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Registered File Disposal Form

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
POLICY - SELECTED PAPERS**

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):

1) DAS/64/1/1

Part:

A

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Date of last enclosure:

11 FEB 2003

Date closed:

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
~~12~~ **12 SEP 07**

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION

(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years

No recommendation

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R 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 fully completed at time of file closure)

(Delete as appropriate)

PERMANENT RETENTION

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 INFO(EXP)-R.

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s):

LEGAL

CONTRACTUAL

FINANCE/AUDIT

DIRECTORATE POLICY

DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT [_____]

OTHER (Specify)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

U.S. RELATED DOCUMENTS

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

Destroyed

Considered by DR for permanent preservation

PERMANENT RETENTION
DO NOT DESTROY

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below C2/equivalent)

Section 40

Name: (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C1 Date: 12 SEP 07

Branch Title and Full Address:

DAS-SEC

Section 40

MOJ MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL

Tel No: Section 40

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 DR USE ONLY)

UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

DI ISEC /10/8/3

11 February 2003

DAS LA (Ops&Pol)1

Copy to:

DI BCR CG AD

DI 55 **Section 40**

} emailed

COPY OF DOCUMENTS FROM DI55 FILE DI55/108/15 PART 4

1. Further to my minute of 13 January, you came over on 3 February and looked through the above file selecting documents you thought might be useful to retain to fill some gaps in DAS's history of MOD's UFO policy.
2. I have now checked the documents you selected with DI55 who are content for you to have copies for your files which I enclose. The DIS would, however, wish to be consulted before any documents generated by DIS are considered for release to the public domain.

Section 40

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DI BCR CG 4

WH306 **Section 40**

27/9/07

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(106) AD

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DGSTI/4/2/8

25 Oct 95

16421/4

1995
filed out of
order

AD
ENCLOSURE
60
NUMBER

SS Section 40

Sec/DI55

Copy to: Section 40

UAP STUDY



Ref A: D/DI55/202/RWJ dated 19 Oct 95

1. Your request at reference for a study to be undertaken on UAP provided an intriguing interlude to more conventional business. Section 40 had already mentioned his intentions.
2. I have studied your supporting paperwork and also that which surfaced last time the matter was raised. Whether or not the estimated £80K for a one year study might be available affordability is not the issue; it is whether there is sufficient justification to proceed against the priority threshold which exists in the present climate.
3. I note that Sec(AS)2 has a responsibility for UFOs and that he was content with the proposed study last time. However before contemplating any further action two hurdles need to be cleared. Firstly the customer must provide a priority ranking for a requirement which merits the study being considered against similar priority Air Staff requirements. Secondly we in DI(ST) have to form a judgement on whether the study should proceed taking account of relative priorities between all customers and the allocation of our resources to tasks.
4. On the latter I am far from convinced that we would form the view that the study has greater priority than some of the savings measures that have had to be offered, and which have been taken, in LTC96. In addition I consider the assessment made last time remains valid and indeed is strengthened that spending money on such an esoteric subject in a continuing climate of constraint was 'not good politically'.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 DAS 4 (SEC)
 ROOM 8241
 MAIN BUILDING
 WHITEHALL 13/401
 LONDON SW1A 2HB

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5. On the basis of the present case I am not prepared to support the study. As a matter of normal business efficiency however I have no objection to you creating a simple in-house database into which you could enter essential details of all future UAP reports. This would at least provide a convenient and accessible source of future data which would facilitate a study should the above provisions be satisfied. Perhaps you would let me know if you decide this is justified.

Section 40

Section 40

DI(ST)

WH413B Section 40

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3688 / 1
copy 2



D/DI55/108/15

19 June 1995

Section DI 455

INITIAL STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

1. We have previously made a case for a initial study of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) and it was accepted by the then DI(ST). With the onset of DCS 18 he decided to postpone any work.

2. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of reports received and as per standing instructions no action has been taken. Although many are doubtless produced by fertile imaginations many appear to represent a possible effect. It could be argued that there is more "evidence" for the existence of UAPs (undefined) than the **Section 26**

3. My thinking on this mater is simple:

a. We have a remit that we have never met.

b. **Section 26**

c. Since we have never carried out any studies we do not know if the reported events are caused by natural causes, **Section 27** or other reasons.

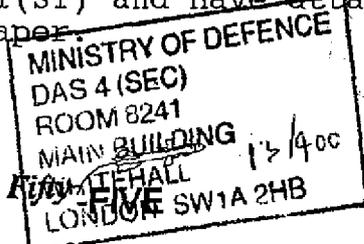
d. If the reports really reflect the existence of **Section 26**:

i. **Section 26**

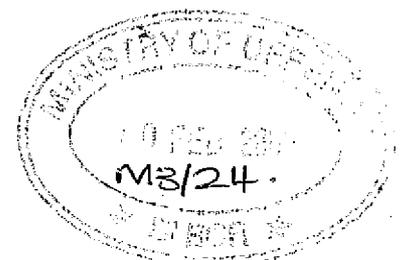
ii. **Section 26**

e. Until we conduct some analysis of the files we will not have any idea what the many reports represent. If at any stage in the future UAPs are shown to exist then there is the potential for severe embarrassment. We can justifiably be asked how we could receive so many reports and ignore them. If I had a suspicious nature I might assume that there is a high level remit on the DIS not to investigate UAPs for some reason!

4. I believe that we should now raise the topic again with DI(ST) and have attached a draft minute and a short supporting paper.



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As an allied subject you will remember that some UAP reports
shortly be released to the public. The distribution lists
associated with these reports will reveal the DI 55 link. I have
sent to you a draft note on the request to agree to agree to
55's association with UAPs to be officially released when the
public gain access to some UAP files.

Section 40

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Section 40

Wing Commander

DI55 Section 40

OWOB Section 40 MB

closure:

Draft minute to DI(ST)

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DRAFT

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D/DI55/108/15

19 June 1995



DI(ST)

A CASE FOR AN INITIAL STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

INTRODUCTION

1. For some years we have had a tasking from MOD to advise on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). However, due to pressure of work we have never been able to devote any effort other than to file reports. Over the years a large amount of data has been accumulated but in all that time DI 55 has not been able to establish a data base of reported events nor have we been able to consider the "evidence" in any organised way.

2. In 93 we bid for very limited funding to be allocated to this area for an initial study. This was agreed but the then DI(ST) stated that before any work could commence we would need to receive a statement of support from the customer. This was done and written support was received from Sec(AS)2 who have a UAP (UFO) responsibility within MOD. It was agreed that this met the remit to obtain customer support. However, in 94 the then DI(ST) decided that any out of the ordinary activities should be put on hold until DCS 18 was completed.

27

3. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of reports received and as per standing instructions no action has been taken. Although many are doubtless produced by fertile imaginations many appear to represent a possible effect. It could be argued that there is more "evidence" for the existence of UAPs (undefined) than the Section 27

26

4. There is a considerable degree of reporting of unusual events world wide that may be connected with Section 26

26

Section 26 If the reports really reflect the existence of Section 26

26

i. Section 26

26

ii. Section 26

5. Until we conduct some analysis of the files we will not have any idea what the many reports represent. If at any stage in the future UAPs are shown to exist then there is the potential for severe embarrassment. We can justifiably be asked how we could receive so many reports and ignore them. If I had a suspicious nature I might assume that there is a high level remit on the DIS not to investigate UAPs for some reason!

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6. I have attached a paper drafted by **Section 40** who has a peripheral interest in the subject and has read many of the books produced on the topic. However, his concerns are simple like mine we should treat the topic as a potential threat until we have at least analyzed our data on the subject. As a first step therefore I request your agreement to place a task on **Section 43** data base the information of the files and produce an interim report. The attached paper also outlines the proposed study that would be undertaken within existing allocations to DI 55.

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OWOB **Section 40** MB

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Enclosure:

1. UAP Paper.

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D/DI55/108/15



UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP)

1. For the remainder of this paper a UAP is defined as an object in space, the atmosphere or on the ground that does not appear to be a known aerospace vehicle.

2. For some years we have had a tasking from MOD to advise on UAPs. However, due to pressure of work we have never been able to devote any effort other than to file reports. Over the years a large amount of data has been accumulated but in all that time DI 55 has not been able to establish a data base of reported events nor have we been able to consider the "evidence" in any organised way.

3. In 93 we bid for very limited funding to be allocated to this area for an initial study. This was agreed but the then DI(ST) stated that before any work could commence we would need to receive a statement of support from the customer. This was done and written support was received from Sec(AS)2 who have a UAP (UFO) responsibility within MOD. It was agreed that this met the remit to obtain customer support. However, in 94 the then DI(ST) decided that any out of the ordinary activities should be put on hold until DCS 18 was completed.

4. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of reports received and as per standing instructions no action has been taken. Although many are doubtless produced by fertile imaginations many appear to represent a possible effect. It could be argued that there is more "evidence" for the existence of UAPs (undefined) than the Section 27

S27 [redacted]

S26 Section 26 [redacted] If the reports really

S26 reflect the existence of Section 26 [redacted]

S26 Section 26 [redacted]

S26 i. Section 26 [redacted]

S26 ii. Section 26 [redacted]

AIM

5. The aim of this paper is to indicate why a limited study of UAP's should be conducted.

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BACKGROUND

6. Reporting Procedure. There is a GAI that contains a simple reporting procedure. This is the main source of the numerous reports we receive although Sec(AS)2 often pass reports sent to them by members of the public.

7. DI 55 Role. DI 55 has been tasked with the "study" of UAP's for at least 13 years to my personnel knowledge. During that time the many reports received have been filed and no analysis has ever been undertaken. No serious follow up has ever occurred to any incident. Occasional briefs were made, most recently to the then DG and DI(ST). Not surprisingly there has always been reluctance to undertake any study when limited resources were already strained by the Cold War in the past and recent events such as the Gulf War, Bosnia and the ever increasing work load. DI 55 has been identified in various open source publications as having a UAP role.

8. Sec(AS)2 acts as a "front" for MOD and accepts questions and reports from various civilian organisations and passes information to us. Their general response is that the MOD would only be interested if a threat to the nation was demonstrated. In response to the usual question "are the reports studied" the answer is no. They have never commented on any intelligence activity.

9. Data Base. We have many files of reports. There is also some evidence that personnel are reluctant to report UAP sightings for fear of ridicule. This is a prevalent attitude and was demonstrated at the UAP brief given by DI 55 at a GSTI meeting. Of interest was the fact that the scientists and engineers present treated to topic seriously while non scientists (or those without a physical science background) made the usual jokes about little green men and mass hallucination!

THE "EVIDENCE"

10. Since no serious study has ever been undertaken there is limited statistical support to the remainder of this paper and it is of necessity subjective. The "evidence" is the mass of reports received, there are no known artifacts. However, I would comment that it is not uncommon to base our assessment of the existence of new threat systems purely on circumstantial evidence. Section 26

S.26 [REDACTED] Very few people know how this is done or could conduct a peer review. We had no imagery until very recently! With UAP's we have eyewitness reports from many thousands of people world wide.

11. What is Reported? The great bulk of the evidence is composed of eyewitness reports of strange objects in the sky that are not

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recognised by the observers as known aerospace vehicles. Common features often cited in reports include:

- a. Rapid movement.
- b. Apparent rapid changes in speed from stationary to very high speeds. In some cases there appear to be very high rates of acceleration.
- c. Sizes from a few feet to hundreds of feet.
- d. Shapes ranging from the familiar "flying saucer" through wedges and deltas to cylinders.
- e. Lighted "windows" or "rays" from the UAP, and often coloured bright lights.

12. Sample "Events". We have never conducted any studies but these incidents have received a degree of study at home using unclassified references and knowledge of reports on file.

a. Rendlesham Forest. In the early 80's a UAP landed outside of RAF Bentwaters in a forest. This incident has been widely reported and the unit commander raised an incident report that was passed to us. All the witnesses were military and included policemen and a Lt Col. Other interesting facts are the proximity to a large base and the apparent absence of any obvious propulsion system. There have been subsequent more detailed reports from personnel who claim that they were there. There seems no doubt that something very strange occurred. The US claimed that no photography was taken although some "eyewitnesses" have subsequently claimed that imagery was obtained.

b. Belgium. In late 89 about 20 police men and many other people sighted what appeared to be a large delta shaped object over Brussels and other parts of Belgium. It was low and slow, very large and had 3 bright lights at its apexes. There was no noise. In March 90 there was a recurrence of the events and many people reported sighting the object. It was tracked by radar and 2 F-16s scrambled to intercept it. When the F-16s locked on the device accelerated far faster than the ac to supersonic speeds and appeared to "play" with the aircraft. This was repeated a number of times. The air force later held a press conference and showed HUD and radar recordings. Enhanced ground photography showed a clear delta shape. These incidents have been the subject of several TV reports and have been confirmed by the Belgium MOD to Sec(AS)2.

c. Cosford Event. I have called this the Cosford event since that was the source of the first report. At 0115 on

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West Drayton and Air Traffic at Birmingham airport confirmed that there was no traffic in the Cosford area at that time. Eleven other reports were received from independent observers scattered over the country. The gist of these reports was:

- i. Two separated bright lights moving in parallel.
- ii. Some type of "vapour trail" or rear facing beams of light.
- iii. Speeds from stationary to M2.
- iv. Erratic and straight flights.
- v. Seen at a number of locations.
- vi. Observed from 2010 on 30 Mar to 0120 on 31 Mar.
- vii. No radar returns.
- viii. No sonic booms.

The Devon UFO Research Organisation, who appear to have a professional approach and follow up reported sightings with interviews, have supplied other details to Sec(AS) and we have copies. They are very similar to the previous reports but contain additional detail from some of the previous observers and some new reports. Two named policemen from Ilfracombe reported that the lights were 500 apart and had a structure between them and passed overhead at about 2000 ft. Other reports were similar. Many reported that they used the expression vapour trails because they found the effect difficult to describe. Some described the "vapour trails" as similar to rearward facing lights.

13. Alien Abductions. There is no mechanism for the reporting of "alien abductions" to DI 55 but the open source reporting contains an ever increasing number of these strange reports.

14. Numbers of Reports. We usually only receive reports generated by military personnel who either are reporting events witnessed by like personnel or telephone reports from civilians. There is significant evidence that this is a minority of the total number of "reported events". I am aware of several incidents that have not been reported by military personnel for fear of ridicule. The various UFO groups maintain data bases that we might be able to gain access to.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

15. Aircraft. There is no doubt that many sightings can be explained in conventional terms where observers are seeing known

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objects such as aircraft, helicopters and airships at unusual times; in unusual conditions and perhaps in excited mental states. There are always people who desperately want "to believe". UAP's are perhaps a substitute religion for some people. An excellent example of a false sighting was demonstrated in the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". In that film a group of "believers" are on a ridge where UAP's had been reported. The expectation is that some will be seen and eventually an unusual object appears. However, only when it overflies the ridge can see that it is a helicopter. A combination of the wind direction, distance and aircraft lights fooled everyone. Many reported sightings can probably be explained away in such terms.

16. Meteors. Few people nowadays ever see meteorites, these can be most impressive and be mistaken for UAP's.

17. Space Vehicles. Some space vehicles can be seen from the earth under some conditions and these could be mistaken for UAP's.

18. US "Black" Aircraft. The Section 27 is a very unusual shape and can easily be mistaken at some angles for a UAP. In addition, there is some Section 27 and it is possible that these could also be mistaken for UAP's.

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19. Ball Lightning. There now seems to be a consensus that some type of natural plasma ball can be created for short periods by natural phenomena. This could again be mistaken for a UAP.

20. Deliberate Hoax. There is some evidence that deliberate hoaxes have been perpetrated.

21. Mass Hallucination. I am unaware of any phenomena that can cause a number of people to hallucinate identically simultaneously.

22. Unknown Natural Phenomena. It is possible that some events could be unrecognised natural phenomena.

23. Extraterrestrials. This possibility can not be eliminated.

THE US DIMENSION

24. During discussions with Section 27 and other agencies I have been told that they do not study UAP's but I have been told that Section 27 I do not know if my introduction to the subject was to gauge what I knew, an expression of genuine interest, or for another reason.

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25. It is public knowledge that at one time the USAF did conduct UAP investigations. There have been countless books and reports of continuing US interest and some possible contacts with UAP's. I have read many and there does seem to be an underlining thread and some possible evidence amid the huge quantity of rubbish and obvious fabrications.

27 THE Section 27 DIMENSION

27 26. Section 27 have confirmed that at least until the early 90's a small team studied UAPs Section 27

WHY STUDY UAP'S

27. Since we have only ever filed reports and never conducted any studies it is difficult to comment with any confidence on any aspect of UAPs. Perhaps we would have taken them more seriously if they had a red star painted upon them! However we must determine what UAPs are if only so that we can ignore future reports with a degree of confidence. Possible explanations for UAP reports have been previously described. We can not at this time eliminate the possibility that they are real and could they represent a threat to the nation. For this reason alone we should conduct an initial study.

28. If for the sake of argument we assume UAP's are real then their apparent use of a reactionless propulsion systems and rapid acceleration would indicate a very advanced technology. Can we afford to ignore this?

OPTIONS

29. ~~At this time I believe that there are only two logical options, a do nothing option and a limited study option.~~

30. Do Nothing Option. If we accept this option and carry on just filing and ignoring reports then we have a very easy time. They are no costs. However, there is a certain element of risk associated with this option if UAPs turn out to be real objects and they pose a threat. We would then have to explain why we had ignored the evidence accumulated over many years. I do not recommend this option.

31. Limited Study Option. The first and most obvious step is to data base the reports we have and search for patterns that may indicate that we are looking at real events. In the draft proposal for a limited study to be placed with xxx we envisaged 3 main work packages, the production of a data base, the production of a report, and possible follow on activities as

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directed by DI 55. The data base would contain the following minimum features:

- a. A discrete event number for each incident.
- b. Details of location(s), including any military or economic potential targets.
- c. Times and dates.
- d. Details of person(s) reporting the event and witnesses.
- e. Details of the event to include size, shape, colour, speed(s), noise, other effects such as effects on electronic equipment or ignition systems
- g. A categorisation of the event as follows:
 - 1 - Probable NATO/civilian aircraft.
 2. - Probable space-associated event such as meteor, re-entry vehicle or planet.
 3. - Probable hoax or publicity stunt.
 4. - Unidentified.
- f. Any possible explanation, such as military exercises etc.

The report would include classify of types of UAP, comment on possible explanations, associations of locations with UAPs, comment on possible vehicle performance parameters, comment on any evidence for advanced technology and especially propulsion systems, comment on the possibility that any events are caused by devices other than vehicles operated by members of NATO, a proposal for an improved UAP reporting format, (if required) and proposals for possible data collection methods, (if required). The work would be classified SECRET UK EYES B, mainly to avoid leakage of the fact that we were studying UAPs and any perceived MOD embarrassment.

CONCLUSION

32. There is no substantial evidence of the existence of UAP's in the form of artifacts. However, there are countless eyewitness reports from personnel all over the world. There would seem to be some substance to the reports but that could range from misreports of aerospace vehicles, natural phenomena or even US "black" aircraft. The simple answer is that we do not know. I believe that we should at the very least examine the data base and form an opinion. If we do not do this we could face a most

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embarrassing situation if UAP's are determined to exist (caused by whatever mechanism) and we are seen to have had the evidence but ignored it.

33. I believe that an initial study can be produced via a contract **Section 43** for an initial study of our filed reports. This could be funded from within the existing DI 55 allocation and cost no more than £35k.

19 Jun 95

Section 40

[Redacted]

Wg Cdr

DI 55 **Section 40**

OWOB **Section 40** MB

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ENCLOSURE
58
NUMBER

Section 40
25/4

90/1

Di 55 case should
distribution documents, do you
have any strong views?

ufo2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/CS(RM)/4/6/37

4 April 1995

Sec(AS)2a

Copy to:
DI55c

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES

Reference: D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 28 April 1993

1. At Reference it was agreed that the criteria that has previously applied to the release of UFO matters could be eased thereby permitting public access to part of the files at the Public Record Office. These revised rules have been incorporated in our guidance to review staff (Annex A) but recent developments prompt me to once again raise the subject.
2. The internal distribution list was originally intended to be retained in department as Defence Security Sensitive under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1967. In the past this would have presented no problems as the submissions to the Lord Chancellor, whose authority is required before the records can be considered legally closed, only received a cursory examination by PRO inspecting staff. But with the advent of Open Government the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records has been brought into the act. In preparing our submission last year the PRO advised that they could not support the withholding of this information, in the absence of their support it would be certain the Council would reject our case for closure. We therefore removed the extracts from our submission and as a temporary measure we have treated the information as intelligence sensitive and it is therefore closed under the provision of the "security and intelligence blanket"! But as you will see from Annex B the information we are withholding from the public does not fit at all comfortably with the criteria agreed by the Lord Chancellor in 1992.
4. In the circumstances can I ask you to reconsider the requirement to withhold the internal distribution from the public domain. Section 40

[Redacted]

Hd (CS(RM)1
Section 40

ANNEX R TO D/CS(RM)1/4/6/3/
D/CS(RM)1/4/6/3/ APRIL 1995

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ANNEX S

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Unidentified Flying Objects have long been the subject of intense public and media interest and this interest is often reflected in demands to examine official records relating to these phenomena.
2. Prior to 1967 records relating to UFO reports were destroyed after 5 years, as stated by Viscount Long for the Government in the House of Lords in April 1982, but reports since then have been preserved. This has been restated as MOD policy by Ministers, as recently as 20 February 1990 by the Earl of Arran, US of S (AF).
3. The MOD policy branch which deals with this subject, Sec (AS), therefore marks all UFO report files for permanent retention and in view of the ministerial commitment to keep such material and the high public interest in this topic, all files relating to UFOs are to be selected for 2nd review.
4. At 2nd review all "UFO files" are to be selected for the Public Record Office for normal opening at the usual 30 year point, but with the following action the internal distribution on UFO reports are not releasable as it is not the Departments' practice to specify the areas, other than the co-ordinating branch, currently Sec(AS), within the MOD which receive these reports. The official line is that UFOs reports are passed to these departments within the MOD responsible for the Air Defence of the UK. As it is Government policy that where files selected for permanent preservation contain sensitive information consideration must first be given to whether it is possible to delete such information thereby enabling the release of a substantial part of the file. In the case of files containing UFO reports all papers must be released but the internal distribution should first be deleted, these deletions to be retained in department as Defence Security Sensitive, under S.3(4) and re-reviewed every 10 years.

Assoc File Ref:

D/CS(RM)1/4/3/2

Change No 9

S-1

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INDEXED TO NCS(R) 4/6/3
DAD 42 APR 11 1995



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS
Telephone 071-270 0101 Fax 071-270 0208

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service
Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

PS ENOBSNO
RS CDFG
RS X 28 (R)
AWS (JCS)

CPD
Hd of CS DIV
Hd CS (R)

Section 40
Section 40
Section 40

Ref. A092/422

13 February 1992

Dear Terry,

Records Relating to Security and Intelligence

In my letter of 23 December last I said that the Lord Chancellor would announce the renewal of the 'blanket' approval to retain records relating to security and intelligence by means of an arranged PQ.

--- The PQ has been tabled for answer by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords on 14 February 1992. I attach for your information a copy of the Question and draft reply, also a copy of briefing which has been circulated to Departmental Record Officers for them to make available to Ministers and Press Offices as appropriate.

An announcement will also be made on 14 February 1992 of the release of the Farm Hall transcripts in which there has been considerable academic interest and which until now have been withheld under the 'blanket'. The simultaneous release will, I hope, be seen as an indication of the Government's intention to release security and intelligence related material as soon as it is deemed no longer sensitive.

--- I am copying this letter and the attachment to those on the attached list.

Your ever,

Robin

Sir Terence Burns
HM Treasury

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Sir Derek Andrews KCB CBE
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Sir Michael Quinlan GCB
Ministry of Defence

Sir John Caines KCB
Department of Education and Science

Sir Geoffrey Holland KCB
Department of the Employment

J R Bretherton Esq
Secretary, AEA Technology
Corporate Headquarters
11 Charles II Street
London SW1Y 4QP

Sir Terence Heiser GCB
Department of the Environment

Sir David Gillmore KCMG
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

T P Lankester Esq CB
Overseas Development Administration

Sir Christopher France KCB
Department of Health

Sir Clive Whitmore GCB CVO
Home Office

Sir Peter Imbert QPM
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis
New Scotland Yard

Sir John Bourn KCB
Comptroller and Auditor General

J A Chilcot Esq CB
Northern Ireland Office

Sir Peter Gregson KCB
Department of Trade and Industry

A P Brown Esq
Department of Transport

Sir Richard Lloyd Jones KCB
Welsh Office

J R S Guinness Esq CB
Department of Energy

Sir Michael Partridge KCB
Department of Social Security

The Rt Hon Christopher Chataway
Chairman,
Civil Aviation Authority

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY
1992

QUESTION: To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action is being taken to review the approval given in 1967 for the retention of security and intelligence records.

ANSWER: The emphasis of the Government's policy, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act, is on release rather than retention of records. However, it has long been accepted that certain security and intelligence related records cannot be released automatically after 30 years because this would pose a continuing risk to national security. In 1967 my predecessor gave approval to the retention of such records under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958.

I have now reviewed this approval in the light of the Government's acceptance of the Wilson Committee's recommendations (in Modern Public Records: Cmnd 8531) relating to greater Ministerial involvement and more frequent consideration of such material. As a result of the review and following consultation with Ministers concerned I am satisfied that the records concerned are properly retained in their departments and that the "blanket" exemption remains the most efficient way of providing the necessary protection. I have accordingly approved their retention for a further period of 20 years.

The "blanket" approval is permissive, not mandatory. Departments have therefore been asked to keep their records under review and to release them at the first opportunity. All records retained by Departments under the "blanket" approval will be re-reviewed at least every ten years.

ENCLOSURE
67

BRIEFING FOR MINISTERS AND PRESS OFFICES ON THE RENEWAL OF THE
"BLANKET" APPROVAL TO RETAIN SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE RECORDS
AND RELATED MATERIAL UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT
1958

Background

In November 1967, the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, approved the blanket retention of security and intelligence records. This "blanket" approval permitted the retention of records over 30 years old under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958 without the need to seek the Lord Chancellor's specific approval to retain particular records. The original "blanket" approval was established for 25 years and therefore expires in 1992.

In 1982, in the White Paper, Modern Public Records (Cmnd 8531, March 1982) the Government accepted, inter alia, the recommendations of the Wilson Committee that "the powers conferred under section 3(4) should in future be exercised in such a way as to require more specific and more frequent Ministerial approval". The Government decided that new records for retention should be approved in 10-year tranches and that each blanket approval should be reconsidered after 20 years.

The Public Records Act prescribes that persons responsible for public records of any description which are not in the Public Record Office shall, under the guidance of the Keeper of Public Records, make arrangements for the selection of those records which ought to be permanently preserved and for their safe keeping. Generally records have to be transferred to the PRO before they are 30 years old. However, if the Lord Chancellor gives his approval, records more than 30 years old can be retained in departments under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act, either because the records contain highly sensitive information relating to national security or because they are required for administrative purposes. One form that retention can take is that of a "blanket" nature, covering clearly defined subject matter but without referring specifically to classes of records or individual pieces. The blanket approval has the advantage of being a relatively efficient and economic way to deal with a sizeable category of records when it is clear that the bulk of them need to be retained; without such a framework, the need to gain approval for records individually would increase enormously the demands on resources for all concerned in Departments, Agencies and the PRO. Before giving his approval to the retention of records under section 3(4) of the Act, the Lord Chancellor must be informed of the facts

constituting the reason for such retention and receive the opinion of the person or persons responsible for the records that they need to be retained.

Review

Following a review of the operation of the "blanket" by officials, the Lord Chancellor has sought and has received the opinion of Ministers responsible for departments holding records needing to be protected by the "blanket" approval that the records held continue to need such protection. He has also been informed of and approved the facts which make this protection necessary. In the light of this, the Lord Chancellor has agreed that a new "blanket" approval shall be granted and that, in accordance with the Wilson Committee recommendation, it shall be for 20 rather than 25 years.

Announcement

The Lord Chancellor will announce, by means of an Arranged PQ, that he has given a further approval for a blanket retention of these records for 20 years. The PQ has been tabled for Answer on 14 February.

Follow-up

The renewal of the "blanket" does not mean that all the documents covered by it will automatically be held back from publication. As the Lord Chancellor's announcement will say, departments will continue to keep records under review. The emphasis of the Government's policy, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act, is on the release rather than the retention of records. Those Departments holding records which are retained under the "blanket" will re-review them at least every ten years. If they are no longer sensitive they will be released at that time. The Government will encourage a flexible approach to the reviewing of such records. Within the constraints of available resources, material will be released within the ten year period should its sensitivity disappear earlier. Responsible Ministers will be consulted before the current "blanket" approval expires at the end of 2011.

QUESTION AND ANSWER BRIEF FOR MINISTERS AND/OR PRESS OFFICES
(INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER AND NO 10 PRESS OFFICE)

Q1 Why do we need a "blanket"?

A1 When a category of records such as those relating to security and intelligence needs to be withheld, the procedures for the handling of such records can be efficiently and economically administered if the category is dealt with as an entity rather than on an item by item basis.

Q2 What other records are dealt with in this way?

A2 Other examples include records relating to atomic energy, civil defence and personal records of civil servants.

Q3 How does the blanket arrangement differ from extended closure for, say, 50 years or longer?

A3 Extended closure under section 5(1) of the Public Records Act enables records passed to the PRO by departments to remain closed to the public for longer than 30 years. That procedure is used to deal with records of a sensitive nature where it is possible to identify with some degree of confidence a point in the future when that sensitivity will have disappeared. Records retained by departments under the blanket are of such an exceptionally sensitive nature that no judgment about when they will be releasable can be made now.

Q4 What sort of material is held under the "blanket" approval which has now been announced?

A4 Records relating to security and intelligence matters.

Q5 What are the criteria for including material in the "blanket" authority?

A5 [see the list of "facts" attached]

Q6 Which departments hold records under the "blanket" and how much of this material is there?

A6 Material of this sort is held in varying amounts by most major Government departments and it is not possible to quantify it with any degree of precision.

Q7 What procedures are to be adopted to keep the material under review?

A7 As the Lord Chancellor's Statement says, all material held by departments under the "blanket" will be reviewed at least every ten years. If resources permit, more frequent reviews will be carried to ensure that material is released as soon as its sensitivity disappears.

Q8 How is this 10-year review carried out?

A8 The Departmental Record Officer in each department is responsible for looking at the records and, after such consultation as is necessary with other government departments and the security and intelligence agencies, for recommending continued retention or release.

Q9 Do Ministers take part in this review?

A9 No. By convention, Ministers do not see papers of previous Administrations. However, the Lord Chancellor has emphasised that as part of the mechanism for creating the blanket authority itself, Ministers must be satisfied that the records for which they are responsible fall into categories which merit the protection of retention and non-release.

Q10 Who monitors that officials' recommendations for release or otherwise are correct? Does the Lord Chancellor see the records?

A10 This is the responsibility of Public Record Office staff, on whom the Lord Chancellor relies for assurances that records should properly be withheld.

Q11 What is the position regarding Agency records?

A11 The Prime Minister has agreed that records of the Security and Intelligence Agencies should continue to be withheld under the blanket. A further opportunity to consider those records will occur when the current blanket approval expires. All records created by the Agencies and passed to Government departments will be considered for release against the agreed criteria, which are kept under review.

Q12 How will changes in the international intelligence climate affect the blanket approval?

A12 Records will continue to be reviewed under the blanket arrangements, taking due account, as appropriate, of any such changes.

Q13 Does the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records see any of the records covered by the "blanket"?

A13 The Advisory Council is not involved in endorsing any of the various applications made by departments to retain records under section 3(4), because of the particularly sensitive nature of the records involved.

Q14 Who makes the final decision to retain or release records?

A14 Under the terms of the Public Records Act, the Lord Chancellor, as Minister responsible for public records, must give his approval to Departments' applications for the retention of records.

Q15 Why do we need to keep so much information withheld these days?

A15 The Government's policy continues to be to make as much information available as possible while preserving the confidentiality essential to the effective working of government and, of course, the security of the State. The framework that has now been put in place for the future (including more frequent and specific Ministerial endorsement of the need to retain records, records being dealt with in smaller tranches, and better and more regular review procedures) will make departments look hard at this sort of material and provide more encouragement and more "trigger points" for reconsideration and release.



EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.30 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Q: What about the Farm Hall Tapes?

A: At the end of the Second World War, a group of German nuclear scientists were interned in a farm house - Farm Hall, near Cambridge. During their internment the opportunity was taken to record their conversation. Whilst the tapes no longer exist, the transcripts have survived. Over the years there has been much academic interest in these transcripts which have hitherto been closed to the public; but following one of the regular re-reviews of such material, arrangements have now been made for their release. They have been assigned to class WO 208 piece no. 5019 and are now available for examination at the Public Record Office at Kew.

[Text of a press statement to be made by the PRO on Friday 14 February. Further enquiries to the PRO Press Office.]

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REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING RECORDS RELATING TO SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

1. Private and personal information is collected by the security and intelligence Agencies by, through and about individuals on a confidential basis. Its release would infringe both that confidentiality and the privacy of individuals concerned and their descendants.
2. The release of documents would be against the interests of the Agencies' employees and contacts. It would destroy the basis of confidentiality upon which the Agencies rely to function and thus prejudice their current operational ability.
3. Contacts with Agencies of other countries are undertaken on a confidential basis; to release papers would destroy that and might also affect relations with those countries.
4. Methods of intelligence collection and operational procedures do not change in a major way, even over a number of years. The release of past papers may give away or draw attention to techniques still in use.

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ENCLOSURE
57
NUMBER

D/DI55/108/15

2 December 1993

DI(ST)

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
Section 43

References:

- A. D/DI55/108/15 dated 18 Oct 93.
- B. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16 Nov 93.

1. For some years we have had a tasking from MOD to advise on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). However, due to pressure of work we have never been able to devote any effort other than to file reports. Over the years a large amount of data has been accumulated but in all that time DI 55 has not been able to establish a data base of reported events nor have we been able to consider the "evidence" in any organised way. Some recent events, and a cursory examination of the files, indicate that the topic may be worthy of a short study.

2. I am aware, from intelligence sources, that Section 27 believes that such phenomena exist and has a small team studying them. I am also aware that an informal group exists in the Section 27 Section 27 community and it is possible that this reflects a more formal assessment activity.

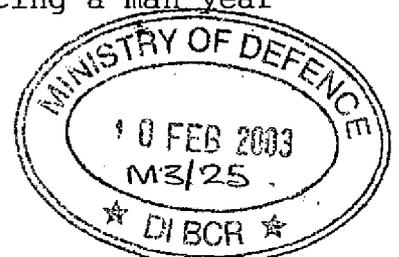
3. It is probable that the vast majority of the reports on file have reasonable explanations, such as military aircraft, balloons, clouds, satellites and possibly stealth aircraft. However, there appear to be a residual number of reports that can not be so easily explained. If true, they may merit further study.

4. Last year we bid for some funding to be allocated to this area for an initial study. They were allocated but you stated that before any work could commence we would need to receive a statement of support from the customer. At Reference A Section 40 Section 40 wrote to Sec(AS)2 who have a UAP (UFO) responsibility within MOD. At Reference B a reply was received confirming that they were content with our proposal. I believe that this meets the remit to obtain customer support.

5. Opening a new contract, and using competitive tendering, would potentially expose the study to too wide an audience. We propose modifying an Section 43 contract. The manager is a Section 40 and well known to DI 55. When the contract was last renewed we received a very competitive price and will obviously keep costs to a minimum. I am anticipating a man year

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of effort at most at this time. Since a potential exists for political embarrassment the study and output will be graded SECRET UK EYES B. The costs of the PC have been excluded, in accordance with DI(R)s instruction.

6. I have attached a draft copy of the proposed amendment to the contract and request your approval and authorization to release the funding already provisioned for this year and bid for in LTC 94.

Section 40

Section 40

S.40

DI 55

OWOB Section 40 MB

Attachments:

1. D/DI55/108/15 dated 18 Oct 93.
2. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16 Nov 93.
3. Proposed Contract Amendment.

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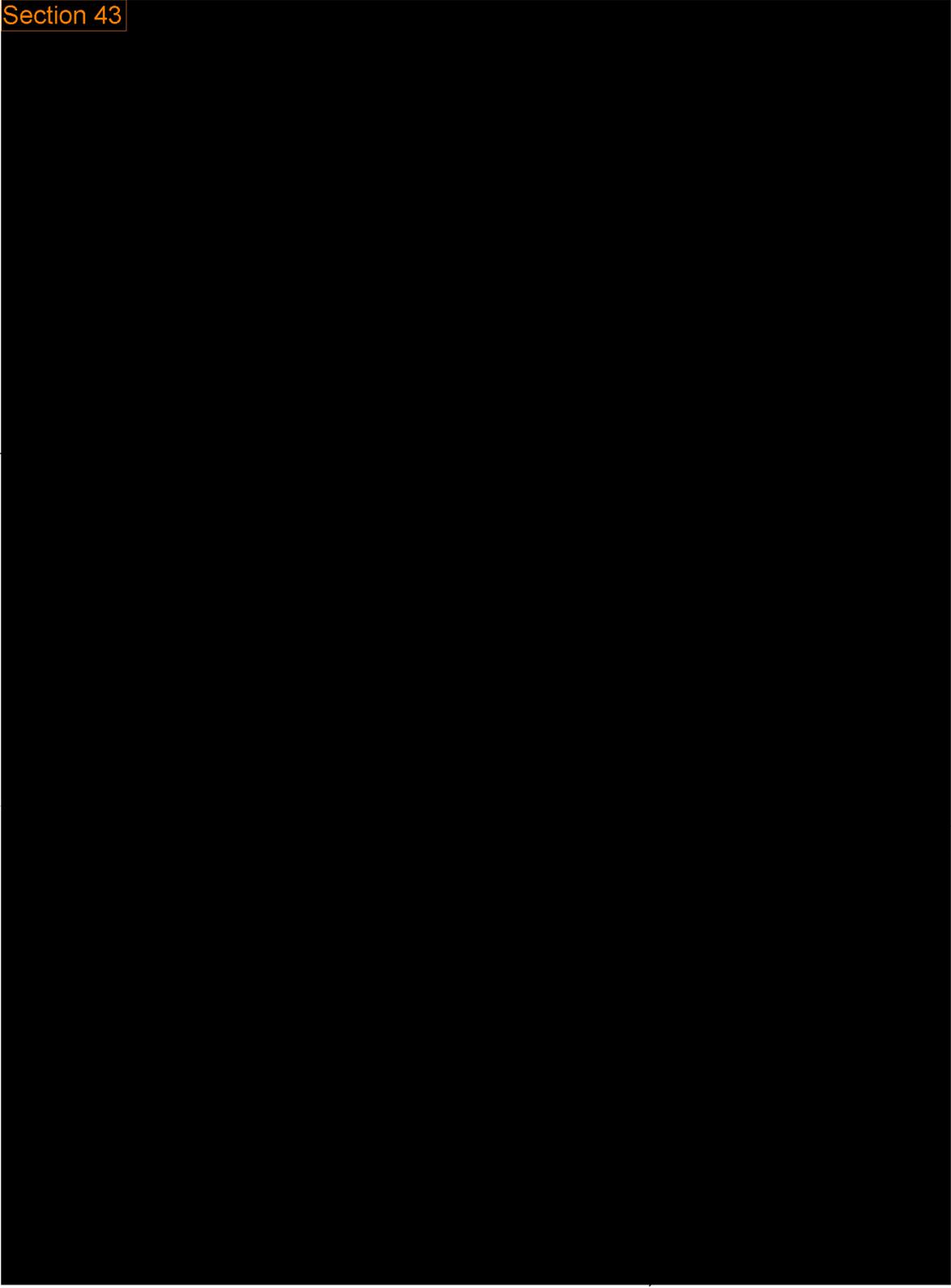
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ATTACHMENT 3

AMENDMENT DETAILS

1. Section 43



2.

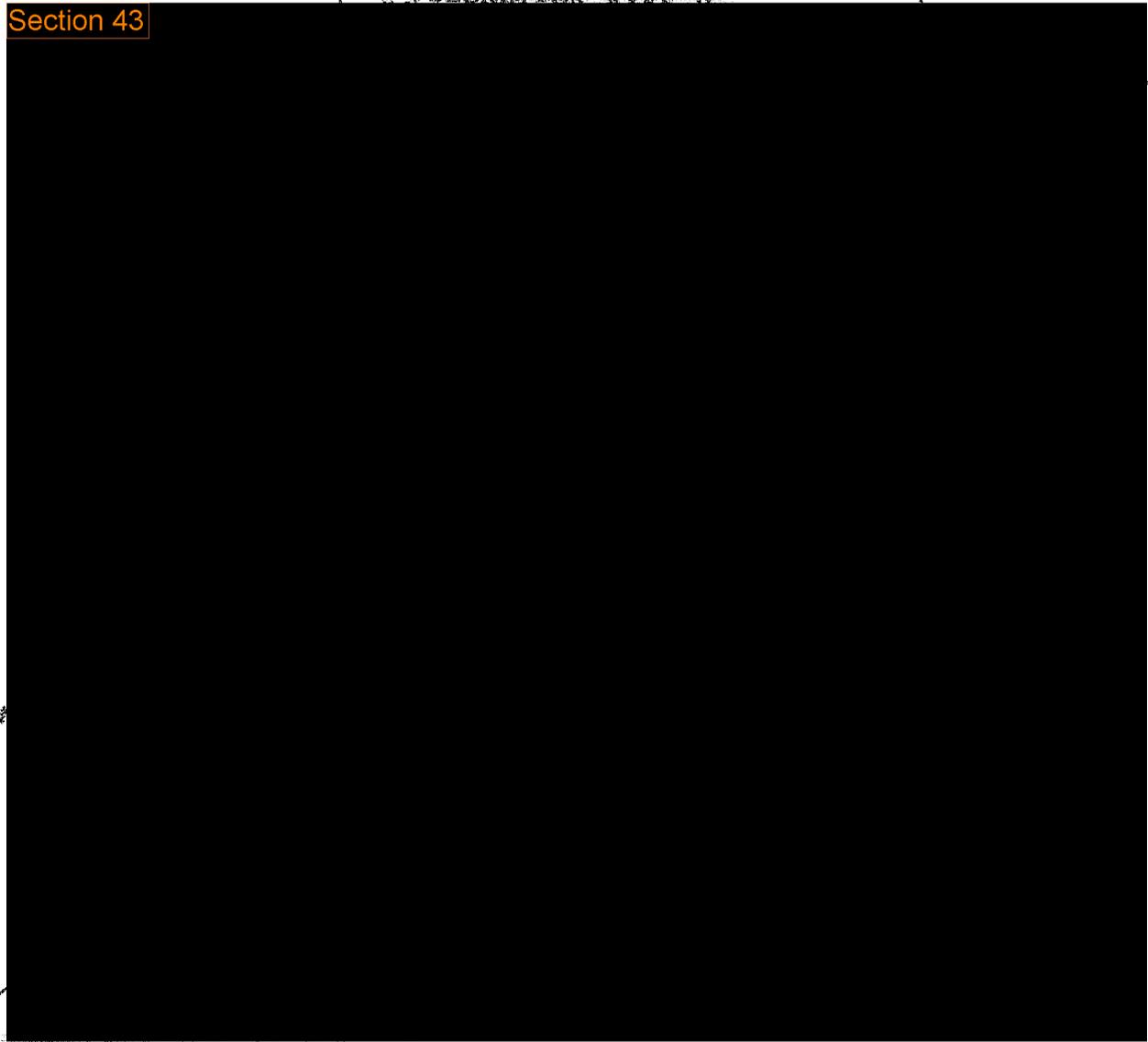
3.

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Section 43



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D/DI55/108/15

10 August 1993



DGSTI UFO BRIEF (VA1)

INTRODUCTION

1. I am well aware that anyone who talks about UFOs is treated with a certain degree of suspicion. I am briefing on the topic because DI 55 have a UFO responsibility, not because I talk to little green men every night! However, the topic is emotive and reaction varies from complete disbelief and ridicule to the Adamski/Von Daniken exposes about their trips to Venus with sex-crazed female aliens. However, my cover was broken by the People newspaper a few years ago when they published this story. (VA2)

2. I believe it essential that we start with open minds. For example if I was to brief today on a new missile based only on Section 26 would probably be believed, yet no-one around this table has ever undertaken Section 26 analysis, no one would have seen the missile and the report would be based on processing what to most people is Section 26.

3. I also believe that it is also important to appreciate that what is scientific "fact" today may not be true tomorrow. Consider the following examples: (VA3)

- a. It was only a few hundred years ago that "scientists" believed that the earth was the centre of the universe.
- b. Marconi was told by the scientific community that radio waves would never cross the Atlantic.
- c. It was generally agreed until early this century that the atom could not be split.
- d. The Astronomer Royal, only some 30 years ago, publicly stated space travel was bunk.
- e. Radium and X-rays were thought to be good for the health.

I could quote many more examples but my point is that we need to keep open minds.

WHY

4. Why then should anyone, apart from the weirdo fringe, and DI 55, be interested in UFOs.

5. UFOs have historically been a DI 55 responsibility but we have never carried out any investigations, we have just filed

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reports. Precious attempts to carry out initial studies have been refused. Thus we have a remit that we have never satisfied. That is we do not now if UFOs exist. If they do exist, we do not know what they are, their purpose or if they pose a threat to the UK.

AIM

6. My aim in this brief will therefore be to describe some incidents, draw some tentative conclusions and indicate a possible way ahead.

INCIDENTS

7. (VA4) Firstly let me say we are on to part 42 of the UFO incidents file. The current section was opened on 27 Apr this year and has 33 enclosures already. We have not analyzed this data, we file it and occasionally have to field a general question.

8. Most people think that UFOs are a recent phenomena but they are not. There are reasonably reliable reports of strange objects in the skies dating back hundreds of years. The topic started to gain public interest after the Second World War when sightings, or reports, started to increase dramatically. I have picked 3 different types of event over the last ten years to describe.

9. Rendlesham Forest. (VA5) This VA shows a report from the deputy base commander at Woodbridge describing an incident in late 80. I would draw your attention to the fact that the witnesses were all military and included policemen and a Lt Col. Other interesting facts are the proximity to a large base, the blue lights and the apparent absence of any obvious propulsion system. There have been subsequent more detailed reports from personnel who claim that they were there.

10. Belgium. (VA6) Information on this event comes from a US TV programme, Unsolved Mysteries. I have not sought authority to discuss the matter with the Belgians but if our proposed study is approved I will. I believe this event really occurred, the programme contained interviews with Belgium police and military and HUD video support the story. The essential features are:

a. In late 89 about 20 police men and several hundred other people sighted what appeared to be a large delta shaped object over Brussels and other parts of Belgium. It was low and slow, very large and had 3 bright lights at its apexes. There was no noise.

b. In March 90 there was a recurrence of the events and many people reported sighting the object. It was tracked by radar and 2 F-16s scrambled to intercept it. When the F-16s locked on the device accelerated far faster than the ac to supersonic speeds and appeared to "play" with the aircraft.

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This was repeated a number of times. The air force later held a press conference and showed HUD and radar recordings. Enhanced ground photography showed a clear delta shape. (VIDEO)

11. Cosford Event. I have called this the Cosford event since that was the source of the first report. (VA7)

a. At 0115 on 31 Mar this year 2 RAF policemen reported lights in the sky. RAF West Drayton and Air Traffic at Birmingham airport confirmed that there was no traffic in the Cosford area at that time.

b. Eleven other reports were received from independent observers scattered over the country. The gist of these reports was: (VA8)

- (1) Two separated bright lights moving in parallel.
- (2) Some type of "vapour trail" or rear facing beams of light.
- (3) Speeds from stationary to M2.
- (4) Erratic and straight flights.
- (5) Seen at a number of locations.
- (6) Observed from 2010 on 30 Mar to 0120 on 31 Mar.
- (7) No radar returns.
- (8) No sonic booms.

c. The Devon UFO Research Organisation who appear to have a professional approach and follow up reported sightings with interviews, have supplied other details to Sec(AS) and we have copies. They are very similar to the previous reports but contain additional detail from some of the previous observers and some new reports. Two named policemen from Ilfracombe reported that the lights were 500 about and had a structure between them and passed overhead at about 2000 ft. Other reports were similar. Many reported that they used the expression vapour trails because they found the effect difficult to describe. Some described the "vapour trails" as similar to rearward facing lights.

d. Observers. (VA9) Since we have a reasonable degree of information on this event it is interesting to examine the observers backgrounds. This VA summarises this and it can be seen that most observations appear to have been made by responsible people and they were corroborated.

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POSSIBILITIES

12. So what are all these people seeing in the sky. Firstly what type of person sees UFOs. Well generally it is people out at night, they tend to be farmers, policemen, doctors and lovers. What could they be? Some possibilities are: (VA10)

a. Mass Hallucinations. I have never come across this but the Director mentioned it at a recent meeting. If it is possible then I can not imagine what mechanism causes large numbers of people to have identical hallucinations.

b. Hoax. There is no question that some people have deliberately created hoaxes. However, these people have usually been in a position to profit financially or wish to gain publicity. I suggest that military or police personnel are not in a position to profit and indeed may well be considerably embarrassed by reporting such events. This are some indications that the reported incidents are only the tip of an iceberg and many people do not wish to risk embarrassment and so do not report sightings.

c. Section 27 or US Aircraft. It is possible that some of the sightings are US aircraft, a favourite call is the speculated Section 27. If this is so then why is it flown over densely populated countries at low level such as the UK and Belgium where many people can see it. In addition, if you accept the events I have described then Section 27 must be a rather interesting craft. Its

Section 27

Section 27. However, I believe that it is possible/probable that some sightings may well have been of the F-117.

d. Atmospheric Effects. There are 2 possible sources to my knowledge:

(1) Clouds. These probably account for some reports, I have seen some very strange shaped clouds, especially the lenticular variety.

(2) Ball Lightning. I have never seen this phenomena but have read of its existence.

e. Non Terrestrial. The possibilities are:

(1) Sightings of Planets. This is possible and Venus can be very bright but is does not move around the sky.

(2) Meteors. Also possible.

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(3) Extra-Terrestrial Lifeforms. Possible but no direct evidence.

IMPLICATIONS (VA11)

13. National Security. The national security implications are considerable. We have many reports of strange objects in the skies and we have never investigated them. If the sightings are:

a. US. There is probably no threat to national security although it would be most alarming if the craft were using UK airspace without authority.

b. Section 27. If the sightings were of Section 27 vehicles then is a threat to national security and we urgently need to establish the nature of the craft and its capabilities.

c. Extra-Terrestrial. If the sightings are of devices not of the earth then their purpose needs to be established as a matter of priority. There has been no apparent hostile intent and other possibilities are:

(1) Military reconnaissance.

(2) Scientific.

(3) Tourism.

14. Technology Transfer. If reports are taken at face value then devices exist that do not use conventional reaction propulsion systems, they have a very wide range of speeds and are stealthy. I suggest that we could use this technology, if it exists.

WAY AHEAD (VA12)

15. I believe that there are two immediate actions we should take:

a. Firstly we need to examine all the data we have and determine if a further study is justified.

b. In parallel we should discuss with any collectors under DIS or UK control any anomalous events. We may have material that has been ignored as possible meteor trails etc.

Only after conducting such a basic study as I have outlined above will consider I have met my remit on UFOs.

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UFOs GENERAL

You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the MOD in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot therefore inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen - to try to do so could be misleading.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there to be adequate explanations. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

Clearly some reports remain unexplained but we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigation.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full-time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

UFO INTERVIEW

Q1. Why will the MOD not release UFO information for scientific or other investigation?

A1. The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents. However we could not justify the effort involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature.

Q2. What are MOD criteria for establishing defence implications or otherwise in the case of UFO sightings?

A2. There can be no strict criteria laid down to determine whether the defence of the nation has or will be impugned. This must remain a judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available and by collating reports and, wherever possible, radar traces.

Q3. What are the procedures followed when a UFO sighting is reported to the MOD?

Q4. Are any of these sightings actually investigated or merely put on file?

Q5. If further investigation is made, who makes it?

A3-5. All reports received by the MOD are channelled through our Air Staff Secretariat. They are passed to the Air Staff who examine them for Air Defence implications. In some cases where (on the face of it) there could be a defence interest, enquiries are made of relevant

radar establishments etc in order to obtain more information. Having satisfied ourselves that the sightings are of no Defence interest we do not attempt any further investigations. I should say that the majority of the reports received here are 2 to 3 days, sometimes weeks, old. Although some reports remain unexplained, we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigation.

Q6. Is there a British UFO investigation unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire?

A6. The Flying Complaints Flight at Rudloe Manor are concerned with receiving and investigating complaints concerning military aircraft. In the course of their duties they occasionally receive UFO reports (as do many other units) but they have no specific role with regard to this subject.

Q7. Is there such a unit based anywhere else in the UK?

A7. No.

Q8. Has there ever been such a unit in the UK In the past?

A8. Certainly not in the past thirty years.

Q9. Is there any international co-operation between the MOD and other Governments on UFO intelligence?

A9. No.

Q10. If there have been no defence implications concerning the thousands of UFO reports made to the MOD over the years, what conclusions has the Ministry reached?

A10. The Ministry will continue to examine all reports we receive to ascertain whether there are any defence implications. If members of the public feel that for scientific or other reasons, there should be an attempt to establish the causes of such phenomena, that is for them, but we are confident that it is not something in which the MOD should or need become further involved.

Q11. Did the MOD assist the House of Lords UFO Study Group?

A11.

Q12. A former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, says major investigations into UFOs have been conducted by the United States and other Governments and it is inconceivable that such an investigation has not been conducted here. Is this the case?

A12. Probably the most notable study into the UFO phenomena was carried out by the University of Colorado and published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena. Project "Blue Book", a US Government study of UFO's was terminated in 1969. It concluded that although thousands of sightings had been investigated there was nothing to indicate the existence of UFO's. Nothing has come to light since to change that view. In the UK a report was produced by the then Air Ministry in 1955. Its conclusions were basically the same.

Q13. Numerous sightings have been made over the years by airline and military pilots, police officers and other professional people. Many of these reports would, on the face of it, have defence implications. Why does the Ministry think otherwise?

A13. Many of the reports received in MOD come through official channels, although the vast majority of these come originally from members of the public. Very few reports have been made by pilots; indeed in the last 18 months the MOD has received only 5 such reports. All reports are treated on merit; if the MOD receives a report which conceivably could have defence implications then further investigations are made to ascertain whether or not this is the case.

Q14. UFO investigators say the MOD is involved in a massive cover-up. Is this the case? If not, why do you not shut these people up once and for all by providing access to the information they seek?

A14. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth. The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents. However, as I have already mentioned, we could not justify the effort and simply do not have the resources to become involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature.

Q15. If the Ministry's first and only knowledge of the RAF Woodbridge affair was the Col Halt memo dated January 13th - 17 days after the alleged incident - is the Ministry not concerned, in the light of the information contained within that memo, that it was not consulted by the American authorities much sooner?

A15. No. The American authorities obviously took the same view as ourselves that the incident was adequately investigated by Col Halt and that therefore no further action was required.

Q16. If the MOD feels there were no defence implications in the Woodbridge incident, does it consider Col Halt was hallucinating, insane or merely lying?

A16. No, of course not. Col Halt rightly investigated a report by his base guards of some unexplained phenomena outside the base. On consideration of what was reported to him and of his own subsequent investigations he decided to send a report to the MOD for information. He did not recommend any further action, nor was any thought necessary.

Q17. If the Ministry subscribed to any of these theories relating to Col Halt, why did it sanction his promotion from deputy to base commander subsequent to the incident?

A17. We do not subscribe to any of these theories relating to Col Halt.

Q18. Would you give any credence to the notion that the UFO phenomenon has been exploited to cover up sensitive military operations?

A18. None whatsoever.

RAF WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT 27 Dec 80

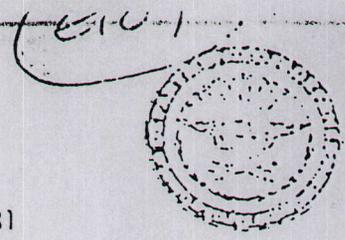
Col Halt's report of 13 Jan 81 concerns the sighting of unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge by two security patrolmen. Col Halt records what was subsequently reported to him without comment. The 3 patrolmen who went into Rendlesham Forest to investigate what they thought might be a crashed aircraft say they saw a triangular object. It has been suggested that this might have been a piloted vehicle, however in view of its reported size (about 9 feet long and 6 feet high) this was, and still is, considered highly unlikely. Indeed enquiries made both at the time and subsequently failed to reveal any radar trace of anything unusual in the area at the time.

Col Halt also reports on his own investigations at the site of the incident the following day. Once again he draws no conclusions from his findings and, significantly, does not recommend further investigation. Our own view also was that no additional action was required. Later on the night of 29 Dec 80 Col Halt and a number of others saw more unusual lights, but again we have no record of anything untoward being picked up on radar.

I think you will agree that it is highly unlikely that any violation of UK airspace would be heralded by such a display of lights. I think it equally unlikely that any reconnaissance or spying activity would be announced in this way.

Overall, we believe that the fact that Col Halt did not report these occurrences to MOD for almost 2 weeks after the event, together with the relatively low key manner in which he handled the matter (given resources available to him) are indicative of the degree of importance in defence terms which should be attached to the incident. He himself took all investigative action which was required. If members of the public feel that for scientific or other reasons, there should be an attempt to establish the cause of what happened, that is for them, but I am confident that it is not something in which the MOD should or need become further involved.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 31ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 0755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81

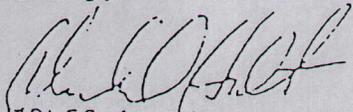
SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights

TO:

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 millirentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. MALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

File 108/15



Attached is an extract from the book 'Sky Crash' - part of the material on which we are briefing Minister for his T.V. interview on UFOs next week.

I'd be most grateful if you could look at the ~~part~~ ^{chapter} (fairly quickly please) and give me your views.

We intend to brief along the usual lines of "nothing at all in the Defence interest" but I would still be interested in your views of the scenario of "Missiles, Nazis and Brown Bows"

I have promised to brief tomorrow so I'd appreciate a call late today or early in the morning.

Apologies for bothering you.



Missiles, Nazis and Brown Bears

One of the greatest problems with this case is its increasing complexity. As the years and months went by not only did the number of witnesses grow, but so did the variety – and some might say absurdity – of the potential explanations.

Already we have found ourselves contrasting such divergent concepts as lighthouses and rabbits, contact with an alien society, bizarre hallucinogenic experiments and wild drug orgies. However, these by no means exhaust all the options. Three more apparently crazy hypotheses had to be examined as the work became ever more convoluted.

Just before Jenny left with Dot for the USA she received a curious phone call. It came from a sceptical UFO research group called OSEAP, which had engaged in one or two earlier battles with Jenny in and out of print. And fundamentally they disagreed on many aspects of the UFO phenomenon. But they still respected one another.

OSEAP had been contacted by a mysterious agency calling itself APEN (Aerial Phenomena Enquiry Network). Since they knew that Jenny was familiar with their past strange endeavours, and also knew about this case, they wanted a private discussion. The visit to the USA being just a couple of days off this proved temporarily impossible. And Jenny was worried, too, at their request for a private meeting with her alone. Despite her request that others should accompany her OSEAP refused. The matter was left in abeyance until after the American visit. Jenny returned from America with a serious illness

which required hospital treatment during the first part of 1984. Her letters to OSEAP also delayed things. Meanwhile Brenda and Dot had followed up Jenny's phone conversations in November 1983 with subsequent talks to the OSEAP investigators. A little information had been gleaned, but nobody was willing to speak out over the telephone. The problem was considered too sensitive.¹

We had been intrigued by the strange manoeuvres involving missiles, both at RAF Bawdsey and at Woodbridge/Bentwaters. Some of the missiles that would pop up out of nowhere and then vanish again soon after we knew to be dummies. Others we understood to be more sinister. Local stories about Cruise missiles being on base, with the officially professed sites such as Greenham Common acting as diversionary measures, had compounded our interest in the moves. Then when grapevine sources told us that we ought to be more 'technical' in our approach, forget UFOs, and think more about missiles, we began to wonder.

Of course, we were well aware that somebody, somewhere might want us to think about missiles instead of UFOs. But we noticed how concerned some of the high-ranking officers became when we dared to breathe the word missile. Halt, for example, was much more worried about the utterances Jenny had made in *Omni* about a nuclear device than he was about a UFO contact being discussed.

The relevance of this all to the OSEAP/APEN situation will shortly become apparent. As indeed will the primary

¹ As this is being written OSEAP have advised that they are continuing their work, which they believe offers a startling explanation for the Rendlesham sky crash which is outside the UFO field. In due course this work may be published, and we are not in a position to assess its validity. However, we are making mention of these events because they seem to tie in with thoughts that we ourselves were having about the case.

reason for Jenny's great reluctance to commit herself to clandestine meetings. For what little we did discern about the 'startling explanation', which APEN were offering to OSEAP, was that missiles figured in it. So far as we understood it the suggestion was that a missile had either been dropped accidentally from a plane, or one had shot off into the forest from its launch site. Such a mistake, even though its consequences were less dire than they might have been, could prove disastrous for American public relations at a time when Cruise missile deployment was being hotly contested by the British people. Avoiding open admission of such an episode in December 1980 might be considered so vital by both Britain and America that the manipulation of the UFO story could have been conceived in order to try to hide it.

We realized this and decided to take the APEN situation seriously.

APEN first came onto the UFO scene in 1974. They sent assorted letters, articles and tape recordings to leading UFO researchers over a period of three or four years. At no time did they ever offer an address. They would use names, which may have been phoney, that nobody had ever heard of. And their tapes contained strange American voices which introduced themselves with Nazi war broadcasts and music. The structure of APEN was clearly modelled on the German Nazi party and quotes from their magazine – with a German title meaning 'Spearhead' – were offered.

Officially, APEN claimed to be a super-secret investigation group with incredible financial backing, involving full-time investigators, scientific equipment, Land-Rovers and so forth. Links with the American Government or Secret Service were implied. Their 'Supreme Commander', one J. T. Anderson, was American. They would say only that the secrecy was vital to their work.

The trappings were enough to ward off most ufologists.

But even more worrying was their behaviour. APEN were embroiled more than once in quite disruptive actions. Police were called by them, but with the name of a local UFO group given. That group, despite being innocent, would then end up in trouble for wasting police time. Premises were broken into, once bringing apologies from APEN for the over-exuberance of its agents. And they simply loved concocting stories and planting evidence that would implicate serious ufologists in their antics.

Despite actually preaching unity within the UFO movement, and frequently encouraging the work that Jenny did in this direction, the lengths they went to led many to believe that she was associated with APEN. Other leading UFO researchers found similar disinformation spread about them. All in all, it was most unsavoury. APEN demonstrated that they had a close finger on the pulse of ufology and knew a great deal about what was happening within it. Speculations about who they were, and what they were really trying to do, became popular in the mid-seventies. But nobody ever got close to them, although one or two made extensive efforts. Jenny encouraged people to ignore them, and they seemed to fade from the scene in about 1978. So it was somewhat of a shock to hear that they had resurfaced in connection with Rendlesham Forest. A number of UFO witnesses had told of visits from two mysterious men – in one case one called himself the 'Commander'. These visits, which usually demanded the witness's silence, had all the hallmarks of APEN.

The APEN story is a long and complicated one, which has no place in this book. But it should be emphasized that they took a very great interest in UFO cases involving military manoeuvres. In 1975 they sent Jenny a report on a supposed UFO crash in the Berwyn Mountains, near the village of Llandrillo, Wales. This occurred in January 1974 and involved the whole mountain top being sealed

off while the RAF searched for what was officially said to be a meteor. This was most unlikely, as was the subsequent major RAF operation to find it. But the publicity died quickly. Until APEN came along and 'explained' it in their report as a UFO contact.

The similarities between the little-known and scantily researched Llandrillo sky crash, and the one in Rendlesham Forest almost seven years later, are obvious. But in one case APEN were arguing that the meteor story was a cover for a UFO. In the other they are saying that the UFO story was a cover for a missile.

Whoever, or whatever, this APEN is they are certainly resilient in their efforts. We would advise great caution in analysing their claims. But we had to make mention of their sudden and dramatic arising from the ashes. And we leave it to OSEAP to relate in time the full story.

In passing, it might be added that one or two UFO investigators have speculated that a fantastic UFO technology was handed on from the dying remnants of the Nazi Third Reich in 1945. And indeed we know that experimental weapons of a distinctly UFO-like appearance were tested during the last few months of the war. It is said that a Fourth Reich exists and is readying itself for future world leadership. Perhaps there is a group of Nazis flying around the world in UFOs. Perhaps APEN are their spy network. Perhaps the US Air Force know it and are frightened of saying so. Or perhaps this is all nonsense. It would be best to hope so.

In late January 1984 Jun-ichi Yaoi brought a TV film crew from Japan to make a programme about the events in Rendlesham Forest. The authors worked with him on this. During the days spent on this many interesting things happened.

'Jim', as he likes to be called, speaks good English. He decided to take his crew along to RAF Bentwaters and

spring himself on Col Halt. Brenda kept a good distance away in her car and watched what happened. The Japanese were told that Halt was 'out of the country', just as the *News of the World* were advised four months before. As they continued trying to get film of people involved in the case, but being denied this by Wing Commander Tabor personally, Halt's car sped off the base.

Later that day the crew filmed as Jenny put through a call to Squadron Leader Moreland. Moreland did not know where Halt was and said he knew nothing about any UFO incident. He then suggested it was somewhat late and that he wanted to get back to bed. It was just after 10 p.m.

Attempts to catch witnesses on the hop by bringing them in front of television cameras were partially successful. We tracked down Andrew Sheepshanks at his farm. Amid much joviality from other farm hands he vehemently denied having made a report to the base about a UFO. He further denied that he had ever spoken with Dot Street on the telephone in 1982. Dot, hearing him speak, was sure he was the man she had talked to, and who had told her about the UFO that had upset his cattle.

Andrew Sheepshanks had, however, two interesting comments. First, he admitted to having seen a UFO. But he claimed this was in 1976, or thereabouts. It was shaped like a rocket and was in the sky over Alderton, not far from RAF Bawdsey. It might have been a missile launched from here.

An intriguing remark made by the farmer was that he had read about the Rendlesham Forest sky crash in a national newspaper back in 1981. Following this he tried to discover what had happened and talked to someone.

At first he seemed to imply he had called the base. Then he said he had spoken with someone called Jenny. Jenny

Rendlesham
NO!

was interviewing him at this point – but he and she had never spoken to one another on any previous occasion.

Certainly Andrew Sheepshanks was less than convincing about this phone call. There was definitely no national story in 1981. And so far as we know there is nobody called Jenny that he could have talked to.

In asking us to leave, the Sheepshanks family directed us to see a farmer called Flemming, at Eyke. He claimed that he had seen the UFO, or so he had heard.

We called on the Boast family, who were friendly and helpful. But they insisted that they saw nothing, but did themselves suspect it was a drugs party that had got out of control. David Boast's young daughter was present and Jenny sensed something about her. The cameras were packed up, but she stayed out there talking to David Boast and the child. The girl seemed to want to talk, but her father kept stopping her when she opened her mouth. She said, 'It should have flattened the trees it was so wide.' Later she asked if we knew anyone who had seen the aliens. Jenny inquired gently if she had seen anything. She shook her head. Jenny then smiled and said, 'You did see something, didn't you?' The little girl looked sheepishly at her father, as if asking how she should reply. He told her firmly, but politely, to go into the house.

The Boast family were pleasant and helpful. They insist that they know nothing more about the events. But we remain to be convinced of that. Eventually, as we had predicted to the Japanese, we were sent to see Frank Brown along the road.

This time we got somewhere. The Capel Green farmer said that he had not seen anything, but suggested that we should talk to a farmer called Higgins. He had bought some new cattle and one night, just after Christmas 1980, they had fled into the road in panic. Some had been hit by a car, although none was killed. Higgins had claimed

compensation from Bentwaters, assuming that a low-flying jet must have scared them. They would not have been used to them as the older animals were. However, Bentwaters had denied they had any craft up that night and refused compensation.

But this was not the end of the story. Frank Brown then explained how Higgins had heard the stories about lights in the forest and rumours of UFOs, when Brenda and Dot had begun to investigate. So he went back to the base and told them that if it was not one of their jets that had scared his cattle it must have been the UFO. What did they know about that?

For some reason this made all the difference. Bentwaters now agreed to pay compensation, although how much and in what form we do not yet know. Whatever it was proved sufficient for Higgins to sell up his farm and buy a bigger one somewhere in Devon or Cornwall. He moved without speaking any more about the UFO.

We are endeavouring to trace this farmer to obtain his version of the story. But Frank Brown had something else useful to add. Higgins lived in Eyke. And another Eyke farmer, called Flemming, had helped him get the cattle in after the disturbance. He knew about the compensation and we should talk to him. Andrew Sheepshanks had just given us the same name an hour before.

Spirits rising, but darkness descending, we made our way to Eyke. The film crew had to set up lights before we could knock on the door at the Flemming house. This obviously alerted him.

Flemming, up to a point, was again friendly and cooperative. He admitted that he had helped Higgins retrieve his cattle from the road, but he did not know what had sent them scurrying there that night. He also knew that Higgins had received some money from the Air Force, but he claimed not to know how much. But it was a fair bit. However, he became very quiet at the

mention of UFOs. He knew nothing about them, insisted he had lived in the area since the Forest was first planted and had never seen anything strange in the sky. But, he added, 'I don't know anything either about the two who sat in the forest and saw it drop down'. We asked for clarification of this odd statement. But he would not give it. He then asked politely for us to leave. We got the impression he knew he had spoken out of turn.

The film crew wanted to try to speak with Col Halt. So bravely we ventured onto the base. It was now very dark and well into evening. We could get through the security easily enough. However, Brenda and Dot were frightened. They recalled the threats that Halt had made when they were last on base in October. So they stayed in the car and Jim tried to hook Jenny up to a concealed microphone so we could record what Halt had to say. She pointed out the dangers of this, and explained that they were definitely running the risk of prosecution for simply being there, let alone trying to film without permission.

Jenny got to the door and tried to get Halt out. The lights in the house were on. His car was outside. But no answer was obtained. Reluctantly, but in recognition of the possible consequences, we left Bentwaters.

Previously, the crew had shot some film at RAF Bawdsey, where permission was given to film just inside the outer security gates. Nothing emerged from our discussions with personnel, none of whom said they had been involved in the events of 1980. But we were intrigued by the signs on the quayside immediately outside the gates. Unlike signs around Bentwaters, which simply tell you not to enter without permission from the Base Commander, these at Bawdsey, and not even inside the base itself, explained in polite but specific terminology that if you happened to get shot by accident while you

stood there, it was your tough luck! RAF Bawdsey, as you see, take their security very seriously.

The next day the film crew flew to America, en route to Japan, for more work. Brenda, Dot and Jenny stayed on at their hotel in Woodbridge determined to go on base when the weekend was over. During the Sunday a man with a foreign accent talked to us often. We chatted individually to him about UFOs and were surprised to find that we had each met him when we chanced to discuss it later. We had been cautious, of course. But we were still perturbed when he appeared on the Monday morning wearing a US Air Force uniform. He told us he was on a short learning course at Woodbridge from a base in Germany. Certainly he was not an American, and later we discovered he was Italian. When we checked his uniform out we found that he was a member of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. Yet he had told us he knew nothing about UFOs, had never read any stories about them, but was keen to hear what we had to say.

When we checked with the hotel reception we learnt that an unusually high number of Air Force people had been temporary residents along with us that weekend. We had not suspected anything since they were not in uniform.

The Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron have made one or two brief appearances in this story so far. The above incident shows how they might be more relevant than we realize.

Look at some of the seemingly unconnected facts. This squadron, trained to haul spaceprobes from the sea and bring them back to base, just happens to be at Woodbridge. Its links with NASA are obvious. Steve Roberts had leaked a NASA document to us. President Carter had tried to get NASA to study UFOs before he was stopped. The security man at NASA, Cape Canaveral,

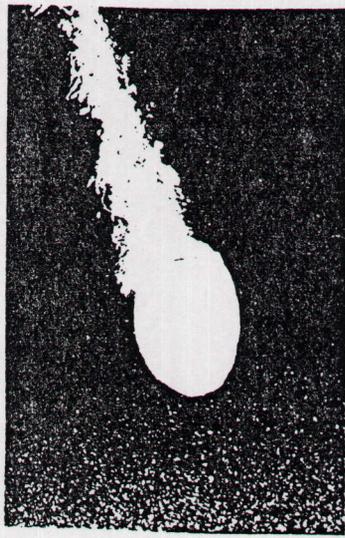
told Dot he knew all about the case. On the night of the second incident, three days after the major sky crash in Rendlesham Forest, the same sort of UFO burns three women, close to NASA's main centre at Houston in Texas. Is this all one big coincidence?

Can we construct a scenario to make sense out of all of this? Perhaps so. For there are some additional pieces of information to slot into the puzzle.

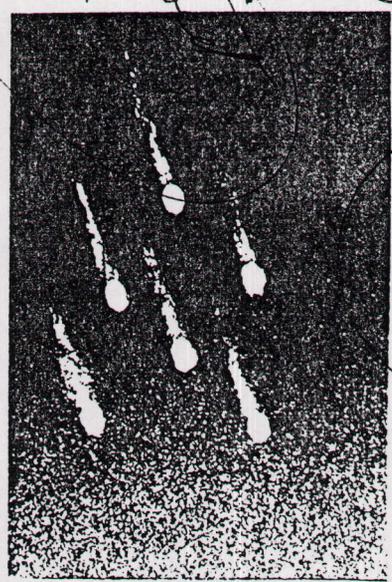
You will recall that the US Air Force personnel involved in this case have continually stated that the date of event one was 27 December. Halt's written account endorses that. But the police records say 26 December, as did the wife of Colonel Soya. Is it possible that these last two sources *are* right? Perhaps Halt had a reason to change the date and instruct his men to change it too. That seems an extraordinary thing to do, but it might be aimed at throwing us off the fact that Cosmos 749 re-entered the atmosphere at 9.07 on the night of 25 December.

This Russian satellite burnt up in the sky miles above Europe. Many witnesses saw it do so. A concentration of them were over Kent and Essex, who saw the brilliant object break into pieces somewhere above the Thames Estuary.

We do not know exactly where Cosmos 749 burnt up. Officially, it was vapourized by the enormous frictional forces as it powered into the barrier of gases that were standing in its way. But we know that on occasion certain resistant parts of a satellite make it all the way to earth. In 1978 a Cosmos satellite with a nuclear-power source came down in the Canadian wastes. And bits of the great American satellite, Skylab, rained around Australia in 1979 when it burnt up. Who is to say that something of Cosmos 749 did not reach the surface? Perhaps something rather interesting or important from that satellite. The Russians name all their satellites sequentially in



Paco de Arcos, Portugal. Object which caused burns to two witnesses. Observations of the re-entry of the Russian satellite Cosmos 749, 25 December 1980, 21.10 hrs approx



Folkstone, Kent, England. Object breaking up, heading towards East Anglia

Handwritten notes and signatures in black ink are scattered across the page. At the top right, there are circled numbers '9801 kg' and '9871 km'. Below these, there are several signatures, including 'S. P. 80', 'S. P. 80', and 'S. P. 80'. There are also some other markings and scribbles.

the Cosmos series and there is no way of knowing the precise purpose of each. Some are civilian scientific instruments, but others are overtly military in nature. They are even suspected of having 'killer satellites', capable of shooting down those of a rival nation. Their importance in any future war is paramount. It has been said – 'World War Three will begin in space'.

That Cosmos 749 might have been interesting is shown by the experience of two people at Paco de Arcos on the Portuguese coast. They saw what seems to have been the satellite re-entering, although they say it was *much* lower than the upper reaches of the atmosphere. They saw it light up the sea and felt heat from it as it crossed the deserted beach on which they stood.

Jenny had investigated this claim and written about it in her book *Ufo Reality*, without grasping the possible significance: For *if* it was the Russian satellite – as seems difficult to refute in view of description and time of observation – then the after effects on the two men in Portugal are most interesting. They felt nauseous. They developed sunburn-like rashes on the exposed parts of their bodies. And they suffered headaches. You will recall these symptoms, although in rather more severe forms, from Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby, at Huffman, Texas, four days later.

So incongruous were these gross effects with the re-entry of a satellite, that Jenny could not bring herself to believe they had seen Cosmos 749. It almost seemed as if a UFO had disguised itself as the satellite, then visible. But this is clearly improbable. However, what if Cosmos 749 had something about it that could have produced these effects – which, you will realize, indicate mild radiation sickness? What if many people who saw Cosmos 749 from a position out in the open, and were thus exposed like these two were, suffered a few days of illness that they put down to influenza or a bug? The chances

are Cosmos 749 could have sprinkled radiation across Europe and we might never know it.

But if this happened then somebody certainly knows, and presumably did so in 1980. The recovery of the remnants of the satellite would have been of much urgency. At some time after 9.10 p.m. on Christmas night these would have come down, possibly in the ocean, somewhere not too far from southern England.

Had a mission been launched to make this rescue then the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at RAF Woodbridge would have doubtless been at the centre. Let us wonder if it did go out and fish from the sea the still radioactive remains of the Russian satellite. Of course, you might like to think the satellite actually fell into Rendlesham Forest. But this is unlikely. Considering the location of the relevant squadron it would have been quite an amazing coincidence. Unless the US Air Force has a way of controlling a satellite's re-entry and could carefully direct Cosmos 749 to fall where it did. But in that case advanced technology is presumed, of a nature we have no evidence for. And what might have happened had there been a minor miscalculation? Would the British and Americans really allow even the chance of a radioactive chunk of metal crashing down on Ipswich, with its thousands of inhabitants?

However, had the remains been recovered they would have been taken back to Woodbridge, presumably by helicopter. Perhaps on final approach to Woodbridge the deadly cargo fell into the forest. Or perhaps a good deal of what went on – or supposedly went on – inside the forest was a blind to take eyes away from what had really been captured.

There may be no UFO in an underground room at Bentwaters, but there might have been a satellite. And it has occurred to us that there were stories of a crater in the forest, such as would have been caused had something

fallen out of the air. And if you placed a large tent over this crater, so that outsiders cannot see what has caused it, might that not look like a UFO to the uninitiated? Especially if it were lit by yellow lamps to guide the people working on it. Those people would need to wear radiation protective clothing - silvery suits.

The satellite under guard back at base, it would have paid the British and American authorities to create the UFO story as a cover. Airmen could easily have been allowed to talk, provided they talked about UFOs. And Col Halt might even have been allowed to have his second sighting for the credibility value that would hold should its release become necessary. As it did in mid-1983.

We know that a Hercules transport plane landed at Bentwaters on 27, or 26, December. Recall that disaster preparation teams were apparently there too. This makes it seem as if something big and nasty was shipped out. But where to?

If it was a Russian satellite there is one obvious place to take it for study. That would be NASA's laboratories in Houston, Texas. While we have no explanation as to why it was not flown straight there, it is exceedingly curious that on 29 December what might have been this object was being escorted, or carried beneath, helicopters near here, when it made a mess of the lives of the Landrums and Betty Cash.

There are distinct question marks about this theory, which has been presented more as an imaginative exercise than probable fact. But there may well be some grains of truth in these speculations.

We were amused to learn of the claims of a woman living near the forest. She said that there was an addition to the assorted wild life of the woods. The deer which sometimes ran across the tracks in front of you, the rabbits and the occasional snake had been joined by a

brown bear. She knew, because she had seen it! Bears are not indigenous to the British countryside.

There is rather more to this tale than meets the eye. We had already been told by one of our many anonymous callers to stop looking for UFOs and start looking for brown bears. This was not a comical suggestion, based on the alleged animal sighting. We knew it was a reference to something else. In US Air Force terminology a 'Brown Bear' is a Russian satellite.

Mr. Wood
by D/H

ENCLOSURE
53
NUMBER
E69

Section 40

[Redacted]

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

De
Wp Coly
(DI 55)
The Director says you
are the expert on "aliens"
Perhaps you would attend
the meeting.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/3

16 Sep 85

PS/Minister(DS)

Copy to:
DSTI
D Air Def
GE3
DI55 **Section 40**

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:

A. D/US of S(AF)DGT, 28/1/4 dated 1 Aug 85

1. You asked at Reference A for briefing for Lord Trefgarne's meeting with Lord Hill-Norton on 2 October. I attach a piece covering the questions posed by Lord Hill-Norton in his letter of 26 July. I believe this adequately covers the broader issues and I see no need for further background briefing. However I attach a specific piece on the "RAF Woodbridge/Bentwaters" incident in which Lord Hill-Norton has previously shown an interest.

2. I would suggest that Minister is supported at the meeting by Hd of Sec(AS) and representatives of D Air Def and DSTI. I would also like to attend myself if you have no objection. I understand that Minister will wish to run through the brief prior to the meeting itself and that we should therefore meet at 14.30 on Wednesday 2 Oct. I should be grateful if you would let us know the venue in due course.

n/n
Person Office. Those of food.
Ex 1400 hrs
Minister briefed 2 Oct for
well said that the
briefing attached

Section 40
[Redacted]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB 8245 2140 MB

DATE RECEIVED IN
DI 54
27 SEP 1985

Section 40
[Redacted]

1400

MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER(DS) AND LORD HILL-NORTON

UFOs

a. I accept that there are strange phenomena to be seen in the sky, however I believe there to be adequate explanations for them. Experience has shown that most reported sightings can be attributed to things such as aircraft, meteorological balloons or natural phenomena like ball lightning. Of course there are many other equally straightforward explanations. However, there are a small number of cases where a simple explanation cannot be found immediately and on these occasions we are careful to ensure so far as possible that that they are of no Defence significance. Having satisfied ourselves of this, as you know, we do not attempt any further investigations. Clearly some reports remain unexplained but we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigation.

b. All reports received by the MOD are channelled through Sec(AS)2. They are passed to the Air Staff who examine them for Air Defence implications. In some cases, where (on the face of it) there could be a defence interest, enquiries are made of relevant radar establishments etc in order to obtain more information. All reports are also passed to the Defence Intelligence organisation who have a keen interest in any sightings of unusual objects. We have no specialist group in Whitehall or anywhere else involved in UFO's and no civilian advisers other than Sec(AS)2 are involved.

The Flying Complaints Flight at Rudloe Manor are concerned with receiving and investigating flying complaints. In the course of their duties they occasionally receive UFO reports (as do many other units) but they have no specific role with regard to this subject.

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c. Many of the UFO reports received in MOD come through Defence establishments, although most of these come originally from members of the public. Very few reports are made by military pilots; for instance, in the last 12 months Sec(AS) has received only two such reports.

d. No central record of radar recordings is kept. Major Air Traffic Control units take recordings as a matter of course, however these are generally destroyed after 30 days. ADGE units do not regularly make recordings although some are occasionally made for specific operational purposes. Relevant radar units are consulted where necessary as part of the normal process of handling UFO reports in order to ascertain whether there is any correlation between a reported sighting and known radar traces.

e. The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents. However we could not justify the effort involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature.

RAF WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT 27 Dec 80

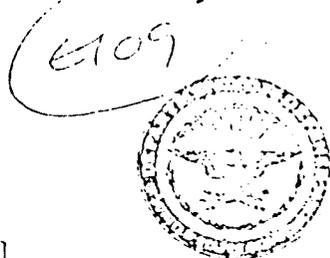
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Col Halt also reports on his own investigations at the site of the incident the following day. Once again he draws no conclusions from his findings and, significantly, does not recommend further investigation. Our own view also was that no additional action was required. Later on the night of 29 Dec 80 Col Halt and a number of others saw more unusual lights, but again we have no record of anything untoward being picked up on radar.

I think you will agree that it is highly unlikely that any violation of UK airspace would be heralded by such a display of lights. I think it equally unlikely that any reconnaissance or spying activity would be announced in this way.

Overall, we believe that the fact that Col Halt did not report these occurrences to MOD for almost 2 weeks after the event, together with the relatively low key manner in which he handled the matter (given resources available to him) are indicative of the degree of importance in defence terms which should be attached to the incident. He himself took all investigative action which was required. If members of the public feel that for scientific or other reasons, there should be an attempt to establish the cause of what happened, that is for them, but I am confident that it is not something in which the MOD should or need become further involved.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 51ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 0755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander



E68

108/15

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/3

16 Sep 85 

PS/Minister(DS)

Copy to:
DSTI
D Air Def
GE3 **Section 40**
DI55 

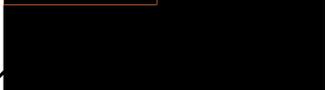
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:

A. D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4 dated 1 Aug 85

1. You asked at Reference A for briefing for Lord Trefgarne's meeting with Lord Hill-Norton on 2 October. I attach a piece covering the questions posed by Lord Hill-Norton in his letter of 26 July. I believe this adequately covers the broader issues and I see no need for further background briefing. However I attach a specific piece on the "RAF Woodbridge/Bentwaters" incident in which Lord Hill-Norton has previously shown an interest.

2. I would suggest that Minister is supported at the meeting by Hd of Sec(AS) and representatives of D Air Def and DSTI. I would also like to attend myself if you have no objection. I understand that Minister will wish to run through the brief prior to the meeting itself and that we should therefore meet at 14.30 on Wednesday 2 Oct. I should be grateful if you would let us know the venue in due course.

Section 40


Section 40
Sec(AS)2a
MB 8245 **Section 40**

MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER(DS) AND LORD HILL-NORTON

UFOs

a. I accept that there are strange phenomena to be seen in the sky, however I believe there to be adequate explanations for them. Experience has shown that most reported sightings can be attributed to things such as aircraft, meteorological balloons or natural phenomena like ball lightning. Of course there are many other equally straightforward explanations. However, there are a small number of cases where a simple explanation cannot be found immediately and on these occasions we are careful to ensure so far as possible that that they are of no Defence significance. Having satisfied ourselves of this, as you know, we do not attempt any further investigations. Clearly some reports remain unexplained but we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigation.

b. All reports received by the MOD are channelled through Sec(AS)2. They are passed to the Air Staff who examine them for Air Defence implications. In some cases, where (on the face of it) there could be a defence interest, enquiries are made of relevant radar establishments etc in order to obtain more information. All reports are also passed to the Defence Intelligence organisation who have a keen interest in any sightings of unusual objects. We have no specialist group in Whitehall or anywhere else involved in UFO's and no civilian advisers other than Sec(AS)2 are involved.

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RAF WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT 27 Dec 80



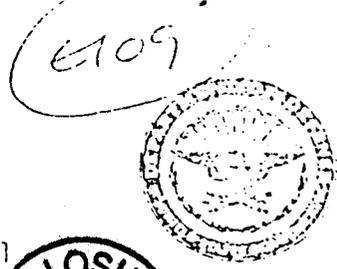
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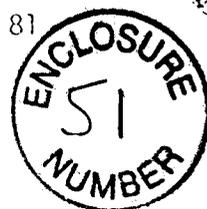
REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CI) 

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights



TO: RAF/CC

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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

LOOSE MINUTE

DI55/108/15 ✓



DS8a

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Ops(GB)2
Wg Cdr PR

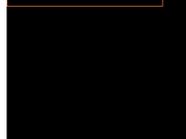
PUBLICATION OF UFO REPORTS

Reference: D/DS8/75/21 dated 14 June 1982.

1. We agree that if UFO reports received in MOD are to be made generally available, then the proposal at para 2b of reference represents the best method for doing so.
2. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in replying.

8 July 1982

Section 40



DI55(a)
MT 7/26

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

Section 40



D/DD Ops(CE)/10/8

DS3a

Copy to:
DI55b

PUBLICATION OF UFO REPORTS

Reference:

A. D/ISS/75/21 dated 14 Jun 82

1. At Reference you ask for views on the publication of UFO reports.

2. You will have guessed that I am not over the moon about such a step but if their Lordships have been told that there is no reason why reports should not be published, then it would be foolish not to agree.

3. The monthly report would seem to be the most sensible way of satisfying their Lordship's weakness for this sort of thing.

Section 40

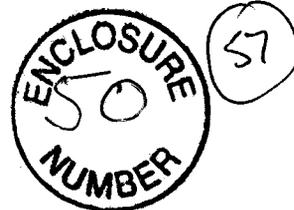
5 Jul 82

Sqn Ldr
Ops(CE)2b(RAF)
MB 4258 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS8/75/21

DI55b-
Ops(GE)2
Wg Cdr PR



PUBLICATION OF UFO REPORTS

1. As you are probably aware, Government spokesman in the House of Lords (on his own initiative I may add) told their Lordships on 7 April that there was no reason why they should not see the UFO reports received by the MOD. If we comply with this statement (and we cannot simply refuse without encouraging certain well known myths), then it is inevitable that the content of our reports will soon be widely disseminated owing to the close links which many UFO societies maintain with various noble lords.

2. It seems to me therefore that if we are going to put UFO reports in the House of Lords library, we may as well make them generally available. There are a number of ways in which this could be done, for example

a. Publish reports as received, ensuring that they are all in the common format and that names/addresses have been deleted.

b. Publish all the reports for each month in a single batch, having taken the appropriate precautions.

c. Publish an annual UFO report containing an analysis of data received - frequency, distribution etc.

The first proposal entails the risk that ufologists will descend upon the place with the 'latest sightings'; the last a lot of additional work. I am therefore inclined to favour the second proposal: we need not feel obliged to supply anything more than raw data, while the data supplied will be too old to cause too much trouble. Our public line on what we do with the reports would remain as present.

3. If we are to publish these reports, I believe we should charge for them a sum representing the cost, primarily labour, of preparing them for publication. We will be contacting GPF3 separately on this matter.

4. I should be grateful for your views on these suggestions by the end of this month.

5. (For DI55b and Ops(GE)2) I am sure that I am not the only person to note the sharp fall in the number of UFO reports received since the beginning of the Falklands dispute. I have received one letter claiming that large numbers of UFOs have been seen in the vicinity of the Task Force - presumably little green men in ponchos.

14 Jun 82

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DS8a
MB7249

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EXTRACT FROM DAILY TELEGRAPH - 5 MAR 82

PEERS TOLD 'NO UFO COVER-UP'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

THERE was no Defence Ministry "cover-up" over sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, Viscount LONG, a Government defence spokesman, answered peers yesterday.

Over the last four years there had been 2,250 UFO sightings reported, and all had been passed to staff who examined them for possible defence implications, he said.

He told the leader of the Lords all-party UFO group, the Earl of Clancarty (Ind): "If you are suspicious that the Ministry of Defence is covering up in any way, I can assure you there is no reason why we should."

The sole Ministry interest in UFO reports was if they revealed, for example, that a Russian or other unidentified aircraft might have breached our defence systems.

'Natural phenomena'

Lord STRABOLGI (Lab.) suggested most sightings could be accounted for by natural phenomena.

Lord HILL-NORTON (Ind.), former Chief of the Defence Staff, asked if it was true that all sightings before 1963 were destroyed as being "of no interest." If that was so, who destroyed them?

Lord LONG said that since 1967 all UFO reports had been preserved. "Before that time, after five years, they were generally destroyed."

Pléuse enter p.a. on
U.F.O. (51)

ENCLOSURE
48
NUMBER

MISSILES-FUSEES

Le GEPAN cherche à élucider le mystère des OVNI

Le Groupe d'Etudes des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés (GEPAN), créé le 1^{er} mai 1977 par le CNES pour l'étude des fameux « Objets Volants Non Identifiés », vient de publier un document intitulé « le GEPAN et l'étude du phénomène OVNI » dont nous avions annoncé la parution prochaine (cf. Air et Cosmos n° 703 et 750). Ce document résulte des analyses effectuées par une quarantaine d'ingénieurs et de techniciens du CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), du CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) et de la Météorologie nationale, ainsi que par des spécialistes de l'Armée de l'Air et de la Marine nationale, à partir des comptes rendus d'observations recueillis par la Gendarmerie nationale.

Il apparaît ainsi, d'après les 354 rapports d'observations établis et expertisés par le GEPAN, que 20 à 25 % des observations se rapportent effectivement à des phénomènes non identifiés (observations type D), dont environ le quart ont été relevées par des « témoins de haute crédibilité ». Toutefois, le GEPAN ne donne encore aucune interprétation de ces observations relevant effectivement du phénomène OVNI.

Le GEPAN publie également dans ce document un résumé de « l'étude statistique des rapports du phénomène OVNI » effectuée sur 825 rapports d'observation par Claude Poher, alors chef du GEPAN, poste où il a été remplacé depuis par Alain Esterie du CNES. Les principales conclusions de cette étude statistique sont les suivantes :

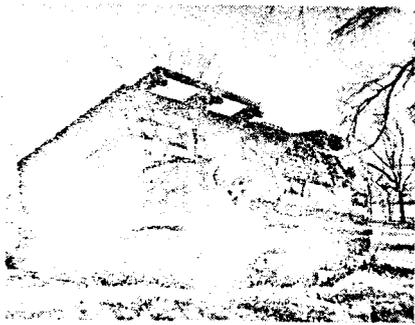
- les observations faites en France et celles faites à l'étranger donnent les mêmes résultats statistiques (les écarts ne sont pas significatifs) ;
- 70 % des observations ont au moins 2 témoins et plus de 50 % des observations ont au moins 3 témoins ;
- la très grande majorité des observateurs (70 %) comporte des adultes exclusivement ;
- un très large éventail de professions et de compétences existe parmi les témoins, y compris des compétences de très haut niveau ;
- la plupart des observations sont faites par beau temps et ciel clair dans tous les pays ;
- la majorité des observations ont une durée, de quelques minutes. Des phénomènes de très courte ou de très longue durée sont rarement observés ;
- 30 % des observations sont faites à moins de 150 mètres de distance ;
- 70 % des objets observés ont une forme circulaire ou de disque ;
- la comparaison des observations diurnes et nocturnes pour la couleur des objets révèle une bonne cohérence interne des rapports :
 - objets de couleur métallique (observations diurnes : 30 %, nocturnes : 3 %) ;
 - objets lumineux rouge-orangé (observations diurnes : 12 %, nocturnes : 46 %) ;
 - les objets observés sont signalés lumineux de jour comme de nuit (86 % de jour contre 98 % de nuit) ;
 - pour ce qui concerne la vitesse, 40 % des objets observés sont signalés comme ayant été successivement

- « immobiles puis rapides » dans des cas, une vitesse « rapportée » est rapportée ;
- 50 % des cas, comportent des trajectoires « anormales » avec arrêts successifs ou virages brusques, ou arabesques... 20 % des rapports signalent un atterrissage ;
- la très grande majorité des objets observés sont silencieux (70 %) ;
- les atterrissages ne sont signalés qu'exceptionnellement au voisinage des zones habitées (70 % dans les régions très isolées, 20 % près de maisons isolées) ;
- les statistiques portant seulement sur les cas d'atterrissage donnent des résultats identiques à ceux des autres cas (lumières nocturnes par exemple) ;
- tous les pays du globe semblent concernés par l'émission des rapports d'observation, indépendamment des cultures, des religions, des modes de vie et des régimes politiques ;
- la répartition géographique des observations françaises semble n'être liée qu'à la densité de population et aux conditions de visibilité (météo et masques naturels) ;
- la répartition dans le temps montre des « vagues » (pas de corrélation simple apparente). Pour chacun des hémisphères terrestres, le maximum d'observations se situe généralement en octobre et le minimum en février et 70 % des observations sont nocturnes ;
- aucune corrélation n'a pu être mise en évidence entre les perturbations du champ magnétique terrestre et les observations, contrairement à l'idée répandue que les objets agiraient sur l'orientation des boussoles.

Premier tir de « GSRS » depuis un véhicule

Vought Corp. vient d'effectuer le 30 mars 1979 le premier tir d'une roquette d'artillerie « GSRS » (General Support Rocket System) depuis le véhicule blindé chenillé « SPLL » (Self-Propelled Launcher Loader) qui utilise un châssis IFV pour porter les douze containers de roquettes et l'affût de tir. La conduite de tir du système « GSRS » est réalisé par Norden Systems Inc., le lance-roquettes et ses mécanismes d'orientation par Sperry Vickers et le dispositif de stabilisation par Bendix System ; le tout est intégré par Vought Corp. Les autres co-opérants au système « GSRS » de Vought Corp. sont Atlantic Research Corp. qui réalise le propulseur à poudre des roquettes et Brunswick Corp. pour la fourniture des tubes servant à la fois de container et de rampe de tir. Jusqu'à présent, c'est Vought Corp. qui a réalisé toutes les « premières »

dans le développement du système « GSRS » de l'U.S. Army pour lequel Boeing Aerospace est également en



compétition (Cf. Air et Cosmos, n° 759). Le « GSRS » — ou son dérivé « MLRS » auquel la France participe — est destiné aux forces de l'OTAN en Europe pour compenser la suprématie de l'URSS et des forces du Pacte de Varsovie en chars de bataille.

RPV « LOCUST »

Les USA et l'Allemagne prévoient de développer en commun un mini-RPV baptisé « LOCUST » et destiné au brouillage permanent des radars. Les premiers crédits — 4,8 millions de \$ — sont prévus au budget US de 1980 pour achever le développement de l'engin qui devrait être produit à 160 exemplaires et mis en service en 1982. Le maître d'œuvre du programme sera choisi au cours du second semestre 1981 après une compétition portant sur l'essai en vol des prototypes.

ENGIN-CIBLE « HAHST »

Le projet d'engin-cible « HAHST » (High Altitude High Speed Target) du Département américain de la Défense sera mis en compétition contrairement aux prévisions qui désignaient la firme Beech, déjà responsable du projet « HAST » (High Altitude Supersonic Target), comme adjudicataire direct, du fait que l'engin « HAHST » est très voisin du « HAST ». Mais un appel d'offres a été envoyé à Beechcraft, Brunswick, Fairchild Republic, Northrop et Raytheon. On prévoit que cette décision retardera de deux ans le projet « HAHST » et doublera son coût.

File
Quid to
Self

Article from "AIR ET COSMOS" No. 762 - 21 April 1979

The GEPAN tries to clear up the mystery of the UFO's 

The Study Group for Unidentified Aerspatial Phenomena (GEPAN), set up on 1st May 1977 by the CNES in order to study the famous "Unidentified Flying Objects", has just published a document entitled "the GEPAN and the study of the UFO phenomenon", whose forthcoming publication we announced (see Air et Cosmos no. 703 and 750). This document is the result of analyses carried out by about forty engineers and technicians belonging to the CNES (National Space Study Centre), the CNRS (National Scientific Research Centre) and the national Meteorology Centre, as well as specialists belonging to the Air Force and the French Navy, using reports of sightings collected by the national Gendarmerie (State Police Force).

^{convinced} Thus it seems, according to the 354 reports of sightings prepared and investigated by the GEPAN, that 20 to 25 per cent of the sightings actually relate to unidentified phenomena (type D sightings), approximately a quarter of which were reported by "witnesses of high credibility". However, the GEPAN does not yet give any interpretation of these sightings actually related to the UFO phenomenon.

The GEPAN also publishes in this document a summary of the "statistical study of reports on the UFO phenomenon" carried out on 825 reports of sightings by Claude Poher, the then head of the GEPAN, since replaced by Alain Esterle of the CNES. The main conclusions of this statistical study are as follows :

- sightings made in France and those made abroad give the same statistical results (the deviations are not significant);
- 70 per cent of sightings have at least 2 witnesses and over 50 per cent of sightings have at least 3 witnesses;
- the very great majority of sighters (70 per cent) consist exclusively of adults;
- there is a very large range of professions and abilities amongst the witnesses, including abilities of very high level;
- most sightings are made in fine weather with a clear sky in all countries;
- the majority of sightings last several minutes. Phenomena of very short or very long duration are rarely sighted;
- 30 per cent of sightings are made at a distance of less than 150 metres;
- 70 per cent of the objects sighted are circular or disc-shaped;
- comparison of day and night-time sightings as regards the colour of the objects reveals a good inner consistency in the reports :

- metal-coloured objects (day sightings : 30 per cent, night : 3 per cent),
- reddish-orange luminous objects (day sightings : 12 per cent, night : 46 per cent),
- the objects sighted are reported luminous both during the day and at night (86 per cent by day as compared to 98 per cent at night;
- as far as speed is concerned, 40 per cent of the objects sighted are reported as having been successively "immobile then fast-moving". In 20 per cent of cases, a "lightning" speed is reported;
- 50 per cent of cases contain "abnormal" trajectories with a series of halts or sudden turns, or arabesques... 20 per cent of reports mention a landing;
- the very great majority of objects sighted are silent (70 per cent);
- landings are only exceptionally reported in the vicinity of populated areas (70 per cent in very isolated areas, 20 per cent near isolated houses);
- statistics relating only to cases of landing give identical results to those of the other cases (night lights for example);
- all the countries in the world seem to be concerned by the issue of reports of sightings, irrespective of culture, religion, life-style and political regime;
- the geographical distribution of French sightings seems to be related only to population density and conditions of visibility (weather and natural cover);
- distribution over time shows "waves" (no simple apparent correlation). For each of the earth's hemispheres, the most sightings occur in October and the least in February and 70 per cent of sightings are at night;
- no correlation has been able to be found between disturbances of the earth's magnetic field and sightings, contrary to the widespread idea that the objects affect the orientation of compasses.

MOD Linguistic Services
 GLS/397
 Trans. CSG
 May 1979

~~AD~~ *JM*

~~RESTRICTED~~
UNCLASSIFIED

108/15

50
ENCLOSURE
47
NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8/1

Hd of S4(Air)

Copy to:
DIS5 ✓
DPR

UFOs - DRAFT PAMPHLET

Reference: D/S4(Air)/8/2/1/F

- 1. At Reference you asked for comment on the first draft of a Pamphlet on UFOs.
- 2. I agree with the general approach, but, having considered the paragraph (14) referring to radar, I feel that we should be careful not to sell the intelligent use of radar short. I would prefer:

"It is sometimes argued that a radar echo provides 'proof' of UFOs. However, by the inexperienced observer, radar responses can be misinterpreted since environmental conditions and interference from other installations can present a false picture. The well-known example is "anomalous propagation" where the pulses bounce off layers in the atmosphere and the radar, pointing skywards, may show echoes which are, in fact, on the surface".

D BADCOCK
Sqn Ldr
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)
MB 4258 6351 MB

22 Feb 79

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~

49



LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)/8/3

*to be returned
etc.*

Editor, RAF News

Copies to: DI 55 ✓
DPR(RAF)

UFOs - ARTICLE FOR RAF NEWS

Many thanks for the draft article attached to your minute of 9 February 1979. It seems excellent, both informative and interesting.

- 2. I have the following observations:
 - a. Bottom of page 1. My preference and recommendation would be to make the bottom paragraph unequivocal, and point out that UFOs are NOT FLYING SAUCERS but get turned into them by common usage. See paragraphs 2, 8 and 9 of the attached draft Pamphlet. However, I am content to leave this to your discretion.
 - b. Page 2, Brinsley le Poer Trench. I am afraid we have a slight political problem. This ufologist is of course the Earl of Clancarty, with whom HMG exchanged views in the Lords Debate. I feel our political masters would think it improper if the RAF News should be too rude about him. I suggest the problem could be resolved without altering any of the text from "Brinsley" to "..... interior of the earth" but toning down the faintly derisory setting and letting the idiocy of the Earls ideas speak for themselves.
 - c. Page 3, penultimate paragraph. You ought to be aware that ufologists would reject any suggestion that aliens had "stumbled on the tiny planet earth". They argue that aliens "seeded" the human race long ago and have been guardians ever since; or that aliens have been attracted here by nuclear explosions.

.....

3. I attach a copy of the first draft of a Pamphlet on UFOs. This has a different purpose from your article and hence a different approach and style. I am content that you should use any bits you wish. For my part there are bits of your article which I would like to steal for the Pamphlet if I may!

14 February 1979

T M F STEVENS
Head S4(Air)
FB 8245 7048 MB

DI 55/108/15

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47
ENCLOSURE
45
NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)/8/3

PS/USofS(RAF) - through DUS(Air)

Copies to: DI 55 ✓ 
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

UFOs

This morning I had a visit from Colonel Innocenti, Italian Air Attache, who wished to know the UK official position about UFOs: I had postponed his visit, asked for earlier, until after the Lords debate.

2. I gave Colonel Innocenti a copy of Hansard on the Lords debate and said that Lord Strabolgi's speech represented the UK Government's position. I added that MOD had in the past equivocated about UFOs and had limited comment mainly to "no threat to defence": we had done this to avoid interminable and fruitless arguments with ufologists. However, the rising pressures from the UFO industry and the demands of common sense had required that an unequivocal position be adopted, and future official responses from MOD would probably be on the lines of Lord Strabolgi's speech.

3. Colonel Innocenti said that the Italian Government now felt obliged to take an official position on UFOs because of the pressures of their own growing UFO industry and because of public interest following recent "UFO sightings" at Palermo. He said that the Italian authorities had in the past kept a "low profile" on UFOs, for the same reason as MOD, but did not believe there was evidence of alien space craft and would probably now say so, but they were scolding us, the US, and others.

4. FCO tell me they have sent copies of Lord Strabolgi's speech to the delegation at New York and to the Embassies at Washington, Paris and Port of Spain (the last covers Grenada). as the UK official position.



25 January 1979

T M P STEVENS
Head S4(Air)
MB 8245 7048 MB

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LOOSE MINUTE

DI55/108/15

46

D/S4(Air)/8/3

DPR(RAF)



COPIES TO: DI55 —
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

UFOs - ARTICLE FOR RAF NEWS

UFOs are news these days, and it would help MOD and the cause of common sense if members of the RAF were well informed on UFOs and able to respond easily in social gathering or to more formal enquiries at Stations. I strongly recommend that an article on UFOs be produced for RAF News.

2. The basic material is in Lord Strabolgi's speech reported in Lords Hansard of 18 January 1979, columns 1306 onwards. The main line of argument is:

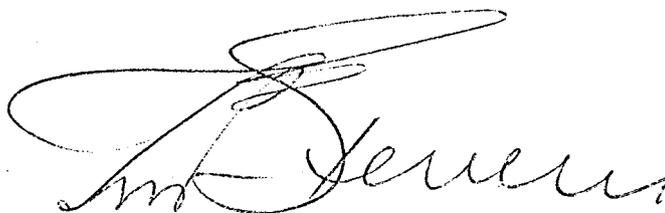
- a. Genuine phenomena exist and are reported by sensible people.
- b. The error consists of transposing such "UFO reports" (ie the phenomena are initially unidentified) into "alien space craft".
- c. There is no serious evidence that a single alien space craft has ever visited this planet, let alone the millions of visitations suggested by the ufologists.
- d. There are many sensible causes for the phenomena (these should be itemised, with perhaps special reference to curious phenomena like fireballs and ball lightning: see annex).
- e. With rational explanations available, there is no need to invent the far-fetched hypothesis of alien space craft. (This argument is known as "Occam's Razor"; see Annex).
- f. The ufologists concept of millions of visitations is full of internal inconsistencies.
- g. The idea of a "cover up" between many Governments (to which the scientific community must be a party) is ridiculous.

3. You will find other useful material in Hansard as follows:

- a. Speech by the Earl of Halsbury, a scientist, col 1288 onwards, particularly about "sun dogs" and the "green flash". He makes a telling point about sonic booms.
- b. The speech by Lord Hewlitt, Col 1295 onwards; he was briefed for the debate by Sir Bernard Lovell. The key point is that Jodrell Bank has watched space for 30 years and has never seen anything that might conceivably be a UFO.

Lord's Hansard 18 Jan
columns 1288-1316

-
4. I attach some supplementary material, and key bits of Hansard.
5. If you agree to prepare an article I would be grateful if we and DI 55 could see the draft. In his speech Lord Strabolgi was at pains to use parliamentary language. A cool and dispassionate approach is perhaps best, but I feel that the RAF News can, without challenging the sincerity of ufologists, go further in indicating that ufology is claptrap.
6. Separately, I have it in mind to prepare a pamphlet on UFOs, mainly for S4(Air) use in responding to future correspondence. I will consult you on the draft, and you may think it worth passing the pamphlet to the Press. However, the need to work the pamphlet over in detail and to consult other Ministries means that it will take time to complete, and I feel the RAF News article should not wait upon the pamphlet.



24 January 1979

T M P STEVENS
Head S4(Air)
MB 8245 7048 MB

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL ABOUT UFOs

1. Fireballs, (alternatively called "bolides", Greek for javelin). Much of the space debris entering the atmosphere is in the form of meteors, which are tiny particles. Fireball is a term used for much bigger pieces of debris, which may have a *luminosity greater than the brightest planets: about 1500 with a* luminosity greater than the moon enter the atmosphere each year. Some fireballs may eventually land and become meteorites; others may pass through the atmosphere and back into space. The appearance of fireballs differs considerably from the traditional meteor or "shooting star": vivid colours and colour changes are common; they may break up, with fragments circling or flying "in formation"; the trajectory may appear horizontal; and their brightness causes people greatly to underestimate the distances.
2. Ball Lightning. Ball lightning is a strange phenomena, not yet fully explained, in which a glowing or burning ball a foot or so in diameter may drift over the ground or even high in the air. Ball lightning has been known to drift through walls, and along telephone or power lines. There is a reported case of ball lightning drifting inside an aircraft at altitude.
3. Radar. People tend to believe that radar reports of UFOs constitute some special kind of scientific "proof". Radar is in some ways as fallible as the human eye, and there are many technical problems which create false echces. A notable one is known as "anomalous propagation", in which the transmitted radiation may be reflected off layers in the atmosphere. When there are reports of simultaneous visual and radar sightings of UFOs, people suspect that this constitutes absolute proof; but detailed examination is needed to determine whether the visual and radar reports actually relate to the same phenomena.

4. How does one explain the strange UFO stories such as those quoted by Lord Clancarty? It is unwise to try to assess such reports without access to the primary information. Ufologists often seem to accept UFO stories uncritically, and there is a risk that the stories will have been embellished with each successive telling. To make sense of such stories one would have to see the actual statements of the different witnesses and to examine in detail the course of the aircraft, the bearings of the observations the atmospheric and other conditions, etc.

5. How did the idea of UFOs come about? Since World War II we have known the development of powerful rockets, and voyages to the Moon and planets. We have also seen the development of science fiction, where space ships can be switched to "inter-stellar drive" and cross the 2 million light years to Andromeda Galaxy in a flash. We have also seen the development of the UFO industry, which accepts the devices of science fiction as proven fact and interprets any unusual phenomena as alien space craft. The words "UFO" and "alien space craft" have been firmly implanted and readily spring to mind when anything strange is seen.

6. "Where there's smoke there's fire". Ufologists accumulate "UFO sightings" as if sheer numbers constitute proof. Naturally some people murmur "where there's smoke there's fire". All that is happening is that the UFO industry is making a great deal of smoke, to the confusion of common sense [and to their own substantial profit].

7. Occam's Razor. This is a primary argument against people who invent the hypothesis of UFOs to explain the perfectly ordinary phenomena. The phrase was applied to the philosophy to William of Occam (circa 1290 to circa 1349) which in essence said "entities must not be multiplied without necessity". In ordinary language this means that theories which need to elaborate in order to explain phenomena for which there is a simple explanation are probably wrong.

In other words: there are perfectly sensible explanations to the UFO phenomena, so why seek fantastic explanations bordering on magic?

DISS/108/15



44

ENCLOSURE
43
NUMBER

PQ 8530/B

Copy to:
PS/US of S(RAF)
PS/CS(RAF)
DUS(Air)
DI 55 (Mr Asteraki) ✓
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Head of S4(Air)

UFO DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON
18TH JANUARY 1979

Lord Strabolgi has asked me to write and thank you for all the trouble which you took to prepare the speech for him to make on UFOs on behalf of the Government at last night's debate.

2. Lord Strabolgi was particularly grateful for your attendance - and that of Mr Asteraki and Miss Jamieson - in the Box throughout the debate. Lord Strabolgi told me after the debate that he thought it had gone very well and that he had covered in sufficient detail most of the points raised by various Peers during the course of the debate. He does not propose to initiate any letters to Peers concerned on any points which he may not have dealt with in detail. It may, however, be that they will write to him. If so I will, of course, take your advice.

3. I am returning to you with this minute various papers which you gave to me for my use during the debate.

D T PIPER

19th January 1979

(D T PIPER)
APS/SECRETARY OF STATE
218 6169

38

ENCLOSURE
42
NUMBER

UNCLASSIFIED

MJS

CAV076 28/1619 3(2A1476

FOR CAV

ROUTINE 221500Z DEC 77

FROM MODUK AIR
TO BDS AIR WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED
SIC Z6F

FROM S4F(AIR) FOR AIR 2. YOUR Z6F 221615Z DEC.

IN 1976 YOU ADVISED THAT SINCE PUBLICATION IN 1969 OF CONDON REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND TERMINATION OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK NO EVIDENCE HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO WARRANT FURTHER UFG INVESTIGATION BY USAF. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERABLE USAF COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES IN PAST AND EXTREME PRESSURE ON FUNDS THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD OF RENEWED USAF INVOLVEMENT IN UFGS. DOES THIS STILL REFLECT USAF VIEWS? CAN THESE VIEWS BE QUOTED IN DEBATE IF REQUIRED? REPLY NOT LATER THAN 8 JANUARY

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F
CAB 2 S 4 (AIR) ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
CAM 1 ACS(P)
CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
CAV 2 DDSTI
CAL 1 DI 55 D(SIC)

ENCLOSURE
41
NUMBER

39

Handwritten signature

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAV110 03/1836 003C2966

FOR CAV

ROUTINE 031545Z JAN '79

FROM BDS AIR WASHINGTON
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

FOR S4F(AIR) FROM AIR 2 PD YOUR Z6F 281500Z DEC REFERS PD CAN NOW
CONFIRM THAT USAF POLICY ON UFOS IS UNCHANGED CMM AND FUTURE INVOLV-
EMENT IS UNLIKELY PD THESE VIEWS MAY BE QUOTED PD
BT

-E38

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

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35
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40
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

CBN008 20/0031 353A2781

FOR CAV

ROUTINE 191535Z DEC

FROM MODUK AIR
TO BRITAIRAT PARIS

MAJ ²⁰
xii

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

FROM S4F(AIR). SUBJECT UFO S. YOUR Z6F 181415Z DEC.
NO FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY. OUR ENQUIRY WAS MADE BECAUSE OF
FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON UFOs. IS IT IN ORDER TO
QUOTE FRENCH VIEWPOINT AS GIVEN BY COLONEL ALEXIS IN 1976
AND IN M. GALLEYS RADIO INTERVIEW IF NECESSARY ?

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F
CAB 2 S 4 (Air) ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
CAM 1 ACS(P)
CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 2 DDSTI
CAL 1 DI 55 b(SIC)

AD JA hm!
2 Mr Hatcher W/ that!
DMy 30 xi



LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)8/3

PS/C5(RAF)

DD Ops(GE)(RAF)

ADI/DI55

UFOs - DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

You will recall that the Earl of Clancarty put down a motion in the House of Lords last May calling for a debate on Unidentified Flying Objects. Although he subsequently withdrew it, we are informed it has now been restored to the order paper in the following terms:-

"To call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and to the need for an intra-governmental study of UFOs."

2. No date has been fixed for the debate but we should get fourteen days notice if it is to take place. As you know, a Ministerial speech was drafted on the last occasion. Head of S4(Air) considers no further action to be immediately necessary but he would be grateful if you would continue to put aside any relevant material about UFOs that comes to hand. (D/S4(Air)8/3 dated 1 June refers).

29 Nov 78

J Peduzie
J A PEDUZIE
S4(Air)
MB 8241 7065 MB

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8C

S4(Air)

Copies to:
PS/CS(RAF)
DI 55

UFOS DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Reference:

A. D/S4(Air)/8/3 dated 17 May 78

1. Reference A asked if we could comment more fully about the evidence of extra-terrestrial activity based on the reports received in the Ministry of Defence.

Additionally you wished to know how UFO reports are processed and whether there has been any attempt to consider them as a whole.

2. All aerial phenomena reports received by the Air Force Department of the MOD are reviewed by the Directorate of Operations (A Def & O); specifically by Ops(GE)2c. Each report is assessed on its merits and can be subjected to further investigation if considered necessary. An example of such an investigation is contained in Annex A; a number of time co-incident reports concerning the sighting of aerial phenomena over Southern England in the early hours of 16 April were eventually linked, by RAF Fylingdales (a BMEWS site), to the re-entry into earth's atmosphere of a satellite or satellite debris.

3. In the period 1 May 77 to 30 April 78 a total of 501 aerial phenomena reports were received and processed; of these only 6% indicated that further investigation was required; each report needing approximately 3 working hours to process fully. Such investigation requires that detail contained in each report be mapped and the resultant possible trajectory/track be correlated with any factual evidence that may be available either from the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) or the Air Defence Ground Environment (ADGE) radar sites. During this period Air Defence radar sites have no record of unusual observations. Indeed none of the unusual phenomena reports have ever been confirmed as having an unknown origin by our ground radar sites.

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UNCLASSIFIED

4. Until the receipt of Reference A no attempt has been made to consider the reports as a whole, indeed the effort required would be difficult to justify. A review of the reports still held on file has been carried out; the statistical results appear in Annex B. Two points of interest emerge: firstly there appears to be a dramatic increase in the number of reported sightings since the end of 76, although it is possible that some reports received during the period 72-76 may have been destroyed. Secondly the detailed plotting of a number of the reports received in the period 1 Jan 78 to 30 April (Annex C) reveals a number of observation patterns which could be interpreted as the sighting of manmade space objects and/or decaying satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The CS may wish to comment on this. However, much detailed work would be necessary to investigate fully this hypothesis.

5. RAF Fylingdales advise that on 23 May a total of 4,661 items of manmade space objects were orbiting the earth. Of these, 65% (3,343) had an angle of inclination which would result in an overflight of the United Kingdom. At Annex D is a table of the number of manmade objects launched each year since 1972. The table also shows yearly additions to the space catalogue and the number of items which were removed from the catalogue as they decayed from orbit and entered earth's atmosphere. It is estimated that approximately 20% of decaying objects are of sufficient size to be visible on their entry into the atmosphere.

6. We believe that the majority of aerial phenomena sighting reports have a rational explanation; meteorological balloons, atmospheric phenomena, orbiting space hardware, space debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, cosmic debris and high-flying aircraft (both military and civil) are among the most probable explanations. Of the reports reviewed to date we can find no evidence of extra terrestrial visitation to either earth, its atmosphere or near space. The total lack of primary radar observations of unnatural phenomena leads us to be sceptical of Lord Clancarty's claims although we would not wish to state categorically that "UFOs" do not exist.

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Undoubtedly a very small proportion of sightings reports will defy rational explanations but within MOD AFD we have neither the staff, information nor the time to investigate fully all reports.

7. We propose to continue with the compilation of Annex B in order that you may be given a current statement of figures at the time of the resubmission of the PQ.

12 Jun 78



N G COLVIN
Group Captain
DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
MB 4257 7892 MB

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CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A TO
D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8C
DATED 22 JUN 78

INVESTIGATION OF AERIAL PHENOMENA REPORTS - 16 APRIL

Reference:

A. D/S4(Air)/8/3 dated 17 May 78.

1. As a result of the receipt on 17 April of a number of reports relating to time co-incident sightings of aerial phenomena in the early morning of 16 April, an investigation as to the probable cause was initiated. The period initially investigated was 15, 16 and 17 April and Appendix 1 shows the initial results which indicated that on 16th and 17th sighting reports revealed that phenomena were observed to travel from the South-West to the North-East across the Southern half of the United Kingdom, whilst on 15 April a reverse direction was observed. As the predominant number of sightings were after midnight on 16 April these were reviewed in more detail and appear at Appendix 2. Subsequent discussion with Fylingdales on 18 April revealed that 3 items of space hardware had been deleted from the space catalogue and from the trajectory of the phenomena reports it could be reasonably assumed that the witnesses had observed decaying items of hardware re-entering the earths atmosphere.
2. Subsequent to the receipt of Reference A the incident on 16 April has been re-examined. A geographical plan of the reports is at Appendix 3 together with numerically related reports. It is of interest that while the majority of the reports describe what was seen by the observer, reports 1 and 5 contain a limited amount of embellishment. Over the period May 77 to April 78 .2 percent of all received reports contained descriptions which could be interpreted as a report of the sighting of an "UFO". Two examples are shown at Appendix 4.

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UNCLASSIFIED

3. The information given in all aerial phenomena reports is related to the following paragraph sequence:

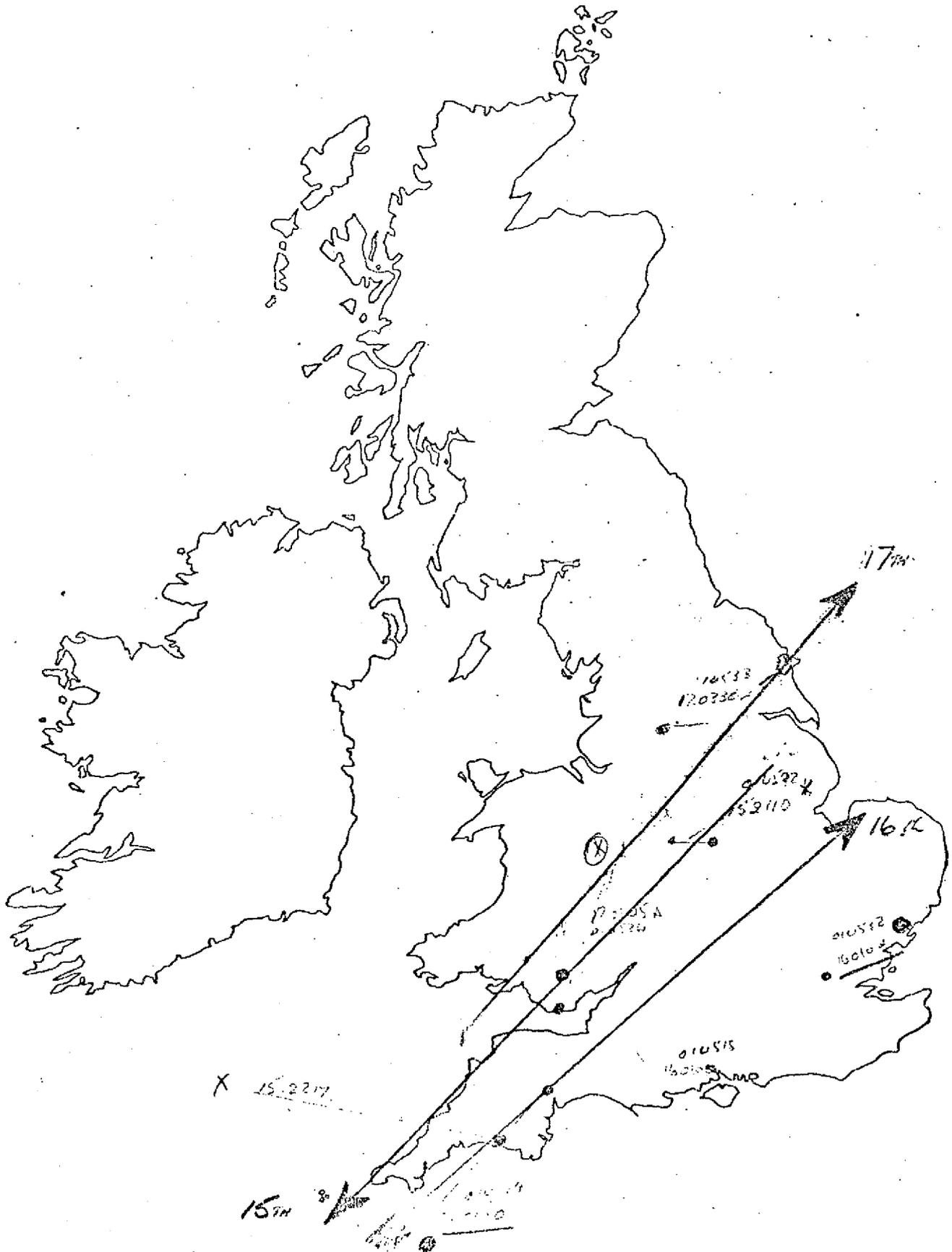
- A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting
- B. Description of Object
- C. Exact Position of Observer
- D. How Observed
- E. Direction in which Object was first seen
- F. Angular Elevation of Object
- G. Distance of Object from Observer
- H. Movements of Object
- J. Meteorological Conditions During Observations
- K. Nearby Objects
- L. To Whom Reported
- M. Name and Address of Informant
- N. Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered.
- O. Other Witnesses
- P. Date and Time of Receipt of Report.

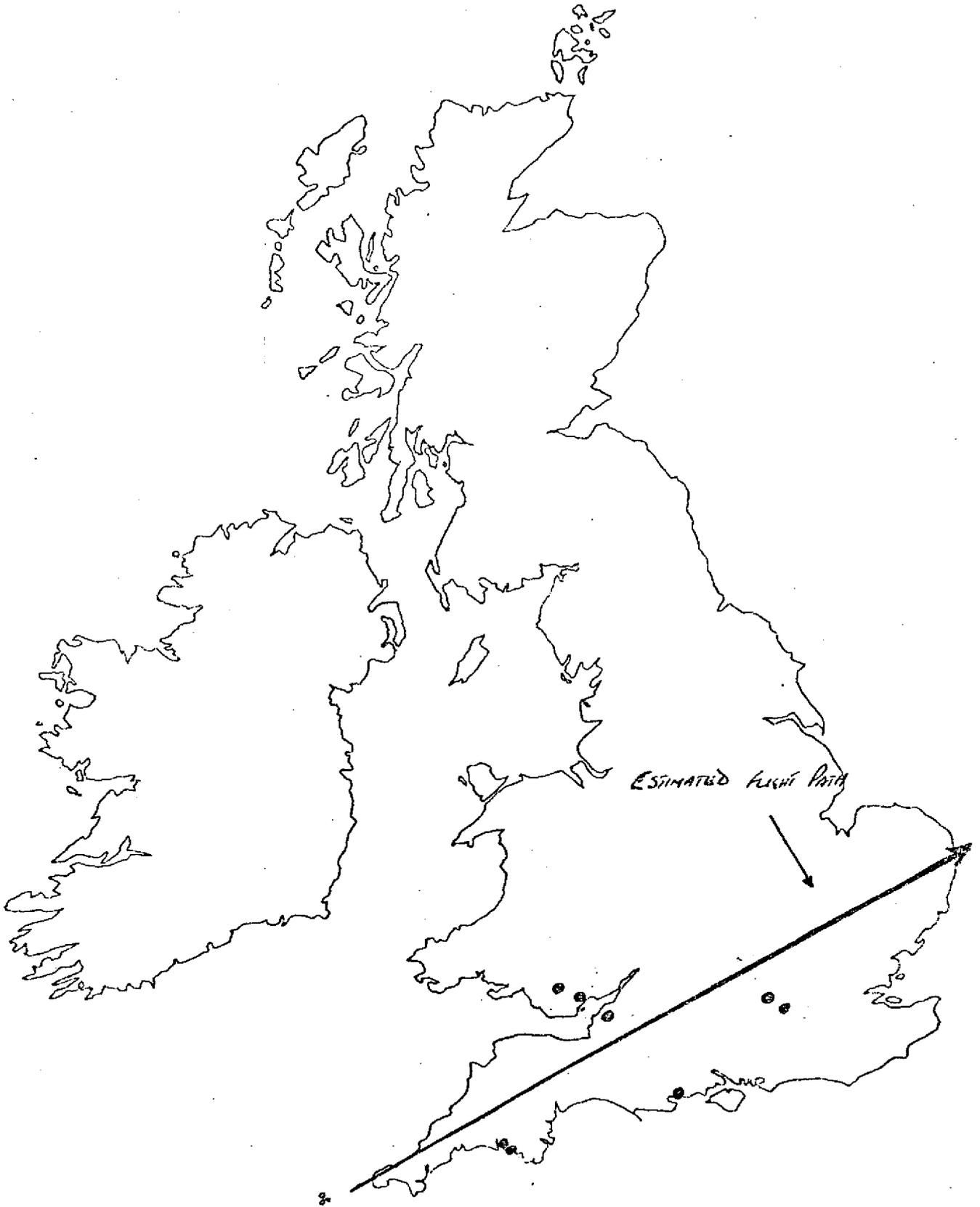
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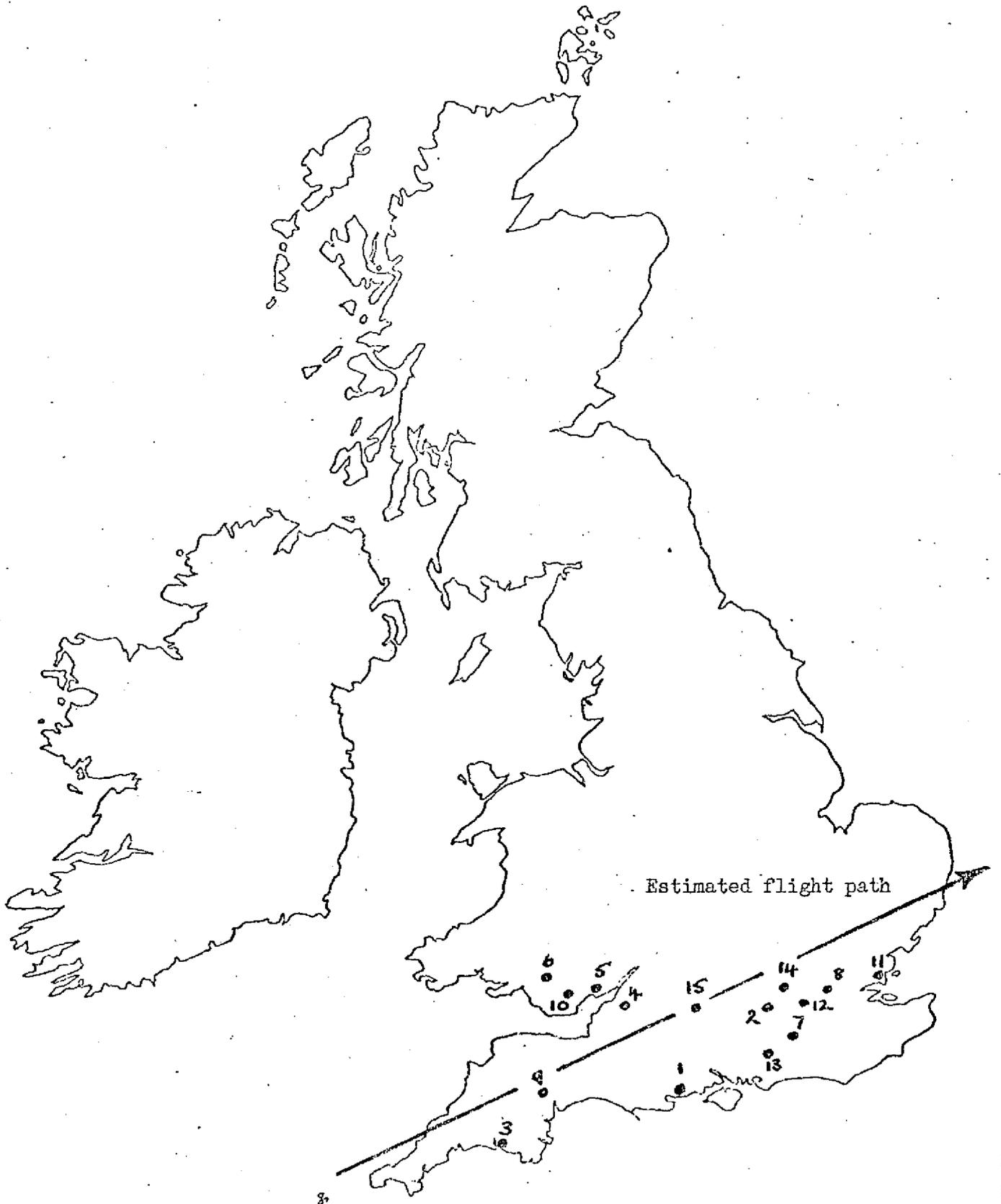
AERIAL PHENOMENA REPORTS - 15/16/17 April 78

INITIAL INVESTIGATION

APPENDIX 1 to
ANNEX A to
D/DD Cps (GE)/10/8C
Dated 12 June 78







FOR COMBINED USE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 37

107

Serial

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Extra cc

4

UU Marker 325

1218z

Check

136

VZCZCPDA082

RR REDWG
DE RBDPGA 004 1061035
ZNR UUUUU
R 161000Z APR
FM LATCOMIL
TO MODUK AIR

BT
UNCLAS
DIG LGZ160
AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A 160110A APR 5 TO 10 SECS
- B ONE WHITE WITH EXHAUST TURN TO PLATE SHAPE AND EXPLODED
- C OUTDOORS GARDEN STAINES
- D NAKED EYE
- E WEST TO EAST
- F 45 DEG
- G 3 TO 4 MILES
- H CHANGED SHAPE FROM FIRST OBSERVATION AS COME AND FINALLY EXPLODED
- J CLEAR
- K PYLONS AND HEATHROW AIRPORT
- L STAINES POLICE
- M MRS L BROWN 7 CHESTNUT MANOR CLOSE STAINES
- N NIL

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 004 UNCLAS
O NIL
P 161025A APR
BT

- CAB SA(RIR) ACTION (2)
- CAM ACS(T)(RAF)
- CYD DD CTS(GE)(RAF)
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- CAV DI 13D (2)

NNNN

2

R 31000Z APR
FM LATCCHIL
TO MODUK AIR

Black

014171

UNCLAS
DIG LGZ161
AERIAL PHENOMENA
A 160110A APR 15 SECONDS
B CIGAR SHAPED NOSE CONE VERY BRIGHT FUSELAGE DIFFERENT COLOUR
WHOLE OBJECT VERY BRIGHT
C BOURNEMOUTH INDOORS STATIONARY
D NAKED EYE
E EAST
F 30 DEGREES
G ONE TO TWO MILES FROM HURN
H FIXED FLIGHT PATH TRAVELLING EAST
J CLEAR
K GRID SYSTEM ACROSS FIELD AT REAR STREET LAMPS
L ATC HURN
M MR SHINER ST CECILA 2 WOODLAND BEARWOOD BOURNEMOUTH

135

PAGE 2 REDPGA 003 UNCLAS
N NATIONAL SERVICE WITH RAF OBSERVER CORP
O NIL
P 161015A APR
BT

NNNN

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CAL 1. DI 55 B (SIC)
CAN 2. DI 13 d

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NUMBER 36
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016199

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CYD383 16/2344 14863550

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 142310Z APR

FROM HQ PLYMOUTH
TO MODUK AIR
UNRASC
LATCH MIL
HQ 11 BR

138

U N C L A S S I F I E D

DIG L06573
UFO REPORT

- A. 15 APR 78 1400E SMOOT PERIOD
- B. ONE VERY BRIGHT OBJECT POSSIBLY OVAL SHAPED LEAVING TRAIL
- C. EARLSWOOD DRIVE MAINSTONE PLYMOUTH OUTDOORS STATIONARY
- D. HAZED EYE
- E. NORTHWARDS
- F. QUOTE AS HIGH AS A HELICOPTER UNQUOTE
- G. NOT KNOWN
- H. TOWARDS EAST WHEN LOOKING NORTHERLY. GETTING PROGRESSIVELY CLOSER TO GROUND MOVING SLOWLY
- J. CLEAR SKY

PAGE 2 RYDBFC 346 UNCLAS

- K. UNINTERRUPTED VIEW
 - L. DUTY CONTROLLER SRCC
 - M. MRS BAILEY 11 EARLSWOOD DRIVE MAINSTONE PLYMOUTH TEL PLYMOUTH 756747
 - N. NIL
 - O. THREE NEIGHBOURS NO NAMES GIVEN
 - P. 161340Z APR 78
- BT

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14172

FOR COMPLETION USE - IN MESSAGE

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RR RBDWC
DE RBDPGA 002 1060740
ZNR: UUUUU
R 160710Z APR
FM LATCCMIL
TO MODUK AIR
BT

(7)	PASST Serial
	Type
625 1045	Dispatch On Time
	Check

UNCLAS
DIG LGZ159
AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 160103Z APR TO 10-15SECS
B. ONE WHITE AND ORANGE EXHAUST TRAIL BRIGHT NONE NONE
C. QUEENNS ROAD STORE OUTDOOR STATIONARY
D. NAKED EYE
E. NORTH EAST
F. 30DEGS
G. N/K
H. STEADY
J. SKY CLEAR
K. VICTORIA BUILDINGS CLIFTON
L. SOUTHMEAD POLICE STATION BRISTOL
M. DETECTIVE CHIEF INSPECTOR CLIFFORD, STAPLE HILL POLICE STATION BRISTOL

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 002 UNCLAS

N. NONE
O. SGT CAMPBELL, REDLAND POLICE STATION BRISTOL
P. SIMILAR REPORTS RECEIVED DURING EARLY HOURS OF 16 APR FROM THE FOLLOWING POLICE FORCES
CARDIFF CENTRAL POLICE
BURTON ON TRENT POLICE
AVON SOMERSET CONSTABULARY-
THESE REPORTS GIVE SIGHTING TIMES BETWEEN 152359Z TO 160108Z APR
BT

NNNN

CAB SH(AIR) (2) ACTION
CAM ACS(T) (RAF)
CYD DDIPS(GE) (RAF)
CAL DI 55B(SIC)
CAV DI 13D (2)

4

ENCLOSURE
34
NUMBER

010169

113

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YZCZCPDA081 UU
 RR RBDWC
 DE RBDPGA 005 1061210
 ZNR UUUUU
 R 161055Z APR
 FM LATCCNIL
 TO MODUK AIR
 BT

UNCLAS
 DIG LGZ162
 AERIAL PHENOMENA
 A 160130A APR SHORT DURATION
 B ONE OVAL ORANGE WITH WHITE COCKPIT
 C BEDROOM WINDOW OF HOUSE
 D NAKED EYE
 E FROM SOUTH WEST
 F NOT KNOWN
 G 1000FT
 H-CAME FROM SOUTHWEST HOVERED THEN WENT OFF AT GREAT SPEED TO SOUTH EAST
 J CLEAR
 K MULTI STOREY FLATS
 L POLICE MAINDEE NEWPORT
 M MR SIDNEY MORGAN 27 RINGLAND CENTRE NEWPORT

142

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 005 UNCLAS
 N NIL
 O NIL
 P 161015A APR GWYNEDD POLICE
 BT

NNNN

CAB SA (AIR) (2)
 CAM ACS (T) (RAF)
 CYD DDoPS (GE) (RAF)
 CAL DISSB (SIG)
 CAN DIIBD

5

ENCLOSURE
33
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10516

126

RCA

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CYD175 17/2013 11703993

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 171037Z APR

154

FROM LATCONIL
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

DIG L2071

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 18117Z 17SECONDS

B ONE ORANGE BALL OF FLAME NONE NONE

C FERNDALE, PONTYPRIDD OUTDOORS STATIONARY

D HAZED EYE

E S/E

F N/E

G W/E

H STEADY

J CLEAR SKY

K NONE

L SOUTH WALES CONSTABULARY BRIDGE END

M MR AND MRS YEDMAN, 21, NORTH ROAD, PORTH MR AND MRS OWEN, BOWLING STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN PONTYPRIDD

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 011 UNCLAS

H NONE

BT

DISTRIBUTION LGZ

CAD	2	S 4 (ALPHACT)	1	DSC(AFDO)
CAF	1	ACD(T) (RAF)		
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CAF	2	01 13 9		

18 APR 75

6

ENCLOSURE
32
NUMBER

122

014522

UNCLASSIFIED

CYD116 17/1620 10702703

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 171335Z APR

FROM LATCOMID
TO MODUK AIR

151

UNCLASSIFIED

DIG L02170

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 171335Z APR

O ONE LARGE BALL OF FIRE

C BRENTWOOD

D NAKED EYE

E NOT GIVEN

F NOT GIVEN

G NOT GIVEN

H HOVERING

J CLEAR SKY

K NONE

L ESSEX POLICE

N MRS DICKIE 49 SONGOR ROAD, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX

N NONE

PAGE 2 REDPGA 009 UNCLAS

O NONE

P 171435A APR

BT

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CAB	2	6 4 (10)	ANT (CAB - 1 DSC(AFDD))
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CAV	2	DI 13	

8

ENCLOSURE
31
NUMBER

124

014800

JFA

UNCLASSIFIED

CYD134 17/1700 10703211

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 171545Z APR

FROM HQ PLYMOUTH
TO MODUK AIR
UKRACC
LATCHMIL
HQ 11 GP

152

UNCLASSIFIED

DIA LGZ

UFC REPORT

A. 151130A

B. LONG OBJECT WITH FLAMES BEHIND (MULTICOLOURED)

C. OUTDOORS IN OLD TIVERTON ROAD EXETER

D. NAKED EYE

E. TOWARDS SOUTHWEST

F. APPROX 45 DEGREES

G. QUARTER MILE

H. MOVING SOUTHWESTERLY

I. CLEAR SKY

K. DISAPPEARED BEHIND HOUSES BUT APPEARED TO BE IN LEVEL FLIGHT

PAGE 2 RYDEFC 205 UNCLAS

L. EXETER EXPRESS AND ECHO (NEWSPAPER)

M. MR AND MRS WOAKEN 2 WYNNS RD EXETER

N. NONE

O. SEEN BY HUSBAND AND WIFE AT PARA H.

P. 171745A

BT

DISTRIBUTION LGZ

CAS	2	S J (Ain)	ACTIO	(CNS	1	DSC(AFDD)-)
CAN	1	ACG(T)	(RAF)			
JWC	1	DD	(SME)	(F)		
CAL	1	DI	(SIC)			
INT	1	DI				

9

ENCLOSURE
30
NUMBER

114

14134

UNCLASSIFIED

000000 1071343 17600000

FOR DND

ROUTINE 161130A APR ?

143

FROM LATOONIL
TO KODUM AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

DIA-LOG113

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 160135A APPROX 1 MIN

B INTENSE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT WHICH CHANGED TO RED

C FROM UPSTAIRS ROOM WINDOW

D WAVED EYE

E FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

F LOW

G NOT KNOWN

H TRAVELLED HORIZONTALLY JUST BELOW MOUNTAIN-LINE SHOWING AS WHITE

LIGHT THEN STOPPED CHANGED TO INTENSE RED LIGHT AND SHOT UP

VERTICALLY AT GREAT SPEED AND DISAPPEARED

I CLEAR

K MOUNTAIN BACKGROUND WITH ROAD RUNNING ALONG MOUNTAIN

L FERNDALE POLICE

PAGE 2-RBOPFA 006 UNCLAS

M MRS GAYNOR COX 69 REGENT ST FERNDALE GLANORGAN

N RELIABLE

O NIL

P 161130A APR

BT

DISTRIBUTION L22

TO	2	S-1 (AIR) ACTA	(CKJ	1	DSC(AFDB)
TO	1	ACC(T) (RAF)			
TO	1	CD (RAF) (RE)			
TO	1	CD (RAF) (SIC)			
TO	1	CD (RAF)			

10

12
010741
ENCLOSURE
29
NUMBER

NFA

UNCLASSIFIED

CYD184 18/1949 10804231

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 101810Z APR

FROM LATSCHIL
TO MODUK AIR

155

UNCLASSIFIED

CIG LBE174

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 180105A APR 5-7 SECONDS

R 1 CORNET SHAPED OBJECT WITH SHEET OF ORANGE AND NEON GREEN LIGHT AT TAIL END. THEN SPLIT INTO 3 PIECES AND FADED OUT

C ON THE A201 HORSHAM TO GUILDFORD ROAD IN CAR MOVING

D NAKED EYE

E SOUTH WEST MOVING NORTH EAST

F N/K

G N/K

H LEVEL WITH SPEED LIKE A ROCKET

J OBEAR

K NIE

L GUILDFORD POLICE

M MR FRANKLIN 25 MANDEVILLE CLOSE GUILDFORD SURREY

PAGE 2 RSDPGA 007 UNCLAS

N NIE

O WIFE

P 181824A APR

BT

DISTRIBUTION LBE

DI	2	S 4 (MIG) - ACTION	1	DSC(AFCO)
CAN	1	ACC(T) (RAF)		
CYD	1	DD 008 (DE) (RAF)		
CME	1	DI 55 (SIC)		
DAY	2	DI 15		

7

014729
1110

129

ENCLOSURE
28
NUMBER

UNCLASSIFIED

NYDR 1242231 14334542

FOR NYD

ROUTINE 1000152 1PR

FROM THE NEWINGTON
TO HROUK AIR

157

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT-REPORT

1 SUNDAY 12 APR AT 212 HRS FOR 5 TO 6 SECONDS
2 ONE BRILLIANT WHITE BALL APPROX HALF SIZE HOUSEHOLD
CHIMNEY STACK, LEAVING A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT TRAIL OF LIGHT
3 STATIONARY OUTSIDE AIRLANCE STATION AT SCRUB LAKE THUNDEROLEY
ESSEX
4 NAKED EYE
5 APPEARED OVER INTERSECTION OF SCRUB LAKE AND DAVES HEATH LAKE. ROOF
TOP HEIGHT
6 FROM ROOF TOPS CLIMBED VERY FAST AT ESTIMATED ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES
FROM HORIZONTAL. OBSERVER REMARKED THAT CLIMB OUT SIMILAR TO
MILITARY JET
7 POSSIBLY FROM PLAYING FIELD IN SCRUB LAKE ESTIMATED DISTANCE 300
TO 1000 METRES

PAGE 2 REDPAM 001 UNCLAS

8 EXTREMELY FAST NON DEVIATING COURSE. OBJECT APPEARED TO JETTISON
WHITE PARTICLES OF SAME BRILLIANCE HALF WAY THROUGH FLIGHT. OBJECT
INCREASED SPEED CONTINUOUSLY BEFORE DISAPPEARING STILL CLIMBING
STEEPLY

9 CLEAR SKY-STARS CLEARLY VISIBLE

10 GOUTWENT AIRPORT ABOUT 4 MILES AWAY

11 NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. THIS REPORT TO SAC PARKER OPS
NEWINGTON

12 MR D. STABLES, 77 THORPEBENE GARDENS, SHOEBURYNESS, ESSEX. TEL NO
0306541133 4439

13 OBSERVER IS AN AIRLANCE MAN WHO WAS COMING OFF DUTY WITH A
COLLEAGUE. HE WAS GOING TO REPORT THE INCIDENT EARLIER BUT WAS
UNSURE OF PROCEDURE

14 HE SIGNED
15 1000152 APR

BT

DISTRIBUTION 100

THE 1 3 - (110) ACTION (001) (001) (001) (001)

110

1 05 (T) (T) (T)
 1 07 015 (SE) (T) (T)
 1 01 01 (T) (T) (T)
 1 01 10 1

9

157



(160)

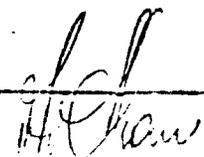
APR 1951

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

ENCLOSURE
27
NUMBER

<p>A. <u>Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.</u></p>	<p>160107A April 11 to 12 seconds</p>
<p>B. <u>DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT</u> (Number of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)</p>	<p>ONE White with orange centre (Not unlike the trail of a rocket firework)</p>
<p>C. <u>EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER</u> (Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary, moving)</p>	<p>Indoors looking out of North facing window.</p>
<p>D. <u>HOW OBSERVED</u> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical devices, still or movie)</p>	<p>Naked Eye</p>
<p>E. <u>DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT FIRST SEEN</u> (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)</p>	<p>West moving East</p>
<p>F. <u>ANGLE OF SIGHT</u> (Estimated heights are unreliable)</p>	<p>20° from an upper room approx 14 ft from ground.</p>
<p>G. <u>DISTANCE</u> (By reference to known landmark)</p>	<p>Not known</p>
<p>H. <u>MOVEMENTS</u> (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)</p>	<p>Speeding up, broke into three parts then disappeared.</p>
<p>J. <u>MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATIONS</u> (Clouds, haze, mist etc.)</p>	<p>Clear</p>

12

<u>NEARBY OBJECTS</u> (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with flood lights or night lighting)	Housing estate with clear all round visability
L. <u>TO WHOM REPORTED</u> (Police, military, press etc)	Belvedere police station (383 7282)
M. <u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT</u>	Mrs Woodward ^{TEL:-} 340 Long Lane Bexley Heath ³⁰⁴⁻⁹⁵³⁰
N. <u>BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED</u>	Sugar refiner
O. <u>OTHER WITNESSES</u>	Mr Woodward
P. <u>DETAILED MET REPORT</u> (AFOR to obtain)	Clear with few showers
Q. <u>DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT</u>	161100A April 1978
R. <u>ADOC ASSESSMENT</u> (Check radars, ATCCs etc) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aircraft 2. Ranges 3. Gliding 4. Balloon 5. Air Sea Rescue Activities 	<div style="text-align: right;">  Sqn Ldr. DCO AFOR (RAF) </div>

Date 16 April 1978

Sqn Ldr. DCO AFOR (RAF)

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ENCLOSURE
26
NUMBER

115

014133

UNCLASSIFIED

CYD011 15/1344 10600555

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 151325C APR ?

144

FROM LATCOM1
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

DIC 151154

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 151154A APR DURATION NOT STATED

B ONE LARGE ROUND GLOWING OBJECT WHICH SEEMED TO BE SHEDDING SOME GLOWING MATERIAL

C OUTDOORS LEATHERHEAD RD GREAT BOOKHAM SURREY

D NAKED EYE

E WEST

F NOT KNOWN

G ESTIMATED ONE MILE

H MOVING EAST TOWARDS COBHAM

J CLEAR

K NOT STATED

L LEATHERHEAD POLICE

M MR JONES SILVER BIRCHES LEATHERHEAD RD GT BOOKHAM SURREY

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 007 UNCLAS

N NIL

O WIFE

P 151335A APR

BT

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USZ

DIR	2	S J (A/C)	ACT/	CKJ	1	DSC(AFOO)
IAN	1	ACS(T)	(RAF)			
CYD	1	DD	222(OE)	(RAF)		
SAL	1	DI	11	5(SIC)		
RAF	2	DI	13	1		

13.

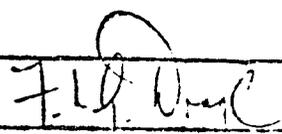
REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT



<p>A. <u>Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.</u></p>	<p>160100A 2 seconds</p>
<p>B. <u>DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT</u> (Number of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)</p>	<p>Similar to rocket fireworks - front half a ball shape - trail of sparks & patches of brown smoke - one only</p>
<p>C. <u>EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER</u> (Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary, moving)</p>	<p>A10 bypass travelling North between Hoddleston and Hertford</p>
<p>D. <u>HOW OBSERVED</u> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical devices, still or movie)</p>	<p>Naked eye</p>
<p>E. <u>DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT FIRST SEEN</u> (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)</p>	<p>West to East</p>
<p>F. <u>ANGLE OF SIGHT</u> (Estimated heights are unreliable)</p>	<p>1 - 2 miles</p>
<p>G. <u>DISTANCE</u> (By reference to known landmark)</p>	<p>near distance - almost overhead</p>
<p>H. <u>MOVEMENTS</u> (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)</p>	<p>nil</p>
<p>J. <u>MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATIONS</u> (Clouds, haze, mist etc.)</p>	<p>clear</p>

<p>K. <u>NEARBY OBJECTS</u> (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with flood lights or night lighting)</p>	<p>Main road - fairly clear</p>
<p>L. <u>TO WHOM REPORTED</u> (Police, military, press etc)</p>	<p>Police (Hertford)</p>
<p>M. <u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT</u></p>	<p>Mrs Suzanne High 24 Riversmead, Hertford</p>
<p>N. <u>BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED</u></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>O. <u>OTHER WITNESSES</u></p>	<p>With husband</p>
<p>P. <u>DETAILED MET REPORT</u> (AFOR to obtain)</p>	<p>Sunny spells. few showers or rain or sleet</p>
<p>Q. <u>DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT</u></p>	<p>160150A</p>
<p>R. <u>ADOC ASSESSMENT</u> (Check radars, ATCCs etc)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aircraft 2. Ranges 3. Gliding 4. Balloon 5. Air Sea Rescue Activities 	

Date 16 April 78


 Sqn Ldr. DCO AFOR (RAF)

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SCIENCE3/FILE
 Rm 1206
 Main Bldg

(159) 10/3
REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT



<p>A. <u>Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.</u></p>	<p>160115A April 10 Seconds</p>
<p>B. <u>DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT</u> (Number of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)</p>	<p>Bright white light (not unlike firework trail) Disappeared then re-appeared</p>
<p>C. <u>EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER</u> (Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary, moving)</p>	<p>In motor car (in motion and stationary)</p>
<p>D. <u>HOW OBSERVED</u> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical devices, still or movie)</p>	<p>Naked eye</p>
<p>E. <u>DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT FIRST SEEN</u> (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)</p>	<p>West to East</p>
<p>F. <u>ANGLE OF SIGHT</u> (Estimated heights are unreliable)</p>	<p>Due North. 30° approx</p>
<p>G. <u>DISTANCE</u> (By reference to known landmark)</p>	<p>Approx over Donnington Castle (3-4 miles away) <i>v. A. North. Newbury.</i></p>
<p>H. <u>MOVEMENTS</u> (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)</p>	<p>Possible reduction in altitude</p>
<p>J. <u>MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATIONS</u> (Clouds, haze, mist etc.)</p>	<p>Clear with bright moonlight</p>

<p>K. <u>NEARBY OBJECTS</u> (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with flood lights or night lighting)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>L. <u>TO WHOM REPORTED</u> (Police, military, press etc)</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>M. <u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT</u></p>	<p>Mr. Palmer TEL: 20 Rupert Road 0635-43206 Newbury Berks 262-3232 5/56</p>
<p>N. <u>BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED</u></p>	<p>Accountant with BR</p>
<p>O. <u>OTHER WITNESSES</u></p>	<p>Miss Jane Davies</p>
<p>P. <u>DETAILED MET REPORT</u> (AFOR to obtain)</p>	<p>Clear with few showers</p>
<p>Q. <u>DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT</u></p>	<p>161020Z April</p>
<p>R. <u>ADOC ASSESSMENT</u> (Check radars, ATCCs etc)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aircraft 2. Ranges 3. Gliding 4. Balloon 5. Air Sea Rescue Activities 	<p><i>J. H. W.</i></p>

Date 1/2 April 1973

Sqn Ldr. J. H. W. AFOR (RAF)

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 Main Bldg

ENCLOSURE
23
NUMBER

APPENDIX 4 to
ANNEX A to
D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8C
Dated / 2 June 78

29

EXAMPLE OF "UFO" REPORTS

U N C L A S S I F I E D

002203

[Handwritten signature]
NFA

[Handwritten initials]

CYD055 20/1359 32002096

FOR CYD

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 201055Z JAN

FROM RAF VALLEY
TO MODUK AIR
INFO HCRAPSO

30

U N C L A S S I F I E D

DIP LG2101

SUBJECT UFO REPORT

A 191145Z JAN OMM 1 TO 2 MIN

B 1 OBJECT OMM 40 FEET LONG 20 FEET HIGH OMM CAR SHAPED WITH BULGE ON TOP SURFACE AT MID POINT OMM BRIGHT SILVER WITH BRIGHT RED BAND AROUND BASE OF BULGE OMM NO SOUND OR SMELL OBSERVED

C VILLAGE OF EHEL OMM OBSERVER DRIVING FROM RUTHIN TO DENBY

D NAKED EYE THROUGH CAR WINDSCREEN

E EAST OMM OVER HOUSE ROOFTOPS

F 20 DEGREES

G ESTIMATED BETWEEN 1 QUARTER AND 1 HALF MILE

H CLIMBED VERY SLOWLY TO ESTIMATED 500 FEET OMM MOVED SLOWLY PARALLEL TO ROAD FOR APPROX 1 HALF MILE THEN DESCENDED BEHIND TREES

J FINE AND SUNNY

PAGE 2 RBDTOG 004 UNCLAS

K TREES OMM COTTAGES OMM TELEPHONE LINES ALONG ROADSIDE

L MRS A THATCHER AND MISS ROSE OWEN WOODLAND HALL COUNTRY CLUB RUTHIN

M INFORMANT CLAIMS TO BE FAMILIAR WITH LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

O NONE

P 191640Z JAN

BT

DISTRIBUTION LGZ

F					
CAF	2	S 4 (inc)	ACTUAL	(CMJ	1 DSO(AFDC))
CAF	1	ACC(T) (ELF)			
CYP	1	IT (COPAGE) (FMO)			
COL	1	IT (COPAGE) (FMO)			
CAF	2	DI 15			

10/8/-



UNCLASSIFIED

046891

CYD064 23/2259 362C1848

FOR CYD

ROUTINE 232150Z DEC

FROM LATOC MIL
TO HODUKAIR

UNCLASSIFIED

DIG LGZ682

AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 231300Z DEC

B ONE SPACE VEHICLE OVAL IN SHAPE SIZE OF SINGLE DECKER BUS COLOURED SILVER HAVING LIGHTS ALL AROUND BASE COLOURED WHITE CMM YELLOW AND BLUE

C BRITON FERRY 745945 OUTDOORS

D NAKED EYE

E EASTERLY CMM OBJECT TRAVELLED WEST

F NOT STATED

G NOT STATED CMM SITE IS OPEN MOORLAND/WASTE LAND

H SIGHTED COMING INTO HOVER ABOUT TWENTY FEET UP PD LIGHTS EXTINGUISHED PD DOOR OPENED TO REVEAL INTERNAL LIGHTS PD DOOR CLOSED AND VEHICLE THEN ACCELERATED VERY FAST TO THE WEST

J COLD CLEAR NIGHT

GE 2 RBDPGA 003 UNCLAS

K NONE

L HQ BRIDGEND POLICE TEL 55555

M ROBERT ADAIR 49 RUSKIN STREET BRITON FERRY

N INTERVIEWED BY POLICE CMM WITNESSES APPEARED EXCITED AND SHAKEN AGE GROUP 16/17 YEARS

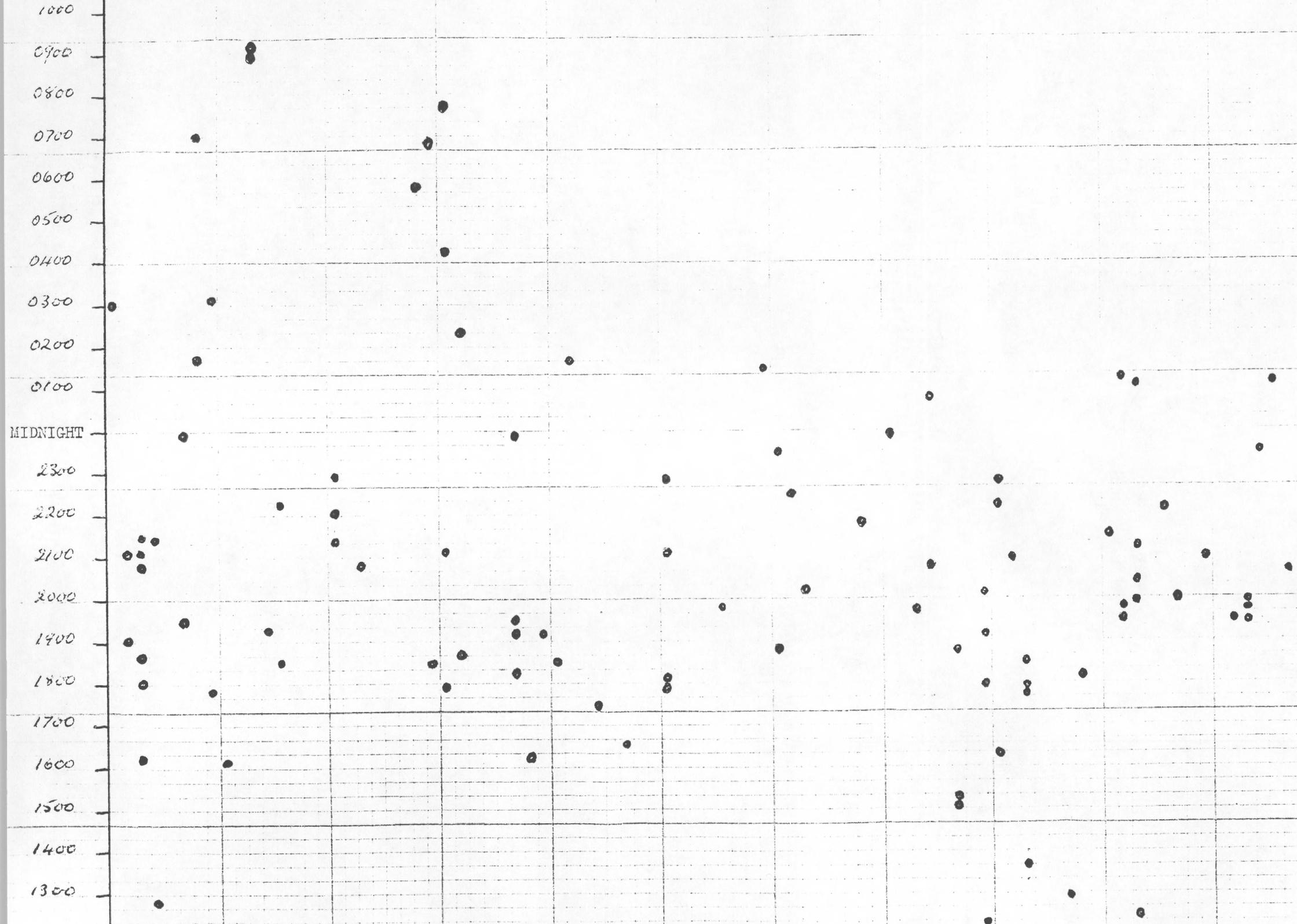
O MARTIN KERSWELL 24 GLANYMOR BRITON FERRY

P 231310Z DEC

DT

DISTRIBUTION LGZ

F				
CAP	2	S 4 (AIR)	ADJUTANT (CKJ)	1 DSC(AFCD)
CYD	1	OP OPS (CE)		
CEL	1	DI 57 3 (SID)		
CHT	2	DI 13 1		
CMM	1	SI 100 3 (RAF)		



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ANNEX B TO
DD OPS(GE)10/8c
DATED 2 JUN 78

RECORD OF AERIAL PHENOMENA REPORTS STILL RETAINED BY D OF OPS(A DEF & O)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
1972	4	7	7	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
1973	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	4	-	1	-	10
1974	-	1	-	10	-	2	5	21	9	3	-	-	51
1975	-	7	8	2	4	6	6	18	6	7	18	9	91
1976	-	-	11	6	-	11	17	10	3	9	5	14	86
1977	17	20	13	14	70	25	62	27	43	49	27	20	387
1978	39	23	48	68									278

NOTE: It is possible that a number of Reports received between 1972 and 1975/76 could have been destroyed.

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ANNEX D TO
 D/DD CPS(GE)10/8/C
 DATED 12 JUNE 1978

SPACE CATALOGUE - TABLE OF MAN-MADE SPACE HARDWARE - WORLDWIDE

a	b	c	d
Year	Total added to Catalogue	Total Launches	Total Decay
1972	568	99	373
1973	763	108	524
1974	510	106	361
1975	976	125	316
1976	1128	128	674
1977	979	124	525
1978	279	51	210

NOTES

1. Column b. identifies the number of items of space hardware that are added to the Space Catalogue each year, (Includes all hardware remnants from a Space launch).
2. Column c. The total number of launches (worldwide)
3. Column d. Total number of items of space hardware that have decayed into earth atmosphere, 20% are large enough to be visible from earth.
4. Total number of items in Space Catalogue up to 23 May 78 = 4661
 Of these 75% (3643) have a trajectory which would result in overflight of UK.

UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)/8/3

PS/CS(RAF)
DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
ADI/DI55

UFOS - DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Reference my minute of 17 May 1978, you will I think have heard that Lord Clancarty has withdrawn his Question because he fears poor attendance in the House. However he proposes to put it down again in the autumn, so we will build up a file against the day when we may have to put a speech together quickly.

2. I am grateful for replies from PS to CS(RAF) and ADI/DI55 and I look forward to the promised reply from DD Ops(GE). I will build this information into our file, and I would be grateful if you would assemble any other ideas or evidence that occurs to you.

3. We have heard from both DES and FCO, and both are in accord with the general line I proposed in the letter I copied to you. Thus when we hear that Clancarty is about to strike again, we can save much time because we know that we all start from general accord.

4. It does not do to be complacent. The Daily Telegraph reported the other week about the technical feasibility within the next 100 years of a space-craft capable of 80 million mph, offering unmanned travel to Barnards Star in a 50 year flight; and there could of course be civilisations 100 million or so years in advance of our own and already capable of 'manned' space travel. However, the existence of such possibilities is still a huge remove from Clancarty's claim that this planet is constantly overflowed by UFOs.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T M P Stevens".

1 June 1978

T M P STEVENS
Head S4(Air)
MB 8245 7048.MB

AD JSM
~~Mr Hatcher~~ 24
Mr Hatcher *RAM* ✓

Reference D/CS(RAF)/5/1/2
OK160

24
ENCLOSURE
18
NUMBER

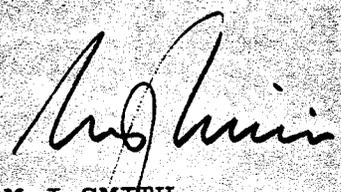
Head of S4(Air)

Copy to: DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
ADI 55 ←

UFOS - DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

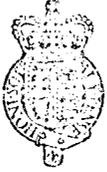
Reference: D/S4(Air)/8/3 dated 17 May 1978.

1. CS(RAF) has read the correspondence at reference with interest and agrees the general line you are proposing to take.
2. The extensive American studies were conducted in a sensible and open-minded way and no additional information has come to light subsequently to justify further expensive investigation of these phenomena.



M J SMITH
PS/CS(RAF)
23 May 1978

TO: MR T M P STEVENS, Head of S4(Air)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1

Telephone: ~~01-930-7022~~, ext. 01-218-7048

Please address any reply to
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.
(Head of S4(Air))

and quote:

Your reference: D/S4(Air)/8/3

17 May 1978

Mr K E G Barber
Room 5/56
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
LONDON
SE1 7PH

Dear Mr Barber,

There is to be a debate on UFOs in the House of Lords on 12 June 78 based on the following PQ by the Earl of Clancarty:

'To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of the increasing number of reports of sightings and landings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) on a worldwide scale, and whether they will initiate an inter-governmental study of UFOs'.

2. The procedure will be similar to an Adjournment Debate in the Commons. The Earl will introduce the subject, interested members will speak, and Lord Winterbottom will reply for the Government. The debate could last anything from 20 minutes to 4 hours: we have been invited to draft a 10-15 minute winding up speech.

3. We do not take this lightly, because Lord Clancarty is an acknowledged expert on UFOs, whilst MOD has no experts on UFOs - for much the same reasons as we have no experts on levitation or black magic. There is much public interest in UFOs at present, drummed up by the Daily Express and in connection with the heavy sci-fi film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. There is a risk that the Government will be persuaded to conduct a study of UFOs, or at least to examine the mass of evidence that Lord Clancarty and his fellow-ufologists have assembled in the last 30 years. Should the Government's defences break, I need hardly warn you that responsibility for the study could very likely fall on your Department! Accordingly we would be grateful for your help in determining the proper line for Government to take.

4. We believe it would be unprofitable to indulge in too much flippancy, and intend to propose that the Government injects a dose of massive common sense into the debate on UFOs. The general line we have in mind is:

- a. We do not discount the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere among the huge number of other worlds and other galaxies.
- b. The technical difficulties of space travel are stunning, with the nearest star 4 light years away, but it would be unwise to say 'impossible ever'.
- c. The phenomena lumped together as 'UFOs' are often reported by responsible and intelligent people.
- d. But there is a huge gap between those three statements and the assumption that 'UFO reports' constitute serious evidence that extra-terrestrial beings are reconnoitring this planet (Clancarty reports 80,000 verified sightings, the introduction to the book of 'Close Encounters' refers to 'millions!').
- e. The phenomena reported often have common-sense explanations (eg aircraft or met balloons in unusual light, or space debris): it is always difficult to interpret accurately unusual events seen fleetingly; and the constant publicity about UFOs leads people to interpret the phenomena as extra-terrestrial spacecraft and to embellish their reports unconsciously .
- f. Extensive US studies indicate no evidence of extra-terrestrial visits. No studies have been considered necessary in UK, but perusal of reports received gives us no cause to suspect extra-terrestrial activity.
- g. If there was serious scientific evidence of extra-terrestrial visits we would expect the scientific world to be agog and committed; but the scientific world seems at best unimpressed, more likely heavily cynical.
- h. There is no internal consistency about the idea of there having been 80,000 or perhaps millions of genuine sightings. We would expect some accidents or artefacts (Clancarty has suggested that the CIA has collected and hidden them all); or some approach to or direct evidence held by Governments (Clancarty has suggested there is a conspiracy of silence between Governments until they know how to cope); or some overt political or cultural activity to show for 30 years of presumably high-technology reconnaissance (Clancarty's own UFO references go back to the Star of Bethlehem and earlier).

5. We would plan to lead up to the argument that it is pointless to try to persuade the Government unless and until the scientific community has been persuaded. We could offer the suggestion that the scientific community is most unlikely to be persuaded by mere quantity of reported sightings (as one newspaper recently remarked, 80,000 times nothing still equals nothing); a more profitable course would be for Clancarty, being so certain about his case, to present say 10 well-documented readily-verifiable recent cases in this country on which he would state his professional reputation as a ufologist. It is doubtful whether the 'scientific community' would welcome our directing Clancarty towards them, but this is surely the proper course for a layman who believes he has evidence of a matter of massive scientific concern upon which he cannot convince the Government.

6. I would be grateful for your advice on the above proposed line of action; and, if you agree it, advice on any other arguments that could be advanced. Attached is a first draft of a background note describing the past attitudes of MOP, US, France and Grenada.

7. Because of the deadline for briefing Ministers and the intrusion of the Spring Bank holiday, I am afraid I must ask for your advice by pm Wednesday 24 May.

8. I am copying this letter to Mr R Alston, Energy, Science and Space Department, Room E022, FCO: I have noted the robust line taken by FCO recently with UNO proposals to study UFOs.

Yours Sincerely
Patrick Stevens

BACKGROUND NOTEThe Earl of Clancarty

1. We understand from the Press that Lord Clancarty is a staunch believer in UFOs. He is reported to have seen two and he has written seven books on the subject having studied the phenomena for 30 years. He has asserted that a former French Minister of Defence admitted that UFOs exist, that there are serious problems and that many landings have taken place. When asked to comment on a report that a UFO had followed a young housewife home Lord Clancarty told the Evening News that the lights may have been those of a space craft sent to spy on us by an unknown civilisation from another planet. A lot of UFOs, he said, seem to disguise themselves in clouds.

The American Attitude to UFOs

2. There has been no British scientific enquiry into the possible existence of UFOs. However, the Ministry of Defence has kept in touch with the United States Air Force who made a systematic attempt to record and investigate UFO sightings between 1947 and 1969. During this period the USAF received 12,618 reports: of these 701 were not explained.

3. This USAF investigation known as Project Blue Book was followed by a study which was originally suggested a member of a congressional investigation in the Armed Forces Committee and which was assigned by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to the University of Colorado. It was led by Dr Edward V Condon, Professor of Physics and formerly Director of the National Bureau of Standards. The main findings of this study, published in 1969 were that:-

- a. About 90% of all UFO reports prove to be plausibly related to ^{natural} ~~natural~~ phenomena.
- b. Little if anything had come to light from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that added to scientific knowledge.
- c. Further extensive study of UFO sightings was not justified in the expectation that science would be advanced thereby.

- b. No evidence had come to light in the study to indicate that UFO sightings might represent a defensive hazard.
- e. The US Department of Defence should continue to handle UFO reports in its normal surveillance operations without recourse to special units such as Project Blue Book.

4. These findings were endorsed by a Panel of the National Academy of Sciences, which advised that the Condon enquiry had been an adequate scientific study of UFO phenomena and that the methodology and approach were well chosen and in accordance with the accepted standards of scientific investigation. The Panel added: "We are unanimous in the opinion that this (the Condon Report) has been a very creditable attempt to apply objectively the relevant techniques of science to the solution of the UFO problem. The Report recognises that there remain UFO sightings that are not easily explained. The Report does suggest, however, so many reasonable and possible directions in which an explanation may eventually be found that there seems to be no reason to attribute them to an extra-terrestrial source without evidence that is much more convincing.

The Report also shows how difficult it is to apply scientific methods to the occasional transient sightings with any chance of success. Whilst further study of particular aspects of the topic (eg atmospheric phenomena) may be useful, a study of UFOs in general is not a promising way to expand scientific understanding of the phenomena. On the basis of present knowledge the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extra terrestrial visitations by intelligent beings*."

5. The USAF wound up their Project Blue Book investigation on 17 December 1969 on the strength of the Condon Report, the advice of the National Academy of Sciences, past UFO studies and their own experience of investigating UFO reports over two decades. Their conclusions were that no UFO reported, investigated or evaluated by the Air Force had ever given any indication of a threat to their national security; that there had been no evidence submitted or discovered by the Air Force that technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day

scientific knowledge, and that there had been no evidence indicating that sightings categorised as "unidentified" were extra terrestrial vehicles.

6. The Condon Report caused a good deal of controversy and, we Believe, was much criticised. In August 1976, however, the RAF Staff in Washington were informed by the US Department of the Air Force that there was no likelihood of renewed Air Force involvement in this area. The Department pointed to the considerable Air Force Commitment of resources in the past, the extreme pressure on Air Force funds in 1976 and the fact ^{since 1969 no evidence had been presented to warrant} that further investigation by the Air Force. The Department of the Air Force added that a number of universities and professional scientific organisations such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science had considered UFO phenomena. Private organisations had also shown interest in aerial phenomena. It was considered that such timely review of the situation by private groups insured that sound evidence would not be overlooked by the scientific community.

Ministry of Defence attitude

7. The MOD policy takes its cue from the Americans. It is always possible, of course, that the considerable correspondence addressed to MOD might contain some hint, not of UFOs, but of something with a hostile terrestrial origin which could have a bearing on national security. All letters are therefore referred to specialist authorities in MOD for any further investigation thought to be necessary; we do not take the enquiries further than that and we do not enter into detailed correspondence with the public. The standard reply to Members of Parliament and the public is that we have not the resources to conduct a scientific investigation into the nature of UFOs and, although we invariably pass reports of sightings to the staffs responsible for the air defences, we do not pursue enquiries to the point of positive identification. We do not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space but to date no evidence has emerged to suggest that UFOs have extra terrestrial origins.

or that they represent a threat to national security. In fact, most of the sightings have commonplace origins, such as aircraft or aircraft lights seen from an unusual angle or in unusual meteorological conditions.

8. The trouble is that the dedicated "UFO-clogist" will not listen and is more concerned with selective evidence to support his own thesis. The more common criticisms are:-

- a. MOD will not let the public see its files. There is a "cover up" for security reasons.

There is no cover up and no security ban. It is true that when people ask to see the MOD UFO files they are told the papers must remain confidential. But there is a mundane reason for that. The files contain voluminous correspondence from the general public and we cannot divulge the identity of the correspondents, or the references to classified subjects which some of the files might contain. To remove these details would require extensive editing and we have not the staff to do the job. It follows that the files must remain closed under the rules laid down in the public Records Acts which at present preclude disclosure until 30 years have elapsed since the date of the particular correspondence. The earliest reports MOD hold are dated 1962. All earlier UFO papers were destroyed many years ago.

- b. MOD employs a special UFO organisation.

Quite untrue. Nobody is employed full time to monitor UFO sightings. There is no UFO section in MOD. One of the Secretarial branches answers letters from the public about UFOs but it has many other, quite different, responsibilities as well. It does not review or analyse the sightings. It merely sends the letters to the specialised branches who examine them solely to see if they have any bearing on the air defences.

- c. Vast numbers of UFO sightings are reported to MOD, many are unexplained

No statistical records are kept in MOD because of the staff shortage. All we can say is that MOD received rather more than 400 reports from the public in 1977, at a rate of 20 to 40 per month on average. There was a flurry of correspondence recently when the Daily Express launched its advertising campaign for the commercial film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

Attitude of French Government to UFOs

9. Apart from American policy we have recent information on only two Governments - those of France and Grenada. The French official procedure is not unlike ours. Reports from the public go in the first place to the Gendarmerie who if necessary interview the observer and take statements. The Gendarmerie send on the reports simultaneously to the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CENS) and to the French Ministry of Defence, who check radars etc to discover any military implications. The reports are then fed into a computer so that they can be "added to the statistics of the problem".

10. The view of the French Ministry of Defence may be summarised as follows:

- a. The role of the Air Force consists solely in estimating whether certain information amongst the evidence they receive is likely to affect national defence; this is not in fact so
No acts of aggression either against persons or property civilian or military have been detected.
- b. The phenomena cannot at present be analysed by means of known measuring instruments Whilst maintaining an open mind we must restrain ourselves from hasty conclusions regarding the nature and origin of the phenomena and accept the fact that this problem like many others remains suspended in space.

11. In the last few months a small study group has been set up under the *auspices* of the CNES. It is chaired by Monsieur Claude Poher and is called the Groupe d'Etude des Phenomenes Aerospatiaux Non-identifies. The terms of reference for this group are not yet known but the title seems to be self-explanatory. The group has no formal links with the United Kingdom, and the Department of Education and Science advise that there is no similar scientific group in UK to study unidentified objects to phenomena.

12. Lord Clancarty drew attention to this group in a recent Parliamentary Question when he also referred to a broadcast on France-Inter radio in February 1974 when M. Robert Galley, the then French Minister of Defence was interviewed about UFOs. The interview is reported in a book, "The Crack in the Universe" which contains an accurate translation of the broadcast and introduces the transcript (quite fairly as an interview in which the Minister declared "there are phenomena which are unexplained". The blurb on the dust cover, however, has M. Galley freely admitting that UFOs exist and that they are a serious problem. According to the official transcript M. Galley made only two points of substance:-

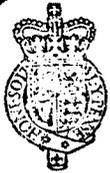
- a. There are things about UFOs which are not understood and have not been explained.
- b. "We must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to this, not put into doubt the sincerity of people reporting UFOs but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion".

Attitude of the Government of Grenada

13. In December 1977 Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, tabled a resolution at the United Nations calling on the Special Political Committee to set up a special agency or department to conduct research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena. The British

(and we believe other) representatives were briefed to oppose such an agency on the grounds that it would reduce the credibility of the United Nations. Sir Eric withdrew the proposal and circulated a draft resolution requiring the Secretary General to conduct a wide-ranging investigation into flying saucers, including an analysis of the benefits, problems and dangers stemming from any contact with terrestrial life.

14. The UN Special Political Committee advised the General Assembly to take note of the various statements made by the Prime Minister of Grenada and to instruct the Secretary General to transmit the text to Member States of the UN and to interested specialist agencies. In other words the resolution has been shelved indefinitely.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
 Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)
 01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

UFO file please (a Met)

D155/108/15/1

File held in

16
 ENCLOSURE
 NUMBER

Your reference

Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief
 Strike Command
 Training Command
 Support Command

Our reference AF/3459/75/PT II/
 S/4f(Air)
 Date 11th September 1975

Sir

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REPORTS

References:

- A. AF/X 58/64/S4f(Air) dated 29 Mar 1967
- B. AF/CX 80/70 dated 7 Jan 1972

I am directed to refer to Reference letters providing guidance on the action to be taken by RAF units on receipt of reports of unidentified flying objects, and to state that the purpose of this letter is to up-date such guidance and information as necessary.

All reports should be sent as quickly as possible to MOD(Air) using the format shown in the Annex to this letter: the normal methods of transmission are:-

- a. By routine, unclassified signal message using DIG LGZ, which ensures the immediate distribution of the information to concerned addressees.
- b. By telephone message to MOD(Air), Main Building, Whitehall on the following extensions:-
 - (i) During normal working hours to S4f(Air) on Ext 6020/7035.
 - (ii) At all other times to AFOR on Ext 6501.

Any enquiries from the press are to be referred direct to the Ministry of Defence Press Office.

It is requested that all RAF formations in UK may be informed of the above procedures.

It is necessary to continue to categorise UFO reports where possible for the department's records. However, the monthly summary formerly prepared by HQ Strike Command (UK RAOC) may be discontinued, provided any positive results of investigations are notified to this branch.

This letter supersedes References A and B.

G J Jamieson
 MISS G J JAMIESON

- Copies to:
- AFOR
 - DPR(RAF)
 - DI50c
 - DI55b -
 - OPS(GE)2(RAF)

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

- B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

- C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

- D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

- E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

- F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

- G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

- H. Movements. (Changes in B, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

- J. Metereological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc).

UFO Policy File

13



UFO ENCOUNTER II

Sample Case Selected by the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA

By G. D. THAYER

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Lakenheath England, Radar-Visual UFO Case, August 13-14, 1956

Introduction

The following story—a second example of the type of observation which forms the core of the UFO issue—has been selected by the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA for publication not only because of its puzzling content, but also because of the multiplicity of observations. The author, a former member of the “Condon Committee” (University of Colorado UFO study team), discusses the case, but does not offer an explanation. The same was true for the first case, published in the July 1971 A/A, where the principal observers were highly qualified professionals making sightings in their line of duty. Both case studies are intended to give the reader a flavor of the observational residue material which underlies the UFO controversy. We hope he will give it his independent assessment as engineer or scientist.

On a pleasant August evening in 1956, the night-watch supervisor at the Lakenheath, England, Radar Air Traffic Control Center (RATCC), a U.S. Air Force noncommissioned officer, was startled by a telephone call from the Bentwaters GCA (Ground Controlled Approach) radar installation (see map) asking, “Do you have any targets on your scopes traveling at 4000 mph?” Thus began one of the strangest and most disturbing radar-visual UFO episodes on record.

There is a very large, confusing report on the Lakenheath-Bentwaters incident in the U.S. Air Force Project Bluebook files (Project Bluebook

was the name of the U.S. Air Force UFO investigation). At least three separate times unidentified radar echoes (UREs) were tracked by the GCA unit at Bentwaters before the telephone contact with Lakenheath; and although these are highly interesting events in themselves, they did not involve confirmatory visual and airborne radar contacts. A detailed account of these first three radar contacts can be found in an earlier paper by James McDonald (FSR 16, “UFOs over Lakenheath in 1956,” 1970, pages 9-17). “Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects” (Bantam Books, 1969; hereafter referred to as the “Condon Report”) contains no account of these because the pertinent Bluebook files were obtained too late for inclusion. The Condon Report does contain an independent account of the primary incident at Lakenheath, as reported by the night-watch supervisor, *not* found in the Bluebook file; this separate report forms the most coherent account of the events at Lakenheath.

Following a brief description of the events at Bentwaters based on the Bluebook file, the Lakenheath incident will be described here based mainly on the night-watch supervisor's account.

Account of Observations

The four events at Bentwaters GCA (see map for plots of these radar tracks) took this order:

1. At 2130Z a URE (No. 1 in map) was picked up on the Bentwaters AN/MPN-11A GCA radar about 25-30 mi. to the ESE. (Note that Z time—zero meridian time—, or GMT, is also local time in the Lakenheath-Bentwaters area.) This URE moved steadily on a constant azimuth heading of 295 deg until

contact was lost about 15-20 mi. to the WNW of Bentwaters. The radar operator estimated the apparent speed of the URE as 4000 mph; but the transit time of 30 sec yields an estimate of 4800-6000 mph, and the operator's estimate of 3-6 mi. covered by the URE between PPI sweeps (2 sec apart) gives an estimate of 9000-10,800 mph. “The size of the blip when picked up was that of a normal aircraft target. [It] diminished in size and intensity to the vanishing point before crossing the entire radar screen.”

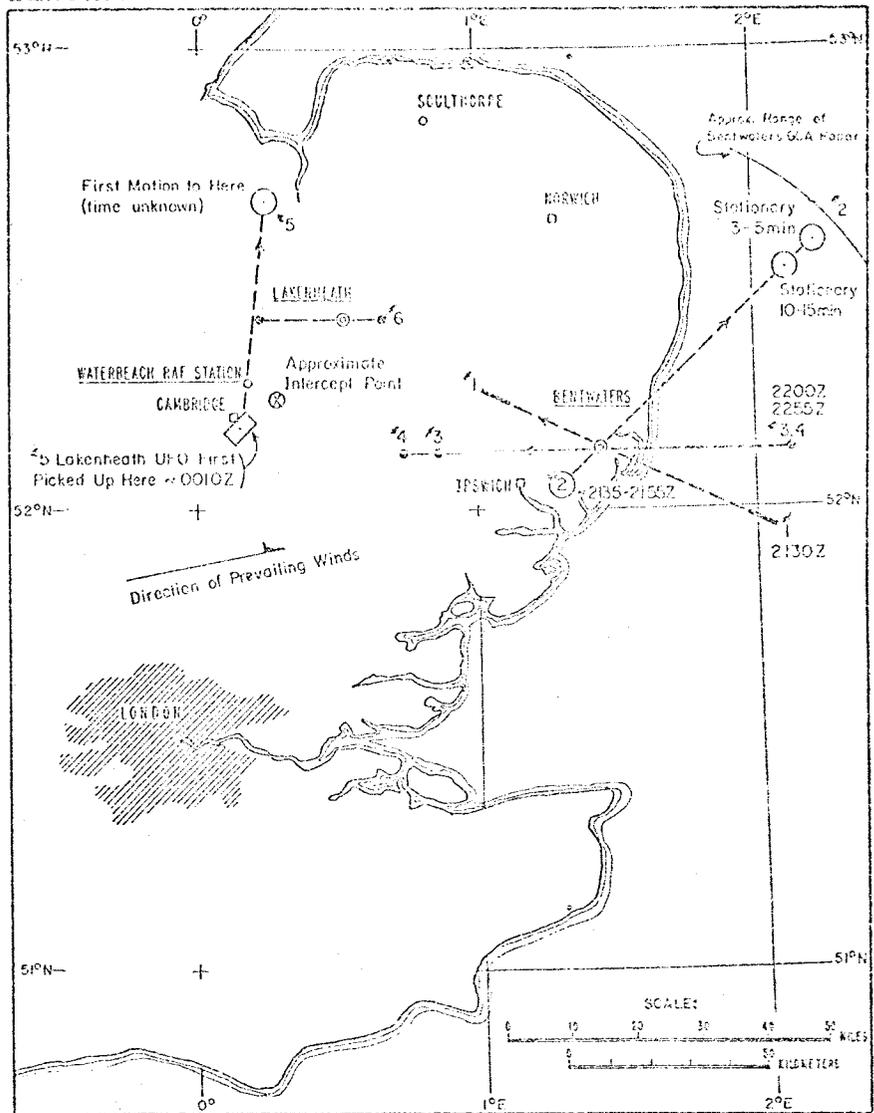
2. A “few minutes later,” say roughly 2135Z, a group of 12-15 UREs was picked up on the PPI about 8 mi. SW of Bentwaters (No. 2 in map). These echoes “appeared as normal targets,” and “normal checks made to determine possible malfunctions of the GCA radar failed to indicate anything was technically wrong.” These UREs appeared to move as a group toward the NE at varying speeds reported as 80-125 mph. The group covered a “6-7-mi. area” on the scope. These echoes “faded considerably” at a point 14 mi. NE of Bentwaters, but were tracked to a point about 40 mi. NE of Bentwaters when they merged into a single strong echo “several times larger than a B-36 return under comparable conditions.” This single echo remained stationary at the point 40 mi. NE of Bentwaters for 10-15 min., then moved to the NE for 5-6 mi., stopped again for 3-5 min., and finally moved out of range (50 mi.) of the radar at 2155Z. The average apparent speed of the URE group for the time it was in motion can be readily calculated as between 290 and 700 mph (58 mph in 5-12 min—again differing from the operator's estimate.

3. At 2200Z another URE (No. 3 in map) was picked up about 50 mi. east of Bentwaters and tracked to a point about 25 mi. west of the station; the tracking period was about 16 sec. The radar operator estimated the apparent speed of this URE to be "in excess of 4000 mph" but the time and distance figures indicated a speed of roughly 12,000 mph. All the returns "appeared normal, except for the last, which was slightly weaker than the rest." The radar operator indicated that the "[return] disappeared . . . by rapidly moving out of the GCA radiation pattern." No further UREs are mentioned in the Bluebook report on the Bentwaters incident; and considering the confusion prevailing in reported times in Bluebook reports and the similarity of the reported tracks and speeds, possibly this URE and No. 4, which instigated the phone call to Lakenheath, may in fact be the same.

4. According to the Bluebook report on the Lakenheath incident, the Bentwaters GCA radar, at 2255Z, picked up a URE 50 mi. east (of Bentwaters) moving to the west at an apparent speed of "2000 to 4000 mph." In the map shown at right, the track of the URE appears identical with No. 3 except for the vanishing point. This URE then "disappeared on scope 2 mi. east of station and immediately appeared on scope 3 mi. west of station . . . it disappeared 50 mi. west of station on scope." If the word "immediately" means that the URE was picked up on the same PPI sweep, after 180 deg. rotation from east to west, it would imply that the apparent motion covered 5 mi. in 1 sec, an inferred speed of some 18,000 mph. At this rate the URE would have covered the 60 mi. track in about 12 sec (6 PPI sweeps). As pointed out, this may have been URE No. 3 from the Bentwaters Bluebook report, which is estimated at 12,000 mph, although the reported times are different.

At this point, someone at the Bentwaters GCA station called the Lakenheath RATCC station asking the night-watch supervisor there if he had any "4000-mph targets" on his scopes and describing the track of URE No. 4. The caller stated that the control tower at Bentwaters had reported seeing "a bright light passing over the field from east to west at terrific speed at about 4000-ft altitude," while at the same time the

BENTWATERS-LAKENHEATH SIGHTINGS MAP



pilot of a C-47 aircraft flying over the station at 4000-ft altitude reported a "bright light streaked under his aircraft traveling east to west at terrific speed." The Lakenheath watch supervisor, although admittedly skeptical of this report, "immediately had all controllers start scanning the radar scopes . . . using full MTI (moving target indicator), which eliminated entirely all ground returns."

Shortly after this search began, one of the controllers noticed a stationary echo on the scopes at an indicated position 20-25 mi. SW of Lakenheath (No. 5 in map). Note the position of this initial contact on the map; it is almost directly in line with the path of UREs 3 and 4 from the Bentwaters report. Although the MTI should have eliminated the return from any target moving at

less than 40-50 knots, the radar personnel could detect "no movement at all" from this URE. The watch supervisor called the GCA unit at Lakenheath to see if they had the same echo on their scope and "they confirmed the target was on their scope in the same location." As the Lakenheath RATCC personnel watched this URE, it suddenly began moving in a NNE direction at a speed that they subsequently calculated to be 400-600 mph. In their words "there was no . . . build-up to this speed—it was constant from the second it started to move until it stopped."

The watch supervisor contacted local AFB command personnel and kept them informed of the happenings from this point on. The URE made several changes in direction always in a straight line, always at

about 600 mph with no acceleration or deceleration apparent—the changes varying in indicated length from 8 to 20 mi., with stationary episodes of 3-6 min intervening.

There were visual sightings at Lakenheath during this time, but the reports of these are confusing and inconclusive. Perhaps of greater significance are the investigating officer's statements that "two radar sets [Lakenheath GCA and RATCC] and three ground observers report substantially the same," and "the fact that radar and ground visual observations were made on its rapid acceleration and abrupt stops certainly lend [credence] to the report."

After "about 30-45 min." or 2340 to 2355Z, the RAF "scrambled" a de Havilland "Venom" night fighter aircraft to investigate the Lakenheath UFO.

(At this point, the account of the Lakenheath night-watch supervisor and that of the Bluebook report diverge. First, the watch supervisor says the aircraft was from a field near London and was picked up on the RATCC radar inbound from the southwest at a range of 30-45 mi. from Lakenheath. According to the Bluebook file, the fighter took off from Waterbeach RAF station (see map), which is only 20 mi. SW of

Lakenheath and well within radar range—given as 50-60 mi. for targets at 5000 ft or above. Second, the watch supervisor relates that the Venom was vectored to the then stationary URE (No. 5) at a position about 16 mi. SW of Lakenheath, and that this was the aircraft's first and only contact with any UFO. According to the Bluebook account, "the a/c flew over Lakenheath and was vectored to a radar target 6 mi. east of the field (No. 6). Pilot advised he had a bright white light in sight and would investigate. At 15 mi. west [of Lakenheath] he reported loss of target and white light [N.B.—this implies that the pilot had the unknown on his airborne radar as well as having had visual contact]. Lakenheath RATCC vectored him to (presumably) another target 10 mi. east of Lakenheath and pilot advised target was on radar and he was "locking on." This target would be URE No. 5, identified by the watch supervisor as being about 16 mi. SW of Lakenheath. Except for this discrepancy, the account of the Lakenheath watch supervisor agrees with the Bluebook file from here on in virtually every detail.)

The Venom fighter was vectored by the RATCC radar to the sight of the URE, which (according to the night-watch supervisor) was station-

ary at the time at 15,000-20,000 ft about 16 mi. SW of Lakenheath. Shortly after Lakenheath told the pilot the URE was one-half mile dead ahead of the interceptor, the pilot radioed, "Roger. . . . I've got my guns locked on him." (The pilot refers to a radar fire-control system.) This pilot later told a U.S. Air Force investigator that the URE was "the clearest target I have ever seen on radar." There was a brief pause after the Venom pilot said he had gunlock on the URE and then he said, "Where did he go? Do you still have him?" The Lakenheath RATCC informed him that the URE had made a swift circling movement and had gotten behind the Venom. The pilot then confirmed that the target was behind him and said that he would try to shake it. Since no tail radar is mentioned, the pilot presumably saw the UFO behind him.

The pilot of the Venom interceptor tried numerous evasive maneuvers, but he was unable to lose the URE, which the Lakenheath RATCC radar continuously tracked as a distinct echo behind the aircraft echo; this implies that the separation was greater than about 500 ft. According to the Bluebook report, "Pilot advised he was unable to 'shake' the target off his tail and requested assistance." After about 10 min., the first Venom pilot, who reportedly sounded "pretty scared," said that he was returning to base because he was running low on fuel. He asked Lakenheath RATCC to tell him if the URE followed him on the radar scopes. According to the Lakenheath watch supervisor, the URE appeared to follow the Venom only a "short distance" as the pilot headed SSW toward London [or Waterbeach], and then it resumed a stationary aspect.

A second Venom was vectored by Lakenheath RATCC toward the position of the URE; but before he got close enough to pick up anything, he radioed that he was experiencing engine malfunction and was returning to his base. The following conversation was monitored by the Lakenheath watch supervisor between the two Venom pilots:

Number 2: "Did you see anything?"

Number 1: "I saw something, but I'll be damned if I know what it was."

Number 2: "What happened?"

Number 1: "He—or it—got behind me and I did everything I could

BENTWATERS-LAKENHEATH URE/UFO CONTACTS August 13-14, 1956.

No.	Time	Radar contacts	Visual contacts	Remarks
1	2130 Z	Bentwaters GCA, AN/MPN-11A.	Not confirmed.	Not AP.
2	~2135—2155 Z	Bentwaters GCA.	Not confirmed.	Possible AP.
3	2200 Z	Bentwaters GCA.	Not confirmed.	Not AP; possibly same as No. 4.
4	2255 Z	1. Bentwaters GCA.	2. Bentwaters control tower. 3. C47 a/c at 4000 ft over Bentwaters. Apparently same time as radar contact.	Not AP; No. 5 could have been same "object."
5	0010—0330 Z	1. Lakenheath RATCC, CPS-5. 2. Lakenheath GCA, CPN-4. 3. Venom airborne, A-1. All coincidental at various times (airborne contact when a/c was on scene).	Ground observations not confirmed. 4. Pilot of Venom made visual contact coincidental with the three radar contacts.	Not AP or radar malfunction; may have been No. 4 from Bentwaters.

to get behind him and I couldn't. It's the damndest thing I've ever seen."

The pilot of Venom Number 1 also stated that he had radar gun-lock for several seconds so "there was something there that was solid."

Following this strange "chase," the URE did not immediately disappear from the Lakenheath RATCC radar. In the words of the night-watch supervisor, "The target made a couple more short moves, then left our radar coverage in a northerly direction—speed still about 600 mph. We lost target outbound to the north at about 50-60 mi., which is normal if aircraft or target is at an altitude below 5000 ft (because of the radiation lobe of that type radar [a CPS-5])." The time of loss of contact was not given by the watch supervisor; according to the Blue-book file the time was about 0350Z.

The night-watch supervisor also stated "all speeds in this report were calculated speeds based on time and distance covered on radar. This speed was calculated many times that evening. . . ."

Discussions

The interpretations and analyses that have been made of this intriguing UFO incident are almost as numerous as the investigators themselves. The investigating U.S. Air Force officer wrote: "My analysis of the sightings is that they were real and not figments of the imagination. The fact that three radar sets picked up the targets simultaneously is certainly conclusive that a target or object was in the air. The maneuvers of the object were extraordinary; however, the fact that radar and ground visual observations were made on its rapid acceleration and abrupt stops certainly lend [credence] to the report. It is not believed these sightings were of any meteorological or astronomical origin." We quote this statement, although these are hardly the words of a careful, scientific investigator.

J. Allen Hynek, the well-known UFO consultant to the Air Force, wrote in part: "It seems highly unlikely, for instance, that the Perseid meteors could have been the cause of the sightings, especially in view of the statement of observers that shooting stars were exceptionally numerous that evening, thus implying that they were able to distinguish the two phenomena. Further, if any credence can be given

to the maneuvers of the objects as sighted visually and by radar, the meteor hypothesis must be ruled out."

The Condon Report in its analysis of this incident states: "In conclusion, although conventional or natural explanations certainly cannot be ruled out, the probability of such seems low in this case and the probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high." The meaning of this last statement (by the present author) has puzzled some later investigators; in this context a "genuine UFO" was meant to imply precisely that: there was a material object, it was flying (in the sense of moving through the air), and it was (obviously) unidentified. Hence, the conclusion that there was a "genuine UFO" was not meant to imply, for example, that the UFO was necessarily of extraterrestrial origin.

In Chapter 5 of the Condon Report, "Optical and Radar Analyses of Field Cases," the analysis of this report concludes with: "In summary, this is the most puzzling and unusual case in the radar-visual files. The apparently rational, intelligent behavior of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation of this sighting. However, in view of the inevitable fallibility of witnesses, more conventional explanations of this report cannot be entirely ruled out."

Philip Klass (private communication) believes that the Lakenheath RATCC radar was malfunctioning because of a faulty MTI unit; he feels that once the radar evidence has been explained, the rest can be accounted for by either confusion of witnesses or conventional causes.

The reader may draw his own conclusions as to which of the above "explanations" seems the most likely. However, a few things are worth pointing out in summary:

1. The possibility that meteors might have accounted for these events seems to be easily ruled out, and it was so discounted by early investigators.

2. Visual mirage is ruled out by the large angles (i.e., simultaneously seen over a control tower and under an aircraft) at which the UFOs were observed and by the manner and directions of movement.

3. Anomalous propagation of radar seems equally unlikely as an over-all explanation. All but No. 2

of the UREs at Bentwaters were apparently moving either almost opposite to or across the prevailing winds, ruling out ground objects seen by partial reflections from moving elevated inversions (or other layered structures). Such reflections produce false targets that appear to be at twice the range and twice the height of the reflecting layer, and appear to move in the direction of the prevailing wind but at an apparent speed twice as great. Thus the group of echoes (No. 2) observed from 2155 to 2155Z moved generally from the SW (exact azimuth not given) at "80-125 mph," commensurate with winds of 40-63 mph from the same direction. The actual winds are given as 260 deg/45 mph at 10,000 ft and 260 deg/63 mph at 16,000 ft. Although the reported stationary episodes of the merged echoes at the two points shown on the map would, taken at face value, rule out the moving-layer reflection hypothesis, there remains a possibility that this may have been the cause of the No. 2 URE contact at Bentwaters. This hypothesis can be ruled out, however, for the other URE episodes at Bentwaters, and particularly for those at Lakenheath.

The "disappearance" of URE No. 4 as it overflowed the Bentwaters GCA station was mentioned in the Condon Report as being "suggestive of AP" [anomalous propagation], and so it is. The elevated-layer partial reflection phenomenon that causes this type of AP involves a reflection coefficient that is typically proportional to the inverse sixth power of the elevation angle of the radar beam (cf. Wait, 1962; Thayer 1970). Thus caused by a moving layer, if such a false target appears to approach the radar site, the signal will drop below the noise level when the beam elevation exceeds some critical angle; the false target will often reappear on the other side of the radar when the beam angle once more drops below the critical value. With a fixed-elevation PPI display radar, this results in a "zone of invisibility" around the site with a radius on the order of 5-15 mi. in which the target disappears.

Two additional factors seem to point to AP as a possible cause for URE No. 4:

1. Radar operators who are familiar with their sets will not normally report the "disappearance" of a target unless they do not expect it.

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The AIAA now maintains two fully chartered student branches in Europe—one at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, and the other at the Institute of Aerodynamics at the University of Naples. In addition, we are now forming additional branches in Europe, Asia and Africa. In order to provide more services to these student branches, we are establishing an International Speakers Bureau.

We are asking all AIAA members who are planning to be abroad during the next six months and who are willing to speak to a college audience about a technical or general aerospace topic to complete and return the following form.

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which would preclude targets that enter the radar's normal "blind zone" (if it has one).

2. The target was "lost" at 2 mi east but reacquired at 3 mi. west, an asymmetry that is possible with AP but not usual with radar "blind zones."

However, a strong factor argues against the AP hypothesis in this instance: the URE was moving almost opposite to the prevailing winds. In addition, because of the apparent speed of the URE, it should have reappeared about 3.5 mi. west of the radar on the second PPI sweep after "losing" it 2 mi. east (on the first sweep it should have been almost over the radar, and probably not visible to it), so that the "asymmetry" can be assigned to the "digital" sampling by the PPI sweep-scan display. It is therefore most *unlikely* that URE No. 4 was caused by AP, a conclusion also reached in the Condon Report.

The Lakenheath episode (URE No. 5) is even more unlikely to have been caused by AP. That the complicated, stop-and-go maneuvers described by the Lakenheath night-watch supervisor could have been caused by AP returns, and at that on two different radars operating on different frequencies and scan rates, is almost inconceivable. Ghost echoes have often been observed that will appear to "tail" an aircraft echo—sometimes the radar will even track a jet-exhaust plume—but such echoes never stop following the aircraft and become stationary, as did the Lakenheath URE.

In summary, although AP may possibly have been a factor in the No. 2 Bentwaters sighting, it is not possible to assign the rest of the events reported to propagation effects, even aside from the visual confirmations.

Possible malfunction of radar equipment, and especially possible malfunction of the MTI on the Lakenheath RATCC radar, has been suggested as a cause of these UREs. It is true that a malfunctioning MTI unit could conceivably produce false echo behavior similar to that observed at Lakenheath. However, the coincident observation of the URE by the Lakenheath GCA radar, a different type, and later by the Venom's airborne radar, seems to rule out this hypothesis. The detection of an apparently stationary target while the radar was on MTI is not as surprising as it seems. A vi-

brating or rapidly rotating target will show up on MTI radar even if it is not otherwise in motion.

Thus, none of the conceivable "simple" explanations for the events at Bentwaters and Lakenheath seems to hold up under investigation. Moreover, the credibility of the accounts is increased by the number of redundant radar and visual contacts made coincidentally. The table on page 62 summarizes these redundancies, which are seen to be present primarily for events No. 4 and 5 (Bentwaters URE-UFO No. 4 and the Lakenheath UFO).

One slightly disturbing aspect of these contacts is that the Lakenheath RATCC radar operators failed to "pick up" Bentwaters UREs 1 through 4, even though they should have been well within range. (A target at 5000 ft, for example, should have been visible anywhere west of the coastline in the vicinity of Bentwaters). Note that URE No. 1 was headed almost directly at Lakenheath at the time it was lost by Bentwaters GCA. Of course, it is possible that the radar did pick up these objects and that, for various possible reasons, the operators did not notice or report them.

Conclusions

In conclusion, with two highly redundant contacts—the first with ground radar, combined with both ground and airborne visual observers, and the second with airborne radar, an airborne visual observer, and two different ground radars—the Bentwaters-Lakenheath UFO incident represents one of the most significant radar-visual UFO cases. Taking into consideration the high credibility of information and the cohesiveness and continuity of accounts, combined with a high degree of "strangeness," it is also certainly one of the most disturbing UFO incidents known today.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (Air)
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: Whitehall 7022, ext.



Our reference: AF/CX80/70
Your reference:

Placing to:
21 02
J. H.

The date

Sir

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: AF/X58/64/S4f(Air) dated 29 March 1967

In Reference A guidance was given on the action to be taken by units on receipt of reports of unidentified flying objects.

I am directed to inform you that approval has now been given for a change of procedure in dealing with correspondence with the public about reported UFO sightings. All reports will be examined as heretofore so that defence implications, if any, may be investigated. However, with the limited resources now available to deal with correspondence from the public on the subject of UFOs, the Department can no longer undertake to advise observers of the probable identity of the object seen. It is therefore necessary for Item Q, which asks if a reply is requested, to be deleted from the form on which reports are made. All reports received by units should, as in the past, be forwarded to AFOR for normal circulation action.

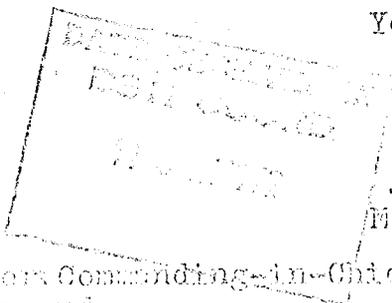
Reports will be acknowledged by S4f(Air) to the observer with a short pro-forma letter.

Any enquiries from the press should, as before, be referred to the Ministry of Defence Press office.

It will be necessary to continue to categorize reports where possible for the Department's records of UFOs and the monthly summary currently prepared by HQ Strike Command (STCOC) will therefore still be required.

I am Sir

Your obedient Servant



G. J. Jamieson
MISS G J JAMIESON

To: Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief
Strike Command
Air Support Command
Maintenance Command
Training Command

Copies to: AFOR
DPR(RAF)
DSEI
Ops (G) 20 (RAF)
ASBAG-Mr Rice

29.11 AF/IS 14/6
AR
ENCLOSURE
13
NUMBER

A(Air) (Mr Davis)

Copy to: LMS(Air)
D of Ops(A Def & O)(RAF)
D of Ops(B)(RAF)
DEPT1 ✓
ER Net C
MFR(RAF)

IDENTIFIED SPECIAL OPERATIONS - SUGGESTED
NEW PROCEDURES

MS of S(RAF) is content with the change
in procedures proposed in your minute
reference AF/IS 80/70 dated 18th December ^{- Encl}
1971, and with the aforesaid letter as
enclosed by LMS(Air) (attached).

W. J. BEAUMONT

(W. J. BEAUMONT)
IS to MS of S(RAF)

31st December 1971

RECEIVED
AF/IS
12

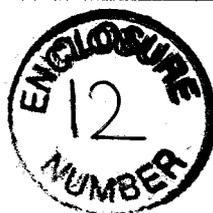
DRAFT PRO-FORMA LETTER

I am writing to thank you for your report of an unidentified flying object seen on

We are grateful to you for advising the Department of this incident and your report will be examined in the Ministry of Defence to see if there are any defence implications. We cannot undertake to pursue our research, other than for defence implications, to a point where positive correlation with a known object is established, nor to advise you of the probable identity of the object seen.

You will no doubt wish to know, however, that ^{simple explanations are} ~~the great majority~~ *found for the great majority* of UFO reports, ~~turn out to have mundane explanations,~~ the most common single source being aircraft or the lights of aircraft seen under unusual meteorological conditions. Other common sources have proved to be astronomical sightings, space satellites or space junk, balloons, unusual cloud formations or aircraft condensation trails. Investigations over a number of years have so far produced no evidence that UFOs represent an air defence threat to the United Kingdom.

LOOSE MINUTE



AF/CX 80/70

AUS(O)(Air)
D of Ops(A Def & O)(RAF)
D of Ops(S)(RAF)
DST1 ✓
DR Met 0
DPR(RAF)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - SUGGESTED NEW PROCEDURES

I attach a self-explanatory draft minute which, subject to your comments, I propose to send to PS/US of S(RAF). In the absence of any comment from your Directorate by 1700 hrs on 15 December I shall assume your concurrence.

9 December 1971

A N Davis
A N DAVIS
S4(Air)



LOOSE MINUTE

AF/CX 80/70

PS/US of S(RAF) [through DUS(Air)]

Copies to: AUS(O)(Air)
D of Ops(A Def & O)(RAF)
D of Ops(S)(RAF)
DST1
DR Met O
DPR(RAF)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - SUGGESTED NEW PROCEDURES

1. When the USAF announced in December 1969 the termination of project Blue Book (which was a special US unit set up to investigate reports of UFOs) the MOD position concerning UFO investigations was reviewed. It was decided early in 1970 that our policies and procedures for dealing with these reports should continue unchanged. The authority of the then US of S(RAF) was recorded in the papers associated with Parliamentary Enquiry AF/PS 26/70, which were circulated to copy addressees under loose minute AF/X58/64 dated 24th March 1970 (not to AUS(O)(Air).

2. In accordance with this procedure UFO reports are currently circulated, either by S4(Air) or AFOR, to STCOC, Ops(GB)2(RAF), STCIC and D155. When it is concluded that there is no defence implication it is our current practice to make an assessment of the identity of the object from available information; if the report is not likely to have originated from an aircraft movement advice may be sought from Met 09 if a meteorological balloon might have been involved, or from the Royal Observatory if a star or planet might have been the source. We do not pursue our enquiries to a point where a positive identification is established, nor do we re-examine our conclusions if the observer disagrees with them. We do not investigate anonymous reports, nor, normally, reports forwarded by UFO associations on behalf of third parties.

RECEIVED
ADM
1000 1971

3. One of the factors leading to the decision in 1970 to continue to deal with UFO reports in this way was the need to answer questions from the public which might arise from a real anxiety about national security. However, recent publicity given to the subject of UFOs by the press and television has resulted in an increased volume of reports from the public. During the three months August to October this year, 118 reports were received compared with 56 in the same period of 1970. 23 were received within three days of the showing on television on 26th October of an alleged UFO filmed at Enstone in Oxfordshire, which has since been the subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry. Since the end of October a single Banbury resident has sent to the Department 84 separate reports of UFO "sightings" in the Banbury area.

4. All letters and telephone calls during working hours concerning UFOs are at present dealt with by a single HEO in S4(Air) whose primary responsibilities are as follows:-

Co-ordination of RAF aspects of MOD War Book.

Co-ordination of NATO Alert measures with Government War Book.

Supervision of clerical work of Air Force Board and Standing Committee.

At present the MOD War Book is being entirely rewritten in line with the NATO Alert system and the HEO is concerned almost whole time with this work.

5. With the limited resources available in this Division, especially since the recent establishment cuts, it is recommended that time and effort should no longer be expended in dealing with UFO reports beyond their circulation as detailed in para 2, so that air defence implications, if any, may be examined. Members of the public would be advised that their report will be examined for this purpose but that we cannot undertake to identify the object seen. A pro-forma letter would normally be used on the lines of the draft attached to this minute.

6. If US of S(RAF) approves this proposed change in procedure S4(Air) will notify RAF Commands that in future individuals who report UFO sightings should no longer be asked whether they wish to be advised of our findings. We would continue to categorize reports where possible for our records and to retain the records of reports in the manner agreed in March 1970.

DRAFT PRO-FORMA

I am writing to thank you for your report of an unidentified flying object seen on

We are grateful to you for advising the Department of this incident and your report will be examined in the Ministry of Defence to see if there are any air defence implications. I regret that we are unable to extend our investigations beyond our defence interest. We cannot therefore undertake to pursue our research to a point where positive correlation with a known object is established, nor to advise you of the probable identity of the object seen.

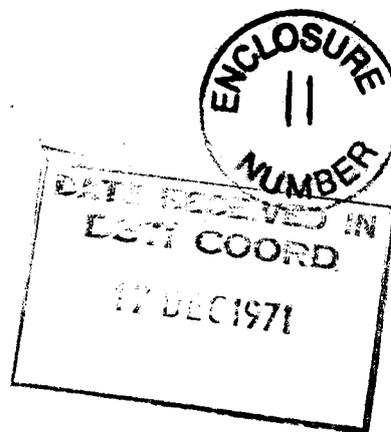
You will no doubt wish to know, however, that the great majority of UFO reports turn out to have mundane explanations, the most common single source being aircraft or the lights of aircraft seen under unusual meteorological conditions. Investigations over a number of years ^{so far} have/produced no evidence that UFOs represent an air defence threat to the United Kingdom.

LOOSE MINUTE

AF/CX 80/70

PS/US of S(RAF) [Through DUS(Air)]

Copies to: AUS(O)(Air)
 D of Ops(A Def & O)(RAF)
 D of Ops(S)(RAF)
 DST1
 DR Met O
 DPR(RAF)



(4)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - SUGGESTED NEW PROCEDURES

1. When the USAF announced in December 1969 the termination of project Blue Book (which was a special US unit set up to investigate reports of UFOs) the MOD position concerning UFO investigations was reviewed. It was decided early in 1970 that our policies and procedures for dealing with these reports should continue unchanged. (Flag C on AF/PS 26/70 attached).
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3. One of the factors leading to the decision in 1970 to continue to deal with UFO reports in this way was the need to answer questions from the public which might arise from a real anxiety about national security. However, recent publicity given to the subject of UFOs by the press and television has resulted in an increased volume of reports from the public. During the three months August to October this year, 118 reports were received compared with 56 in the same period of 1970. 23 were received within three days of the showing on television on 26th October of an alleged UFO filmed at Enstone in Oxfordshire, which has since been the subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry. Since the end of October a single Banbury resident has sent to the Department 84 separate reports of UFO "sightings" in the Banbury area. There is now pressure for a responsible MOD official to appear on a BBC TV programme to discuss UFO reports and MOD procedures for handling them.
4. All letters and telephone calls during working hours concerning UFOs are at present dealt with by a single HEO in S4(Air) who is occupied almost whole time on other work. Outside working hours calls are dealt with by AFOR and actioned by S4(Air) the next day. With the limited

resources available in this Division, especially since the recent establishment cuts, it is recommended that time and effort should no longer be expended in dealing with UFO reports beyond their circulation as detailed in para 2, so that air defence implications, if any, may be examined. Members of the public would be advised that their report will be examined for this purpose but that we cannot undertake to identify the object seen. A pro-forma letter would normally be used on the lines of the draft attached to this minute.

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A. N. DAVIS

16 Dec 71

A N DAVIS
S4(Air)

DRAFT PRO-FORMA LETTER

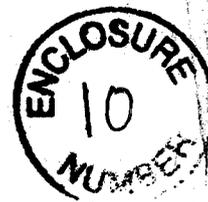
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DI55/108/15

Mr T M P Stevens
Head of S4(Air)



UFO: DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

- References: A. D/S4(Air)/8/3 loose minute dated 17 May 1978
B. D/S4(Air)/8/3 letter to Mr K E G Barber dated 17 May 1978
C. Background Note on UFO

I consider the background note on UFO to be a well balanced summary of the situation and I think it is an excellent basis for a speech by the Minister. I agree with the attitude expressed at the opening of para 4 of reference B that we should treat the subject sensibly rather than flippantly.

One additional point that could be made is that if there were extraterrestrial space activity by other civilizations then one would have expected some of the intensive radio listening searches carried out by reputable scientific organizations, particularly in the US, to have intercepted some of the transmissions between spacecraft or between spacecraft and their original base, but as far as I know, nothing has yet been intercepted that is accepted by reputable scientists as being evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence. Since radio communication is somewhat cheaper than space travel, one would have expected rather more radio communication than actual visits.

Turning now to your proposal in para 5 of reference B, I would strongly advise against issuing a challenge even in the last resort. From the DI55 files I could easily produce 10 plausible events that, because of the lack of adequate descriptions, are quite inexplicable in terrestrial terms. I am sure that a convinced Ufologist could do likewise, particularly as some of the reports came from trained observers such as RAF aircrew.

At a much lower level of discussion than is used in your paper, there is
another argument which may be advanced against an extraterrestrial origin for UFO as follows. First, recent US and Soviet space probes rule out the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the solar system. If UFO are therefore extraterrestrial, they are also from outside the solar system. If now one makes reasonable assumptions about the number of stars in the universe and the proportion of those which might have inhabitable planets, and then further draws up a list of all the interesting places in the universe that an intelligent community might wish to visit, one is driven to the conclusion that a visit to an insignificant planet (the earth) of an uninteresting star (the sun) would probably not occur more than once in a thousand years or so, even if one assumes that every intelligent community made say 10 launches a year. Thus, claims of thousands of visits in the last decade or so are far too large to be credible.

I hope these comments are of some assistance.

30 May 1978

J D Asteraki
ADI/DI55

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D/DSTI/101/27

S4(Air)

Copy to: Air Cdre(Int)
ADI DI 55 ✓

MOD POLICY ON UFO's

Ref A: D/S4(Air) 8/2/10 dated 13/12/77

1. You requested at Ref A that I seek views of interested parties in the DIS on current MOD policy towards UFO's. This I have done and my comments are set out below.
2. We should certainly continue to treat UFO reports seriously and we believe that the MOD policy outlined at Ref A is sensible. It is of course difficult to separate the defence from the non-defence implications of alleged UFO sightings: although defence implications should be our main concern, attention should also be given to flight safety questions - we have had reports in the past of UFOs sighted in the busy air lanes over the Channel. The extension of any investigation beyond this level for MOD is not considered justified, taking into consideration the USA experience over a prolonged period of time.
3. As to MOD relations with the general public on UFOs - the individual first hand investigation of UFO reports, now coming in at a rate of some 40 per month, would present a workload completely beyond the resources of S4(Air) and DI 55 to fulfil. We are not established to carry out such a task nor do we consider it cost effective so to do. To set up a close dialogue between the public and MOD could lead to protracted and undignified argument which would be counter productive. In this context we fully support the S4(Air) line in not normally reporting back the conclusions of MOD investigations to the originators of the UFO reports.

6 Feb 78

Hd DI 54
Rm. 4/14 Ext: 3582
Metropole Building

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



✓ DI55/108/15

Head of DI54 

Copy to:
Air Commodore Int

MOD POLICY ON UFOs

Reference:
D/DSTL/101/27 dated 23 Jan 78

1. In the reference you sought our views on basic questions asked in the process of reviewing MOD Policy on UFOs. Using your numbering sequence, our response is as follows:
2. Question (a). It is not being fair to ourselves to suggest that UFO reports are not treated in a serious manner. Certainly all reports are read and where there is any degree of correlation between 2 or more reports attempts are made to explain them in terms of known aerial activity at the time. In certain circumstances individual reports are examined in considerable detail.
3. Questions (b) and (c). We believe that the MOD Policy outlined in the Brief is valid. Although Defence implications should be the main concern, attention should also be given to flight safety implications - we have had reports in the past of UFOs sighted in the busy air lanes over the Channel. The extension of any investigation beyond this level is not considered justified, taking into consideration the USA experience over a prolonged period of time.
4. Question (d). The individual first hand investigation of UFO reports, now coming in at a rate of some 40 per month, would present a workload completely beyond the resources of S4(Air) and DI55 to fulfil. We are not established to carry out such a task nor do we consider it cost effective so to do. To set up a close dialogue between the public and MOD could lead to protracted and undignified argument which would be counter productive. In this context we fully support the S4(Air) line in not normally reporting back the conclusions of MOD investigations to the originators of the UFO reports.

 Jan 78


J D OKLEY
Squadron Leader
DI55 C3



LOOSE MINUTE

Air Care Int/FBA/0091

Hd DI 54

Copy to: Hd DI 55 ✓

MOD POLICY ON UFOs

1. Thank you for your loose minute D/DSTI/101/27 dated 23 Jan 78 seeking my answers to four questions posed in your minute.
2. Fundamentally, I believe that we should take flying saucers or better stated, UFOs, seriously providing there is strong evidence to support a sighting. Much of the data that we have has of course been the result of clever fusion of some slender facts with good authorship in the world of fiction. Consequently, by keeping the UFO syndrome alive has brought considerable pecuniary reward to those who have delved in the subject. Nevertheless, if sightings are reported and one can verify the standing of the witness then I consider that a follow up enquiry could be useful. Whether or not one is sceptical of the basic existence of UFOs, as intelligence officers one should invariably pursue an inquiry if there is strong evidence to support a sighting. I agree with para 2 of the draft reply to the Reverend Eric Inglesby which goes some way in explaining some of the phenomena which to the layman's eyes makes him think that he has seen something of the occult.
3. I have nothing to add to the brief attached to your loose minute and seems a sensible policy.
4. I do not believe it is possible to differentiate the defence application of UFOs from other speculative fields and any judgment can only be based on evidence and again one must refer to the credentials of the witness himself.
5. I think it would be helpful to visit places where sightings have been reported but only when one has "teased" the witness concerned and that such a visit might reveal a new slant on the problem.
6. I have never dismissed UFOs as a figment of imagination and during some 5,000 hours of flying I have on one occasion seen an object, at the time (in 1958) I was flying across the States at about 40,000 feet when I saw a brightly illuminated object greatly in excess of my altitude. As you will know at the time the civilian jet airliner had not had its debut and I reported the phenomena to an air traffic control reporting centre who accepted my observation as if it were something quite routine!

25 Jan 78

Handwritten signature
 H A CATLAND
 Air Commodore
 Air Care (Int)

AD

AD

ENCLOSURE
6
NUMBER

AD
17

MA/DCDS(I)

Copy to: S4(Air) SO/Air Cdre(Int)
DI 55 ← DI 3(Air)



UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Ref A: DCDS(I)/52 dated 9/12/77

1. You requested at Ref A a "well analysed" reply to a letter addressed to CDS by the Rev Eric Inglesby, Secretary of the Christian UFO Research Society.

2. I attach at ~~_____~~ a draft covering minute for DCDS(I) to send to CDS and at ~~_____~~ a draft reply for CDS to send to the Rev Inglesby. FIAG 5
FIAG 4

3. No doubt CDS will receive his fair share of correspondence both from serious ufologists and from ufo-freaks during his term of office. I would not want the fact that DI 54 has taken on the task of replying to this particular letter to result in these queries being directed to me, and I would be most grateful if you would gently remind PSO/CDS that S4(Air) is the MOD Branch with responsibility for dealing with UFO enquiries. S4(Air) and also DI 55 have generously contributed to the attached response.

14 Dec 77

Hd DI 54

CDSUFO CORRESPONDENCE

1. You requested me to let you have a reply to a letter you have received on UFO's from the Rev Eric Inglesby.
2. So far as I am aware there has been no British scientific enquiry into the possible existence of UFOs, nor is there evidence that MOD has taken the question very seriously. However, the MOD has kept in touch with the United States Air Force who made a systematic, if protracted, attempt to record and investigate UFO sightings from 1952 to 1968. The USAF enquiry, known as Project Blue Book, was followed by a study assigned by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to the University of Colorado. This is the enquiry referred to in the attached reply and, as stated there, it was endorsed in 1969 by the National Academy of Sciences who concluded that there was no scientific or military justification for further study of UFOs, that the reports of UFOs up to that time posed no threat to national security and that continuance of the Blue Book Project was of doubtful value. The report caused a good deal of controversy and, I believe, was much criticised. However, when the RAF staff in Washington was consulted in April 1976 about this they assured MOD that HQ USAF saw no likelihood of their further involvement in this area. The USAF pointed to the considerable Air Force commitment of resources in the past, the extreme pressure on Air Force funds in 1976 and the fact that since 1969 no evidence had been presented to warrant further investigation.
3. It is always possible, of course, that the considerable correspondence addressed to MOD (and dealt with by S4(Air)) might contain some hint, not of UFOs, but of something with a hostile terrestrial origin which could have a bearing on national security. All UFO enquiries from the public are therefore referred by S4(Air) to

ADI DI 55 and DD Ops(GE)(RAF) for any further investigation which they might consider to be justified.

4. I attach at Annex A a draft reply which you may wish to send in response to paras 3(a)(b) of the Rev Inglesby's letter.

DCDS(I)

DRAFT REPLY TO LETTER FROM THE REV ERIC INGLESBY

1. An MOD study of the scientific significance of UFO's has not been carried out since our interest is limited to the defence aspects. We receive UFO reports from members of the public, the police and Service units and our sole aim is to establish any possible defence implications. We have not the resources to undertake the investigation to the point of positive correlation with a known object and there is no organisation appointed for the study of UFOs, per se. UFO reports are examined by various specialist staff within the Ministry of Defence as part of their normal staff responsibilities. They can call on the full scientific and professional resources of the Department and if necessary may call on the expert advice of other Government and non-Government bodies.

2. Simple explanations have been found for the great majority of UFO reports, the most common single source being aircraft or the lights of aircraft seen under unusual conditions. Other common explanations are astronomical sightings, space satellites or space junk, balloons, unusual cloud formations or aircraft condensation trails. Unexplained reports have often been found to be imprecise or lacking in some essential data, but otherwise to have been no different in kind from other reports.

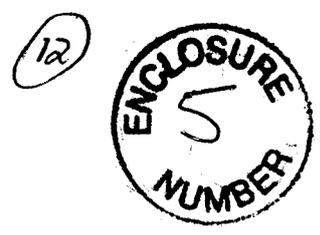
3. I am of course aware of work that has been done elsewhere, in particular the studies of the University of Colorado, whose main findings were endorsed by a panel of the US National Academy of Sciences. The conclusions the panel came to were:

- a) about 90% of all UFO reports proved to be quite plausibly related to ordinary phenomena;
- b) little, if anything, had come from the study of UFOs during 21 years that added to scientific knowledge;

- c) further extensive study of UFO sightings was not justified in the expectation that science would be advanced thereby;
- d) no evidence had come to light that UFO sightings might represent a defence hazard.

4. Although I would not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life may exist in outer space, the UFO reports that have reached the MOD to date contain no evidence to support this hypothesis. The conclusions of the American work are persuasive and I would not disagree with any of their findings.

LOOSE MINUTE



Ref: D155/40/9/1

S4f (Air)
Attn: Miss G J Jamieson

UFOs - BBC RADIO PROGRAMME

E10

Ref: S4f(Air)/422 dated 14 February 1972

1. You asked us for any information we might have relevant to Question 5 of Annex to the above reference. I regret that we cannot help here except to say that a number of meteorological balloons were released in Antarctic regions during the IGY. 57 stations were involved, spread around the antarctic coastline and adjacent islands. Balloons were of various shapes, and released daily in blocks of ten days, from each of the stations. However, in the absence of individual correlations it cannot be said that the balloons were in fact the "UFOs" which were reported.
2. Mr Ling has suggested that Mr Davies might find an article called "UFO" of interest. This was written by a Leslie Pettier and published in a book called "The Coming of the Space Age". Mr Ling has a copy. A further point brought to my notice and which may be of use is in "Contact" 1971, page 32. The UFO statistics for 1970 are broken down according to occupation of observers. Of 570 "witnesses", 447 were school children, 51 were housewives and 18 were policemen. There were 49 other occupations, none of them providing more than 8 witnesses. I am sure that this breakdown tells its own story, but I am not sure how best to get it across in a BBC programme.

29 Feb 72

J WALTON
D 155b
Rm 4/24 Ext 5230
Mteropole Building

Dr. Walton

(E 11)



I genuinely regret that I cannot think of any really useful comments on any of these questions (E 10). I have met two or three confirmed believers in UFO's, & my sympathies are entirely with Mr. Davies.

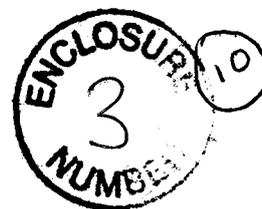
I would suggest that Mr. Davies might find useful an article on UFO's in a book called "The Coming of the Space Age." The article is entitled "UFO" by Leslie Peltier. Peltier, an enthusiastic and competent amateur astronomer describes how he was fortunate enough by lucky circumstances to identify an UFO phenomenon which ~~he~~ would normally have defied the explanation he was able to give it. I have the book. Mr. Davies might find it useful ammunition in his BBC interview.

I also wrote an article on the subject of UFO's for the DSTI Newsletter (No. 92) and since then, the UFO observers I have met only confirm to my mind the conclusions I reached when I wrote.

a further point which may be of use to Mr. Davies, if he hasn't already picked it up, is in "Contact" 1971, on page 32. It purports to give a representative cross-section of the UFO observing community. Out of 53 different occupations in which 18 sightings (the highest but one) were seen by policemen the top score is 447+ for schoolchildren!!

Any one who has been

FOOSE MINUTE



S4f(Air)/421

DI55(b) (Dr Walton)

UFOs - BBC RADIO OXFORD PROGRAMME

1. The Department has been approached in connection with a programme being prepared by BBC Radio Oxford which will "provide an objective view of aerial phenomena and the research undertaken into the subject", for which the participation of a MOD representative in a recorded interview has been requested. DUS(Air) has agreed that Mr Davis S4(Air) should take part.

2. The BBC has forwarded the attached list of questions on which the interview would be based. Will you please advise us whether you have any information in connection with the subject of Question 5 which could be used in the broadcast. Any assistance you can give with regard to any of the other questions would also be appreciated. AHB has been asked if they can they can throw any light on the subject of Question 8.

3. The BBC have also forwarded the enclosed Contact (UK) publications. Can you say whether these contain any items of which Mr Davis should be particularly aware.

4. Mr Davis will be out of the office from 14 February until 6 March. A provisional BBC studio booking has, however, been made for 9 March and I should be grateful, therefore, if any information you can let us have could be forwarded before 6 March. ||

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Miss G J Jamieson'.

MISS G J JAMIESON
S4f(Air)
Rm 8235 Ext 7035
Main Building

14 February 1972

LOOSE MINUTE

DI 55/40/9/1

Miss G J Jamieson
S4f(Air)
Room 8235 MB



UFO REPORTS

1. I have examined your UFO report 557/10/20 and have the following comments.
2. The time of the sighting is within 3 minutes of the time of "nautical twilight" for that day. The sky also seems to have been cloudy. In late October there could well have been a layer of ice crystals in the atmosphere which might have produced an halation effect from the sun's rays. The net result is the appearance of a "false sun" such as is frequently seen in Arctic regions when the sun is just below the horizon. It often appears "diamond shaped".
3. Thank you for referring to the change in procedures. I propose that, under these circumstances, we should no longer receive UFO reports routinely. Any reports which are difficult to categorise could perhaps be sent to DI 55b on a monthly basis, as has in fact been happening. We would also welcome receipt of your statistics at whatever period you prepare them.

27 Jan 72

DR J WALTON
for ADI/DI 55

LOSS MINUTE

AF/CX 80/70



L185b (Dr Walton)

I should be grateful for any comments you can make concerning the UFO sighting reported in the attached folder 557/10/20. Enquiries made by STCC of Air Defence Radars have proved negative.

2. You will wish to know that US of S (RAF) has agreed the change of procedures in dealing with correspondence from the public concerning UFOs, proposed in S4(Air)'s loose minute AF/CX 80/70 of 10 December, and reports received after 1 January 1972 will be acknowledged by S4F(Air) in the form of the attached letter. You may wish to consider whether we should periodically forward any of the reports to your branch for perusal.

20 January 1972.

Miss G J Jamieson
S4F(Air)
MB Ext: 7055

* Folder returned 27/1/72 with comment
- E9 *GHC*

Dear

I am writing to thank you for your report of an unidentified object seen on

We are grateful to you for advising the Department of this incident and your report will be examined in the Ministry of Defence to see if there are any defence implications. We cannot undertake to pursue our research, other than for defence implications, to a point where positive correlation with a known object is established, nor to advise you of the probable identity of the object seen.

You will no doubt wish to know, however, that simple explanations are found for the great majority of UFO reports, the most common single source being aircraft or the lights of aircraft seen under unusual meteorological conditions. Other common sources have proved to be astronomical sightings, space satellites or space junk, balloons, unusual cloud formations or aircraft condensation trails. Investigations over a number of years have so far produced no evidence that UFOs represent an air defence threat to the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully

(MISS G J JAMIESON)