

1. A "SMOKING GUN" AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (NSA)

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A distinguished member of the large team of American Ph.D.s and M.D.s whose names appear in the Consulting Panels of APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc. of Tucson, Arizona) the world's oldest UFO investigation organization, Dr. James A. Harder is the Professor of Civil Engineering in the University of California at Berkeley, and he has played a prominent role in American Ufology, giving testimony before the Condon Commission and Congressional Committees, specializing in the study and use of hypnotic time-regression of UFO percipients, etc.

He was here on a visit to Britain last year, when we had the great pleasure of meeting him, and he has given us his special authorization to reproduce the following two articles and the rest of the series as they appear in due course. Our thanks go also to Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen and APRO. This instalment comes from APRO Bulletin Vol. 32, Nos. 1 and 2.

To avoid confusion, British and foreign readers should bear in mind that this article is not about NASA (America's Space Exploration body) but NSA, America's top-secret Intelligence agency — said to be even more powerful and more secret than the CIA. — EDITOR

WHEN Peter Gersten and "Citizens Against UFO Secrecy" (CAUS) filed suit against the NSA in 1979 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) few thought that anything could come of it. CAUS was seeking about 120 documents concerning reports of UFO sightings; but when the NSA representative, Mr. Eugene F. Yeates, appeared before Judge Gerhard Gessel in late 1980 he admitted that they had found 239 documents of the sort sought in their files. Some of them had originated with the CIA and other agencies. Yeates did not produce any of these documents so that the judge could read them, as is customary when there is a dispute about whether material is properly classified, but instead handed Gessel a 21 page memo classified above TOP SECRET at a level that was itself classified. He could read it in his chambers "in camera" without any witnesses and without making any copies. The plaintiffs plainly could not see it. The usual explanation for withholding NSA reports is that they may include classified information about how the NSA goes about finding information and what they have been able to learn from listening in on foreign radio and radar transmissions. Thus, as of 1980, very little had been extracted from the NSA.

However, within the past several months, a "sanitized" version of the memo has been released. It is mostly 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 FOIA 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 in sending operatives to UFO meetings and symposia were not included because they did not meet the specificity requirements of the FOIA. Why is the NSA so secretive about such reports? Apparently the reason is that they do not wish anyone to know of their UFO investigations. Contained in the memo is an explanation of why certain parts of selected reports that do not relate to intelligence gathering activities could not be released, even though they may have related principally to UFOs.

One document had been released to the plaintiffs, but with certain deletions that were explained: it was entitled *UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions* with the name of the author and his "NSA component" deleted. What is his "NSA component"? A second document was partially released according to the memo with all of the title after *UFO* blanked out. There are deletions concerning Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) operations blanked out, which can be made plausible. Other deletions concern information about material that "concerns the organization and operational activities and functions of NSA" (one third line covered over) . . . a reasonable interpretation of the blacked out area are the following words, supplied by William E. Moore: "the organizational and operations activities and functions of NSA with respect to the UFO phenomena". The Smoking Gun! The reason for this blackout was explained: "this material is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. para 552(b)(3) which exempts from release under the FOIA matters specifically exempted from disclosure by another statute" . . . (there follows a reference to public law 86-36

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