

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF "RETRIEVALS"

Details of cover-up revealed following lawsuit against the CIA

Gordon Creighton

PUBLICATION of Leonard Stringfield's paper "Retrievals of the Third Kind" is bound to cause alarm in some quarters. It would be foolish to expect anything else.

This might therefore be the appropriate moment to point out that this whole thesis about the crashed craft and the dead occupants does not stand or fall solely with Leonard Stringfield. There are other competent investigators who have arrived at the same conclusions as Stringfield. One of these is the aerospace engineer William Spaulding, who actively leads an Arizona group of investigators known as *Ground Saucer Watch*. This is said to be a nation-wide American research organisation of about 500 scientists and engineers, and it is the body which recently brought a lawsuit against the CIA and, in the Brooklyn Court, won the day.

The CIA has repeatedly said that it had finished its investigations and closed its books on UFOs in 1952, but *Ground Saucer Watch* asserts that, from the contents of the first 1000 pages of secret documents winkled out of the CIA under this "freedom of information suit" it is evident that the Agency and the American Government are still lying about the UFO problem. Says William Spaulding: "After reviewing the documents, *Ground Saucer Watch* believes that UFOs do exist, they are real, the U.S. Government has been totally untruthful, and the cover-up is massive." (See article in *New York Times* of January 14, 1979, headlined 'CIA papers detail UFO surveillance'.)

So William Spaulding and *Ground Saucer Watch* assert that in their view there has been a "massive cover-up" on UFOs. But what else do they say? They say — as is indicated in this important special report published in the *New York Times* that they too have sworn statements from retired U.S. Air Force colonels that at least two UFOs have crashed and have been recovered by the Air Force. One crash, says Spaulding, was in Mexico in 1948, and the other was near Kingman, Arizona, in 1953. Spaulding also says that the retired Air Force colonels claimed to have seen, in connection with both these crashes, the corpses of alien beings about four feet tall wearing "silver outfits that seemed fused to the body from the heat."

Here then is proof that Leonard Stringfield is not the only person in America today who is talking about crashed craft and dead bodies in pickle. There is clearly a considerable amount of smoke.

It will be seen that William Spaulding and his colleagues were waiting in January 1979 for a Federal Judge to rule on the final phase of their suit against the CIA, which sought access to 57 items of documentation which would provide "hard evidence" of UFOs or retrievals of the third kind, and which included motion

We regret this article has appeared rather later than it should have done. We had been promised a report from an American contributor on the GSW-v- CIA situation, and so on, but this has failed to materialise. In its absence we have been forced to rely on the limited material at our disposal, on conversations with an American researcher who visited us, and on Gordon Creighton's correspondence with Leonard Stringfield.

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pictures, gun camera film, and residue from landings. What precisely is the present situation, I have not yet heard.

One final thought: isn't it really rather odd that we have heard nothing whatsoever here, in the British or indeed in any of the European media, about this remarkable report which was printed in the *New York Times* for January 14, 1979?

After all, here is a news item in which seemingly responsible folk are cited as claiming proof that what is allegedly the most powerful government on Earth has possession of crashed flying saucers, and dead occupants pickled in brine or on ice, and that that government has been pulling the wool over everyone's eyes for more than a quarter of a century. A tremendous hullabaloo was raised over lying, and "monkey-business" and financial crookedness in high places, but compared with the pettifoggeries of American politics the problem of Earthman's possible contact with alien intelligences is something of an altogether more immediate and more important order, yet it warrants little or no comment. The fact that the achievement of *Ground Saucer Watch* against the CIA in an American court of law has been allowed to pass thus, virtually without comment anywhere in the world's media — apart from this item in the *New York Times* — surely contains a pointed message for those who can think for themselves and can see things a bit more clearly than the rest.

Leonard Stringfield tells me that threats against his life have been uttered since he started his campaign to gather evidence about retrievals, and this should surprise nobody. I grant that it is conceivable that somewhere in the Galaxy there may be a planet where governments are concerned for the general welfare of their peoples, but such is not the case on *our* planet, where every government serves the interests of a small oligarchy. It is patently obvious that individuals who advance inconvenient views, make embarrassing discoveries, or produce new inventions that threaten existing vested interests, are very

much at risk. So let us honour Leonard Stringfield and William Spaulding and all those others who are struggling at present to have a little more light cast on some very grave and murky matters. And should the critics and discreditors launch their campaign of ridicule against these two investigators let us not forget that such ridicule was, and is, entirely predictable. And ridicule can be a very potent weapon;* just as potent as the weapons used by the advocates of stronger arm methods.

The New York Times article

In view of its importance, and in view of the total silence with which this article has been greeted throughout the British and the West European media, it is vital that we reproduce its text in full. The piece is datelined Phoenix (Arizona), January 13 (1979). From it we learn that, "Documents obtained in a lawsuit against the Central Intelligence Agency show that the agency is secretly involved in the surveillance of unidentified flying objects and has been since 1949, an Arizona-based UFO group said yesterday.

"The CIA has repeatedly said that it investigated and closed its books on UFOs during 1952, according to Ground Saucer Watch, a nation-wide research organization of about 500 scientists, engineers and others who seek to scientifically prove or disprove the existence of UFOs, but 1,000 pages of documents, obtained under a freedom of information suit, show "the government has been lying to us all these years", it said.

"After reviewing the documents, Ground Saucer Watch believes that UFOs do exist, they are real, the U.S. Government has been totally untruthful, and the cover-up is massive," William Spaulding, head of the group, said.

Embassies gather information

"Mr. Spaulding, an aerospace engineer with AiResearch, one of the largest producers of specialized aerospace components, said the documents show that United States embassies are used to help gather information on UFO sightings and that the information 'seems to be directed to the CIA, the White House, and the National Security Agency.'

"A CIA memo of August 1, 1962, recommends continued agency surveillance of 'flying saucers,' saying, 'It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press of public, in view of their probably alarmist tendencies to accept such interest as *confirmatory* of the soundness of *unpublished facts* in the hands of the U.S. Government,' the document said.

"Among the documents are several detailed reports of Air Force attempts to either intercept or destroy UFOs.

"In a 1976 incident in Iran, one report says, two F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers pursued a large UFO that seemed to send out smaller craft. One of the smaller craft 'headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed,' the report said. 'The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications.' The pilot eluded the craft, then watched as it 'returned to

the primary object for a perfect rejoin,' the report continued.

Concern about Russian aims

"A major point of concern, a CIA document of October 2, 1962, shows, is that UFO sightings could mask Russian air attacks or 'psychological warfare.' The report — to the Director of Central Intelligence from the assistant director for the Office of Science Intelligence — recommends that the National Security Council be advised of the 'implications of the *flying saucer* problem;' that the matter be discussed with the Psychological Strategy Board, and that the CIA help 'develop . . . a policy of public information which will minimize concern and possible panic resulting from the numerous sightings of unidentified objects.'

"A document dated November 1975 directs against acknowledging any pattern in sightings. 'Unless there is evidence which links sightings, or unless media queries link sightings, queries can best be handled individually at the source and as questions arise,' it said. 'Response should be direct, forthright and emphasize that the action taken was in response to an isolated or specific incident.'

"Mr. Spaulding says the documents show that there are links and patterns in the sightings. From that evidence, he says, he believes UFOs are here on surveillance missions.

"We find a concentration of sightings around our military installations, research and development areas,' he said. 'The UFO phenomenon is following what our own astronauts are doing on other planets — we send a scoutship, we take soil samples, and then we land.'

Another suit pending

"Mr. Spaulding said he has sworn statements from retired Air Force colonels that at least two UFOs have crash-landed and been recovered by the Air Force.

"One crash, he said, was in Mexico in 1948, and the other was near Kingman, Ariz., in 1953. He said the retired officers claimed they got a glimpse of dead aliens who were in both cases about four feet tall with silverish complexions and wearing silver outfits that 'seemed fused to the body from the heat.'

"Mr. Spaulding said his group is waiting now for a Federal judge to rule on the last phase of its CIA suit, which seeks access to 57 items that would provide 'hard evidence' of UFOs or 'retrievals of the third kind.' That evidence includes motion pictures, gun camera film, and residue from landings, he said.

"Among the films they want are 40 to 48 frames taken in 1952 by Ralph Mayher, then a cameraman for KYW-TV in Cleveland and now a member of Ground Saucer Watch. The Air Force borrowed the film in 1957 and has never returned it. The official finding was that the object had been a meteor, Mr. Spaulding said.

"We're past the story-telling stage,' Mr. Spaulding said. 'We have to have it in black and white to satisfy the scientific community. We have to establish the existence of the object to all the people in Missouri and then figure out who's driving it.' "

*[I never forget how the late Waveney Girvan, the previous editor of this journal, insisted always that the best weapon against ridicule is . . . ridicule. Let's not forget that — EDITOR]

A RE-VIEWING OF THE GREAT NOCTURNAL LIGHT

UFO fallout over New Zealand, December 1978

W. C. Chalker

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THE humble "nocturnal light" has in recent years held little sway with most researchers and investigators. It was generally felt that by the nature of the beast, it lent itself towards considerable ambiguity, despite the fact that, in sheer weight of numbers, nocturnal lights outnumbered all the other extremes of UFO observations. Understandably the stuff of a thousand fruitless hours of investigation drew little enthusiasm from researchers, unless the lights were the precursor of a localised "flap"¹ or they were supported by photographs² and/or instrumented evidence.³

An inherent level of ambiguity and lack of finality in resolution exists in most *unexplained* nocturnal light cases. For example, even in events of suggested classic status, such as the Lakenheath and Bentwaters, England affair of 1956,⁴ the RB-47 flight of 1957⁵ and the Washington area flap of 1952,⁶ the elusiveness of quality documentation is quite adequately demonstrated.

However, a complex series of nocturnal light sightings over New Zealand during late December, 1978 and early January, 1979, afforded us all a remarkable look at this thing — or these things. The affair provided researchers with an excellent scenario of events, characterising in sharp relief the problems that plague the whole UFO subject, and balancing the whole with a wealth of data.

We have in the New Zealand sightings, a collection of fascinating anecdotal accounts, supported in a number of cases by possible radar correlations and in one particular case, by TV footage of our prey. What followed was the inevitable sociological consequences of the current status of the phenomenon — the need to explain, to understand or to rationalise the reports, unfolded in a veritable "festival of absurdity." A colleague of mine⁷ pointed out that by late January, 1979, there were at least 23 suggested explanations for what they were.

Some of these explanations should be endeared to history through these pages. They include:

- (a) top secret US military remote control drone vehicle (explanation by former RAF research specialist);
- (b) plasma or ball lightning (Duncan Lunan & Erik Tandberg. I must ask where was Phil Klass at this juncture? — B.C.);
- (c) reflections from (i) squid boats (crew of RNZAF *Orion* tracker aircraft), (ii) squid boats via mutton birds (NZ ornithologist J. Harrow); (iii) from moonlight via cabbage leaves (Mrs. Eru Pilcher of Kaikoura, NZ);

This contribution is a commentary on the UFO flap over New Zealand at the back end of 1978, and in particular on the case of the UFO filmed from a plane, which so shook the world on New Year's Eve. So far the event has been dealt with but briefly in the pages of *Flying Saucer Review*, in the Editorial "Spanners in the Works" in Vol. 24, No. 5, in an article by Paul Norman entitled "Debunking runs wild" in Vol. 25, No. 1, and in a letter from Mr. Ian Ridpath in Vol. 25, No. 3.

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- (d) a hoax (Sir Martin Ryle, Astronomer Royal);
- (e) meteorites (Sir Bernard Lovell, Adrian Berry & Prof. Ronald Brown);
- (f) Venus (Mt. Stromlo scientists; Norman Oliver; David Mabin, the head of NZ's Mt. St. John Observatory; Sq.Ldr. R. Charran, RNZAF & DSIR);
- (g) Jupiter (Robert Lanigan-O'Keefe,⁸ Mt. Stromlo, and so on);
- (h) helicopters operating illegally at night (unnamed professional airmen);
- (i) a reflection, a balloon or an unscheduled aircraft (opted for by no less a keen mind than Patrick Moore — obviously hedging his bets);
- (j) "unknowns" (Quentin Fogarty, Captain Bill Startup, etc.), and
- (k) in keeping with the spirit in which a number of these suggestions were (or should have been) intended, my colleague suggested — wait for it — *Superman* ("after all why not? Everything else has been suggested and I'd hate to be unoriginal!").

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, prominent American scientist — an optical physicist — and UFO researcher for NICAP and Dr. Hynek's CUFOS whose visit to Australia was funded by the TV Company, mounted a thorough investigation. He provided possibly the best available documentation on phenomena of apparent "nocturnal light" status, supported by possible radar-visual correlations, multiple witnesses and an audio-visual record in the form of audio tapes, radar tapes and film footages of seemingly anomalous lights in the night sky.⁹

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