

A HISTORY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SECRECY REGARDING UFOs

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This distinguished FSR Consultant is the Professor of Civilian Engineering in the University of California, at Berkeley, and was for a long time actively associated with APRO, Mrs Coral Lorenzen's fine organization which has played such a prominent role in UFO research and was the first in the field. Dr Harder testified before the Condon Committee and before various U.S. Congressional Committee meetings on UFOs, and we have already published two articles by him in FSR 29/6 and 33/1. EDITOR

WHEN Peter Gersten and "Citizens Against UFO Secrecy"* (CAUS) filed a suit in 1979 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to compel the National Security Agency (NSA) to release documents, few thought anything would come of it. The NSA (*No Such Agency*, as it is sometimes called) is probably the most secret intelligence agency in the U.S. that has a name known to the public. CAUS was seeking documents relating to UFO sighting reports. When the NSA representative, Mr. Eugene F. Yeates, appeared before a U.S. court in late 1980 in response¹, he admitted that his agency had found 239 documents of the sort sought. Seventy-nine had originated with the CIA and other agencies, and he stated that they had been referred to the other agencies for direct response to the plaintiffs. Yeates did not produce any of the remaining 160 documents, but handed Presiding Judge Gerhard Gessel a 21-page memo telling him that the documents were so sensitive that he, and presumably any of the judiciary, could not see them. Normally, in order to protect the public against spurious claims of national security, it is required that documents in dispute in FOIA cases be examined by a federal judge.

In this case, however, the 21-page memo itself was classified *above* Top Secret, at a security level that was itself classified. The judge and only the judge could read the memo "in camera". One can imagine a security guard watching over the judge until the memo was handed back. The usual excuse for secrecy regarding UFO reports in the hands of government agencies is that secret methods of obtaining information, and how the agencies go about listening in on foreign radio and radar transmissions, might somehow be compromised. It is possible that this excuse was contained in the Top Secret memo, though it is hard to believe that all 239 of the documents could be reasonably restricted by this consideration.

However, in 1982 a sanitized version of the memo was released. About 90% of the space is totally blacked out, and the remaining 10% has significant phrases blacked out. But there are enough bits here and there to be most intriguing. For example, on the third line from the bottom of page two is the statement: "One document... was erroneously treated as a part of the subject matter of plaintiff's FIOA request. It is an account by a person assigned to NSA of his attendance at a UFO symposium and it cannot fairly be said to be a record of the kind sought by the plaintiff." We are left to wonder how many other documents concerning the activities of the NSA were left out because they did not meet the specificity requirements of the FOIA, and how many other operatives had been sent to observe meetings devoted to UFO matters.

Also contained in the observable 10% of the memo is an explanation of why certain parts of selected "non-COMINT" reports could not be revealed even though they did not relate to special intelligence-gathering activities. The acronym COMINT is used in the memo to describe material that cannot be disclosed; it means "Communications Intelligence". Ref-

erences are made to non-COMINT documents that had been partially released. For example, one document had been released to the plaintiffs, but with certain deletions. The report was entitled *UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions*. The name of the author and his "NSA component" were deleted. A second document was partially released, according to the memo, but with all of the title deleted after "UFO". This document apparently was a three-page draft of a criticism of NSA's "COMINT" interception and reporting procedures. The memo states that "... (the author) uses the UFO phenomena to illustrate his belief that the..." There are then further deletions of several lines. Then the visible parts of the memo's quotations continue: "... of the handling of the UFO phenomena as it demonstrates what he believes is the..." The memo explains that these remarks cannot be revealed because they might stifle the candor of internal criticism of the NSA.

The deletion of parts of paragraph three of document #2 is further explained: It contains information about signals intelligence (SIGINT) operations, the withholding of which would seem to be reasonable. However, this paragraph is stated to contain material (presumably not SIGINT) that "concerns the organization and operational activities and functions of NSA..." At this point the last 15 letters and spaces of one line and the beginning 17 letters and spaces of the next line were blanked out. An interpretation of the first 15 spaces was made by Mr. William E. Moore: ... *with respect to*. On the new line the words *its UFO programs*. fits the 17 characters and spaces blacked out. Of course a number of other possibilities exist for the 17 characters, but the logic of the earlier sentences suggests that were the operational activities being hidden really connected with SIGINT or another legitimate subject, this would have been stated. If the UFO-subject-matter interpretation is accurate, it suggests that the NSA does not wish to reveal any organization and operational responsibilities in the UFO area. *It thus may be the current center of this activity, which some thought had been the responsibility of the Air Force. The NSA is particularly well placed for covert operations insofar as Public Law 86-36 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."* The primary function of the NSA is technical intelligence-gathering, and few would suspect that it is otherwise engaged.

Apparently a discussion of two other "non-COMINT" documents was lost in the blanks, since the memo then goes on to discuss (in about seventeen blanked out pages)** the remaining 156 COMINT documents. Thus one is left with the impression that the vast majority of the NSA documents dealing with UFOs are connected with communications intelligence. This may well be an artifact of the particular request made by CAUS, however; were a specific request to be made for documents relating to "organizational and operation activities and functions of NSA

with respect to its UFO programs” who knows how many documents (none of which would be disclosed because of Public Law 86-36) could be enumerated?

Whether or not the NSA is actually the current center for government UFO operational activities, there is much evidence that there is such a center. The particular needs of NSA for secrecy would make it a prime candidate for locating super-secret activities there — even the President may have but limited access. Were he to inquire, it could easily be explained that he has no “need to know” about sensitive intelligence-gathering activities that have nothing to do with policy. If he persisted, it might be easy to provide so much information that anything about UFOs would be lost in it. If the President were expected to further persist, as President Carter may have (recall that during his presidential campaign Carter promised to open UFO files to the public) a contingency plan could have been worked out in the time between election and inauguration. In the view of some intelligence professionals, there are secrets too sensitive to be shared with an officeholder whose tenure is at most eight years.

Early history of governmental cover-ups

The above instance of a probable NSA cover-up of UFO activities is but a recent part of a long history, reaching back to at least 1941, of how the U.S. government has dealt with the UFO matter. The problem of uncovering this involvement 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 independent discoveries of many tireless UFO investigators will be integrated into an overall picture that is as clear as can be presented without access to classified information.

*One starting point is the recovery of a crashed UFO from the Sonoran Desert of Mexico in late 1941.*** Although this case is still under investigation, and is not as well documented as others, it is of interest because of its early date, and because of reports that it was recovered by a team from U.S. Navy Intelligence. At that time, Naval Intelligence was the premier U.S. intelligence agency in terms of scientific prowess, and it would have been natural that it should have been placed in charge. The case came to the attention of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) when an informant came forward to reveal an experience he had had at the age of ten. The informant, now a very successful business manager, was lurking on the landing of a stair instead of being in bed, and observed an older relative, an officer in the U.S. Navy Intelligence, bring out a sheaf of 8 by 10 glossy prints. He was apparently sharing with his family a secret too wild to keep to himself. In one of the photos a grounded UFO took up most of the scene. In another, one of his friends was depicted, standing in front of the craft holding upright one of the several dead bodies the team had recovered. I was present during the hypnosis session, wherein the witness to the scene was able to clearly recover the images of the photographs from memory. Other details are still under investigation by APRO. The retired Navy officer, when reached, denied any knowledge of the matter.*

Intelligence agencies do not communicate their findings to other agencies, even other intelligence agencies, unless there is a “need to know”; thus the staff at the Air Material Command (AMC) at what was then called Wright Field Army Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio (AMC was a part of Army Air Force research and development) did not know, in the summer of 1947, that there was

*already another player on the field. Stimulated by the Kenneth Arnold sighting (flying saucers over Mount Rainier) on June 24, 1947, the 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 (later declassified and included as an appendix in the *Condon 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 as extreme rates of climb, manoeuvrability (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. . .”² The letter was dated 23 September 1947. Subsequently the AMC was given priority 2-A and a project name “SIGN”. One important reason for staff concern was a fear that the discs reported were something the Russians might have developed, perhaps based on secret design information gained from the Germans at the end of World War II.*

After several months of investigation, the AMC was in a position to come to an “Estimate of the Situation”. *In a Top Secret report dated August 8, 1948, the estimate was that the reported sightings were of extraterrestrial spacecraft.³ When this report got to General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force Chief of Staff, 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. Maybe he knew or had learned something he could not reveal to the folk at AMC. From that time the Air Force operation at AMC 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 was renamed the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC).*

What General Vandenberg might have known is that there was a branch of Air Force Intelligence that was playing host to UFO operations, the personnel of which may have moved over from Naval Intelligence. This group’s activities do not seem to have been known to Project GRUDGE or its successor, Project BLUE BOOK. However, the staff at ATIC were not the only ones to find that they had been pre-empted. The summer of 1952 saw an extraordinary outpouring of reports from all over the U.S.; UFOs were seen over Washington D.C. during the Democratic National Convention and it was all the Air Force could do to keep the cover from being blown off. All of this activity sparked an interest at the Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) branch of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Massive evidence compiled by Brad Sparks speaks to a considerable interest in the “substantive issues” of UFO research at OSI during the fall of 1952. CIA documents describing UFOs flying at high speed, and over forbidden military zones, leave little doubt that the OSI considered them to be extraterrestrial craft; furthermore, Sparks obtained interviews with agents who admitted this implied conclusion, though their reports were couched in the somewhat more conservative wording that the sightings could not be explained by any man-made craft. In the fall of 1952 a conference was planned, later to be known as *The Robertson Panel*. But by the time OSI could get started on the substantive issues, there was a change of personnel as the new President,

Dwight D. Eisenhower, promoted Alan Dulles from being deputy director to the Directorship of the CIA. Subsequent events show that the OSI was deflected from its original interests in "substantive issues".

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

One of the panel recommendations 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 evokes 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. . ." (4, p. 915)

A television program fitting this description was produced by Jack Webb and appeared weekly in the early 1970s. A friend of mine, Jim Miller, was one of the writers, but quit after he had submitted three drafts of one episode — he was not able or willing to satisfy the producer who wanted a certain slant. The slant wanted, it appeared, was very similar to that recommended by the Robertson Panel report.

The panel also took note of civilian UFO study groups and warned that such organizations should be watched "because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. . ." (4, p. 917) Further remarks were made that the "apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind. . ." In the conclusions section there is the statement "... the continued emphasis of the reporting of these phenomena does, in these parlous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning 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." (4, p. 918)

This report was classified *Secret*, and might never have been discovered except that it was seen in the unclassified files at the Foreign Technology Division (formerly ATIC) headquarters by Dr. James McDonald. He was browsing through their unclassified files and, when he came upon this document, asked if he could have a copy. *After a few weeks he was informed that the document had been reclassified by the CIA and was no longer available.* It was partially declassified in 1966, perhaps partly because of this leak. Still later Brad Sparks secured the complete declassification of the main body. The report was subsequently published, with some deletions and without its significant appendices, in the *Condon Report*.⁴ A somewhat amusing side effect was felt at APRO headquarters where Coral Lorenzen discovered in 1954 that one of

her office "volunteers" was working for someone else too. She found a discarded second typing sheet, which, when the impressions were dusted with graphite, revealed a report on APRO activities written to an undisclosed agency by the volunteer. It is indeed beyond chance that at one time there were as many as two covert ex-CIA officers (in addition to the one known) on the board of directors of the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

Although the information is necessarily sketchy, the data from the first decade of government activity in UFO investigation (from about 1941 to 1953) suggests that an initial investigative group, perhaps from Naval Intelligence, successfully defended their turf from the Army Air Forces and the CIA. The number of persons who had inside information is unknown, but it need not have been large. Most interesting is how outsiders were successfully diverted from gaining inside information. More of this later. In the meanwhile, the pattern of initial interest on the part of scientific-oriented personnel, followed by a government inspired diversion, developed also in the Soviet Union.

Apparently acting on one branch of high government authority, Felix Zigel', a Professor at the Moscow Aviation Institute, and retired Major-General P.A. Stolyarov of the USSR Air Force, made a most unusual appeal over prime-time Soviet Television on November 10, 1967. They asked viewers from throughout the nation to send them information about any strange craft seen flying over the Soviet Union, explaining that the matter was a serious challenge to science. They provided details of the kinds of information sought. An article by Professor Zigel' in the January 1968 issue of *Soviet Life* offered many examples the author had collected, including reports from Soviet astronomers who had watched a UFO flying through our atmosphere.

Hundreds of letters flooded to the address announced by the television program, and soon over 200 documented cases were under investigation. Newspapers carried many stories of UFO sightings and of the research. This interest in UFOs was short lived, however, as *Pravda* issued a sharp statement in February 1968 showering the issue with ridicule. In March, 1968, the program was abandoned, and Zigel' was under severe pressure to stop seeking information about eyewitness accounts.

In Europe the British have been as resolute in ridiculing UFOs as have the Americans, which may be accounted for by their early close co-operation with U.S. intelligence. In France, a program called the Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Study Group (GEPAN) began in 1977 with high hopes, but has reached a plateau even to the present day of not admitting any extraterrestrial hypotheses regarding strange things seen in the skies or landed on the ground. Instead, with a small staff of only four, supplemented by other government and police help, GEPAN is resolutely polishing an image of scientific rectitude. (GEPAN is now defunct, and replaced by another body. ED.)

A conversation with Professor Condon

Thus there emerges a nearly world-wide pattern of an initial interest in the scientific study of UFOs that is aborted or diverted by what appears to be covert forces. In the U.S., political pressures for a study led the Air Force to issue a request for a proposal from university groups, a study which ultimately produced the "*Condon Report*" from the University of Colorado. During the preparation of the proposal from Colorado, Robert Low, an Assistant Dean in the Graduate

School, wrote the famous memo of how the University might deal with any controversy over the propriety of its participation.**** His memo, dated August 9, 1966, was in partial preparation for a meeting with Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) staff, scheduled for the next day.⁵ In it, Low argued that the proposed study would perforce be done almost entirely by non-believers and, while the project could never "prove" that no UFOs have ever come from another world, it could contribute impressive evidence for such a conclusion. "The trick", he wrote, "would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear to be a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of non-believers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer".⁶

Although the Air Force advisory committee that had recommended the study had suggested that "a few" universities or not-for-profit organizations be awarded study contracts (it can be argued that more than one point of view is useful when a controversial subject is to be studied), the AFOSR staff decided that one was enough, and Colorado was to be the one. Details of the contract were worked out during September in conferences between Professor Edward U. Condon, Low, and the staff of AFOSR.⁷ After the contract was awarded to Colorado, Robert Low obtained a leave from the graduate school to become director of the new project.

Condon, the nominal head of the project, took very little part in either administration or investigation, leaving a rather free hand to Project Director Low. Dr. Condon did not learn of the "trick. . ." memo until 18 months after it was written, when two project personnel found it in the project files; the two showed it to Professor James McDonald, who passed it on to John Fuller and *Life Magazine*. Amidst the resulting tempest, the two were promptly fired.

In the summer of 1968, when the project was in its final report preparation phase, I made a visit to Condon in his own office. Condon and I had a very frank discussion of policy before Low was able to hasten over from project offices. Dr. Condon asked what I would do about publishing a project report that might reflect a conclusion that UFOs were a manifestation of extraterrestrial intelligence (ETH). I replied that I thought there would be other considerations than purely scientific ones, for example, those having an international dimension, or those affecting national security. He smiled the smile of a man who sees his own opinions reflected in the opinions of others, said he had given the matter much thought, and that he had concluded that if the answer were to be a positive finding of ETH, he would not make the report public. Instead, he would take the report to Washington, to the President's Science Advisor, and have the decision made there. Subsequently Professor David Saunders, one of the principal investigators for the project, recalled in his book "UFOs YES!" that Dr. Condon had expressed much the same opinion in staff meetings.

A trio of theories

There are at least three hypotheses that might explain the suppression of information from government sources and an apparent lack of government research on UFOs here or abroad. The first is, of course, that all UFO reports are the result of mistakes or frauds, so there is nothing to hide. A second is that all govern-

ments are independently following a program of suppression. *A more likely theory is that there is to some extent an international agreement among the relevant intelligence agencies in both the western democracies and in the Soviet bloc nations to suppress information. Enough information has leaked out of the Soviet Union to suggest that UFOs are seen about as frequently over its territory as over the U.S., so Soviet intelligence agencies should have the same motivation for mounting a study as have their U.S. counterparts. They also have a stronger state apparatus for suppressing information about such a study, and seem to be using it.*

Motivations for suppression of information

What would be the motivation for such a severe suppression, the mounting of programs of disinformation, and the general way in which ridicule is heaped on the subject and on those civilians who are trying to find out more about it? Furthermore, why would this happen in both the West and in the USSR? To gain some insight into such a motivation, may I suggest that the reader try, as an exercise, to get out of the mind-set of a person interested in UFO matters as an amateur or a scientist, and into the mind-set of a professional intelligence agent who has the job of studying UFOs not just a few hours a month, but forty hours a week. To this should be added, access to UFO information that is far more extensive and possibly alarming than the public knows, and a responsibility of an intelligence mission: to keep track of and study all that could be a threat to one's nation (or planet).

*From this point of view, strangers on one's borders that show no sign of co-operation or communication surely invite suspicion. Since the intelligence agencies don't know the purposes or motivations of the strangers, the standard operating procedure would be to consider them a potential adversary. It would be natural to try to discover what they are capable of doing and to analyze a worst-case scenario of conflict. That is, after all, what intelligence agencies are expected to do. There is no place in their operations for a pollyanna faith that strangers (extraterrestrial or not) are friendly, even if they were to say they are. Thus we should not expect a response from intelligence agencies to the UFO "threat", given the mission they have, to be any different from what has been made.*****

I think this is a partial explanation for the secrecy that has surrounded the governmental programs. The first information that came to the attention of the government would naturally find its way to the military intelligence agencies, and the future of the investigations would be firmly established by their point of view. *To them, the UFO phenomena must have seemed truly awesome — the worst of science fiction come to life. They would remember the panic caused by the first radio dramatization of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* in 1938 and realize that this time there would be no way to admit the existence of UFOs without risking an unknown reaction from the public. So at first, at least, they decided to sit out what might have been a passing storm. If they felt they had to begin contingency planning to cope with a possible invasion, there was certainly every reason to keep that sort of planning secret. Making such plans in co-operation with their counterparts in Soviet intelligence would be very much needed, but hardly something one could explain to politicians here.*

Then, after some time and further study, they would realize that objects similar to UFOs have been reported for centuries, so that the recent increase in

UFO activity may be but a stepped-up surveillance brought about by our development of atomic energy, and that the possibility of an invasion was remote. This would not automatically result in the abandonment of secrecy, absent any good reason. There would be many unknown consequences attendant upon public disclosure. It is true that public opinion polls show that a large majority of Americans believe that UFOs are real, as opposed to something imaginary. A majority, according to some polls, believe that UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft. But this is only superficial; *there is little evidence that human life or basic belief systems have been, so far at least, directly affected by such opinions.* We see pictures like "ET", depicting friendly little aliens, or others of space lizards out to subject the world, but this is only fiction. However, were there to be a government announcement, repeated to the point of no denial, that UFOs are very real extraterrestrial spacecraft, the sense of uncritical wonder the public now exhibits might change drastically. The potential impact (as Dr. Condon agreed) on international relations and national security could be a Pandora's Box full of almost unimaginable troubles.

Further reasons for secrecy

Once entered upon, the government programs intended to address the UFO problem would gain a life of their own, complete with the secrecy apparatus. Those on the inside would assume an almost godlike position of power — gatherers of intelligence information, architects of global security sitting in judgement of how much ordinary citizens could know. Yet this is not entirely fair — they are also, and probably see themselves as, devoted public servants serving their fellow citizens in ways they cannot speak of — a lonely task imposing a heavy responsibility. *Furthermore, this very responsibility would lead to a covert co-operation with counterpart agencies within the USSR, where much the same concerns are being felt. A sense of isolation from their fellow citizens, together with a common supra-national responsibility and the cover of complete secrecy, would give scope for a limited sort of joint planning for a remotely possible alien invasion of planet Earth. Surely it would be difficult to explain this to a Congressional subcommittee without jolting the public unmercifully.*

The more thoughtful of the insiders will surely have considered whether any good could ever compensate for the enormous problems attendant upon making the program public. *Would there be any technological gains from a closer communication with aliens? Not likely. Could they be relied on to favor western democratic thought over Soviet collective thought? Problematical, particularly since an alien form of government might be expected to be highly collective.* Could scientists learn anything from closer communication? Probably not, if the learning had the potential for making the Earth better able to extend its influence farther into space. On no front could advantage be expected. On every front, unexpected problems could be anticipated. One would be the fear that were the U.S. to make a clean breast of past secrecy and to admit UFO reality, the Soviets could take advantage of it. Thus it could be argued that while our citizens were clamoring for international co-operation to meet a common threat, the Soviets could stonewall the problem with their own people, keeping them in the dark. We might be demoralized in carrying out earthly struggles with real enemies, while they would have a free hand to continue what some call international subversion.

Would there be any advantages to contact?

Fantasy and fiction aside, I think there is little or nothing of a technical or scientific nature we can expect to be told by the ETs. Humans have been spectacularly successful in applying what technical knowledge they do have to the development of war instruments; to a wise group of ETs, the supply of additional technology to us, under such circumstances, might be compared to a proposal on our part to supply a group of chimpanzees with sub-machineguns and the training of how to reload clips.

On the other hand we might with a better expectation of success inquire about the social and psychological characteristics of ET societies. This would hardly be information that would be dangerous. Surely it would be very useful for us to become aware of the ways in which advanced societies may have coped with problems we ourselves are facing in the here and now. Although from an ET point of view it may seem that we are already supplied with copious sources of wisdom to which we are inattentive, we could plead slow learning. If we could learn from the history of another civilization better than we have so far learned from our own history, the results could be spectacular. It is always good to have examples of past successes; we do have need for hope.

The effect of government secrecy on science

In the early years, the behaviour of UFO vehicles was seen as defying conventional scientific principles. Thus the fantastic accelerations, supersonic flight without a sonic boom, noiseless hovering maneuvers, observed strange force fields — were altogether fascinating, but could not be placed within any known theoretical framework. From a detached point of view, government programs of debunking UFO reality, combined with the withholding of data, probably had little effect on the progress of physical science at that time.

Today, however, particle physics has entered a new era in which experiments require equipment, like the proposed superconducting super-collider, costing many billions of dollars. At the same time theorists, less constrained by the possibility of experimental verification or non-verification, are spinning more and more fantastic descriptions of what may be possible. *Super-string theory*, which brings quantum gravity into particle physics, and which in some interpretations provides a prediction of a new type of hidden matter, is an example. Topology has provided an existence proof of additional four-dimensional manifolds that are very different from the one we live in. *Finally, cosmologists and astronomers have yet to find 90 per cent of the mass required to regularize the motions of the Cosmos.* They are also at a loss to explain an invisible gravitational source, calculated to have a mass equivalent to 1000 galaxies but to be less than 1.5 million light years across, that is required to explain the gravitational lensing of the image of a distant quasar.

Is there anything from UFO observations that could contribute to a solution to the problems now being faced in conventional science? If anything is to be gained, the first step is to take UFO observations seriously, and then to quantify them. Although at first we could only expect to find new puzzles, it is possible that eventually all of the strange observations can be brought into harmony. Surely this is a worthy goal of our science.

What should be our response?

Whatever agency is at the core of government research, however much its hirelings are able to heap ridicule on those expressing an interest in UFOs, to whatever extent it can mount debunking programs against the average citizen, we still are a free nation. Here in the West, at least, these suppressions should have little impact on scientists who are aware of their heritage in searching for the truth. So if we, as a group, are being manipulated, it is to some extent with our own acquiescence. As Shakespeare had Casius remark, "*The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves . . .*"

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3. Ruppelt, E.J. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Ace Books, New York (1956). Captain Ruppelt was in charge of Project Blue Book from March 1952 to February 1953, and from July 1953 to May 1954. Also Major Donald Keyhoe reported that he saw a copy of the document in 1952.
4. CONDON Report (ibid) pp 905-919.
5. ibid page 549.
6. ibid page x.
7. ibid page 550.

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR

* We have referred frequently in FSR to CAUS and their lawsuits in connection with the *Freedom of Information Act*. In particular, see FSR 29/5 (1984); 30/1 (1984); 31/1 (1985); 31/2 (1986); and 31/5 (1986).

** For photostats of these erased or partly-erased pages in the 21-page *Affidavit in Camera* produced in 1980 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia by Mr Eugene F. Yeates, Chief of the Office of Policy, National Security Agency (NSA), in the course of the hearing of the case brought against the NSA by CITIZENS AGAINST UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS SECRECY (CAUS), see the book "CLEAR INTENT: THE GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF THE UFO EXPERIENCE", by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (published in 1984 by Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632, price in paperback US\$8.95).

*** This is not by any means the first time that we have

come across the claim that the first crashed UFO with dead crew recovered by the U.S. Government was not in 1947 or 1948, *but dates back to as early as 1941*, and we think that it may very well be true. If so, the fact is of some importance, since it would seem to indicate the invalidity of the theory — held by some — that the current massive inspection of us and our planet by aliens began only in 1947, having been provoked by the detonation of the first atomic bombs (in 1945). In such a case, the use of nuclear weapons here would seemingly *not* be the primary reason for alien activities.

**** The information that has reached us at FSR indicates that Mr Robert Low (now deceased) was an *Intelligence Officer* (from either the CIA or NSA) who had been seconded into the academic world as an Assistant Dean in the Graduate School of the University of Colorado, no doubt for the precise purpose of presiding over the gestation-period of the *Condon Report*. When he came to Britain, Professor Winder and I spent a day in entertaining him on behalf of FSR and taking him around, to Windsor and elsewhere. *He displayed not the slightest interest (or even knowledge) whatsoever in the matter of Ufology, and ignored all the important material that we offered him. Having, myself, had plenty of dealings with CIA men in my own official life, I formed the firm conclusion that he was also one of them.*

What did however strike me very forcibly about Mr Low was that he seemed desperately anxious to squeeze in a visit to Loch Ness. And when he discovered that I own a copy of practically every book ever written on unknown lake and sea monsters, he was keen to borrow the lot (but not a single UFO book or report) and carry them back to America for study. (I think he was convinced that sea and lake monsters were "all baloney", so probably he hoped to use them in his work of "debunking" the UFOs and also "debunking" us!)

For FSR's early announcements and comments on Condon, including our early announcements of the discovery of Low's *Memorandum* and the impending confidence trick at Colorado University, see Charles Bowen's Editorials in FSR 13/5 (1967); 14/1, 14/2, 14/3, 14/6 (all of 1968); and 15/2 (1969).

***** For many years past, there has been a slow accumulation of slight indications that, however much they might be at loggerheads on other and more general issues, the USA and USSR may long have been "*in cahoots*" (*CIA-KGB collaboration*) regarding the existence of a grave threat to mankind from aliens, and that consequently the so-called "*Star Wars*" programme of the much vilified President Reagan (a programme which our "Left Wingers" hate so much because they fear it might slow down or impede the Soviet conquest of the planet) may be not at all what the public has been led to think it is! (In which case, the Soviet attitude of "protest" might be what the Chinese call a piece of "*shadow-boxing*).

It will take time to assemble all the pointers which we have, but I feel that in due course it will be necessary to discuss this question more fully. G.C.

AN ANIMAL MUTILATION CASE IN SWEDEN

(Translation from Swedish) From the newspaper *Wermlands Tidningen* (September 30, 1988. (Credit and thanks to FSR reader Arthur Strong in Arvika, Sweden, for this report.)

Dead elk found near Hunneberg in August

- Never seen anything like it.
- Bones near the body crossed in the same place.
- Wounds on all four legs are exactly the same; otherwise no other injuries.
- No signs in the surroundings to suggest that a wounded elk had made its way to there.
- Injuries must have been inflicted on that very spot where the elk was found. (*Or it must have been dropped there from the sky.*)
- That it was struck by lightning is a possibility. But lightning would leave marks. Lightning could have struck the animal, gone into the legs, and

caused explosions in the joints. But nothing like this has ever been documented before. Nobody knows what could have happened.

The bones were cut from the body and sent away to the Veterinary Medical Centre in Uppsala, where they were X-rayed by Ms Margareta Steen, an expert on cause of death in elks. She found no signs of shot-wounds, and no bullets. And she also does not believe in the possibility of lightning as the cause. Ms Steen can therefore find no explanation for the wounds, but the case does seem to indicate that it was some external violence, which caused the heavy bleeding of the animal.