ID/48/101
12305	1970 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)545 ID/48/102
12306	1970 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)546 ID/48/103

[Pieces 12067, 12297 - 12306 due for release 2001]

12399	1971-72	UFO reports	ID/47/274 Pt 4
12400	1972 Jan	ditto	ID/48/117
12401	1972 Feb	ditto	ID/48/118
12401	1972 March	ditto	ID/48/119
12403	1972 April	ditto	ID/48/120
12404	1972 May	ditto	ID/48/121
12405	1972 June	ditto	ID/48/122
12406	1972 July	ditto	ID/48/123
12407	1972 Aug	ditto	ID/48/124
12408	1972 Sept	ditto	ID/48/125
12409	1972 Oct	ditto	ID/48/126
12410	1972 Nov	ditto	ID/48/127
12411	1971 Dec	ditto	ID/48/128

[Pieces 12399-12411 due for release 2003]

AIR 22 – PERIODICAL RETURNS, SUMMARIES AND BULLETINS

93	1955	Air Ministry Secret Summary. Vol 10. No 3 Article on Flying Saucers.	IIG/101

[OPEN – released 1986]

BJ CLASSES – RECORDS OF THE METROLOGICAL OFFICE

BJ5 – ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

311	1968–70	UFO: Met aspects	AF/M 396/68

[Due for release 2001]

DEFE CLASSES – RECORDS CREATED OR INHERITED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE AND RELATED BODIES

DEFE 10 DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

496	1950 April – 1951 Dec	Minutes of meetings
497	1952 Jan – 1954 Oct	Minutes of meetings

[Pieces 496 and 497 due for release 1998]

DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES

118	1958–63	UFO: policy	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt1
119	1963–67	UFO: Policy	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt2

[Pieces 118 and 119 due for release 1998]

DEFE 41 FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH AND OVERSEAS LIAISON BRANCH: REGISTERED FILES

74	1950	DSI/JTIC: minutes	6005/8/D 17 Vol 4
75	1951	DSI/JTIC: minutes	6005/8/D 17 Vol 5
76	1952–54	DSI/JTIC: minutes	6005/8/D 17 Vol 6

[Pieces 74 – 76 OPEN – released 1996]

117 1949-50 Unorthodox Aircraft 9017/8 Vol 1

(Includes UFO references, but limited to British and German press cuttings)

153 1953-54 DSI/JTIC papers D19/ Vol 5

(Includes a list, as at August 1951, of all reports issued - "DSI/JTIC No 7 - Unidentified Flying Objects")

[Pieces 117 and 153 OPEN - released 1995]

Annex B

PRO CLASSES CREATED FOR INTELLIGENCE RECORDS - UFO RELATED RECORDS - AS AT 9 DECEMBER 1997

11 classes have to date been identified for records created for the defence "intelligence" branches. **They contain between them more than 15,750 intelligence records selected for permanent preservation.**

RESEARCH WARNING. A COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH FOR UFO RELATED DOCUMENTATION HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTED. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT RECORDS HAS BEEN ON THE "BEST GUESS" PRINCIPLE.

The classes together with the date range and approximate number of pieces in each class:

ADM 223 - Naval Intelligence Papers, 1914-1965, 840 files and volumes.

ADM 231 - Naval Intelligence Reports, 1883-1965, 54 volumes

AIR 40 - Directorate of Intelligence and other Intelligence Papers - 1926-1963, 2706 files and volumes

DEFE 10 - Major Committees: minutes and papers - 1942-1976, 504 bound volumes.

DEFE 10/496) These two pieces contain **7** items
497) relating to Working Party on Flying Saucers and its subsequent report. **6** items were released in 1996 see DEFE 41/74-76.
(Both due for release 1998)

DEFE 21 - Joint Intelligence Bureau, Directorate of Scientific Intelligence: Registered files - 1946-1978, 77 files

DEFE 31 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 119 files

DEFE 31/118 1958-63) UFO: policy
119 1963-67)
(Both due for release 1998)

DEFE 32 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 1957-1979, 99 files

DEFE 41 - Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence: Scientific Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch: Registered Files

DEFE 41/74) - Selection of minutes from
75) - DSI/JTIC Meetings. (6 items relating to
76) - Working Party on Flying Saucers and its report).
(Released 1996)

117 - Unorthodox Aircraft (ufo references limited to British/German press cuttings (Released 1995)

153 - DSI/JTIC papers (incls reference to Report No. 7 "UFOs") (Released 1995)

DEFE 44 - Joint Intelligence Bureau: Reports - 1946-1971, 100 files and volumes

WO 106 - Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence - 1937-1961, 6228 boxes, files and volumes

WO 208 - Directorate of Military Intelligence - 1917-1961, 5187 boxes, files and volumes

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

4 December 1997

*** F I L E N O T E ***

The Press Office received an enquiry from a local Gloucestershire newspaper regarding a "UFO" sighting followed by three RAF jets seen at around 9pm on Sunday 30 November over Gloucester. I checked with the low flying complaints cell who established that there were no RAF jets flying at all on the evening of 30 November, and Sqn Ldr [redacted] AQ/AD1 confirmed that no QRA aircraft were launched. This information was passed to the Press Office by phone this afternoon.

Section 40

Section 40

Telefax
To: See (AS)2
Fax: Section 40
From: Section 40
Date: 28 Nov 97 Pages: 2

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

27 Nov 97

PSO/COS
Cmd Sec
PSO/AOCSS
Sec(AS)2
Sec(HSF)1
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor
CPRO

Section 40 – TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

1. We have now received notification from Min(AF)'s office that they are content for us to cease co-operation with Section 40. I have written to Section 40 today and a copy of that letter is attached. The letter is the final version of the draft cleared by addressees earlier this month.

2. Should Section 40 write again, I propose merely to send him the standard 'contents have been noted' acknowledgement by way of reply although I will, of course, copy any further correspondence from him to interested parties.

Section 40

CS(Fin Sec)1
F160 Section 40

Section 40

I wonder if he will come back to us to try and start a new wave of letters

Section 40 1/12

From: Section 40

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN Section 40
Fax Section 40

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(Fin Sec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: 27 November 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the RAF Rudloe Manor station magazine *Hexagon* is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called *Manor News*.

As has already been explained by me, and by my colleagues in the Secretariat (Air Staff) branch in London, there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or at any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into 'UFO'/flying saucers or extra-terrestrial life.

I am sorry to note from your most recent, undated, letter that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, nor your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you may distribute is of course a matter for you.

The facts about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail, although I can, again, assure you that there is nothing relating to 'UFOs'. That there are underground facilities at RAF Rudloe Manor I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances, I am afraid that we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 for info.

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/USofS/JS/28/1/0

26 November 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 10 November 1997

The Under Secretary of State was grateful for your minute at reference which he has noted.

Section 40

APS/USofS
MB6215
USofS/Mailbox

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
28 NOV 1997
FILE 64/1

Recycled Paper

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

15

Section 40 1/12

Section 40 26 for Section 40 1/12

D/MIN(AF)/JR/2/1/3

25 November 1997

Command Secretary HOLC

Copy to:
APS/USofS
AUS(H&O)
Hd Sec(AS)
Hd Sec(HSF)
PSO/AML
PSO/AOCSS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Thank you for your minute LC/356805/3/4F&S dated 5 November which I have discussed with Section 40 (Sec(HSF)1).

2. The Minister agrees with your recommendation that we should now draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with Section 40 Section 40.

Section 40

APS/Minister(AF)
MB6113 Section 40

64/1

PRESS RELEASE

A COVERT AGENDA

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S
UFO TOP SECRETS EXPOSED

Nicholas Redfern

With an introduction by Nick Pope

The shocking truth of the British Government's UFO conspiracy

"For almost half a century, you have been denied access to the facts which lie behind discoveries of monumental proportion." Nick Redfern

A conspiracy of silence has existed at the highest levels of the British Government to prevent the general public from learning the shocking facts which lie behind one of the most emotive issues of our time - unidentified flying objects. Now, the truth can be told.

Nick Redfern charts the complete history of the British Government's involvement with UFOs. And the emerging picture is highly disturbing:

Documentary proof that the British Governments' official policy is to keep UFO information out of the media and away from the public (eg pages 65, 87).

Evidence of top secret "back-room" investigations by the MOD and RAF, bypassing the more usual and open channels (chapters 14, 15, 16 & 17)

Substantial evidence of the existence of a British Roswell (page 264) and a British Area 51 (Chapter 15)

Evidence that even at the height of the cold war, the British Government approached the Russians to establish a joint organisation investigating the worldwide threat of UFOs. (Chapter 16)

Nick Redfern is available for interview:
please contact Lisa Shakespeare on 0171 316 1900/fax 0171 402 0639
Published by Simon & Schuster on 6 October 1997.

SIMON & SCHUSTER
West Garden Place, Kendal Street, London W2 2AQ. Tel: 0171-316 1900. Fax: 0171-402 0639
Registered in England and Wales. Number 714516

A VIACOM COMPANY

PRESS RELEASE

Nicholas Redfern

Nicholas Redfern has gained unprecedented access to thousands of previously classified Ministry of Defence and Royal Air Force files on UFOs which are published together here for the first time. He has interviewed qualified RAF pilots who have pursued UFOs in Britain's airspace; radar operators who have tracked vast UFOs flying over the British Isles; military personnel who have seen UFOs at close quarters; and Ministry of Defence civil servants officially appointed to investigate UFO encounters on behalf of the British Government. All these reports are by sources well-qualified to evaluate the data, such as airline and military pilots, speaking on the record.

Nicholas Redfern is a dedicated, full-time UFO researcher, writing on a regular basis for numerous UFO publications, including the bestselling *UFO Magazine.* He is one of the most respected UFO researchers in the country and his reports have prompted questions in Parliament.

He has contributed crucial material to Timothy Good's books *Alien Liaison* and *Beyond Top Secret* and lectures throughout the country at Universities and conferences, and has appeared on a variety of radio and television programmes including BBC TV's *Out of this World.* His interest in UFOs was prompted by his father's RAF involvement in the tracking of a UFO over the north sea in 1952, after which he was sworn to secrecy by his superiors.

Having examined the available evidence, Nicholas Redfern is convinced that there is an active alien presence on the Earth, and that official confirmation of such presence will soon be forthcoming. He is currently at work on a follow up book, **THE FBI FILES.** He lives in Walsall in the West Midlands.

Nick Redfern is available for interview:
please contact Lisa Shakespeare on 0171 316 1900/fax 0171 402 0639
Published by Simon & Schuster on 6 October 1997.

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A VIACOM COMPANY

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Having examined the available evidence, **NICHOLAS REDFERN** is convinced that there is an active alien presence on the Earth, and that official confirmation of such presence will soon be forthcoming. **NICHOLAS REDFERN** is a dedicated, full-time UFO researcher, writing on a regular basis for numerous UFO publications, including the bestselling *UFO Magazine*. He is one of the most respected UFO researchers in the country and his reports have prompted questions in Parliament.

Copies available in all good bookshops from 6 October, price £16.99. To order a copy, p&p free, please phone our mail order hotline on 01624 675137.

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS)6411 Enclosure Jacket No. 1 DATE OPENED 12 NOV 97	DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH: SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE, 5 OCTOBER 1997 -
"THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Nov 97

APS/USofS Section 40
(thro Section 40

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

Reference: D/USofS/JS/28/1/0 dated 27 October 1997.

Issue

1. To provide advice on the Sunday People Article, "They've Been Here" of 5 October.

Recommendation

2. That Minister notes the following information.

Background

The Author

3. The article is clearly linked to the recent publication of "*A Covert Agenda*". The author of the book, Nicholas Redfern, is a full-time "UFO" researcher and is well-known to us. Since Apr 92 he has written some 25 times asking about the MOD's policy on "UFOs" and the way reports of sightings are handled by the Department, the majority of the letters being between Apr 92 and Jun 94 when Nicholas Pope was the Sec(AS)2a desk officer.

The Book

4. Mr Redfern is convinced that "UFO/flying saucers" and extraterrestrial life are a matter of fact and his book is written from that perspective. He believes that the MOD and, therefore, the Government is fully aware of evidence to prove this and is withholding the information from the public. The introduction to the book is written by Nicholas Pope who has had books about "unidentified flying objects" and the alien abduction phenomena published since leaving Sec(AS)2a and moving to another Branch.

The Sunday People Article

5. The alleged events in Case Histories 1-4 and number 8, and the events at RAF West Freugh all happened over 20 years ago and there is nothing in our current Branch files to substantiate any of the claims made. Any information on the 'alleged' incidents more than thirty years old (Case Histories 1, 2 and 8) will now be held in the Public Record Office and is, therefore, freely available for interpretation by 'ufologists'. To research the claims made in Case Histories 3 and 4 would require the recall of

archived files and a detailed trawl of their contents. This would be a time consuming exercise but, should Minister consider such further action necessary, we will set action in hand to recall the files. We have been able to confirm that there were no military aircraft crashes in the UK on 23 Jan 74, the date mentioned in Case History 3, which might have accounted for any unusual air activity.

6. Our 'UFO' report files reveal that on the date cited in Case History 5, 19 July 1991, three reports of 'UFOs' were received, one of which came from Kingsley, Staffordshire, very close to Ipstones. This report bore a broadly similar description but the witnesses, a Section 40 and a Section 40 did not see anything falling to the ground. There is nothing on the file to indicate that any further action was considered necessary to investigate what might have been seen. The other reports on that day came from Peterhead (Grampion) and Brampton (near Carlisle) and, again, no further action was taken following their receipt. As USofS will already be aware, it is not our practice to investigate reports of sightings unless there is evidence of a potential military threat.

7. The RAF Boscombe Down Case, in 1994 (No 6) was the subject of a Parliamentary Question that year (Official Report 1 Dec 94, Col 907 - copy attached). Although the Department was aware at the time of Press interest, staff at Boscombe Down confirmed that there was no aircraft crash there on 26 Sep 94, or indeed at all in 1994. The only flying out of RAF Boscombe Down which took place that night was by two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of a military Exercise. Claims that members of the public were turned away by police roadblocks may have arisen from some confusion over dates. On 12 Aug 94, a Tornado participating in a trial made an emergency landing there after the decoy target under trial failed to jettison. The Tornado landed with a trailing 375 ft steel cable and, for safety reasons, roads close to Boscombe Down were closed to traffic while the aircraft passed overhead.

8. Following receipt of a letter in Jan 95 from a member of the public, an RAF Police investigation was initiated into the incident cited in Case History 7. Their enquiries revealed that a member of the public had contacted the fire services to report seeing smoke in a field, but was unable to identify the source. The local emergency services attended the scene and found a smouldering bale of hay which they extinguished. The RAF Police investigation did not reveal any evidence to suggest an item had fallen from an aircraft in the Evesham area on the day in question. There were no Royal Navy vehicles in attendance at the incident and the local police advised that nothing was removed from the scene.

RAF Rudloe Manor

9. The role of Rudloe Manor is constantly misrepresented and exaggerated by "UFO" enthusiasts and the media. Many "ufologists"

believe MOD "UFO" investigations have been carried out there in the past and that this continues today. Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight, part of the HQ Provost and Security Services(UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central collection point for any "UFO" reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, i.e. members of the public or service personnel). Its function was simply to record receipt of the report and pass it directly to Sec(AS)2a. Sec(AS)2a, as the Departmental focal point, was tasked with taking any further action, including consulting defence experts as necessary to establish whether what had been seen had any defence implications.

10. Since 1992, reports received by air force stations and military establishments have been forwarded direct to Sec(AS)2a and the extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the "UFO" reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, has been only to note the details of anything reported in their local area and forward the information to Sec(AS).

Conclusion

11. Nicholas Redfern's book (a copy is available if required) is simply the latest seeking to prove the existence of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms by re-interpreting events of the last 50 years. The first generally accepted sighting of a "UFO" occurred in June 1947 in the USA. There has been a considerable amount of media coverage this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this event and the Sunday People is simply giving advance publicity to one of the many books on this subject.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

1. Official Report (1 Dec 94).

Aerospace concerning the use of RAF Bentwaters as a base in connection with the showground air combat range.

Mr. Soames: None.

Aircraft Accidents

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26 September.

Mr. Soames: I am aware of a press report of such an incident. Staff at Boscombe Down have confirmed, however, that there was no crash at the unit on that date or, indeed, so far this year. The only flying which took place that night was the launch of two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of an exercise.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many man hours were spent on repairs to Tornado ZA611 following its accident in December 1986; and on what dates the aircraft has been flown since its accident.

Mr. Soames: Tornado ZA611 was repaired in industry, and the details of the contract covering the repair remain commercially confidential. Since its accident, the aircraft was flown on 19, 22 and 28 January 1993. The aircraft has since been held in storage pending its entry into a modification programme, after which it will return to active service.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the date and circumstances of the accident to Tornado F.3 serial number carried out on the aircraft since its accident, and by which unit; what is the estimated additional number of man hours required to complete repairs to the aircraft; and what is the estimated total cost of restoring the aircraft to front line service following its accident.

Mr. Soames: Tornado F3 ZE250 was damaged on 27 March 1992 during engine ground runs. To date, RAF tradesman have expended 9,025 man hours on the repair, and it is estimated that a further 7,090 man hours will be required before the aircraft can be restored to service. The labour costs of returning the aircraft to service are estimated at approximately £800,000. The cost of spares and materials, which have been provided from existing stocks, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

International Chart Service

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the International Chart Service North sea-southern sheet 1:750,000 2182A, INT.1043, published at Taunton on 10 August 1973.

Mr. Soames: It is not our usual practice to lay such charts in the Library. They are widely available, however, from commercial sources.

Hercules Fleet

Mr. Jacques Arnold: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be able to make an announcement on the future of the RAF's Hercules fleet.

Mr. Freeman: We hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

Staffing

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown by military rank and civilian grade of the number of service personnel and civilian staff employed in *(a)* the personnel and training command and *(b)* the logistics command.

Mr. Soames: The strength of the two commands as at 1 October 1994 is as follows:

Military Personnel

	Personnel and Training Command	*Logistics Command*
Officer Ranks		
Air Chief Marshal	2	1
Air Marshal	—	1
Air Vice-Marshal	9	3
Air Commodore	29	15
Group Captain	110	56
Wing Commander	322	182
Squadron Leader	802	514
Flight Lieutenant	1,764	565
Flying Officer/Pilot Officer	905	59
Senior Medical Officer	152	6
Junior Medical Officer	129	4
Dentist	113	—
Chaplains	89	—
Officer Total	4,426	1,406
Airmen Ranks		
Master Aircrew Warrant Officer	284	215
Flight Sergeant/Chief Technician	764	1,054
Sergeant	1,733	1,463
Corporal	2,320	2,434
Junior Technician/Senior Aircraftman/Leading Aircraftman	3,436	3,344
Aircraftman	400	—
Officer Designate	73	—
Airmen Total	9,010	8,510
Overall Total	13,436	9,916

Note:

[1] One of these officers (Chief of the Air Staff) appears on the strength of Personnel and Training Command but is employed elsewhere. This is the case for a number of other personnel, but separate figures could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Civilian Personnel

	Personnel and Training Command	*Logistics Command*
Non-industrial grades		
G3[1]	—	1.0
G5[2]	2.0	5.0
G6[3]	3.5	12.0
G7[4]	9.0	46.0
Senior Executive Officer	31.0	59.0
Higher Executive Officer/Higher Executive Officer (D)	95.5	224.0
Executive Officer	260.0	479.5
Administrative Officer	576.5	1,186.0
Administrative Assistant	479.5	642.5
Co-ordinator Anglo/American Relations	0.5	—
Community Relations Adviser	7.0	—
Mess Manager A	1.0	4.0
Mess Manager B	2.0	1.0
Retired Officer (Principal)	9.0	—

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/58/6

29 Oct 97

Sec(AS)2a

ALLEGED ACCIDENT AT BOSCOMBE DOWN - 26 SEP 94

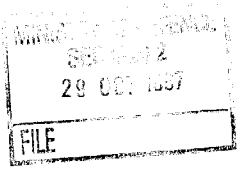
1. You asked for advice on claims, contained in a edition of the Sunday People, that there had been an accident involving a "UFO" at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94. I hope the following will be useful.

2. Reports about an accident at Boscombe Down involving an unidentified aircraft first appeared in the Dec 94 edition of "Air Forces Monthly". This claimed that "at 11pm, an unidentified small, twin-tail fighter", possibly a TR-3A, "the existence of which the US government has yet to officially acknowledge" had "crashed onto the runway at Boscombe Down. By daylight, the aircraft had been covered over, apart from its twin fins, and all roads around the airfield had been sealed off. Two days later the wreck was loaded onto a C-5 Galaxy and flown to Air Force Plant 42 at Palmdale, California."

3. The magazine has subsequently followed up this story with a more detailed 'investigative' report, but we have not retained a copy. However, as far as I can remember, the claims in the Sunday People article that there were eyewitnesses to the crash who said that the "craft was completely silent and was able to hover vertically" - and was thus not an aircraft at all - are entirely new.

4. Claims that enthusiasts were turned away by police roadblocks may have arisen from some confusion over dates. On 12 Aug 94, a Tornado engaged on a trials programme made an emergency landing at Boscombe Down after the decoy target under trial failed to jettison. As a result, the Tornado was forced to land trailing a 375 ft steel cable and, for safety reasons, roads close to Boscombe Down were closed to traffic while the aircraft passed overhead. A copy of a contemporary press article is attached.

5. Finally, I attach a copy of a Parliamentary Question about the alleged accident at Boscombe Down and the appropriate background papers.



Section 40

Sec(AS)1a
CHOTS SEC(AS)1A (3)
MB7249 MB
fax MB

Jet emergency forces police to close road

By David Humphrey

THE RAF has launched an inquiry after a Tornado jet fighter-bomber was forced to make an emergency landing at a West air base after a mechanical failure.

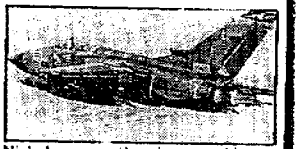
Police had to close the A345 Salisbury-Amesbury road to enable the plane, trailing a 375ft steel cable attached to a decoy target, to land at Boscombe Down.

They were afraid traffic might have been struck by the equipment if the road had stayed open.

It was the first time the road had had to be closed beside the base, home of the Aircraft and Armament Evaluation Establishment, in recent years.

The Tornado F3, stationed at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, was unable to jettison the cable after taking part in an exercise over the Larkhill range on Salisbury Plain.

Boscombe spokesman Mr Nick Nicholson said the plane would normally have dropped the decoy, used to confuse ground-based radars, onto the range.



"But in this case it didn't drop off and we had to be used as a diversionary airfield.

"Because of the wind direction, the approach had to be made over the A345 and the road was closed purely as a precautionary measure."

The incident happened late on Thursday but details were only revealed yesterday.

Boscombe Down is being expanded with 100 new jobs after acquiring research work from Bedford and Farnborough.

The Wiltshire base, the Salisbury area's biggest employer with a 1,200 civilian workforce, tests all the latest planes and equipment before they go into operational service.

...QUESTION

...on Thursday 24 November ..... by Minister (AF) ..... HOUSE OF COMMONS/LORDS

...equired by 1500 Tuesday 29 November ..... PQ No. 485

...ISION:

...pproved by	Signature or initials	Contact Tel No
HD SEC(AS)	Section 40	86592
SEC(AS)1	Section 40 30/11	86248
Secretary of State		
Minister(AF)		
Minister(DP)		
US of S		

Question copied by Action Division to PQ4857C

Answer copied to:- As above plus:

APS/Minister(AF)
PSO/ACAS
AUS(C)
D Air Off
DPR(RAF)
DGT&E
USAF HQ 3AF

Type of Question:- ~~First Order Oral (No. .....)~~; Non Priority Written; Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

Mr Martin Redmond (Lab)(Don Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26th September.

DRAFT ANSWER

I am aware of a Press report of such an incident. However, staff at Boscombe Down have confirmed that there was no crash on that date or, indeed, in 1994 to date, and that the only flying which took place that night was the launch of two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of an Exercise.

BACKGROUND NOTE: PQ4857G

1. Mr Redmond is a regular tabler of Questions on military flight safety and low flying and this is one of seven PQs on flight safety tabled for answer on 29th November. It is our understanding that Mr Redmond's interest in ths subject is prompted more by his serving as a conduit for research by Section 40 Section 40 providing assistance through the tabling of PQs and PEs, rather than any direct personal interest. Mr Redmond rejected an offer by Jeremy Hanley (then Minister(AF)) of an official briefing on low flying.

2. This Question was probably prompted by the attached item which appeared in the December 1994 issue of the magazine, "Air Forces Monthly". Enquiries with personnel at Boscombe Down and Head of DGT&E have confirmed that no aircraft have crashed there at any time in 1994. I attach a copy of Boscombe Down's minute of 30th November, which also discusses the other claims in the magazine. Furthermore, HQ 3rd Air Force of the United States Air Force are also unaware of this alleged incident.

Sep 23	USAF		Unident fighter	Boscombe Down, Unk Wilts

At about 11pm a small, twin-tail, fighter-size aircraft crashed onto the runway at Boscombe Down. By daylight, the aircraft had been covered over, apart from its twin fins, and all roads around the airfield had been sealed off. Shortly after the crash an unmarked civilian registered (CIA operated?) Boeing 737 and a similarly anonymous DC-8 visited and two days later the wreckage was loaded onto a C-5 Galaxy and flown to Air Force Plant 42 at Palmdale, California. The secrecy surrounding the incident has led to speculation that the aircraft involved was a TR-3A, the existence of which the US government has yet to officially acknowledge.

AIR FORCES MONTHLY 12/94

LOOSE MINUTE

AFW/1/08

30 Nov 94

See Distribution

FOI - REPORT OF ALLEGED CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN -26 SEP 94

References:

A. D/Sec(AS)17/6/1 dated 29 Nov 94.
B. Telecon Cdr Fg A&AEE/Sec(AS)1a 29 Nov 94.

1. In response to Reference A and further to Reference B, the following information is provided.

a. There was no crash at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94.

b. There has been no crash at Boscombe Down this year.

c. No aircraft based at Boscombe Down have crashed anywhere this year.

d. The only flying which took place from Boscombe Down on the night of 26 Sep 94 was the launch of 2 x Royal Navy Sea King Mk4 helicopters in support of an Exercise.

e. No transport type aircraft other than those based at Boscombe Down visited the airfield around the date in question.

f. The runway at Boscombe Down was not closed.

g. We have no knowledge of any roads around the airfield being closed.

h. There are 18 Hardened Aircraft Shelters (HAS) dotted around the airfield. The roofs of these are painted green and have structures at one end designed to deflect the exhaust from aircraft parked inside. These structures look like "twin fins". It may be these that the report is based on.

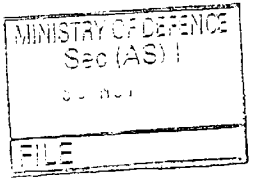
2. I trust that this information will suffice. If not please give me another call!

Section 40

Cdr RN
Cdr Fg
Ext Section 40

Distribution:

Action: Sec (AS)1a



Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs 927
(Rev 8/93)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference:
From: SEC(AS)	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: PQs
To: ADTE(P&S)	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: Section 40 Sec(AS)1a; Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.:
Signature: Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

AS DISCUSSED, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE DRAFT RESPONSE AND BACKGROUND NOTE TO THE ATTACHED PQ.

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR RESPONSE BY COP 28th NOVEMBER.

REGARDS. Section 40

Covering

Caveat

Classification

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - PQ4857G

To be dealt with IMMEDIATELY and not placed with other papers.

For WRITTEN reply on Thu 24 November 1994 by Minister(AF)

Referred to US OF S on 23 November 1994

THESE PAPERS SHOULD BE PASSED BY HAND TO ROOM 521S WITH DRAFT REPLY, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PAPERS, NOT LATER THAN

1500 ON THURS DAY 24 November

Date of Order Paper 23 November 1994
MP Name/Const/Pty REDMOND MARTIN Don Valley LAB
Comments

33 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26th September.

Referred to	Date	Related Question/Files
Sec (AS) 1	23 Nov 94	
Copy to: APS | Min (AF)		

PQ 4857G

TO ASK...IF HE WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE AIR CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN AIRFIELD ON THE EVENING OF 26 SEP 94.

Draft Response

There are no reports of an air crash at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94.

Additional Background Information

There were no accidents involving RAF aircraft on 26 Sep 94. Furthermore, none of the reported incidents on that day were in the vicinity of Boscombe Down.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveat:
Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Int.9/92)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference: 8/1
From: DGT+E	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: PQ 4857A - Redmond Martin MP - Air Crash Boscombe Down 26/9
To: Section 40 Sec (AS) 1a	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 1

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: SEO Section 40 DE(RAS)2	Rank/Grade and Name:
Signature:	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

We spoke. Air Commodore Cruickshank, DTE(Air), has personally confirmed the details provided by his staff (AFW/1/08 dated 30/11/94 refers). He was on the airfield at on 26 Sept. We have nothing further to add.

Section 40
DE(RAS)2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) 1
FILE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Int.9/92)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference: 81
From: DGT+E	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: PQ 48576 – Redmond Martin MP – Air Crash: Buccaneer Down 28/9
To: Section 40 Sec (RS)1a	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: SCO Section 40 TIS (RS) 2	Rank/Grade and Name:
Signature: Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Sorry drew a blank on the "air crash" – see attached info. from Buccaneer Down.

Section 40

ST ext Section 40

Covering:

LOOSE MINUTE

AFW/1/08

24 Nov 94

~~See Distribution~~ DTE(Res) What more can I say [redacted] 28/11

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - RE CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN

Reference: Fax DTE(Res)/DTE(Air) undated.

1. I can confirm that no aircraft has crashed at Boscombe Down this year and nor has any aircraft operated by Boscombe Down crashed elsewhere.

[redacted]
Cdr RN
Cdr Fg
Ext [redacted]

Distribution:

Action:

DTE(Air)

Information:

File

AOC / DTE Air

[redacted]

Fax

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)17/6/1

29 November 1994

Cdr Eg, A&AEE Boscombe Down - Section 40
Head of DGT&E - Section 40

PQ - REPORTED CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN - 26 SEPTEMBER 94

1. As discussed with Section 40 of T&E(P&S)2, I attach a copy of an article which appeared in the December issue of Air Forces monthly concerning an alleged aircraft crash at Boscombe Down. Given that some of the details contained in the report are quite specific, I would be grateful if you could confirm (in consultation with A&AEE Boscombe Down) whether any of the aircraft mentioned in the article were in the vicinity of Boscombe Down and whether the runway or roads were partially closed around the 26 September 94.

2. I am sorry to have to come to DGT&E again for further advice in response to our PQ on this subject (previously copied to Section 40 but given that this incident has now had some media coverage and has been raised by a MP, we must be absolutely clear and accurate in the advice we give to Minister(AF) in reply.

3. I have sought an extension from Minister (AF)'s office and would be grateful for your reply by tomorrow morning.

Section 40

Sec(AS)1a
MB7249 Section 40 MB
CHOTS SEC(AS)1A (2)
Fax Section 40 MB

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff)1a
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

61

Section 40

Huntingdon
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)3/5/1

Date
7 April 1995

12

Dear Section 40,

I refer to your letter of 16 January reporting details of an incident which occurred on 31 ~~September~~ October 1994 in Hampton Hill, Evesham. I undertook to provide you with the findings once the RAF Police investigation was complete; I have now received their report.

RAF Police enquiries have revealed that the object involved in this incident was, in fact, a bale of hay. A member of the public contacted the fire services to report seeing smoke in a field, but was unable to identify the source. The local emergency services were called out and on arrival found a smouldering bale of hay. Before leaving the scene, the emergency services made sure that the bale was fully extinguished. RAF Police investigations did not reveal any evidence to suggest that any items fell from aircraft in the Evesham area on the day in question. Furthermore, I can confirm that there were no Royal Navy vehicles in attendance at this incident and the local police have informed us that nothing was removed from the scene.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Headquarters Provost and Security Services
(United Kingdom)
Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor Hawthorn
Wiltshire SN13 OPQ

Telephone Hawthorn Section 40 ext
fax Section 40

Please reply to
The Officer Commanding
Your reference
D/Sec(AS)3/5/1 dated 30 Jan 95.
Our reference
PSS/261/L090/95/SIS
Date
17 Mar 95

See Distribution

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING DRUM - Section 40 HUNTINGDON

1. Your reference tasked an office inquiry into an allegation that a 40 gallon drum (or object of similar size) fell from the sky and was subsequently taken away in a Royal Navy vehicle with a police escort front and rear.

2. Enquiries revealed that the object involved was a blazing bale of hay. Emergency services were tasked to the scene, however, the bale was already extinguished on their arrival. Later that day Evesham Police were inudated with enquiries as to the origins of the object which had fallen from the sky, and which had been subsequently taken away by the Royal Navy with Police escort.

3. Chf Inspector Section 40, Evesham Police stated that hysteria was such that the incident made the national tabloids, however, he is adamant that the bale had never left 'terra firma'.

4. In accordance with Reference A this case is now closed.

Section 40
for OC

Distribution:
External:
Action: Section 40
MOD(Sec(
Internal:
Action:
CANA

Section 40

my minute tasking an office investigation.
X - Ref A. I'm not quite sure what this tells us. Section 40
RN vehicle at the scene. Was it the Fire Brigade who attended?
I assume the bale of hay was not removed from the scene was anything removed from the scene by either a RN or Police vehicle.
Perhaps we should clarify the above, if you don't already know, so we can prepare draft reply. Thanks

Section 40

Section 40

Please speak with FCF in order to ascertain whether they would be able to look into this. If so, please task (an office inquiry would probably suffice in the first instance) and write to Section 40 to advise accordingly. Section 40 29/1

Ps Basket case, I think!

Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB.

Dear Sirs,

I write to ask if you could shed light on an incident which happened on the morning of Monday, 31st of October, at a field at Hampton Hill near Evesham.

My reports indicate that wittnesses saw an object, estimated to be the size of a forty gallon drum fall from the sky at approximatly 7.25am. My reports also suggest the object was taken away in a Royal Navy vehicle with a police escort front and rear.

As i say, i would be very gratefull for any information you could surrender concerning this matter, or if you could forward to me the address of any organisation who could help.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerly,

Section 40

Any military a/c accident on this day?

ntinues.

CASE HISTORY No 1: The British Roswell

SIGHTINGS of strange flying objects – later known as Foo Fighters – were reported throughout the latter part of the Second World War by both Allied and Nazi servicemen.

The reports certainly went through official channels.

American journalist Dorothy Kilgallen was told by "a British official of Cabinet rank" about a Foo Fighter which had crashed in Britain – a case similar to the famous Roswell incident in New Mexico 50 years ago when alien corpses were recovered.

Kilgallen was told: "British scientists and airmen examined the wreck of one mysterious flying ship and are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but are flying saucers which originate on another planet."

Retired diplomat and intelligence officer Gordon Creighton said he believed Kilgallen's source was Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Kilgallen's story was backed up by Dr Olavo Fontes, a Brazilian UFO researcher of the 1950s.

In 1958, Fontes – already known to Brazil's government – was visited by two men who said they were from Naval Intelligence.

Fontes claimed that, after initially trying to persuade him to give up his work, the officers revealed that six UFOs had crashed throughout the world during the Second World War.

Three were in North America, one in the Sahara Desert, one in Scandinavia – and one in Britain.

Fontes wrote in a letter to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation: "I was told all these discs were small craft – 32, 77 or 99ft in diameter. In all of them were found crew members' bodies.

"They were 'little men' and ranged in height from 32 to 46in. They were dead in all cases, killed in the crashes.

"The examination of the bodies showed they were definitely humanoid, but obviously not from this planet."

CASE HISTORY No 2: Penkridge, Staffs, 1964

SPECIAL snatch teams appear to be on stand-by, ready to go into action to retrieve wreckage from UFO crashes.

Just before he died in 1994, retired US Air Force intelligence officer Leonard Stringfield told Redfern: "Some time in 1964, a specially-rigged naval flagship received a coded radio message.

"Artefacts had been recovered with three dead personnel."

According to his informant, the decoded report stated that a UFO had crashed in two parts: the main section was in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the remainder in West Germany.

Wreckage and the bodies were shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the States.

The informant added that there was more to the incident, involving coded information, that he preferred to keep confidential.

Redfern said: "The disclosure, while sketchy, may spotlight only the tip of the iceberg as to the scope of military crash-retrieval operations in foreign lands.

"It is my suspicion that US special retrieval teams have been, and still are, prepared to go into action into any crash location within its sphere of military or economic influence such as was exercised with NATO in the artefact retrievals in England and West Germany."

CASE HISTORY No 3: Corwen, North Wales, 1974

A WAVE of phantom helicopters – black with no identifying markings – were sighted in areas of Britain where UFOs were reported in 1973-74.

They were probably rapid deployment teams sent to investigate UFOs, according to Redfern.

One such event happened at 8.30pm on January 23, 1974. A UFO crashed into Cader Bronwen, a 2,000ft peak in the Berwyn Mountains, near Corwen, North Wales.

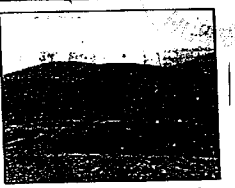
One witness, Anne Williams, said: "I saw a bright light in the sky. It had a long, fiery tail which went dim and then very brilliant – like an electric fire which keeps coming to life.

"It was like an electric bulb in shape, with rough edges. The object fell behind the hills at the back of my bungalow and the earth shook."

Off-duty police officer Gwilym Owen was drinking in The Dudley Arms pub when there was a roar, a bang and glasses in the pub shook. The sky was lit up over the mountains.

Police stations as far away as 60 miles received phone calls reporting the tremor.

At the Institute Of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, the crash measured four on the Richter



Scale. They told journalists that a meteorite had come down on Cader Bronwen.

Witness Ken Haughton saw a "luminous sphere" 90 minutes after the crash in the area. He said the sphere was 400ft across and travelling at a height of about 15,000ft.

Army personnel were quickly dispatched to the scene.

The next day, a mountain rescue team went to investigate, while the RAF carried out a photographic survey of the area. No trace of a craft or any meteorite was found.

"One can only assume," said Redfern, "that unless the UFO exited on its own volition, it was removed by the Army."

Yet another UFO was seen in the area at 7.15pm that day.

"I believe it may have been searching for the remains of the vehicle which struck the Berwyn mountains," said Redfern.

CASE HISTORY No 4: The Lake District, 1977

A UFO which was sighted over the Lake District wasn't witnessed by just members of the public – 10 police officers saw this extraordinary sight too.

Shortly after midnight on August 28, 1977, a large object described either as triangular or diamond-shaped was seen over the Windermere area of Cumbria.

As officers reported seeing the craft, colleagues along the UFO's path also confirmed the sighting. After 20 minutes, as the ship hovered above the A592 at Bowness, PC David Wild spotted it at a height he estimated to be 1,500ft.

It eventually vanished, witnessed by two other officers, at sea over Morecambe.

The most detailed description was given by John Platt. He said: "I was looking up into what appeared to be a giant ocean-going catamaran with twin hulls.

"A large structure at the front supported what appeared to be two giant lights. Its surface was a dull, shadowy, charcoal colour."

ontinues

Section 40 Sec(AS)1A confirmed that there were no military aircraft accidents in the UK (but there was one in Germany). Also checked with the navy – no accidents on 23/1/74.

Section 40 29/10/97.

- Nothing Army either.

10

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
30/10/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	NICK REDFERN	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 30/10/97 at 13:53 Delivered: 30/10/97 at 13:54
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 522
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: NICK REDFERN

Text: Section 40 I hope this is helpful. Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

30 October 1997

SEC(AS)2A * * Chots only

Section 40 - **"A COVERT AGENDA"**

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 28 October 1997

1. Since 1991 Mr Redfern has requested information or advice from CS(RM) on six occasions.

2. Although he never made any specific reference to his interest in "ufos" we deduced as much as the PRO provided copies of earlier correspondence.

3. To date his enquiries fall into two distinct categories: one, information about the release of or fate of records not in the public domain (in the main intelligence); two, a general enquiry in respect of record policy/procedures in the MOD and our relationship with the PRO (as featured on pages 80/81 of his book).

4. Other than the substantive reply re policy/procedures our other replies were in the "sorry to give what must be a disappointing reply" style.

signed

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1

MTA8/3 Section 40 MB

9

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
28/10/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	NICK REDFERN	[ ]

Sent: 28/10/97 at 14:50
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1413
Subject: NICK REDFERN

Text:

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

28 Oct 97

Hd of CS(RM)1

NICK REDFERN

1. US of S has seen The Sunday People Article of 5 October entitled *"They've Been Here"* which seeks to provide "proof" that "UFOs" have landed in Britain.

2. The article, as you may have seen, is primarily about Nick Redfern's Book *"A Covert Agenda"* and US of S has asked us to provide him with background information about the cases featured in the article and our knowledge of Mr Redfern generally.

3. In the three years I have been in Sec(AS) Mr Redfern has written to us on five occasions. Each of his letters have been very short and uncomplicated and sought purely the numbers of "UFO" reports recorded for the year and details of the files to be released to the PRO in the next January.

4. I know from our discussions that you've had more contact with him than us. It would be most helpful for my background note if you would be able to put together a paragraph or so setting out what is known about him from his contacts with CS(RM).

5. Anything you are able to offer by the end of the week would be much appreciated.

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

continues.

CASE HISTORY No 5: Ipstones, Staffs, 1991

A WITNESS known only as Mr M L was visiting friends in the Churnet Valley, Staffs, on July 19, 1991, when he saw an object fall from the sky at nearby Ipstones.

The time was 10pm. M L described the object as metallic – like aluminium – 10ft long, cigar-shaped and very bright. He immediately contacted police.

They searched the woodland. A helicopter was used as well. No object was located but an area of newly-broken branches was found which gave the

impression that something had crashed through the trees from above. The search was eventually abandoned.

CASE HISTORY No 6: RAF Boscombe Down, 1994

A SMALL twin-tailed aircraft crash-landed on the runway at RAF Boscombe Down, on Salisbury Plain four miles from Stonehenge, at about 11pm on September 26, 1994.

Several aviation enthusiasts listening on airband radios drove to the air base the next day. They were stopped by police at roadblocks.

Before being ushered away, several enthusiasts saw a disabled craft at the end of the runway covered by tarpaulins.

Two days later, the wreck was flown to a California military base. Although the craft was initially believed to be a then-secret US military plane known as TR-3A, one witness said the crashed craft was completely silent and was able to hover vertically – abilities the TR-3A didn't possess.

A month before the crash, a lorry driver reported seeing a UFO over Salisbury. Its description matched that of the crashed craft.

CASE HISTORY No 7: Hepton Hill, Wilts, 1994

VILLAGERS in the Cotswolds reported seeing a barrel-shaped craft fall into an isolated field on the evening of Hallowe'en in 1994.

But they were later told it was a bale of straw.

The incident happened at Hepton Hill in Wiltshire near the villages of Church Lench and Norton.

The strange object was described by one witness Paul Brooke as resembling a 40-gallon drum.

Police sealed off the field and people were warned to keep

away. The object was loaded on to a Royal Navy lorry and taken away.

Residents raised the matter with both the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF, each of whom later denied any knowledge of the incident.

A police spokesman said: "Our investigations reveal it was a bale of straw that was on fire and which the fire brigade put out.

"Reports of something falling from the sky are either hoaxes or somebody has said something and come to the wrong conclusion."

Brooke replied: "What do the police think – that we are all mad around here?"

CASE HISTORY No 8: East London, 1964

BUS driver Bob Fall was driving the 123 bus from Walthamstow to Tottenham when he had a narrow escape with a UFO.

He told a reporter: "I just glanced into the sky and saw something coming towards me very, very fast. It flew straight across the road and, had I been a few yards further, it would have hit the top deck of the bus.

"There was a loud crash as it struck the bank of the River Lea and a big splash in the water. The craft was at least 9ft long, cigar-shaped and silver."

As soon as Fall reported the incident, police arrived and dredged the river – but the object had vanished.

An MoD wing-commander was appraised of the details of Fall's encounter – implying that the MoD took his initial report seriously.

The MoD files available now are scant and Redfern believes the full story is buried somewhere in Whitehall.

continues.

file 12/2 pt K.

TOP
FEED DIRECTION
END 68

Section 40

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD019 22/0828 203C0413

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 220635Z JUL 91

12/2

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC Z6F
SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 192133Z JUL 91 FOR ONE MINUTE
B. ONE OBJECT 3-4 METRES LONG EGG SHAPED AND SILVER/METALLIC COLOUR
C. INDOORS
D. NAKED EYE
E. NIL
F. 45-60 DEGREES
G. ONE HALF MILE
H. STEADY
J. CLOUDY
K. NIL
L. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE
M. [redacted], Section 40 KINGSLEY
N. NIL

Kingsley is in Staffordshire + very close to Ipstones, place of sighting in newspaper.

PAGE 2 RBDAID 0001 UNCLAS
O. [redacted] Section 40
P. [redacted] JUL 91
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F
F
CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION (CXJ 1 AFDO)
CYD 1 DD GE/AEW
CAV 1 DI 55
CAV 2 DGSTI

Only one other on that day - in Scotland - and the description bore no resemblance to that reported in the article.

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
16 January 1997

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter dated 12 January 1997 addressed to Section 40. I have been asked to reply.

2. There were 609 "unexplained" aerial sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1996. The files now available to view at the Public Record Office can be found under references AIR 2/17982 and AIR 2/17983.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TEL: Section 40

Section 40

12 January 1997

Dear Section 40

Could you please advise me of: (a) the number of UFO reports received by your office in 1996; and (b) the title(s) and reference number(s) of any and all UFO files released into the public domain by the Public Record Office at the beginning of this year. Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

ENCL No 43

6

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
5 January 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 1995 addressed to Section 40 regarding old "UFO" files. I have been asked to reply.

2. With regard to your request, only one "UFO" file has been released to the Public Records Office for 1996. It is entitled "UFOs: Sightings; Reports By Members Of The Public" and its reference number is AIR2/17527.

3. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TEL. Section 40

Section 40

December 20 1995

Dear Section 40 ,

As you may remember, I have written to you on previous occasions with respect to my interest in the UFO subject. My reason for writing is as follows: On 13 December of last year you advised me of the details of the file of UFO reports from 1963/4 which was released into the public domain under the 'thirty year ruling' in January of this year (File ref. AIR2/17526). I was subsequently able to obtain copies from the Public Record Office. I would be very grateful to you if you could advise me if a similar UFO file(s) is due to be made available at the beginning of January 1996, along with the relevant reference number(s).

Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 0171 2182140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

5

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
24 March 1995

ENCL No 6

Dear Section 40

1. I refer to your letter of 28 February. ~ attached

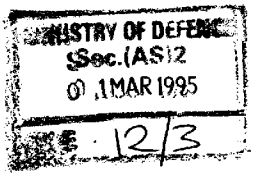
2. As a matter of routine, the Ministry of Defence was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority of the report made by the British Airways pilots on 6th January. I consulted Departmental experts with responsibility for air defence matters, who confirmed that they were not aware of any evidence which would indicate that our air defences had been breached. As this is our only concern the MOD's interest in this particular incident concluded. No subsequent information has come to our attention, which would suggest that the original assessment was incorrect.

3. The incident of 6th January remains a matter for the CAA.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

TEL. Section 40



Section 40

28 February 1995

Dear Section 40,

As you know, I have written to the MOD previously concerning my interest in the UFO subject. In recent weeks, several newspaper articles have appeared concerning the sighting of a triangular-shaped object seen above the Pennines on Friday January 6, 1995, by Captain Section 40 and First Officer Section 40 who were piloting a Manchester-bound Boeing 737.

Could you tell me if this matter has been brought to the attention of the MOD? If so, has an investigation been carried out, and has any conclusion been reached? If you could advise me on this matter, it would be most gratefully appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 218 2140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
26 January 1995

4

76

Section 40

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 16 January. attached

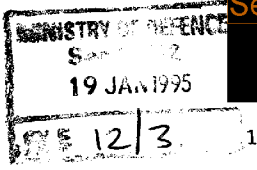
2. In answer to your question, the Ministry of Defence received 250 reports of unexplained aerial sightings in 1994.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

TEL. Section 40



Section 40

16 January 1995

Dear Section 40 ,

I am writing to enquire if you could tell me how many reports of unidentified flying objects the Ministry of Defence received during 1994. Should you be able to advise me, it would be most gratefully appreciated. I would also like to thank you for your letter of 13 Dec. 94, in which you advised me of the details of the 'UFO file' made available at the Public Record Office at the beginning of this year. I have been in touch with the PRO, and will be ordering copies of the papers shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 218 2140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

3

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3
Date
13 December 1994

ENCL 22

Dear Section 40

In response to your letter of 23 November, only one "ufo" file is scheduled for release in January 1995 - it is entitled "UFO Reports" and its reference is AIR2/17526.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 218 2140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

2

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/12/3

Date
30 November 1994

ENCL No 41

Section 40

Dear

1. I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 23 November requesting details regarding the release of further UFO files to the Public Records Office.

2. I should be happy to make enquiries in this connection and shall respond to you as soon as I receive the advice.

3. I am returning your sae as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Tel. Section 40

Section 40

23 Nov. 94

Dear Section 40,

As you may know, I have written to the MOD on a number of occasions concerning my interest in the subject of UFOs. On July 5 1993, Section 40 wrote to me advising me that, in keeping with the Governments thirty year ruling, January 1994 would see the release of two of the old Air Ministry UFO files dated 1962/3. I subsequently obtained copies of these papers earlier this year.

My reason for writing is to enquire if you could tell me if you are aware of whether or not January 1995 will see the release of any MOD - UFO files dating from 1964?

Should you be able to advise me on this matter, it would be most gratefully appreciated. I enclose a SAE.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/USofS/JS/28/1/0

27 October 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

The Under Secretary of State has seen the above article (copy attached) and has requested background information on the allegations made.

Section 40

APS/USofS
MB6215 MB
USofS/Mailbox

Section 40

Section 40

minister asked for comment on this

Section 40

The People
Sunday, 5 October, 1997
Page 31

Reports prove that UFOs landed in Britain

THEY'VE BEEN HERE!

By JOHN EARLS

ALIENS have been visiting Britain for more than 50 years – and that's official.

Secret Government documents reveal that some spacecraft have even crash-landed here.

But the details have been kept hidden from all of us in a giant cover-up similar to that in TV's The X Files.

That is until now. A sensational new book A Covert Agenda reveals that the alien visits are fact and not fiction.

The author, full-time UFO researcher Nicholas Redfern, maintains that the Ministry of Defence and the RAF have known for half a century about spacecraft which have crash-landed throughout Britain.

At least SEVEN UFOs have crashed in Britain since the end of the Second World War. Hundreds more UFOs have been sighted since the 1940s. Redfern, 33, from Walsall, West Midlands, also reveals details of a secret MoD base where reports of crashed UFOs are compiled.

He has spent years investigating official memos and uncovered top-secret documents which prove that the Government does not want us to know how much it knows about aliens.

And in the book he describes how dozens of spacecraft have flown over military bases, by-passing flight security systems.

At the height of the Cold War, the Government was so concerned about UFOs that it contacted the Soviet Union to establish a joint task force to examine the security implications of alien craft.

But it is the evidence that UFOs have ALREADY landed in Britain which is the most scandalous cover-up in British UFO history.

Now turn the page for the full amazing story...

continues.

3

ntinues.

CASE HISTORY No 1: The British Roswell

SIGHTINGS of strange flying objects – later known as Foo Fighters – were reported throughout the latter part of the Second World War by both Allied and Nazi servicemen.

The reports certainly went through official channels.

American journalist Dorothy Kilgallen was told by "a British official of Cabinet rank" about a Foo Fighter which had crashed in Britain – a case similar to the famous Roswell incident in New Mexico 50 years ago when alien corpses were recovered.

Kilgallen was told: "British scientists and airmen examined the wreck of one mysterious flying ship and are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but are flying saucers which originate on another planet."

Retired diplomat and intelligence officer Gordon Creighton said he believed Kilgallen's source was Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Kilgallen's story was backed up by Dr Olavo Fontes, a Brazilian UFO researcher of the 1950s.

In 1958, Fontes – already known to Brazil's government – was visited by two men who said they were from Naval Intelligence.

Fontes claimed that, after initially trying to persuade him to give up his work, the officers revealed that six UFOs had crashed throughout the world during the Second World War.

Three were in North America, one in the Sahara Desert, one in Scandinavia – and one in Britain.

Fontes wrote in a letter to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation: "I was told all these discs were small craft – 32, 77 or 99ft in diameter. In all of them were found crew members' bodies.

"They were 'little men' and ranged in height from 32 to 46in. They were dead in all cases, killed in the crashes.

"The examination of the bodies showed they were definitely humanoid, but obviously not from this planet."

CASE HISTORY No 2: Penkridge, Staffs, 1964

SPECIAL snatch teams appear to be on stand-by, ready to go into action to retrieve wreckage from UFO crashes.

Just before he died in 1994, retired US Air Force intelligence officer Leonard Stringfield told Redfern: "Some time in 1964, a specially-rigged naval flagship received a coded radio message.

"Artefacts had been recovered with three dead personnel."

According to his informant, the decoded report stated that a UFO had crashed in two parts: the main section was in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the remainder in West Germany.

Wreckage and the bodies were shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the States.

The informant added that there was more to the incident, involving coded information, that he preferred to keep confidential.

Redfern said: "The disclosure, while sketchy, may spotlight only the tip of the iceberg as to the scope of military crash-retrieval operations in foreign lands.

"It is my suspicion that US special retrieval teams have been, and still are, prepared to go into action into any crash location within its sphere of military or economic influence such as was exercised with NATO in the artefact retrievals in England and West Germany."

CASE HISTORY No 3: Corwen, North Wales, 1974

A WAVE of phantom helicopters – black with no identifying markings – were sighted in areas of Britain where UFOs were reported in 1973-74.

They were probably rapid deployment teams sent to investigate UFOs, according to Redfern.

One such event happened at 8.30pm on January 23, 1974. A UFO crashed into Cader Bronwen, a 2,000ft peak in the Berwyn Mountains near Corwen, North Wales.

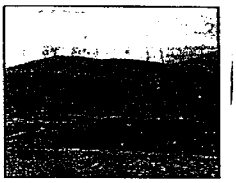
One witness, Anne Williams, said: "I saw a bright light in the sky. It had a long, fiery tail which went dim and then very brilliant – like an electric fire which keeps coming to life.

"It was like an electric bulb in shape, with rough edges. The object fell behind the hills at the back of my bungalow and the earth shook."

Off-duty police officer Gwilym Owen was drinking in The Dudley Arms pub when there was a roar, a bang and glasses in the pub shook. The sky was lit up over the mountains.

Police stations as far away as 60 miles received phone calls reporting the tremor.

At the Institute Of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, the crash measured four on the Richter Scale. They told journalists that a meteorite had come down on Cader Bronwen.



Witness Ken Haughton saw a "luminous sphere" 90 minutes after the crash in the area. He said the sphere was 400ft across and travelling at a height of about 15,000ft.

Army personnel were quickly dispatched to the scene.

The next day, a mountain rescue team went to investigate, while the RAF carried out a photographic survey of the area. No trace of a craft or any meteorite was found.

"One can only assume," said Redfern, "that unless the UFO exited on its own volition, it was removed by the Army."

Yet another UFO was seen in the area at 7.15pm that day.

"I believe it may have been searching for the remains of the vehicle which struck the Berwyn mountains," said Redfern.

CASE HISTORY No 4: Lake District, 1977

A UFO which was sighted over the Lake District wasn't witnessed by just members of the public – 10 police officers saw this extraordinary sight too.

Shortly after midnight on August 28, 1977, a large object described either as triangular or diamond-shaped was seen over the Windermere area of Cumbria.

As officers reported seeing the craft, colleagues along the UFO's path also confirmed the sighting. After 20 minutes, as the ship hovered above the A592 at Bowness, PC David Wild spotted it at a height he estimated to be 1,500ft.

It eventually vanished, witnessed by two other officers, at sea over Morecambe.

The most detailed description was given by John Platt. He said: "I was looking up into what appeared to be a giant ocean-going catamaran with twin hulls.

"A large structure at the front supported what appeared to be two giant lights. Its surface was a dull, shadowy, charcoal colour."

ontinues

continues.

CASE HISTORY No 5: Ipstones, Staffs, 1991

A WITNESS known only as Mr M L was visiting friends in the Churnet Valley, Staffs, on July 19, 1991, when he saw an object fall from the sky at nearby Ipstones.

The time was 10pm. M L described the object as metallic – like aluminium – 10ft long, cigar-shaped and very bright. He immediately contacted police.

They searched the woodland. A helicopter was used as well. No object was located but an area of newly-broken branches was found which gave the

impression that something had crashed through the trees from above. The search was eventually abandoned.

CASE HISTORY No 6: RAF Boscombe Down, 1994

A SMALL twin-tailed aircraft crash-landed on the runway at RAF Boscombe Down, on Salisbury Plain four miles from Stonehenge, at about 11pm on September 26, 1994.

Several aviation enthusiasts listening on airband radios drove to the air base the next day. They were stopped by police at roadblocks.

Before being ushered away, several enthusiasts saw a disabled craft at the end of the runway covered by tarpaulins.

Two days later, the wreck was flown to a California military base. Although the craft was initially believed to be a then-secret US military plane known as TR-3A, one witness said the crashed craft was completely silent and was able to hover vertically – abilities the TR-3A didn't possess.

A month before the crash, a lorry driver reported seeing a UFO over Salisbury. Its description matched that of the crashed craft.

CASE HISTORY No 7: Hepton Hill, Wilts, 1994

VILLAGERS in the Cotswolds reported seeing a barrel-shaped craft fall into an isolated field on the evening of Hallowe'en in 1994.

But they were later told it was a bale of straw.

The incident happened at Hepton Hill in Wiltshire near the villages of Church Lench and Norton.

The strange object was described by one witness Paul Brooke as resembling a 40-gallon drum.

Police sealed off the field and people were warned to keep

away. The object was loaded on to a Royal Navy lorry and taken away.

Residents raised the matter with both the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF, each of whom later denied any knowledge of the incident.

A police spokesman said: "Our investigations reveal it was a bale of straw that was on fire and which the fire brigade put out.

"Reports of something falling from the sky are either hoaxes or somebody has said something and come to the wrong conclusion."

Brooke replied: "What do the police think – that we are all mad around here?"

CASE HISTORY No 8: East London, 1964

BUS driver Bob Fall was driving the 123 bus from Walthamstow to Tottenham when he had a narrow escape with a UFO.

He told a reporter: "I just glanced into the sky and saw something coming towards me very, very fast. It flew straight across the road and, had I been a few yards further, it would have hit the top deck of the bus.

"There was a loud crash as it struck the bank of the River Lea and a big splash in the water.

The craft was at least 9ft long, cigar-shaped and silver."

As soon as Fall reported the incident, police arrived and dredged the river - but the object had vanished.

An MoD wing-commander was appraised of the details of Fall's encounter – implying that the MoD took his initial report seriously.

The MoD files available now are scant and Redfern believes the full story is buried somewhere in Whitehall.

continues.

ontinues.

Secret base's cover is blown

UFO enthusiasts have long believed that highly classified investigations into UFO activity take place at Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. Redfern offers proof it is officially acknowledged that Rudloe Manor is the headquarters of the RAF's Provost and Security Services (P&SS), where investigators are trained in counter intelligence.

But Rudloe Manor is also the base of the Flying Complaints Flight, which investigates cases of low-flying military aircraft.

A former special RAF investigator said: "I'm sure that all investigations into UFOs are carried out by P&SS investigators serving in a small secret unit with Flying Complaints Flight."

A report of one sighting in 1962 in Taunton, Somerset, was forwarded by the RAF straight to P&SS.

The report was not forwarded to the Air Ministry for nearly two months. Redfern said: "Given that department S6 at the Air Ministry was supposedly the focal point for receiving UFO reports, it seems odd that P&SS would neglect to inform S6 of the details for almost two months.

"Unless, as seems to be the case, P&SS have a mandate to conduct their own independent inquiries."

A letter received by Redfern written by Air Commodore J L Uprichard, the P&SS director, confirms that they have investigated UFO sightings.

He wrote: "The 1962 report is a rare example of an alleged UFO sighting being treated as a low-flying incident and investigated accordingly."

Redfern said: "The importance of this letter cannot be over-emphasised. Although such investigations are rare, this is documented proof from the director of P&SS himself that UFO encounters have been treated as low-flying incidents."

Retired RAF medic Jonathan Turner told Redfern: "UFO sightings by military pilots were never recorded in their flight logs."

"The station commander would be advised of the situation and, from there, all information would be forwarded to P&SS.

"If national security was considered an issue, the pilots and crews would be advised to keep quiet and reminded they were bound by the Official Secrets Act."

The Ministry of Defence has admitted P&SS involvement in UFO sightings. A spokesman said: "Rudloe Manor is the headquarters of RAF Police.

"In the past it was indeed the RAF co-ordination point for reports of unexplained aerial sightings. This role came to an end in 1992."

How they tried to hush it up

AN alarming number of UFOs were sighted around military bases in 1957.

One sighting at RAF West Freugh, Wigtownshire, was published by several newspapers.

A secret Air Ministry report declassified after 30 years, reads: "It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the Press.

"We suggest that the Secretary of State does not specifically refer to these incidents as sightings on radar."

Six years later, after another batch of sightings, the Air Ministry tried to dampen speculation but they failed to point out that many reports were by RAF pilots and radar operators.

One of the most controversial sightings took place in Belfast eight years ago. The following is an extract from a report in official Civil Aviation Authority files about an incident on November 11, 1989.

"UFO passed above aircraft at 11,200ft and burst into a cascade of lights. Heading due west. Proximity of cloud intensified brightness of light. Sighting confirmed by another aircraft and tower."

ends

64/1

12

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
11/11/97	CS(FinSec)1	RAF RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 11/11/97 at 16:14 Delivered: 11/11/97 at 16:20
To: MIN(AF)REGISTRY
CC: SEC(AS)2A (2),Sec(HSF)1,AUS(H+O)-SPS,USofS/Mailbox,HQLCDepPA/COS +
Ref: 306
From: CS(FinSec)1 Auth by:
Subject: RAF RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40 [redacted]

Text: Copies of letters referred to in paragraph 9 of the covering LM will be sent by fax to outer offices of Min(AF) and USofS only.

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

PS/Min(AF)*

Copy to:

APS/USofS*
AUS(H&O)*
Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCSS*

* By CHOTS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40 [redacted]

ISSUE

1. The need to decide how to handle a persistent and unwelcome correspondent about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor and its lodger units.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That we draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him.

TIMING

3. Routine

DISCUSSION

4. We have for some time been in correspondence at official level with Mr Matthew Williams, a 'UFO' researcher, who has an interest in the role he believes RAF Rudloe Manor plays in this subject.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Williams edits his own magazine (Truthseekers' Review), and has appeared on TV in programmes about 'UFOs'. He believes that Rudloe Manor is investigating 'UFO' sightings. He will not accept the facts that prior to 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight, located at Rudloe manor, acted simply as a collection point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie members of the public or service personnel), and forwarded such reports to the Department's focal point, Sec(AS)2, for any further action required. Since 1992, all RAF stations, including RAF Rudloe Manor, forward reports direct.

5. Section 40 has repeatedly asked to visit RAF Rudloe Manor and has, both there and elsewhere, taken steps to enter military bases by unauthorised means. He is currently threatening a media and leaflet campaign alleging both that Rudloe Manor is keeping information relevant to 'UFO' activity hidden, and that both it and the MOD have been unhelpful and deceitful in responding to his concerns. He also claims to have a number of people prepared, he says, to break their signing of the Official Secrets Act and speak about what really goes on at Rudloe Manor.

6. As Minister will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parenting support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters Defence Telecommunications Services, and a detachment of No 1001SU, responsible for military satellite communications services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. The Flying Complaints Flight, which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of flying regulations is, as I have said, also located at RAF Rudloe Manor. All this is a matter of public knowledge and has already been explained to Section 40.

7. The Station is also responsible for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. Detailed knowledge of the

facilities is, however, strictly limited. The merest hint of additional facilities, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Section 40. Should Minister require further information, this can be provided separately by Section 40 (no relation), Sec(HSF)1.

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Section 40 remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. But, for the reasons outlined above, Section 40 would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial sensitivity something which could reinforce his conviction that 'UFO' activity is being concealed. However, there is every reason to believe, from his general attitude and views, that such a visit would only provide fuel for further questions.

9. Special Branch have taken an interest in Section 40. They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of Section 40 correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally cease our dialogue with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through his letters. This correspondence, nonetheless, takes up an appreciable amount of official time, and I believe we have now reached the stage where replies simply restate the facts already provided. I further believe that his requests for a visit to the station should be refused. Copies of Section 40 most recent letters, which have been acknowledged, and our proposed reply are attached.

10. The issue might attract attention, depending on Mr Williams' success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views. He regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Section 40 lives in Wales, and he may write to or secure the

interest of his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers,(Rhondda)). The constituency MP for Rudloe Manor is James Gray (Wiltshire North), who might also be encouraged to take an interest. Should either MP become involved we would, of course, be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content to proceed in this way.

[CHOTS SIGNED]

Section 40 [redacted]
Cmd Sec HQLC
F150 Section 40

DRAFT

Section 40 [redacted]

Mid Glamorgan
South Wales
Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the Station magazine *Hexagon* is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called *Manor News*.

As has already been explained by me, and by my colleagues at Secretariat (Air Staff) in London, there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into 'UFO'/flying saucers or extraterrestrial life.

I am sorry to note from your most recent, undated, letter that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, nor your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you distribute is of course a matter for you.

The facts about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail, although I can, again, assure you that there is nothing relating to 'UFOs'. That there are underground facilities at Rudloe Manor I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are

now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances I am afraid we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.

64/1

11

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
10/11/97	CS(FinSec)1	Section 40 [redacted] - DRAFT SUBMISSION	[ ]

Sent: 10/11/97 at 11:38
To: CS(FinSec)1
CC:

Ref: 1448
Subject: Section 40 [redacted] - DRAFT SUBMISSION TO MIN(AF)

Text: Section 40

Any queries, please call me.

Regards, Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Nov 97

CS(FinSec)1) - HQLC - Section 40 [redacted]

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40 [redacted]

Reference:

A. LC/356805/3/4/F&S dated 5 Nov 97.

1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed submission to Min(AF) about Section 40 [redacted] sent under cover of Ref A. Section 40 [redacted] and I have both read and discussed the submission.

2. We agree with your overall proposed line and have a few suggestions to offer. APS/USofS should have sight of the submission as USofS is the Minister responsible for "UFO"-related issues. We have inserted at para 4 a few lines to explain why Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] is obsessed with "UFOs" and RAF Rudloe Manor. We also have a few *suggested* textual amendments to offer which have for ease been made in bold type.

3. I hope this is helpful and I am happy to discuss further with you if required.

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

PS/Min(AF)*

Copy to:

APS/USofS*
Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCSS*

* By CHOTS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40 [redacted]

ISSUE

1. The need to decide how to handle a persistent and unwelcome correspondent about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor and its lodger units.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That we draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him.

TIMING

3. Routine

DISCUSSION

4. We have for some time been in correspondence **at official level with** Section 40 [redacted], **a "UFO" researcher,** and the role he believes RAF Rudloe Manor plays in this **subject.** Section 40 [redacted] edits his own magazine (Truthseekers' Review), and has appeared on TV in programmes about **"UFOs". He believes that Rudloe Manor is involved in investigating "UFO" sightings. He will not accept the facts that prior to 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight, which is located there, acted simply as a collection point for "UFO" reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, i.e. members of the public or service personnel) and forwarded such reports to the Department's focal point, Sec(AS)2, for any further action required. Since 1992, all RAF stations, including RAF Rudloe Manor, forward reports direct.**

5. Section 40 [redacted] has repeatedly asked to visit RAF Rudloe Manor and has, both there and elsewhere, taken steps to enter military bases by unauthorised means. He is currently threatening a media and leaflet campaign alleging both that Rudloe Manor is keeping information relevant to **"UFO"** activity hidden, and that both it and the MOD have been unhelpful and deceitful in responding to his concerns. He also claims to have a number of people prepared, **he says,** to break their signing of the Official Secrets Act and speak about what really goes on at Rudloe Manor.

6. As **Minister** will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parenting support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters

Defence Telecommunications Services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. **The Flying Complaints Flight,** which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of **low** flying regulations **is, as I have said, also located at Rudloe Manor. All this is a matter of public knowledge and has** already been explained to Section 40 .

7. The Station is also responsible, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. The existence and possible use of this facility is considered sufficiently sensitive that knowledge of it is strictly limited; regrettably however, the merest hint of any underground accommodation, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, which MOD is not prepared to explain and expose to public view, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Section 40 Section 40 .

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Section 40 remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. **But, for the** reasons outlined above, Section 40 would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial **sensitivity, something which** could reinforce his conviction **that "UFO" activity is being concealed. However, there is every** reason to believe from his general attitude and views that **such** a visit would **only provide** fuel for further questions.

9. Special Branch **have taken an** interest in Section 40 . They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of Section 40 correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally **cease our dialogue** with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through **his letters. Dealing with this correspondence does, however, take up an appreciable amount of official time and I believe that we should have now reached the stage where replies simply restate the facts already provided. I further believe that his requests to visit Rudloe Manor should be refused. (Copies of** Section 40 **most recent letters, which have been acknowledged and our proposed reply are attached.)**

10. **Depending on** Section 40 **success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views, the issue might attract media attention, since he** regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Section 40 lives in **Wales, and may lobby his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers, (Rhondda)) or the constituency MP for Rudloe Manor, James Gray (Wiltshire North).** Should either MP become **involved we would, of course,** be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content **to proceed in this way.**

Section 40
Cmd Sec HQLC
F150 Section 40

DRAFT

Section 40 [redacted]

Mid Glamorgan
South Wales
Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the Station magazine *Hexagon* is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called *Manor News*.

As has **already been explained** by me, and by my colleagues at Secretariat (Air Staff) in **London, there is** no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into **"UFO"**/flying saucers or extraterrestrial life.

I am sorry to note from your most recent, undated, letter that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, **nor** your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you distribute **is, of course,** a matter for you.

The facts about **activities** at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve **sensitive, or** operational matters, you will not expect me to go into **detail** although I **can, again,** assure you **that** there is nothing **relating** to **"UFOs"**. That there are underground facilities **at Rudloe Manor** I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances, I am afraid we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.

Hidden copy to:
Hd of Sec (AS)

64/1

COM SEC PTC/253/97

7 November 1997

10/1

CE/TGDA
CE/PMA
ACP&P
AOA

Section 40

Copy to
PSO/COS/AMP
DLS(RAF)

Section 40

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Reference: DOMD/2/3/4 of 27 October 1997

1. I attach for your information a copy of the minute at reference which reports on progress on the Government's proposals for a Freedom of Information Act. You will note that public sector personnel records are expected to be excluded from the provision of the Act. As is the case now the "harm" test will include national security, commercial confidentiality and policy advice. The test will, however, be more stringent.

2. I do not believe there are any issues we need to raise at this stage but I should be happy to co-ordinate a PTC response. There is no deadline set on the attached minute but if I have not heard from you by say the end of November I shall assume there is nothing you wish to raise at this stage.

Section 40

Command Secretary PTC
F37 5020 GE

Enc

Section 40

To be aware - I think we should have a copy on our files - I think(!) we can still use para 46 to say no to UFO requests if they're for say, periods [illegible] over years

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

DOMD/2/3/4

27 Oct 97

[redacted]

CS/CINCFLEET
AUS(FS)
CS/AUS(NP)
CS/HQLAND
AUS(Q)
CS/AG
CS/HQNI
CS/RAFSTC
CSRAFLC
CS/RAEPTC
DERA/CS
Secretary Met Office/Director
Hydrographic Office - Senior Executive

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

1. I thought that you might find it helpful to know what is happening about the Government's proposals for a Freedom of Information Act. At the same time it would be useful to hear of any issues that might be of particular concern to you (and the Trading Funds in particular) in this context - perhaps queries that have arisen in the course of dealing with the existing *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*.

Section 40

31/10

Background

2. It was originally the Government's intention to publish a White Paper on Freedom of Information before this year's Summer recess. At the first meeting of the Ministerial sub-Committee on 10 Jul, however, Ministers decided that they needed to consider in more depth the issues and implications arising from Freedom of Information legislation. The publication of the White Paper was therefore postponed until towards the end of the year. The Cabinet Office Freedom of Information Unit was tasked to produce papers, first on the principal policy issues and to describe the foreign experience of FOI, and subsequently on specific topics such as the disclosure and protection of information under an FOI Act, a review and appeals mechanism etc. To date there have been three meetings of the Ministerial Committee, with the fourth this week, and these have been shadowed by official-level meetings which DOMD attends.

3. It is clear that the Government intends the Act to go beyond the terms of the existing *Code*, quite apart from the enhanced status of primary legislation over a non-statutory document. The option of simply translating the *Code* into statutory form has therefore been rejected. Interestingly, in surveying overseas' experience of FOI, it has become apparent that the UK is in a unique position as no other country has introduced a statutory FOI regime onto a system already working to a non-statutory regime. The Act will of course cover Agencies, including Trading Funds.

C

31 OCT 1997

4. The key issue for MOD is the balance between disclosure and the need to protect information. The papers discussed to date propose that there should be a general right of access to information which would then be circumscribed in three ways:

a. Exclusions. Certain institutions or bodies or the information originating from them would be ruled outside the scope of the legislation;

b. Qualifying criteria for requests. Requests for information must be "reasonable" (eg not requiring excessive effort and expense);

c. Exemptions. Certain information, though *prima facie* covered by the Act, is decreed to be exempt from disclosure.

In fact, this is how the current *Code* operates. It has a very narrow band of exclusions (eg the Security and Intelligence agencies) and allows Departments to charge for, or refuse to answer, complicated or unreasonable requests. With regard to exemptions under the *Code*, Departments may refuse to supply information that they deem falls within one or more of 15 categories, such as information whose disclosure would harm national security or defence. Some of these categories do, however, have a rider that a "harm test" should be applied and consideration should be given as to whether the harm arising from disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in making information available.

5. Exclusions are likely to include the Security and Intelligence Agencies and information produced by and relating to them, and a very few other categories such as public sector personnel records. Recognising the need to protect information about the Special Forces, we are also pressing for their exclusion. Exemptions will probably be drawn more narrowly (although still including, for example, national security, commercial confidentiality and policy advice) but the "harm test" will be more stringent and it has been accepted that the potential impact will need very careful analysis. It has been acknowledged that the FOI Act must be compatible with the Official Secrets Act as well as legal obligations arising from contracts. Finally, there is likely to be provision for a public interest override to ensure that sensitive information could still be withheld even where it was deemed that disclosure would not cause substantial damage to a specified interest.

5. There is still a long way to go before the detailed shape of the FOI Act becomes clear. The intention is to publish the White Paper in early December and this will be followed by a draft Bill in the Spring, both subject to consultation, prior to an Act being laid before Parliament, probably late next year. If, therefore, you have any particular concerns that you believe may not be picked up by our consultations with the Centre of the Department, please let me know. If, on the other hand, you have any queries about the operation of the existing *Code*, which are not satisfied by the internal guidance published in DCI GEN 48/97, then I or [redacted] OMD14, on x[redacted] will be able to help.

[redacted]

OMD/AD(Management)
NH617 [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

64/1

10+1

Thu 6 Nov, 1997 15:16 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
06/11/97	CS(FinSec)1	MATTHEW WILLIAMS: DRAFT LM TO	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 06/11/97 at 11:38 Delivered: 06/11/97 at 15:11
To: SEC(AS)2A (2),SPS/AOCSS,Sec(HSF)1
CC: HQLCDepPA/COS
Ref: 303
From: CS(FinSec)1 Auth by:
Subject: MATTHEW WILLIAMS: DRAFT LM TO MINISTER

Text: Grateful your thoughts, please — By 1200hrs Mon 10 Nov

Thanks
Judy Mansfield

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

Mollie,

This looks fine to me – don't think we need to labour the point about the limited role Rudloe has in forwarding reports of "UFO" sightings in its locality. Rudloe is no different than any other RAF base in this respect.

MP 6/11.

No, but we have to make sure the Minister knows why Williams is so obsessed about us

CONFIDENTIAL

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

Hd Sec(HSF)*
Hd Sec(AS)*
PSO/AOCSS*

Copy to:

PSO/AML* * by CHOTS

MATTHEW WILLIAMS: TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

1. Attached is a draft note which we propose to send to Minister about Matthew Williams. The copy of William's latest letter to me is being sent separately by fax to MB addressees.

2. I would appreciate any comments or amendments you may have by **1200hrs, Monday 10 November.**

[signed]

J E MANSFIELD
CS(FinSec)1
F160 6985BRA

CONFIDENTIAL

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

USOTS needs a copy

PS/Min(AF)*

Copy to:

Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCSS*

* By CHOTS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR MATTHEW WILLIAMS

ISSUE

1. The need to decide how to handle a persistent and unwelcome correspondent about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor and its lodger units.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That we draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him.

TIMING

3. Routine

DISCUSSION

4. We have for some time been in correspondence at an official level with a Mr Matthew Williams, a UFO researcher who has an interest in "UFO" research, and the role he believes RAF Rudloe Manor plays in this. Mr Williams edits his own magazine (Truthseekers' Review), and has

appeared on TV in programmes about UFOs."

5. Mr Williams has repeatedly asked to visit RAF Rudloe Manor and has, both there and elsewhere, taken steps to enter military bases by unauthorised means. He is currently threatening a media and leaflet campaign alleging both that Rudloe Manor is keeping information relevant to UFO activity hidden, and that both it and the MOD have been unhelpful and deceitful in responding to his concerns. He also claims to have a number of people prepared, as he puts it, to break their signing of the Official Secrets Act and speak about what really goes on at Rudloe Manor.

6. As you will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parenting support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters Defence Telecommunications Services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. The ~~station also~~ includes a Flying Complaints Flight, which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of flying regulations. This ~~much~~ is a matter of public knowledge and ~~it~~ has already been explained to Mr Williams.

7. The Station is also responsible, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. The existence and possible use of this facility is considered sufficiently sensitive that knowledge of it is strictly limited; regrettably however, the merest hint of any underground accommodation, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, which MOD is not prepared to explain and expose to public view, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Mr Williams.

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Mr Williams remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of

the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. But, for the reasons outlined above, Mr Williams would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial sensitivity, and this could reinforce his conviction that there is indeed "UFO" activity we are concealing from him. Nor is there is any reason to believe from his general attitude and views that a visit would do any more than provide fuel for further questions.

9. Special Branch have also taken an interest in Mr Williams. They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of Mr Williams' correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally cease dialogue with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through his correspondence with officials. This correspondence, nonetheless, takes up an appreciable amount of official time, and I believe we should now restrict our responses to him essentially to the repetition of points already made, and not meet his requests for a visit to the station. I attach a copy of Mr Williams' most recent letters (he has received holding replies to both) and our proposed reply.

10. The issue might attract attention, depending on Mr Williams' success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views. He regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Mr Williams lives in Wales, and he may write to or secure the interest of his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers,(Rhondda)). The constituency MP for Rudloe Manor is James Gray (Wiltshire North), who might also be encouraged to take an interest. Should either MP become involved, we would of course be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content with this line.

H GRIFFITHS
Cmd Sec HQLC
F150 6900BRA

DRAFT

Mr Williams
Truthseekers Review
25 Upper Canning Street
Mid Glamorgan
South Wales
CF41 7HG

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the Station magazine *Hexagon* is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called *Manor News*.

As has already been explained to you ~~previously~~, by me, and by my colleagues at Secretariat (Air Staff) in London, ~~I can confirm once again that~~ there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into "UFO/ flying saucers" or extraterrestrial life.

As to your most recent, undated, letter, ~~I am sorry~~ I am sorry to note from that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, nor your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you distribute is, of course, a matter for you.

The facts about ~~what goes on~~ activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail although I can assure you that there is nothing ~~that relates~~ to "UFOs." That there are underground facilities I have acknowledged, and

have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

I am afraid ~~that~~ in the circumstances we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Headquarters Logistics Command
CS(FinSec)1

Attn: Section 40

== by fax ==

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
Date
30 October 1997

Dear Section 40,

ENQUIRY FROM MATTHEW WILLIAMS: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Thank you for faxing through a copy of Section 40 latest missive about Rudloe Manor.

2. As discussed I have the following lines to offer in respect of the "UFO" aspects of his letter.

> *"Finally, as has been explained to you previously, I can confirm once again that there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial life."*

3. Although we have discussed this on the phone, I thought it might be helpful if I were to set out our policy with respect to requests for MOD to give media interviews on "UFOs". It is a matter of policy that we do not give media interviews on the subject of "UFO/flying saucer" matters and extraterrestrial lifeforms for the following reasons:

(a) the wider interests/beliefs of the "UFO" fraternity are outside the MOD's remit

(b) To accede to one would leave us unable to refuse any of the large volume of requests we receive from newspapers, magazines, radio shows etc and would unnecessarily tie up resources on non-MOD business.

4. Instead we offer to provide a written statement via the Press Office along the attached lines.

Yours ever

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which it remains open-minded. To date, however, the MOD is unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, the MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each report. The MOD believes that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 30 OCT Time:
From: SECRETARIAT (AIRSTAFF) ROOM 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDING	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40
Authorised by: Rank: EO Name: Section 40 Appointment: SecCAS)2A1 Signature: Section 40	

Document Reference: D/SecCAS)/64/1
Total number of pages including this one: 1+2
To: Section 40 (CS FinSec)1 HQLC Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 Tel Number: Signature:

Subject: Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

** Transmit Conf.Report **

30 Oct '97 11:52

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> ACS(F&S) HQLC	
No.	0102
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'32"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

ACS(F&S) HQLC Fax Section 40 29 Oct '97 17:24 P.01/07

file copy

HQ LOGISTICS COMMAND

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details

To: Section 40
Sec (AS)2

From: Section 40
PS (Hon Sec)

(Tel: Section 40 BLA)

Fax No: Section 40

Fax No: Section 40

Serial No:

Date Sent: 29/10/97

Time Sent: 16.40

Document Details

Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 7

Reference:

Subject: Section 40

Authorising Officer:

Rank, Name and Appointment: Section 40

Signature:

Transmitting Officer:

Rank, Name and Appointment:

Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Re your conversation with Section 40

Pl see the attached

Section 40

PS (Hon Sec) 1b

Classification | Caveat | Covering

Section 40

PICTURE RESEARCHER

Section 40 Surrey, England Section 40
Facsimile: Section 40
Telephone:

RECEIVED
29 OCT 1997

To: Flying Officer Section 40
RAF Rudloe Manor

No of pages: 6

Date: 27.10.96

Dear Flying Officer Section 40

I write on behalf of Marshall Cavendish Publishers and further to our conversation. Here follows the article which will appear in issue 31 of our magazine 'The XFactor' and I should be grateful for your help with one of the pictures needed.

We would like to include a colour photo of RAF Rudloe Manor and if the text is agreeable, would you please send me a colour print or slide.

Please post the picture to me at;

Marshall Cavendish Ltd
Section 40
London Section 40
tel Section 40

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for any help you can give me. The picture is needed by 30 October so please send it by first class mail.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Note of Action

Section 40 informed that we do not have a suitable picture available to meet the deadline.

28/10

Section 40

CONSPIRACY OR INDIFFERENCE?

Section 40 details the British Government's policy and knowledge in relation to UFOs, and examines the evidence for a cover-up.

On 5 November 1990 a squadron of Royal Air Force Tornado jets were flying over the North Sea, on their way back to their base. Suddenly, and to the amazement of all the experienced pilots, their aircraft were overtaken at high speed by a UFO. None of these trained observers were able to identify the craft that made our most sophisticated aircraft look obsolete by comparison, and a report of this encounter was sent by signal to the Ministry of Defence. What happened next? Were the pilots visited by anonymous intelligence officers, threatened with the Official Secrets Act and warned to keep quiet about their sighting? Or is the truth of the matter somewhat different?

Many ufologists are obsessed with the idea that elements of the British Government are involved in a conspiracy of silence about UFOs, and are actively suppressing the truth about this phenomenon. Such claims have persisted for years, but are often taken on faith rather than evidence. As is often the case when examined such allegations critically, the real situation is not quite as people suppose.

As far as we know, the earliest official British involvement in the UFO mystery was an intelligence study carried out in 1951. This study was mentioned in a 9 August 1952 letter from the Air Ministry to the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who had asked for a report on UFOs. The study concluded that all UFOs could be explained in conventional terms, and was clearly based heavily on the data that had been amassed by the United States Air Force, who had been conducting their own official studies since 1947, under the Project names Sign, Grudge and Blue Book. Edward J Ruppelt headed Project Grudge and then Blue Book from 1951 to 1953. He made reference to British interest in UFOs in his 1956 book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. He told of a visit by two RAF intelligence officers who arrived at Blue Book headquarters with six sheets of questions. The answers they took back clearly influenced the reply given to Winston Churchill, and indeed the intelligence study referred to may have been based in part or in whole upon this data.

What lay behind the British interest in UFOs was actually concern that some of them might be an unknown type of Soviet aircraft testing the air defences of the United Kingdom. The Cold War was serious business, and the Air Ministry was more concerned with Russians than Martians. There was no corporate interest or belief in UFOs as extraterrestrial craft.

It was simply the standard military philosophy that you need to keep a watchful eye on your airspace, and ensure that, to the best of your ability, you are able to identify any craft operating within your air defence region.

Government, the civil service and the military are naturally conservative organisations, and this mindset made it difficult for the Establishment to respond in any meaningful way to emerging speculation from ufologists, some of whom were arguing that UFOs were extraterrestrial in origin. Naturally conservative desk officers found such speculation difficult, and tended to ignore anything they couldn't explain. To illustrate this point it is interesting to note that the aforementioned Air Ministry letter to Winston Churchill failed to even make mention of Foo Fighters - strange balls of light that had been seen by Allied and Axis pilots during the Second World War. Had Churchill been deliberately kept in the dark, or was the omission indicative of nothing more sinister than the closed minded attitude of the Air Ministry?

A letter dated 24 June 1965 gave a further insight into the true attitude of the British Government. In a reply to the US Department of the Air Force the Ministry of Defence explained that their policy was " ... to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it.". The whole tone of the letter betrayed the fact that the Ministry clearly regarded the subject as a waste of time.

Files now available for viewing at the Public Record Office in Kew shed further light on the British Government's policy and opinions on UFOs. On the one hand, it is clear that there have been some quite extraordinary UFO incidents in British airspace. The files detail numerous incidents where UFOs were seen by military witnesses and detected on radar. They tell of several incidents where RAF jets were scrambled in unsuccessful attempts to intercept UFOs. The Ministry have acknowledged for decades that UFO reports such as these defy explanation. Some 10% of sightings remain unexplained, even after a rigorous investigation. The problem is that these same files - some of which were previously classified Secret - strongly suggest that no further action is taken once an investigation has been completed. This applies even to cases of attempted interception. All this points to an attitude of indifference or incompetence, as opposed to anything more sinister.

Of course, the Ministry is in a no-win situation, and die-hard conspiracy theorists will always interpret the facts in ways that support their own viewpoint. In this way, entirely innocent events are twisted into something that fits in with what seems to be an almost psychological need to believe in a cover-up: UFO documents withheld under the standard thirty year rule that applies to all Government papers are described as being "suppressed"; the media's refusal to give airtime to various crackpot

UFO stories is attributed to the use of a D-Notice, and Air Ministry officials who in years gone by paid the occasional visit to UFO witnesses in order to elicit further information about particularly interesting cases are portrayed as sinister Men in Black!

But let us return to the incident discussed in the opening paragraph. What happened to the report submitted by the pilots whose Tornado fast jets were casually overtaken by a UFO? The answer is that the signal was simply placed on file in Secretariat(Air Staff)2a - the MoD division charged with investigating UFO reports. Object unexplained - case closed. This lack of follow-up action was exactly what happened in the aftermath of the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident in December 1980. Lt Col Charles Halt submitted a report to the Ministry about UFO activity near the two military bases of RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge. The report (dated 13 January 1981) told of how abnormally high radiation readings were taken from a site where a small, metallic UFO was seen to land. The Ministry of Defence never even acknowledged Halt's memorandum!

The official Ministry of Defence policy on UFO sightings is to examine them for evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. It seems clear that if such examinations occur at all, they are cursory affairs, carried out with extreme reluctance. Many ufologists believe the Ministry of Defence should be taken to task for its stance on the subject, but increasingly, the complaint is not one of conspiracy. Some ufologists are concerned not that the Ministry knows too much, but that it knows too little. A cover-up would be deplorable, they say; but having your head in the sand because of the ignorance or prejudice of a few officials is far worse.

EXCLUSIVE WITNESS

Nick Redfern

In his book *A Covert Agenda*, Nick Redfern sets out his case for a UFO cover-up. *The X-Factor* asked him what evidence he had to support this stance:

"One example is the involvement of the Provost and Security Services. The Ministry of Defence had consistently denied they had a role in UFO investigation, but then I uncovered a 1962 document in a file at the Public Record Office that proved otherwise. This was subsequently confirmed to me in a letter from Group Captain Rose at RAF Rudloe Manor."

But why cover any of this up?

"I think the Ministry knows something very strange is going on, but doesn't have the answers. They don't want to appear foolish or vulnerable, so I think it's probably the case that they are covering up a situation where, frankly, they are powerless."

CASENOTES

How to Report a UFO

The Ministry of Defence has produced a form on which people should record the details of their sighting. The information requested includes the date, time and location of the encounter, together with a description of the object, and observations about the meteorological conditions at the time of the incident. These forms should be held by every RAF base, police station and civil airport in the country, as these are the sorts of places that receive UFO reports from the public.

The completed forms are then sent to Secretarian(Air Staff)2a at Ministry of Defence Main Building in Whitehall. They should investigate each sighting, in the first instance by trying to correlate it with aircraft activity, astronomical events or other conventional objects or phenomena. Sec(AS)2a are assisted in these investigations by specialist divisions who offer help and advice on matters such as radar evidence or satellite activity. Out of the several hundred reports received each year, 95% can be explained.

EVIDENCE

Accessing The Information

There are several ways that people can get hold of official information about UFOs. The simplest way is to write to Sec(AS)2a at the MoD, and put your questions to them. A general enquiry about UFOs will elicit a standard reply, but under rules about Open Government specific questions should receive specific answers, where the information is available.

Another option is to pay a visit to the Public Record Office at Kew. Under the Public Record Acts files where the most recent paper is more than thirty years old are opened to the public. There are currently around a

dozen UFO files which can be inspected, and these detail some interesting sightings from the Fifties and Sixties. They also give an invaluable insight into the way in which these cases were handled at the time.

Some ufologists are forging links with their local Members of Parliament, and asking them to table formal, written Parliamentary Questions about UFOs. There have been over thirty such questions tabled in the last year or so, and MPs do seem to be becoming increasingly aware of the serious defence and national security issues at stake.

The final piece in the puzzle may be provided by the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act. The Government has a commitment to introduce this legislation, and although this will take at least two years, it should mean that the public can gain access to much more UFO information than is currently the case.

ANALYSIS

RAF Rudloe Manor

Conspiracy theorists are obsessed with the idea that a number of military installations in the United kingdom are involved in secret UFO research. The base most frequently associated with such stories is RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. This was first drawn to the attention of ufologists in Timothy Good's book *Above Top Secret*, which explained how he was picked up by the MoD police whilst walking around the perimeter of the base. Later, he encouraged Ralph Noyes, former Head of DS8 - the forerunner of Sec(AS)2a - to telephone details of a UFO report to the base, to see if they would accept it. They did.

Sceptics have pointed out that in view of the fact that military bases have frequently been targeted by terrorists, there is nothing unusual about the police taking a close interest in anybody with a camera who is loitering suspiciously around an RAF base. They also point out that as all military bases should have the MoD's standard UFO reporting form, there is nothing unusual in the fact that staff at Rudloe Manor were prepared to take details of a sighting.

While RAF Rudloe Manor have now confirmed that they had previously been involved in the subject, they state that this was only in a co-ordinating role. The reports were simply forwarded to Sec(AS)2a, and no further action was taken.

6449

HQ LOGISTICS COMMAND

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details:

To: Section 40 Sec (AS)2	From: Section 40
Fax No: Section 40 Section 40	(Tel: x Section 40) Fax No: Section 40 Section 40
Serial No:	Date Sent: 27 Oct / Time Sent: 1115hrs

Document Details:

Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 5	Reference: 356805/3/4 Subject: Section 40

Authorising Officer:	Transmitting Officer:
Rank, Name and Appointment: HQ Section 40 CS(Air Sec)1	Rank, Name and Appointment:
Signature: Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

We spoke re. the attached. There's a mixture of stuff here, from RAF Rudloe Manor and UFO-specific. I'm quite happy to lead, but would appreciate your UFO input.

I've sent this to Flt Sgt Section 40 and I'll also let Sec(HSF) have a copy.

Pg 4 of Section 40 letter is a bit indistinct – let me know if it doesn't fax properly –

Section 40

Classification | Caveat | Covering

TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

Section 40

Section 40
CS Finsec1
Royal Air Force
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE18 9QL

FAX Section 40

REF LC/356805/3/4/F&S

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 30th Sept. One again your help in clarifying some points is greatly appreciated - it is so hard to find out things any other way than through the kind efforts of those in the MOD who are prepared to help researchers such as myself.

I asked in my last letter a specific point about who made the decision for a journalist visit to Rudloe Manor to be denied. I asked if you could tell me the name of the person who made the decision so I could pass this on to my MP. If the decision was not made by a commanding officer but was made by yourself based on rules and guidelines can you let me know this. I need a name and rank!

Also I have not heard anything from you on the HEXAGON newsletter, which is apparently the Rudloe Manor internal newsletter. Can you confirm the Rudloe Manor Hexagon newsletter editorial address for me.

I am helping produce a TV documentary soon which will heavily feature underground facilities. Rudloe Manor will obviously come into the frame. Would you or anybody else be prepared to be interviewed on Rudloe Manor for the show? We could prepare a questions list for anyone who wanted to take part in advance and send these to you. Any MOD or Rudloe Manor representative would also suffice.

It may interest you to note that I have a number of people who all worked at RAF Rudloe Manor who are prepared to break their signing the official secrets act and speak on camera about the extensive underground facilities and weapons storage capabilities of the site. Even more surprising we have witnesses who want to talk about RAF Rudloe Manors role in actual experimentation on UFO craft. Hard as it may seem to accept such fantastic statements there may be things that both you and I know little about. The whole purpose of my continued interest in the facility is because of these fantastic claims. As you make the point in your letter that I am persistent, would you not agree that if these

claims were true that my interest would be justified. Of course I do not expect you to be able to answer that, but I hope you see my point. One must keep an open mind to the possibilities because I would imagine that there is much which goes on at Rudloe Manor that you may not be given clearance to know about. Is I not these compartmentalised departments that Rudloe officials would naturally deny even exist.

I know there are many out there who feel that my interest in Rudloe Manor is a fixation which is borne out of my overactive imagination. I assure you that the people who have come forward to me and told me the things which now form the basis of my research do exist and do have backgrounds which place them as credible persons. I did not just wake up and suddenly decide to research Rudloe Manor. A lot of factual documentary and witness based information has taken me to the interest I now have. Contrary to what you may have heard from security staff at Rudloe Manor in that I make up stories which they have probably told you in order for you to question my motives, I assure you that I am not a crank. It is very frustrating to me to not have access to the facility to speak to serving staff and to know the truth about the UFO research which went on in the 1960s and probably up until the mid 1990s.

If it would help you or your colleagues to understand our research goals any better so they are more informed about what we are doing I would be happy to provide these to you. I do produce a newsletter and have written many news articles on Rudloe Manor and UFOs. There are even UFO reports filed in the Public Records Office which were sightings reported by RAF Personnel in the Rudloe Manor area. This only adds to the interest.

The problem as I see it is that we have a very high level Top Secret base which does not want myself or anyone else having the right to poke it's nose in. The likelihood is that the do know about UFO research. They are telling you that they know nothing about the areas I enquire about and then serve to try and damage my credibility in your eyes and other peoples eyes, internally inside the MOD so that nobody suspects what they are doing. This is a form of counter intelligence. The security staff who work at RAF Rudloe Manor are trained to lie on a daily basis to members of the public about the operational status of the base. We have proved this point in our research.

I enclose a copy of an email sent to me by Section 40 which illustrates just how far the security staff go in order to try and quell the stories I give out. None of this will do any good because soon we are holding a public meeting in Corsham to inform local residents fo the lies that they are being told about the base. This is going to be advertised by a mass leaflet posting which will myself and a number of other people are going to undertake. These leaflets will outline just what Rudloe Manor is and what they aren't being told.

I would love to have been able to say in the leaflets that the RAF Rudloe Manor staff have been helpful and invited us in, but as it appears, Rudloe Manor is so secret and "off limits" to all people that we could not get access. This will only go to prove the point we are trying to make. If RAF Rudloe Manor would like to co-operate between now and the time of the leaflet drop (2 weeks time), or wishes to take part in the TV program, then we might be prepared to go easy on what we say in our leaflet drop. But we need to be convinced, and in order to do that they will need to "open up" and start dialogue about UFO research or show us that we are wrong about the massive underground facilities by allowing a limited tour.

When I worked in Customs and Excise Criminal Investigation Unit in Cardiff I learned first hand that the Security Services worked at RAF Rudloe Manor because we had liaisons with them. I do not know if you knew this fact? It certainly explains one possible reason why we are seeing the base as "off limits". Would you care to comment on this?

Hoping all of this can be absorbed and accepted in the good spirit it was intended. Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

EMAIL ATTACHED (PS why would security be sending people to tours asking people about me? I must be a major irritation to their covert security efforts ☺)

X-POP3-Rcpt: Section 40
Return-Path:
Received: from Section 40 (lions.cableinet.net
[193.38.113.5])
by Section 40 .8.5) with SMTP id OAA15321
for Thu, 23 Oct 1997 14:34:24
+0100
Received: from bellissima Section 40
Section 40 by lions.cableinet.net
(950413.SGI.8.6.12/951211.SGI) via ESMTP id OAA03595 for
Section 40 Thu, 23 Oct 1997 14:44:57 +0100
Message-ID: <344F8504.E2F37BE1@cableinet.co.uk>
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 1997 14:47:48 +0100
From:
Reply-Section 40
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.0 [en] (Win95; I)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Section 40
Subject: Are you Section 40
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi,
Are you Section 40 if not could you forwarded it to him please.
I've spoken to you before, I don't know if you remember me, I'm
Section 40 I subscribe to your mag and have been to a lot of
your talks, I live in Bristol. I'm just mailing you to tell you a
little story, it was back in August, I rang you a few times but
you were never there so since then I have been trying to get your
e-mail address. We were in Corsham, in the underground mine tour,
I started asking the tour guide a few questions (innocent of
course) he started talking about you, so I said "Never heard of
him" He was saying how you had made up a load of stories about the

base... He went on to say that 2 weeks before two guys from the base had come down on the tour with him and were asking him questions about you like "has he been here recently" and asking what you have been saying to him etc. Thought I'd let you know.
Thanx Muchly

Section 40

--

Visit my web site The World of the [redacted] at
http://Section 40 [redacted] - it's right daddy cool!

--

64/1

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN Section 40
Fax Section 40

6

Section 40

Maidstone
Kent
Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: 21 October 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

In my letter to you of 4 June, I advised you of the role and location of the PINDAR centre, and I refer you to the information I gave you then.

The site to which you refer at Rhydymywyn does not belong to the Ministry of Defence. It is owned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

You also ask again about the underground facilities at Rudloe Manor, which I explained in my letter of 4 June. I have nothing further to add.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Hidden copy:

Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor
Sec(AS)2
Sec(HSF)1
ACS(F&S)

Telefax
To: Sec (AS) 2
Fax: Section 40
From: Section 40
Date: 27 Oct
Pages: 1

64/1

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED POLICY

5

into the public domain. We are now asked specifically about the case and information is provided in the attached draft.

"UFO" REPORTS COPIED TO INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES

– In response to this point, the draft reply explains that the MOD does not hold files containing "UFO" reports for establishing their "UFO/flying saucer" interest. Public incident reports are received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence region. In the past it was standard practice to pass all "UFO" reports received to MOD Intelligence branches in order to establish any defence scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats. In the early 1960s the number of reports received annually was about 50-70. Fuelled by media interests, the number of sighting reports received in recent years has dramatically increased. Last year we received over 600 reports most of which contain less than credible information. It is therefore current Departmental policy to forward for expert assessment only those reports received from "credible witnesses" such as military personnel, civil pilots, and members of the emergency services.

WEST

– Section 40

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about those from authoritative witnesses. .ate
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SIR P

– Section 40

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"UFO"

– Section 40

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reach ic

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Headquarters Logistics Command
CS(FinSec)1

Attn: Section 40

== by fax ==

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
Date
14 Oct 97

Dear Section 40

ENQUIRY FROM Section 40 : RAF RUDLOE MANOR

Reference: LC/356805/3/4F&S dated 10 Oct 97.

1. Further to your minute at Reference (Sec(AS)2 was a copy addressee), I have one or two thoughts to offer regarding any proposed visit by Section 40 to Rudloe Manor:

a. What checks are made to ensure that someone who claims to be a journalist is indeed one? I imagine that ordinary members of the public would not be given visits to the underground bunker on request and there must, therefore, be some arrangement to verify their pedigree. Is there a journalist's equivalent of an equity card?

b. If we do currently allow other journalists to visit the complex I wonder what grounds there are for turning Section 40 down? If he is an accredited journalist, are we not bound to show him as much as we would be prepared to show any other bona fide journalist?

c. Might you be able to reject his request on the grounds that, as you discovered recently, he has in the past attempted to break into RAF Rudloe Manor illegally?

d. If the visit does go ahead, you will not, I guess, need me to say that the person given the job of escorting Section 40 would have to be carefully briefed about his personal "UFO" agenda.

Yours ever

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 14 OCT Time:	Document Reference: D/SecCAS)/64/1
		Total number of pages including this one: 1 + 1
From: SECRETARIAT (AIRSTAFF) MOD MAIN BUILDING	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40	To: Section 40 CS(Fusion) HQLC	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40
Authorised by: Rank Name Appointment: Eo Section 40 SecCAS)RAF		Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number
Signature: Section 40		Signature:

Subject: Section 40

Section 40 — attached re: Section 40

Re: your note of 10 Oct about Section 40 — we have no problems with your proposed draft.

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

14 Oct '97 14:09

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> Section 40	
No.	6357
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'00"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

13 Oct 97

Hd CS(RM)1 - Section 40

RELEASE OF DI55 "UFO" FILES

Reference: CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 23 Sep 97.

1. Thank you for sight of the two "UFO" policy files recently discovered during the review of DIS records which I now return to you.

2. Section 40 and I have looked through them and have no concerns with respect to their release.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Encs.

Telefax

To: See (AS)2
Fax: Section 40 Section 40
From: Section 40
Date: 10 Oct Pages: 7

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

10 Oct 97

PSO/AOCSS
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor

Copy to:

PSO/COS
ACS(F&S)
Sec(AS)2

ENQUIRY FROM Section 40 : RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Section 40 telephoned me on Monday, asking for information about the editor of a newsletter entitled *Hexagon*. He had, he said, been sent this information from 'someone at Rudloe Manor' and gave the impression it was fairly recently. However, on looking at the fax he sent to me(copy attached), the extract is fairly old (comments in one of the articles indicate it was written in 1988).

2. Could addressees please give me advice to answer his two main questions:

a. Is *Hexagon* still in print?

b. If so, what is the policy regarding release of editorial details (bearing in mind the wide and public circulation of such publications) ?

c. The consensus of opinion regarding Section 40 request to visit the underground complex was that we turn him down. Given that he intends to take this further, can we adequately justify denying his visit? I have attached a copy of our letter turning down his request.

3. I have sent Section 40 a holding reply (copy attached). I would appreciate comments or any input that addressees can supply by **1230hrs, Monday 20 October.**

Section 40
CS(FinSec)1
F160 Section 40

reply (copy) Section 40
The question is, would they allow an "enduring" journalist to visit? Manor & what? How much would they let him see. It shouldn't go ahead just because he's threatening to go to Rio
MP
Can you have a word with Section 40 please
Section 40

SEC (AS) 2
10 OCT 97

From: Mrs J E Mansfield

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN Section 40
Fax ext

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: 9th October 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your telephone call on Monday, 6 October, and your follow up letter of the same date. I am looking into the points you have raised, and I will write to you again as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40
RAF Brampton

Fax Section 40

6.10.97

Dear Section 40

please find enclosed a few pages taken out of "HEXAGON" newsletter. I do not have the first two pages which would probably include the contact details of who produces it. I would like to make contact with the editorial department.

Also is it possible for you to let me know who, in name, made the decision about my not being allowed to come to RAF Rudloe Manor on a journalist visit. Please do not take this personally but I require the officers name in order to place a note to my local MP. I intend to get the issue raised in Parliament that for some strange reason RAF Rudloe Manor is off limits to journalists full stop. I believe that a parliamentary quation this will cause an interesting reaction from MOD in London.

Which ever details get to your first can you please reply to me on the above address. Thank you once again for all your help on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
EDITOR

The Tunnels Under Hawthorne — The History of 6 SU

Most people at Rudloe Manor know of the stone quarries and that 6 SU is located in part of the underground quarry system. However, few people know anything of the history of 6SU or the underground area in which it is located.

The quarries were formed by the mining of Bath Stone, which has been quarried within a 20-mile radius of Bath since Roman times. The stone removed from the quarries in which 6SU is now situated was a particularly fine and highly valued variety of Bath Stone known as Box Groundstone.

The golden age of 'our' quarry was the period 1850 - 1910, when the advent of the Great Western Railway and Box Tunnel opened easy access to the stone fields and transport of the cut stone. The stone was quarried by hand and marks left by the picks and the saws can still be seen in the stone throughout the underground workings. The last commercial mining in this area was in 1934.

The build up of a military presence in the area started in 1935. With the possibility of war looming, precautionary measures had to be taken to guard against possible air attack on our ammunition stocks by German aircraft. Areas were surveyed around Corsham in the underground quarries and it was decided to build three ammunition depots at Monkton Farleigh, Eastleighs Ridge and Tunnel — under Hawthorn — to be known as the Central Ammunition Depot (CAD).

The Royal Engineers (REs) were tasked in late 1935 with initially clearing out all the rubble (some one million tons) and any unnecessary supporting pillars. Work commenced on the CAD at the centre of the quarry and worked out East and West with the intention to finish both ends simultaneously. It was estimated that it would take four years to complete, by this time England's general rearmament plan had become the No 1 priority and the first district was ready for use in May 1938.

In total the CAD and 10 districts, each with an average area of three acres and in order to allow the easy transportation of ammunition, 7.5 miles of conveyor belts were installed throughout the three depots.

In 1941 an underground barrack block and hospital were completed near where 6 SU is now. There were full living facilities to accommodate 300 men and women, but on the surface all that could be seen were a few huts giving little evidence of the hive of activity some 90 feet beneath the surface. There were over 500 on shift during the war and the barrack block had a much used bar.

Early in 1942 the War Office decided to establish a teleprinter switching centre in the quarry workings next to the CAD. The original cost estimate was £36,000; by June 1943, after much effort and 'round the clock working, the unit was almost complete, but the cost had soared to £50,000. Soon after, in August 1943, the South West Signals Centre was opened, under command of HQ 10 Group which was located nearby in the underground location now used by CDCN.

1960 saw the installation of new equipment and a dramatic reduction in the manpower required to operate this system. Reflecting the reduced scope of activities the name of the Unit was changed to South West Commcen. In May 1961 the Unit remained RAF Hawthorn and became a station in its own right. 1963 saw the closure of the CAD and the handover of the area to DOE.

In June 1965 the Unit reverted to being part of RAF Rudloe Manor. The build up of the Unit as it is today began in the late 60s with the installation of yet more facilities and in February 1973 the unit was once again renamed, becoming known as Communications Centre Rudloe Manor. However, this name was not to last long and in July 1977 the Unit was given its current name 6 SU.

Throughout the Unit's name changes one thing has remained constant — the main elements of the unit crest, which was authorised by the Queen in March 1955. The location is known as the Hawthorn site and hence the incorporation of the Hawthorn Sprig together with the telecoms flash and our motto which means 'without error, without delay'. The '6' was, of course, incorporated in 1977 when the Unit adopted its current title

HQ RAFFTS

There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.

Niccolo Machiavelli
from: Chap 6 of The Prince

Wardlaw Hill, part of the military-owned RAFFTS transmission system.

The introduction of a new order of things, as Machiavelli puts it, is indeed a difficult task, and particularly so if the old system is to be phased out with as little turbulence as possible. HQ RAF Fixed Telecommunication System (FTS) is established for just this purpose in the field of RAF ground communications, and I welcome the opportunity to explain briefly the function of the relatively new occupants of Anson, Mustang and Kittyhawk Buildings here at Rudloe Manor.

First of all, a little background is necessary. In about 1976 the Air Force Department decided to take a critical look at ground communications to decide what the problems were and what we should be doing about them. It was found that existing communication networks were fragmented and inflexible, and that they had grown up piecemeal in response to specific requirements rather than as part of a single coherent plan.

The networks were manpower intensive, and they relied almost entirely upon analogue landlines and analogue equipment rented from the Post Office (now BT) at a cost which was expected to rise dramatically. Ever more disturbing was the fact that our existing communication networks were judged inadequate to face the assessed military threat. Future ground communications needed to be based on the twin pillars of security and survivability, and also needed to integrate all types of comms traffic onto a single network.

Projects UNITER and BOXER will provide such a service, and are the core of the new system. The RAFFTS is a complex and ambitious system, which is already under construction and scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s, and will provide all fixed ground communications within and between RAF locations in the UK. The system has three major components: Project UNITER provides the system framework, the digital communication switches, and user terminals; Project BOXER provides defence-owned communications bearers to connect switches together; and finally, we have bearers rented from the civil market either from British Telecom or Mercury. Together these components form an integrated switching and transmission system — the RAFFTS.

To run the system, HQ RAFFTS was set up in 1986 and has grown into a unit of over 90 personnel commanded by Gp Capt A M Ferguson, whose post carries the joint title of Controller RAFFTS and Deputy Director Sigs 2(Air). He is responsible to the Director of Signals (Air). Not all the staff are from the Services; in some cases contractors have permanent representatives here, providing important liaison between their companies and the customer, namely, the AFD. But I must be careful not to leave the impression that the HQ deals solely with the planning and implementation of projects UNITER and BOXER.

Our existing analogue telecommunications services need, as they have always done, careful management to ensure the best attainable service from limited resources. The telegraph network, the voice networks of GPTN and AOTN, and the existing trunk network are notable examples.

So how will this new order of digital communications be brought into being? The answer is: carefully, and over a period of several years of transition. There will not be a "Big Bang", in which all the old equipment is switched off, removed and new equipment installed. The planning of the transition from old to new is every bit as challenging as the original system design, and presents the staff at HQ RAFFTS with a typical management and design task of the 80s — computer aided of course!

All networks need to be controlled on a day-to-day basis, and the FTS is no exception. Eventually this task will be carried out by 1 Signals Unit at Rudloe Manor, and for the first time the RAF will own, maintain and control its own secure and survivable ground communications network.

Group Captain A M Ferguson, controller RAFFTS.

Photograph by: Sgn Ldr Ell

RAF P&SS(SR)

Feeling about as safe as a turkey in the run-up to Christmas, I entered the boss' office to await my Paxo flavoured demise. 'We've been invited to submit an article in the new *Hexagon* magazine,' the boss commences — 'something putting us on the map, that sort of thing'. Pausing to allow this revelation to sink in, he continues ... 'Be a good chap and sort something out.' Retreating to my office I consider my next plan of action. How much leave have I got left?

Where better to start than the beginning. Hands up all those who know what 'P&SS(SR)' stands for. One, two, three ... right put them down now, people are beginning to stare. As a means of introduction I'll start with the four 'Ws'.

Who? P&SS(SR) stands for Provost and Security Services (Southern Region).

Where? Ensconced amidst the idyllic environs of No 1 Site, RAF Rudloe Manor, P&SS(SR) enjoys a casual, relaxed atmosphere within a labyrinth of truly spacious and luxuriously fitted en suite executive offices which it magnanimously shares with HQ P&SS(UK).

When? P&SS(SR) have been blessed with the hospitality of RAF Rudloe Manor ever since our move here from RAF Northolt during May 77 — some 11 years ago.

What? What do we do? Simply, our role is to provide a police and security service to all RAF units in Wales and the southern half of England. We investigate crime, conduct security investigations and carry out security tests and surveys. At the same time, we are continually updating our knowledge to ensure that in wartime we would be able to give station commanders the same standard of service, tailored to their special needs of the moment. Much of our work involves liaison with other police and security agencies both inside and outside the Service. Funnily enough, we do not as a rule perform any 'traditional' white-hatted and armbanded RAF Police duties.

Currently at the helm and navigating P&SS(SR) through life's turbulent waters is Wg Cdr BM Ransley. Wg Cdr Ransley's hobbies include golf, welding and wearing dickie-bow ties (and if he can get away with all three at the same time, so much the better).

After a New Year's pep talk by the OC, Southern's sporting prowess sees us reaching new heights on the CO's Cup ladder — after a concerted effort we're off the bottom!! Mind you, there were moments of doubt; not least when our swimming captain was overheard by the poolside in January discussing the merits of swimming downhill the first half if he won the toss. Still, as my old headmaster used to say: 'It's not the winning that counts, it's participating'. (That doesn't stop me thanking our forefathers for not adopting the same philosophy in World War Two). Mind you, we do have a formidable(?) array of golfers on the Region — if only we could get them all out on the course at the same time. We would be more than happy to play against any other *Hexagon* unit — if we can fit it in among our many liaison visits with the civil police.

This is only an introductory article, to put P&SS(SR) *in Hexagon*. Henceforth, we will try to give you a few snippets from our work — suitably doctored to protect the guilty! Here's one for a start — which gives you an idea of the P&SS(SR) Regime.

One of the investigators, finding difficulty in obtaining a vehicle to use, asked his Flight Lieutenant if he could use his Cavalier. The Flight Lieutenant agreed and said: 'Don't forget, Sgt XXX, I want it back spotless; no fag-ends, remains of Chinese takeaways on the floor or that sort of thing. OK?' Said Sgt promised it would be so and went off about his business. The next day, he appeared in the building, dressed very smartly in his usual civvies, but soaked to the skin and bearing marks of violent scrubbing on his visage. 'What happened to you Sgt XXX?' quoth his Flight Lieutenant. 'Well, sir, I took your car to the car wash and while it was being done I stood to one side, having a cigarette. To my horror, I saw that the radio aerial was still up and I dashed forward to try and put it down before the wash started. Unfortunately, I was too late and as I tried to put the aerial down, the water started and the brushes moved in. Anyway, I managed to do it, in the end.'

'Why the hell did you do that?' said his boss, 'You have got a scratched face from the brushes and your suit is cream-crackered.' Quoth the loyal Sgt, 'I know, I know, but I wasn't going to get a ?????????? from you about a busted aerial, after what you said about not mucking up the car.'

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN x 95331 ext Section 40
Fax ext 6984

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(Fin Sec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/F&S

Date: 8 September 1997

Dear Section 40

I have now looked into the points you raise in your recent letter about RAF Rudloe Manor. Your request to visit the site is denied. This ruling would generally apply to any member of the public or journalist seeking to visit any MOD establishment and is not unique to RAF Rudloe Manor.

This Command has no responsibility for the Corsham Computer Centre. This lies with the Procurement Executive. The point of contact, should you consider it essential to persist with your enquiries, is:

Press Office
Procurement Executive
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood #1
BRISTOL
BS12 7DU

Yours sincerely

Section 40

LC/356805/3/4

Telefax
To: Sec(AS)2
Fax: [redacted]
From: [redacted]
Date: 10 Oct
Pages: 4.

10 Oct 97

PSO/AOCSS
ACS(F&S)
Sec HSF 1
Sec(AS)2
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor

Copy to:

PSO/COS
DCS

[redacted]

[redacted]

Faxed tidy. This seems OK to me MJF 13/10

ENQUIRY FROM [redacted] UNDERGROUND BUNKERS

1. Addressees will be familiar with the thrust of [redacted]'s enquiries; his latest letter does not differ greatly in respect of the information he seeks. He is still asking for information about government wartime arrangements and I have therefore applied an exemption from the Code of Practice.

2. Would addressees please review the attached draft and either confirm that the information is correct or suggest suitable amendments. You will note that [redacted]'s letter is dated 30 July - I did not receive it from the Ministerial Correspondence Unit until 1 October! I would appreciate your comments by COP **Wednesday, 15 October.**

[redacted]
CS(FinSec)1
F160 [redacted] BRA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC [redacted]
10 OCT 1997
FILE 64/1

DRAFT

From: Section 40

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon Section 40
RAFTN Section 40
Fax Section 40

Section 40

Maidstone
Kent
Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: October 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

'Hawthorn' is the name attributed to the geographical area where RAF Rudloe Manor is situated. It is not, and never has been, the name of any underground facility at RAF Rudloe Manor.

In my letter to you of 4 June, I advised you of the role and location of the PINDAR centre, and I refer you to the information I gave you then.

The site to which you refer at Rhydymwyn does not belong to the Ministry of Defence. I believe it is in the ownership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

You also ask again about the underground facilities at Rudloe Manor, which I have already explained to you in my letter of 4 June. I pointed out to you at that time that it is not appropriate to comment on government wartime arrangements and the release of such information is exempt under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Yours sincerely

DRAFT

12. Defence MoD Location of Secret bunkers

The Prime Minister;
the Rt Hon Tony Blair MP,
10 Downing Street,
Westminster,
London,
SW1A 2AA.

Section 40
Maidstone,
Kent,
Section 40
30th July, 1997.

001500

Dear Tony.

I am writing with regard to RAF Ruldoe Manor, near Corsham in Wiltshire.

For many years now, local villagers and Investigative Journalists have suspected that the Central Government War HQ (CGWHQ), the National Seat of Government during national emergencies and Nuclear attack, was (and still is) located in the former Quarry underneath RAF Rudloe Manor. The aforementioned bunker is known as *Hawthorn*.

Many people have speculated as to its size, construction, conditions inside and its facilities; some have even made reference to an underground town, complete with Operations centre, Telephone exchange, roads, escalators, emergency Nuclear Power station, pubs and even small shops!

HQ Logistics Command at RAF Brampton have admitted to me that it is "common knowledge that there are underground sites at RAF Rudloe Manor, which form part of the defence establishment." They refused to deny or confirm the existence of the Central Government War HQ. They did confirm, however, the existence of a new Nuclear bunker underneath the MoD Main Building, code-name PINDAR, but refused to tell me the contingency plans for its use. When the BBC asked the MoD about the "Hawthorn" Central Government War HQ, the MoD's reply was; "You're not supposed to know about it!"

As a registered voter, Freelance Journalist and British citizen, I feel that we, the British public, have a right to know and be told of the existence of the Central Government War HQ underneath RAF Rudloe Manor, and the deputy (underground) site at Rhydymwyn in North Wales. We also should be told **EXACTLY** what *is* underneath RAF Rudloe Manor, and the rationale, both now and during the Cold War, for having it there? Why is it there? What are the Contingency plans for having it there? What is it really for? What *is* in there (Operations centre, Underground town and rail system, etc)? What is the standard of the technical installations, and how much did the complex cost the taxpayer to build?

We also deserve an explanation for the PINDAR complex. Again, what is in there? Why is it there? What is the rationale for having it? What is the standard of the technical installations? How much did it cost to build, and what are the contingency plans for its use?

Please remember that previous governments expected the public to protect itself by hiding the makeshift shelters (ref:- "Protect and Survive", HMSO). Therefore, I think that we have a right to know, once and for all, what there was and still is underneath RAF Rudloe Manor.

I think that the argument of national security, used by previous governments to hide Nuclear bunkers from the general public, is a weak one. Do you *seriously* expect me to believe that the KGB didn't know that the *Hawthorn* Central Government War HQ existed, and did not have any idea what there was underneath RAF Rudloe Manor!?

Please turn over.

Page two of two.

From:- Section 40

May I please ask you to take action on my concerns? I believe we, the public, have a right to know what there really is underneath RAF Rudloe Manor and the MoD Main Building, especially when one considers that people like myself were expected to hide under mattresses and tables when the warheads were launched!

Please acknowledge my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

64/1

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

Section 40

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MIN(AF)/JR/2/1/3

[October 1997

Sec(AS)1

Copy to:
APS/SofS
APS/USofS
PSO/ACAS
Sec(AS)2
ADGE 1 (RAF)
DPO(RAF)

AIRBORNE DEBRIS - PRESS REPORTS

Thank you for your minute D/Sec(AS)/58/1 dated 23 September which Minister(AF) has noted.

Section 40

APS/Minister(AF)
MB6113 [MB] Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1/2

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

23 September 1997

Sec(AS)2a1 - [redacted]

RELEASE OF DI/55 UFO FILES

Reference: DI55/108/15 dated 11 September 1997

1. I attach for your perusal prior to release the two UFO policy files recently discovered during the course of CS(RM)'s review of older DIS records.

2. There is no doubt DI/55/40/9/1 Part 1 with a last enclosure date of 1963 is "out of time". But the cover is clearly endorsed "closed 8 November 1967" and as the reference makes clear it seems probable a large number of enclosures (Es 1-3 [the second set of Es 1-3!] 6-9 and 11-19 together with one of the two original Minute Sheets) were removed and relived on Part 2. It is therefore understandable why this file has not previously come to light.

3. You will see the files are a mess. There has been wholesale renumbering of enclosures and enclosures are missing. I appreciate on release the general condition of these files, as no doubt will the content of the papers, attract attention, but I strongly recommend we resist the temptation (I admit I was tempted) to repackage the files into a more coherent form by placing them in chronological order and renumbering.

4. Attached to Part 2 is one of CS(RM)'s Sensitivity Notes. The passages flagged for deletion prior to the release of the file concerns specific "intelligence" activities which are not related to UFOs (see E3 paras 17-21, 29 and 31e).

[redacted]

[redacted] Hd CS(RM)1

[redacted] MT48/3 [redacted]

Two files Returned 13/10 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SEC(AS)2 24 SEP 1997 FILE 64/1

Tue 23 Sep, 1997 14:28 mailbox standard Page 1

Section 40 [redacted]

for info

Section 40 [redacted]

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
23/09/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	UFO DATABASE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 23/09/97 at 12:15 Delivered: 23/09/97 at 12:13
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 457
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: UFO DATABASE

64/1

Text: Section 40 attached updated database. You will note it includes to two recently discovered DI55 files which should be with you later this week. Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Annex A

TOP ENCLOSURE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES - AS AT SEPTEMBER 1997

Already open	-	14	
To be released:			
1998	-	12	(incl. 2 recently discovered files in DI, to be assigned to DEFE 21!)
1999	-	14	
2000	-	13	
2001	-	11	
2002	-	2	
2003	-	14	(1 awaiting assignment to AIR 2)
Total	**-**	**80**	

PLUS TWO DI FILES TO BE FORWARDED TO CS(RM) AND LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO DEFE 21.

AIR 2

16918	1961-63	UFO's: sightings; reports by members of the public	AF/X59/64 Pt 5
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17318	1963	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 6
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17526	1964	UFO files	AF/X59/64 Pt 7
	[**OPEN** - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]		
17527	1965	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 8
	[**OPEN** - released 1996]		
17982	1965-66	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 9

[**OPEN** - released 1997]

17983	1966	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 10

[**OPEN** - released 1997]

17984	1966-67	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 11

[To be released 1998]

18115	1967	Unidentified flying objects: reports	AF/CX38/67 Pt 1

[To be released 1998]

18116	1967	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 2

[To be released 1998]

18117	1967-68	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 3

[To be released 1999]

18183	1968-69	Unidentified flying objects	AF/7463/72 Pt 2

[To be released 2000]

18564	1957-71	UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957

[To be released 2002]

18565	1970-71	UFO Reports

[To be released 2002]

TBA	April 1972	UFO's	10/45/120

[Awaiting allocation of piece no.
To be released 2003]

AIR 14

2800	1943	No 115 Squadron: news sheet "Bang On" No 1.	

[**OPEN** - released 1972]

AIR 16

1199	1952 Sept	Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	IIH1/188/1/17

[**OPEN**]

AIR 20

7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects): reports	II/127/3/48
	[**OPEN**]		
9320	1957	Parliamentary question on UFO's	MR 008614/193
	[**OPEN**]		
9321	1957	ditto	MR 008614/213
	[**OPEN**]		
9322	1957	ditto	MR 008614/220
	[**OPEN**]		
9994	1953-57	Reports on aerial phenomena	IIH/273/10/4
	[**OPEN**]		
11612	1967-68	Unidentified flying objects	MR 073414
	[To be released 1999]		
11694	1968 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)512
	[To be released 1999]		
11695	1968 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)513
	[To be released 1999]		
11696	1968 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)523
	[To be released 1999]		
11887	1967 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)507
	[To be released 1998]		
11888	1967 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)508
	[To be released 1998]		
11889	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
	[To be released 1998]		
11890	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
	[To be released 1998]		

11891	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
	[To be released 1998]		
11892	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
	[To be released 1998]		
11893	1967 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)511
	[To be released 1998]		
11894	1968 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)514
	[To be released 1999]		
11895	1968 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)515
	[To be released 1999]		
11896	1968 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)516
	[To be released 1999]		
11897	1968 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)517
	[To be released 1999]		
11898	1968 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)518
	[To be released 1999]		
11899	1968 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)519
	[To be released 1999]		
11900	1968 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)520
	[To be released 1999]		
11901	1968 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)521
	[To be released 1999]		
11902	1968 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)522
	[To be released 1999]		
12055	1969 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)524
	[To be released 2000]		
12056	1969 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)525
	[To be released 2000]		
12057	1969 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)526
	[To be released 2000]		

12058	1969 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)527
	[To be released 2000]		
12059	1969 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)528
	[To be released 2000]		
12060	1969 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)529
	[To be released 2000]		
12061	1969 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)530
	[To be released 2000]		
12069	1969 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)531
	[To be released 2000]		
12063	1969 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)532
	[To be released 2000]		
12064	1969 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)533
	[To be released 2000]		
12065	1969 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)534
	[To be released 2000]		
12066	1969 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)535
	[To be released 2000]		
12067	1970 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)536
	[To be released 2001]		
12297	1970 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)537 ID/48/94
	[To be released 2001]		
12298	1970 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)538 ID/48/95
	[To be released 2001]		
12299	1970 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)539 ID/48/96
	[To be released 2001]		
12300	1970 May	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)540 ID/48/97
	[To be released 2001]		

12301	1970 June	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)541 ID/48/98
	[To be released 2001]		
12302	1970 July	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)542 ID/48/99
	[To be released 2001]		
12303	1970 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)543 ID/48/100
	[To be released 2001]		
12304	1970 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)544 ID/48/101
	[To be released 2001]		
12305	1970 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)545 ID/48/102
	[To be released 2001]		
12306	1970 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)546 ID/48/103
	[To be released 2001]		
12399	1971-72	UFO reports	ID/47/274 Pt 4
12400	1972 Jan	ditto	ID/48/117
12401	1972 Feb	ditto	ID/48/118
12401	1972 March	ditto	ID/48/119
12403	1972 April	ditto	ID/48/120
12404	1972 May	ditto	ID/48/121
12405	1972 June	ditto	ID/48/122
12406	1972 July	ditto	ID/48/123
12407	1972 Aug	ditto	ID/48/124
12408	1972 Sept	ditto	ID/48/125
12409	1972 Oct	ditto	ID/48/126
12410	1972 Nov	ditto	ID/48/127
12411	1971 Dec	ditto	ID/48/128

[Pieces 12399-12411 due for release 2003]

93	1953	Air Ministry Secret Summary. Vol 10. No 3 Article on Flying Saucers.	IIG/101
	[**OPEN** - released 1984?]		

BJ5

311	1968-70	UFO: Met aspects	AF/M 396/68
	[To be released 2001]		

DEFE 21 ?

tbd	1958-63	UFO: policy	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt1
	[To be released 1998]		
tbd	1963-67	UFO: Policy	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt2
	[To be released 1998]		

THESE TWO FILES ONLY RECENTLY DISCOVERED AS PART OF CS(RM)'s REVIEW OF RECORDS HELD BY DI OVER 20 YEARS OLD. THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO DEFE 21

Annex B

PRO CLASSES CREATED FOR INTELLIGENCE RECORDS - UFO RELATED RECORDS - AS AT September 1997

8 classes have to date been raised for records originating from defence "intelligence" branches. **They contain between them more than 15,250 intelligence records selected for permanent preservation.**

THERE ARE NO IDENTIFIABLE UFO RECORDS BUT SEE DEFE 21 (ABOVE) - TWO AWAIT LISTING.

The classes together with the date range and the total number of pieces in each class:

ADM 223 - Naval Intelligence Papers, 1914-1965, 840 files and volumes.

ADM 231 - Naval Intelligence Reports, 1883-1965, 54 volumes

AIR 40 - Directorate of Intelligence and other Intelligence Papers - 1926-1963, 2706 files and volumes

DEFE 21 - Joint Intelligence Bureau, Directorate of Scientific Intelligence: Registered files - 1946-1978, 77 files

DEFE 32 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 1957-1979, 99 files

DEFE 44 - Joint Intelligence Bureau: Reports - 1946-1971, 100 files and volumes

WO 106 - Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence - 1937-1961, 6228 boxes, files and volumes

WO 208 Directorate of Military Intelligence - 1917-1961, 5187 boxes, files and volumes

64/1

Loose Minute

1+2

D/Sec(AS)/58/1

23 September 1997

APS/Minister(AF)

Copy to:
APS/SofS
APS/USofS
PSO/ACAS
Sec(AS)2
ADGE 1 (RAF)
DPO(RAF)

AIRBORNE DÉBRIS - PRESS REPORTS

1. We spoke this morning about reports picked up by the Press concerning sightings of lights in the sky and falling débris appearing in the Border region and the North East. I have now investigated these reports and can confirm that there has been no aircraft accident in the area and the most likely explanation for the sightings is débris from a satellite.

2. RAF Fylingdales has advised that a solar powered Russian military satellite was destroyed in space on 17 September. Although fragments of the satellite were not expected to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, and Fylingdales were not routinely tracking the débris, they have been able to plot the expected trajectory of the fragments and this does coincide with the pattern of sightings reported earlier this morning. There is therefore strong evidence to link the two events.

3. Any fragments from the satellite which may have landed are not expected to present any danger to the public but the local police and Community Relations Officer have been informed.

4. Details of the satellite are classified but the attached unclassified Press lines may be used by DPO in the event of further Press queries.

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)1
MB7247 Section 40

AIRBORNE DÉBRIS - PRESS REPORTS

- The unusual lights in the sky and airborne débris reported to have appeared in the Border Region and the North East earlier today are most likely to be fragments of an old satellite which broke up in Space last week.

- There is a lot of satellite débris in Space which usually burns up on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere but occasionally some fragments do get through and this is what we understand happened this morning.

- These fragments do not pose a danger to the public but as a precaution it is advisable to inform the police of any pieces that are found.