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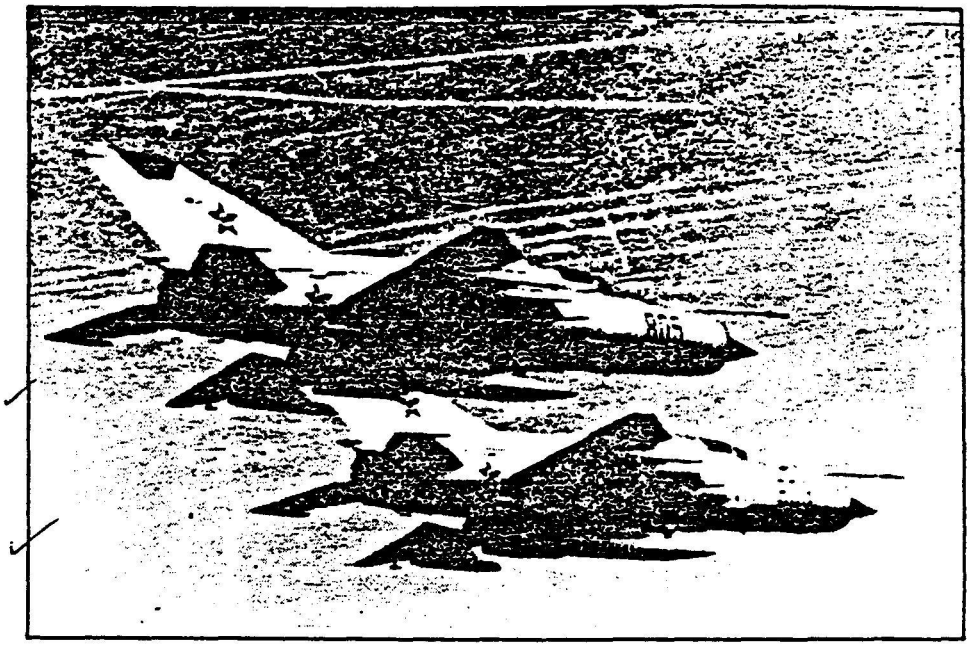
What the U.S. Government Knows About Unidentified Flying Objects

by PETER GERSTEN

At last! New evidence for the existence of unconventional aerial objects relies no longer on the credibility of civilian reports but on the records of scientists, military personnel, intelligence analysts, law enforcement officers and other reliable and responsible people. Their testimony can be found in three thousand pages of previously classified documents on UFOs released (mostly through Freedom of Information Act suits) over the past few years by the Departments of State/Army/Navy/Air Force/Defense, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.

This overwhelming evidence indicates that Unidentified Flying Objects *do* exist, and that some of them are unconventional craft that (1) pose a threat to national security and (2) perform beyond the range of present-day technological development.

Furthermore, there is evidence that our government has continually misinformed the public concerning the true significance of the "UFO problem."



U.S. AIR FORCE

USAF Security intercepted a Cuban pilot's report of the encounter between his MIG-21 and a UFO.

National Security and UFOs

"It is my view that this situation has possible implications for our national security."

—Central Intelligence Agency, 1952

In late 1952, a memorandum was drafted for CIA Director Walter B. Smith's signature, to be sent to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. The memo's subject: "Unidentified Flying Objects." The document shows that the CIA had "reviewed the current situation concerning unidentified flying objects which have caused extensive speculation in the press and has been the subject of concern to government organizations."

It was the Director's opinion, based has possible implications for our national security which transcend the interests of a single service.

"I therefore recommend that this Agency and the agencies of the Department of Defense be directed to formulate and carry out a program of intelligence and research activities required to solve the problem of instant positive identification of unidentified flying objects."

A draft of a proposed National Security Council directive was attached to the memorandum.

Unfortunately, it appears that the NSC directive fell by the wayside. Now, twenty-nine years later, the "current situation," contrary to official denials, still poses serious implications for our national security.

UFOs as a Threat

The Government's position:

"No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."

—Air Force, 1980

The evidence:

reveal that during October, November, and December of 1975, reliable military personnel repeatedly sighted unconventional aerial objects in the vicinity of nuclear-weapons storage areas, aircraft alert areas and nuclear-missile control facilities at Loring Air Force Base, Maine; Wurtsmith AFB Michigan; Malstrom AFB, Montana; Minot AFB, North Dakota; and Canadian Air Forces Station, Ontario.[1] Many of the sightings were confirmed by radar. At Loring AFB, the interloper "demonstrated a clear intent on the weapons storage areas."

The incidents drew the attention of the CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense. Though the Air Force informed the public and the press that individual sightings were isolated incidents, an Air Force document says that "Security Option III" was implemented and that security measures were coordinated with 15

New York attorney PETER A. GERSTEN has been pressing the legal effort on behalf of UFO groups—such as CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy)—for nearly three years. Gersten currently awaits a U.S. Appeals Court decision on release of over two hundred additional CIA documents relating to

connection with the United States UFO program will be maintained in ASD" (plus, he added, a file of "finished intelligence reports").

Coinciding with the November 1957 UFO wave, "On 6 November 1957 a directed collection request for UFO information was levied on Contact Division by the Office of Scientific Intelligence . . . Responses to the requirement were forwarded to Collection Staff, OSI on 14 November 1957." (April 1, 1958 memo for Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence, from Acting Assistant Director for Operations)

Also, coinciding with a flurry of sightings around the Washington, D.C. area in late 1964 and early 1965, another "collection request" was ordered by the Director of CIA. The present writer was among those interviewed by the Domestic Contact Division. The agent borrowed a number of specific UFO case investigation reports.

A series of memos from April through late summer of 1976 shows renewed interest in UFO data, probably as a result of the 1975 and 1976 UFO sightings at Strategic Air Command bases and other military installations. One censored message of April 3, 1976, refers to "Subject: New DCD Case [censored]–UFO Research. Reference: Form 610 dated 9 April 1976 transmitting UFO Study." Date discrepancy notwithstanding, the memos go on to discuss "the UFO study." One, while stating that there was at the time no formal UFO program, read: "At the present time, there are offices and personnel within the Agency who are monitoring the UFO phenomena . . . not currently on an official basis. Dr. [censored] feels that the best approach would be to keep in touch with and in fact develop reporting channels in this area to keep the Agency/community informed of any new developments."

Memos ranging from 1958 to 1967 mention analyses of UFO photos by the CIA National Photographic Interpretation Center under Arthur C. Lundahl, partially confirming information from private sources. Indeed, Lundahl was involved in arranging a "window" on the Colorado Project and in secret meetings with Dr. Edward Condo and members of the Colorado Project staff.

Glaringly absent from the release documents are the photo analyses, including one case provided to a scientific firm by the present writer that found its way to the CIA, and the hundreds and hundreds of intelligence reports on individual UFO cases that must have been collected–and in some cases are known to have been collected. Also absent are the dozen of radar-visual cases which must have been studied by the Physics and Electronics Division, as well as other materials that made up the case files repeatedly alluded to in these documents. Where are the startling 1952 cases that led the CIA to the brink of a major scientific study of UFOs?

The 892 pages contain large amounts of trivial correspondence, administrative papers, duplication and irrelevant (non-UFO) documents. Obviously, they do *not* contain the CIA UFO case files, other than a random sprinkling of mostly known cases. Only the FOIA lawsuits have been able to pry loose a few highly significant cases, such as the 1976 Iranian jet case.

—There can be no doubt that the CIA is stonewalling. If *this* is all the case files developed in more than thirty years, I would have to conclude that the CIA is totally inept. And, of course, it isn't. □

Where are the startling 1952 cases the led the CIA to the brink of a major scientific study?

In a Just CAUSe

Over the past third of a century, the government's conduct with regard to UFOs has been characterized as nonfeasance, misfeasance, and malfeasance. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, a public-interest group, was formed to foster a review of the reality and significance of UFOs and the government's policies and practices regarding them.

CAUS calls upon the Federal government to (1) admit that the public has been misled about the nature of UFOs, (2) acknowledge that UFOs exist, and (3) reverse its position that further scientific study of UFO reports is unwarranted. CAUS seeks the immediate declassification and public dissemination of all official UFO documentation.

CAUS believes that the public has a right to an objective reappraisal of the implications of the UFO phenomenon.

For more information, write to CAUS, P.O. Box 4743F, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

FOOTNOTES

1. NORAD Classified Message; to Secretary of Air Force, *et al;* from NORAD Director of Operations; subject: Suspicious Unknown Air Activity; November 11, 1975. (Still classified CONFIDENTIAL; leaked to UFO research group in late 1976.)
2. Air Force Security Police (AFSP) message to 15 Air Force Bases, November 10, 1975.
3. This and the previous statements are found in the following documents:
   - Memorandum for Record; for the Joint Staff; signed by J.B. Morin, Rear Admiral, USN & Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC: January 21, 1976.
   - Memorandum for Record; for the Joint Staff; from Fred A. Treyz, Brigadier General, USAF & Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC: subject: Unidentified Flying Object Sighting: January 31, 1976.
   - Memorandum for Record; for the Joint Staff; from L.J. LeBlanc, Jr., Brigadier General, USMC & Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC: subject: Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs); July 30, 1976.
4. "Rees Letter": AFOSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations), 17th District, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; letter to director of AFOSI; May 25, 1950.
5. "Cuban Incident": Air Force Security Service 6947th Squadron technician's statement to Stanton T. Friedman; October 27, 1977.
6. Memorandum for Director of Central Intelligence; subject: Flying Saucers; by E. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence; September 24, 1952.
7. Memo; to E. James Archer and Thurston E. Hanning; from Robert J. Low; subject: "Some Thoughts on the UFO Project": August 9, 1966.