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EDITORIAL: AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU TO OUR READERS.

We are grateful and quite overwhelmed by our readers' response to Mr Jonathan Caplan's appeal. With the exception of one letter from an overseas reader who seems to be slightly "off his trolley", the result has been a complete endorsement of all that we have tried to do, and gives us great confidence in the future, so we thank you all! The financial support received is very substantial and will guarantee our survival for this year.

I do feel, however, that it was an oversight on my part that I had not previously made it entirely clear as to what precisely are the **causes** of FSR's plight.

Firstly it must be emphasised that, as Mr Caplan said, **FSR was never launched as a profit-making body** like, for example, UFO Magazine. And personally I consider it ludicrous and a vast mistake that FSR should have been started, in the Spring of 1955, with the absurdly low capital of precisely **one hundred pounds!**

But on that we have survived, by a miracle of economising and the scraping of the bottom of the barrel, and we have lasted for nigh on half a century, dealing with a subject that officially does not exist! (In that half a century plenty of magazines devoted to subjects which **do** exist have gone under).

Throughout all that time plenty of rich folk have had plenty of opportunity -if they wanted it- to help us to secure a more assured future, but with one solitary exception, they have all taken damned good care not to do it. This exception, a Californian millionaire, helped us most substantially for one year, and then he suffered a great disaster and lost a lot of his money. We are, however, immensely grateful to him for what he did on our behalf.

A second very rich man, from Europe, started to talk about subsidising FSR as early as 1991, and repeated the offer several times, but nothing ever came of it.

So -on £100- isn't that a success? If not, then I ask you what it is...?

(At this point let me relate an amusing little story that really does deserve to go on record. There is in the USA one other exceedingly wealthy gentleman who apparently owns huge chunks of one of their great cities, and who is known to have made big bequests for research in the UFO field. And recently, on hearing of FSR's problems, he

wrote that "if FSR is in trouble, it is not in the slightest due to the Internet, but due to a lack of quality business practice"!)

However, it remains a plain stark fact that the Internet has cut our readership down to one third of what it was. There are folk here who of course will tell me that I am talking nonsense, but I have some excellent support from the other side of the Atlantic. In a letter dated September 17, 1999, to me from Robert Swiatek, Secretary of our very staunch friends **The U.S. Fund for UFO Research** (and who could know better than they do!) we read this:-

"There is no doubt that the Internet is hurting membership of U.S. organizations like *MUFON* and *CUFOS*. The latter is limping along on almost a month-to-month basis. It wouldn't surprise me if a few of the groups in the States had to consolidate in the near future to make the best available use of the dwindling financial resources".

As for our capital of £100, who with any sense would ever imagine that, on such funds, we could be expected to display "quality business practice"?

Finally, it should not be forgotten that there is also another very important reason for the decline in our readership -a reason which does not apply to any other individual UFO researcher or UFO investigation body in this country. This is the fact that, whereas I had previously taken part in over 40 TV and Radio programmes, for the past 18 years or so there has been a blatant ban on me throughout the whole of the British media, and there are standing instructions that FSR is never even to be mentioned.

Consequently, while the number of people in Britain with an interest in our subject has increased enormously, they have no possible means of knowing of FSR's existence through the media.

Those who are responsible for this policy designed it deliberately. They know perfectly well that we have very little money, and cannot advertise in the media.

It is not difficult to guess who the designers of this policy are, and at any rate it is flattering to learn that **FSR is considered to be so dangerous.■**