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b(1), b(3) 66-36  
missing functions of the Agency

SUBJECT: UFO's [and the Intelligence Community Blind Spot to Surprise or Deceptive Data]

1. The implications of the UFO phenomena go far beyond the particular phenomena itself. The human incapacity to objectively process such data indicates a serious weakness in the intelligence community. This weakness ought to be remedied and quickly if the United States is to be able to respond swiftly and appropriately to surprise attack indicators. The reason that surprise attack is such a basic ingredient of military success is that it is able to rely on a most dependable human blind spot: The inability of most men to objectively process and evaluate highly unusual data and to react to the data in a meaningful way.

2. Scientific Findings: Dr. Jacques Vallee\* famed communications science expert has studied thousands of cases where human beings have observed unusual phenomena. He has found that the human response to such observation is predictable and graphically depictable. Whether the person's psychological structure is being assaulted by the unusual and shocking brutality of a murder or the strangeness of a UFO sighting the effect is the same:

a. Initially as by a kind of psychological interia, the mind records fairly objectively what the eye is reporting.\*

b. But when it has realized the strange nature of the phenomena it goes into shock. The mind likes to live in a comfortable world where it feels it knows what to expect, and that, is not too threatening either physically or psychologically. The unusual dispels the comfortable illusion the mind has created. This shock tears at the very mooring of the human psychological structure.\*

c. To protect itself against such an intrusive and threatening reality the mind will begin to add imagination and interpretation to the incoming data to make it more acceptable. Since the mind is doing all this in haste some of the hurriedly added details and suggestions tumble over one another and contradict one another in a bizarre fashion (as any police officer interrogating murder witnesses will tell you\*) (See Chart A).

d. Once the mind has constructed a "safe" framework for the new information it may again peek out and collect some more objective data. If the data is still threatening it will again go into shock and the process starts all over again.\*

e. If the data is at the highest strangeness level where it brings terror either:

(1) The mind will pass out and go into amnesia burying the events perhaps permanently in the unconscious.\*

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(2) The personal psychological structure will collapse and the mind will reach down into its deepest place where "that which cannot be destroyed" is and it will abandon itself to this entity for survival protection. Encounter with this changeless indestructable entity is usually referred to as a religious experience. In the confusion and the shock, this experience is often attributed to the shocking event or object and that is why primitive peoples worship such bizzare things as airplanes or cigarette lighters.

f. The degree of strangness of the phenomena dictates how many people the mind is willing and able to tell the event to. A mildly unusual or shocking event will be told to many people. A very shocking event of high strangness will be told to few people or practically none at all. Occasionally the event is so shockingly unusual that it isn't even reported to the person's conscious mind but is buried in the unconscious of the person where it is only accessible to hypnosis or careful level six communication sharing with another person. (See Chart B.)

3. An example: Within the past few years a young Air Force technician was engaged in first level traffic analysis and intercept processing against Soviet Bloc countries when the following took place:

a. A bloc country began to report a radar track of a high flying fast moving object with an erratic flight pattern. It occasionally moved against the wind. The Bloc reports began reporting the object as a baloon. The next Bloc nation picked up the object and continued the designation of baloon despite the erratic flight pattern, high speed, and against the wind maneuvers.

b. Within the American processing facility the airman noticed that everyone was more edgy and silent than usual. He said even the chatter was being treated as Top Secret and when he asked clarifications on some of the data he got aggressive and distracted responses. The airman was impressed with the change that this new data seemed to be causing in people. (See Appendix for other examples of the effect of blindness to surprise material.)

4. Conclusions and Recommendations. It is apparent that we cannot allow such a human flaw to leave us blinded to unusual or surprising material. The example indicates that some people are less affected by strange phenomena than others, though still frightened by it, they remain capable of reporting it with a fair degree of objectivity. To solve this problem I recommend the following:

a. Train intelligence analysts to be able to deal with unusual phenomena.

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b. Select a group of analysts and evaluators who have the natural capability to see unusual phenomena and be able to process it. Form these analysts into a special surprise alert team responsible directly to the JCS and the highest levels of the intelligence community and intensively train them further in the art of processing surprise material.

c. Give high level military officers who are responsible for strategic decisions intensive training in the objective handling and analysis of surprise material.

d. The OPSEC problem solving team would probably be the most effective vehicle for such analytic teams. The all encompassing scope and interdisciplinary nature of OPSEC teams provide an ideal cultural framework for the surprise alert team (which must be free from as many preconceived restrictions or perceptions as possible.)

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## Appendix

## Other Examples of Blindness to Surprise Material Causing Defeat

1. Because the Aztecs could not conceive of the Spanish as human enemies, they were destroyed by this sudden invasion of alien Gods who could not be defended against.
2. Because the Spanish could not believe that those crude Americans could build a modern effective naval force their outmoded ships were swiftly destroyed at Cuba and the Philippines in the Spanish-American War.
3. Because the French had such absolute faith in their maginot line they refused to believe that the radically new small swift blitzkrieg army could outflank their line and shock them into a disorganized route in 1940.
4. Because we could not appreciate the power of the novel carrier strike force were surprised and defeated at Pearl Harbor.
5. Because Yamamoto was not aware that the most important ship in the modern fleet was the novel aircraft carrier, he protected his battleships by leaving them far behind the rest of the fleet - where they could afford no protection to the carriers, which without sufficient air cover were nearly defenseless against the American dive bombers at Midway.
6. Partly because the Germans believed that you could not mount an invasion without permanent port facilities they were firmly convinced Normandy invasion must really come at Pas de Calais. The result was that they refused to reinforce Normandy even after the beachhead was established. When they did finally move the armoured reserves to support the Normandy forces, Patton trapped them in the bag behind the Falise Gap. (It is interesting to note that the idea of portable port facilities was so novel and radical that the allies almost refused to accept it. It is no wonder that the Germans didn't take it into their calculations.
7. Because the Germans found the idea that any one would spend five million dollars to break their enigma machine to be inconceivable - too radical, they refused to accept the reality of the compromise of enigma even when they were presented with solid evidence to the contrary.
8. Because Americans refused to believe that fast erratic moving oval objects were anything but mental illusions, they were destroyed by fast erratic moving oval guided missiles from Russia.

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9. Because Americans found it incomprehensible that a crude technology could effectively defend itself against a sophisticated weapons systems, many aircraft were lost to WWII model antiaircraft and small arms fire in Vietnam.

10. Because Americans considered that the "primitive" Vietnamese were not capable of fluent English and of using relatively sophisticated techniques of deception against US forces - many artillery and air strikes were called onto friendly targets by enemy deception tactics which were often somewhat simple in procedure.

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Chart A

The Pattern of Objective and Speculative  
Material During Observations of Unusual Data

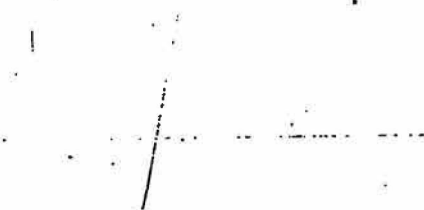
( Speculative Chart)

10 seconds

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Objective Data —

— Imaginative Speculation



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Chart B - Reporting Index

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