

The Government and UFOs

"Further scientific investigation of UFOs is unwarranted."

—Air Force, 1980

Perhaps most disturbing is the very fact that after thirty-two years, a small but significant percentage of UFOs still remains unidentified. While the government has been concerned with the psychological danger the UFO phenomenon poses, it has been unwilling to consider the prospect that some UFOs pose an actual physical threat. Fearful of generating undue concern, the government has deliberately chosen to debunk UFO reports and has misinformed the public as to the true importance of the phenomenon.

Unconventional aerial objects that boast unlimited and unrestricted access to our most sensitive nuclear installations—and which can render inoperable the instrumentation, communication/weapon systems of American-made jets, or which can shut down and restart at will sophisticated hydraulic equipment—do warrant further scientific study. Awareness of an advanced technology and potential threat is not an unreasonable pursuit. As the National Security Agency indicates, it could be a matter of survival.

Though admittedly the government has studied UFO reports, apparently no government body has dwelt on those official government reports that indicate certain UFOs pose a threat to national security. Is there any doubt that it is these reports which deserve further scientific investigation?

The now-defunct USAF twenty-year "Project Blue Book" UFO study never had a chance to receive the "outstanding report" from Iran. An Air Force document states: "Reports of UFOs which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146* or Air Force Manual 55-11, and are not part of the Blue Book system." The Air Force's UFO investigation was

criticized as long ago as 1952 by the CIA. The CIA complained that the Air Force's case-by-case investigations and explanations were insufficient to determine the exact nature of the phenomenon.⁶

Similarly, the Air Force-sponsored "Condon Committee" study by the University of Colorado in 1968 never earnestly intended to investigate the physical reality of the phenomenon. Indeed, an early memorandum by one of Dr. Edward U. Condon's staff indicates otherwise: "The trick would be, I think to describe the project so that to the public, it would appear a totally objective study . . . one way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomenon, but rather of the people who are doing the observing . . ."⁷

Conclusion

In June 1978, a French government UFO study group (GEPAN) concluded that "everything taken into consideration, a material phenomenon seems to be behind the totality of the phenomenon—a flying machine whose modes of sustenance and pro-

pulsion are beyond our knowledge."

If the UFO phenomenon is indeed beyond the grasp of our understanding—technologically speaking—all the more reason to strive towards learning more about it. For although the United States may ignore the significance of the UFO phenomenon, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that the rest of the world will do so.

And there are other considerations besides national security in following up the UFO enigma. As a report from the National Security Agency in 1968 put it,

"Perhaps the UFO question might even make man undertake studies which could enable him to construct a society which is most conducive to developing a completely human being, healthy in all aspects of mind and body—and, most importantly, able to recognize and adapt to real environmental situations."

In isolating ourselves from the UFO phenomenon we may risk missing what could be the most important adventure man has yet embarked upon. □

Is the CIA Stonewalling?

by RICHARD HALL

BASED ON the 892 pages of UFO-related documents released to lawyer Peter Gersten, it is clear that the CIA's professed non-interest in UFOs is untrue. There is internal evidence of non-continuity within the CIA, and even of one group or analyst being unaware of other files or previous work. This is not surprising considering the highly compartmentalized nature of the agency. But periodic studies or reviews were ordered and UFO reports, foreign and domestic, were routinely monitored over long periods of time.

The statement is sometimes made that the CIA has had no "formal" study of UFOs other than the 1953 Robertson Panel, but these documents show that the agency kept (and no doubt keeps) plenty of "channels" open to gather information, including an acknowledged channel into the

1966-68 University of Colorado UFO project. The documents also clearly indicate that in 1952 the CIA was prepared to mount a major scientific study of UFOs based on the extraordinary radar-visual sightings that year, but that the debunking conclusion of the Robertson Panel cut short that effort.

In May 1953, following the Robertson Panel report, "P&E Division assumed responsibility for the OSI project on unidentified flying objects." (December 17, 1953 memo to Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence) A year later, the Chief of P&E (Physics and Electronics) said he would "maintain the OSI central file on such objects," which he did until August 1955, according to an August 8, 1955 memo to the Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence.

AFTER THAT, responsibility was assigned to the Applied Science Division, where W.E. Lexow, Division Chief, stated in a February 1956 memo: "A chronological file of all OSI correspondence and action taken in

*Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication 146 is published by the Military Communications Board of the DOD Joint Chiefs of Staff. It provided U.S.-Canadian "Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS) from Airborne and Waterborne Sources." Section III (Security), paragraph 208, calls for stiff penalties for divulging information about such sightings once reported. —Ed.

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Air Force bases from Guam to w-
foundland.² Another AF document
reveals that the Air Force conducted
an investigation into the incidents but
found no explanation for their occurrence.

It appears Air Force "security
measures" provided no protection
against the "invasion." One month
later, on January 21, 1976, UFOs "25
yards in diameter, gold or silver in color
with blue light on top, hole in middle,
and red light on bottom" were
observed "near the flight line of Cannon
AFB, N.M." Ten days later, on
January 31, a UFO was observed near
a radar site at Elgin AFB, Florida. On
July 30, 1976, a UFO was observed
"over the ammo storage area" at Fort
Richie, Maryland.³

The above accounts have numerous
historical precedents. From 1948
through 1950, an FBI document
reveals, UFOs were sighted by "per-
sons whose reliability is not ques-
tioned," near highly sensitive military
and government installations, in-
cluding nuclear weapons design, con-
struction, testing and stockpiling sites.
Security officials were greatly
alarmed by these incidents.⁴

A CIA document reveals that in 1952
"sightings of unexplained objects at
great altitudes and travelling at high
speeds" were reported in the vicinity
of major U.S. defense installations and
posed a threat to national security.

The evidence is clear and convincing
that the Federal government has
systematically misinformed the
American people about the real threat
to our national security posed by such
UFO encounters.

UFO As Advanced Technology

The Government's position:
*"There has been no evidence sub-
mitted to or discovered by the Air
Force that sightings categorized as
'unidentified' represent technolog-
ical developments or principles
beyond the range of present-day
scientific knowledge."*

-Air Force, 1980

The official documents reveal hun-
dreds of sighting reports—many con-
firmed by radar and other tracking
devices—that describe unconventional
objects exhibiting advanced
performance characteristics involving

maneuverability, speed, size and
shape.

A Defense Intelligence Agency
document reveals that on September
19, 1976, American-made Iranian jets
encountered several UFOs that
exhibited a technology beyond
present-day development. During the
night-time encounter, one F-4 jet,
upon approaching one of the UFOs,
lost all instrumentation and com-
munications functions. Another F-4's
weapons-control panel became in-

sophisticated technology—a technolo-
gy beyond our present development—
seems obvious. Why is it being ig-
nored by our government?

A Question of Survival

*"It would seem a little more of this
survival attitude is called for in
dealing with the UFO problem."*

—National Security Agency, 1968

The evidence indicates that some
unconventional aerial objects could

The Federal Government has system- atically misinformed the American people about the real threat...

operable when the pilot attempted to
fire at the object.

The DIA evaluation (October 12,
1976) refers to this incident as "an
outstanding report" because the ob-
jects were seen by many witnesses of
high credibility; the visual sightings
had radar confirmation; similar elec-
tromagnetic effects were reported by
three separate aircraft; and
physiological effects were reported by
some of the crew members. Furthermore,
the UFOs displayed an "inor-
dinate amount of maneuverability."

A State Department message (March
7, 1975) from the American Embassy
in Algiers tells of "strange machines"
seen near Algerian military installa-
tions by "respectable people." Some of
the sightings were confirmed by
radar.

And another State Department
message from our embassy in Kuwait
reports that during November 1978, a
series of UFO sightings caused the
Kuwaiti government to appoint an in-
vestigatory committee from the
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Re-
search. One UFO appearing over the
northern oil fields "seemingly did
strange things" to the automatic pump-
ing equipment. The equipment is
designed to shut itself down when any
failure occurs that could seriously
damage the petroleum-gathering and
transmission system; when such an
event occurs, the pumping equipment
must be restarted manually. When the
UFO appeared, the pumping system
automatically shut down. But when
the UFO "vanished," the system
started up again, *automatically*.

The presence of a highly

provoke, either intentionally or
unintentionally, an international in-
cident—with serious repercussions.

In March 1967, an intercept tech-
nician with the USAF Security Service
intercepted a communication be-
tween the pilot of a Russian-made
Cuban MIG-21 and his command con-
cerning a UFO encounter.⁵ The technician
has since stated that when the
pilot attempted to fire at the object, the
MIG and its pilot were destroyed by
the UFO. Furthermore, the technician
alleges that all reports, tapes, log en-
tries, and notes on the incident were
forwarded to the National Security
Agency at their request.

Not surprisingly, several months
later, the agency drafted a report en-
titled *UFO Hypothesis and Survival*
Question. Released in October 1979
under the U.S. Freedom of Informa-
tion Act, the report states that "the
leisurely scientific approach has too
often taken precedence in dealing
with the UFO question." The Agency
concluded that no matter what *UFO*
hypothesis is considered, "all of them
have serious survival implications."

Comparing the UFO problem to a
rattler on a forest path, the NSA report
says, "you would have to treat the
alarm as if it were a real and
immediate threat to your survival. In-
vestigation would become an inten-
sive emergency action to isolate the
threat and to determine its precise
nature. It would be geared to develop-
ing adequate defense measures in a
minimum amount of time. It would
seem a little more of this survival at-
titude is called for in dealing with the
UFO problem."