

which provides that no law shall be construed to require disclosure of the organization or any function of the NSA or any information with respect to activities thereof). It would appear that if the President should ever wish something done that can be covered up as completely as is possible in this country, he need only bury it in the NSA. But even more interesting as a conjecture is that the President of the United States may be completely ignorant of the "NSA component" concerned with "the organization and operational activities and functions of the NSA with respect to the

UFO phenomena". After all, in the view of the professionals, there are some secrets too deep to be shared with an officeholder whose tenure is at most eight years. At the NSA, whose primary function is technical intelligence gathering, there is no obvious reason to suspect a policy making or evaluation function that goes beyond the processing of intelligence information for policymakers further up in the chain of command. Thus the NSA "organization, and function, or any information with respect to the activities thereof" can be kept secret with considerable plausibility.

2. THE INS AND OUTS OF UFOs AND SECRECY SINCE 1940

James A. Harder, Ph.D.

IN the last issue I described how the Policy Chief from the National Security Agency (NSA) had released a censored version of a top secret affidavit he had submitted to federal Judge Gesell in support of the NSA claim that his agency did not have to release documents under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suit brought by Peter Gersten and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. Within the sanitized version, in an explanation of why certain sections of a previously released document had been deleted, there occurs the statement "The matter in this paragraph concerns the organization and operational activities and functions of the NSA..." The dots represent a deletion of 15 characters on one line and 17 characters on the next line.

Bill Moore has supplied an interpretation of these deletions that fits the context, fits the style of the author, and of course fits exactly the spaces available. In his interpretation the deletions are "with respect to the UFO phenomena", so that the passage reads "... concerns the organization and operational activities and functions of NSA with respect to the UFO phenomena." It is this information that the NSA is apparently trying to hide from public view.

This instance of censoring matters concerning UFO activities is only the latest in a series of clues that can be used to reconstruct the course of U.S. government secrecy over the decades. The problem of uncovering this pattern is not unlike trying to discern the bottom contours of the Pacific Ocean from a few soundings and the appearance of a few islands that break the surface. We do know that the ocean is there, and that parts of it are very deep. In what follows the contributions of many tireless UFO investigators will be integrated into a picture that is as clear as can be presented at this time.

Photos of Bodies

One starting point is the recovery of a crashed UFO from the Sonoran desert of Mexico in late 1941. This recovery was accomplished by a team from Navy Intelligence, which was at the time the premier U.S. intelligence agency in terms of scientific background. One member of the team, unable any longer to contain the vast import of what had been discovered, brought home to share with his immediate family a sheaf of 8 by 10 inch glossy prints showing the UFO. One of the prints showed his friend holding by the wrists one of several dead bodies they had recovered. I was present during the hypnosis session wherein a member of the family was able to clearly recover the images of the photographs seen. From this case we know a very early date for the beginning of government involvement and the branch of service that was involved at that time. Other details are still under investigation at APRO headquarters.

Intelligence agencies do not communicate their findings to other agencies, even other intelligence agencies, unless there is a "need to know"; therefore staff at the Air Material Command (AMC) Wright-Patterson Army Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio (AMC was a part of Army Air Force Intelligence) did not know in the summer of 1947 that there was already another player in the field. Stimulated by the Kenneth Arnold sighting (flying saucers over Mount Rainier) on June 24, 1947, the staff at AMC gained permission to investigate the so-called flying discs. In a letter to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington D.C., Lt. General N. F. Twining wrote in a secret report that the "considered opinion" was that the so-called flying discs were "something real and not visionary or fictitious... the reported operational characteristics such



A well-known photo, frequently refuted and "debunked", said to be of a creature from a UFO that crashed in Mexico. Is this the entity mentioned in Dr Harder's second article?

G.C.

as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft and radar, lend belief to the possibility that some of the objects are controlled either manually, automatically or remotely . . ." As a result of Twining's letter, dated 23 September 1947, the AMC was given priority 2-A and a project name "SIGN" for the investigation. One important reason for staff concern was a fear that the aircraft reported were something that the Russians had developed, perhaps based on secret design information gained from the Germans at the end of World War II.

Estimate of the Situation

After several months of investigation, the AMC was in a position to come to an "estimate of the situation." In a Top Secret Report, the estimate was that the sightings were of extraterrestrial spacecraft. When this report got to General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force Chief of Staff in Washington, he would have none of it. Even when a delegation of scientists came from the AMC to bolster their report, he could not be budged. Apparently he had learned something in the meanwhile that the folk at AMC did not know. From that time the Air Force operation was put into a holding position of making some investigations, but with the main job of denying that there was anything to UFO sightings except mistakes and frauds. In February of 1949 the name of the project was officially changed to "GRUDGE" with what some personnel saw as an indication of an official attitude. In the meanwhile AMC had become the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) with headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In all probability the personnel at ATIC thought of themselves as being the only ones in the Air Force concerned with UFO matters and were never told differently.

What General Vandenberg must have known is that there was another branch of Air Force Intelligence involved with UFO research; we don't know its name, but subsequent events would show that somehow the personnel or the activities that were originally with Navy Intelligence had moved over to Air Force Intelligence. This secret and serious group of UFO researchers does not seem to have been known to the personnel at Project GRUDGE or its successor, project BLUE BOOK.

However, the Air Force Intelligence staff at ATIC were not the only ones to find that the field had been pre-empted. The summer of 1952 saw an extraordinary outpouring of reports from all over the United States; UFOs were seen over the White House during the Democratic Convention, and it was all the Air Force could do to prevent the cover from blowing off. All of this activity sparked an interest at the Office of

Scientific Intelligence (OSI) in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) — there is massive evidence compiled by Brad Sparks of the extensive interest of the "substantive issues" of UFO research at OSI during the fall of 1952. A conference was planned, later to be known as that of the Robertson Panel. But by the time the OSI could get started on the subject, there was a change of personnel as the new President, Dwight Eisenhower, promoted Allan Dulles from deputy director to the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency. The secret group within Air Force Intelligence had carried the day against the interlopers from OSI.

From being a discussion of the substantive issues of UFOs, the Robertson Panel was diverted to a discussion of the dangers posed by the phenomena; this was seen to be of two sorts: one, that there was a danger that UFO sightings would be mistaken for those of enemy aircraft and that reports of them might clog military channels of communication in an emergency; and the second: Subjectivity of (the) public to mass hysteria and greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare".

One of the recommendations of the panel was that there be a double barrel program of training and debunking. The training (for Military personnel) would result in the proper recognition of unusually illuminated objects that were assumed to be at least partly the stimulus for UFO reports. The debunking aim was to

"result in (the) reduction of (the) public interest in 'flying saucers' which today invokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures and popular articles. Basis of such education would be actual case histories which had been puzzling at first but later explained. As in the case of conjuring tricks there is much less stimulation if the 'secret' is known. Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and consequently their susceptibility to clever hostile propaganda . . ."

APRO mentioned

In further action, the panel took note of civilian UFO study groups (including APRO) and warned that such organizations should be watched because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur (the wave of sightings of the previous summer was a lesson in this regard). Further remarks were made that the 'apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind . . ." In their conclusions section there is the statement: "... the continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these perilous times, result in a threat

to the orderly functions of the protective organs of the body politic . . . and the cultivation of a morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority.”

The Robertson Panel report was classified SECRET, and might never have been discovered except that it was seen in the files at ATIC headquarters by Dr. James McDonald; apparently it had been improperly declassified, for when he turned it back in and asked for a copy, it was not provided, and he was told that it was no longer available as a declassified document. A somewhat amusing side effect was felt at

APRO headquarters, where it was discovered that a “volunteer worker” had been secretly making reports to his superior officer of his observations at APRO. At one time there were as many as three former CIA operatives on the board of directors of the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

COMING: The International Dimension — and some of the things the intelligence agencies fear about UFOs.

A NOTE ON “PULSED LIGHT-TRACKS”

Florin Gheorghită (Cluj, Romania)

(Précis from French)

IN an interview¹ which he gave in 1978, the French investigator Claude Poher made the statement: “It is not at all impossible that the ‘UFO Phenomenon’, as it is classified at present, may in fact comprise several different unknown phenomena”, and in that same year I published an article² here in Romania on a certain physical phenomenon that had made its way into Ufology and also into official scientific research, namely the production of genuine photographs, taken in a number of different countries, generally out in the open, and showing pulsed trace-lines of light.

Theories

Some years ago an *APRO Bulletin* carried a photograph of this type, with the explanation that it was claimed to show “the aerial manoeuvres of UFOs”. It had been taken by the American John T. Hopf during the night of December 13, 1966, at Newport, Rhode Island. A similar explanation was offered for a photo³ taken during the night of November 10, 1979, in Victoria Park, London by S. Chorvat.

“Ball-lightning”

On the other hand, the photograph of a pulsed light-track taken by chance by the Englishman R. C. Jennings one summer night in 1961 in Yorkshire was published in the Belgian UFO journal *Infoespace* as an example of “ball lightning.” However, two investigators, D. W. Davies (of the British National Physical Laboratory at Teddington) and R. B. Standler (of the New York State University at Albany) proved⁴ that it was not a case of ball-lightning at all.

“Pulsed ball-lightning”

A number of scientific writers have published similar photos and called it “pearled (pulsatory) ball-lightning.” — a phenomenon which in fact does not exist. None of them was able to explain an elementary physical process — namely how could ball-lightning remain momentarily without light around it (during the drop in its electrostatic potential) and then light up again so many times (???) without the addition of an external influx of energy?

Now the problem of ball-lightning is one that lies within my own field of professional competence, as I have spent many years studying the scientific documentation for this curious phenomenon, which until this day still remains without valid theoretical explanation.

As far as this business of the so-called “pearled ball-lightning” (in French “*la foudre en boule perlée*”) is concerned, I have established as a definite fact that there is neither any theory nor any real practical evidence to support the idea that it exists. I have assembled a voluminous photographic dossier of material from ten countries, covering two continents, which demonstrates very effectively that such a phenomenon does not exist in reality!

“Insects’ wings”

There have of course been other absurd explanations which people have put forward. Desiring to refute the theory that photographs of such pulsed trace-lines showed “the movements of UFOs”, the German aviation engineer H. Malthaner has supposed that the various “UFO trace-photos” of this kind that