UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

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

SUBJECT: UFE - Policy

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

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FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 263F must be completed at the time of file closure)
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**Date opened**
23 Sept 94

**Division/Establishment/Unit/Branch**
SEC(A)(2A)

**Subject**
"UFOs"

**Policy**

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**For DRO use only**

1st Review date

2nd Review date

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

- *Restricted*
- *Unclassified*

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**Section 40**

Certifying Officer
AIR COMMAND

Appointment and Branch
1AP, MARCH 2011

Date
Registered File Disposal Form

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

"UFO's"

Policy

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 30.4.98

Date closed:

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

\( \checkmark \)

Destroy after \( \underline{10} \) years

Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years \( \checkmark \)

for permanent retention

No recommendation

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

(Delete as appropriate)

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

\( \checkmark \)

b. (i) To be retained for \( \underline{10} \) years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

\( \checkmark \)

LEGAL

DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS \( \checkmark \)

CONTRACTUAL

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS

FINANCE/AUDIT

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT

DIRECTORATE POLICY

OTHER (Specify)

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review

Date of 2nd review

Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's
Signature:

Reviewer's
Signature:

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)
(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:


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

☑ Destroyed

☐ Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation

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

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER

Signature: ________________________________

Name: ________________________________
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: ____________________________ Date: ________________
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

PART 4. DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: ________________________________

Name: ________________________________
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: ________________________________

Name: ________________________________
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: ____________________________ Date: ________________

* (FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)
LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/5
30 Apr 98

Copy to:
DPO(raf)
ADGE1
AD OR(ICS)1
PSO/ACAS

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

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDATION

2. To note.

BACKGROUND

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

Source of the Story

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

RAF Fylingdales, Yorkshire

5. The Fylingdales radar is tasked only to detect and track objects in orbit and those with a ballistic trajectory. The Officer Commanding at RAF Fylingdales has confirmed that for the
35 years it has operated, no 'UFOs' have been tracked. It is the case that the radar is not configured to track such objects, particularly in the reported areas, and there is therefore no substance to the claim that recorded data of this nature is held at RAF Fylingdales.

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

Symposium at RAF Cranwell

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

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

Conclusion

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

MILITARY SPACE

OUTER RAF CIRCUIT

28 APR '97 13:27 FROM D E F PRESS OFFICE
PAGE 02

To:

Section 40

From:

The Air Force Board

Sponsored by

The Air Force Board

Please fill in the spaces of this form and send
the above address by 10th May 1998

MILITARY SPACE

OUTSIDE UK 44-1400-381201 EXT 6774

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
UNIVERSITY UK
NG3 4RB

ROYAL AIR FORCE
AIR WARFARE CENTRE
OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE & TRAINING

28 APR '97 13:27 FROM D E F PRESS OFFICE
PAGE 02

** TOTAL PAGE 03 **
Thursday 4 June

1030 Registration & coffee in Whittle Hall
1100 Welcome and Opening Remarks
   Chairman
1110 Keynote Opening address
   DGICS

Concepts
1125 Space Technology and Concepts
   OD Space AWC
1215 Lunch in College Hall
1330 UK Space Policy and Programmes
   AD OR(ICSI)

Trends
1415 Future Developments and Trends -
   UK MOD
   DERA
1500 Tea in College hall
1530 Future Developments and Trends -
   UK/European Industry
   BNSC
1615 View from the Pentagon
   US DoD
1700 Close

1930 Pre-Dinner Drinks at The Lawns
2000 Symposium Dinner at The Lawns

Friday 5 June

0900 Introductory Remarks
   Chairman

Communications
0905 Teledesic
   Boeing
0945 Celestri
   MMS
1030 Coffee in College Hall

Remote Observation
1100 Spaceborne AWACS
   Boeing
1145 BOSAT
   LM Space Imaging
1230 Lunch in College Hall
1345 SBIRS
   LM/TRW

Launch Systems
1430 TSTO/Re-usable
   US Industry
1515 Tea in College Hall
1545 Sea Launch
   Boeing/Kronichev
1630 Closing Address
   ACAS
1645 Discussion
   Chairman
1700 Close

(Content may change due to the availability of speakers)
Dear [Section 40]

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

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

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

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

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

Yours

[Section 40]
FOI AND UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is ____________________________ and my PhD is in Chemistry. It was conferred upon me by Exeter University in 1986. I am a Member of The Royal Society of Chemistry and a writer for Quest Magazine. I spend a lot of my spare time researching the MoD's history with respect to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), the bulk of my information comes from historically authenticated documents held in The Public Record Office.

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

I do not make this claim lightly, further into this discussion you will see an article on the West Freugh Incident of 1857 which I have included for illustrative purposes. I regret using such an old example; however, you will appreciate, the MoD does not make a habit of broadcasting these incidents and obtaining information of subsequent sightings by trained observers (eg pilots) is both time consuming and expensive.

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

I applaud the comments in the FOI White Paper (Cm 3816) stating that:-

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

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

3. The Act will have a far broader scope than ....other openness measures in government. It will cover.-
- Nationalised Industries, Quangos and the UK Atomic Energy Authority
- The National Health Service
- The Public Service Broadcasters
- Local Authorities
- Administrative functions of Courts, tribunals, Police and Police Authorities
- the Armed Forces

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

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

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

1. Since the Act is going to cover the armed forces, I would suggest that whenever our armed forces encounter an unidentified craft that displays design and performance characteristics clearly in excess of cutting edge technology, that the information be fed to the public by means of a televised press conference. The Press Conference should give full details of radar returns, size, shape, speed, flight characteristics etc of the unidentified craft. I note that a PQ was raised to this effect-Hansard (18.12.98, col 626, written answers), I think the answer given to this question was illustrative of the breathtaking arrogance of our former Government

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

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

4. I would also strenuously advocate legislation that would allow for the establishment of Independent Commissions with extensive powers of search and interview. These commissions would be made up of professional people from all walks of life (Barristers, Police Officers, Scientists, Doctors) who though initially signatory to The Official Secrets Act could forcefully recommend that issues be brought out into the Public Domain if it was clear that their extended closure was not in the Public Interest.
Without further ado, I will now relate the details surrounding the incident at West Freugh.

Incident at West Freugh

By Section 40

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

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

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

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

Despite these standing orders, it appears that the Evening Standard must have gotten a handle on the story as a reference was made to West Freugh in the Saturday edition (6th April). It would seem that the newspaper's Air Reporter was told by an Air Ministry spokesman that the radar returns were attributable to a weather balloon which had been
sent up from Aldergrove airfield in Northern Ireland. This rather mundane explanation seems to have been accepted, the report had his story and the case was to all intents and purposes closed. The Evening Standard was not the only newspaper to have reported a UFO that Saturday for The Daily Sketch quite sensational had obtained a photograph of a UFO from a 25-year-old cabinet maker called Reginald Queree. He had taken the picture at his home at First Tower, Jersey and the tabloid’s "photographic experts" were absolutely convinced as to its authenticity. You can imagine the embarrassment felt by the tabloid editor when told that the Jersey photograph was not authentic and on Monday, 8th April 1957, The Daily Sketch published a small paragraph stating that the "flying saucer" was in fact a fake and had been constructed of cardboard and silver paper suspended from a clothes line. Mr Queree confirmed that he took the photograph some months prior to going public and was waiting until someone else reported "something strange in the sky", he also wanted to demonstrate how easy it was to "fake" a photograph of a flying saucer. It would seem that the Daily Sketch missed out on another major exclusive, namely the apparent clairvoyant skills of the First Tower Snapper. He would have had to have given the newspaper the photograph and story by about a 10.00 pm deadline on Friday the 5th April – The Evening Standard did not publish until Saturday 6th April! It is apparent from historically authenticated Public Record documents that The Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical) took a rather unusual interest in this particular faked story although I would not like to speculate upon the reasons for this. Suffice to say, it will be interesting to see the full intelligence dossier on the Daily Sketch article and the background of "Mr Queree" if, and when Britain's intelligence files are released from this particular era (if I am still around, I will be visiting the Public Record Office for these answers in 2037!).

Returning now to the West Freugh incident, it would be interesting to see what the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence thought of this. In a report dated the 30th April 1957 (Ref DDI (Tech)/C290/3, the following observations were made:-

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

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

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

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

It is interesting to note that observation 2 states that there were no meteorological balloons in the vicinity at the time in question which contradicts the version of events given to The Evening Standard by an Air Ministry spokesman. Was this a blatant cover-up of the facts? Certainly the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were unhappy that the radar incident fell into the hands of the press and this is alluded to in a secret memo (Ref DDI (Tech)/S290). However, even more damning
were the draft notes prepared for Mr George Ward, The Secretary of State for Air. A Parliamentary Question was tabled by Mr Stan Awdry, a Labour MP for one of the Bristol constituencies on Wednesday, 17 April, 1957 (Hansard, col 206). The question read:-

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

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

3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire, reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that no service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.

4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines:-

"That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

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

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

Also, no mention was made of objects; was there a cover-up?

Certainly if you consider the withholding of information from a Government Minister and the blatant misrepresentation of facts to the press as a cover-up then clearly, this is indeed the case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

U2 Spyplane.- Although this gave a large radar return, it would have
been incapable of giving a stationary one.

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

I must stipulate that this article is not one of speculation but of fact based on historically authenticated documentation. The source material is held in Files AIR 20/9320, AIR 20/9321 and AIR 20/9344 obtained from Public Record Office, Kew (Telephone 01815079344). Putting it into its proper perspective, the incident at West Freugh is just as much part of our national heritage as The Spanish Armada, The Magna Carta or The Suffragette Movement and it is for this reason that we must start taking the whole UFO issue extremely seriously.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Respectfully and forcefully request that certain science oriented matters that are clearly in the public interest, especially those related to Public Health and awareness (though perhaps embarrassing to certain politicians) should not be the subject of any form of extended closure and that all such documentation currently held under extended closure should be released forthwith. These to include diseases (eg BSE), chemical and radioactivity-related illnesses (eg Gulf War Syndrome), human guinea pig type experiments (eg releasing agents on Waterloo Bridge) and miscellaneous (to include all military/intelligence reports on
4. Respectfully and strenuously advocate legislation that would allow for the establishment of independent Commissions with extensive powers of search and interview. These commissions would be made up of professional people from all walks of life (Barristers, Police Officers, Scientists, Doctors) who though initially signatory to The Official Secrets Act could forcefully recommend that issues be brought out into the Public Domain if it was clear that their extended closure was not in the Public Interest.

The author of this article can be contacted at Section 40
**FOI CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

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

Enc:

1. Official Report 1 Apr 98.
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Millennium Dome

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

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

DUCHY OF LANCASHIRE

Freedom of Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am today placing in the libraries of the House a list of those respondents (except where they requested anonymity) and copies of the responses received (except for those respondents who wished their comments to remain confidential). The apparently substantial number of replies requesting anonymity or confidentiality very largely consists of responses concerning the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 made by licence holders under the Act. Replies of this sort made up 100 of the 117 responses in these categories.
In addition to being placed in the libraries of the House, the responses are also being placed on the Internet and will shortly be available for viewing and downloading on the Internet. There is a direct link from the FOI Unit home page—http://www.open.gov.uk/m of-g/foihome.htm—to the UKCOD site where the submissions are posted—http://foi.democracy.org.uk/html/submissions/index.html. A paper copy of the full set of responses is available from the Cabinet Office.

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

The breakdown of responses by category is:

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

Ministerial Residences

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

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

Arms Exports

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

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

Departmental Efficiency

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

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

European Commission Documents

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

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

Print Media

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

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

Electronic Information

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

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

Regulatory Process

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

Dr. David Clark: In 13 I tabled a draft Bill for publication. The bill will, in itself, mark a further major stage in the consultation process.

28. Mr. B. R. Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he has taken to press for the greater use of plain language in European Commission documents during the United Kingdom presidency.

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

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 + 64\%

16 April 1998

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

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

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<td>E132</td>
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<td>E2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2. Enclosures 2, 3, 9, 25 and 26 appear to have been removed from D/DS8/10/209 part H but that file has been destroyed and I am unable to positively confirm this.

3. This file (D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 part A) claims to have been opened as a registered file on 25 October 1982. This is not possible because Sec(AS) was not in being at that time. Sec(AS) was previously DS8 until late '84/early '85. It is not possible to ascertain exactly when this file was created.
PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

References:

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

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

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

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

Enclosure:
D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 27 Sep 95.
PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES - DI55 ASSOCIATION


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

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

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

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

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

4. I should be grateful if you could let me know if you are now content with our proposed lines. I shall then formally notify Hd CS(RM)1 that we are content for the internal distribution of "UFO reports" to be revealed when the files are sent to the Public Records Office at the 30 year point.
PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

References:

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

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

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

Enclosures:

1. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 Apr 98 (Enclosure 1).
2. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 7 Apr 98 (Enclosure 2).
LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
3 Apr 98
DI55c

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

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

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

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

Serial Number:  
Transmission:  
Date: 7 APR  
Time:  

From:  
Fax Number: SEC(AS)  
Tel Number:  

To:  
Fax Number: W-K-C10  
Tel Number: OWH13  

Authorised by:  
Rank: E0  
Name:  
Appointment:  
Signature:  

Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1  
Total number of pages including this one:  

Subject: PUBLIC LINE ON ROLE OF DI BRANCHES  

Dear  

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

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

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

Thick  

PS. For your info Sec(AS) coordinated the 30 odd 'UFO'-related PQs tabled by Martin Redmond in Oct 96. The Min(AF) response was coordinated and cleared with DI Sec at the time.
I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your Parliamentary Questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

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

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

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

[40920]

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

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait.

[41101]

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

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

[41100]

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

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

[41102]

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

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

[41069]

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

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

[41196]

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

Mr. Soames: I will make a statement.

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

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the location, of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been sold to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector.

[40931]

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

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

[40823]

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

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (b) what is the current function of D15/SIG; what was its function a) five years and b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

[41080]

(2) what is the current function of D10/SIG; what was its function a) five years and b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

[41038]

(3) what is the current function of D15; what was its function a) five years and b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

[41041]

(4) what is the current function of D16/E; what was its function a) five years and b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

[41037]

(5) what is the current function of D10; what was its function a) five years and b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

[41039]

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

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

[41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight, specialists in unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

[41036]

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

[40911]
Subject: PUBLIC LINE ON ROLE OF DI BRANCHES

Dear Section 40

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

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

... I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.
(1) what research has been conducted on behalf of his department by the national poisons information service on the causes of Gulf war syndrome.

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

Mr. Nichols Pope

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

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

Uranium-tipped Shells

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Married Quarters Estate

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

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

RAF Rudloe Manor

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

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

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DIS5 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement;

(2) what is the current function of DIS5B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement;

(3) what is the current function of DIS5; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement;

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

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

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

Unidentified Flying Objects

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

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

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

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

7 Apr '98 13:46

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LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
3 Apr 98
DI55c

PUBLIC LINE ON THE WORK OF DI55

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

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

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

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

1 April 1998

Chief Paper Keeper, MOD Archives

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

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

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

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

Advisory Committee on JPs in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

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

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

Freedom of Information

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

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

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

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

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

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Millennium Dome

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

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

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

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

Millennium Experience

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

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

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

EU Fisheries Council

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

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

The Council discussed the introduction of a ban on high seas drift nets. Views were divided. The UK, with a majority of other Member States, argued for the phasing out of such nets because of the by-catch problems associated with them, particularly by-catches of dolphins. Several Ministers opposed a ban. However, at the end of the discussion I was able to conclude that there was an expectation that there will be a qualified majority in support of a ban. This helps clear the way for a formal agreement before the end of June. In the meantime, the European Commission will prepare measures such as decommissioning or conversion, to be applied within existing funding provisions, for fishermen affected by the ending of drift netting for tuna, swordfish and other high seas species.
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Sent: 27/03/98 at 13:48  
To: Hd of CS(RM)1  
CC:  
Ref: 1711  
Subject: Section 40 & AHB(RAF) HEAD 'UFO' FILES  
Text: Section 40 You're proposed response to Section 40 couldn't be clearer. It's fine by me. Our experience has shown he doesn't listen to what he's told though anyway. You'll be interested to know that Section 40 brought all the S4(Air) files over here this morning covering 1974 and 75 - they didn't need asking twice!!!!

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

To: Sec(AS)2 -Section 40
Date: 27 Mar 96
Your Ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/1

From: AHB(4)RAF -Section 40
Tel: Section 40
Our Ref: D/AHB/5/12

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

1. Further to yesterday’s morning’s Telecon I am transferring the attached S4f(Air) files to Sec(AS) as successor organisation to S4f, and MoD focal point for UFO queries with the approval of Gp Capt - Section 40 Deputy Head of AHB. The 1974 files will be due for review by CS(RM) in 1999, and the 1975 files in 2000. Please sign the attached receipt, and make your own arrangements to transfer the files to CS(RM) when appropriate.
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LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
26 Mar 98
Head of AHB(RAF)
Copy to:
AHB4(RAF)

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

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

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

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

4. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.
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**Intended:**
- Sent: 26/03/98 at 9:11
- Delivered: 26/03/98 at 9:11
- To: SEC(AS)2A1
- Ref: /GUID:1002711F0CC4D111B39400005A422BE6
- From: Hd of CS(RM)1
- Subject: S4 UAP files

**Text:**

**Priority:** Normal
**Reply Request:** [ ]

**SEE PAGE**
**View Acknowledge:** [ ]

**Attachments:** [ 1]
**Codes:** [ ]
We spoke a few weeks ago about missing "uap" files and I agreed to speak to my contact in AHB. I am advised by AHB they were [and for a few files still are] the custodians of the S4(Air) UAP files. Files for the period 1964 to 1973 have been passed to CS(RM). The years 64 to 72 have been assigned to PRO classes AIR 2 and 20.1973 awaits listing. Years 1974 to 1976 (June? ) will follow as and when review is due, currently at the normal 25 year point i.e. 1974 during 1999 (for release in 2005) etc. I hope this fills the gap?
LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

26 Mar 98

Head of AHB(RAF)

Copy to:

AHB4(RAF)

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

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

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

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

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

To: Sec(AS)2 - Section 40

From: AHB(4)RAF - Section 40

Date: 26 Mar 98

Tel: Section 40

Your Ref: *

Our Ref: *

Subject: Ex-84ff(Air) UFO FILES ARCHIVED BY AHB

1. Further to this morning’s Telecon I attach a list of the relevant files. Those with PRO numbers in Air Class 2 or 20 have been reviewed by CS(RM), though their release date/status may need to be checked. The remaining files covering 1974/5 are still held by AHB.
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Page 1
Loose Minute
CS(RM)/4/6/37
March 1998
Sec(AS)2a1
DDI Sec

Copy to:
OMD(AD)(Management)

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

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

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

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

3. I would welcome comments by cop 3 April 1998.
DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

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

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

As I explained in my last letter the White Paper on Open Government (Cm 2290), published July 1993 gives a good description of how the public records system works. I commend it to you.
Dear Section 40

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards

Section 40
Loose Minute
CS(RM)/4/9/7
March 1998

Hd NHB
Hd HB(A)
Hd AHB
Sensitivity Review

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

1. The attached article (rough proof only) is forwarded for information only.
Section 40

Thank you for your kind advice and

time during our telephone conversation the

day.

I thought I should send you the

enclosed, which is a high portfolio,

(there is no need to return this copy).

Thank you again.

Metropole Building
RICHARD J. ALDRICH  The University of Nottingham

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

The Waldegrave Initiative on Open Government

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

past? Or was it a mere publicity, opportunity for government which involved major claims, accompanied by only marginal change? Did the pattern of declassification reflect the genuine needs and concerns of historians, or did departments merely take the opportunity to 'clean house' and rid themselves of overclassified files, some dating back to the 1970s? This article addresses these questions by analysing the impact of the Waldegrave Initiative upon a range of recent research.1

It is perhaps worth observing at the outset that 'open government' and the accelerated declassification of historical materials does not stand alone as an isolated issue. Its context has been a much wider discussion about governance, transparency, information, and citizenship, and a wide range of initiatives across Whitehall and Westminster, including important developments in the legal regulation of the secret services. The inner nature of these changes has been vigorously contested. On the one hand, government press releases maintained that there had been nothing short of a major revolution, with the default setting of Whitehall now upon releasing, rather than withholding, information. This has been accompanied by some startling changes, not least the Security Service (MI5) openly advertised for recruits in the pages of The Guardian in May 1997.2 On the other hand, these developments have been characterized as representing nothing more than a transition from the secrecy of the Thatcher era, to a more sophisticated form of active 'information control' for the 1990s prompted by a reluctant recognition that mechanisms such as the European Court made some change inevitable.3

Openness, or secrecy, relating to secret service issues has been at the centre of the debate over the Waldegrave Initiative. This is partly because a large proportion of the files withheld for more than thirty years has been retained because they contain material related to secret service, but also because William Waldegrave deliberately chose to make 'revelations' in the area of secret service history, and also current secret service practice, a flagship element in the presentation of Open Government to the media.4 The Conservative government correctly presumed that revelations about even the most antiquated aspects of secret service would

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1 Because of the survey nature of this article I am more than unusually indebted to others who have been kind enough to relate their experiences with open government materials to me, and to point me in the direction of new literature which draws upon it. Notwithstanding this, the author must take full responsibility for the opinions expressed here.
3 The most sophisticated version of this argument, drawing on an area of the sociology of knowledge which has been termed 'information control', can be found in Peter Gill, 'Reasserting control: Recent Changes in the Oversight of the UK Intelligence Community', Intelligence and National Security, 11 (2), (1996), 313-31.
4 For example, in October 1993, William Waldegrave launched a booklet describing the work of the Joint Intelligence Committee in co-ordinating the activities of the secret services, Control Intelligence Machinery (London, 1993) with a foreword by John Major.
guarantee headlines such as ‘MIS thrills historians by opening up its files’ with each successive trance of material. There can be no doubt that the Waldegrave Initiative has enjoyed a good press, but was it justified?*  

Intelligence History

Unsurprisingly, it is upon the history of foreign intelligence and special operations prior to 1945 that the Waldegrave Initiative has had the most impact. There are several reasons for this. First, these sorts of materials represent the majority of hitherto closed files retrospectively released into the Public Record Office (PRO). Churchill’s Ultra decrypts (HW1), specially selected for him from the work of Bletchley Park, alone represent a class of several thousand files, with more to come. The Special Operations Executive (SOE), Britain’s wartime sabotage organization, constitutes another important release (II51-4). Released region by region, its files will be eventually number over 10,000. There are also many single files retrospectively released into existing classes. Secondly, the recognition in the 1980s that scholarly research on British intelligence history was possible, even pre-Waldegrave, resulted in the growth of a specialist body of historians who were then poised to descend on the new material as it arrived. Thirdly, the level of public interest in this area has ensured quick exploitation by journalists and popular historians as well as academics. The great volume of material released has ensured that its importance is only beginning to be explored.

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

of Second World War by Ultra, underlines the importance of this new work.\(^6\)

The second pattern concerns its impact upon broader subjects that were already partly open, such as the SOE. Because SOE was highly dependent upon the RAF and the Navy for transport, and were required to co-ordinate their plans (very imperfectly) with regional commands and the Foreign Office, many types of file have long abounded with SOE material. As a result, well-documented and authoritative non-official studies of SOE have been appearing in profusion since the mid-1970s. This process was accelerated after 1982 by the availability of a very large body of material from SOE’s American partner, the OSS. Accordingly, the impact of the release of the new SOE material into the PRO has been different. New and intriguing aspects of this organization have been investigated, and a fuller picture achieved, but there has been, as yet, not radical shift in our overall picture of SOE.\(^7\)

There is also a continuity of practice here. In the 1980s historians worked ‘through’ military and diplomatic files to discover otherwise ‘closed’ SOE documentation. In the 1990s historians are working through newly released SOE files to open up the history of its still-closed British sister service, MI6 or the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) during the Second World War. Here too, new debates have been ignited and old arguments re-examined. For example, the credibility of the picture of a bankrupt and broken SIS offered by Kim Philby in his controversial KGB-sponsored memoir My Silent War, has been at the centre of this discussion. Some former practitioners have long condemned this book as an unreliable product of Soviet propaganda, while non-official historians have come to the conclusion that the new material reveals a picture of SIS that was, if anything, worse than Philby’s caricature.\(^8\)

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

\(^6\) Ralph Bennett, *Behind the Battle: Intelligence in the War with Germany, 1939–1945* (London, 1994), pp. xx–xxi. A limited quantity of detailed Ultra material was released into the class DEFE 3 as early as the late 1970s, but a great deal has only just been released and there is more to come.


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

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

Venona' is the code-name for the KGB communications traffic decrypted by both GCHQ and the Americans in the 1940s, leading to the initial exposure of members of the 'Cambridge Comintern': Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt, and John Cairncross. Much of it was recently released in the class HW15. This is not material that historians would have expected to see before Waldegrave. Yet sceptics would argue that this release has not been motivated by a new British spirit of openness, but instead by pressure from GCHQ's American partners, the National Security Agency. 

\[1\]

It has long been the case that documents unavailable in Britain could be obtained in the USA, and this has been studiously ignored by the authorities. But the internet has given this disparity a sharper edge. A large selection of the American 'Venona' material has been put on the NSA's worldwide web site in a way that would have been much more difficult for the UK to ignore. Perhaps the internet will act as an agent of 'globalization' in the area of declassification policy.

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


\[12\] This argument is based on a number of unattributable conversations with officials in December 1996. The NSA's website is available at http://www.nsa.gov/8080/docs/venona/venona.html.
of a major breakthrough. The same can be said of the release of the files of the British Military Mission or ‘BRIXMIS’ in the GDR, which engaged in massive legal and semi-legal surveillance of Eastern bloc military activities. For the first time this has permitted the detailed study of intelligence operations at the front line of the cold war.

*Nuclear History*

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

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

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

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13 This material, deposited in DEFE 41, is the subject of a major ongoing study by Paul Maddrell of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
14 This material has been deposited in DEFE. The British Military Mission or ‘BRIXMIS’ has been the subject of a recent study by Tony Geragthy.
Office files. In response to the author's requests . . . two of the closed
documents in the Prime Minister's papers were opened and 32 of the closed
Foreign Office documents were opened in July 1993. None of the documents
. . . opened in July 1993, were of great significance.

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

* 'Britain and the Bomb', Historical Conference, held jointly by the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston, and the University of Reading, February 1997.
Diplomatic History

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

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

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

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

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

Reviewing, ‘Weeding’, and Sanitization

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

Departments that have given considerable time to releasing retained files have had difficulties simultaneously processing routine material at the thirty-year point. Examples of failure to meet statutory requirements include . . .25 Yet this lamentable development has still not allowed departments to deal with the specific requests of researchers quickly, and some have waited over a year for requests for a few dozen files to be released, only to find that more than half are refused.24 One suspects that in some cases both statutory duties and also the requests of individual researchers have been given less priority than the release of some bodies of ‘headline-grabbing’ material.

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

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

The first is the peculiar treatment of material relating to the Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary's Department (PUSD). PUSD was the Foreign Office's central co-ordinating department, developed in the first postwar decade, to some extent emulating George Kennan's Policy Planning Staff. PUSD is widely discussed in the open literature and many of its files are now open to public inspection. Yet in a recent run of material retrospectively released under 'special review', a weeder has expended many happy hours sanitizing every page that makes use of the initials 'PUSD', substituting a xerographed page with a small blank in its place. Nothing else on these pages has been sanitized. Yet the nature of the missing initials on these sanitized pages is immediately obvious to any historian with a knowledge of this period. Moreover, the weeder confirms this for us by xeroxing the reverse side of some of the original pages, allowing the sanitized contents of the previous page to show through (albeit in mirror writing). 28

This oversensitivity probably relates to the fact that PUSD duties included secret service matters, for example obtaining clearance for intelligence operations. But the authorities seems quite unaware that the intelligence and security aspects of PUSD were discussed as early as 1956 in Lord Strang's memoir, Home and Abroad. Since then they have been discussed ad nauseam. A Deputy Head of PUSD from the same period has written more recently that this 'department among its other duties kept an eye on the workings of MI6 (SIS), our foreign intelligence service, and MI6 was known in Whitehall as 'P.U.S.D.''. Members of MI6 were regularly seconded to PUSD for co-ordination purposes. 29 But, as is so often the case, the official weeding the file has no knowledge of the open literature. This sort of example evokes mixed feelings. Initially one senses possible advantage in the possibility that some of one's institutional adversaries are so transparently ill-informed and/or overworked. But this quickly turns to irritation when one receives letters from officials explaining that requests for declassification are further delayed because resources are so stretched. Much time is clearly wasted in this way.

28 See for example various documents of March 1956, 11023/1/G, PO 371/118857, PRO and January 1956, JA 1022/1/G, PO 371/118745, PRO.
Nuclear historians have encountered similar problems. Here too a basic lack of knowledge results in unnecessary delays and retentions. In 1993 material from the Prime Minister's files was released relating to the briefing of Harold Macmillan by Americans during the Cuban missile crisis. The American diplomats involved were accompanied by two senior officials of the CIA, Chet Cooper and Sherman Kent. Several full accounts of this meeting, naming both CIA officials, have been published, including Kent's own account which appeared in 1978. Yet in 1993 their names were deleted from the relevant PREM files whilst British officials sought clearance from the United States to 'name' two people whose identities had been revealed fifteen years earlier. As the Cabinet Office has observed, 'clearance with the US authorities is a very slow process'. It must be conceded that under the old regime the whole file might have remained closed, and under Waldegrave it has been opened immediately. However, the lack of specialist staff and the reluctance of weeder to seek advice from those with specialists knowledge, is resulting in unnecessary closure.27

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

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

27 See for example Sir P. Mason to FO, No. 165, 22 October 1962, PREM 11/3689, PRO.
I am greatly indebted to Len Scott, of the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, for drawing my attention to this material, for allowing me to consult his correspondence with the Cabinet Office on this matter.
28 Ibid. Historians working on the Second World War have encountered similar experiences with the retrospective, but uncatologued, release of MI6 paper into existing fields in the class WO 236.
This is illustrated by the intriguing case of newly released British documents concerning the Soviet electronic eavesdropping programme in high-security Western buildings in the 1950s. In July 1950, the British accidentally discovered evidence of Soviet ‘bugging’ in the British Embassy in Moscow. In 1952 a Soviet ‘bugging’ device was discovered hidden inside a decorative seal at the United States Embassy complex in Moscow, with the assistance of a special British detection system. The offending seal was later displayed by the Americans in a session at the United Nations. The intention was to create indignation, but as so often with public revelations about special activities, the atmosphere was instead one of high farce, and the assembled delegates struggled to contain their amusement.

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

... a small inter-departmental committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederick Brundrett has been charged with the co-ordination of research and development on eavesdropping devices. The first task of the Committee was to investigate the possibilities of the device discovered in the United States Ambassador’s residence in 1952.\(^3\)

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

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

\(^3\) Churchill minute, 14 October 1952, quoted in Colville to Morrison, DEF1 13/16, PRO; Alexander (MoD) to Churchill, 18 July 1954, ibid. Alexander dates the Committee to 1953, but from other evidence in the file he clearly meant 1952. DEF1 13/16 is one of a number of files from this class that have been released retrospectively under Waldegrave.

\(^4\) Morrison to Colville, 13 October 1952, enclosing ‘Russian Eavesdropping’, 13 October 1952, DEF1 13/16, PRO.
complex process requires more time, care, and expert knowledge. These extra resources have not been made available. We know that the review staffs in many departments have been cut rather than expanded and the results are there for all to see.

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

* An example of this is the FO 571 files on the downing of the Gary Powers U-2 aircraft. Not only have the pages within the files suffered some rather serious reshuffling, but the files, relating to 1960, have been released into a run of files for 1963 and are to be found in the hand list for 1963.
DID WALDEGRAVE WORK?

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

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

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

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

34 I am very grateful to Anthony Forster for sharing these insights with me. They are explored more fully in his forthcoming study of the Maastricht negotiations.
35 The Diplomatic History Programme at the Centre for Diplomatic Studies, University of Leicester is a good example.
36 I am grateful to Bob Moore for his observations on this matter; this work can be followed more closely in Bob Moore and Kent Podorovitch (eds), Prisoners-of-War and Their Captors in World War II (Oxford, 1996).
37 In 1995 the MoD wrote to the author to explain that these materials had not been deemed worthy of preservation.
Research that has exploited material released by the Waldegrave Initiative is only just beginning to make its way into print, thus any verdict must be a tentative one. Nevertheless, two assertions can be made with confidence. In the short term Waldegrave can claim a qualified success. The sheer quantity of material that has been released, partly in response to specific requests, and the material change that has resulted in some areas is undeniable. The major qualification concerns the lack of resource for the quality and quantity of work now required. In the long term, the Waldegrave Initiative has probably changed the way in which the dialogue between officials and non-officials is conducted. This, in turn, has encouraged historians to raise some very major issues about issues such as selection, but they do not appear to have identified the right forum in which to get to grips with them. This too is a symptom of the pressures on the system. Officials are overwhelmed by the task of processing new materials, and historians seem too busy reading them.
1. I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14 February 1998 raising again the question of the release of Air Intelligence (Tech)5b papers.

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

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

4. I hope that has clarified the position about the fate of AI(Tech)5b records.
I do not think that we will have a problem with this - the second point is the one I made as well.
I am forwarding the attached to you as I got a non-delivery message for Sec(AS)2A1. I have also got a copy of the Cabinet Office's Internet response which I will send by post as it has reproduced poorly over the fax.

Section 40

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

PSA - the attached document was produced in CSV8 and is UNCLASSIFIED.
LOOSE MINUTE
D/DOMD/2/3
25 Feb 98
Hd CS(RM)
Copy to:
Sec(AS)2a1
DDI Sec

Section 4: Al(Tech) FILES

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

1. Thank you for passing me your draft reply to Section 4 at Ref A. My main suggestion is that you delete the reference to DOMD in the final paragraph. You are informing CS(RM) that we do not have the files, rather than withholding files that we do have, and he seems to be very happy with the service that he has received. Should he have any further queries or a complaint, it would make more sense for him to address them to you in the first instance, rather than us. Your final paragraph might therefore end with something on the lines: "I hope that has clarified the position about the fate of Al(Tech)5b records."

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

{signed}
OMD/AD(Management)
NH617 MB
FOLLOW UP LETTER FROM UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - AIR INTELLIGENCE (TECHNICAL) PAPERS


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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope there is now no confusion about the fate of AI(Tech)5b records. If you remain unhappy with the way I have handled your request for information, and wish to complain, you should write to: MOD, OMD14, Rm 617, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.
Section 40
D8/2
MoD
Metropole Building
Northumberland Ave.
LONDON
WC2N 5BL

Dear Section 40

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

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards

Section 40
Sent: 23/02/98 at 12:43
To: USofS/Mailbox
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS), Hd of CS(RM)1

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

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

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [ ]
Delivery Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]
Loose Minute
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
23rd February 1998

APS/USofs
Copy to:

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

'A COVERT AGENDA' BY NICHOLAS REDFERN

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

Issue

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

Recommendation

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

Background

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

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

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 MR
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX: MB

Section 40

Section 40
DRAFT PS/USofS LETTER TO PS/PRIME MINISTER

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

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

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

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

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

6. The evidence Mr Redfern claims to have uncovered about 'UFO' investigations has been culled from files released to the Public Record Office under the 30 year rule. During the early 1960s the number of 'UFO' reports received by MOD was some 50-70 annually. Given emerging satellite technology then, MOD Intelligence Branches were keen to explore all possible sources of information for scientific and technical intelligence in respect of terrestrial military threats. However, media speculation about 'UFOs' and interest in science fiction generally has risen rapidly in recent years and the number of reports received has increased to the extent that several hundreds are now routinely received each year, the majority of which contain less than credible information. Intelligence gathering is now much more sophisticated and little if any information can be drawn from
7. Mr Redfern is keen that all sighting reports be released in advance of the provisions of the Public Record Act. Although the files concerned do not, for the most part, contain classified information, each report (and there are some 9000 paper records for the period 1969-97) was provided in confidence and contains information about what was alleged to have been seen as well as the personal details (full name and home address) of the witness. Releasing this information in advance of the 30 year point (deemed as an acceptable period of time to preserve witness confidentiality) would necessitate the removal of all personal details or, alternatively, advising each witness in advance that their details were to be made public, something the majority would not agree to. Sanitizing the reports would require substantial resources to be diverted from defence related tasks, something we would be reluctant to sanction since it is the personal details 'ufologists' want so that they can approach witnesses direct.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope the above is helpful. Copies of the White Paper are available from the Stationery Office or your local public library might be able to help. Alternatively you can view the document on
the Internet at 'http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm'.

Thank you for sending a copy of your book which is returned herewith.
REFERENCE D/US of S/JS 28/1/0

Sec (AS) 2-1

"A Court Agenda" by Nicholas Roddy

I am attaching a letter/minute from Nicholas Roddy..............
to .................................. dated 31/1/98..............
(The letter has to be returned to M. Roddy.)

Will you please consult other Departments, divisions and branches
as necessary and submit advice, together with a draft reply, in
order to reach US of S not later than 16/2/98..............

I am sending copies of this to:

........................................
........................................
........................................
........................................

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

Date: 4/2/98

CHOTS: USofS-Mailbox
Dear Section 40,

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Lt Col Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Dear Mr. Blair,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,
The Government's Commitments

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

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

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

The Way Forward

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


The Chancellor of the Duchy said:

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

"There are matters, such as national security or personal privacy, where information has to be protected. Government itself needs some protection for its internal deliberations. This White Paper strikes a proper balance between extending people's access to official information and
preserving confidentiality where disclosure would be against the public interest. It is a new balance with the scales now weighted decisively in favour of openness.

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

For a copy of the Chancellor of the Duchy's Parliamentary statement please click [here](#).

For the full press release please click [here](#).

For a summary of the White Paper please click [here](#).

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

**Draft Bill**

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

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

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

**Comments should be received by 28 February 1998.**

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

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

To see the submissions made so far click [here](#).
UK Citizens' Online Democracy

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

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

Data Protection

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

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

Tel: 0171 273 3755
Fax: 0171 273 3205

Further Information

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

Interim

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

Machinery of Government and Standards Home page
White Paper in brief  

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

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

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

- Government departments and agencies
- The National Health Service
- Local councils and local registered bodies
- Quangos, nationalised industries and public corporations
- Courts and tribunals
- The Police
- The Armed Forces
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Public service broadcasters
- Privatised utilities
- Private sector organisations working for the government

However information about the security and intelligence services and the special forces, personnel files, and information vital to crime prevention is excluded from the act.
All information held by the authorities listed above created in fulfilling their public function will be available subject to seven reasons to withhold the information or "exemptions":

"substantial harm" to any of:

1. national security, defence and international relations
2. internal discussion of government policy
3. law enforcement
4. personal privacy
5. commercial confidentiality
6. safety of individuals, the public and the environment
7. references, testimonials or matters given in confidence

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Questions:

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

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

1. **Section 40** asks about information gathered by Job Clubs and why the security services are excluded from the proposed Act. The minister responds.

2. **Section 40** asks about internal council memos. The minister responds.

3. **Section 40** asks whether the collection of information by supermarkets and other businesses should be more tightly regulated, or even yield an information society tax. The minister responds

4. **Section 40** asks why personnel records have been excluded from the white paper. The minister responds.

5. **Section 40** asks if the government will release UFO information under FOI. The minister responds.

6. **Section 40** asks the minister to define ‘substantial harm’. The minister responds.

7. **Section 40** asks about government contracts and disclosure under FOI. The minister responds.

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

1. Section 40 asks:

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

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

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

Regards,

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

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

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

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

(ii) on decisions on the continuation of any relevant statutory prohibitions to disclosure. [There are more than 200 of these ‘bars’ to disclosure which the Government intends to review, and where appropriate amend or repeal, in the light of its commitment to an FOI Act.]
You also asked why the Government intended to exclude the security and intelligence agencies from the legislation.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

2. Section 4 asks:

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

Section 40

Dear Section 40

3 of 7

28/02/98 13:44
Under our proposals local government would be covered by the FOI Act. You would therefore have a right of access to the internal memos to which you refer in your e-mail. However, I am able to say whether the records would have to be released or not. As the White Paper explains, disclosure decisions will have to be based on an examination of the actual records or information in question and will depend on the outcome of the substantial harm and public interest tests set out in the Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 asks:

Section 40

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

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

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

A new Data Protection Bill has just been introduced to Parliament. The Bill is designed to replace the Data Protection Act 1984 and will implement the EC Data Protection Directive (94/48/EC). As you will probably know, Data Protection legislation is designed to protect an individual's personal information from misuse by organisations, in either the public or private sector, which process such data as part of their activities.

Under Article 10 of the EC Data Protection Directive all issuers of loyalty cards and similar schemes have to make clear to members of the public the purposes for which they are collecting the data. As a further protective measure the Directive only allows the data to be used in ways which are compatible with the purposes for which it was collected. Where direct marketing is envisaged organisations must also allow their customers to object to the use of their data for this purpose. These provisions in the EC Directive are reflected in the new Data Protection
Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list

4. Section 40 asks:

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

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

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

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

back to question list
Section 40 asked:

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

Thank you

Section 40

Reply to Section 40

Dear Section 40

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

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

FAX

To: Section 40
Fax: Section 40
From: Section 40
Tel: Section 40
Date: 25 February 1998
Page: 1 of 2

Message:

Section 40

Copy of CDL's e-mail on UFO's.

I was very grateful to your

concerns for all their help.

and I should think so!!!

Section 40

At least be 2.3 include the final bits of point

Section 40

URGENT Yes/No CONFIRM RECEIPT Yes/No

Internet Page: http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm
Dear [Name],

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

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

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
RENDELESHAM FOREST/RAF WOODBRIDGE LINES TO TAKE

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

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

Passed to Section 40 DPO(RAF) Section 40

for use in response to (News of the World) enquiry into Rendlesham

Late Feb 98.
Mon 23 Feb, 1998 9:04  mailbox standard  Page 1

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To: SEC(AS)2
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS)
Ref: /GUID:6F26E13D8EA9D1119C6D00A02461F4C4
From: OMD/AD(Management)
Auth by:
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act

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

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]
Attachments [ 1]
Codes [ ]

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Section 40

Not a lot of help as you will see. I'm not as marvellous as they are clear there is 'no problem because it's only for another two weeks'.
LOOSE MINUTE
D/DOMD/2/3/4
20 Feb 98
Sec(AS)2

Copy to:
DOMD
Hd of Sec(AS)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - CABINET OFFICE INTERNET WEB SITE

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

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

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

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

{signed}

OMD/AD(Management)
NH617

Section 40
Section 40
THE CABINET OFFICE

Attn: Section 40

== by fax ==

Dear Section 40,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: DRAFT REPLY TO Section 40

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

2. I suggest the following:

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

Para 2. Okay as drafted.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Section 40

[Redacted]
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
Machinery of Government and Standards Group
Morse Guards Road • London SW1P 3AL
TELEPHONE 020 7216 9387 FAX 020 7216 9388 EMAI: fo@gtnet.gov.uk

FAX

To: Section 40

Fax: Section 40

From: Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Date:

Page: 1 of 2

Message: DRAFT RULES FOR CDL

COMMENTS PLEASE BACK THIS AFTERNOON.

FOR FOI UNITS ON ABOVE FAX.

URGENT Yes/No CONFIRM RECEIPT Yes/No

Internet Page: http://www.open.gov.uk/m-of-g/foihome.htm
ON-LINE DISCUSSION OF THE FOI WHITE PAPER: QUESTIONS TO CDL

Draft Reply To: Section 40

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

Under our Freedom of Information proposals you would still be able to request this information but, as with all other information, it would be subject to the seven specified interests (notably Personal Privacy and Information Supplied in Confidence) where information could be withheld if disclosure would cause substantial harm. However, the independent Information Commissioner would have the power to order disclosure if he or she thought that the decision not to disclose was wrong.
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19 Feb '98 14:40
Loose Minute
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
18th February 1998
OMD/AD(Information)
Copy to:
Head of Sec(AS)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - CABINET OFFICE INTERNET WEB SITE

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

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

3. Understandably, the Cabinet Office is keen to be as helpful to the public as possible. However, as far as I am concerned this first question will, almost certainly, encourage many more and with this in mind I would find it helpful to have some advice on handling. For example, should I expect to have anything in writing from the Cabinet Office? Unlikely I would have thought given the fast response required. And, is someone, in DOMD perhaps, acting as a Departmental focal point for questions and answers in the event that scrutiny of what is put on the Net in the name of MOD is desirable? I should be grateful for any thoughts you have to offer.
Sent: 18/02/98 at 18:58
To: OMD/AD(Management)
CC: PS/Hd of SEC(AS)

Ref: 929
Subject: Freedom of Information Act

Text:

Ps - haven't yet got a delivery report or view acknowledge from Dom P. Machine switched to by 19.20!!

Section 40
Sent by CHOTS - can you do a hand file copy please.
Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

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Subject: CABINET OFFICE WEB SITE

Section 40 thought you might like to see this.
** Transmit Conf. Report **

20 Feb '98  11:00

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File Note
D/Sec(AS)/64/1

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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

2. Question:

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

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

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

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

18 February 1998
Sec(AS) 2
LC/356805/3/4/F&S
2 Feb 98

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

* by fax

SECURITY NUISANCE -

Reference:


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

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

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

ABW Press Office

Copies to:

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

SECURITY NUISANCE


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

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

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

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

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

(Sec)SS
ABW R1a
ABW
ANNEX A to D/CSSE/CMT/46/231/2359
dated 21 January 1998

Draft Letter from the ABW Press Office

Dear [redacted],

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

MOD(PE) Press Office
MOD Abbey Wood #1
Bristol BS34 8JH
LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

29 Jan 98

DI Sec

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

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

2. I also attach (at TAB B), a hastener from which we received this morning.
LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI55/108/15

26 Jan 98

Sec(AS)2 (MB8247)

LETTER FROM

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

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

Enclosed:

Letter + Envelope from [Section 40]
Dear sir / madam,

I am conducting a research study into your Dept. DIS/DS71. Any information relating to these Dept. within the M.O.D. would be most welcome.

Yours Sincerely,
To M.O.?
Whitehall
London SW1
(Ref 555/24)

26/1/98

Dear Sir / Madam.

Ref: DIS55 / DST.

Further to my letter of 7/1/98 (copy attached) of 5th day of next month, I have not yet received a reply from your dept.

I would therefore be grateful to receive your reply, preferably as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

(Copy attached)
Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Yours Sincerely,

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Auth by: 
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Text:

Priority: Normal  
Reply Request [ ]  
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Codes [ ]
PSA document regarding Freedom of Information in response to your e-mail of 22 January.
LOOSE MINUTE
D/DOMD/2/3/4
28 January 1998

Sec(AS) 2a1 - Section 40

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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

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

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

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

OMD14
NH617

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

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

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

4. You may be interested to learn that under the terms of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967, all government departments are required to review their records selecting those thought worthy of permanent preservation and destroying all others. Selected records are transferred into the custody of the PRO, or some other suitable museum, for release to the public after 30 years, assuming sensitivity permits. Records assessed as too sensitive for release at the normal point are closed with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor until release is possible. Lists of preserved records, whether open or closed, are of course available to researchers at the PRO.
Finally, you asked about radar at West Freugh during 1957. A check of our records has not identified any files containing the kind of information you seek.
Sent: 22/01/98 at 14:41
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1550
Subject: Section 40

Text: Please see attached
LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
22 Jan 98
Head of CS(RM)1

Section 4 LETTER

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

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

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

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

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

3. Any queries please give me a call.
Sent: 22/01/98 at 11:12  
To: OMD 4  
CC:  
Ref: 1549  
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
Text: Please see attached

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

22 Jan 98

OMD 4 - Section 40

FORTHCOMING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – LINES TO TAKE

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

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

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

3. I expect we could go on to mention plans for consultation etc and the timescales for this if known. I should be grateful for your guidance.
Section 40

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

Dear Section 40

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

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

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

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

I thank you in anticipation and appreciation of any assistance.
Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

5 January 1998

Sec(AS)2a1
DDI Sec

(Fax only)

ENQUIRY FROM UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA
(UAP)

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

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

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

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

5. Comments on my proposed reply to are welcome together with any views re the early release of UFO files.
Thank you for your letter dated 26 December 1997 raising a number of questions that would assist your research into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).

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

On the question of UAP files created by Air Intelligence A15b, until incorporated into the new Defence Intelligence organisation in 1964, I regret to advise you I have been unable to trace any such papers in the Ministry of Defence. It must therefore be presumed that had they once existed they have not survived the passage of time.

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

Finally, you asked about radar at West Freugh during 1957. On the basis that surviving records had not identified any files containing material which might be identifiable on the lists at Kew, I have asked my staff to make an

examination of the most likely MOD classes for any relevant files. With other more pressing tasks I am sure you will appreciate this research will take a number of weeks. I hope to be in a position to advise you of the outcome in early February.
with the compliments of
Ministry of Defence

Section 40

Dear Sirs,

May I be of interest.

Yours sincerely,

10 Dec 97.
A Die-Hard Issue

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

Gerald K. Haines

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

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

Background

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

The Technical Intelligence Division of the Air Material Command (AMC) at Wright Field (later Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio, assumed control of Project SIGN and began its work on 23 January 1948. Although at first fearful that the objects might be Soviet secret weapons, the Air Force soon concluded that UFOs were real but easily explained and not extraordinary. The Air Force report found that almost all sightings stemmed from one or more of three causes: mass hysteria and hallucination, hoax, or misinterpretation of known objects. Nevertheless, the report recommended continued military intelligence control over the investigation of all sightings and did not rule out the possibility of extraterrestrial phenomena. (6)
Amid mounting UFO sightings, the Air Force continued to collect and evaluate UFO data in the late 1940s under a new project, GRUDGE, which tried to alleviate public anxiety over UFOs via a public relations campaign designed to persuade the public that UFOs constituted nothing unusual or extraordinary. UFO sightings were explained as balloons, conventional aircraft, planets, meteors, optical illusions, solar reflections, or even "large hailstones." GRUDGE officials found no evidence in UFO sightings of advanced foreign weapons design or development, and they concluded that UFOs did not threaten US security. They recommended that the project be reduced in scope because the very existence of Air Force official interest encouraged people to believe in UFOs and contributed to a "war hysteria" atmosphere. On 27 December 1949, the Air Force announced the project's termination. (7)

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

**Early CIA Concerns, 1947-52**

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

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

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

Upon receiving the report, Deputy Director for Intelligence (DDI) Robert Amory, Jr. assigned responsibility for the UFO investigations to OSI's Physics and Electronics Division, with A. Ray Gordon as the officer in charge. (16) Each branch in the division was to contribute to the investigation, and Gordon was to coordinate closely with ATIC. Amory, who asked the group to focus on the national security implications of UFOs, was relaying DCI Walter Bedell Smith's concerns. (17) Smith wanted to know whether or not the Air Force investigation of flying saucers was
sufficiently objective and how much more money and manpower would be necessary to determine the cause of the small percentage of unexplained flying saucers. Smith believed "there was only one chance in 10,000 that the phenomenon posed a threat to the security of the country, but even that chance could not be taken." According to Smith, it was CIA's responsibility by statute to coordinate the intelligence effort required to solve the problem. Smith also wanted to know what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts. (18)

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

Amateur photographs of alleged UFOs

Passoria, New Jersey, 31 July 1952

Sheffield, England, 4 March 1962

& Minneapolis, Minnesota, 20 October 1960

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

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

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

The Robertson Panel, 1952-53
On 4 December 1952, the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) took up the issue of UFOs. Amory, as acting chairman, presented DCI Smith's request to the committee that it informally discuss the subject of UFOs. Chadwell then briefly reviewed the situation and the active program of the ATIC relating to UFOs. The committee agreed that the DCI should "enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories" and draft an NSCID on the subject. Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Director of Air Force Intelligence, offered full cooperation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 1950s: Fading CIA Interest in UFOs

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

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

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

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

Adding to the concern was a flying saucer sighting by US Senator Richard Russell and his party while traveling on a train in the USSR in October 1955. After extensive interviews of Russell and his group, however, CIA officials concluded that Russell's sighting did not support the theory that the Soviets had developed saucerlike or unconventional aircraft. Herbert Scoville, Jr., the Assistant Director of OSI, wrote that the objects observed probably were normal jet aircraft in a steep climb. (42)
Wilton E. Lexow, head of the CIA's Applied Sciences Division, was also skeptical. He questioned why the Soviets were continuing to develop conventional-type aircraft if they had a "flying saucer." (43) Scoville asked Lexow to assume responsibility for fully assessing the capabilities and limitations of nonconventional aircraft and to maintain the OSI central file on the subject of UFOs.

CIA's U-2 and OXCART as UFOs

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

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

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

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

The demands, however, for more government information about UFOs did not let up. On 8 March 1958, Keyhoe, in an interview with Mike Wallace of CBS, claimed deep CIA involvement with UFOs and Agency sponsorship of the Robertson panel. This prompted a series of letters to the Agency from Keyhoe and Dr. Leon Davidson, a chemical engineer and UFOlogist. They demanded the release of the full Robertson panel report and confirmation of CIA involvement in the UFO issue. Davidson had convinced himself that the Agency, not the Air Force, carried most of the responsibility for UFO analysis and that "the activities of the US Government are responsible for the flying saucer sightings of the last decade." Indeed, because of the undisclosed U-2 and OXCART flights, Davidson was closer to the truth than he suspected. CI, nevertheless held firm to its policy of not revealing its role in
UFO investigations and refused to declassify the full Robertson panel report. (49)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 1960s: Declining CIA Involvement and Mounting Controversy

In the early 1960s, Keyhoe, Davidson, and other UFOlogists maintained their assault on the Agency for release of UFO information. Davidson now claimed that CIA "was solely responsible for creating the Flying Saucer furor as a tool for cold war psychological warfare since 1951." Despite calls for
Congressional hearings and the release of all materials relating to UFOs, little changed. \((67)\)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bowing to public pressure and the recommendation of its own O'Brien Committee, the Air Force announced in August 1966 that it was seeking a contract with a leading university to undertake a
program of intensive investigations of UFO sightings. The new program was designed to blunt
continuing charges that the US Government had concealed what it knew about UFOs. On 7 October,
the University of Colorado accepted a $325,000 contract with the Air Force for an 18-month study of
flying saucers. Dr. Edward U. Condon, a physicist at Colorado and a former Director of the National
Bureau of Standards, agreed to head the program. Pronouncing himself an "agnostic" on the subject
of UFOs, Condon observed that he had an open mind on the question and thought that possible
extraterritorial origins were "improbable but not impossible." (75) Brig. Gen. Edward Giller, USAF,
and Dr. Thomas Ratchford from the Air Force Research and Development Office became the Air
Force coordinators for the project.

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

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

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

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

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

The Condon report did not satisfy many UFOlogists, who considered it a coverup for CIA activities in
UFO research. Additional sightings in the early 1970s fueled beliefs that the CIA was somehow
involved in a vast conspiracy. On 7 June 1975, William Spaulding, head of a small UFO group,
Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), wrote to CIA requesting a copy of the Robertson panel report and all
records relating to UFOs. (81) Spaulding was convinced that the Agency was withholding major files on UFOs. Agency officials provided Spaulding with a copy of the Robertson panel report and of the Durant report. (82)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes


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


(10) See Edward Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI, "Flying Saucers," 1 August 1952. See also United Kingdom, Report by the "Flying Saucer" Working Party, "Unidentified Flying Objects," no date (approximately 1950).

(11) See Dr. Stone, OSI, memorandum to Dr. Willard Machle, OSI, 15 March 1949 and Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum for DDI, "Recent Sightings of Unexplained Objects," 29 July 1952.

(12) Stone, memorandum to Machle. See also Clark, memorandum for DDI, 29 July 1952.


(14) See Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director, OSI, memorandum to DDI Robert Amory, Jr., 29 July 1952. OSI and OCI were in the Directorate of Intelligence. Established in 1948, OSI served as the CIA's focal point for the analysis of foreign scientific and technological developments. In 1980, OSI was merged into the Office of Science and Weapons Research. The Office of Current Intelligence (OCI), established on 15 January 1951 was to provide all-source current intelligence to the President and the National Security Council.

(15) Tauss, memorandum for Deputy Assistant Director, SI (Philip Strong), 1 August 1952.

(16) On 2 January 1952, DCI Walter Bedell Smith created a Deputy Directorate for Intelligence (DDI) composed of six overt CIA organizations—OSI, OCI, Office of Collection and Dissemination, Office National Estimates, Office of Research and Reports, and the Office of Intelligence...
Coordination—to produce intelligence analysis for US policymakers.

(17) See Minutes of Branch Chief's Meeting, 11 August 1952.

(18) Smith expressed his opinions at a meeting in the DCI Conference Room attended by his top officers. See Deputy Chief, Requirements Staff, FI, memorandum for Deputy Director, Plans, "Flying Saucers," 20 August 1952, Directorate of Operations Records, Information Management Staff, Job 86-00538R, Box 1.


(22) See Chadwell, memorandum for Smith, 17 September 1952 and 24 September 1952, "Flying Saucers." See also Chadwell, memorandum for DCI Smith, 2 October 1952 and Klass, UFOs, pp. 23-26.

(23) Chadwell, memorandum for DCI with attachments, 2 December 1952. See also Klass, UFOs, pp. 26-27 and Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952.

(24) See Chadwell, memorandum, 25 November 1952 and Chadwell, memorandum, "Approval in Principle - External Research Project Concerned with Unidentified Flying Objects," no date. See also Philip G. Strong, OSI, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Executive Vice President and Provost, MIT and Dr. Max Millikan, Director of CENIS." Strong believed that in order to undertake such a review they would need the full backing and support of DCI Smith.


(26) The IAC was created in 1947 to serve as a coordinating body in establishing intelligence requirements. Chaired by the DCI, the IAC included representatives from the Department of State, the Army, the Air Force, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the FBI, and the AEC.

(27) See Klass, UFOs, p. 27.

(28) See Richard D. Drain, Acting Secretary, IAC, "Minutes of Meeting held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building, CIA," 4 December 1952.

(29) See Chadwell, memorandum for the record, "British Activity in the Field of UFOs," 18 December 1952.


(31) See Fred C. Durant III, Report on the Robertson Panel Meeting, January 1953. Durant, on contract with OSI and a past president of the American Rocket Society, attended the Robertson panel meetings and wrote a summary of the proceedings.


(34) See Reber, memorandum to IAC, 18 February 1953.


(37) See Chadwell, memorandum for Chief, Physics and Electronics Division/OSI (Todos M. Odarenko), "Unidentified Flying Objects," 27 May 1953.


(41) Developed by the Canadian affiliate of Britain's A. V. Roe, Ltd., Project Y did produce a small-scale model that hovered a few feet off the ground. See Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Flying Saucer Type of Planes" 25 May 1954; Frederic C. E. Oder, memorandum to Odarenko, "USAF Project Y," 21 May 1954; and Odarenko, T. M. Nordbeck, Ops/SI, and Sidney Graybeal, ASD/SI, memorandum for the record, "Intelligence Responsibilities for Non-Convention Types of Air Vehicles," 14 June 1954.


(45) See Pedlow and Welzenbach, *Overhead Reconnaissance*, pp. 72-73. This also was confirmed in a telephone interview between the author and John Parongosky, 26 July 1994. Parongosky oversaw
the day-to-day affairs of the OXCART program.


(48) See Strong, letter to Lloyd W. Berkner; Strong, letter to Thorton Page; Strong, letter to Robertson; Strong, letter to Samuel Goudsmit; Strong, letter to Luis Alvarez, 20 December 1957; and Strong, memorandum for Major James F. Byrne, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence Department of the Air Force, "Declassification of the Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects," 20 December 1957. See also Berkner, letter to Strong, 20 November 1957 and Page, letter to Strong, 4 December 1957. The panel members were also reluctant to have their association with the Agency released.

(49) See Wilton E. Lexow, memorandum for the record, "Comments on Letters Dealing with Unidentified Flying Objects," 4 April 1958; J. S. Earman, letter to Major Lawrence J. Tacker, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Information Service, 4 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Berkner, 8 April 1958; Berkner, letter to Davidson, 18 April 1958; Berkner, letter to Strong, 21 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Tacker, 27 April 1958; Davidson, letter to Allen Dulles, 27 April 1958; Ruppelt, letter to Davidson, 7 May 1958; Strong, letter to Berkner, 8 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Berkner, 8 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Earman, 16 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Goudsmit, 18 May 1958; Davidson, letter to Page, 18 May 1958, and Tacker, letter to Davidson, 20 May 1958.

(50) See Lexow, memorandum for Chapin, 28 July 1958.

(51) See Good, *Above Top Secret*, pp. 346-47; Lexow, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with the Air Force Personnel Concerning Scientific Advisory Panel Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, dated 17 January 1953 (S)," 16 May 1958. See also La Rae L. Teel, Deputy Division Chief, ASD, memorandum for the record, "Meeting with Mr. Chapin on Replying to Leon Davidson's UFO Letter and Subsequent Telephone Conversation with Major Thacker, [sic]" 22 May 1958.


(53) The Contact Division was created to collect foreign intelligence information from sources within the United States. See the Directorate of Intelligence Historical Series, *The Origin and Development of Contact Division, 11 July 1946-1 July 1965* (Washington, DC; CIA Historical Staff, June 1969).

(54) See George O. Forrest, Chief, Chicago Office, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division for Science, 11 March 1955.

(55) See Support Division (Connell), memorandum to Dewelt E. Walker, 25 April 1957.

(56) See J. Arnold Shaw, Assistant to the Director, letter to Davidson, 10 May 1957.


(58) See Lamontain, cable to Support (Connell), 31 July 1958.
(59) See Support (Connell) cable to Skakich, 3 October 1957 and Skakich, cable to Connell, 9 October 1957.

(60) See Skakich, cable to Connell, 9 October 1957.

(61) See R. P. B. Lohmann, memorandum for Chief, Contact Division, DO, 9 January 1958.


(63) See Edwin M. Ashcraft, Chief, Contact Division, Office of Operations, memorandum for Austin Bricker, Jr., Assistant to the Director, "Inquiry by Major Donald E. Keyhoe on John Hazen's Association with the Agency," 22 January 1959.

(64) See John T. Hazen, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division, 12 December 1957. See also Ashcraft, memorandum to Cleveland Resident Agent, "Ralph E. Mayher," 20 December 1957. According to this memorandum, the photographs were viewed at "a high level and returned to us without comment." The Air Force held the original negatives. The CIA records were probably destroyed.

(65) The issue would resurface in the 1970s with the GSW FOIA court case.

(66) See Robert Amory, Jr., DDI, memorandum for Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence, "Flying Saucers," 26 March 1956. See also Wallace R. Lamphire, Office of the Director, Planning and Coordination Staff, memorandum for Richard M. Bissell, Jr., "Unidentified Flying Saucers (UFO)," 11 June 1957; Philip Strong, memorandum for the Director, NPIC, "Reported Photography of Unidentified Flying Objects," 27 October 1958; Scoville, memorandum to Lawrence Houston, Legislative Counsel, "Reply to Honorable Joseph E. Garth," 12 July 1961, and Houston, letter to Garth, 13 July 1961.

(67) See, for example, Davidson, letter to Congressman Joseph Garth, 26 June 1961 and Carl Vinson, Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, letter to Rep. Robert A. Everett, 2 September 1964.


(73) See John Lear, "The Disputed CIA Document on UFOs," Saturday Review (September 3, 1966),
p. 45. The Lear article was otherwise unsympathetic to UFO sightings and the possibility that extraterrestrials were involved. The Air Force had been eager to provide Lear with the full report. See Walter L. Mackey, Executive Officer, memorandum for DCI, "Air Force Request to Declassify CIA Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)," 1 September 1966.


(76) See Lundahl, memorandum for DDI, 7 February 1967.


(78) See memorandum for the record, "UFO Briefing for Dr. Edward Condon, 5 May 1967," 8 May 1967 and attached "Guidelines to UFO Photographers and UFO Photographic Information Sheet." See also Condon Committee, Press Release, 1 May 1967 and Klass, UFOs, p. 41. The Zaneville photographs turned out to be a hoax.


(80) See Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, News Release, "Air Force to Terminate Project BLUEBOOK," 17 December 1969. The Air Force retired BLUEBOOK records to the USAF Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. In 1976 the Air Force turned over all BLUEBOOK files to the National Archives and Records Administration, which made them available to the public without major restrictions. Some names have been withheld from the documents. See Klass, UFOs, p. 6.

(81) GSW was a small group of UFO buffs based in Phoenix, Arizona, and headed by William H. Spaulding.

(82) See Klass, UFOs, p. 8.

(83) See Wilson, letter to Spaulding, 26 March 1976 and GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859.

(84) GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859, p. 2.

(85) Author interview with Laurie Ziebell, 23 June 1994 and author interview with OSI analyst, 21 July 1994. See also affidavits of George Owens, CIA Information and Privacy Act Coordinator; Karl H. Weber, OSI; Sidney D. Stembridge, Office of Security; and Rutledge P. Hazzard, DS&T; GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859 and Sayre Stevens, Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment, memorandum for Thomas H. White, Assistant for Information, Information Review Committee, "FOIA Litigation Ground Saucer Watch," no date.


Dr. Larry Bland, editor of The George C. Marshall Papers, discovered that one of the so-called
Majestic-12 documents was a complete fraud. It contained the exact same language as a letter from Marshall to Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey regarding the "Magic" intercepts in 1944. The dates and names had been altered and "Magic" changed to "Majic." Moreover, it was a photocopy, not an original. No original MJ-12 documents have ever surfaced. Telephone conversation between the author and Bland, 29 August 1994.
Section 40

Sec (AS) -

Key issue, 920c97 in press.

Attached DEF510 (496 + 49) extract to be released early 1993 (date to be determined). The 7 items were released in 96 (DEF510/74, 75/76).

Also attached extract from AR 22/93 - this might include part of the 'lost' Report No.7.

MOD Form 195 (7/94)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>Papers Considered</th>
<th>Subjects Discussed</th>
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| DSJ/JTIC \(50\) 12 | 13th 12.9.50 | DSI/JTIC \(50\) 12 | 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.  
2. ORDER OF BATTLE.  
3. VISITS ABROAD BY MINISTRY OF SUPPLY REPRESENTATIVES.  
4. RUSSIAN VALVE LIST.  
5. KOREA - TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.  
6. INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION, AUSTRIA.  
7. INTELLIGENCE ON RUSSIA.  
8. ORGANISATION OF COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.  
9. AUSTRIAN MILITARY INDUSTRY.  
10. PEENEMUNDE AREA.  
11. DENTAL OF AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS.  
12. NEXT MEETING.  
| 1. CONFIRMATION AND SIGNATURE OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.  
2. ORDER OF BATTLE.  
3. VISITS ABROAD BY MINISTRY OF SUPPLY REPRESENTATIVES.  
4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.  
5. KOREA - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.  
6. MEETING PARTY ON RUMING-SAUCER.  
7. THE USING OF FIRMS FOR OBTAINING OVERT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.  
8. SERVICE TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN OVERSEAS EMBASSIES.  
9. MR. SETTLE.  
10. PRESENT STATE OF INTELLIGENCE AND MEASURES TO IMPROVE IT.  
11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.  
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4. MR. SETTLE.  
5. DR. BLOUNT'S VISIT TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.  
6. VISIT OF CHAIRKAN TO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.  
7. OBTAINING OF EARLY INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW METHODS OF WARFARE.  |
Section 40

I guess we'll have to play it by ear — could be a rocky ride. I wonder what other files/papers we don't know about.

Oh Dear!

This made our line no... not in "Poppy Seller" look suspect. I know not now but may be then. Also makes it look like we were in Cairo with the Americans on this subject — oh dear.
## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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|                |                |                   | 5. MR. ZELL. |
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|                |                |                   | 8. WERNER BAUM. |
|                |                |                   | 9. DRAGON RETURN. |
|                |                |                   | 10. THE USE OF PRINTS FOR OBTAINING OVERSIZED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SECURITY OF DOCUMENTS. |
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## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
**DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

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**1951**

1. Confirmation of the last minutes
2. Action arising out of previous minutes
   (a) Combined Anglo-American Conference
   (b) Scientific and Technical Intelligence on China
3. Order of battle
4. Visits abroad by Ministry of Supply Representatives
5. Scientific and Technical Intelligence in Korea
6. Combined Anglo-American Conference
7. "Shopping lists"
8. The Chairman's visit to Germany
9. Any other business
   (a) Mr Turney's visit to Germany
   (b) Visits abroad by Ministry of Supply Representatives
   (c) Security Arrangements
10. Approval of the minutes of the last joint meeting
11. Action arising out of previous minutes
    Visits abroad by Ministry of Supply Representatives
3. Scientific and Technical Intelligence in Korea
4. Combined Anglo-American Conference
5. "Shopping lists"
6. Constitution of working parties
   (a) Guided weapons working party
    (b) Guiding Working Party
7. "Dragon Return"
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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8. ORGANISATION OF COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

The meeting had under consideration a note by the Deputy Director of Scientific Intelligence concerning the above subject (Paper No. DE/1711C (50) 11).

Mr. Young said he had wished to be satisfied that there was the organisation for speedily informing departments such as D.S.I. of incidents similar to the appearance in the English Channel of the Russian trawlers in order that necessary operations could be mounted. He also thought that there should be some inter-service body responsible for co-ordinating proposed operations.

Mr. Turney thought that the Joint Intelligence Committee was the body responsible for executive action.

The view was also expressed that the delay in working through the Committee organisation would be unacceptable and that it was desirable for incidents to be reported direct to D.S.I. in order that immediate action could be taken.

After further discussion the Chairman summed up by saying that he thought the Joint Intelligence Committee was the right body to deal with the problem he had raised but that it would be necessary to ensure that D.S.I. was kept informed and fully consulted. He would bring out these points at the next J.I.C. meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:

Took note that the Chairman would be raising the subject at the next meeting of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN said that Sir Henry Tizard felt that reports of flying saucers ought not to be discussed without some investigation and he had, therefore, agreed that a small D.S.I./J.I.C. Working Party should be set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Turney to investigate future reports.

After discussion it was agreed that the membership of the Working Party should comprise representatives of D.S.I.1, A.D.I. (Tch.), M.I.10 and A.D.I. (Tch.). It was also agreed that it would probably be necessary at some time to consult the Meteorological Department and O.R.C.S. Fighter Command but that these two bodies should not at present be asked to nominate representatives.

THE JOINT MEETING:

(1) Approved the setting up of a Working Party on Flying Saucers.

(2) Invited the branches mentioned at 1 above to inform Mr. Turney of their nominations to the Working Party.
4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

THE CHAIRMAN reported on Dr. Truscott's visit to the International Physiological Conference at Copenhagen from 12th - 15th August. A D.S.I. Report on this subject will be issued. Since there seemed reason to suppose that International Conferences may be a fruitful source of Intelligence in the future, the Chairman informed the Joint Meeting that Branch representatives were being nominated to watch D.S.I. interests in connection with this subject. Nominations so far were:-

D.S.I. 1 - No nomination as yet
D.S.I. 2 - Dr. Griffiths - Mr. Gater
D.S.I. 3 - Dr. Mander

MR. CANNARD said he hoped to supply a nominee for D.S.I. 1 in a few days.

THE JOINT MEETING: -

Took note of the above statement.

5. KOREA - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE

(Previous reference: D.S.I./J.T.I.C.(50) 10th Meeting, Minute 5)

THE CHAIRMAN asked for a review of the subject in accordance with the decision at the previous meeting.

COL. HEVILLE stated that Air Marshal Bouchier was in touch with General MacArthur in Tokyo and all arrangements were progressing favourably.

THE JOINT MEETING: -

(1) Agreed that the arrangements being made for the procurement of Scientific and Technical Intelligence on Korea were satisfactory.

(2) Agreed to review the subject at each subsequent meeting.

5/5 I [STIC (50) 11th mtg]

(Previous reference: D.S.I./J.T.I.C.(50) 10th Meeting, Minute 9)

THE JOINT MEETING had under consideration the proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Party.

MR. TURNER suggested that No. 3. should read: "to report to D.S.I./J.T.I.C as necessary".

D.S.I.D/50/315 -2-
WING COMMANDER FORMBY suggested that No.2 should read: "To examine from now on the evidence on which reports of British origin of phenomena attributed to 'flying saucers' are based".

He also suggested a new No.4, as follows: "To keep in touch with American occurrences and evaluation of such."

After discussion it was agreed to amend the Terms of Reference accordingly.

WING COMMANDER FORMBY said that, as requested, he had informed Headquarters, Fighter Command, of the existence of this Working Party.

MR. TURNBY stated that so far he had not received the nominations called for under conclusion (2) of the last meeting. This was, no doubt, due to misunderstanding as the marginal side-line had inadvertently been incorrectly shown on the record of the meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

(1) Agreed to the amendments suggested by Mr. Turnby and the amendments and addition suggested by Wing Commander Formby.

(2) Noted that Wing Commander Formby had informed Headquarters, Fighter Command, of the existence of the Working Party.

7. THE USING OF FIRMS FOR OBTAINING OVERT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he hoped very shortly to visit the Director of Research, Engineering Electrical Company, as a first experiment. He would be accompanied by a J.I.B. Representative.

In discussion it was agreed that the use of firms ought to prove a valuable source.

THE JOINT MEETING:-

Took note of the statement by the Chairman.

8. SERVICE TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES IN OVERSEAS EMBASSIES

THE JOINT MEETING considered the question of visits by such officers to firms or departments of firms with a view to ensuring there was no duplication of effort.
DR. TRUSCOE gave a summary of his recent visit to Washington in connection with the above Conference. In the course of his summary he expressed the view that American Intelligence machinery was now equal to the British and might well surpass it in the very near future, as they were putting in greater efforts in manpower and money. He was also impressed with their Indexing System and suggested discussing the subject with Mrs. Binnie.

THE JOINT MEETING:

Thanked Dr. Truscoe for his interesting account of his visit.

DSI/3TIC(50) 14th May

MR. YOUNG stated that the above Working Party had now held its first meeting and Dr. Turney sought the approval of the Committee to alterations in the Terms of Reference.

THE JOINT MEETING:

Approved the revised Terms of Reference for the above Working Party.

12. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

MR. YOUNG informed the Joint Meeting that Professor Stratton had reported to him on a meeting he attended in Stockholm, to make arrangements for the meeting of the International Astronomical Union in Moscow in August 1951. He met several Russians and reported: (a) Russians behave very differently when outside the Iron Curtain; (b) they read and carry about English and American newspapers; (c) they listen to R.B.C. broadcasts at all hours in Russia; and (d) they had read controversial articles in "Nature" like Huxley's on Lysenko. Professor Stratton had promised to catch our interests when he attends the 1951 meeting.

THE JOINT MEETING:

Took note of the above statement by R. Young.
WING COMMANDER FORMBY said that the Working Party of which he was now Chairman, had met that morning and had agreed that,

(a) It would be more appropriate for them to be called the Guided Missiles Working Party.
(b) They were not in favour of increasing the membership as it would tend to make the Party top-heavy.
(c) That their "Terms of Reference" should be revised on the lines of the draft they had prepared and which he would submit.

COMMANDER ELLUM wondered whether it would not be more advantageous for the Fuels aspect of guided missiles - for which DS1/2 representation on the Working Party was principally sought - to be examined by a separate body and for this purpose it might be worth considering the advisability of reintroducing the now defunct Fuels Working Party.

After full discussion, the JOINT MEETING agreed that:

(i) The Guided Weapons Working Party should henceforth be known as the Guided Missiles Working Party and constituted as at Annex

(ii) The position be reviewed in six months' time.

(iii) Commander Ellum be invited to report on the advisability of reconstituting the Fuels Working Party.

DSI/12IC (51) 5th Mtg. (4)

THE CHAIRMAN said that as further information was still awaited, he suggested that the decision whether this Party should remain in being should be deferred for six months.

The JOINT MEETING agreed with the above suggestion.

7. "DRAGON RETURN"
(Previous reference: DSI/12IC (50) 16th Mtg., Min.9)

THE CHAIRMAN said that they had not discussed this operation for some time and he invited Dr. Lees and Wing Commander Formby to give the Joint Meeting the latest information they had on the subject.

DR. LEES said that three or four returnees had been interrogated, but the results had been rather disappointing; Mr. Graham was in Herford at the moment and on his return he (Dr. Lees) would be in a position to report more fully and perhaps more favourably.

WING COMMANDER FORMBY told the Joint Meeting that the yield from his angle had been very good, both as regards aircraft and guided missiles intelligence.

THE JOINT MEETING took note.
5. "SHAPE"

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS said that his Branch was somewhat uneasy about the position of field teams and he was very anxious to preserve direct linkage. He was therefore preparing a brief for AGSI to enable him to present a case to General Airy before liaison arrangements had become finally agreed.

THE Chairman thought that the Joint Meeting would be interested to learn the outcome, and invited Group Captain Collins to keep them informed.

THE Chairman went on to say that he thought that the inclusion of "SHAPE" as a regular item on the Agenda of the Joint Meeting had now served its purpose and suggested that it should be omitted in the future.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note and agreed that "SHAPE" should no longer be a regular item on the Agenda, but that anything pertaining thereto, should be raised under "Any Other Business".

7. METHODS OF IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE ON RUSSIAN ELECTRONICS

The JOINT MEETING had before them a note by the Secretary covering extracts from the recent Joint US/UK Electronics Study.

DR. LE S, who sponsored the paper, said that he thought it would be sufficient at this stage, if the Joint Meeting approved the principles involved, as a further document was being prepared for the consideration of the Joint Meeting and for ultimate submission to JIC.

The JOINT MEETING:

Approved the paper subject to the deletion of the word "military" in paragraph (a), line 4, and deferred further discussion until the document referred to at "X" above was ready for consideration.

DSI/JTIC(51)10

051/JTIC (51) 11th Mar

The JOINT MEETING had before them a Report by the "Flying Saucers" Working Party.

MR. TURNER said that he thought that the document should be regarded as a final report by the Working Party and in view of the conclusions reached, suggested that it should now be dissolved.

JTIC Report No. 7.
He went on to say that following the lead given by the Americans on this subject, the Report should be thought, have as little publicity as possible and outside circulation should be confined to one copy to Sir Henry Tizard.

The JOINT MEETING:

(i) Approved the Report.

(ii) Agreed that the "Flying Saucers" Working Party should be dissolved forthwith.

(iii) Invited the Chairman to forward a copy of the Report to Sir Henry Tizard.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Intelligence in China

The CHAIRMAN said that he had learnt of the existence of a Father Gherzi who was the Head of a Meteorological Mission at MACAO and who, he understood, an authority on Typhoons and Ionospherics. He suggested that TOS might like to pass the information to their representative in Hong Kong.

DR. PENNANT thought that it was more than likely that contact had already been made, but he would make enquiries and report.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note with approval.

(b) GCHQ

MR. YOUNG said that Mr. Coulson would be bringing the GCHQ, Washington Linison Officer to see Heads of Branches tomorrow and he suggested that it would be an opportune moment for him to meet Dr. Chadwell.

The JOINT MEETING:

Took note and invited Mr. Young to make the necessary arrangements.

(c) 14T Science Overseas Party

DR. LEE said that since the Ministry of Defence had assumed administration of this Party, the Air Ministry had been somewhat difficult in continuing
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**1952**

1. MR. SNELLING
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3. SOVIET AND SATELLITE WAR POTENTIAL
4. OTHER BUSINESS

RUSSIAN RADAR

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST JOINT MEETING
2. PHOTOGRAPHY FOR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE
   OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLICATION OR EXTRACTS
FROM D.S.I./J.T.I.C.
REPORTING ON "UNIDENTIFIED DETECTED"

(b) U.K./U.S. CONFERENCE ON GUIDED WEAPONS

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
   ACTION ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

PUBLICATION OR EXTRACTS
FROM J.T.I.C. REPORT
ON "UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS"

3. STUDY OF SOVIET GUIDED WEAPONS
4. AMERICAN GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT
5. RUSSIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
6. GROUND INTELLIGENCE PHOTOGRAPHY
7. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ANGLO-
   AMERICAN GUIDED WEAPONS CONFERENCE
   VISIT TO AMERICA
   
   (a) D.S.I. CANADA
   (b) THE STANDING GROUP CONFERENCE
   (c) THE STANDING GROUP INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE
   
   (d) J.J.C. WASHINGTON
   (e) ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC
   AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE
   IN U.S.A.
(c) That services provide their own cameras, and to facilitate training and after service, a standardized camera - preferably a "Mobat", should be used.

After further discussion the JOINT MEETING:-

(i) Approved the proposal that with the exception of the provision of cameras the Air Ministry should accept responsibility for the photographic needs of all Service attachés and the distribution of the resulting material to interested agencies and,

(ii) Invited Group Captain Collins in consultation with Captain Whittle, Colonel Moore and J.I.B. to prepare a memorandum for the approval of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. and ultimate submission to J.I.C.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Publication of Extracts from D.S.I./J.T.I.C. Report No. 7 on "Unidentified Flying Objects"

WING COMMANDER CRIBB informed the Joint Meeting that D.D.I. (Security) Air Ministry were contemplating the issue of a statement on "Flying Saucers" and they had enquired whether the security grading of the D.S.I./J.T.I.C. report could be modified to enable them to make use of certain material contained in the document.

THE CHAIRMAN said that as the document contained information derived from American sources he felt that the Americans should be consulted before any decision was taken. He was of the view that from paragraph 10 onwards it could be declassified, but he would like to see a draft of the Air Ministry statement before it was published.

After further discussion, the JOINT MEETING:-

Invited D.D.I. (Tech.) to convey their views at "X" above to his Security Branch, and to inform the Joint Meeting if and when there were any firm proposals to publish material contained in D.S.I./J.T.I.C. No. 7.

(b) U.K./U.S. Conference on Guided Weapons

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS gave a brief account of the proceedings. He said that the British team had not achieved complete agreement with the Americans and nothing had emerged from the Conference which materially altered the views they provisc日益 held; they had however received several pointers as to where to look for certain information which should help them in making future assessments.
11. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the 18th Meeting were approved subject to the following amendments:

Item 2(c) "...... preferably a 'Robot'
Should read "...... preferably a 'Context'"

Item 3(a): second paragraph to read:

"THE CHAIRMAN said that as the subject was of considerable interest to the Americans he felt that they should be consulted before any decision was taken ........."

9. ACTION ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 3(a). GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS stated that he had conveyed the views of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. to the Air Ministry Security Branch.

THE COMMITTEE:

Took note.

3. STUDY OF SOVIET GUIDED WEAPONS

GROUP CAPTAIN COLLINS said that until his papers returned from America he had nothing further to say on the subject.

THE COMMITTEE:

Took note.

4. AMERICAN GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT

SQUADRON LEADER HEWITT made a statement amplifying his paper.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked him on behalf of D.S.I./J.T.I.C. for his interesting talk, and also, as S/Ldr. Hewitt was leaving, for his work as Secretary of the Guided Weapons Working Party.

* DSI/JTIC (52) 25.
Flying Saucers

"An Object was reported..."

The origin of the term "flying saucer," as applied to strange objects sighted in the sky, remains obscure, although authorship is claimed by a British journalist. According to him, whilst sitting in a Bronx café talking with three New York reporters, one of whom was doodling on a piece of paper, he observed that the drawing looked like a "flying saucer." One of the Americans decided that they "had something" there and, within the hour the term was in use. Within two, it is claimed that ninety people had reported having seen one.

(Restricted)

Man has always instinctively looked to the sky for signs and portents, nor has he, even to-day, quite lost his inclination to discern and report celestial manifestations. It is not the object of this article to decry or deprecate such reportings—as Shakespeare wrote: "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"—but it is the intention to encourage a rational approach both to the objects themselves and to the method of their reporting.

Generally, reports are of commonplace objects which would normally pass unobserved but which attract attention in the light of more sensational stories, and lend support to them. Thus a meteor or a radio sonde balloon, or even a conventional aircraft, assumes in the perception of some observers speeds, shapes and movements which are entirely uncharacteristic. A well-known astronomer has declared that his experience of the reports of ordinary observers prompts him to reject 95 per cent of what they say, particularly when he knows that they have been startled by a sudden phenomenon which they could have observed for no more than a few seconds.

With such reports we are not seriously concerned. There are a number of other reports on flying saucers which are emphatic statements of visitations from neighbouring planets, and suchlike; these derive both from the imaginings of zealots, admittedly quite serious and sincere in their beliefs, and from charlatans.

**VISUAL SIGHTINGS**

Reports of sightings themselves reveal certain stereotyped patterns. They usually describe objects as being projectile-shaped, round, oval, or ellipsoidal; they are dazzling-bright, light, shiny, blue-green and generally speaking, iridescent. They move at fantastic speeds in lateral and longitudinal directions; they also hover. Such are the basic lines of description, with inevitable variations.

Practically all of these objects can be roughly identified as follows:

(a) conventional aircraft viewed by the observers from unaccustomed angles
(b) present-day jet aircraft, flying at great speeds and great heights, mistaken by untrained and, on occasion, by experienced observers
(c) sunlight reflections from aircraft and balloons which themselves are too distant to be observed
(d) car headlights reflected on low cloud
(e) meteorological, radio sonde and cosmic research balloons of all types
(f) bright meteors and fireballs
(g) planets observed at certain times of the year
(h) birds
(i) cloud formations
(k) meteorological phenomena, such as mock moons and mock suns.

There are other reports of visual sightings which are admittedly very strange and difficult to classify. They tell of objects which appear to change shape quickly, which move erratically and at fantastic speeds across the sky. Under no consideration could these reports be classified in terms of the objects listed above. It is firmly believed that these reports are made in all sincerity and are in fact
actual sightings—but of reflections from conventional objects.

To give a simple and practical illustration, consider the erratic movements of the reflection on a ceiling from a mirror held under a light and moved even slightly by hand. Similarly, on a vaster and more extended scale, reflections from planets, meteors, aircraft and objects on the ground may be projected to cloud formations and haze. Then there are the sightings of those planets which are low on the horizon at certain times of the year and which appear to change colour and move erratically, and at fantastic speeds, when observed through haze, or misty atmospheric conditions.

Many reports of such sightings have been received and here is an example of a particular instance where a satisfactory answer was provided. A report made by an experienced B.O.A.C. pilot of a sighting at 19,000 ft. over Goose Bay, Labrador, on Wednesday 30th June 1954 stated that objects had been observed, one primary and six secondary, which “accompanied” the B.O.A.C. aircraft for a distance of about 80 miles; all the time they were under observation, the main object was constantly changing shape. An investigation was carried out by the Americans who obtained a subsequent report from a ship at sea in the same vicinity. This described what was apparently the same phenomenon. Members of the ship’s company, however, definitely identified the sighting as the planet Mars, and gave full details of the mirage conditions which were prevailing on that day.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Of photographic evidence little needs to be said. There is nothing in the world more easy to fake than a photographic film or plate and the majority of photo-

RADAR SIGHTINGS

Radar “ sightings” constitute the remaining source of flying saucer reports and these reports, generally speaking, fall into certain explainable categories.

Radar Echoes

Radar echoes can be produced by a variety of objects, not all of which are visible to the human eye. The majority of solid objects which return radar energy produce responses on the radar operator’s tube which are easily recognised: moving objects such as aircraft and birds are normally readily identifiable by the size and shape of the response and by the velocities, altitudes and movement they exhibit. Meteorological balloons might also be included in this group of identifiable objects as they normally produce quite distinctive echoes, particularly as many of them carry reflectors specially designed to assist in the plotting of their course by radar. However, some balloons, such as those used for ionospheric sounding, fly at altitudes beyond the reach of aircraft and travel with the upper winds at speeds often in excess of 100 m.p.h. Radar returns from such balloons, when first encountered, could mystify a radar operator and give the impression that a flying saucer has been sighted. On the rare occasions when reports of unidentified objects have their origin in one of these solid bodies it is usually a comparatively simple matter to identify the object by enquiries addressed to the appropriate authority.

Within a group of radar targets which are not controlled or released by man can be included birds, meteorological and astronomical targets. Birds are of little concern as their smallness prohibits responses from them except at very short ranges but, from the other targets, responses with quite unusual characteristics may be obtained.

Echoes from Precipitation

Radar echoes may be produced by condensed water vapour in the form of raindrops, ice crystals or snow, a phenomenon which has been put to good use in civil aviation to assist pilots in avoiding dangerous cloud formations.

Responses on a radar tube from these targets may cover a considerable area, exhibit irregular, diffused boundaries and have a rapidly fluctuating intensity. Movement will generally be related to the speed of the main air current in which the target is situated, and it may be anything from zero to 100 m.p.h. or more, whilst the target
altitude may range from ground level to 40,000 ft. Generally the nature of the target is obvious by its size and by the pattern of the responses, but the picture changes with time and may appear unusual and confusing to an inexperienced operator.

Non-Standard Atmospheric Conditions

Under certain meteorological conditions inhomogeneities occur in the atmosphere, and these may be responsible for some unusual radar echoes. The required condition can occur up to heights in the order of 200 miles, but the strength of signals returned from such nebulous targets is likely to be too low to produce a distinguishable response except on very rare occasions. Perhaps it is this very rarity which assists in the creation of another saucer.

Unusual meteorological conditions can also cause radar signals to be returned from objects at distances far in excess of the normal range of the radar equipment. Responses caused by this anomalous propagation are superimposed on the usual radar picture of the area and can lead to confusion. The effect occurs most frequently in tropical and sub-tropical areas and usually persists for an appreciable time, sometimes for an hour or more. The effect is well known and because of its relative stability and duration would not normally give rise to unusual reportings.

Ionised Gases

It has been suggested that ionised gas clouds in the atmosphere produce a type of radio echo which may be confused with those from tangible objects. Although radio energy is undoubtedly reflected and refracted by ionised gases (long distance, short wave communications depend on this very fact) the effect falls off very rapidly above, say, 30 Mc/s, whilst 60 Mc/s appears to be the upper limit at which it has been recorded. Some of the early radar equipment still in use does operate within these frequency limits but it is quite incapable of the definition necessary to contribute to the notion of flying saucers. Further, except for the very short-lived effects in the wake of meteorites, ionised gases in the quantities required appear rarely to exist at heights as low as 35 miles.

Meteors and Meteorites

It has been known for many years that radio energy is reflected by meteors, and knowledge of the fact has proved valuable in the hands of astronomers. Meteors reach the outer fringe of the earth's atmosphere in numbers as high as 100,000 per hour but only very few survive long enough to come within the range of radar, the majority being vaporized by frictional heat. Meteors approach the earth at all angles of incidence, from vertical to glancing, and at velocities in the order of 10,000 m.p.h. Radar responses from these astronomical targets appear to be rare, but such targets may produce responses at any range or altitude, subject only to the capabilities of the radar set itself and to the size of the meteor.

Unlike aircraft and balloons the presence of these meteorological and astronomical targets cannot be verified after the event except in the most general way: by carefully sifting operators' reports, and studying meteorological conditions on the paths of expected meteor showers at the time of the incident, it is often possible to produce a tentative explanation for the responses but, because of the transitory nature of the target, it is seldom conclusive.

Radar Equipment Interference

Another possibility which deserves consideration is interference from other radar equipment. Generally, the cause of this type of spurious response is immediately obvious but it can happen that the characteristics of the two radar sets bear such a relationship that the interference gives rise to one, sometimes two, bright spots on the radar tube, which may for a short time exhibit some of the characteristics of an actual target. Even in this case, the true nature of the response can usually be quickly determined except when the interfering radar set is mobile and the operator is unaware of its presence.

Investigation

The investigation of reports of flying saucers presents very apparent difficulties, the major one of which is that, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, the scent is completely cold. It is only fair to point out that in every other case, i.e. when reports are telephoned and promptly checked on the spot, the sighted object has been identified as a balloon or a conventional aircraft. For the investigation of cold-scent reports there are various media through which information and assistance are obtained: the Royal Observatory and the Meteor Section of the British Astronomical Association give information on meteors, fire balls and all astral phenomena; the Meteorological Office, Royal Air Force Station, Cardington, London Airport and Bristol University cover radio sonde, cosmic research and other balloons; Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force units and formations give details of aircraft movements; and the civil police assist in the investigation of all types of reports.

From these sources has come most of the information leading to the true identity of reported flying saucers, and their cooperation in the tedious processes of investigation is invaluable. An instance is given of a report by a man who, returning home late one night, stated emphatically that he had seen a flying saucer hovering in a field quite a short distance from his point of observation. The "thing," according to his story, hovered and moved slowly up and down. Evidence was obtained from the local police to the effect that on that night, at that time, and in that place, an unfortunate farmer had lost a hayrick by fire!

Generally it can be accepted that, of all reports received, the vast majority are of things identifiable as one of the conventional objects enumerated above; the remainder are unexplained because the evidence is either too sparse, too vague, or too contradictory.

As a matter of interest, where the reports received are explained it is mainly in terms of meteors, planets, balloons, and aircraft. Noteworthy among the other explanations are included aircraft with rocket-assisted take off, car headlights reflected on low cloud, and the recently adopted navigation lighting system of American civil aircraft.

Conclusion

The civilised world has become conscious or, perhaps it would be more apt to say, it has been made conscious of flying saucers or unidentified flying objects: whenever an airborne body is not clearly recognised as something conventional it becomes a mystery whose magnitude varies according to the observer's susceptibility. Most people are very susceptible to the influence of the Press or the radio. A news item on a flying saucer promptly induces a spate of reported new sightings.

Sensible and rational reporting of unidentified flying objects is the duty of all who are concerned with flying. Apart from astral or meteorological phenomena, which are of interest to specialists in these matters, there is always the chance of observing foreign aircraft of revolutionary design. As for controlled manifestations from outer space, there is no tangible evidence of their existence.
REPLY TO: RUDLOE MANOR

1. Attached is a copy of the letter I intend to send to Sec(AS)2a1 reply to his letter of 10 November (not received at HQLC until 5 December). All the information supplied is already in the public domain, either from answers to previous questions or from the Station handbook.

2. With my apologies for the short deadline, would addressees please advise of any amendments required by COP Thursday 11 December, after which I will assume a nil return.
HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND
Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon  RAFTN  Fax

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief
For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1
Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4
Date: 10 December 1997

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 November, addressed to the Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor, about the underground facilities at the station. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Addressing each of your points in turn, I can advise you that there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial life.

RAF Rudloe Manor is built on the site of underground quarries. There are therefore tunnels underneath the station, although most of these are now unused. The lake to which you refer is an emergency water supply, and is one of several in the area. A loop track off the main London to Bristol railway line was established so that ammunition could be stored and distributed safely during World War 2. It was decommissioned in the 1960s and has not been used since.

I am pleased to enclose the photograph you requested of the Manor House, which is used as office accommodation by personnel at RAF Rudloe Manor.

Yours sincerely

For Air Officer Commanding in Chief
Royal Air Force

Air Headquarters
Hawarden
Widnes
Cheshire
Snod CPQ

18th November 1947

Dear Sir/Reader,

I am writing to you to ask you what nuclear reactor has or had to do with WSO reactor. Also about the secret underground reactor. Also about the reservoir/lake which you have underground. Also the under ground railway line which was constructed during World War 2 and to what location it goes too. Also if you could send me any photographs of the reactor it will be waiting for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Emergency Water Tank]

[Stamp]
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- CC:
- Ref: 583
- From: Hd of CS(RM)1
- Subject: UFO DATABASE
- Auth by: [ ]

**Priority:** Normal

**Reply Request:** [ ]

**View Acknowledge:** [ ]

**Attachments:** [ 1]

**Codes:** [ ]

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Text: Please attach an updated list of "ufo" files selected for preservation. You will notice a number of additions originating from DI (DEFE 10, 31 - the recently discovered files - and 41). Copies of the DEFE 10s are on their way to you. We have not been able to locate the DSI/JTIC report on "Unidentified Flying Objects". Regards.
TOP ENCLOSURE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES - AS AT 9 DECEMBER 1997

Already open  -  19

To be released:

1998  -  14
1999  -  14
2000  -  13
2001  -  12
2002  -  2
2003  -  14 (1 awaiting assignment to AIR 2)

Total  -  88

AIR CLASSES - RECORDS CREATED OR INHERITED BY THE AIR MINISTRY AND SUCCESSOR, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, AND RELATED BODIES

AIR 2 - AIR MINISTRY: REGISTERED FILES

16918  1961-63  UFO's: sightings; reports by members of the public  AF/X59/64

[OPEN - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17318  1963  ditto  AF/X59/64

[OPEN - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17526  1964  UFO files  AF/X59/64

[OPEN - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17527  1965  ditto  AF/X59/64

[OPEN - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17982  1965-66  ditto  AF/X59/64
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**AIR 14 - BOMBER COMMAND**


**AIR 16 - FIGHTER COMMAND**

1199 1952 Sept Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector

**[OPEN]**
### AIR 20 - UNREGISTERED PAPERS

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<td>ditto</td>
<td>ID/48/128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Pieces 12399-12411 due for release 2003]
AIR 22 - PERIODICAL RETURNS, SUMMARIES AND BULLETINS


[OPEN - released 1986]

BJ CLASSES - RECORDS OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

BJ5 - ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

311  1968-70  UFO: Met aspects  AF/M 396/68

[Due for release 2001]

DEFE CLASSES - RECORDS CREATED OR INHERITED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE AND RELATED BODIES

DEFE 10 DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

496  1950 April - Minutes of meetings  1951 Dec

497  1952 Jan - Minutes of meetings  1954 Oct

[Pieces 496 and 497 due for release 1998]

DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES

118  1958-63  UFO: policy  DI/55/40/9/1 Pt1

119  1963-67  UFO: Policy  DI/55/40/9/1 Pt2

[Pieces 118 and 119 due for release 1998]

DEFE 41 FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH AND OVERSEAS LIAISON BRANCH: REGISTERED FILES

74  1950  DSI/JTIC: minutes  6005/8/D 17 Vol 4

75  1951  DSI/JTIC: minutes  6005/8/D 17 Vol 5

76  1952-54  DSI/JTIC: minutes  6005/8/D 17 Vol 6

[Pieces 74 - 76 OPEN - released 1996]
<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
<td>Unorthodox Aircraft</td>
<td>9017/8 Vol 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Includes UFO references, but limited to British and German press cuttings)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>1953-54</td>
<td>DSI/JTIC papers</td>
<td>D19/ Vol 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Includes a list, as at August 1951, of all reports issued — &quot;DSI/JTIC No 7 - Unidentified Flying Objects&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Pieces 117 and 153 OPEN - released 1995]</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex B

PRO CLASSES CREATED FOR INTELLIGENCE RECORDS - UFO RELATED RECORDS - AS AT 9 DECEMBER 1997

11 classes have to date been identified for records created for the defence "intelligence" branches. They contain between them more than 15,750 intelligence records selected for permanent preservation.

RESEARCH WARNING. A COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH FOR UFO RELATED DOCUMENTATION HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTED. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT RECORDS HAS BEEN ON THE "BEST GUESS" PRINCIPLE.

The classes together with the date range and approximate number of pieces in each class:

ADM 223 - Naval Intelligence Papers, 1914-1965, 840 files and volumes.
ADM 231 - Naval Intelligence Reports, 1883-1965, 54 volumes
AIR 40 - Directorate of Intelligence and other Intelligence Papers - 1926-1963, 2706 files and volumes
DEFE 10 - Major Committees: minutes and papers - 1942-1976, 504 bound volumes.

DEFE 10/496) These two pieces contain 7 items 497) relating to Working Party on Flying Saucers and its subsequent report. 6 items were released in 1996 see DEFE 41/74-76. (Both due for release 1998)

DEFE 21 - Joint Intelligence Bureau, Directorate of Scientific Intelligence: Registered files - 1946-1978, 77 files

DEFE 31 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 119 files


DEFE 32 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 1957-1979, 99 files

DEFE 41 - Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence: Scientific Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch: Registered Files

DEFE 41/74 ) - Selection of minutes from 75 ) - DSI/JTIC Meetings. (6 items relating to 76 ) - Working Party on Flying Saucers and its report). (Released 1996)
117 - Unorthodox Aircraft (ufo references limited to British/German press cuttings (Released 1995)

153 - DSI/JTIC papers (incl. reference to Report No. 7 "UFOs") (Released 1995)

**DEFE 44** - Joint Intelligence Bureau: Reports - 1946-1971, 100 files and volumes

**WO 106** - Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence - 1937-1961, 6228 boxes, files and volumes

**WO 208** - Directorate of Military Intelligence - 1917-1961, 5187 boxes, files and volumes
4 December 1997

*** FILE NOTE ***

The Press Office received an enquiry from a local Gloucestershire newspaper regarding a "UFO" sighting followed by three RAF jets seen at around 9pm on Sunday 30 November over Gloucester. I checked with the low flying complaints cell who established that there were no RAF jets flying at all on the evening of 30 November, and Sqn Ldr [Redacted] AO AD1 confirmed that no QRA aircraft were launched. This information was passed to the Press Office by phone this afternoon.
Section 40

TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

1. We have now received notification from Min(AF)'s office that they are content for us to cease co-operation with Min(AF). I have written to them today and a copy of that letter is attached. The letter is the final version of the draft cleared by addressees earlier this month.

2. Should you write again, I propose merely to send him the standard 'contents have been noted' acknowledgement by way of reply although I will, of course, copy any further correspondence from him to interested parties.

Section 40
Dear Section 40

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the RAF Rudloe Manor station magazine Hexagon is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called Manor News.

As has already been explained by me, and by my colleagues in the Secretariat (Air Staff) branch in London, there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or at any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into ‘UFO’/flying saucers or extra-terrestrial life.

I am sorry to note from your most recent, undated, letter that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, nor your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you may distribute is of course a matter for you.

The facts about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail, although I can, again, assure you that there is nothing relating to ‘UFOs’. That there are underground facilities at RAF Rudloe Manor I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances, I am afraid that we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
LOOSE MINUTE
D/USofS/JS/28/1/0
26 November 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 – "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 10 November 1997

The Under Secretary of State was grateful for your minute at reference which he has noted.
D/MIN(AF)/JR/2/1/3

25 November 1997

Command Secretary HOLC

Copy to:
APS/USofS
AUS(H&O)
Hd Sec(AS)
Hd Sec(HSF)
PSO/AML
PSO/AOCSS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Thank you for your minute LC/356805/3/4F&S dated 5 November which I have discussed with (Sec(HSF)1).

2. The Minister agrees with your recommendation that we should now draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with (Sec(HSF)1).
PRESS RELEASE
A COVERT AGENDA
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S UFO TOP SECRETS EXPOSED
Nicholas Redfern
With an introduction by Nick Pope

The shocking truth of the British Government’s UFO conspiracy

“For almost half a century, you have been denied access to the facts which lie behind discoveries of monumental proportion.” Nick Redfern

A conspiracy of silence has existed at the highest levels of the British Government to prevent the general public from learning the shocking facts which lie behind one of the most emotive issues of our time — unidentified flying objects. Now, the truth can be told.

Nick Redfern charts the complete history of the British Government’s involvement with UFOs. And the emerging picture is highly disturbing:

Documentary proof that the British Government’s official policy is to keep UFO information out of the media and away from the public (eg pages 65, 87).

Evidence of top secret “back-room” investigations by the MOD and RAF, bypassing the more usual and open channels (chapters 14, 15, 16 & 17)

Substantial evidence of the existence of a British Roswell (page 264) and a British Area 51 (Chapter 15)

Evidence that even at the height of the cold war, the British Government approached the Russians to establish a joint organisation investigating the worldwide threat of UFOs. (Chapter 16)

Nick Redfern is available for interview: please contact Lisa Shakespeare on 0171 316 1900/fax 0171 402 0639

Published by Simon & Schuster on 6 October 1997

SYMON & SCHUSTER
West Garden Place, Kendal Street, London W2 2AQ. Tel: 0171-316 1900. Fax: 0171-402 0639
Registered in England and Wales. Number 714516

A VIACOM COMPANY
PRESS RELEASE

Nicholas Redfern

Nicholas Redfern has gained unprecedented access to thousands of previously classified Ministry of Defence and Royal Air Force files on UFOs which are published together here for the first time. He has interviewed qualified RAF pilots who have pursued UFOs in Britain’s airspace; radar operators who have tracked vast UFOs flying over the British Isles; military personnel who have seen UFOs at close quarters; and Ministry of Defence civil servants officially appointed to investigate UFO encounters on behalf of the British Government. All these reports are by sources well-qualified to evaluate the data, such as airline and military pilots, speaking on the record.

Nicholas Redfern is a dedicated, full-time UFO researcher, writing on a regular basis for numerous UFO publications, including the bestselling UFO Magazine. He is one of the most respected UFO researchers in the country and his reports have prompted questions in Parliament.

He has contributed crucial material to Timothy Good’s books Alien Liaison and Beyond Top Secret and lectures throughout the country at Universities and conferences, and has appeared on a variety of radio and television programmes including BBC TV’s Out of this World. His interest in UFOs was prompted by his father’s RAF involvement in the tracking of a UFO over the north sea in 1952, after which he was sworn to secrecy by his superiors.

Having examined the available evidence, Nicholas Redfern is convinced that there is an active alien presence on the Earth, and that official confirmation of such presence will soon be forthcoming. He is currently at work on a follow up book, THE FBI FILES. He lives in Walsall in the West Midlands.

Nick Redfern is available for interview:
please contact Lisa Shakespeare on 0171 316 1900/fax 0171 402 0639
Published by Simon & Schuster on 6 October 1997.
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A COVERT AGENDA

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Copies available in all good bookshops from 6 October, price £16.99. To order a copy, p&p free, please phone our mail order hotline on 01624 675137.
SUBJECT:

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE, 5 OCTOBER 1999 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.

2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.

3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:—

RESTRICTED on ________________________________

UNCLASSIFIED (insert date)

Certifying Officer: ________________________________________

Date: ____________________ Appointment and Branch: ____________________________
LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Nov 97

APS/USoF (thru Section 40)

Section 40

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"


Issue

1. To provide advice on the Sunday People Article, "They've Been Here" of 5 October.

Recommendation

2. That Minister notes the following information.

Background

The Author

3. The article is clearly linked to the recent publication of "A Covert Agenda". The author of the book, Nicholas Redfern, is a full-time "UFO" researcher and is well-known to us. Since Apr 92 he has written some 25 times asking about the MOD's policy on "UFOs" and the way reports of sightings are handled by the Department, the majority of the letters being between Apr 92 and Jun 94 when Nicholas Pope was the Sec(AS)2a desk officer.

The Book

4. Mr Redfern is convinced that "UFO/flying saucers" and extraterrestrial life are a matter of fact and his book is written from that perspective. He believes that the MOD and, therefore, the Government is fully aware of evidence to prove this and is withholding the information from the public. The introduction to the book is written by Nicholas Pope who has had books about "unidentified flying objects" and the alien abduction phenomena published since leaving Sec(AS)2a and moving to another Branch.

The Sunday People Article

5. The alleged events in Case Histories 1-4 and number 8, and the events at RAF West Freugh all happened over 20 years ago and there is nothing in our current Branch files to substantiate any of the claims made. Any information on the 'alleged' incidents more than thirty years old (Case Histories 1, 2 and 8) will now be held in the Public Record Office and is, therefore, freely available for interpretation by 'ufologists'. To research the claims made in Case Histories 3 and 4 would require the recall of
archived files and a detailed trawl of their contents. This would be a time consuming exercise but, should Minister consider such further action necessary, we will set action in hand to recall the files. We have been able to confirm that there were no military aircraft crashes in the UK on 23 Jan 74, the date mentioned in Case History 3, which might have accounted for any unusual air activity.

6. Our 'UFO' report files reveal that on the date cited in Case History 5, 19 July 1991, three reports of 'UFOs' were received, one of which came from Kingsley, Staffordshire, very close to Ipstones. This report bore a broadly similar description but the witnesses, a man and a woman did not see anything falling to the ground. There is nothing on the file to indicate that any further action was considered necessary to investigate what might have been seen. The other reports on that day came from Peterhead (Grampion) and Brampton (near Carlisle) and, again, no further action was taken following their receipt. As USofS will already be aware, it is not our practice to investigate reports of sightings unless there is evidence of a potential military threat.

7. The RAF Boscombe Down Case, in 1994 (No 6) was the subject of a Parliamentary Question that year (Official Report 1 Dec 94, Col 907 - copy attached). Although the Department was aware at the time of Press interest, staff at Boscombe Down confirmed that there was no aircraft crash there on 26 Sep 94, or indeed at all in 1994. The only flying out of RAF Boscombe Down which took place that night was by two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of a military Exercise. Claims that members of the public were turned away by police roadblocks may have arisen from some confusion over dates. On 12 Aug 94, a Tornado participating in a trial made an emergency landing there after the decoy target under trial failed to jettison. The Tornado landed with a trailing 375 ft steel cable and, for safety reasons, roads close to Boscombe Down were closed to traffic while the aircraft passed overhead.

8. Following receipt of a letter in Jan 95 from a member of the public, an RAF Police investigation was initiated into the incident cited in Case History 7. Their enquiries revealed that a member of the public had contacted the fire services to report seeing smoke in a field, but was unable to identify the source. The local emergency services attended the scene and found a smouldering bale of hay which they extinguished. The RAF Police investigation did not reveal any evidence to suggest an item had fallen from an aircraft in the Evesham area on the day in question. There were no Royal Navy vehicles in attendance at the incident and the local police advised that nothing was removed from the scene.

RAF Rudloe Manor

9. The role of Rudloe Manor is constantly misrepresented and exaggerated by "UFO" enthusiasts and the media. Many "ufologists"
believe MOD "UFO" investigations have been carried out there in
the past and that this continues today. Until 1992 the Flying
Complaints Flight, part of the HQ Provost and Security
Services(UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central collection
point for any "UFO" reports made to RAF stations (from whatever
source, i.e. members of the public or service personnel). Its
function was simply to record receipt of the report and pass it
directly to Sec(AS)2a. Sec(AS)2a, as the Departmental focal
point, was tasked with taking any further action, including
consulting defence experts as necessary to establish whether what
had been seen had any defence implications.

10. Since 1992, reports received by air force stations and
military establishments have been forwarded direct to Sec(AS)2a
and the extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the "UFO"
reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, has been
only to note the details of anything reported in their local area
and forward the information to Sec(AS).

Conclusion

11. Nicholas Redfern's book (a copy is available if required) is
simply the latest seeking to prove the existence of "UFOs" and
extraterrestrial lifeforms by re-interpreting events of the last
50 years. The first generally accepted sighting of a "UFO"
occurred in June 1947 in the USA. There has been a considerable
amount of media coverage this year to celebrate the 50th
anniversary of this event and the Sunday People is simply giving
advance publicity to one of the many books on this subject.

Enc.

Aerospace concerning the use of RAF Bentwaters as a base in connection with the showground air combat range.

Mr. Soames: None.

**Aircraft Accidents**

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26 September.

Mr. Soames: I am aware of a press report of such an incident. Staff at Boscombe Down have confirmed, however, that there was no crash at the unit on that date or, indeed, so far this year. The only flying which took place that night was the launch of two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of an exercise.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many man hours were spent on repairs to Tornado ZA611 following its accident in December 1986 and on what dates the aircraft has been flown since its accident.

Mr. Soames: Tornado ZA611 was repaired in industry, and the details of the contract covering the repair remain commercially confidential. Since its accident, the aircraft was flown on 19, 22 and 28 January 1993. The aircraft has since been held in storage pending its entry into a modification programme, after which it will return to active service.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the date and circumstances of the accident to Tornado F.3 serial number carried out on the aircraft since its accident, and by which unit; what is the estimated additional number of man hours required to complete repairs to the aircraft; and what is the estimated total cost of restoring the aircraft to front line service following its accident.

Mr. Soames: Tornado F.3 ZE250 was damaged on 27 March 1992 during engine ground runs. To date, RAF tradesman have expended 9,025 man hours on the repair, and it is estimated that a further 7,090 man hours will be required before the aircraft can be restored to service. The labour costs of returning the aircraft to service are estimated at approximately £800,000. The cost of spares and materials, which have been provided from existing stocks, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**International Chart Service**

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the International Chart Service North sea-southern sheet 1:750,000 2182A, INT. 1043, published at Taunton on 10 August 1973.

Mr. Soames: It is not our usual practice to lay such charts in the Library. They are widely available, however, from commercial sources.

**Hercules Fleet**

Mr. Jacques Arnold: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be able to make an announcement on the future of the RAF's Hercules fleet.

Mr. Freeman: We hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

---

**Staffing**

Mr. McAlister: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown by military rank and civilian grade of the number of service personnel and civilian staff employed in (a) the personnel and training command and (b) the logistics command.

Mr. Soames: The strength of the two commands as at 1 October 1994 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Personnel</th>
<th>Personnel and Training Command</th>
<th>Logistics Command</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Officer Ranks</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Chief Marshal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Marshal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Vice Marshal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Captain</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing Commander</td>
<td>322</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron Leader</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight Lieutenant</td>
<td>1,764</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flying Officer/Pilot Officer</td>
<td>903</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Medical Officer</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Medical Officer</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>113</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,426</td>
<td>1,406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Airman Ranks**   |                               |                  |
| Master Aircrew Warrant Officer | 284 | 215 |
| Flight Sergeant/Chief Technician | 764 | 1,056 |
| Sergeant           | 1,733                         | 1,465            |
| Corporal           | 2,330                         | 2,436            |
| Junior Technician/Senior Aircraftman/Leading Aircraftman | 3,436 | 3,344 |
| Officer Designate  | 72                            |                  |
| **Aircraft Total** | 9,010                         | 8,310            |
| **Overall Total**  | 13,436                        | 9,916            |

**Note:**

* One of these officials (Chief of the Air Staff) appears on the strength of Personnel and Training Command but is employed elsewhere. This is the case for a number of other personnel, but separate figures could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

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**Civilian Personnel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilian Personnel</th>
<th>Personnel and Training Command</th>
<th>Logistics Command</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-industrial grades</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GS*</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS*</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS**</td>
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<td>46.0</td>
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<td><strong>Higher Executive Officer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
<td>260.0</td>
<td>479.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
<td>376.5</td>
<td>1,186.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>479.5</td>
<td>642.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-ordinator Anglo-American Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Relations Adviser</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Manager A</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Manager B</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Office (Principal)</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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6 Nov '97 16:35 P.02
LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/58/6
29 Oct 97

Sec(AS)2a

ALLEGED ACCIDENT AT BOSCOMBE DOWN - 26 SEP 94

1. You asked for advice on claims, contained in a edition of the
Sunday People, that there had been an accident involving a "UFO"
at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94. I hope the following will be
useful.

2. Reports about an accident at Boscombe Down involving an
unidentified aircraft first appeared in the Dec 94 edition of "Air
Forces Monthly". This claimed that "at 11pm, an unidentified
small, twin-tail fighter", possibly a TR-3A, "the existence of
which the US government has yet to officially acknowledge" had
"crashed onto the runway at Boscombe Down. By daylight, the
aircraft had been covered over, apart from its twin fins, and all
roads around the airfield had been sealed off. Two days later the
wreck was loaded onto a C-5 Galaxy and flown to Air Force Plant 42
at Palmdale, California."

3. The magazine has subsequently followed up this story with a
more detailed 'investigative' report, but we have not retained a
copy. However, as far as I can remember, the claims in the Sunday
People article that there were eyewitnesses to the crash who said
that the "craft was completely silent and was able to hover
vertically" - and was thus not an aircraft at all - are entirely
new.

4. Claims that enthusiasts were turned away by police roadblocks
may have arisen from some confusion over dates. On 12 Aug 94, a
Tornado engaged on a trials programme made an emergency landing at
Boscombe Down after the decoy target under trial failed to
jettison. As a result, the Tornado was forced to land trailing a
375 ft steel cable and, for safety reasons, roads close to
Boscombe Down were closed to traffic while the aircraft passed
overhead. A copy of a contemporary press article is attached.

5. Finally, I attach a copy of a Parliamentary Question about
the alleged accident at Boscombe Down and the appropriate
background papers.
Jet emergency forces police to close road

By David Humphrey

THE RAF has launched an inquiry after a Tornado jet fighter-bomber was forced to make an emergency landing at a West air base after a mechanical failure.

Police had to close the A345 Salisbury-Amesbury road to enable the plane, trailing a 375ft steel cable attached to a decoy target, to land at Boscombe Down.

They were afraid traffic might have been struck by the equipment if the road had stayed open.

It was the first time the road had had to be closed beside the base, home of the Aircraft and Armament Evaluation Establishment, in recent years.

The Tornado F3, stationed at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, was unable to jettison the cable after taking part in an exercise over the Larkhill range on Salisbury Plain.

Boscombe spokesman Mr Nick
Mr Martin Redmond (Lab) (Don Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26th September.

I am aware of a Press report of such an incident. However, staff at Boscombe Down have confirmed that there was no crash on that date or, indeed, in 1994 to date, and that the only flying which took place that night was the launch of two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of an Exercise.
BACKGROUND NOTE: PQ4857G

1. Mr Redmond is a regular tabler of Questions on military flight safety and low flying and this is one of seven PQs on flight safety tabled for answer on 29th November. It is our understanding that Mr Redmond’s interest in the subject is prompted more by his serving as a conduit for research by providing assistance through the tabling of PQs and PEs, rather than any direct personal interest. Mr Redmond rejected an offer by Jeremy Hanley (then Minister(AF)) of an official briefing on low flying.

2. This Question was probably prompted by the attached item which appeared in the December 1994 issue of the magazine, "Air Forces Monthly". Enquiries with personnel at Boscombe Down and Head of DGT&E have confirmed that no aircraft have crashed there at any time in 1994. I attach a copy of Boscombe Down’s minute of 30th November, which also discusses the other claims in the magazine. Furthermore, HQ 3rd Air Force of the United States Air Force are also unaware of this alleged incident.
Sep 23  USAF  Unidentified Fighter  Boscombe Down, UK
William Fife

At about 11am a small, twin-tail, fighter-size aircraft crashed onto the runway at Boscombe Down. By daylight, the aircraft had been covered over, apart from its twin fins, and all roads around the airfield had been sealed off. Shortly after the crash an unmarked civilian registered (CA operated?) Boeing 737 and a similarly anonymous DC-3 visited and two days later the first was loaded onto a C-5 Galaxy and flown to Air Force Base 42 at Pease, Maine, California. The secrecy surrounding the incident has led to speculation that the aircraft involved was a TF-104, the existence of which the US government has yet to officially acknowledge.

AIR FORCES MONTHLY 12/94
LOOSE MINUTE

AFW/1/08

30 Nov 94

See Distribution

FO - REPORT OF ALLEGED CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN - 26 SEP 94

References:

A. D/Sec(AS)17/6/1 dated 29 Nov 94.
B. Telecom Cdr Fg AS AER/Sec(AS)1a 29 Nov 94.

1. In response to Reference A and further to Reference B, the following information is provided:

a. There was no crash at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94.

b. There has been no crash at Boscombe Down this year.

c. No aircraft based at Boscombe Down have crashed anywhere this year.

d. The only flying which took place from Boscombe Down on the night of 26 Sep 94 was the launch of 2 Royal Navy Sea King Mk4 helicopters in support of an Exercise.

e. No transport type aircraft other than those based at Boscombe Down visited the airfield around the date in question.

f. The runway at Boscombe Down was not closed.

g. We have no knowledge of any roads around the airfield being closed.

h. There are 12 Hardened Aircraft Shelters (HAS) dotted around the airfield. The roofs of these are painted green and have structures at one end designed to deflect the exhaust from aircraft parked inside. These structures look like "twin fins". It may be these that the report is based on.

2. I trust that this information will suffice. If not please give me another call!

Distribution:

Action: Sec (AS) 12

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS)
**Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet**

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**Signature:**

### Message/Remarks:

**AS DISCUSSED, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE DRAFT RESPONSE AND BACKGROUND NOTE TO THE ATTACHED PQ.**

**GRATEFUL FOR YOUR RESPONSE BY COP 28th NOVEMBER.**

**REGARDS.**

**Section 40**
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - PQ4857G

To be dealt with IMMEDIATELY and not placed with other papers.

For WRITTEN reply on Thu 24 November 1994 by Minister(AF)

Referred to US OF S on 23 November 1994

THESE PAPERS SHOULD BE PASSED BY HAND TO ROOM...
WITH DRAFT REPLY, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PAPERS,
NOT LATER THAN

15.00.....ON TUESDAY...DAY.....29 NOVEMBER............

Date of Order Paper 23 November 1994
MP Name/Const/Pty REDMOND MARTIN Don Valley LAB

Comments
33 To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the air crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the evening of 26th September.

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Copy to:
APS | min(AF)
PQ 4857G

TO ASK...IF HE WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE AIR CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN AIRFIELD ON THE EVENING OF 26 SEP 94.

Draft Response

There are no reports of an air crash at Boscombe Down on 26 Sep 94.

Additional Background Information

There were no accidents involving RAF aircraft on 26 Sep 94. Furthermore, none of the reported incidents on that day were in the vicinity of Boscombe Down.
Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

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Message/Remarks:

We spoke. Air Commodore Chandehark, DET(Air), has personally confirmed the details provided by his staff (DRA 11/08 dated 30/11/94 refer). He was on the airfield at on 26 Sept. We have nothing further to add.

Section 40

Section 40
Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

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To: Section 40
Fax Number: Section 40

Subject: P0 46576
- Radnor Mtnion Hill -
- Air Crash: Boadabe Down W left

Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer

Rank, Name and Appointment: Section 40
Signature: Section 40

Transmit Operators

Rank/Grade and Name: TE (89) 2
Signature: Section 40

Message/Remarks:

Sorry drew a blank on the "air crash" - see attached note from Boardabe Down.
LOOSE MINUTE

AFW/1/08

24 Nov 94

See Distribution

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - RE CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN

Reference: Fax DTE(Res)/DTE(Air) undated.

1. I can confirm that no aircraft has crashed at Boscombe Down this year and nor has any aircraft operated by Boscombe Down crashed elsewhere.

Distribution:

Action:

DTE(Air)

Information:

File

AOC/DTE Air
LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)17/6/1

29 November 1994

Cdr Eg, A&EE Boscombe Down - Head of DGT&E -

**Section 40**

**PQ - REPORTED CRASH AT BOSCOMBE DOWN - 26 SEPTEMBER 94**

1. As discussed with [Section 40] of T&E(P&S)2, I attach a copy of an article which appeared in the December issue of Air Forces monthly concerning an alleged aircraft crash at Boscombe Down. Given that some of the details contained in the report are quite specific, I would be grateful if you could confirm (in consultation with A&EE Boscombe Down) whether any of the aircraft mentioned in the article were in the vicinity of Boscombe Down and whether the runway or roads were partially closed around the 26 September 94.

2. I am sorry to have to come to DGT&E again for further advice in response to our PQ on this subject (previously copied to [Section 40]) but given that this incident has now had some media coverage and has been raised by a MP, we must be absolutely clear and accurate in the advice we give to Minister(AF) in reply.

3. I have sought an extension from Minister (AF)'s office and would be grateful for your reply by tomorrow morning.

Sec(AS)1a
MB7249
CHOTS SEC(AS)1A (2)
Fax [Section 40]
Dear Section 40,

I refer to your letter of 16 January reporting details of an incident which occurred on 31 September 1994 in Hampton Hill, Evesham. I undertook to provide you with the findings once the RAF Police investigation was complete; I have now received their report.

RAF Police enquiries have revealed that the object involved in this incident was, in fact, a bale of hay. A member of the public contacted the fire services to report seeing smoke in a field, but was unable to identify the source. The local emergency services were called out and on arrival found a smouldering bale of hay. Before leaving the scene, the emergency services made sure that the bale was fully extinguished. RAF Police investigations did not reveal any evidence to suggest that any items fell from aircraft in the Evesham area on the day in question. Furthermore, I can confirm that there were no Royal Navy vehicles in attendance at this incident and the local police have informed us that nothing was removed from the scene.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING DRUM - HUNTINGDON

1. Your reference tasked an office inquiry into an allegation that a 40 gallon drum (or object of similar size) fell from the sky and was subsequently taken away in a Royal Navy vehicle with a police escort front and rear.

2. Enquiries revealed that the object involved was a blazing bale of hay. Emergency services were tasked to the scene, however, the bale was already extinguished on their arrival. Later that day Evesham Police were inundated with enquiries as to the origins of the object which had fallen from the sky, and which had been subsequently taken away by the Royal Navy with Police escort.

3. Chf Inspector Evesham Police stated that hysteria was such that the incident made the national tabloids, however, he is adamant that the bale had never left 'terra firma'.

4. In accordance with Reference A this case is now closed.
Dear Sirs,

I write to ask if you could shed light on an incident which happened on the morning of Monday, 31st of October, at a field at Hampton Hill near Evesham.

My reports indicate that witnesses saw an object, estimated to be the size of a forty gallon drum fall from the sky at approximately 7:25am. My reports also suggest the object was taken away in a Royal Navy vehicle with a police escort front and rear.

As I say, I would be very grateful for any information you could surrender concerning this matter, or if you could forward to me the address of any organisation who could help.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,
CASE HISTORY No 1: The British Roswell

SIGHTINGS of strange flying objects – later known as Foo Fighters – were reported throughout the latter part of the Second World War by both Allied and Nazi servicemen. The reports certainly went through official channels.

American journalist Dorothy Kilgallen was told by "a British official of Cabinet rank" about a Foo Fighter which had crashed in Britain – a case similar to the famous Roswell incident in New Mexico 50 years ago when alien corpses were recovered.

Kilgallen was told: "British scientists and airmen examined the wreck of one mysterious flying ship and were convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but are flying saucers which originate on another planet."

Retired diplomat and intelligence officer Gordon Creighton said he believed Kilgallen's source was Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Kilgallen's story was backed up by Dr Olavo Fontes, a Brazilian UFO researcher of the 1950s. In 1958, Fontes – already known to Brazil's government – was visited by two men who said they were from Naval Intelligence.

Fontes claimed that, after initially trying to persuade them to give up his work, the officers revealed that six UFOs had crashed throughout the world during the Second World War.

Three were in North Africa, one in the Sahara Desert, one in Scandinavia – and one in Britain.

Fontes wrote in a letter to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation: "I was told all these discs were small craft – 32, 77 or 96ft in diameter. In all of them were found crew members' bodies.

"They were 'little men' and ranged in height from 32 to 46in. They were dead in all cases, killed in the crashes.

"The examination of the bodies showed they were definitely humanoid, but obviously not from this planet.""

SPECIAL snatch teams appear to be on stand-by, ready to go into action to retrieve wreckage from UFO crashes.

Just before he died in 1994, retired US Air Force intelligence officer Leonard Stringfield told Redfern: "Some time in 1964, a specially-rigged naval flagship received a coded radio message: "Artefacts had been recovered with three dead personnel."

According to his informant, the decoded report stated that a UFO had crashed in two parts: the main section was in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the remainder in the United States.

Wreckage and the bodies were shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the United States.

Section 40 3sec(5s)l4 confirmed that there were no military aircraft accidents in the UK (but there was one in Germany).

Also checked with the Navy – no accidents on 23/11/74.

CASE HISTORY No 2: Penkridge, Staffs, 1964

The informant added that there was more to the incident, involving coded information, that he preferred to keep confidential.

Redfern said: "The disclosure, while sketchy, may spotlight only the tip of the iceberg as to the scope of military crash-retrieval operations in foreign lands.

"It is my suspicion that US special retrieval teams have been and are still are, prepared to go into action into any crash location within its sphere of military or economic influence such as was exercised with NATO in the artefact retrievals in England and West Germany."

CASE HISTORY No 3: Corwen, North Wales, 1974

A WAVE of phantom helicopters – black with no identifying markings – were sighted in areas of Britain where UFOs were reported in 1973-74.

They were probably rapid deployment teams set to investigate UFOs, according to Redfern.

One such event happened at Corwen on January 23, 1974. According to Cader Bronwen, a beehive of the Barmouth Mountains near Corwen, North Wales.

One witness, Anne Williams, said: "I saw a bright light in the sky. It had a long, fiery tail which went dim and then very brilliant – like an electric fire which keeps coming to life.

"It was like an electric bulb in shape, with rough edges. The field fell behind the hill at the back of my bungalow and the earth shook."

Off-duty police officer Glywym Owen was drinking in The Dudley Arms pub when there was a roar, bang and glass in the pub shook. The sky was lit up over the mountains.

Police stations as far away as 60 miles received phone calls reporting the strange lights.

At the Institute Of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, the crash measured four on the Richter Scale. They told journalists that a meteorite had come down on Cader Bronwen.

Witness Ken Haughton saw a "luminous sphere" 90 minutes after the crash in the area. He said the sphere was 400ft across and travelling at a height of about 15,000ft.

A rescue party were quickly dispatched to the scene.

The next day, a mountain rescue team went to investigate, while the RAF carried out a photographic survey of the area. No trace of a craft or any meteorite was found.

"One can only assume," said Redfern, "that unless the UFO existed on its own volition, it was removed by the Army."

Yet another UFO was seen in the area at 7.15pm that day.

"I believe it may have been searching for the remains of the vehicle which struck the Barmouth mountains," said Redfern.

CASE HISTORY No 4: Lake District, 1977

A UFO which was sighted over the Lake District wasn't witnessed by just members of the public – 10 police officers saw this extraordinary sight too.

Shortly after midnight on August 28, 1977, a large object described either as triangular or diamond-shaped was seen over the Windermere area of Cumbria.

As officers reported seeing the craft, colleagues along the UFO's path also confirmed the sighting. After 20 minutes, as the ship hovered above the AS92 at Bowness, PC David Wild spotted it at a height estimated to be 1,500ft.

It eventually vanished, witnessed by two other officers, at sunset over Ambleside.

The most detailed description was given by John Platt. He said: "I was looking up into what appeared to be a giant ocean-going catamaran with twin hulls.

"A large structure at the front supported what appeared to be two giant lights. Its surface was a dull, shadowy, charcoal colour."

Section 40 2sec(3s)l9 confirmed that there were no military aircraft accidents in the UK (but there was one in Germany).

Also checked with the Navy – no accidents on 23/11/74.

Nothing Army either.

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- To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
- CC: 522
- From: Hd of CS(RM)1
- Subject: NICK REDFERN

**Delivered:** 30/10/97 at 13:54

**Auth by:**

Text: **Section 40**

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Priority: Normal

Reply Request: [ ]

SEE PAGE

View Acknowledge: [*]

Attachments: [1]

Codes: [ ]
Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

30 October 1997

SEC(AS)2A * * Chots only

Section 40 = "A COVERT AGENDA"

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 28 October 1997

1. Since 1991 Mr Redfern has requested information or advice from CS(RM) on six occasions.

2. Although he never made any specific reference to his interest in "ufos" we deduced as much as the PRO provided copies of earlier correspondence.

3. To date his enquiries fall into two distinct categories: one, information about the release of or fate of records not in the public domain (in the main intelligence); two, a general enquiry in respect of record policy/procedures in the MOD and our relationship with the PRO (as featured on pages 80/81 of his book).

4. Other than the substantive reply re policy/procedures our other replies were in the "sorry to give what must be a disappointing reply" style.

signed

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3  MMB

Section 40
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To: Hd of CS(RM)1  
CC:  
Ref: 1413  
Subject: NICK REDFERN

Text:

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

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

28 Oct 97

Hd of CS(RM)

NICK REDFERN

1. US of S has seen The Sunday People Article of 5 October entitled "They've Been Here" which seeks to provide "proof" that "UFOs" have landed in Britain.

2. The article, as you may have seen, is primarily about Nick Redfern's Book "A Covert Agenda" and US of S has asked us to provide him with background information about the cases featured in the article and our knowledge of Mr Redfern generally.

3. In the three years I have been in Sec(AS) Mr Redfern has written to us on five occasions. Each of his letters have been very short and uncomplicated and sought purely the numbers of "UFO" reports recorded for the year and details of the files to be released to the PRO in the next January.

4. I know from our discussions that you've had more contact with him than us. It would be most helpful for my background note if you would be able to put together a paragraph or so setting out what is known about him from his contacts with CS(RM).

5. Anything you are able to offer by the end of the week would be much appreciated.

[original signed]
CASE HISTORY No 5: Ipstones, Staffs, 1991

A WITNESS known only as Mr M L was visiting friends in the Churnet Valley, Staffs, on July 19, 1991, when he saw an object fall from the sky at nearby Ipstones.

The time was 10pm. M L described the object as metallic - like aluminium - 10ft long, cigar-shaped and very bright. He immediately contacted police.

They searched the woodland. A helicopter was used as well. No object was located but an area of newly-broken branches was found which gave the impression that something had crashed through the trees from above. The search was eventually abandoned.

CASE HISTORY No 6: RAF Boscombe Down, 1994

A SMALL twin-tailed aircraft crash-landed on the runway at RAF Boscombe Down, on Salisbury Plain, Stonehenge, at about 11pm on September 26, 1994.

Several aviation enthusiasts listening on airband radios drove to the air base the next day. They were stopped by police at roadblocks.

Before being ushered away, several enthusiasts saw a disabled craft at the end of the runway covered by tarpaulins.

Two days later, the wreck was flown to a California military base. Although the craft was initially believed to be a then-secret US military plane known as TR-3A, one witness said the crashed craft was completely silent and was able to hover vertically - abilities the TR-3A didn't possess.

A month before the crash, a lorry driver reported seeing a UFO over Salisbury. Its description matched that of the crashed craft.

CASE HISTORY No 7: Heppton Hill, Wilts, 1994

VILLAGERS in the Cotswolds reported seeing a barrel-shaped craft fall into an isolated field on the evening of Hallowe'en in 1994.

But they were later told it was a bale of straw.

The incident happened at Heppton Hill in Wiltshire near the villages of Church Lench and Norton.

The strange object was described by one witness Paul Brooke as resembling a 40-gallon drum.

Police sealed off the field and people were warned to keep away. The object was loaded on to a Royal Navy lorry and taken away.

Residents raised the matter with both the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF, each of whom later denied any knowledge of the incident.

A police spokesman said: "Our investigations reveal it was a bale of straw that was on fire and which the fire brigade put out.

"Reports of something falling from the sky are either hoaxes or somebody has said something and come to the wrong conclusion."

Brooke replied: "What do the police think - that we are all mad around here?"

CASE HISTORY No 8: East London, 1964

BUS driver Bob Fall was driving the 123 bus from Walthamstow to Tottenham when he had a narrow escape with a UFO.

He told a reporter: "I just glanced into the sky and saw something coming towards me very, very fast. It flew straight across the road and had I been a few yards further it would have hit the top deck of the bus."

There was a loud crash as it struck the bank of the River Lea and a big splash in the water.

The craft was at least 9ft long, cigar-shaped and silver.

As soon as Fall reported the incident, police arrived and dredged the river but the object had vanished.

An MoD wing-commander was apprised of the details of Fall's encounter implying that the MoD took his initial report seriously.

The MoD files available now are scant and Redfern believes the full story is buried somewhere in Whitehall.

© 1997 Nicholas Redfern
From the book A Covert Agenda by Nicholas Redfern (published tomorrow by Simon & Schuster Ltd at £16.99) Order your copy today. Send a cheque/PO for £16.99 payable to MGN TP257 to: Covert Agenda Book Offer, TP257, PO Box 27, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9ZA. Write your name and address on a separate piece of paper. Allow 28 days for delivery. £ sterling only.

continues.
FILE 12/2 PT K.

UNCLASSIFIED

CWD019 22/0828 20360013
FOR CAB

ROUTINE 220635Z JUL 91

FROM RAF WEST DRATTON
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED
SIG 26F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA
A. 192133Z JUL 91 FOR ONE MINUTE
B. ONE OBJECT 3-4 METRES LONG EGG SHAPED AND SILVER/METALLIC COLOUR
C. INDOORS
D. NAKED EYE
E. NIL
F. 45-60 DEGREES
G. ONE HALF MILE
H. STEADY
J. CLOUDY
K. NIL
L. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE
M. 
N. NIL

PAGE 2 RADIOD 0001 UNCLAS

U. 
B. 

DISTRIBUTION 26F

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GAB 1 DD GE/AEW
GAB 1 DJ 55
GAB 2 UGSTI

Sections 40

KINGSLEY

Kingsley is in Staffordshire +
very close to
Ipstones, place
& sighting in
newspaper.

Only one other on that
day - in Scotland -
and the description bore
no resemblance to that
reported with article.
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Dear [Section 40],

1. Thank you for your letter dated 12 January 1997 addressed to [Section 40]. I have been asked to reply.

2. There were 609 "unexplained" aerial sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1996. The files now available to view at the Public Record Office can be found under references AIR 2/17982 and AIR 2/17983.

Yours sincerely,
12 January 1997

Dear Section 40,

Could you please advise me of: (a) the number of UFO reports received by your office in 1996; and (b) the title(s) and reference number(s) of any and all UFO files released into the public domain by the Public Record Office at the beginning of this year. Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 824
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

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

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date 5 January 1996

Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 1995 addressed to
   regarding old "UFO" files. I have been asked to reply.

2. With regard to your request, only one "UFO" file has been
   released to the Public Records Office for 1996. It is entitled "UFOs:
   Sightings; Reports By Members Of The Public" and its reference number
   is AIR2/17527.

3. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Dear Section 40,

As you may remember, I have written to you on previous occasions with respect to my interest in the UFO subject. My reason for writing is as follows: On 13 December of last year you advised me of the details of the file of UFO reports from 1963/4 which was released into the public domain under the 'thirty year ruling' in January of this year (File ref. AIR2/17523). I was subsequently able to obtain copies from the Public Record Office. I would be very grateful to you if you could advise me if a similar UFO file(s) is due to be made available at the beginning of January 1996, along with the relevant reference number(s).

Thanks.

Yours sincerely,
Dear

1. I refer to your letter of 28 February. Attached

2. As a matter of routine, the Ministry of Defence was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority of the report made by the British Airways pilots on 6th January. I consulted Departmental experts with responsibility for air defence matters, who confirmed that they were not aware of any evidence which would indicate that our air defences had been breached. As this is our only concern the MOD's interest in this particular incident concluded. No subsequent information has come to our attention, which would suggest that the original assessment was incorrect.

3. The incident of 6th January remains a matter for the CAA.
Dear [Name],

As you know, I have written to the MOD previously concerning my interest in the UFO subject. In recent weeks, several newspaper articles have appeared concerning the sighting of a triangular-shaped object seen above the Pennines on Friday January 6, 1995, by Captain [Name] and First Officer [Name] who were piloting a Manchester-bound Boeing 737.

Could you tell me if this matter has been brought to the attention of the MOD? If so, has an investigation been carried out, and has any conclusion been reached? If you could advise me on this matter, it would be most gratefully appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
1. Thank you for your letter of 16 January.

2. In answer to your question, the Ministry of Defence received 250 reports of unexplained aerial sightings in 1994.
Dear [Name],

I am writing to enquire if you could tell me how many reports of unidentified flying objects the Ministry of Defence received during 1994. Should you be able to advise me, it would be most gratefully appreciated. I would also like to thank you for your letter of 13 Dec. 94, in which you advised me of the details of the 'UFO file' made available at the Public Record Office at the beginning of this year. I have been in touch with the PRO, and will be ordering copies of the papers shortly.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
In response to your letter of 23 November, only one "ufo" file is scheduled for release in January 1995 — it is entitled "UFO Reports" and its reference is AIR2/17526.

Yours sincerely,
1. I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 23 November requesting details regarding the release of further UFO files to the Public Records Office.

2. I should be happy to make enquiries in this connection and shall respond to you as soon as I receive the advice.

3. I am returning your sae as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Section 40,

As you may know, I have written to the MOD on a number of occasions concerning my interest in the subject of UFOs. On July 5 1993, I wrote to me advising me that, in keeping with the Governments thirty year ruling, January 1994 would see the release of two of the old Air Ministry UFO files dated 1962/3. I subsequently obtained copies of these papers earlier this year.

My reason for writing is to enquire if you could tell me if you are aware of whether or not January 1995 will see the release of any MOD - UFO files dating from 1964?

Should you be able to advise me on this matter, it would be most gratefully appreciated. I enclose a SAE.

Yours sincerely,
LOOSE MINUTE

D/USofS/JS/28/1/0

27 October 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

THE PEOPLE ARTICLE 5 OCTOBER 1997 - "THEY'VE BEEN HERE!"

The Under Secretary of State has seen the above article (copy attached) and has requested background information on the allegations made.
Aliens have been visiting Britain for more than 50 years — and that's official. Secret Government documents reveal that some spacecraft have even crash-landed here. But the details have been kept hidden from the public. A covert agenda for UFO research is in place to keep the truth about alien life hidden. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence and the RAF have known for centuries about extraterrestrial activity in Britain. At least SEVEN craft crashed in Britain in the last century. And the British Government has been involved in high-level discussions about the implications of UFOs. Now, in the book he describes how dozens of spacecraft have flown over military bases. It is the evidence that UFOs have been photographed and that the British government has been covering up these encounters. The author, a full-time UFO researcher, has spent years investigating UFOs and uncovering top-secret documents which prove that the Governments of the world are aware of alien activity. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the subject. It is the ultimate guide to UFOs and their impact on British history.
CASE HISTORY No 1: The British Roswell

SIGHTINGS of strange flying objects - later known as Foo Fighters - were reported throughout the latter part of the Second World War by both Allied and Nazi servicemen.

The reports certainly went through official channels.

American journalist Dorothy Kilgallen was told by "a British official of Cabinet rank" about a Foo Fighter which had crashed in Britain - a case similar to the famous Roswell incident in New Mexico 50 years ago when alien corpses were recovered.

Kilgallen was told: "British scientists and airmen examined the wreck of a mystery flying ship and are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but are flying saucers which originate from another planet."

Retired diplomat and intelligence officer Gordon Creighton said he believed Kilgallen's source was Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Kilgallen's story was backed up by Dr Olavo Fontes, a Brazilian UFO researcher of the 1950s.

In 1958, Fontes - already known to Brazil's government - was visited by two men who said they were from Naval Intelligence.

Fontes claimed that, after initially trying to persuade him to give up his work, the officers revealed that six UFOs had crashed throughout the world during the Second World War.

Three were in North America, one in the Sahara Desert, one in Scandinavia - and one in Britain.

Fontes wrote in a letter to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization: "I was told all these discs were small craft - 32, 77 or 99 feet in diameter. In all of them we found crew members' bodies."

"They were 'little men' and ranged in height from 32 to 46in. They were dead in all cases, killed in the crashes."

"The examination of the bodies showed they were definitely humanoid but obviously not from this planet."

According to his informant, the decoded report stated that a UFO had crashed in two parts: the main section was in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the remainder in West Germany.

Wreckage and the bodies were shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the States.

The informant added that there was more to the incident, involving coded information, that he preferred to keep confidential.

Redfern said: "The disclosure, while sketchy, may spotlight only the tip of the iceberg as to the scope of military crash-retrieval operations in foreign lands."

"It is my suspicion that US special retrieval teams have been, and still are, prepared to go into action into any crash location within its sphere of military or economic influence such as was exercised with NATO in the artefact retrievals in England and West Germany."

CASE HISTORY No 2: Penkridge, Staffs, 1964

SPECIAL snatch teams appear to be on stand-by, ready to go into action to retrieve wreckage from UFO crashes.


"Artifacts had been recovered with three dead personnel."

According to his informant, the decoded report stated that a UFO had crashed in two parts: the main section was in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the remainder in West Germany.

Wreckage and the bodies were shipped to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the States.

CASE HISTORY No 3: Corwen, North Wales, 1974

A WAVE of phantom helicopters - black with no identifying markings - were sighted in areas of Britain where UFOs were reported in 1973-74.

They were probably rapid deployment teams sent to investigate UFOs, according to Redfern.

One such event happened at 8.30pm on January 23, 1974. A UFO crashed into Cader Bronwen, a 2,000ft peak in the Berwyn Mountains near Corwen, North Wales.

One witness, Anne Williams, said: "I saw a bright light in the sky. It had a long fiery tail which went dim and then went out."

"It was like an electric bulb in shape, with rough edges. The object fell behind the hills at the back of my bungalow and the earth shook."

Off-duty police officer Gwilym Owen was drinking in The Dudley Arms pub when there was a roar, a bang and glasses in the pub shook. The sky was lit up over the mountains.

Police stations as far away as 60 miles received phone calls reporting the tremor.

At the Institute Of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, the crash measured four on the Richter Scale. They told journalists that a meteorite had come down on Cader Bronwen.

Witness Ken Haughton saw a "luminous sphere" 90 minutes after the crash in the area. He said the sphere was 400ft across and travelling at a height of about 15,000ft.

Army personnel were quickly dispatched to the scene.

The next day, a mountain rescue team went to investigate, while the RAF carried out a photographic survey of the area. None of a craft or any meteorite was found.

"One can only assume," said Redfern, "that unless the UFO existed on its own volition, it was removed by the Army."

Yet another UFO was seen in the area at 7.15pm that day.

"I believe it may have been searching for the remains of the vehicle which struck the Berwyn mountains," said Redfern.

CASE HISTORY No 4: Lake District, 1977

A UFO which was sighted over the Lake District wasn't witnessed by just members of the public - 10 police officers saw this extraordinary sight too.

Shortly after midnight on August 28, 1977, a large object described either as triangular or diamond-shaped was seen over the Windermere area of Cumbria.

As officers reported seeing the craft, colleagues along the UFO's path also confirmed the sighting. After 20 minutes, as the ship hovered above the AS92 at Bowness, PC David Wild spotted it at a height he estimated to be 1,500ft.

It eventually vanished, witnessed by two other officers, at sea over Morecambe.

The most detailed description was given by John Platt. He said: "I was looking up into what appeared to be a giant ocean-going catamaran with twin hulls."

"A large structure at the front supported what appeared to be two giant lights, its surface was a dull, shadowy, charcoal colour."
CASE HISTORY No 6: RAF Boscombe Down, 1994

A small twin-tailed aircraft crashed-landed on the runway at RAF Boscombe Down, on Salisbury Plain four miles from Stonehenge, at about 11pm on September 26, 1994.

Several aviation enthusiasts listening on airband radios drove to the air base the next day. They were stopped by police at roadblocks.

Before being ushered away, several enthusiasts saw a disabled craft at the end of the runway covered by tarpaulins.

Two days later, the wreck was flown to a California military base. Although the craft was initially believed to be a secret US military plane known as TR-3A, one witness said the crashed craft was completely silent and was able to hover vertically — abilities the TR-3A did not possess.

A month before the crash, a lorry driver reported seeing a UFO over Salisbury. Its description matched that of the crashed craft.

CASE HISTORY No 7: Hepson Hill, Wiltz, 1994

Villagers in the Cotswolds reported seeing a barrel-shaped craft fall into an isolated field on the evening of Halloween in 1994.

But they were later told it was a bale of straw.

The incident happened at Hepston Hill in Wiltshire near the villages of Church Lench and Norton.

The strange object was described by one witness Paul Brooke as resembling a 40-gallon drum.

Police sealed off the field and people were warned to keep away. The object was loaded on to a Royal Navy lorry and taken away.

Residents raised the matter with both the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF, each of whom later denied any knowledge of the incident.

A police spokesman said: "Our investigations reveal it was a bale of straw that was on fire and which the fire brigade put out."

"Reports of something falling from the sky are either hoaxes or somebody has said something and come to the wrong conclusion."

Brooke replied: "What do the police think — that we are all mad around here?"
How they tried to hush it up

AN alarming number of UFOs were sighted around military bases in 1957.

One sighting at RAF West Freugh, Wigtownshire, was published by several newspapers.

A secret Air Ministry report declassified after 30 years, reads: "It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the Press."

"We suggest that the Secretary of State does not specifically refer to these incidents as sightings on radar."

Six years later, after another batch of sightings, the Air Ministry tried to dampen speculation but they failed to point out that many reports were by RAF pilots and radar operators.

One of the most controversial sightings took place in Belfast eight years ago. The following is an extract from a report in official Civil Aviation Authority files about an incident on November 11, 1989.

"UFO passed above aircraft at 11,200ft and burst into a cascade of lights. Heading due west. Proximity of cloud intensified brightness of light. Sighting confirmed by another aircraft and tower."
DATE    FROM      SUBJECT                              CODES
11/11/97 CS(FinSec)1 RAF RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE [ ]

Intended:
To: MIN(AF)REGISTRY                                    
CC: SEC(AS)2A (2), SEC(HSF)1, AUS(H+O)-SPS, USofS/Mailbox, HQLCDepPA/COS +
Ref: 306
From: CS(FinSec)1                                      
Subject: RAF RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40. 

Text: Copies of letters referred to in paragraph 9 of the covering LM will be sent by fax to outer offices of Min(AF) and USofS only.

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

LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

PS/Min(AF)*

Copy to:
APS/USoFS*
AUS(H&O)*
Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCS*

* By CHOTS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40

ISSUE

1. The need to decide how to handle a persistent and unwelcome correspondent about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor and its lodger units.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That we draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him.

TIMING

3. Routine

DISCUSSION

4. We have for some time been in correspondence at official level with Mr Matthew Williams, a 'UFO' researcher, who has an interest in the role he believes RAF Rudloe Manor plays in this subject.
Mr Williams edits his own magazine (Truthseekers' Review), and has appeared on TV in programmes about 'UFOs'. He believes that Rudloe Manor is investigating 'UFO' sightings. He will not accept the facts that prior to 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight, located at Rudloe manor, acted simply as a collection point for 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie members of the public or service personnel), and forwarded such reports to the Department's focal point, Sec(AS)2, for any further action required. Since 1992, all RAF stations, including RAF Rudloe Manor, forward reports direct.

5. **Section 40** has repeatedly asked to visit RAF Rudloe Manor and has, both there and elsewhere, taken steps to enter military bases by unauthorised means. He is currently threatening a media and leaflet campaign alleging both that Rudloe Manor is keeping information relevant to 'UFO' activity hidden, and that both it and the MOD have been unhelpful and deceitful in responding to his concerns. He also claims to have a number of people prepared, he says, to break their signing of the Official Secrets Act and speak about what really goes on at Rudloe Manor.

6. As Minister will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parenting support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters Defence Telecommunications Services, and a detachment of No 1001SU, responsible for military satellite communications services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. The Flying Complaints Flight, which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of flying regulations is, as I have said, also located at RAF Rudloe Manor. All this is a matter of public knowledge and has already been explained to **Section 40**.

7. The Station is also responsible for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. Detailed knowledge of the
facilities is, however, strictly limited. The merest hint of additional facilities, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Section 40. Should Minister require further information, this can be provided separately by Section 40 (no relation), Sec(HSF)1.

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Section 40 remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. But, for the reasons outlined above, Section 40 would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial sensitivity something which could reinforce his conviction that 'UFO' activity is being concealed. However, there is every reason to believe, from his general attitude and views, that such a visit would only provide fuel for further questions.

9. Special Branch have taken an interest in Section 40. They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of Section 40 correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally cease our dialogue with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through his letters. This correspondence, nonetheless, takes up an appreciable amount of official time, and I believe we have now reached the stage where replies simply restate the facts already provided. I further believe that his requests for a visit to the station should be refused. Copies of Section 40 most recent letters, which have been acknowledged, and our proposed reply are attached.

10. The issue might attract attention, depending on Mr Williams' success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views. He regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Section 40 lives in Wales, and he may write to or secure the
interest of his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers, (Rhondda)). The constituency MP for Rudloe Manor is James Gray (Wiltshire North), who might also be encouraged to take an interest. Should either MP become involved we would, of course, be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content to proceed in this way.

[CHOTS SIGNED]

Section 40

Cmd Sec HQLC

F150 Section 40
Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the Station magazine *Hexagon* is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called *Manor News*.

As has already been explained by me, and by my colleagues at Secretariat (Air Staff) in London, there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into 'UFO'/flying saucers or extraterrestrial life.

I am sorry to note from your most recent, undated, letter that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, nor your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you distribute is of course a matter for you.

The facts about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail, although I can, again, assure you that there is nothing relating to 'UFOs'. That there are underground facilities at Rudloe Manor I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are
now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances I am afraid we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.
Sent: 10/11/97 at 11:38
To: CS(FinSec)1
CC:

Ref: 1448
Subject: Section 40 - DRAFT SUBMISSION TO MIN(AF)

Text: Section 40

Any queries, please call me.

Regards, Section 40
LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Nov 97

CS(FinSec1) - HOLC - Section 40

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40

Reference:


1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed submission to Min(AF) about Section 40 sent under cover of Ref A. Section 40 and I have both read and discussed the submission.

2. We agree with your overall proposed line and have a few suggestions to offer. APS/USofS should have sight of the submission as USofS is the Minister responsible for "UFO"-related issues. We have inserted at para 4 a few lines to explain why Section 40 is obsessed with "UFOs" and RAF Rudloe Manor. We also have a few suggested textual amendments to offer which have for ease been made in bold type.

3. I hope this is helpful and I am happy to discuss further with you if required.

[original signed]

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.
5 Nov 97

**PS/Min(AF)**

Copy to:

**APS/USofs**
Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCS*  
* By CHOTS

**RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM**

**ISSUE**

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6. As Minister will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parenting support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters
Defence Telecommunications Services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. The Flying Complaints Flight, which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of low flying regulations is, as I have said, also located at Rudloe Manor. All this is a matter of public knowledge and has already been explained to Section 40.

7. The Station is also responsible, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. The existence and possible use of this facility is considered sufficiently sensitive that knowledge of it is strictly limited; regrettably however, the merest hint of any underground accommodation, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, which MOD is not prepared to explain and expose to public view, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Section 40.

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Section 40 remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. But, for the reasons outlined above, Section 40 would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial sensitivity, something which could reinforce his conviction that "UFO" activity is being concealed. However, there is every reason to believe from his general attitude and views that such a visit would only provide fuel for further questions.
9. Special Branch have taken an interest in Section 40. They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally cease our dialogue with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through his letters. Dealing with this correspondence does, however, take up an appreciable amount of official time and I believe that we should have now reached the stage where replies simply restate the facts already provided. I further believe that his requests to visit Rudloe Manor should be refused. (Copies of most recent letters, which have been acknowledged and our proposed reply are attached.)

10. Depending on success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views, the issue might attract media attention, since he regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Section 40 lives in Wales, and may lobby his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers, (Rhondda)) or the constituency MP for Rudloe Manor, James Gray (Wiltshire North). Should either MP become involved we would, of course, be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content to proceed in this way.

Section 40
Cmd Sec HQLC
F150 Section 40
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The facts about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive, or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail although I can, again, assure you that there is nothing relating to "UFOs". That there are underground facilities at Rudloe Manor I have acknowledged, and have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

In the circumstances, I am afraid we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.
COM SEC PTC/253/97

7 November 1997

CE/TGDA
CE/PMA
ACP&P
AOA

Copy to
PSO/COS/AMP
DLS(raf)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Reference: DOMD/2/3/4 of 27 October 1997

1. I attach for your information a copy of the minute at reference which reports on progress on the Government's proposals for a Freedom of Information Act. You will note that public sector personnel records are expected to be excluded from the provision of the Act. As is the case now the “harm” test will include national security, commercial confidentiality and policy advice. The test will, however, be more stringent.

2. I do not believe there are any issues we need to raise at this stage but I should be happy to co-ordinate a PTC response. There is no deadline set on the attached minute but if I have not heard from you by say the end of November I shall assume there is nothing you wish to raise at this stage.

Command Secretary PTC
F37 5020 GE

Enc
LOOSE MINUTE

DOMD/2/3/4

27 Oct 97

CS/CINCFLIGHT
AUS(FS)
CS/AUS(NP)
CS/HQLAND
AUS(Q)
CS/AG
CS/HQNI
CS/RAFSTC
CSRAFLC
CS/RAEPTE
DERA/CS
Secretary Met Office/Director
Hydrographic Office - Senior Executive

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

1. I thought that you might find it helpful to know what is happening about the Government’s proposals for a Freedom of Information Act. At the same time it would be useful to hear of any issues that might be of particular concern to you (and the Trading Funds in particular) in this context - perhaps queries that have arisen in the course of dealing with the existing Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Background

2. It was originally the Government’s intention to publish a White Paper on Freedom of Information before this year’s Summer recess. At the first meeting of the Ministerial sub-Committee on 10 Jul, however, Ministers decided that they needed to consider in more depth the issues and implications arising from Freedom of Information legislation. The publication of the White Paper was therefore postponed until towards the end of the year. The Cabinet Office Freedom of Information Unit was tasked to produce papers, first on the principal policy issues and to describe the foreign experience of FOI, and subsequently on specific topics such as the disclosure and protection of information under an FOI Act, a review and appeals mechanism etc. To date there have been three meetings of the Ministerial Committee, with the fourth this week, and these have been shadowed by official-level meetings which DOMD attends.

3. It is clear that the Government intends the Act to go beyond the terms of the existing Code, quite apart from the enhanced status of primary legislation over a non-statutory document. The option of simply translating the Code into statutory form has therefore been rejected. Interestingly, in surveying overseas’ experience of FOI, it has become apparent that the UK is in a unique position as no other country has introduced a statutory FOI regime onto a system already working to a non-statutory regime. The Act will of course cover Agencies, including Trading Funds.
4. The key issue for MOD is the balance between disclosure and the need to protect information. The papers discussed to date propose that there should be a general right of access to information which would then be circumscribed in three ways:

a. **Exclusions.** Certain institutions or bodies or the information originating from them would be ruled outside the scope of the legislation;

b. **Qualifying criteria for requests.** Requests for information must be "reasonable" (eg not requiring excessive effort and expense);

c. **Exemptions.** Certain information, though *prima facie* covered by the Act, is decreed to be exempt from disclosure.

In fact, this is how the current *Code* operates. It has a very narrow band of exclusions (eg the Security and Intelligence agencies) and allows Departments to charge for, or refuse to answer, complicated or unreasonable requests. With regard to exemptions under the *Code*, Departments may refuse to supply information that they deem falls within one or more of 15 categories, such as information whose disclosure would harm national security or defence. Some of these categories do, however, have a rider that a "harm test" should be applied and consideration should be given as to whether the harm arising from disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in making information available.

5. Exclusions are likely to include the Security and Intelligence Agencies and information produced by and relating to them, and a very few other categories such as public sector personnel records. Recognising the need to protect information about the Special Forces, we are also pressing for their exclusion. Exemptions will probably be drawn more narrowly (although still including, for example, national security, commercial confidentiality and policy advice) but the "harm test" will be more stringent and it has been accepted that the potential impact will need very careful analysis. It has been acknowledged that the FOI Act must be compatible with the Official Secrets Act as well as legal obligations arising from contracts. Finally, there is likely to be provision for a public interest override to ensure that sensitive information could still be withheld even where it was deemed that disclosure would not cause substantial damage to a specified interest.

5. There is still a long way to go before the detailed shape of the FOI Act becomes clear. The intention is to publish the White Paper in early December and this will be followed by a draft Bill in the Spring, both subject to consultation, prior to an Act being laid before Parliament, probably late next year. If, therefore, you have any particular concerns that you believe may not be picked up by our consultations with the Centre of the Department, please let me know. If, on the other hand, you have any queries about the operation of the existing *Code*, which are not satisfied by the internal guidance published in DCI GEN 48/97, then I or OMD 14, on whose opinions you will be able to help.
Thu 6 Nov, 1997 15:16  mailbox standard Page 1

06/11/97 CS(FinSec)1  MATTHEW WILLIAMS: DRAFT LM TO [ ]

Intended:
Sent: 06/11/97 at 11:38
To: SEC(AS)2A (2), SPS/AOCSS, Sec(HSF)1
CC: HQLCDepPA/COS
Ref: 303
From: CS(FinSec)1
Subject: MATTHEW WILLIAMS: DRAFT LM TO MINISTER

Text: Grateful your thoughts, please

Thanks
Judy Mansfield

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [ 1]
Codes [ ]

Mollie,

This looks fine to me -- don't think we need to
labour the point about the limited role
of Rodelo here in [sent?]. Forwarding reports of
UFO sightings in its locality. Rodelo is
no different than any other RGF base in this
respect.

[signature]

No, but we have to make sure no
Wright knows why
William is no
observed about a
 UFO with more R.G. M.
LC/356805/3/4/F&S

5 Nov 97

Hd Sec(HSF)*
Hd Sec(AS)*
PSO/AOCSS*

Copy to:

PSO/AML*  * by CHOTS

MATTHEW WILLIAMS: TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

1. Attached is a draft note which we propose to send to Minister about Matthew Williams. The copy of William’s latest letter to me is being sent separately by fax to MB addressees.

2. I would appreciate any comments or amendments you may have by 1200hrs, Monday 10 November.

[signed]

J E MANSFIELD
CS(FinSec)1
F160 6985BRA
PS/Min(AF)*
Copy to:
Hd Sec(AS)*
Hd Sec(HSF)*
PSO/AML*
PSO/AOCSS*  * By CHOTS

RUDLOE MANOR: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR MATTHEW WILLIAMS

ISSUE

1. The need to decide how to handle a persistent and unwelcome correspondent about activities at RAF Rudloe Manor and its lodger units.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That we draw a line under our readiness to co-operate with him.

TIMING

3. Routine

DISCUSSION

4. We have for some time been in correspondence at an official level with Mr Matthew Williams, who has an interest in "UFO" research, and the role he believes RAF Rudloe Manor plays in this. Mr Williams edits his own magazine (Truthseekers' Review), and has
5. Mr Williams has repeatedly asked to visit RAF Rudloe Manor and has, both there and elsewhere, taken steps to enter military bases by unauthorised means. He is currently threatening a media and leaflet campaign alleging both that Rudloe Manor is keeping information relevant to UFO activity hidden, and that both it and the MOD have been unhelpful and deceitful in responding to his concerns. He also claims to have a number of people prepared, as he puts it, to break their signing of the Official Secrets Act and speak about what really goes on at Rudloe Manor.

6. As you will know, RAF Rudloe Manor is an administrative unit providing parented support for a number of independent organisations. These include Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS UK), RAF Provost and Security Services (Western Region), the RAF element of the Defence Vetting Agency, Controller Defence Communications Network and Headquarters Defence Telecommunications Services, all located at Rudloe Manor, together with RAF units based at nearby Colerne. The station also includes a Flying Complaints Flight, which is tasked by Sec(AS) to investigate whether there have been infringements by RAF personnel of flying regulations. This much is a matter of public knowledge and it has already been explained to Mr Williams.

7. The Station is also responsible, on behalf of the Cabinet Office, for the care and essential maintenance of a dormant underground facility located beneath the domestic site at Rudloe Manor. The existence and possible use of this facility is considered sufficiently sensitive that knowledge of it is strictly limited; regrettably however, the merest hint of any underground accommodation, in the miles of mostly disused tunnels in the area, which MOD is not prepared to explain and expose to public view, can give rise to the sort of speculation demonstrated by Mr Williams.

8. Despite all our assurances to the contrary, Mr Williams remains convinced that RAF Rudloe Manor has something sinister to hide from the public. One option to disabuse him of this misconception is to accede to his demands, and arrange a tour of
the tunnel complex, probably as part of a group of journalists from the local press. Such visits have been arranged previously, for example for representatives of the local authorities. But, for reasons outlined above, Mr Williams would not be allowed free access to areas of operational security or especial sensitivity, and this could reinforce his conviction that there is indeed "UFO" activity we are concealing from him. Nor is there any reason to believe from his general attitude and views that a visit would do any more than provide fuel for further questions.

9. Special Branch have also taken an interest in Mr Williams. They do not believe that he poses a specific threat to security, but they are alert to the risk that others may seek to use him as a conduit for their own activities. Special Branch have had visibility of Mr Williams' correspondence with this Command, and recently asked that we do not formally cease dialogue with him, so that they can continue to monitor his plans and thinking through his correspondence with officials. This correspondence, nonetheless, takes up an appreciable amount of official time, and I believe we should now restrict our responses to him essentially to the repetition of points already made, and not meet his requests for a visit to the station. I attach a copy of Mr Williams' most recent letters (he has received holding replies to both) and our proposed reply.

10. The issue might attract attention. Depending on Mr Williams' success in stirring up interest in his eccentric views, he regularly places articles and copies of letters on the Internet. Mr Williams lives in Wales, and he may write to or seek the interest of his local MP (Mr Allan Rogers, Rhondda). The constituency MP for Rudloe Manor is James Gray (Wiltshire North), who might also be encouraged to take an interest. Should either MP become involved, we would of course be content to offer them a visit to Rudloe Manor to see the underground complex for themselves (Mr Gray has visited the Officers' Mess, but has not had a tour of the Station).

11. I would be grateful to know that the Minister is content with this line...
Mr Williams
Truthseekers Review
25 Upper Canning Street
Mid Glamorgan
South Wales
CF41 7HG

Thank you for your two most recent letters, following mine of 30 September. I can confirm that the Station magazine Hexagon is no longer in print, and indeed ceased production some years ago. The current in house journal is called Manor News.

As has been explained to you previously, by me, and by my colleagues at Secretariat (Air Staff) in London, I can confirm once again that there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into UFO/flying saucers or extraterrestrial life.

As to your most recent, undated, letter, I am sorry that you have a number of people who, you indicate, are prepared to break their signature of the Official Secrets Act. You will not expect me to condone this, or your apparent role in encouraging them to do so. What you say in any leaflets you distribute is, of course, a matter for you.

The facts about what goes on at RAF Rudloe Manor were set out in my letter of 4 June. Where the activities involve sensitive or operational matters, you will not expect me to go into detail, although I can assure you there is nothing that relates to UFOs. That there are underground facilities I have acknowledged, and...
have also indicated to you that they are now almost entirely unused.

I am afraid that in the circumstances we see no point in inviting you to visit the Station.
ENQUIRY FROM MATTHEW WILLIAMS: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Thank you for faxing through a copy of Section 40 latest missive about Rudloe Manor.

2. As discussed I have the following lines to offer in respect of the "UFO" aspects of his letter.

"Finally, as has been explained to you previously, I can confirm once again that there is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or any other MOD establishment) specialising in investigations into "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial life."

3. Although we have discussed this on the phone, I thought it might be helpful if I were to set out our policy with respect to requests for MOD to give media interviews on "UFOs". It is a matter of policy that we do not give media interviews on the subject of "UFO/flying saucer" matters and extraterrestrial lifeforms for the following reasons:

(a) the wider interests/beliefs of the "UFO" fraternity are outside the MOD's remit

(b) To accede to one would leave us unable to refuse any of the large volume of requests we receive from newspapers, magazines, radio shows etc and would unnecessarily tie up resources on non-MOD business.

4. Instead we offer to provide a written statement via the Press Office along the attached lines.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which it remains open-minded. To date, however, the MOD is unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, the MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each report. The MOD believes that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.
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Section 40

HQ LOGISTICS COMMAND

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

To: Sec (AS) 2
From: (Tel: BLR)

Fax No: [Blank]
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Serial No: [Blank]
Date Sent: 29/10/97
Time Sent: 16:40

Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 7
Reference: Section 40
Subject: [Blank]

Authorising Officer: Section 40
Transmitting Officer: [Blank]

Rank, Name and Appointment: [Blank]
Rank, Name and Appointment: [Blank]

Signature: [Blank]
Signature: [Blank]

Message/Remarks:

be you consideration with PL see the attached

1S (undec) 1b
Dear Flying Officer,

I write on behalf of Marshall Cavendish Publishers and further to our conversation. Here follows the article which will appear in issue 31 of our magazine 'The X-Factor' and I should be grateful for your help with one of the pictures needed.

We would like to include a colour photo of RAF Rudloe Manor and if the text is agreeable, would you please send me a colour print or slide.

Please post the picture to me at:

Marshall Cavendish Ltd
London

tel

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for any help you can give me. The picture is needed by 30 October so please send it by first class mail.

Yours sincerely,

Note of Action:

We do not have a suitable picture available to meet his deadline.

27/10
CONSPIRACY OR INDIFFERENCE?

Section 40 details the British Government's policy and knowledge in relation to UFOs, and examines the evidence for a cover-up.

On 5 November 1990 a squadron of Royal Air Force Tornado jets were flying over the North Sea, on their way back to their base. Suddenly, to the amazement of all the experienced pilots, their aircraft were overtaken at high speed by a UFO. None of these trained observers were able to identify the craft that made our most sophisticated aircraft look obsolete by comparison, and a report of this encounter was sent by signal to the Ministry of Defence. What happened next? Were the pilots visited by anonymous intelligence officers, threatened with the Official Secrets Act and warned to keep quiet about their sighting? Or is the truth of the matter somewhat different?

Many ufologists are obsessed with the idea that elements of the British Government are involved in a conspiracy of silence about UFOs, and are actively suppressing the truth about this phenomenon. Such claims have persisted for years, but are often taken on faith rather than evidence. As is often the case when examining such allegations critically, the real situation is not quite as people suppose.

As far as we know, the earliest official British involvement in the UFO mystery was an intelligence study carried out in 1951. This study was mentioned in a 9 August 1952 letter from the Air Ministry to the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who had asked for a report on UFOs. The study concluded that all UFOs could be explained in conventional terms, and was clearly based heavily on the data that had been amassed by the United States Air Force, who had been conducting their own official studies since 1947, under the Project names Sigma, Grudge and Blue Book. Edward J Ruppelt headed Project Grudge and then Blue Book from 1951 to 1953. He made reference to British interest in UFOs in his 1956 book, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. He told of a visit by two RAF intelligence officers who arrived at Blue Book headquarters with six sheets of questions. The answers they took back clearly influenced the reply given to Winston Churchill, and indeed the intelligence study referred to may have been based in part or in whole upon this data.

What lay behind the British interest in UFOs was actually concern that some of them might be an unknown type of Soviet aircraft testing the air defences of the United Kingdom. The Cold War was serious business, and the Air Ministry was more concerned with Russians than Martians. There was no corporate interest or belief in UFOs as extraterrestrial craft.
It was simply the standard military philosophy that you need to keep a watchful eye on your airspace, and ensure that, to the best of your ability, you are able to identify any craft operating within your air defence region.

Government, the civil service and the military are naturally conservative organisations, and this mindset made it difficult for the Establishment to respond in any meaningful way to emerging speculation from ufologists, some of whom were arguing that UFOs were extraterrestrial in origin. Naturally conservative desk officers found such speculation difficult, and tended to ignore anything they couldn't explain. To illustrate this point it is interesting to note that the aforementioned Air Ministry letter to Winston Churchill failed to even make mention of Foo Fighters - strange balls of light that had been seen by Allied and Axis pilots during the Second World War. Had Churchill been deliberately kept in the dark, or was the omission indicative of nothing more sinister than the closed minded attitude of the Air Ministry?

A letter dated 24 June 1965 gave a further insight into the true attitude of the British Government. In a reply to the US Department of the Air Force the Ministry of Defence explained that their policy was "... to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attracting undue attention or publicity to it." The whole tone of the letter betrayed the fact that the Ministry clearly regarded the subject as a waste of time.

Files now available for viewing at the Public Record Office in Kew shed further light on the British Government's policy and opinions on UFOs. On the one hand, it is clear that there have been some quite extraordinary UFO incidents in British airspace. The files detail numerous incidents where UFOs were seen by military witnesses and detected on radar. They tell of several incidents where RAF jets were scrambled in unsuccessful attempts to intercept UFOs. The Ministry have acknowledged for decades that UFO reports such as these defy explanation. Some 10% of sightings remain unexplained, even after a rigorous investigation. The problem is that these same files - some of which were previously classified Secret - strongly suggest that no further action is taken once an investigation has been-completed. This applies even to cases of attempted interception. All this points to an attitude of indifference or incompetence, as opposed to anything more sinister.

Of course, the Ministry is in a no-win situation, and die-hard conspiracy theorists will always interpret the facts in ways that support their own viewpoint. In this way, entirely innocent events are twisted into something that fits in with what seems to be an almost psychological need to believe in a cover-up: UFO documents withheld under the standard thirty year rule that applies to all Government papers are described as being "suppressed"; the media's refusal to give airtime to various crackpot...
UFO stories are attributed to the use of a D-Notice, and Air Ministry officials who in years gone by paid the occasional visit to UFO witnesses in order to elicit further information about particularly interesting cases are portrayed as sinister Men in Black.

But let us return to the incident discussed in the opening paragraph: What happened to the report submitted by the pilots whose Tornado fast jets were casually overridden by a UFO? The answer is that the signal was simply placed on file in Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a - the MoD division charged with investigating UFO reports. Object unexplained - case closed. This lack of follow-up action was exactly what happened in the aftermath of the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident in December 1980. Lt. Col. Charles Halt submitted a report to the Ministry about UFO activity near the two military bases of RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge. The report (dated 13 January 1981) told of how abnormally high radiation readings were taken from a site where a small, metallic UFO was seen to land. The Ministry of Defence never even acknowledged Halt's memorandum!

The official Ministry of Defence policy on UFO sightings is to examine them for evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. It seems clear that if such examinations occur at all, they are cursory affairs, carried out with extreme reluctance. Many ufologists believe the Ministry of Defence should be taken to task for its stance on the subject, but increasingly, the complaint is not one of conspiracy. Some ufologists are concerned not that the Ministry knows too much, but that it knows too little. A cover-up would be deplorable, they say, but having your head in the sand because of the ignorance or prejudice of a few officials is far worse.

EXCLUSIVE WITNESS

Nick Redfern

In his book A Cover Agenda, Nick Redfern sets out his case for a UFO cover-up. The X-Factor asked him what evidence he had to support this stance:

"One example is the involvement of the Provost and Security Services. The Ministry of Defence had consistently denied they had a role in UFO investigation, but then I uncovered a 1962 document in a file at the Public Record Office that proved otherwise. This was subsequently confirmed to me in a letter from Group Captain Rose at RAF Rudloe Manor."
But why cover any of this up?

"I think the Ministry knows something very strange is going on, but doesn’t have the answers. They don’t want to appear foolish or vulnerable, so I think it’s probably the case that they are covering up a situation where, frankly, they are powerless."

CASE NOTES

How to Report a UFO

The Ministry of Defence has produced a form on which people should record the details of their sighting. The information requested includes the date, time and location of the encounter, together with a description of the object, and observations about the meteorological conditions at the time of the incident. These forms should be held by every RAF base, police station and civil airport in the country, as these are the sorts of places that receive UFO reports from the public.

The completed forms are then sent to Sec (Air Staff) 2a at Ministry of Defence Main Building in Whitehall. They should investigate each sighting, in the first instance by trying to correlate it with aircraft activity, astronomical events or other conventional objects or phenomena. Sec (AS) 2a are assisted in these investigations by specialist divisions who offer help and advice on matters such as radar evidence or satellite activity. Out of the several hundred reports received each year, 95% can be explained.

EVIDENCE

Accessing The Information

There are several ways that people can get hold of official information about UFOs. The simplest way is to write to Sec (AS) 2a at the MoD, and put your questions to them. A general enquiry about UFOs will elicit a standard reply, but under rules about Open Government specific questions should receive specific answers, where the information is available.

Another option is to pay a visit to the Public Record Office at Kew. Under the Public Record Acts files where the most recent paper is more than thirty years old are opened to the public. There are currently around a
dozen UFO files which can be inspected, and these detail some interesting
sightings from the Fifties and Sixties. They also give an invaluable insight
into the way in which these cases were handled at the time.

Some ufologists are forging links with their local Members of
Parliament, and asking them to table formal, written Parliamentary
Questions about UFOs. There have been over thirty such questions tabled
in the last year or so, and MPs do seem to be becoming increasingly aware
of the serious defence and national security issues at stake.

The final piece in the puzzle may be provided by the introduction of
a Freedom of Information Act. The Government has a commitment to
introduce this legislation, and although this will take at least two years, it
should mean that the public can gain access to much more UFO
information than is currently the case.

ANALYSIS

RAF Rudloe Manor

Conspiracy theorists are obsessed with the idea that a number of military
installations in the United Kingdom are involved in secret UFO research.
The base most frequently associated with such stories is RAF Rudloe
Manor in Wiltshire. This was first drawn to the attention of ufologists in
Timothy Good’s book Above Top Secret, which explained how he was
picked up by the MoD police whilst walking around the perimeter of the
base. Later, he encouraged Ralph Noyes, former head of DSS - the
forerunner of Sec(AS)2a - to telephone details of a UFO report to the base,
to see if they would accept it. They did.

Sceptics have pointed out that in view of the fact that military bases
have frequently been targeted by terrorists, there is nothing unusual about
the police taking a close interest in anybody with a camera who is loitering
suspiciously around an RAF base. They also point out that as all military
bases should have the MoD’s standard UFO reporting form, there is
nothing unusual in the fact that staff at Rudloe Manor were prepared to
take details of a sighting.

While RAF Rudloe Manor have now confirmed that they had
previously been involved in the subject, they state that this was only in a
co-ordinating role. The reports were simply forwarded to Sec(AS)2a, and
no further action was taken.
We spoke re. the attached. There's a mixture of stuff here, Re'm RAF Public Layer and Ufo-specific.
I'm quite happy to read, but would appreciate your Ufo input.
I've sent this to PlsGt Sec and I'll also let Sec(NSF)
have a copy.
Out of the letters is a bit indistinct - let me
know if it doesn't make Brenny
Thank you for your letter dated 30th Sept. One again your help in clarifying some points is greatly appreciated - it is so hard to find out things any other way than through the kind efforts of those in the MOD who are prepared to help researchers such as myself.

I asked in my last letter a specific point about who made the decision for a journalist visit to Rudloe Manor to be denied. I asked if you could tell me the name of the person who made the decision so I could pass this on to my MP. If the decision was not made by a commanding officer but was made by yourself based on rules and guidelines can you let me know this. I need a name and rank!

Also I have not heard anything from you on the HEXAGON newsletter, which is apparently the Rudloe Manor internal newsletter. Can you confirm the Rudloe Manor Hexagon newsletter editorial address for me.

I am helping produce a TV documentary soon which will heavily feature underground facilities. Rudloe Manor will obviously come into the frame. Would you or anybody else be prepared to be interviewed on Rudloe Manor for the show? We could prepare a questions list for anyone who wanted to take part in advance and send these to you. Any MOD or Rudloe Manor representative would also suffice.

It may interest you to note that I have a number of people who all worked at RAF Rudloe Manor who are prepared to break their signing the official secrets act and speak on camera about the extensive underground facilities and weapons storage capabilities of the site. Even more surprising we have witnesses who want to talk about RAF Rudloe Manor’s role in actual experimentation on UFO craft. Hard as it may seem to accept such fantastic statements there may be things that both you and I know little about. The whole purpose of my interest in the facility is because of these fantastic claims. As you make the point in your letter that I am persistent, would you not agree that if these
claims were true that my interest would be justified. Of course I do not expect you to be able to answer that, but I hope you see my point. One must keep an open mind to the possibilities because I would imagine that there is much which goes on at Rudloe Manor that you may not be given clearance to know about. Is it not these compartmentalised departments that Rudloe officials would naturally deny even exist.

I know there are many out there who feel that my interest in Rudloe Manor is a fixation which is borne out of my overactive imagination. I assure you that the people who have come forward to me and told me the things which now form the basis of my research do exist and do have backgrounds which place them as credible persons. I did not just wake up and suddenly decide to research Rudloe Manor. A lot of factual documentary and witness based information has taken me to the interest I now have. Contrary to what you may have heard from security staff at Rudloe Manor in that I make up stories which they have probably told you in order for you to question my motives, I assure you that I am not a crank. It is very frustrating to me to not have access to the facility to speak to serving staff and to know the truth about the UFO research which went on in the 1960s and probably up until the mid 1990s.

If it would help you or your colleagues to understand our research goals any better so they are more informed about what we are doing I would be happy to provide these to you. I do produce a newsletter and have written many news articles on Rudloe Manor and UFOs. There are even UFO reports filed in the Public Records Office which were sightings reported by RAF Personnel in the Rudloe Manor area. This only adds to the interest.

The problem as I see it is that we have a very high level Top Secret base which does not want myself or anyone else having the right to poke its nose in. The likelihood is that they do know about UFO research. They are telling you that they know nothing about the areas I enquire about and then serve to try and damage my credibility in your eyes and other peoples eyes, internally inside the MOD so that nobody suspects what they are doing. This is a form of counter intelligence. The security staff who work at RAF Rudloe Manor are trained to lie on a daily basis to members of the public about the operational status of the base. We have proved this point in our research.

I enclose a copy of an email sent to me by [Section 40] who illustrates just how far the security staff go in order to try and quell the stories I give out. None of this will do any good because soon we are holding a public meeting in Corsham to inform local residents of the lies that they are being told about the base. This is going to be advertised by a mass leaflet posting which will myself and a number of other people are going to undertake. These leaflets will outline just what Rudloe Manor is and what they aren’t being told.

I would love to have been able to say in the leaflets that the RAF Rudloe Manor staff have been helpful and invited us in, but as it appears, Rudloe Manor is so secret and “off limits” to all people that we could not get access. This will only go to prove the point we are trying to make. If the RAF Rudloe Manor would like to co-operate between now and the time of the leaflet drop (2 weeks time), or wishes to take part in the TV program, then we might be prepared to go easy on what we say in our leaflet drop. But we need to be convinced, and in order to do that they will need to “open up” and start dialogue about UFO research or show us that we are wrong about the massive underground facilities by allowing a limited tour.
When I worked in Customs and Excise Criminal Investigation Unit in Cardiff I learned first hand that the Security Services worked at RAF Rudloe Manor because we had liaisons with them. I do not know if you knew this fact? It certainly explains one possible reason why we are seeing the base as “off limits”. Would you care to comment on this?

Hoping all of this can be absorbed and accepted in the good spirit it was intended.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

---

EMAIL ATTACHED (PS why would security be sending people to tours asking people about me? I must be a major irritation to their covert security efforts 😕)

---

Hi,

Are you if not could you forwarded it to him please.

I've spoken to you before, I don't know if you remember me, I'm a subscriber to your mag and have been to a lot of your tours, I live in Bristol. I'm just mailing you to tell you a little story, it was back in August, I rang you a few times but you were never there so since then I have been trying to get your e-mail address. We were in Corsham, in the underground mine tour, I started asking the tour guide a few questions (innocent of course) he started talking about you, so I said "Never heard of him" He was saying how you had made up a load of stories about the
base... He went on to say that 2 weeks before two guys from the base had come down on the tour with him and were asking him questions about you like "has he been here recently" and asking what you have been saying to him etc. Thought I'd let you know.

Thanx Muchly

Visit my web site The World of the Toys at http://Section 40 - it's right daddy cool!
Dear [Section 40]

Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

In my letter to you of 4 June, I advised you of the role and location of the PINDAR centre, and I refer you to the information I gave you then.

The site to which you refer at Rhydymwyn does not belong to the Ministry of Defence. It is owned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

You also ask again about the underground facilities at Rudloe Manor, which I explained in my letter of 4 June. I have nothing further to add.

Yours sincerely,

[Section 40]
into the public domain. We are now asked specifically about the case and information is provided in the attached draft.

"UFO" REPORTS COPIED TO INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES

In response to this point, the draft reply explains that the MOD does not hold files containing "UFO" reports for establishing their "UFO/flying saucer" interest. Public incident reports are received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence region. In the past it was standard practice to pass all "UFO" reports received to MOD Intelligence branches in order to establish any defence scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats. In the early 1960s the number of reports received annually was about 50-70. Fuelled by media interests, the number of sighting reports received in recent years has dramatically increased. Last year we received over 600 reports most of which contain less than credible information. It is therefore current Departmental policy to forward for expert assessment only those reports received from "credible witnesses" such as military personnel, civil pilots, and members of the emergency services.

Section 40
We ought to remember that we also look at corroborated or timely reports as well as those from authoritative witnesses.

Section 40
The foundation has been laid to make a credible reply and we are not making or allowing it to be made.

Section 40
I didn't think we'd circulate this to the world + wife.
ENQUIRY FROM RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Further to your minute at Reference (Sec(AS)2 was a copy addressee), I have one or two thoughts to offer regarding any proposed visit by XX to Rudloe Manor:

   a. What checks are made to ensure that someone who claims to be a journalist is indeed one? I imagine that ordinary members of the public would not be given visits to the underground bunker on request and there must, therefore, be some arrangement to verify their pedigree. Is there a journalist’s equivalent of an equity card?

   b. If we do currently allow other journalists to visit the complex I wonder what grounds there are for turning him down? If he is an accredited journalist, are we not bound to show him as much as we would be prepared to show any other bona fide journalist?

   c. Might you be able to reject his request on the grounds that, as you discovered recently, he has in the past attempted to break into RAF Rudloe Manor illegally?

   d. If the visit does go ahead, you will not, I guess, need me to say that the person given the job of escorting him would have to be carefully briefed about his personal "UFO" agenda.

Yours ever
**Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet**

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Re: your note of 10 Oct about — we have no problems with your proposal Draft.
**Transmit Conf. Report**

14 Oct '97 14:09

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LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
13 Oct 97
Hd CS(RM)1 - Section 40

RELEASE OF D155 "UFO" FILES
Reference: CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 23 Sep 97.

1. Thank you for sight of the two "UFO" policy files recently discovered during the review of DIS records which I now return to you.

2. And I have looked through them and have no concerns with respect to their release.

Encs.
10 Oct 97

PSO/AOCSS
Stn Cdr, RAF Rudloe Manor

Copy to:
PSO/COS
ACS(F&S)
Sec(AS)2

ENQUIRY FROM: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Section 40 telephoned me on Monday, asking for information about the editor of a newsletter entitled Hexagon. He had, he said, been sent this information from 'someone at Rudloe Manor' and gave the impression it was fairly recently. However, on looking at the fax he sent to me (copy attached), the extract is fairly old (comments in one of the articles indicate it was written in 1988).

2. Could addressees please give me advice to answer his two main questions:

   a. Is Hexagon still in print?

   b. If so, what is the policy regarding release of editorial details (bearing in mind the wide and public circulation of such publications)?

   c. The consensus of opinion regarding Section 40's request to visit the underground complex was that we turn him down. Given that he intends to take this further, can we adequately justify denying his visit? I have attached a copy of our letter turning down his request.

3. I have sent a holding reply (copy attached). I would appreciate comments or any input that addressees can supply by 1230hrs, Monday 20 October.
From: Mrs J E Mansfield

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND
Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon
RAFTN
Fax ext

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer
Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(FinSec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4

Date: 9th October 1997

Section 40

Des: Section 40

Thank you for your telephone call on Monday, 6 October, and your follow up letter of the same date. I am looking into the points you have raised, and I will write to you again as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
Dear [Name],

Please find enclosed a few pages taken out of "HEXAGON" newsletter. I do not have the first two pages which would probably include the contact details of who produces it. I would like to make contact with the editorial department.

Also, it is possible for you to let me know who, in name, made the decision about my not being allowed to come to RAF Rudloe Manor on a journalist visit. Please do not take this personally but I require the officer's name in order to place a note to my local MP. I intend to get the issue raised in Parliament that for some strange reason RAF Rudloe Manor is off limits to journalists full stop. I believe that a parliamentary question will cause an interesting reaction from MOD in London.

Which ever details get to your first can you please reply to me on the above address. Thank you once again for all your help on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Editor

RAF Brampton

Fax 6.10.97
The Tunnels Under Hawthorne — The History of 6 SU

Most people at Rudloe Manor know of the stone quarries and that 6 SU is located in part of the underground quarry system. However, few people know anything of the history of 6SU or the underground area in which it is located.

The quarries were formed by the mining of Bath Stone, which has been quarried within a 20-mile radius of Bath since Roman times. The stone removed from the quarries in which 6SU is now situated was a particularly fine and highly valued variety of Bath Stone known as Box Groundstone.

The golden age of Osney quarry was the period 1850 - 1910, when the advent of the Great Western Railway and Box Tunnel opened easy access to the stone fields and transport of the cut stone. The stone was quarried by hand and marks left by the picks and the saws can still be seen in the stone throughout the underground workings. The last commercial mining in this area was in 1954.

The build up of a military presence in the area started in 1955. With the possibility of war looming, precautionary measures had to be taken to guard against possible air attack on our ammunition stocks by German aircraft. Areas were surveyed around Corsham in the underground quarries and it was decided to build three ammunition depots at Mepal, Fairleigh, Eastleighs Ridge and Tunnel — under Hawthorn — to be known as the Central Ammunition Depot (CAD).

The Royal Engineers (REs) were tasked in late 1935 with initially clearing out all the rubble (some one million tons) and any unnecessary supporting pillars. Work commenced on the CAD at the centre of the quarry and worked out East and West with the intention to finish both ends simultaneously. It was estimated that it would take four years to complete, by this time England's general rearmament plan had become the No 1 priority and the first district was ready for use in May 1938.

In total the CAD and 10 districts, each with an average area of three sites and in order to allow the easy transportation of ammunition, 7.5 miles of conveyor belts were installed throughout the three depots.

In 1941 an underground barrack block and hospital were completed near where 6 SU is now. There were full living facilities to accommodate 500 men and women. But on the surface it could be seen were a few holes giving little evidence of the hives of activity some 90 feet beneath the surface. There were over 500 on shift during the war and the barrack block had a much used bar.

Early in 1942 the War Office decided to establish a telexprinter switching centre in the quarry workings next to the CAD. The original cost estimate was £36,000; by June 1943 the clock was almost complete, but the cost had soared to £20,000. Soon after, in August 1943, the South West Signals Centre was opened, under command of No 10 Group which was located nearby in the underground location now used by GDCN.

1950 saw the installation of new equipment and a dramatic reduction in the manpower required to operate this system. Refocusing the reduced scope of activities the name of the Unit was changed to South West Common. In May 1951 the Unit remained RAF Hawthorn and became a station in its own right. In 1953 saw the closure of the CAD and the handover of the area to DOE.

In June 1965 the Unit reverted to being part of RAF Rudloe Manor. The build up of the Unit as it is today began in the late 60s with the installation of yet more facilities and in February 1973 the unit was once again renamed, becoming known as Communications Centre Rudloe Manor. However, this name was to last long and in July 1977 the Unit was given its current name 6 SU.

Throughout the Unit's name changes one thing has remained constant — the main elements of the unit crest, which was authorised by the Queen in March 1935. The location is known as the Hawthorn site and the incorporation of the Hawthorn Spring together with the telecoms flash and our motto which means 'without error, without delay'. The 'S' was, of course, incorporated in 1977 when the Unit adopted its current title.
HQ RAFTTS

There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.

Niccolo Machiavelli
from: Chap 6 of The Prince

The introduction of a new order of things, as Machiavelli puts it, is indeed a difficult task, and particularly so if the old system is to be phased out with as little turbulence as possible. HQ RAF Fixed Telecommunication System (FTS) is established for just this purpose in the field of RAF ground communications, and I welcome the opportunity to explain briefly the function of the relatively new occupants of Anson, Mustang and Kittyhawk Buildings here at Rudloe Manor.

First of all, a little background is necessary. In about 1976 the Air Force Department decided to take a critical look at ground communications to decide what the problems were and what we should be doing about them. It was found that existing communication networks were fragmented and inflexible, and that they had grown up piecemeal in response to specific requirements rather than as part of a single coherent plan.

The networks were manpower intensive, and they relied almost entirely upon analogue landlines and analogue equipment rented from the Post Office (now BT) at a cost which was expected to rise dramatically. Even more disturbing was the fact that our existing communication networks were judged inadequate to face the assessed military threat. Future ground communications needed to be based on the twin pillars of security and survivability, and also needed to integrate all types of comm traffic onto a single network.

Projects UNITER and BOXER will provide such a service, and are the core of the new system. The RAFTTS is a complex and ambitious system, which is already under construction and scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s, and will provide all fixed ground communications within and between RAF locations in the UK. The system has three major components: Project UNITER provides the system framework, the digital communication switches, and user terminals; Project BOXER provides defence.....
RAF P&SS(SR)

Feeling about as satiated as a turkey in the run-up to Christmas, I entered the boss's office to await my Paxo-flavoured demise. 'We've been invited to submit an article in the new Hexagon magazine,' he boomed out. 'The boss commences — something putting us on the map, that sort of thing.' Pausing to allow this revelation to sink in, he continued ... 'Be a good chap and sort something out.' Retreat to my office I consider my next plan of action. How much leave have I got left?

Where better to start than the beginning. Hands up all those who know what P&SS(SR) stands for. One, two, three ... right put them down now, people are beginning to stare. As a means of introduction I'll start with the four 'Ws'.

Who? P&SS(SR) stands for Provost and Security Services (Southern Region).

Where? Ensnared amid the idyllic environs of No 1 Site, RAF Rudloe Manor, P&SS(SR) enjoys a casual, relaxed atmosphere within a labyrinth of truly spacious and luxuriously fitted suite executive offices which it magnificently shares with HQ P&SS(UK).

When? P&SS(SR) have been blessed with the hospitality of RAF Rudloe Manor ever since our move here from RAF Northolt during May 77 — some 11 years ago.

What? What do we do? Simply, our role is to provide a police and security service to all RAF units in Wales and the southern half of England. We investigate crime, conduct security investigations and carry out security tests and surveys. At the same time, we are continually updating our knowledge to ensure that in wartime we would be able to give station commanders the same standard of service, tailored to their special needs of the moment. Much of our work involves liaison with other police and security agencies both inside and outside the Service. Finally, enough, we do not act as a rule perform any 'traditional' white-hatted and armbanded RAF Police duties.

Currently at the helm and navigating P&SS(SR) through the ravages of war is Wg Cdr BM Ramsley. Wg Cdr Ramsley's hobbies include golf, welding and wearing dicky bow ties (and if he can get away with all three at the same time, so much the better).

After a New Year's rep talk by the DC, Southern's evening princess sees us reaching new heights on the CO's Cup ladder — after a concerted effort we're off the bottom! Mind you, there were moments of doubt; not least when our swimming captain was overheard by the poolside in January discussing the merits of swimming downhill the first half of the race. Still, as my old headmaster used to say: 'It's not the winning that counts, it's participating.' (That doesn't stop me thanking our forebears for not adopting the same philosophy in World War Two.)

Mind you, we do have a formidable array of golfers on the Region — if only we could get them all out on the course at the same time. We would be more than happy to play against any other Hexagon unit — if we can fit it in among our many raison d'etre visits with the civil police.

This is only an introductory article, to put P&SS(SR) in context. Henceforth, we will try to give you a few snippets from our work — suitably doctored to protect the guilty! Here's one for a start — which gives you an idea of the P&SS(SR) Regime.

One of the investigators, finding difficulty in obtaining a vehicle to use, asked his Flight Lieutenant if he could use his Caravel. The Flight Lieutenant agreed and said: 'Don't forget, Sgt XXX, I want it back spotless; no flat-tires, remains of Chinese takeaway on the floor or that sort of thing.' OK? Said Sgt promised it would be so and went off about his business. The next day, he appeared in the building, dressed very smartly in his usual civvies, but soaked to the skin and bearing marks of violent scrubbing on his visage. 'What happened to you Sgt XXX?' quoth his Flight Lieutenant. 'Well, sir. I took your car to the car wash and while it was being done I stood on one side, having a cigarette. To my horror, I saw that the radio aerial was still up and I dashed forward to try and put it down before the wash started. Unfortunately, I was too late and as I tried to put the aerial down, the water started and the brushes moved in. Anyway, I managed to do it in the end.'

'Why the hell did you do that?' said his boss. 'You have got a scratched face from the brushes and your suit is cream-crackled.' Quoth the loyal Sgt: 'I know. I know. But I wasn't going to get it ??????????????? from you about a busted aerial, after what you said about not mucking up the car.'

A STEP IN TIME

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HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 8QL
Telephone: Huntingdon

Section 40
RAFIN x 95331 ext
Fax ext 6984

Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(Fin Sec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/F&S

Date: 8 September 1997

Dear Section 40

I have now looked into the points you raise in your recent letter about RAF Rudloe Manor. Your request to visit the site is denied. This ruling would generally apply to any member of the public or journalist seeking to visit any MOD establishment and is not unique to RAF Rudloe Manor.

This Command has no responsibility for the Corsham Computer Centre. This lies with the Procurement Executive. The point of contact, should you consider it essential to persist with your enquiries, is:

Press Office
Procurement Executive
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood #1
BRISTOL
BS12 7DU

Yours sincerely

Section 40
ENQUIRY FROM UNDERGROUND BUNKERS

1. Addressees will be familiar with the thrust of our previous inquiries; his latest letter does not differ greatly in respect of the information he seeks. He is still asking for information about government wartime arrangements and I have therefore applied an exemption from the Code of Practice.

2. Would addressee please review the attached draft and either confirm that the information is correct or suggest suitable amendments. You will note that his letter is dated 30 July - I did not receive it from the Ministerial Correspondence Unit until 1 October! I would appreciate your comments by COP Wednesday, 15 October.

CS(FinSec)I F160 BRA
Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

'Hawthorn' is the name attributed to the geographical area where RAF Rudloe Manor is situated. It is not, and never has been, the name of any underground facility at RAF Rudloe Manor.

In my letter to you of 4 June, I advised you of the role and location of the PINDAR centre, and I refer you to the information I gave you then.

The site to which you refer at Rhydymwyn does not belong to the Ministry of Defence. I believe it is in the ownership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

You also ask again about the underground facilities at Rudloe Manor, which I have already explained to you in my letter of 4 June. I pointed out to you at that time that it is not appropriate to comment on government wartime arrangements and the release of such information is exempt under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Yours sincerely
The Prime Minister;
the Rt Hon Tony Blair MP,
10 Downing Street,
Westminster,
London,
SW1A 2AA.

Dear Tony,

I am writing with regard to RAF Rudloe Manor, near Corsham in Wiltshire.

For many years now, local villagers and Investigative Journalists have suspected that the Central Government War HQ (CGWHQ), the National Seat of Government during national emergencies and Nuclear attack, was (and still is) located in the former Quarry underneath RAF Rudloe Manor. The aforementioned bunker is known as Hawthorn.

Many people have speculated as to its size, construction, conditions inside and its facilities; some have even made reference to an underground town, complete with Operations centre, Telephone exchange, roads, escalators, emergency Nuclear Power station, pubs and even small shops!

HQ Logistics Command at RAF Brampton have admitted to me that it is "common knowledge that there are underground sites at RAF Rudloe Manor, which form part of the defence establishment." They refused to deny or confirm the existence of the Central Government War HQ. They did inform, however, the existence of a new Nuclear bunker underneath the MoD Main Building, code-name PINDAR, but refused to tell me the contingency plans for its use. When the BBC asked the MoD about the "Hawthorn" Central Government-War HQ, the MoD's reply was; "You're not supposed to know about it!"

As a registered voter, Freelance Journalist and British citizen, I feel that we, the British public, have a right to know and be told of the existence of the Central Government War HQ underneath RAF Rudloe Manor, and the deputy (underground) site at Rhydymwyn in North Wales. We also should be told EXACTLY what is underneath RAF Rudloe Manor, and the rationale, both now and during the Cold War, for having it there? Why is it there? What are the Contingency plans for having it there? What is it really for? What is in there (Operations centre, Underground town and rail system, etc)? What is the standard of the technical installations, and how much did the complex cost the taxpayer to build?

We also deserve an explanation for the PINDAR complex. Again, what is in there? Why is it there? What is the rationale for having it? What is the standard of the technical installations? How much did it cost to build, and what are the contingency plans for its use?

Please remember that previous governments expected the public to protect itself by hiding in the makeshift shelters (ref:- "Protect and Survive", HMSO). Therefore, I think that we have a right to know, once and for all, what there was and still is underneath RAF Rudloe Manor.

I think that the argument of national security, used by previous governments to hide Nuclear bunkers from the general public, is a weak one. Do you "seriously" expect me to believe that the KGB didn't know that the Hawthorn Central Government War HQ existed, and did not have any idea what there was underneath RAF Rudloe Manor!!?

Please turn over.
Page two of two.

May I please ask you to take action on my concerns? I believe we, the public, have a right to know what there really is underneath RAF Rudloe Manor and the MoD Main Building, especially when one considers that people like myself were expected to hide under mattresses and tables when the warheads were launched!

Please acknowledge my letter.

Yours sincerely,
LOOSE MINUTE
D/MIN(AF)/JR/2/1/3

October 1997

Sec(AS)1

Copy to:
APS/SofS
APS/USofS
PSO/ACAS
Sec(AS)2
ADGE 1 (RAF)
DPO(RAF)

AIRBORNE DEBRIS - PRESS REPORTS

Thank you for your minute D/Sec(AS)/58/1 dated 23 September which Minister(AF) has noted.
Loose Minute
CS(RM)/4/6/37
September 1997
Sec(AS)2a1 - Section 40

RELEASE OF DI/55 UFO FILES


1. I attach for your perusal prior to release the two UFO policy files recently discovered during the course of CS(RM)'s review of older DIS records.

2. There is no doubt DI/55/40/9/1 Part 1 with a last enclosure date of 1963 is "out of time". But the cover is clearly endorsed "closed 8 November 1967" and as the reference makes clear it seems probable a large number of enclosures (Es 1-3 [the second set of Es 1-3!] 6-9 and 11-19 together with one of the two original Minute Sheets) were removed and relived on Part 2. It is therefore understandable why this file has not previously come to light.

3. You will see the files are a mess. There has been wholesale renumbering of enclosures and enclosures are missing. I appreciate on release the general condition of these files, as no doubt will the content of the papers, attract attention, but I strongly recommend we resist the temptation (I admit I was tempted) to repackage the files into a more coherent form by placing them in chronological order and renumbering.

4. Attached to Part 2 is one of CS(RM)'s Sensitivity Notes. The passages flagged for deletion prior to the release of the file concerns specific "intelligence" activities which are not related to UFOs (see E3 paras 17-21, 29 and 31e).
Text: 

Attached updated database. You will note it includes two recently discovered DI55 files which should be with you later this week.
TOP ENCLOSURE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS — FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES — AS AT SEPTEMBER 1997

Already open — 14

To be released:

1998 — 12 (incl. 2 recently discovered files in DI, to be assigned to DEFE 21)

1999 — 14
2000 — 13
2001 — 11
2002 — 2
2003 — 14 (1 awaiting assignment to AIR 2)

Total — 80

PLUS TWO DI FILES TO BE FORWARDED TO CS(RM) AND LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO DEFE 21.

AIR 2

16918 1961-63 UFO's: sightings; reports by members of the public AF/X59/64 Pt 5

[OPEN — Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17318 1963 ditto AF/X59/64 Pt 6

[OPEN — Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17526 1964 UFO files AF/X59/64 Pt 7

[OPEN — Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now released]

17527 1965 ditto AF/X59/64 Pt 8

[OPEN — released 1996]

17982 1965-66 ditto AF/X59/64 Pt 9
17983 1966 ditto AF/X59/64 Pt 10

17984 1966-67 ditto AF/X59/64 Pt 11

18115 1967 Unidentified flying objects: AF/CX38/67 reports Pt 1

18116 1967 ditto AF/CX38/67 Pt 2

18117 1967-68 ditto AF/CX38/67 Pt 3

18183 1968-69 Unidentified flying objects AF/7463/72 Pt 2

18564 1957-71 UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957 Pt 1

18565 1970-71 UFO Reports Pt 1

TBA April 1972 UFO's 10/45/120

AIR 14


AIR 16

1199 1952 Sept Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector IIH/188/1/17
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12306 1970 Nov ditto AF/S4f(AIR)546
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12399 1971-72 UFO reports ID/47/274 Pt 4

12400 1972 Jan ditto ID/48/117

12401 1972 Feb ditto ID/48/118

12401 1972 March ditto ID/48/119

12403 1972 April ditto ID/48/120

12404 1972 May ditto ID/48/121

12405 1972 June ditto ID/48/122

12406 1972 July ditto ID/48/123

12407 1972 Aug ditto ID/48/124

12408 1972 Sept ditto ID/48/125

12409 1972 Oct ditto ID/48/126

12410 1972 Nov ditto ID/48/127

12411 1971 Dec ditto ID/48/128

[Pieces 12399-12411 due for release 2003]

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**THESE TWO FILES ONLY RECENTLY DISCOVERED AS PART OF CS(RM)'s REVIEW OF RECORDS HELD BY DI OVER 20 YEARS OLD. THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO DEFE 21**
Annex B

PRO CLASSES CREATED FOR INTELLIGENCE RECORDS - UFO RELATED RECORDS
- AS AT September 1997

8 classes have to date been raised for records originating from
defence "intelligence" branches. They contain between them more
than 15,250 intelligence records selected for permanent
preservation.

THE ARE NO IDENTIFIABLE UFO RECORDS BUT SEE DEFE 21 (ABOVE) -
TWO AWAIT LISTING.

The classes together with the date range and the total number of
pieces in each class:

ADM 223 - Naval Intelligence Papers, 1914-1965, 840 files and
volumes.

ADM 231 - Naval Intelligence Reports, 1883-1965, 54 volumes

AIR 40 - Directorate of Intelligence and other Intelligence
Papers - 1926-1963, 2706 files and volumes

DEFE 21 - Joint Intelligence Bureau, Directorate of Scientific
Intelligence: Registered files - 1946-1978, 77 files

DEFE 32 - Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files - 1957-
1979, 99 files

DEFE 44 - Joint Intelligence Bureau: Reports - 1946-1971, 100
files and volumes

WO 106 - Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence -
1937-1961, 6228 boxes, files and volumes

WO 208 Directorate of Military Intelligence - 1917-1961, 5187
boxes, files and volumes
Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/58/1

23 September 1997

APS/Minister(AF)

Copy to:
APS/SofS
APS/UsofS
PSO/ACAS
Sec(AS)2
ADGE 1 (RAF)
DPO(RAF)

AIRBORNE DÉBRIS – PRESS REPORTS

1. We spoke this morning about reports picked up by the Press concerning sightings of lights in the sky and falling débris appearing in the Border region and the North East. I have now investigated these reports and can confirm that there has been no aircraft accident in the area and the most likely explanation for the sightings is débris from a satellite.

2. RAF Fylingdales has advised that a solar powered Russian military satellite was destroyed in space on 17 September. Although fragments of the satellite were not expected to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, and Fylingdales were not routinely tracking the débris, they have been able to plot the expected trajectory of the fragments and this does coincide with the pattern of sightings reported earlier this morning. There is therefore strong evidence to link the two events.

3. Any fragments from the satellite which may have landed are not expected to present any danger to the public but the local police and Community Relations Officer have been informed.

4. Details of the satellite are classified but the attached unclassified Press lines may be used by DPO in the event of further Press queries.
AIRBORNE DÉBRIS – PRESS REPORTS

- The unusual lights in the sky and airborne débris reported to have appeared in the Border Region and the North East earlier today are most likely to be fragments of an old satellite which broke up in Space last week.

- There is a lot of satellite débris in Space which usually burns up on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere but occasionally some fragments do get through and this is what we understand happened this morning.

- These fragments do not pose a danger to the public but as a precaution it is advisable to inform the police of any pieces that are found.