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MOD Form 329D  
(Revised 8/00)  
PPQ = 100

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

29-8-2002

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

DAS ISO  
level 5, Zone 1

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT UFOs - PERSISTENT CORRESPONDENT

DR DAVID CLARKE

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

Registered file reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11

Part No. C

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

(9/12/02)

Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl

CLOSED

CONTINUED ON PT D  
LAST ENC 24

(2010)



FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

2700/000747

Produced by Forms Design Section  
Design Studio DSDA (PC, KY) 0117 9376256

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UNCLASSIFIED

# Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F  
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)  
**UFOs - PERSISTENT CORRESPONDENCE  
ON D CLARKE**

Reference:  
(Prefix and Number):  
**D/DAS/64/3/11**  
Part: **C**

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): **u/c**

Date of last enclosure: **9/12/2002**

Date closed:

**PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION**  
(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after \_\_\_\_\_ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after \_\_\_\_\_ years

No recommendation

**FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW**  
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)  
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R.

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year **2010** for the following reason(s):

LEGAL <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/>	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/>
DIRECTORATE POLICY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

Prod

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed

✓

Considered by DR for permanent preservation

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

✓

PART 3. (Block Capitals below C2/equivalent)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Rank: B2 (Block Capitals) Date: 14/9/05

Branch Title and Full Address:

**DAS ISO  
LEVEL 5, ZONE 1  
MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2HB**

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE**

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET\* and SECRET only)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

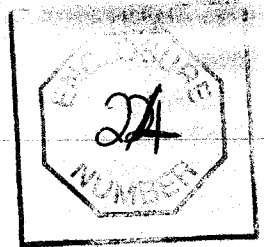
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*(FOR DR USE ONLY)



From: [REDACTED]  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations & Policy 1  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)  
(GTN)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000  
[REDACTED]

Dr David Clarke  
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
9 December 2002

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November in which you asked us to proceed with your request for UFO related documents.

Our search is now complete, so I will address your requests individually and explain the files examined and documents enclosed with this letter.

**1. Copy of the file relating to a UFO report made by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] near Winchester, Hampshire on 14 November 1976.**

File AIR 2/18977 was retrieved from the PRO but it contained no reports for the 14<sup>th</sup> November, nor any from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. There are therefore no documents we can send you for this request.

**2. Copies of the files containing briefing and background notes on UFOs prepared by the head of S4(Air), with contributions from RAF Ops (GE)2 and DI55 for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.**

Our files D/DS8/75/3/1 Parts A and B (Parliamentary Correspondence – House of Lords Debate, January 1979) were destroyed in 1990. As requested we have examined our general parliamentary correspondence file, D/DS8/75/3 Part A and this has revealed several background documents relating to the debate. As I indicated in my last letter, some of these were not generated by the MOD and I have asked the Department concerned to examine them for possible release. I will write to you as soon as I have received a reply. In the meantime, please find enclosed the relevant papers from this file which we are able to release immediately, plus a number of papers located by DI55.



**3. Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified objects tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD. Also, any sightings made by MOD Police and civilian (West Yorkshire) police officers on about the same date.**

You also later requested a copy of a report from [REDACTED] of the West Yorkshire Police concerning a UFO he observed in the early hours of 28 November 1980.

Files D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B (UFO Reports-August to November 1980) and D/DS8/75/2/2 Part M (UFO Reports – Edited Copies-August to September 1980) were examined. The files contained no reports from RAF Fylingdales for the 13 September 1980. As you requested reports “on or about the 13<sup>th</sup> September” I have enclosed copies of all the reports received from Police Officers for the whole of September 1980.

The files contained no report from [REDACTED] on 28 November 1980.

**4. Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public, from a number of locations including RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. In addition copies of assessment made.**

File D/Sec(AS)12/7 was examined and I enclose a copy of the reports as requested. I have also included a copy of a loose minute showing enquiries made and details of a radar replay conducted by the Aeronautical Information Service (Military).

**5. Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire police and the Skegness coastguard. Copies of investigation notes and assessment made.**

File D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part D was examined and three documents were found. I apologise for the quality of the Facsimile message from RAF Neatishead. We have checked with RAF Neatishead as to whether they have a clearer copy on file, but unfortunately they no longer have any details of these events. With these papers I have also included a copy of a loose minute which was written following several reports in the press criticising UK air defence systems. Although this does not strictly fit your request, I have included it because it gives clear details of the sequence of events and may therefore be of interest to you.

The work has taken 21 hours and 20 minutes to complete and as, indicated in my letter of 16 September, the first 4 hours are free of charge. The remaining 17 hours and 20 minutes, at £15.00 an hour, result in a cost of £260. I would be grateful if you would let me have your crossed cheque, made payable to “Accounting Officer MOD”.

Finally, in your letter of 11 November you asked how the Freedom of Information Act will effect the ‘30 year rule’. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a right of access to all information held by public authorities. Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed whether the public authority holds such information and, if that is the case, to have the information communicated to them unless an exemption applies. This right of access becomes effective on 1 January 2005. Both MOD and the Public Record Office (PRO) are public authorities under the terms of the Act and therefore the information in the public records they hold is within its scope.

The FOI Act repeals the access provisions in section 5(1) of the Public Records Act 1958-1967 and hence from January 2005 access to public records, wherever they are and irrespective of the age of the records, will be governed by the FOI Act. The 30 year closure period as a default goes,

therefore, although the 30 year point remains significant for two reasons: first, the obligation on departments to transfer records to the PRO before they reach 30 years old remains (Public Records Act s 3(4)) and second, some exemptions cease to apply after 30 years (FOIA s 63(1)).

The FOI Act requires the PRO, as the authority holding the records, to respond to requests for information relating to closed records by reviewing them to determine whether an exemption applies. This is done in consultation with the department. If it is decided that an exemption applies, and the exemption is one to which the public interest test applies, the department then considers the public interest in disclosing the exempt information, in consultation with the Lord Chancellor. These procedures are set out at s 66 of the FOI Act, supported by s 15 which requires the PRO to copy a request to the department when a public interest decision must be made.

One of the exemptions relates to 'information intended for future publication'. This might be relevant to files that are awaiting release, but the exemption says that withholding the information until the intended publication date would have to be 'reasonable in all the circumstances'. You might like to note that this exemption cannot be claimed by the PRO if the records are over 30 years old (s 64(1)).

I hope this summary has helped to explain the position. If you want to know more about what the Freedom of Information Act says, you might like to look at the Explanatory Notes published by HMSO (ISBN 010 563 600 2).

I will write to you again regarding the remaining papers mentioned at paragraph 2 above, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

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From: [REDACTED]  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations & Policy 1  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP

Telephone	(Direct dial) (Switchboard) [REDACTED] 020 7218 9000 (Fax) (GTN) [REDACTED]
CHOTs	DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
E-Mail	das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

[REDACTED]  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Records and Historical Department  
Hanslope Park  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK19 7BH

Your Reference  
Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
7 November 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

I would be grateful if you could provide some assistance with a request we have received for access to papers held on a Ministry of Defence file, some of which originated in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning 'unidentified flying objects'. One of our regular correspondents has made a request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) for any documents the MOD may hold which were used as briefing material for a House of Lords Debate on UFOs, on 18 January 1979.

On examining our files we have discovered a number of documents which were sent to the MOD from the FCO towards the end of 1978 concerning a proposal by Premier Gairy of Grenada to the United Nations to establish an agency or working group for research into UFOs. This was mentioned in the House of Lords Debate so we have every reason to believe that they were sent to the MOD as background for the Defence Minister's reply and are therefore relevant to this request for information. I enclosed a copy of these documents and as you will see some are classified Restricted and some Confidential, and they contain remarks about why the UK and other UN nations would not support this proposal. In this suite of papers there is also one from the United Nations General Assembly and one from the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, the later of which came to us via the UN Department of the FCO.

I would appreciate your advice as to how we may consider the release of these documents or alternatively whether they should be withheld under one of the exemptions of the Code. If it is considered that they should be withheld, there are two exemptions which seem to be appropriate. Exemption 1b – Information whose disclosure would harm the conduct of international relations

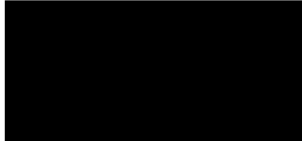
COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

**COVERING CONFIDENTIAL**

or affairs, or Exemption 1c – Information received in confidence from foreign governments, foreign courts or international organisations. We must, however, remember that if we do decide to withhold them and our correspondent exercises his right to appeal, we will have to be able to demonstrate to the Parliamentary Ombudsman that there would be harm caused by release.

I look forward to your reply. In the meantime if you require any further information, please telephone me on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



**COVERING CONFIDENTIAL**



United Nations

**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records\*



69  
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
36th meeting  
held on  
Monday, 27 November 1978  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 126: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA (continued)

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

78-58753

Distr. GENERAL  
A/SPC/33/SR.36  
29 November 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 126: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA (continued) (A/33/141, A/33/268; A/SPC/33/L.20)

1. Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada)\* read out a letter from L. Gordon Cooper, a former astronaut, expressing the belief that unidentified flying objects were extraterrestrial vehicles whose crews were visiting Earth from more technically advanced planets. Mr. Cooper had himself spent two days in 1951 observing UFOs of different sizes flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe. A top-level co-ordinated programme was needed to collect and analyse data from all over the world concerning all types of encounters and to determine how best to make friendly contact with such visitors. Man might have to prove to the visitors that he had learned to solve his problems by peaceful means rather than by warfare before he could be accepted as a fully qualified universal team member. Such acceptance would have tremendous possibilities for the advancement of the world in all areas, and it would certainly seem that the United Nations had an interest in handling the subject properly and expeditiously. If the United Nations agreed to pursue the project, many more well-qualified people might agree to provide help and information.
2. Mr. FRIEDMAN (Grenada)\* said it was important to remember that men throughout the world had something in common: they were all earthlings, a fact which tended to be forgotten when man's many differences were aired. After 20 years of study, he believed that there was overwhelming evidence to suggest that the planet was being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial vehicles. The evidence took the form of eye-witness testimony from responsible persons, physical trace cases producing changes in the environment observable long after the UFO had left, radar visual sightings, photographs and abductions, apparently by aliens of earthlings and the subsequent return of the earthlings, although there was no knowledge of cases where earthlings had not been returned.
3. Every large-scale scientific study of UFOs had provided a substantial number of cases in which the observations clearly indicated that the UFO was a manufactured object behaving in ways which could not be duplicated by manufactured objects on Earth. The ability of UFOs to move and manoeuvre at thousands of miles an hour, without any visible external engine, wings or tail, indicated that the spacecraft had been manufactured by someone other than man. Many people wished to know why UFOs should visit Earth and what was happening on Earth that could be of interest to an advanced civilization. Probably there were many things of interest to someone concerned with the development of a primitive society. However, one thing was guaranteed to be of interest to another civilization and that was the fact that within one hundred years men would be going to the stars. He himself, as a nuclear physicist, had worked on fission and fusion propulsion systems which would be capable of transporting man to nearby star systems within reasonable periods of time, and it would be obvious to any alien in the neighbourhood that man would be doing so within a hundred years. Since the end of the Second World War, with the development

\* The full text of this statement will appear in document A/SPC/33/PV.36.

(Mr. Friedman, Grenada)

of nuclear weapons, rockets and electronics, man had become of interest to other, advanced civilizations. Naturally, such civilizations would be concerned with their own survival and security and would therefore wish to be informed of the activities of another civilization which was just beginning space travel; it was therefore clear that the UFOs were obtaining data for their own purposes, acting as a kind of galactic federation intelligence agency.

4. People also wondered why UFOs did not make contact. He suggested that there was no one leader with whom such alien beings could make contact. Whereas the smallest reasonable political unit on a galactic neighbourhood basis was a planet or a solar system, from the alien viewpoint man's was a primitive society whose major activity was tribal warfare; it would make no more sense for alien beings to speak to individual countries than for the United Nations to address individual cities.

5. Some people were worried at the significance of flying saucers and wondered why, in the light of the importance of questions of peace, survival and hunger, people should concern themselves with such matters. He suggested that man's very survival might depend on his taking an earthling orientation. The easiest way of doing so was for him to try to see himself as others saw him. From up above, coming into the planet Earth, there were no boundary lines. Acceptance of oneself as an earthling would become natural when it was recognized that the planet Earth was being visited.

6. There were also practical aspects such as the significance of man's acquiring motive propulsion which would enable him to travel and to transport goods from place to place without using the traditional means of transport and without expending valuable resources which were normally burned and thrown away. It was clear that aliens had solved problems such as the development of new and better means of producing energy. In addition, the Earth might well have some resources which could be exported to alien civilizations; as the densest planet in the solar system, the Earth had more valuable heavy metals than any other planet in the neighbourhood and might also have plant life and other materials which would be of interest to aliens.

7. Modern astronomy frequently assumed, in relation to the possibility of contact with extraterrestrial intelligences, that all other solar systems were isolated in the same manner as our own, in which the nearest star to the sun was four light years away. However, within our own galactic neighbourhood there were approximately 1,000 stars, of which 46 were similar to the sun and might well be expected to have planets and life; some of those planets would be much older than Earth. In addition, research into UFOs had revealed the existence of two sun-like stars, Zeta I Reticulae and Zeta II Reticulae, which were separated by only three light weeks; such close proximity would suggest that interstellar travel and communication might have been developed much earlier than on our isolated planet. Three recent professional publications had expressed the view that our entire galaxy had probably already been colonized. Perhaps the most important thing to recognize was that the next generation would grow up in a drastically different situation; unless something was done to prevent it, another dozen countries would soon have nuclear weapons and the world would be further divided into groups instead of becoming the earthling civilization which was necessary for its survival.

/...

8. Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada) invited members of the Committee to make suggestions and recommendations concerning the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (A/SPC/33/L.20); his delegation was very flexible as to the actual mechanism to be decided on by the Committee for monitoring and co-ordinating research into UFOs and would be interested to hear the ideas of other delegations on the matter. He assumed that the vote on the resolution would take place at a later date.
9. The CHAIRMAN said that the substantive consideration of and vote on the resolution would be deferred until a later meeting.
10. Mr. TUBMAN (Liberia) requested that the statements made by the members of the delegation of Grenada should be reproduced in extenso in the records so that delegates could study them more closely.
11. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the General Assembly, at the 4th plenary meeting of its current session, had decided to maintain the option that had traditionally been approved for the Special Political Committee to obtain transcriptions of debates of some of its meetings, or portions thereof.
12. Miss HARDEN (United Kingdom) asked what the financial implications of such action would be.
13. The CHAIRMAN said that such expenditure as might be incurred by the provision of transcriptions of the Committee's debates was considered to be part of the normal work of the General Assembly; there were no direct financial implications. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the request made by the representative of Liberia.
14. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

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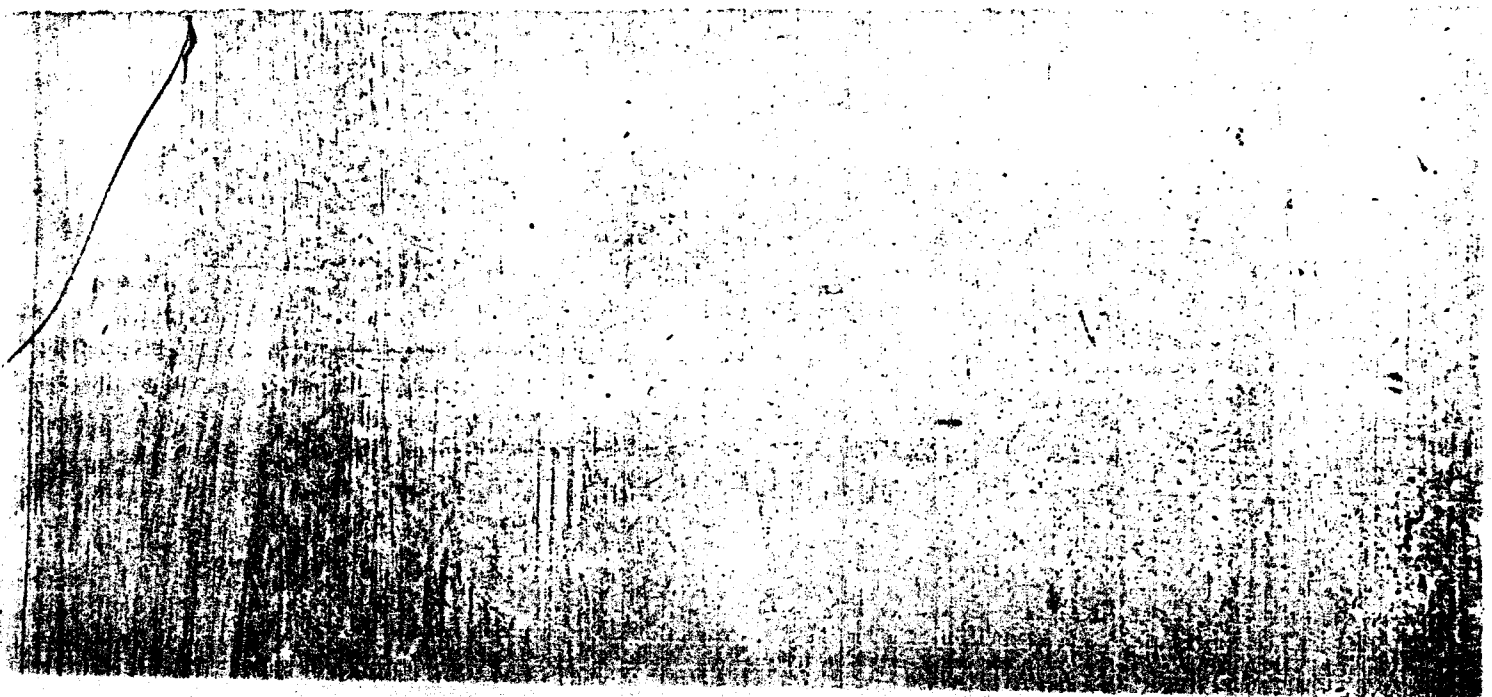
~~W. H. J.~~ 11/12  
St. 11/12

MY TELNOS 2732 AND 2733 AND YOUR TELNO 1563. UFOS

1. THIS MORNING, THE SPC ADOPTED THE DECISION  
REPORTED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, BY CONSENSUS.

RICHARD

NNNN



GRS

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UKMIS NETWORK 060230Z DEC 78

PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2733 OF 5 DECEMBER

MY IPT. UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT:

mEO274/522/2		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 76		
7 DECEMBER 1978		
INDEX	FILED	FILED
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THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING CONSENSUS:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE STATEMENTS MADE, AND DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY GRENADA AT THE 32ND AND 33RD SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INVITES INTERESTED MEMBER STATES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO CO-ORDINATE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION INTO EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE, INCLUDING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, AND TO INFORM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OBSERVATIONS, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TRANSMIT THE STATEMENTS OF THE DELEGATION OF GRENADA AND THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, SO THAT THEY MAY CONSIDER THEM AT THEIR 1979 MEETING.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE WILL PERMIT GRENADA, UPON ITS REQUEST, TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS TO THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT SESSION. THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN ITS REPORT WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS 34TH SESSION.

RICHARD  
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TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2732 OF 5 DECEMBER

MFD 274/522/2		
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7 DEC 1978		
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YOUR TELNOS 1537 AND 1539, MY TELNO 2698 AND MISS HARDEN'S LETTER OF 4 DECEMBER TO MRS WISEMAN UN DEPARTMENT: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. THE AUSTRIANS HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE GRENADANS AND THE RUSSIANS NOW ALSO HAVE AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT THE CONSENSUS TEXT (WHICH IS REPEATED IN MIFT IN CASE YOU STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED LETTER UNDER REFERENCE). THE AMERICANS DO NOT EXPECT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON AND ALSO INTEND TO GO ALONG WITH THE CONSENSUS. WE PROPOSE TO DO LIKEWISE. THE ISSUE IS DUE TO BE DECIDED IN THE SPECIAL POLIT/ CAL COMMITTEE ON 8 DECEMBER.

2. ALTHOUGH THIS TEXT IS NOT IDEAL, IT HAS NO FINANCIAL OR MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UN, DOES NOT COMMIT THE UN TO ANY SPECIFIC ACTION ON UFO'S AND PRECLUDES THE INSCRIPTION OF A SEPARATE UFO ITEM ON NEXT YEAR'S AGENDA (THE SUBJECT WOULD BE SUBSUMED IN THE OUTER SPACE ITEM AS A PARAGRAPH IN THE REPORT OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE). IN ANY EVENT THERE IS NO REAL PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATING FURTHER AMENDMENTS.

RICHARD

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 051720Z DEC 78

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1539 OF 5 DECEMBER

YOUR TELNOS 2539, 2566, 2567 AND MISS HARDEN'S LETTER OF 21 NOVEMBER; UFOS

1. WE REMAIN OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GRENADAN INITIATIVE FOR THE REASONS STATED IN THE BRIEF. IF THE RESOLUTION IN YOUR TELNO 2567 IS PUT FORWARD YOU SHOULD OPPOSE IT.

2. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE WILLING TO HELP THE GRENADANS OFF THE HOOK IF IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT ANY FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS (OTHER THAN GRENADA) OR THE UN. WE COULD THEREFORE ABSTAIN ON A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GROUP OF EXPERTS OR A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, PROVIDED THAT AS WE ASSUME FROM YOUR TELEGRAM 2566 THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES WOULD BE FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA. IT WOULD ALSO HELP IF THE SUBJECT COULD BE PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE 35TH SESSION: IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT THAT ITEMS SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY GO ON THE AGENDA FROM SESSION TO SESSION.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND GRENADA'S ABSENCE (WHETHER PLANNED OR FORTUITOUS, WE DO NOT KNOW) FROM THE FOURTH COMMITTEE VOTE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THE FRG MAY BE WELL PLACED TO SUGGEST TO THE DELEGATION OF GRENADA THAT SOME DELEGATIONS WOULD BE BETTER DISPOSED TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL ON THE LINES OF PARA 2 ABOVE IF GRENADA WERE TO ABSTAIN IN THE PLENARY VOTE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

OWEN

FILES

UND

ES & SD

N AND CD

PS/MR LUARD

MR WEIR

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RECEIVED [unclear] NO. 73	
[unclear]	
[unclear]	
[unclear]	[unclear]
[unclear]	[unclear]

UNCLASSIFIED



Minister

Miss Brown  
PS/Mr Luard

MEO274/522/2		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 73		
7 DEC 1977		
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## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS: UN INITIATIVE BY GRENADA

Problem

1. How to react to further proposals by Grenada, following up their 1977 initiative on UFOs.

Background

- A 2. At last year's General Assembly Premier Gairy of Grenada urged the United Nations to establish an agency or working group for research into unidentified flying objects. Mr Luard expressed the view that the proposal would bring the UN into disrepute. Accordingly, the UK delegation was instructed to oppose the draft Grenadan resolution. In the event, no vote was taken on the resolution; as a compromise, the General Assembly "studied the text" and requested the Secretary-General to transmit it to state members of the UN and to interested specialised agencies so that they might communicate their views to the Secretary-General.
- B 3. The Secretary-General's subsequent report contained only three replies from Governments, (India, Luxembourg and the Seychelles) and unforthcoming reactions from two specialised agencies.
- C 4. The Permanent Mission of Grenada circulated a letter to Permanent Missions in New York on 10 November, which was followed up by a statement to the Special Political Committee on 27 November by the Prime Minister of Grenada, who complicated matters by introducing a new resolution instead of the one previously circulated. Subsequent developments are reported in UKMIS telno 2566 of 27 November.
- D
- E
- F 5. The brief for this item is at flag F.

Argument

6. The Grenadan initiative continues to hold no attractions whatsoever for us. It is obvious, however, that some of our Western partners /including

(including the FRG Presidency and the United States) are making an effort to help Grenada off the hook if this can be done without cost to the UN. It must also be said, in fairness, that the Grenadan proposal is no more ridiculous than many other proposals before the UN. Indeed President Carter has in the past reportedly taken a personal interest in the subject of UFOs. The proposal is at least not positively harmful to UK interests, whereas taking too strong and open a stand against Mr Gairy could be. Moreover, if we can help the Grenadans to reach a compromise, it could conceivably help us to persuade them to abstain on the vote on foreign economic and other interests in plenary (the Fourth Committee Resolution which inter alia strongly condemns the UK and others for dealings with South Africa).

Recommendation

7. I recommend that we instruct the Mission to continue to resist the original Grenadan proposal but to give discreet support to efforts by Western or other countries to postpone or reduce the scope and cost of the Grenadan proposal as much as possible. I accordingly submit a draft telegram to UKMIS New York.

8. UND were consulted on UN aspects, and concur.

*Richardson*

T L Richardson  
Energy Science and  
Space Department  
E 024 233 5520

4 December 1978

cc:  
Mr Weir  
UND  
MECD  
News Department

*J. Brown 5/12*

*h 5/12.*

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FM UKMIS NEWYCRK 280110Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2566 OF 27 NOVEMBER

M/E 0274/522/2
RECEIVED IN MINISTRY NO. 76
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MY TELNO 2539: AGENDA ITEM NO 128: UFOS

1. THE TWO MEETINGS IN THE SPC ON THE ABOVE ITEM TODAY FOLLOWED THE SCENARIO OUTLINED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE, EXCEPT THAT MR GAIRY COMPLICATED MATTERS BY INTRODUCING A NEW RESOLUTION IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT INSTEAD OF THE ONE PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO MISSIONS (MISS HARDEN'S LETTER OF 21 NOVEMBER TO MRS WISEMAN). THE NEW RESOLUTION ELABORATES ON THE IDEA IN THE INDIAN REPLY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/33/269), PROPOSING INTER ALIA THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD APPOINT A THREE-MEMBER GROUP OF EXPERTS MEETING UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE AND REPORTING THROUGH THAT COMMITTEE TO THE 34TH SESSION. (TEXT IN MIFT).

2. THERE HAD BEEN NO PRIOR WARNING THAT THE GRENADANS INTENDED TABLING A NEW RESOLUTION TODAY AND MEMBERS OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY THE AUSTRIAN CHAIRMAN WHO HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED, WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS FURTHER ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE IN THE SUBJECT OF UFOS. THE AUSTRIANS, AMONG OTHERS, PRIVATELY INTIMATED THEIR DISMAY TO THE GRENADAN MISSION, WHO BY THE END OF THE AFTERNOON MEETING GAVE SIGNS OF REGRETTING THEIR PRECIPITANCE. BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING FRIDAY (MINISTER OF EDUCATION) INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THE GRENADANS WERE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THEIR DRAFT RESOLUTION AND INVITED DELEGATIONS TO CONVEY ANY SUGGESTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE TO THE GRENADAN MISSION PENDING RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION OF THE ITEM AT A LATER DATE.

THIS WILL ALLOW TIME TO WORK OUT AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL. THE GERMANS, WITH AUSTRIAN BACKING, FAVOUR A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA, WHICH MIGHT IN THE COURSE REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE US MISSION, WHEN MR GAIRY CALLED ON THEM ON 24 NOVEMBER, FLOATED THE IDEA OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR (TO BE FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA) WHO WOULD STUDY THE PROBLEM AND REPORT BACK TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE RUSSIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE A REPETITION OF THE PROCEDURE ADOPTED LAST YEAR: IE TO DEFER THE ITEM WITH SOME FACE-SAVING PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER COMMENTS BY INTERESTED PARTIES, OR A FURTHER STUDY. THIS LAST WOULD BE THE BEST SOLUTION, BUT GAIRY IS SAYING THAT HE WILL NOT BE PUT OFF AGAIN THIS YEAR.

4. WE ASSUME THAT YOU WOULD NOT WISH THIS SUBJECT TO BE LANDED IN THE LAP OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE BOUND TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, TO HAVE AN INDICATION AS TO WHETHER YOU WOULD INCLINE TO AN ABSTENTION OR A VOTE AGAINST IN RESPECTABLE COMPANY ON THE RESOLUTION IN NY I.F.T. WE ASSUME, ALSO, THAT YOU WOULD WISH US TO WORK FOR ALTERNATIVES ON THE LINES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ANY COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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MR. WEIR

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 2567 OF 27 NOV

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MIPT: AGENDA ITEM NO 128: UFO'S

GRENADA: DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINDFUL OF ITS COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS,

NOTING THE STATEMENTS MADE BY GRENADA AT THE THIRTIETH, THIRTY-FIRST, THIRTY-SECOND AND THIRTY-THIRD SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARD UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA WHICH CONTINUE TO BAFFLE MANKIND, AND GRENADA'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE UNITED NATIONS CONDUCT AND CO-ORDINATE RESEARCH INTO THESE BAFFLING PHENOMENA, AND TO DISSEMINATE MORE WIDELY AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD INFORMATION AND OTHER DATA GATHERED AND AVAILABLE ON THE PHENOMENA,

AWARE OF THE GROWING INTEREST TAKEN BY PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA, AND ALSO INTEREST IN STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND RECOGNISING THE COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH INTO THESE PHENOMENA DEMONSTRATED BY CERTAIN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,

1. RECOMMENDS THAT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE SPECIALISED AGENCIES, THE UNITED NATIONS INITIATE, CONDUCT AND CO-ORDINATE RESEARCH INTO THE NATURE AND ORIGIN OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA;
2. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INVITE MEMBER STATES, SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO TRANSMIT TO HIM BY 31 MAY 1979 INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE PROPOSED STUDY;

FURTHER REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO APPOINT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE A THREE-MEMBER GROUP OF EXPERTS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPOSED STUDY:

4. DECIDES THAT THE GROUP OF EXPERTS MEET DURING THE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE TO STUDY INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY MEMBER STATES, SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS;
5. FURTHER DECIDES THAT THE GROUP OF EXPERTS REPORT ON ITS WORK THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE TO THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
6. DECIDES FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN ITEM ENTITLED "REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE FOR THE DEFINING OF GUIDELINES FOR THE STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA".

RICHARD

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M & CD

MR. WEIR

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(Mr L. C. ...)

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 250124Z NOV 78  
TO ROUTINE FCO  
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8) AGENDA ITEM NO 128: UFO'S  
MISS HARDENS LETTER OF 21 NOVEMBER TO MRS WISEMAN

1. THIS ITEM IS NOW SCHEDULED TO START ON MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER IN THE SPC. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FIRST MEETING WILL OPEN WITH A STATEMENT BY MR GAIRY, THE PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA, (WHO IS COMING TO NEW YORK ESPECIALLY FOR THE OCCASION) AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL EXPERTS ON UFO'S WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING MR GAIRY, AND BY A WALT DISNEY FILM WHICH MR GAIRY HAS ALSO LAID ON. THE COMMITTEE WILL THEN MOVE ON TO ANOTHER ITEM TO ALLOW TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS.
2. THE IDEA IS TO LET MR GAIRY HAVE HIS DAY, WAITING UNTIL HE HAS LEFT NEW YORK BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE A COMPROMISE WITH THE GRENADA MISSION WHICH WILL IDEALLY REQUIRE MINIMAL, OR EVEN NO, UN INVOLVEMENT AND NO ADDITIONAL UN EXPENDITURE. VARIOUS IDEAS ARE BEGINNING TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE CORRIDORS. WE MAY BE ABLE TO REPORT AFTER MONDAYS MEETING WHICH LOOK WORTH CONSIDERING.

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cc EFD (W. Lloyd)  
1 Nov. 82 (90)

United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations  
845 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022

galept to do  
Consulted on the reply  
Belton  
vfu

UNP 274/2

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24 NOV 1978	
PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS	
MAIL ROOM	FILE

Your reference

Our reference 274/8

Date 21 November 1978

Mrs S Wiseman  
UN Dept  
PCO

enter BU 27/4  
aw. 23/8

Dear Sir,

AGENDA ITEM NO. 128: UFOs of Grenada to the ...

1. The attached letter which has been circulated to Missions by the Permanent Mission of Grenada is self-explanatory. In their preliminary soundings this year, it would seem that the Mission of Grenada has found little if any support for its more ambitious proposal for establishing an agency, or department, and is therefore falling back on a more modest proposal.

2. I assume that you would wish us if possible to discourage this too, provided we are in good company and do not take the lead. It is possible however that it will acquire support as a fallback position which the majority will be prepared to go along with to save Grenada's face. We will keep in close touch with our allies.

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WFO 274/522/2

RECEIVED IN DEPT. NO. 73
20 NOV 1978
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Sheila Harden

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED





**PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

366 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 502, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

TELEPHONE: (212) 759-9678

CABLE: "GRENDEM" NEWYORK

OUR REF:

The Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and with reference to the Permanent Representative of Grenada's letter of August 29, 1978 has the honour to remind that Grenada's item on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects and extra-terrestrial phenomenon will come up for discussion in the Special Political Committee this week beginning November 27th.

The Permanent Mission of Grenada wishes to bring to the attention of Member States that, in the interest of not foisting upon the United Nations, at this point in time, the setting up of a Department or Agency which would involve heavy financial costs, the Government of Grenada is proposing that the contemplated study and research be placed in the hands of a small committee or ad hoc group of experts, whose task will be to submit a preliminary report on a possible framework for the study and research into the baffling phenomenon.

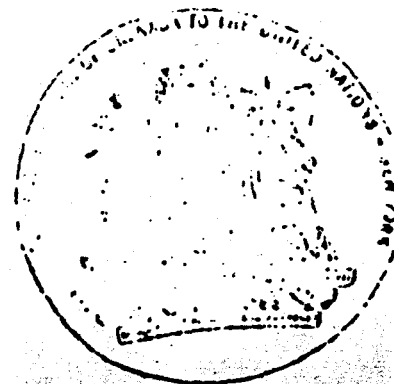
It is the hope of the Government of Grenada that this proposal and a draft resolution formulated along these lines will receive the support of Member States at the United Nations at this 33rd Regular Session of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Grenada further has the honour to attach the general outline of the draft resolution contemplated.

The Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, November 10, 1978

Permanent Mission of Member States  
to the UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



PRELIMINARY  
DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in solving international problems,

Aware of the growing interest taken by people of the world in Unidentified Flying Objects and related Phenomena which continue to baffle mankind, and in strange happenings in various parts of the world.....

Noting the statement made by the Prime Minister of Grenada at the 30th, 31st, 32nd, and 33rd Session of the General Assembly regarding these baffling phenomena, and his appeal to have the United Nations conduct and co-ordinate research into Unidentified Flying Objects and related phenomena and to disseminate more widely among the Nations of the world information and other data gathered

Recognising the commitment to research into these phenomena demonstrated by individual scientists, researchers, educational institutions and National Governments.

1. Recommends that there be initiated a special official United Nations study on the nature and relationship of Unidentified Flying Objects and extra-terrestrial phenomena.

2. Requests The Secretary-General to appoint at the earliest possible date an "ad hoc group of experts" of not more than seven (7) scientific experts drawn from within the United Nations Secretariat and from private research organisations with the task of elaborating a possible framework for the above-mentioned study.

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to make available to the ad hoc group of experts all the relevant material, including proposals made by Member States as well as previous and current studies available on the subject.

4. Further requests the Committee to submit a preliminary report on its work by June 1, 1979.

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit the preliminary report of the ad hoc group of experts to Member States not later than July 30th, 1979.

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the Thirty Fourth Session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Report of the ad hoc group of experts" to investigate the nature and relationship of Unidentified Flying Objects and extra-terrestrial phenomena.

Decides further that a comprehensive report of the committee will be tabled at the 35th Regular Session of the General Assembly.

(Handwritten initials) (90)

IOC (78) 100

15 SEPTEMBER 1978

33RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM NO 128

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA (ITEM PROPOSED BY GRENADA (S/33/131)).

MED 274/522/2		
RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT NO. 75		
29 NOV 1978		
BOOK NUMBER		
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The attached brief has been prepared by the Energy Science and Space Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in consultation with Department of Industry and the Home Office. Any comments should be addressed to D A Lloyd in Energy Science and Space Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Tel 233 3209.

## A UK AIMS

To oppose the establishment of any such agency.

## B POINTS TO MAKE

2. The British delegation does not think that the establishment of an agency for research into unidentified flying objects is appropriate to the functions of the United Nations. It considers that the existence of such an agency under UN auspices would be an unjustifiable drain on UN resources which could be better deployed elsewhere.

## C TACTICS

3. Hopefully a confrontation with the representative of Grenada can be avoided, but the UK should not hesitate to make its views known as and when appropriate. You should seek whatever support you can particularly among the Nine.

## BACKGROUND

4. At last year's UN General Assembly, the Grenadan delegation, with the full support of Premier Gairy, sought to establish an ad hoc working group of the UN to evaluate UFO reports. FCO Ministers expressed the view that to set up any such body would reduce the credibility of the UN; accordingly the UK delegation was instructed to oppose. In the event, no vote was taken on the Grenadan Resolution; as a compromise, the General Assembly "studied the text" and requested the Secretary-General to transmit it "to states members of the UN and to interested specialised agencies so that they might communicate their views to the Secretary-General".

Miss Q. J. Jamieson

MS4 (Ain)

MWJ



*With the compliments of*

ENERGY, SCIENCE AND SPACE DEPARTMENT

I attach copies of telegrams  
which should answer your  
questions. Let me know  
if you need any other information.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
SW1A 2AH

*Edward Pele*

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 76		
- 1 DEC 1977		
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TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 1212 OF 30 NOVEMBER

BY TELNO 1205: UFO (7)

MINISTERS HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, SINCE AGREEMENT TO SET UP SUCH AN AGENCY WOULD REDUCE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UN, WE SHOULD OPPOSE IT. YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY SEEKING WHATEVER SUPPORT YOU CAN, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE NINE.

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PS/MR LUARD  
MR BURROWS  
MR WEIR

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CONFIDENTIAL

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 1225 OF 1 DECEMBER.

YOUR TELNOS. 2241 AND 2242 AND TELECON HANNAY/STYCHE.

UFO ITEM.

1. WE REMAIN FIRMLY OPPOSED TO A GRENADA RESOLUTION ON UFOS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER SUCH OPPOSITION LIKELY TO BE DAMAGING EITHER TO THE UK OR TO THE UN. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE UK'S INTENTION OF VOTING AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION CONTAINING AN OPERATIONAL OUTCOME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THIS LEAVES US IN A MINORITY.
2. IF THE GRENADANS CAN BE PERSUADED TO ABANDON THEIR RESOLUTION WE THINK THAT REFERRAL OF THEIR UFO INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE ON OUTER SPACE WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST FACE SAVING DEVICE. THIS COMMITTEE IS AFTER ALL THE ESTABLISHED UN BODY DEALING WITH OUTER SPACE MATTERS. WE UNDERSTAND THE AUSTRIAN CHAIRMAN'S ANXIETIES BUT THINK THAT IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S EXISTING WORK LOAD, THIS ITSELF SHOULD BE A REASONABLE GUARANTEE THAT THE UFO ISSUE WOULD BE PLACED AT THE BOTTOM OF ITS AGENDA WITH A FAIR CHANCE OF BEING IGNORED INDEFINITELY.
3. WE ARE LESS ATTRACTED TO THE SUGGESTION IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF TELNO. 2241. IT HAS THE DISADVANTAGE THAT ONCE THE UFO ISSUE WAS INSCRIBED AS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IT WOULD BE THERE IN BLACK AND WHITE AND WE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CERTAIN THAT CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM GRENADA, PERHAPS WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, WOULD NOT LEAD TO ITS DISCUSSION EITHER AT THE 33RD OR 34TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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TO ROUTINE FCO TEL NO 2318 OF 6 DECEMBER 1977  
INFO ROUTINE PORT OF SPAIN WASHINGTON

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 76	
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NY TELNO 2271  
SPC: UFO ITEM

1. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPC WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THE GRENADANS AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS TO ACCEPT HIS COMPROMISE SOLUTION, AND THIS AFTERNOON READ OUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING DRAFT CONSENSUS:

1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA ON 23 NOVEMBER 1977 AND BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF GRENADA ON 28 AND 30 NOVEMBER AND ... DECEMBER 1977 (A/SPC/32/PV.35, A/SPC/32/SR.37 AND A/SPC/32/SR. ...).

2. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS ALSO STUDIED THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY GRENADA (A/SPC/32/L.20).

3. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/SPC/32/L.20), TOGETHER WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED STATEMENTS, TO STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO INTERESTED SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, SO THAT THEY MAY COMMUNICATE THEIR VIEWS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

4. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRING THEIR REPLIES TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBER STATES AND INTERESTED SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

RICHARD

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NAD  
M AND C D

PS/MR JUDD  
PS/MR LUARD  
MR BURROWS  
MR WEIR



**DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1**

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**From:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Sent:** 16 September 2002 16:58  
**To:** DAO ADGE1  
**Subject:** Request for Information



on 40

As you will be aware Dr Clarke has made five new requests for Information under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. One of the incidents he has asked about was on 30/31 March 1993 when a large number of military personnel, Police, civilians etc made UFO reports. Dr Clarke has asked for a copy of the reports and the assessment made. Our files contain reports and Nick Pope's letters to DI55 and notes about D Air Def but no assessment from your predecessors. We are going to search our other files for this period but I would be grateful if you could ask your registry to call back D Air Def 111/6/4 Part G which I believe is in archives and may contain a copy of D Air Def's assessment of these events.

I will be on leave until the 4th October, but perhaps we can discuss further on my return.

40

Lord HACKING: I say nothing, but beg leave to withdraw.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

[Amendment No. 27 not moved.]

7.3 p.m.

Lord HACKING moved Amendment No. 28:

After Clause 5, insert the following new clause:  
*Amendment of principal Act relating to appointment of new arbitrators*

(" . . . At the end of section 23 of the principal Act there shall be added the following:

"Where an Arbitrator or Umpire has been removed under subsection 23(1) above, any party to the reference may serve on the other parties to the reference, a written notice to appoint, or, as the case may be, to concur in appointing, an Arbitrator or Umpire in place of the Arbitrator or Umpire so removed, and if the appointment is not made within seven clear days after the service of the notice, the High Court or a Judge thereof may, on application by the party who gave the notice, appoint an Arbitrator or Umpire who shall have the like powers to act within the reference and make an award as had the Arbitrator or Umpire who has been removed."").

The noble Lord said: Before I withdraw this Amendment, may I mention that I drafted this Amendment within the ambit of the new clause that I am proposing to replace Section 23. It is more appropriate to have the appointment of another arbitrator under terms (which other terms come from other clauses of this Bill) than to use the terms used in Section 25 of the Arbitration Act 1950. I beg to move.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: The Amendment allowing the court to replace an arbitrator removed for misconduct is, I am advised, unnecessary. Section 25 of the 1950 Act deals with the matter and gives the court adequate powers to replace a removed arbitrator. I do not know whether that covers the point that the noble Lord has made or not; but if he is still reverting to the use of the concept of misconduct in this connection, then, as I have said, I am willing to look at that again in other connections.

Lord HACKING: I will leave the matter there. I have already mentioned to the noble and learned Lord that I believe these words are better than those in Section 25. That is the reason why I drafted them. I beg leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord HACKING moved Amendment No. 29:

After Clause 5, insert the following new clause:  
*Amendment of s. 1(4) of Arbitration Act 1975*

(" . . . In subsection 1(4) Arbitration Act 1975 after "is a party" there shall be added the words "to the proceedings".")

The noble Lord said: I shall briefly address the Committee on Amendments 29 and 30. The noble and learned Lord has already replied to my Amendment No. 17 which is related to these Amendments and he has left me in a position of suspension. I do not know the noble and learned Lord's mind, but I am happy to remain in suspension until the Report stage or until such time as he is able to take me out of it. I beg to move.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I hope that the noble Lord will not suffer unduly in a state that I prefer to call suspended animation rather than suspension.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

[Amendment 30 not moved.]

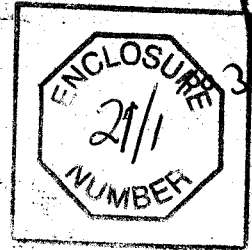
Remaining clauses agreed to.

House resumed: Bill reported with an Amendment.

## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

7.7 p.m.

The Earl of CLANCARTY rose to call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and to the need for an intra-governmental study of UFOs; and to move for Papers. The noble Earl said: It is with much pleasure that I introduce this debate this evening about unidentified flying objects—known more briefly as UFOs and sometimes as flying saucers. I understand that this is the first time the subject of UFOs has been debated in your Lordships' House, so that this is indeed a unique occasion. Before proceeding further I think I should declare an interest, in that I have written a number of books about UFOs. I am grateful to those noble Lords who are going to follow me in this debate and I am sure that it will be a most stimulating discussion.



Before speaking about the need for an intra-governmental study of UFOs, which is the basis of my Motion being debated today, I think it advisable to give your Lordships some background to this fascinating subject of UFOs. I shall briefly cover a little history, the classes of witnesses, the characteristics of UFOs and some important sightings, and then I shall deal with the vital subject of the attitude of governments to these important phenomena.

Although UFOs have come to the fore since the end of the last World War, there are reports of them all through history. Among the papers of the late Professor Alberto Tulli, former director of the Egyptian Museum at the Vatican, was found one of the earliest known records of a fleet of flying saucers. It was written on papyrus long ago in ancient Egypt—actually, it was at the time of Thutmose III, circa 1504 to 1450 BC, who, with his army witnessed the sighting of what we today would call UFOs.

Now, I am not going to bore your Lordships with accounts of UFOs in every century because I want to get on to the very interesting things happening today. In modern times things began to happen during World War II when both allied and German pilots saw strange circular lights around their planes. We called them Foo fighters. Both Allied and German pilots thought that they were secret weapons of the other side. After the war, on 24th June 1947, an American called Kenneth Arnold, piloting his own plane, was on a mercy mission trying to find another aircraft that had crashed somewhere in the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington. Suddenly, he spotted nine gleaming objects, crescent shaped, flying in a zigzag fashion between his plane and the mountains. He managed to calculate their speed because he was able to get a fix—I think that is the technical term—between two mountain peaks, Rainier and Baker. It appeared that the objects were travelling at some 1,400 miles per hour—a very fast speed in 1947.

Some time after landing, Arnold, in answer to a question from the Press, described the motion of the flying objects as being like saucers skimming over water. Next day the Press headlined them as “flying saucers”. Since Arnold’s sighting

in 1947, millions of people all over the world have seen the UFOs. This brings me to the class of witnesses that see UFOs. It is true that occasionally one gets the odd crank or hoaxer; but the majority of witnesses are sincere people. Then again many witnesses are pilots, police officers, coastguards, radar operators—in short, trained observers. Many astronauts have seen UFOs. Many people ask me: “Why is it that astronomers do not see them?” The answer is that they do. In a letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 4th January last year, I listed eight well-known astronomers who had seen UFOs, including Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto.

Now a few words, my Lords, about the UFOs themselves. Actually, the name “flying saucer” given by the Press in 1947 was a misnomer as they come in all sorts of shapes and sizes: cigar, oval, disc, sphere, doughnut, crescent and tadpole shaped. You name it, my Lords, the list is endless. I should like to say a few words about their characteristics. UFOs often have very bright lights and sometimes when in flight change colours all the way through the colour spectrum. Sometimes the light from a UFO is so intense that its shape is obscured from view. This light energy is so powerful that witnesses have been burned on the face and hands if in too close a proximity to a UFO.

Another characteristic of the UFOs is electrical interference with various machines. UFOs have been notorious for stopping cars at short range. The driver will hear his engine splutter and it stops running. Besides cars, many other machines have been affected, including aircraft, motor cycles, buses, lorries and tractors. UFOs are said to be the cause of some of the power blackouts in the USA, Mexico and other countries. Indeed, UFOs have been seen flying along power lines in the USA just before black-outs. Furthermore, I have a picture on the wall of my study at home of a UFO doing just that!

Now, I will mention one or two of the more impressive sightings since the war. On the 29th June, 1954, a BOAC Boeing stratocruiser “Centaurus” had taken off from New York for London. Dinner had been served. The time was just after sunset when the skipper, Captain James

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Howard, first sighted the UFOs. Some of the passengers by then were asleep. There was one big object with six smaller ones. Captain Howard pointed them out to his co-pilot, First Officer Lee Boyd, who flew with the famous Pathfinder force in World War II. The objects were five miles from the "Centaurus". They stayed parallel with the aircraft for 80 miles. From time to time the big object appeared to change shape. The radio officer checked with Goose Bay, Labrador, to see if any other aircraft were in the area and was told, No. Goose Bay sent a fighter up to investigate. All the crew saw the objects. Just before the fighter arrived, the objects began to disappear, and it seemed that the smaller ones went inside the large one. Altogether, a crew of eight and 14 of the 51 passengers saw the UFOs.

In November 1975, at Strategic Air Command Bases in Michigan, Montana, North Dakota and Maine, a number of UFOs were sighted over a 13 day period. Several were hovering near nuclear weapons storage areas. When interceptor planes were sent up to investigate, the UFOs dimmed their lights and became invisible. One of the most amazing UFO incidents ever occurred in September, 1976. A report of this event written by Geoffrey Levy appeared in the *Daily Express* on 27th February, last year. I shall try and give you his account in my own words. A very large glowing object was seen over Teheran, Iran. Hundreds of witnesses telephoned the authorities. At 1.30 a.m. the Iranian Air Force scrambled a Phantom jet to investigate the UFO which was some 70 miles away. As the jet reached about half the distance to the UFO, all of the Iranian plane's communications and instrument systems malfunctioned. The pilot had no alternative but to return to base.

A second Phantom jet took off flying faster than the speed of sound. The UFO began to move at a very fast speed indeed, and soon outpaced the jet. Then, an extraordinary thing happened. Suddenly a second smaller UFO came out of the big one, and headed straight for the jet. The jet pilot tried to release an AIM-9 air-to-air missile at the glowing object. No success at all. The weapons control panel was not working and all electronic systems were out of action. There was only one thing for the pilot to do, and that

was to make his escape. He put his plane in to a dive. Then something extraordinary happened. The second UFO turned around and went back inside the "mother ship". The jet pilot's instruments started working again. So once more he tried to pursue the UFO, but it moved away too rapidly, and so the Phantom jet returned to base.

There are literally vast numbers of these astounding reports. Indeed, my Lords, this worldwide UFO invasion of every country's air space is of growing importance and therefore I suggest that Parliament keeps a continuous watch on the situation. I have thought of one way of doing this. In the same way that there is a House of Lords Defence Study Group ably chaired by the noble Lord, Lord Shinwell, perhaps we could have a House of Lords UFO Study Group to meet periodically. If any of your Lordships are interested, please let me know!

I should like to touch on the attitudes of Governments towards this subject and to stress the need for an intra-governmental study, which is the object of my Motion. I am only going to talk about four Governments, your Lordships will probably be pleased to know. First, let us take a look at the United States. I think that one of the reasons for "playing down" UFOs some years ago in the United States was the fear of panic among the public. This was partly based on an actual panic that did occur in 1938 due to a very realistic broadcast by Orson Welles of H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. Thousands of people left their homes.

However, after the war, the United States Air Force investigated pilots' reports without any debunking. Then the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, stepped in. The CIA controls the intelligence departments of the United States military services. They ordered the United States Air Force to clamp down on UFO reports. That was, I believe in 1953 and it has been going on ever since. Pilots who reported seeing UFOs were ridiculed, and after a time other pilots did not report them for fear of damaging their reputation. We had high hopes during President Carter's election campaign that there was a strong possibility of a breakthrough to the truth about UFOs. He disclosed during his campaign that he had seen a UFO a few years previously in Georgia, and he added that if he got into

[The Earl of Clancarty.]  
 the White House he would release to the public all the UFO information in the Pentagon. Unfortunately, that election pledge has not been fulfilled.

*Russia*

What has been happening in the Soviet Union? Probably the leading ufologist in that country is Doctor Felix Zigel, Professor of Higher Mathematics and Astronomy at the Moscow Aeronautical Institute. For a long time he had been trying to form a big UFO research group on a worldwide scale. Many UFOs have been seen over the Soviet Union. In July, August, September and October 1967, for instance, giant space ships were seen over various parts of the USSR by astronomers and other witnesses. On 10th November of that year, it was announced that there was to be a full investigation of UFOs. This was announced on Russian television. The operation was to be headed by Major General Anatoly Stolyerov, with Doctor Zigel as Number Two. Thousands of UFO cases were to be analysed by scientists and Soviet Air Force officers. However, the Russian Academy for Sciences came down hard on the new UFO group and on 27th February, 1968, *Pravda* published the official attitude of the authorities, and the cover-up was on.

*France*

There is, however, one country which can be relied upon to take a line independent from others over many matters, and UFOs proved to be no exception. In February, 1974, the then French Minister of Defence, M. Robert Galley, was interviewed entirely about UFOs on France-Inter radio station. The interviewer was Jean Claude-Bourret. At the time there was tremendous publicity in France, but for some reason our newspapers did not even mention the broadcast. M. Galley stated that the UFOs were real but admitted that it was not known where they came from. He said that since 1954, there had been a unit in the French Ministry of Defence collecting UFO reports. Some of this material was sent to the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse, the French equivalent of the American NASA. In this Centre there was also a unit—a scientific one—studying both UFO sighting and landing reports.

A little over a year ago, I received some information that this particular unit was under government sponsorships and so I put down a Question for Written Answer.

The noble Lord, Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, kindly confirmed to me in his reply that the GEPAN unit—those are the initials of the group—had been set up under the French Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Artisans at the centre in Toulouse. M. Galley also added that the gendarmerie were playing a very important part in UFO investigations, questioning witnesses and examining burnt circular marks on the ground where UFOs had landed; or were alleged to have landed. So the French have been taking it all seriously and keeping their own people informed. Nobody panicked and people did not rush like lemmings into the sea.

Is it not time that Her Majesty's Government informed our people of what they know about UFOs? The UFOs have been coming in increasing numbers for 30 years since the war, and I think it is time our people were told the truth. We have not been invaded from outer space. Most incidents have not been hostile. Indeed it is us, the earthlings, who have fired on them. There may have been a few allegedly hostile incidents, but I maintain that if there is a disturbing element in a phenomenon which is pretty friendly on the whole, we should be told the truth. Whatever the truth is, I am sure that an informed public is a prepared one. Another thing: it is on record that both sighting and landing reports are increasing all the time. Just suppose the ufonauts decided to make mass landings tomorrow in this country—there could well be panic here, because our people have not been prepared.

The noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, is to reply for Her Majesty's Government at the end of this debate. I should like to ask the noble Lord whether he will contact his right honourable friend the Minister of Defence about the possibility of giving a broadcast interview about UFOs, as his counterpart across the Channel did in 1974. That would go a long way to discredit the view held by a lot of people in this country that there is a cover-up here and that in some way we are playing along with the United States over this. I should also like to see an intra-governmental study of the UFOs. All Governments should get together and pool their knowledge about UFOs, and the results should be passed on to the

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public. Finally, I should like to thank your Lordships for your kind attention, and I beg to move for Papers.

7.29 p.m.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, I am bound to say that I face making this speech with some trepidation. I had wondered whether we could justify the holding of what is in effect a full debate on this matter; but having seen the audience we have tonight, and indeed having heard the speech of the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, I can see that that sort of thought would not go down too well. I may well be shouted down before I finish anyway, but let us see if we can avoid that right at the start.

The noble Earl asked us in his Motion to support a proposal particularly for an intra-governmental study—I suppose he means, as indeed he has described, between Governments. No doubt he would wish to see the co-operation of the United States. But I should not want to support that kind of proposal. I do not think the time has yet come when we can view this matter with sufficient certainty to justify the expenditure of public money on it.

I certainly agree that the numerous voluntary bodies, including those with which the noble Earl is associated, ought to be encouraged, and indeed I should not be opposed to informal links between those bodies—or, at least the responsible ones—and others, such as the Ministry of Defence. But I am ashamed to say, in the midst of all this faith, that I am not myself a believer in UFOs described, as I believe they are, as objects or vehicles from another planet or from another universe.

I have some 2,500 hours as a pilot. I have flown across the Atlantic a few times as a pilot. But, unlike with the aircraft reported by the noble Earl, I have never seen one. I presume—indeed, I believe—that a good many of the sightings can be explained by logical scientific theory and I am, so far at least, convinced that those that cannot so far be so explained could be, if our knowledge were more advanced or if we had more information about the sightings in question. It is these unexplained sightings upon which ufologists rely so heavily in asking us to accept their theories. But I believe,

as I say, that these unexplained sightings could be—and, indeed, would be—explained, if we had more knowledge about them; for example, better photographs. How many clear photographs of UFOs have your Lordships seen? All I have seen are hazy, fudgy photographs which could, or could not, be genuine.

Ufologists often rely upon radar information for evidence in their case, but I must tell your Lordships that radar plays more tricks even than the camera, and I do not believe that radar information, in this context, is valid. For example, the recent sightings in New Zealand, which were widely reported just before Christmas, including some rather strange-looking photographs which appeared on television, were also said to have been confirmed by radar information which was available to the aircraft in question. But I know from my own experience that radar is frequently used, and, indeed, is so designed, for detecting anomalies in atmospheric conditions and in weather patterns, and I am not persuaded that radar is a valid supporting argument in this case.

Since time immemorial, man has ascribed those phenomena that he could not explain to some supernatural or extra-terrestrial agents. Eventually, as scientific wisdom has advanced, these phenomena are understood more fully, until now, today, no one takes witchcraft seriously and there are no fairies at the bottom of my garden. It is not so long ago that magnetism, as it occurs naturally in the form of lodestone, was thought to be the work of the Devil, as indeed were some of the hot springs found in Iceland, Australia and elsewhere.

An eclipse of the sun or the moon, now fully understood, was once thought to be an expression of the Almighty's displeasure. Perhaps this derives from the description in the Gospels of the events following the Crucifixion. I recall the 44th and 45th verses of the 23rd chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, and I shall read it if I may:

"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst."

St. Matthew described it rather well also:

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent."



[Lord Trefgarne.]

No one would now seriously doubt that those happenings were, in fact, an eclipse of the sun and an earthquake respectively. I would not deny that there may have been divine intervention in respect of the timing of those events, but certainly I would say that they were caused by terrestrial forces which we now fully understand.

Without wishing to pre-empt anything that the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich may say, perhaps I may pose the question as to whether the existence of another race or races outside our universe is compatible with our Christian principles. I speak only as a simple member of the Christian faith, but I think I believe that He loves us and us alone. I am not aware that there is any suggestion in the words of Christ or in the words of the Almighty, as recorded that we must share his goodness with people from another universe. There is no suggestion that there is, indeed, any other such people. I acknowledge, however, that, for example, the works of Darwin were once thought incompatible with the Christian faith, and so perhaps my view of the credibility of these things, from a Christian point of view, is open to correction. Perhaps the right reverend Prelate will be able to help us when he comes to speak.

I emphasise that I do not for a moment doubt the sincerity and conviction of those who believe in these objects, who believe that they are visitors from another universe or, at least, some supernatural force beyond our reason. I simply do not happen to agree with them. I certainly do not agree with the learned professor, speaking on the radio the other morning, who said: "Anyone who believes in UFOs is a loony". But as for the suggestion that an international study group should be set up, I do not think that I could countenance that as a serious proposal at this time. I emphasise, however, that I would be happy to encourage informal links between, for example, the RAF and the very worthy groups who believe differently from the way I do.

Before I sit down, I should just like to say how much I am looking forward to the maiden speech of my noble friend Lord Oxfield, who is to speak later in the debate. His name has, of course,

appeared on the Order Paper before today, and I hope that it appears on the list of speakers a good many times in the future. The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, has done us a service by bringing this matter forward, but I would counsel caution and care.

7.38 p.m.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY: My Lords, as the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, has said, the majority of noble Lords in this Chamber will be greatly indebted to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for raising this fascinating and controversial subject this evening. Before I begin, perhaps I should say that I have an interest in it, because I am a director of a company which is to make an identified flying object—a thermo skyship, which is saucer shaped. I shall not get that muddled up. But in spite of sceptics, such as the noble Lord, Lord Wigg, the other day in a newspaper, and Sir Bernard Lovell from Jodrell Bank, who says that UFOs do not exist, we must agree that they do, because otherwise there would be no unidentified flying objects. Furthermore, we should not have throughout the world radio telescopes listening to try to pick up signals from intelligences in outer space.

As the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, said, UFOs are not products of the 20th century imagination. They have been observed here for years—by the North American Indians, by the monks of Byland Abbey in 1290, who were terrified by the appearance of a huge silver disc. Right through history up to today, millions of people have seen UFOs, and I will go so far as to say that I am the first to admit that the very large majority of them can be explained as natural or man-made phenomena—meteorites, satellite debris, weather balloons, military flares, *et cetera*. But there are still many which are completely unexplained.

It has been reported that the United States and the USSR signed a pact in 1971 to swap UFO information, but the pact stated that they were to keep the rest of the world in the dark. I believe that the pact was signed so that neither super-Power would make mistakes about UFOs being atomic missiles. I am also led to understand that quite recently the three United States balloonists who crossed the Atlantic were followed for up to 12

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hours by UFOs but were ordered by United States Government agents not to discuss them.

We know that war in space, once a figment of the imagination and a subject much beloved by science fiction writers, is very nearly a fact now. Both super-Powers have, or will have, killer satellites and laser beams operating in space. May I ask the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, whether he agrees that this may perhaps be one of the reasons for the reticence of the United States over being more forthcoming about their UFO information?

In 1977, Sir Eric Gairy, the Prime Minister of Grenada, backed by President Carter, wanted the United Nations to declare 1978 as the Year of the UFO. They both failed. However, the proposition was finally tabled for 29th September 1978. This proposition was postponed through October, November and December. It was finally threatened by the veto of the United States and Russia. Hopefully, however, it will now be considered in June of this year. I believe that at last there has been a unanimous vote that the proposition will not be rejected.

As the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, said, I agree entirely that we do not understand many of these unidentified flying objects because of our lack of knowledge. UFOs defy worldly logic. Even if one accepts that there may be life elsewhere in our galaxy, or even in other galaxies, the human mind cannot begin to comprehend UFO characteristics: their propulsion, their sudden appearance, their disappearance, their great speeds, their silence, their manoeuvres, their apparent anti-gravity, their changing shapes. They defy our present knowledge and laws of matter. Of course, this naturally upsets our earthly scientists because it is outside their earthly terms of reference and knowledge, but to try to present UFOs in a more mundane light let us briefly examine the last 30 years.

In 1947, the United States Air Force started an official project called "SIGN". By 1949, 243 reports of UFOs had been submitted, but no conclusive evidence came to the public's knowledge from this project. Project Blue Book was then born, and its findings produced the same conclusions. So it appears that the United States Air Force concern was

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threefold: first, to see whether UFOs were a threat to the security of the United States; secondly, to see whether UFOs could contribute technical and scientific knowledge; and, thirdly, to explain to the general American public what was going on in their air space. However, as UFOs appeared to offer no threat to security, Project Blue Book became just a public relations exercise to not inform the public, despite numerous unidentified radar trackings and close approaches made by UFOs to both civil and military aircraft. The military staff in America said that, as there was no threat or danger, they were not interested in pursuing the subject any further. So Project Blue Book was abandoned.

This may be good enough to fob off the American public, but it is not good enough to fob off the British public. Too many people—ordinary people as well as famous people—have seen UFOs. Ten Governments now openly admit that UFOs exist and are real: France, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, the Argentine, Venezuela, Mexico, the Philippines, Peru and Grenada. Other Governments know that UFOs exist but do not admit it publicly. President Carter has personally seen a UFO.

Let me give a small sample of prominent, scientific and sane people who have seen UFOs or believe, through evidence, that they exist: Commander Robert McLaughlin, United States Navy missile expert; John McCormack, Speaker, United States House of Representatives; the late Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding; the late President Truman; Dr. Stanton Friedman, United States Nuclear Physicist; Ed Mitchell, Apollo astronaut; Gordon Cooper, Apollo astronaut; Dr. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astronomy, North West University; Waiter Cronkite, United States newscaster; Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon; and, lastly, Dr. Felix Zigel, Professor of Higher Mathematics and Astronomy, Moscow Aeronautical Institute. Can any of your Lordships sincerely believe that these aforementioned people all suffer either from hallucinations or believe in fairy stories?

Despite the United States and the USSR embargo on UFO information, funnily enough the Russians appear more inclined to think that UFOs have extra-terrestrial origins. Further, some

Grenada



[The Earl of Kimberley.]

Russian scientists see a connection between UFOs and paranormal phenomena. In fact, there is an ever-growing belief that space travel has a connection with telepathy and telekinesis, because cosmonauts in orbit have discovered through scientific tests that they have an increased level of telepathic communication. If we assume that extra-terrestrial intelligences who travel to earth are more advanced than we are—and in that respect I think that they must be—then UFOs could be telekinetic phenomena: in other words, controlled by thought pulses.

Since thought is not subject to the physical limitations of matter, then velocities in excess of the speed of light would be possible. It is interesting to me that in 1968 I was speaking to Sir Frank Whittle, the inventor of the jet engine and an eminent scientist, about interstellar space travel. It was just before the Americans had landed on the moon. Sir Frank said that he thought that it would be perfectly feasible one day to go to the stars, as he did not believe in Einstein's theory of relativity. A remark like this, coming from an ordinary man like myself, would probably, quite rightly, be laughed at. But one can certainly not laugh when a remark like that is made by such an eminent person as Sir Frank Whittle.

What is interesting is that two years later, in 1970, Dr. Fomin, a Russian doctor of telekinesis and automation, argued that, to traverse interstellar space, we would have to grapple with physical laws different from those we know at present and which so far are only theory. However, these principles have been established in mathematical formulae. Therefore, Einstein's concept of time and space possibly may not apply.

In 1976, President Carter, in a pre-election pledge stated:

"If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists. I am convinced that UFOs exist. I have seen them".

This statement was a breakthrough against the United States cover-up as it admitted that not all UFO information is, or has been, available to the American public. For instance, do your Lordships know that three former United States Presidents before their election proclaimed their belief in UFOs? They were President

Eisenhower, President Lyndon Johnson and President Ford, who I agree was appointed. During their presidencies they became completely silent and did not fulfil their promises. Why? I strongly suspect that Her Majesty's Government know why, and if they do know, why then, they should inform your Lordships.

I believe that there is much material evidence on UFOs in the national archives in the United States of America which has never been made known to the public, and even President Carter is finding it difficult to carry out his pre-election pledge. I am led to believe that he has tried unsuccessfully with NASA to do UFO research. The answer he has been given is "No, due to expense". That research which NASA has been required to do would cost a few million dollars, but a few million dollars is only the cost of two astronauts' suits. Therefore it appears obvious that for some reason there is a cover-up in the United States.

We in the United Kingdom are in a strange position because we have had thousands of sightings, yet I am led to understand that the Ministry of Defence have only two clerks working on UFO sightings. Further, they claim that they are not spending any money on UFO research. They appear reluctant to investigate publicly connected phenomena such as alleged messages from outer space. They say that this is the responsibility of the BBC and the Post Office. Can the Minister say whether the BBC and the Post Office know that they have this responsibility?

Further, when the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, replies to the debate will he confirm that Her Majesty's Government might be sympathetic and give support to the efforts of President Carter, Dr. Kurt Waldheim and Sir Eric Gairy to get the United Nations to debate the resolution "to discover the origin, nature and intent of UFOs".

The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, said that we should set up a parliamentary UFO group to meet a few times a year. I would concur with him. Further, I think the general public should be encouraged to come forward with evidence. Many do not, for fear of being ridiculed. Let them be open; let them be honest; let them badger their Member of Parliament and the Government to be open

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with them and to cease what I am convinced is a cover-up here. The people of Britain have a right to know all that the Governments, not only of this country but others throughout the world, know about UFOs.

Before I sit down I ask the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, whether he will tell your Lordships why the Ministry of Defence has not informed the public of 18 contacts from 23rd May 1977 up to 22nd February 1978, numbered K 5634 to K 5651 inclusive. Further, what do the classification numbers 5, 3, 20, 16, 6, 8 and 23 mean for these 18 contacts? Moreover, does the noble Lord realise that 13 out of these 18 contacts were seen during the hours of daylight? There need be no fear that the people of this country may panic, since if UFOs are extra-terrestrial their intelligence and knowledge is far ahead of our primitive understanding. My Lords, I heartily support the Motion moved by the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for an intra-governmental body to research UFOs. Let Her Majesty's Government give an example to the rest of the world by being the leader in this investigation.

7.55 p.m.

The Viscount of OXFURD: My Lords, first I should like to thank the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for initiating this extremely interesting debate. Of course it is really much above my head, but I have enjoyed it already and I hope I shall enjoy it for the rest of the evening. To me, the first question really is, where have these UFOs come from? There could be a great many answers to that, but in the first place we can look at our own planet and there is no doubt that there is very little chance of their having come from anything in our own solar system. In fact I think I should quote a few words from Professor Kopal's recent book on the solar system which finishes up, after lamenting the fact of what they found out about Mars, by saying:

"The hope of finding life on Mars has evaporated, together with the canals, into the thin Martian air. It is now almost certain that as living beings we are alone in the solar system".

I think that is a very good example of the fact that we cannot look to the solar system to discover where these things come from, if they come from anywhere.

The next possibility which has been paraded is that they might come from the sister sun in our own galaxy. Of course

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that is quite possible if you believe in the now accepted—or shall we say more popular—theory of the "big bang" for the start of the universe. Undoubtedly, our sun and its solar system must have been shared with many others at that moment when we suddenly appeared. They even give dates for it now; they talk about 5,000 million years ago, which fits in with our own geological background.

There are many stars which have a solar system which might well be in the same position; they might have one planet, as we have, as good as ours and with the same amount of knowledge. On the other hand, we must accept the fact, as the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, was saying, that it would have to be something which we have not been able to attain on this earth and something that we do not understand on this earth, because if one wanted to get, say, from A Centauri, which is our nearest star, to here, it would take half a lifetime. Even travelling faster than anything we have ever produced in the way of space ships in this world of ours, the distance is 250,000 times the distance that we are from our sun, which is 93 million miles. It is a distance which would certainly take half a lifetime, even at 100,000 miles an hour. So I do not think it would be reasonable to look at another solar system, say A Centauri, which is very near, being only roughly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  light years from us, which is not very much in space. There is of course the possibility that the UFOs may come from some secret effort on this earth. This I very much doubt because one could not keep a thing like that secret for 20 or 30 years. I very much doubt the possibility of its being on this earth.

So we get an entirely different picture. We have progressed in the last 30 years both in cosmology and in many other sciences, more than we have ever done before, certainly in my lifetime. I think the feeling really is that we are now on the edge of something in the universe which we do not understand yet. However, if we are going to understand the UFO question, we have got to move to the extent of understanding something beyond cosmology today. From our point of view, what we are looking at is the tip of the iceberg. We know perfectly well that we get information, we put it into computers and come out at the other

[Viscount Oxfuird.]  
end with a new model. Then in five or 10 years the model is thrown away and we are back with the one answer which applies, unfortunately, to so much of science today; we just do not know. But one hopes that it will be possible.

If the suggestion of the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, backed by the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, is adopted—that is, that we should have a worldwide organisation—to look into this matter and to go further than we have ever done, why should we not be the leaders of it? It would twist science back into a new field. Is it possible that there is not merely another solar system in our galaxy, but that somewhere in one of the many galaxies in the expanding universe there are other places where these things could come from with their amazingly vast scientific knowledge? I personally see no valid reason why we must accept that at this time, but we should start working for it. If we had a worldwide organisation to try to control that, perhaps we should be able to solve many of the problems which face us today in the universe; and nothing could be better. Then we might possibly find the answer to our UFOs.

8.2 p.m.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: My Lords, as the lone figure on this side of the House who has dared to come in on this debate, may I say that it has been a pleasure to listen to the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfuird, who has just spoken and, who has, in his own inimitable way, as a result of his military and other experience over the years, brought a certain depth and profundity to the request for some investigation into the phenomenon with which mankind is presented today. Consequently, with all sincerity I can say that I hope this House will have the pleasure of listening to the noble Viscount on many occasions adding his voice to our deliberations, and I thank him for what he has said.

Now I want to attack the problem in my own way. First, I want to ask what are we talking about. Secondly, after expressing my gratitude for the maiden Speech, I would also express thanks to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, who initiated this debate to call attention to the increasing number of sightings and

landings on a worldwide scale of unidentified flying objects. There is no argument about that. Do not let the noble Earl be a little bit sad because of dandy intellectualism that may approach this debate. The world oozes with intellectuality and at the present moment it is completely lacking in wisdom. Let us remember what I have said many times here, and it was my old mother who taught me this; she made me go to Sunday school and quote the text. She would say in Welsh: "Always remember, my boy, Solomon did not ask for cleverness, he asked for wisdom". There is a vast difference between the dandy intellectualism of some of the reporters on newspapers' approach to this problem and the wise approach that we have just heard in this maiden speech. Let us anchor that down. What else does the noble Earl ask for. He says on a worldwide scale and that there is need for inter-governmental study. I will add to it from the other side of the House that the expense would be so small that we should not neglect this.

Anybody who knows something about laser beams—and I saw in a laboratory in Switzerland for the first time the effect of a laser beam—knows it would be quite possible to throw on to that table now an identified or unidentified object that would look palpable, like Macbeth's dagger. Your Lordships remember the famous dagger scene:

"Is this a dagger I see before me  
The handle toward my hand? . . .  
In form as palpable  
As this which now I draw".

We could with a laser beam throw a dagger that would look as palpable on to that table. There may be an understanding of the power of the laser and its effect existing in some kind of technology that is beyond the dimension in which we can work. We have been looking in mathematics for the fifth and even the sixth dimension.

I had better pick up my notes, lest we be here a long time. Noble Lords need not worry; so much has been quoted that it saves me a lot of quotation. I want to ask the 64,000 dollar question. Do noble Lords believe in angels? The answer from some will be, Yes, and yet they have never seen one. We are asking you to believe in the phenomena of flying saucers, seen by now by, I should think,

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probably millions, at any rate hundreds of thousands, without exaggeration. If we are studying hagiography—and I had better be careful—which is the history of the saints, if I came off my Welsh mountains and came down as a little boy of 12 and said I had seen the Virgin Mary springing out of a rock, some devout religious people would believe me; but if I said I had seen a flying saucer they would not believe me. What is the difference? It is a question that has to be asked; it is a philosophical question that has to be asked, when intellectuality, in its pompous way in its Sunday newspaper articles, is dealing in print with mysteries that Shakespeare described—to misquote him: "There is more in heaven and earth than is thought of in man's philosophy".

So this deserves not being pushed aside. Mark you, my Lords, I was told today outside those doors that an ambassador of 8 ft. 6 ins. with green feet and webbed feet as well had asked whether he could park his flying saucer in our car park, according to some of the telephones that have been ringing here today, because some people have treated the whole matter as a joke. I would, therefore, suggest to them that they read H. G. Wells' *Final Essay*. They can read it in half an hour. It is slim, it is cogent, it is succinct. He says the human mind is at the end of its tether.

There is a queerness in the cosmology of the world in which we are now living. Was Wells right? We certainly see mankind acting queer when petrol is short. He is snarling and worse than any being from outer space. The anthropological arrogance of 20th century man in his tinpot motor-cars riding through the streets of the lovely spaceship we call the world is hartbreaking. He has learnt nothing from his two wars; and if we had another, God help mankind, in view of the way that he has shown his greed, selfishness and tendency to panic as never before since the days of the Crusades. The greatest delusion in the history of man was the delusion of the Crusades. But men went on them after the days of Peter the Hermit with a fiery and fierce belief in what they were doing.

The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, is an expert who has been written about. In fact, he dropped everything else to write about this matter. His seven books

have been translated into many languages and I congratulate him. He has done a job of work and I hope that the debate initiated by the noble Earl will receive some attention. People tend to scoff, but it is only a few days ago that we were sitting at the piano, playing and knocking out—not with the brilliance of a top pianist—"We three kings of Orient are". What did they follow? They followed a star. What was that star? We have had an intellectual analysis of why after the Crucifixion darkness spread over the earth. The noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne—who has piloted from one side of the ocean to the other—made intellectual assumptions about earthquakes and eclipses. We are not completely sure how to explain eclipses or earthquakes, but we have a kind of Kepler mathematics that times things rather nicely. It is not quite enough to explain the earthquakes. It does not mean that the mystery of the UFOs is something that can be brushed aside, and it is an anthropological arrogance to so say.

Good heavens, I have been speaking for nine minutes! My Lords, do not worry, I shall be about another five. The House has heard a number of laudable people quoted. Ordinary little people have sometimes been laughed at, especially those concerned in the famous sighting at Pascagoula in Mississippi when one little fellow fainted when he saw a chap with one leg jumping towards him with a wizened and wrinkled face, with pointed ears, crab claws for hands, slits for eyes and holes beneath his nostrils—they would not be nostrils without holes, at least I should hope so! We shall not develop fantastic descriptions like that. We shall not go into those realms. But we must say that there are many people who have said that they have experienced these phenomena.

I agree that the New Zealand incident has reawakened man's interest and as the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, said, they were not clear pictures. However, I attended a scientific lecture in this noble building not so long ago, given by someone who believed faithfully in the Loch Ness monster. He showed us masses of films. He was a scientist and he swore that the Loch Ness monster existed. There is just as much case for the existence of flying saucers. We know that they exist. All we are saying is that they are

[Lord Davies of Leek.]  
unidentified. They may be terrestrial or celestial. We are asking Governments to find an answer and that is all that this debate is about. There is no magic, we have nothing up our sleeves, but let the world know what is going on.

This renewed interest poses many problems and there are many research organisations which are looking into the matter and which know that they exist, but I shall not bore the House by going into them now. Let us ask a couple of questions. How can a flying saucer fly faster than sound and not create a supersonic boom? What is it? Secondly, have we the right to assume that we alone are in the universe? This anthropomorphic view of God that some people have built up does not build for the spirit and does not, I think, build for true holiness. It does not build up for real Christian spirit if it is followed too fully. Therefore, I should say that we have no right to assume that we are the only intelligent beings in the universe. Is the earth the only planet populated by intelligent technological life? I do not know and I do not suppose that we shall be able to find an answer yet. If in a year of Queen Elizabeth I had said to someone in London that I could show him a picture of Philip of Spain in Madrid on a piece of glass in his room, I would probably have been burnt at the stake as a wizard, or as a witch if I were a woman. However, we can do that today. We have broken through. We have the miracle on earth of television, even from the moon.

Are there flying saucers? Can these objects be explained? There are two basic facts. First, the scientific examination of the probability. That is due to mankind and Governments should look into it. The second aspect is to fathom the possibilities of the existence of this phenomena. Astronomers are now increasing their search for extra-territorial radio signals, but so far—despite what the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, has said—none has really or truly been discovered. The billions of stars in the galaxy make the problem at present too much for us.

Then there is the question of speed. In a light year a ray of light travels 6 trillion miles, but we do not want to go into that. The question of relativity

is interesting. I am not qualified to argue about it: I never reached that standard of mathematics. However, I know that Einstein believed that electro magnetic waves have no mass and are therefore not affected by his theory. However, he said that as an object—if it has mass—approaches the speed of light, its mass becomes infinite. That might explain the black holes about which we talk. We are talking of mysteries that we never knew anything about.

For a couple of generations now thousands of magazines and so on have reported these sightings. We want to know whether these objects that are unidentified deserve real research in depth. Whether or not it is true, only our prejudices can decide, and it becomes more difficult to listen to such weird experiences from apparently honest, sane and unself-seeking men who place their findings before papers and Governments. Are we right to call these men liars, hallucinators or sensationalists? If one human being out of the tens of thousands who allege to have seen these phenomena is telling the truth, then there is a dire need for us to look into the matter. Those who believe in psychic phenomena or spiritualism and those who believe in the synchronicity of ghosts—as they try to explain them—should not scoff at the possibility of these unidentified objects. We know that poltergeists exist; we know about their activities. Therefore, do not be so ready to scoff at UFOs when, in another moment if I catch you talking, you will agree with me that poltergeists exist. This is a serious Debate. It deserves study and understanding.

8.30 p.m.

The Lord Bishop of NORWICH: My Lords, I count it a privilege to follow the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfurd, and to link myself with the words of the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, in congratulating the noble Viscount on his maiden speech. At the beginning of his speech I jotted down that I should like to thank him for his "down-to-earth remarks", but when he got right out to A Centauri I realised that that phrase was of no use anyway. However, we congratulate him and look forward to hearing his voice again and often.

I am glad to be able to follow—without of course the Welsh fire or fervour—what

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the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek said. I have a little Irish blood in my veins and that is why I understand everything he says. I am sure that the request by the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty:

"To call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of unidentified flying objects"

is a proper one. I am most glad that we have brought this whole issue out into the open and have been given the unhurried opportunity of talking about it tonight.

It is right that we should give a cool and scientific look at all unidentified flying objects, not only because of natural curiosity, not even only—as I think the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, suggested—because of national security but also for reasons of scientific research. There was a time when leaders in the Church were not always so enthusiastic about pushing out the frontiers of knowledge as I believe we are today. I very much hope that such a search will continue. Whether or not it should be an intra-governmental study I am not sure. We shall listen with interest to what the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, says to us on that. But that it should be studied, and seriously studied, I believe to be true.

The interesting thing is that when a suggested UFO is seen in one part of the world it seems to spark off many sightings in other parts. The fact of the New Zealand sightings a short time ago seems to have produced many sightings in Norfolk; and our *Eastern Daily Press*—which is a magnificent daily paper, accurate fair and always helpful to the Church—has told us all about this recently. When I was talking on television at lunchtime today in Norwich my immediate reaction was to ring up the commanding officer of one of our stations—and for the sake of national security I shall not name the actual establishment lest other ears in other spaces should be listening to me—to ask whether (and I am quite serious about this), when sightings were suggested in Norfolk last week, one of our particularly important RAF stations had anything to say about them.

I think that we should be quite cool, firm and scientific and try to extend our knowledge in this area. But, with the wealth of scientific, aeronautical and erudite knowledge in your Lordships' House, what is a bishop doing moving

among the various parts of this chequered chessboard? I felt that I wanted to share anxieties on a rather narrow level with your Lordships. First, I believe that UFOs and the mystery surrounding them today are helping to build up a climate of credulity and, in certain cases, even of superstition, with the danger of a sort of ersatz spirituality almost reacting against the impersonality of modern civilisation, but not wholly involved in the total Christian commitment, which is a balanced commitment. Last summer at our Lambeth Conference the phrase was used:

"The Church gathers for worship; the Church scatters for mission".

These are the two sides of activity: the Church of God meets to worship God but the Church of Christ scatters to spread the good news of the Gospel. My concern here is that the mystery surrounding UFOs today—and I think it is helped by the variety of films and programmes on the subject—is in danger of producing a 20th century superstition in our modern and scientific days which is not unlike the superstition of past years. That is my first anxiety.

The second is that UFOs and their study seem, from my limited research in this area, to link with a certain religious subculture which seems to do three things. It offers a substitute for true, catholic religion. I use "catholic" with a small 'c'; I mean the Christian faith in its widest, but received, sense. Secondly, I think it draws serious, sincere and often very charming people—and young people too—into a sub-Christian, and I am afraid sometimes a non-Christian cult, often controlled by a dominant leader, and reproduces something of the gnostic—I suppose one wants to help people by saying "g-nostic"—heresies of the tight-knit, esoteric groups of the first, second and third centuries. In fact, I believe that Archbishop William Temple was right when he said the Church of Christ was the only society founded for its non-members to take what it knew of God and of Christ into the world that others might know too.

I see a certain danger of the linking of religion with the UFO situation at that level. Some Christian researchers suggest that those who become deeply involved in the religious aspects of the UFO situation come under a psychic domination

[The Lord Bishop of Norwich.] which can cause serious distress to them and to their personal life. That is my anxiety. I may be wrong, but I put it forward with some care, having thought about it and studied it a good deal. Therefore, my third anxiety—and I am sorry to be negative but it is important to share both the light and the dark sides—is the danger of the religious aspect of the UFO situation leading to the obscuring of basic Christian truths. When all is said and done, Christ himself is the agent of God in the creation of the world. I quote from *Colossians*:

“Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation: for in Christ all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible—whether thrones or dominions, or principalities or authorities . . . All things were created through Him and for Him”.

This fascinating chapter in *Colossians*, which is perhaps one of the highest levels of Christological teaching, speaks of Christ being before all things: “by him all things consist”, as the Authorised Version put it. All things hold together; He is the great unifying, holding-together principle of God’s universe.

I say this in this debate recognising the danger of, as it were, preaching a sermon. However, I do not think that is true in this case because the very subject we are debating is helping to widen our horizons—and the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfuird, stressed this point of looking far out in his maiden speech. I believe that Christ has not only a terrestrial, not only a cosmic significance but literally a galactic significance. I believe that He is God’s vice-regent concerning His great creative world. It is good that our minds and eyes should be stretched further out because I do not believe that at any point of the universe we get beyond the hand of God. Therefore, it helps us to understand the majesty of the Godhead when we begin to stretch our minds to reach out to the far corners of creation.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, will the right reverend Prelate allow me to intervene? Is he actually offering ecclesiastical authority for the existence of another race of people in another universe? Is he saying that the existence of UFOs, together with their inhabitants such as are so often described to us, is compatible with Christian faith?

The Lord BISHOP of NORWICH: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, for his interjection because it shows that he must have been listening carefully, because the next thing on my notes is, “Say something about Lord Trefgarne’s remarks”. However, there are about 20 seconds to go before I get to the noble Lord. Perhaps in the meantime he can have a glass of water from Lord Davies of Leek, or something, but I am almost with the noble Lord. I am glad for that interjection because I obviously was not getting right what I was trying to say. I believe that all the far corners of the creative world, right out further than we can ever see or even know by radio, are within the plan of the Creator. I believe they are within the majestic purposes of God. I believe that Christ, as Creator under the Godhead, is concerned with it all.

Now may I come to the noble Lord’s particular question a few minutes ago. His question went something like this: “Do we believe in the existence of another race? Is it possible that there is another race further afield?” I must say that I do not know. I believe there is a place for reverent Christian agnosticism concerning what is not revealed to us in scripture and by our Lord. Having said that, I believe that God may have other plans for other worlds, but I believe that God’s plan for this world is Jesus. That at least is how I view the question. The emphasis in scripture is most interesting on the fact that there never seems a point beyond the revelation of scripture where there is not God.

I quote, if I may follow Lord Trefgarne once more before finishing what I had to say, from the most majestic opening letter to the Hebrews.

“In these last days, God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. He reflects the glory of God. He bears the stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power”.

My point is that the danger of getting the UFO thing linked with the religious thing is that it obscures the fact that Christ is the image of the invisible God, and that all God’s purposes and plans for humanity are in and through his Son, our Lord.

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think that Christians make a proud and exclusive claim when they claim the words of our Lord,

"All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth".

But this is part of the belief of a Christian which he has to put humbly and lovingly, and in the light of seeking to serve people. In the incarnation of our Blessed Lord he clearly revealed to us the mind of the Godhead, and we should be careful in our study of the UFOs in a religious context because I believe that the Gospel of Christ, and his death upon the Cross for the salvation of sinners, can never be by-passed by other forms of religious expression which may be esoteric, may be unusual, and may appear to come to us in unusual ways. For that reason therefore I am happy that we should make a cool, clear, careful study of the whole UFO situation, but let it not be at the price of the obscuring of the fullness of the Christian faith and its power to transform lives.

Viscount BARRINGTON: My Lords, before the right reverend Prelate sits down, may I ask one question? Although I agreed with much of what he said, I did not entirely understand, when he was telling us that one should not study UFOs in a religious context, whether that meant that one should not study music, art or other things that we all have, good, bad and indifferent, in a religious context. If it means that we must not worship them, then I would be entirely in agreement, as a professing Christian. We must not worship art, architecture, or music. But when he tells us not to study them in a religious context, I am not clear whether I will be doing so or not.

The Lord Bishop of NORWICH: My Lords, will the House give me permission to seek to answer that in a sentence? Just as it is important that the boys and girls in our schools today should know some basic facts about the great world religions, I still believe that it is essential that in a so-called and named Christian country our boys and girls should have the opportunity of knowing the great facts of the Christian faith. I am simply suggesting that, if, in fact, people seeking for religious experience bypass the revelation of God in Christ and revealed in scripture, then they may

get into difficulties which will hurt and harm them. It is simply the obscuring of the Gospel that is my concern.

8.36 p.m.

Lord GLADWYN: My Lords, I must begin with an apology. Before I knew that the debate was to start so late I entered into an obligation for this evening from which I find it difficult to escape. Therefore, I may be unable to stay the course. One happy thing about UFOs is that they have nothing whatever to do with Party politics! Another is that they take one's mind off the absolutely frightful everyday events. Besides that, no theory as regards them can possibly be laughed out of court, nor need angels in respect of them fear to tread! I am sure that the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, would agree.

Though many alleged sightings are of identifiable objects of terrestrial origin, such as disintegrating satellites, balloons or meteors, or even some sort of reflection, others are of things which, on the face of it, cannot be accounted for in this way. The evidence of this is obviously too circumstantial to be disregarded. The evidence produced by the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, and my noble friend Lord Kimberley, is obviously too circumstantial. You cannot disregard that. These things almost certainly do exist. It is difficult to say that they do not exist. Therefore, unlike the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, I do not contest their existence.

Some objects may be of terrestrial origin, but equally some may not. Whatever their origin, it has certainly not as yet been proved that they contain, or are controlled by, sentient beings of any sort. Still less has it been demonstrated that such sentient beings come from another planet, of which we are told there are many millions in the universe and no doubt many thousands on which conditions may well be similar to those on earth. It is conceivable, therefore, that UFOs come from another world; but that, to say the least, is not certain or, let us say, is not yet certain. Let us therefore for a moment examine the terrestrial and the non-terrestrial hypotheses.

If these objects are terrestrial, they come somewhere from our world, then they may conceivably be attributable to



[Lord Gladwyn.]

some condition of the atmosphere, or upper atmosphere, unknown to us, producing electrical or similar phenomena which no doubt interfere with compasses, and for some reason dart about the sky, sometimes even coming to earth. The difficulty about such an explanation is that they never seem to come into actual contact with aircraft, or any other airborne objects. Even if collisions have sometimes been suspected, they have not been proved to have occurred. Nor, apparently, do they ever crash into anything important on the ground. When they are alleged to have been seen on the ground it is always, incidentally, away from houses. I suppose it is conceivable that they may be capable of passing right through physical objects, their mindless trajectory being therefore harmless, and dictated by some unknown physical cause, and their apparent presence on the ground being due to some local conditions on the surface. All I say is that this is a conceivable hypothesis. In any case, the fact that their occasional presence is so far inexplicable does not in itself invalidate the terrestrial hypothesis. There are, as the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, said, more things in Heaven than are dreamt of in our philosophy.

One terrestrial possibility at least can be discarded, that which attributes them to some Soviet activity in Central Asia, in some way heralding World War III. This hypothesis was current, as I remember well, in America at the time of the Korean war, when I was in New York. Indeed, it was responsible for, as far as I know, the only known joke ever perpetrated by a Soviet functionary, namely Mr. Gromyko, who when asked what he thought about flying saucers said, "Some people say these objects are due to the excessive consumption in the United States of Scotch whisky. I say that is not so. They are due to the activities of a Soviet athlete, a discus thrower, in Eastern Siberia, practising for the Olympic Games and quite unconscious of his strength."

If these objects are not terrestrial, then admittedly, always supposing they exist and are not mere illusions, they must be of some non-terrestrial origin. We can, I think, discard the possibility that they come from any of the other planets, as was said by the noble Viscount,

Lord Oxfuird, whose maiden speech we so much appreciated; I hope we shall hear from him again shortly. Venus is too hot, Mars is a lifeless wilderness, and conditions on the others are extremely unlikely to be compatible with any form of life.

Thus, from whence do they come? They can only come from a planet in some other starry system, of which the nearest, as the noble Viscount said, is the star Proxima Centauri, which is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  light years away. Always supposing, therefore, that UFOs are manned by sentient beings who travel at the speed of light—and if you travel at 186,000 miles a second, how do you slow down on approaching the earth? (how wonderful to imagine!)—these creatures must have been cooped up in their small machines for no less than 4.5 terrestrial years before appearing in our atmosphere. One can perhaps imagine that they may somehow have been able to escape from time and consequently not need any sustenance or sleep, but it is difficult, even on that hypothesis, to believe their machines are somehow time-exempt and can consequently contain enough propellant to keep them steady on their millenary way.

If a UFO was launched near Proxima Centauri and proceeded at the rate at which astronauts go to the moon, it would take, I am reliably informed, not 100,000 years but more like 900,000 years before it reached the earth. In which case, it is indisputable that any non-terrestrial UFO now sighted over New Zealand or anywhere else must have started on its journey something like a million years ago. In other words, since after all the human race lives within time, it must have left long before any kind of recognisable human society existed here below.

It is, however, also indisputable that UFOs have been observed for many hundreds of years in Europe, China and elsewhere. There are records of mediaeval monks seeing cigar-like objects in the heavens; and indeed it is quite possible that such sightings have been observed during the last few thousand years. There may be more sightings now simply because we have better facilities for observing them. If so, what conclusion must we draw as regards the whole non-terrestrial hypothesis? It is simply that

these sentient intelligent beings if such they be, a minable journey hover about attempt a land of which we evidence.

What could strange proceed obviously into picked up enough that a serious not feasible, the idea. Perhaps mysterious was our language? I think it was Kimberley who were under so from a planet Proxima Centauri simply a question it comes down cosmic joke be beings from 4 unfortunate in are a sort of induce us by them. It is a not think it is a

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these sentient and obviously highly intelligent beings from another planet, if such they be, at the end of an interminable journey, are content simply to hover about our atmosphere and not attempt a landing, or at least a landing of which we have any uncontrovertible evidence.

What could be the point of such strange proceedings? These sentient and obviously intelligent beings must have picked up enough information to conclude that a serious landing was feasible or, if not feasible, then to abandon the whole idea. Perhaps they may even in some mysterious way have been able to master our language and penetrate our thoughts. I think it was my noble friend Lord Kimberley who said that conceivably they were under some sort of thought control from a planet in the neighbourhood of Proxima Centauri. If that is so and it is simply a question of thought control, then it comes down apparently to a sort of cosmic joke being played by these sentient beings from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  light years away on the unfortunate inhabitants of this globe; they are a sort of hallucination in that they induce us by thought control to believe in them. It is a conceivable theory but I do not think it is a tenable one.

There are, it is true, those who believe that major landings from outer space have taken place in the past resulting in the inauguration of a new era, beings who then apparently withdrew after leaving behind some kind of representative, presumably to see how it would all work out; that is, the new civilisation which they had brought down to this world. In Colombia and Peru there are, I understand, strange markings on the ground thought to have been utilized by some sort of space ships, together with traditions of an other-worldly father of the race, notably of the Inca race, who came down from the sky. In fact, such traditions are fairly widespread in the world, although of course there is no proof that such father figures ever really descended from the sky.

The nearest one in time to our own era—I quote this only to draw attention to the lengths to which this kind of belief can go—is the theory, quite popular I believe in Russia, that Christ was a cosmonaut, the star of Bethlehem being a large UFO from which, to the amazement of the shepherds, emerged “the Heavenly Host” who left

the babe in the manger, to the great benefit of all mankind, and then departed whence they came. You can believe such heretical imaginings if you will, and perhaps if you believe in the divine origin of Christ and his teachings it would not matter very much if you held that, in my view, rather nonsensical belief. And you can certainly believe, if you want, that UFOs contain people from another world which is watching us and whose intentions are benevolent and perhaps designed to save our distracted planet from the horrors of another war by somehow disposing of the wicked and thus inaugurating a new era. Believe that if you like.

I am afraid, however, that all such imaginings are due chiefly to the discontent with the present human condition and to an unconscious desire to escape from the horrors or potential horrors of our earthly life. When we believed that if we were good we would, when we died, go to Heaven, there was no inclination to go to some new world near Andromeda; and whether another world other than Heaven itself was watching us did not worry us overmuch. Presumably, it was the angels.

The more over-populated our planet becomes, the greater the violence and the more appalling the wars, the more, unconsciously perhaps, we want to leave it if we can or trust in other worldly intervention; and the more intense therefore the longing, the greater the temptation to believe that there actually is somewhere else to which we can physically go or to which we can somehow make an appeal. It was a great disappointment when the moon was discovered to be a mass of grey plasticine, that Mars was even more unpleasant than the middle of the Sahara and that Venus was the nearest thing to Hell.

What is the moral? I agree with the right reverend Prelate, who said so eloquently—we are indebted to him for his intervention—that perhaps the moral is that we had better not put our trust in saucers for salvation but, rather, concentrate on how best to conduct ourselves here below so as to live in charity with our neighbours and eventually die in peace. If the UFOs contain sentient beings, we can only leave it to such being to get in touch with us when, and if, they will. Up to now, if they exist, they have

[Lord Gladwyn.]  
done no harm of any kind. Apparently they have done no harm for the last two or three thousand years. So there seems to be no great need to set up intra-governmental machinery to investigate the whole phenomena. The mystery may suitably remain a mystery, and so far as I can see nobody will be in any way the worse off if it does.

8.50 p.m.

Lord KINGS NORTON: My Lords, I should like to add my thanks to those which the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, has already received for opening the debate in such an extremely interesting way. I found my imagination boggling a little at some of the things he told us. Nevertheless, I feel that it is of immense value that this matter has been brought out into the open by the debate in the House, and I hope that as a result of it there will be some progress in the understanding of what is an extremely serious matter. I feel that we must be careful about our terminology in discussing the UFO problem, and I believe that I shall make clear in the course of my remarks what I mean by that. For example, in the past few days, since it was known to my friends that I was to take part in the debate, I have had over and over again the question: Do you believe in UFOs? I must say that I think that is rather a silly question, because if I saw something in the sky which neither I, nor whoever happened to be with me, could identify—I have not, but let us suppose that I did—then I should have seen an unidentified flying object, a UFO. I do not have to believe in it. I should believe merely that I had seen it—something that I could not explain; and I believe that many people are in that position.

It has been said more than once this evening that this is no new phenomenon. I think that the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, dated it back to about 1300 BC. Whether my researches have taken me further back, I am not quite sure. However, I am sure that your Lordships will be as familiar as I am with the 10th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. He certainly saw something very unfamiliar in the firmament, and it certainly could be called a UFO. It was very different from the modern ones. It appears to have been coal-fired, to have been stabilised by

gyroscopes, and crewed by cherubim; and it was a model which has not, so far as I know, been developed. There have been a good many sightings probably before Ezekiel, and certainly there have been many thousands since, and I fear that there has grown up a belief in many minds that if an object in the skies is unidentifiable, it must be from outer space; and this is quite unwarranted.

I think that it is worthwhile once again to consider the possibilities. I know that this has been done once or twice this evening, but it is part of my argument. I should say that there are possibly two kinds of objects to be seen in the skies: those of terrestrial origin, and those of extra-terrestrial origin. Typical of the first kind are man-made flying machines, satellites and rockets, and the like. Identifiable objects of the second kind are meteorites and phenomena such as the Northern Lights.

I am sure that many—and perhaps most—of the sightings recorded and reported are terrestrial in origin: aeroplanes with navigation lights glowing at night; satellite launching rockets burning up on re-entry; remotely piloted vehicles, now beginning to be called RPVs; up on trial flights; weather balloons; trick reflections of light. In the extra-terrestrial class I am afraid that I cannot think of anything other than meteorites, Northern Lights and ball lightning, but there are probably other well known physical phenomena within the knowledge of astronomers and meteorologists.

I feel, however, that some of the reports we have had—and we can for the time being leave out Ezekiel—are not readily explained in terms of any of the possibilities which I have mentioned. The New Zealand phenomena are worth much more investigation than they have yet had, but so far, in so far as I have been able to understand what has been reported, they do not appear to be explicable in terms of any of the suggestions which I have so far made. That seems to go for the quite extraordinary widespread sightings recently in Italy, where hundreds of people as reasonable as you and I, my Lords, seem to have seen quite inexplicable things in the sky. It would be worthwhile trying to explain them, and if there are people who know what they are, they ought to tell us. The high probability in my mind is that

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they are terrestrial in origin, and the only extra-terrestrial possibilities do not seem to be feasible because of the very eccentric paths which the objects, or lights, which were seen seem to have taken. But if they are terrestrial phenomena, we ought to be able to identify them.

I believe that any dispassionate investigation, such as I understand the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, would wish to have, could not ignore the possibility of the phenomena having their origins outside the earth and perhaps outside the solar system. Just as meteorites are chance material projectiles originating in the solar system, may there not be random matter of a different character—perhaps a luminous but insubstantial character—that in certain circumstances becomes visible and attracted to our area? I certainly should be readier to accept some explanation in terms of what I might call the astronomical phenomena than ships from outer space. It would, I suppose, be foolish to deny that possibility, but as an explanation of phenomena—and I think that the noble Lord, Lord Gladwyn, exposed this—it is surely a very long shot indeed.

If we are to conduct any dispassionate inquiry—and I think that we should—we must listen to the proponents of what one might call the *Star Trek* view. It can be argued, not unreasonably, that we in our humble way are probing nearby solar space with our Venus and Jupiter and other vehicular probes. We have ventured on to the Moon. Is it not presumptuous, the argument goes, to suppose that elsewhere in space creatures more advanced than us are probing into our space, probing with means now occasionally visible to us, using their own RPVs, controlled from stations light years away, rather on the lines which the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, mentioned? It is a possibility which we must be prepared to consider. It is a possibility, though not many of us, I feel, would call it a probability.

But if we do have a study of UFOs, as the noble Earl desires, we could not exclude the possibility of extra-terrestrial intelligences from our consideration. This quotation has been given twice this evening, as well as a dozen times outside this House in this connection, but,

“There are more things in Heaven and Earth,  
Horatio”,

Hamlet said,

“than are dreamt of in your philosophy”.

And Heaven, my Lords, has always offered us more possibilities than earth. Although I remain sceptical of intelligent invasion from outer space, I recall the dictum of the late Mr. Sherlock Holmes when he was investigating the curious matter of the Sign of Four:

“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth”.

The desirability of getting rational and acceptable explanations for the odd phenomena which are being reported—even if, like some other para-normal phenomena, they are subjective—in my opinion is not, or should not be, merely to satisfy our curiosity. Here I am coming from rather a different angle to something which was discussed in greater depth by the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich.

There is a social danger, in my view, in leaving people in ignorance of the origins of these phenomena. I have recently learned from a number of sources that there have grown up, in North America particularly, many groups and cults whose attitudes are based on beliefs that UFOs are influential outer-spatial manifestations interested in this earth. In some cases these groups are looking to outer space for Man's salvation. If this is right, it is rather disturbing.

I find, too, that in this country there are groups interested, other than purely scientifically, in the UFO phenomena. I had a letter—and I think that other noble Lords may have had the same letter—earlier this week from an ecumenical Christian group which believes, among other things, that UFOs menace the spiritual health of the nation; that they are anti-Christian and that information exists about them which is being withheld. It seems to me that this association of UFOs with mysticism and religion makes explanation of the true origins of the phenomena a matter of great importance and of some urgency. The sooner that each reported sighting or landing is satisfactorily explained, the better. It is no good just laughing them off or trying to laugh them off; we must seek the truth and tell it.

My Lords, I remain sceptical, perhaps more sceptical than anyone who has

[Lord Kings Norton.]

spoken this evening except the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne. I remain sceptical of the more bizarre extra-terrestrial explanations. I remain more than sceptical, indeed, incredulous, of what the noble Earl in his Motion called "landings"; but I support him wholeheartedly in his wish for a serious inquiry. I hope that the Government will take steps to put such an inquiry in hand. Finally, I come back to the matter of terminology. In his Motion, the noble Earl called for "an intra-governmental study". The noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, and, I think, the noble Lord, Lord Gladwyn, took this to be an inter-governmental study. But "intra" means "within". I was puzzled by the use of the prefix, but that is what it means and presumably what the noble Earl meant. But why a study within the Government? I would support the idea of a Government-supported open investigation by a carefully chosen group of scientists and technologists with some funds at their disposal; but a study within Government would seem to smack of a secret probe, which would be no good at all.

I have no objection to a House of Lords study group, but they could scarcely perform in the way that a public organisation supported, say, by the learned societies and the engineering institutions could perform. It is something of that kind that I should like to see brought into being under Government or with Government support: a group of dispassionate people with the power, the money and staff on a modest scale to investigate. Perhaps in his reply later this evening the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, will comment on the suggestion.

9.4 p.m.

Lord RANKEILLOUR: My Lords, first, I must thank the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for this debate, the subject of which has long needed an airing; and, although the noble Viscount, Lord Oxford, is not in his seat, nevertheless I congratulate him on his speech. The UFO saga is deep and complex and there are no known experts to keep us up to date with everything to do with it including its mechanics. However, scientists throughout the world have been drawn into an ever-increasing discussion as to what UFOs are and where they come from, so

far with little enough results except to wonder why the bounds of natural physics seem to be broken on all sides. Most Western Governments say that UFOs do not exist, but I think that the French Minister of Defence, M. Robert Galley, in February, 1974, said that they do; that his Government takes them seriously and that they have been studied secretly by a special department for over 20 years. Indeed, France leads the world in UFO research. It has followed up sightings with police teams, scientists and scholars and, since 1950, the *Deuxième Bureau* of the Army.

Oddly, in that same year, a remarkable report came from Farmington, New Mexico, on 18th March, when the inhabitants of that town were treated to a display of flying saucers that literally filled the sky above them. Every important American newspaper told the story. With few exceptions, the entire township of 5,000 people, including the mayor, newspapermen and members of the Highway Patrol, breathlessly watched an air show to end them all, a fantastic air circus. Countless saucers performed aerial acrobatics at speeds of 1,000 m.p.h. showing incredible handling, acute control in split-second timing by their ability to avoid collisions.

My Lords, that was hardly a weather balloon convention.

Is it not curious that we of the 20th century, with a vast knowledge of science behind us, should be blind to further wonders in the skies above? Men throughout the world have been branded as mad or mistaken when they have reported having seen strange sights in the heavens. Many men have seen these sights and have not been mistaken. Who are we to doubt their word? Who are Governments that dare to ridicule the honest? Not long ago the Loch Ness monster was regarded as a fable, but now our leading naturalist says that it (or they, possibly) probably exists. Why, then, should unidentified flying objects be any harder to believe, especially as they have been seen far more frequently? My Lords, of course they exist. Only a few weeks ago a Palermo policeman photographed one, and four Italian Navy officers aboard a light patrol boat in the Adriatic, in the early hours of the morning, saw a 300-yard long fiery craft rising from the sea and disappearing into the sky. Odd, strange, frightening, but apparently quite true. Indeed, why

should these a defence lie? Why should their sighting a nearby radar

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My Lords, know; and Governments: in one form or and they do which seem physics. Let told by Her real details on them, for by ce only becomes ago a UFO w the Highlands, Forest were bu safe to go on i Who is to kno But come they that UFOs ex how they oper would be of hu industrial life, without wings dead-slow to hover silently. is above price country should every scrap of I therefore ask the study of U up a bureau th and sundry w opposition, in a

should these men of law enforcement and defence lie? Of course, they did not lie. Why should they; especially as in this case their sighting was backed up by men from a nearby radar station who saw it, too.

Each year there are many sightings of UFOs throughout the world. Some of them are very close at hand, while others are not, but always the effect upon those who see them is one of concern; and yet this very point is ignored and ridiculed by most Governments right around the globe. In the United Kingdom's case, those who report seeing UFOs are taken to be misinformed, misguided and rather below par in intelligence. If this is so, why has some of my information on this subject been given to me by the Ministry of Technology? Why should this Ministry waste its time gathering false information? Of course, it is not false information: it is data reported by civil and Air Force pilots, policemen, sailors and members of the general public who have all had personal experience which has intrigued and/or frightened them.

My Lords, what are UFOs? I do not know; and nor, seemingly, do some Governments: but these machines do exist in one form or another, abstract or solid, and they do travel at stunning speeds which seem to defy proved natural physics. Let the United Kingdom be told by Her Majesty's Government the real details on UFOs so far as they know them, for by continued silence the position only becomes worse. Only a few weeks ago a UFO was seen near Kingussie, in the Highlands, and a few acres of Ashdown Forest were burned by another one. Is it safe to go on ignoring these appearances? Who is to know where they come from? But come they have. If we accept, then, that UFOs exist, we must next wonder how they operate. Their motive power would be of huge help to our transport and industrial life, for they apparently fly without wings at varying speeds from dead-slow to incredible ones, and even hover silently. This kind of information is above price, and therefore we as a country should make every effort to collect every scrap of information that we can. I therefore ask this Government to make the study of UFOs respectable by setting up a bureau that can be approached by all and sundry without any red tape or opposition, in an attempt to clear the air.

Every sighting and landing must be thoroughly investigated by the bureau, in co-operation with the police, the Royal Air Force, the radar people and the British-based UFO investigators.

The noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, who is to wind up this debate, is no doubt sympathetic to the reasons for these speeches, for it has become patently obvious to a great many people that this subject has got to the point when Governmental explanations must be forthcoming. A greater measure of open government is long overdue, and bringing the UFO saga into the realm of respectability would be one way of achieving this, in part. I suspect that the British Government do have a Department studying UFO sightings, for why else should they bother to go to such trouble to publicly debunk reported ones if they are of no interest to them? Quite apart from the fact that the Government have not admitted to the existence of UFOs, these machines are potentially dangerous. They give off blinding light, crippling rays and sometimes beams that immobilise humans; they start forest fires, eradicate crops and cause great distress to animals. If the British population was aware of this, they could sometimes take precautions. UFOs have been with us for many generations, so is it not about time that we officially recognised their existence and treated reports as less of a hot potato than hitherto?

Before the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, takes me to task once again on the subject of sonic booms, I have one suggested answer to the question why these high-speed UFOs do not produce sonic booms. It is thought that these craft can produce a near vacuum envelope around themselves, which in turn would allow them virtually unlimited speed because they would thus be free of nearly all normal resistance, as they would be flying within it. Not being a scientist, I cannot enlarge upon this explanation, but I hope it is of some assistance to the noble Earl.

9.14 p.m.

Lord GAINFORD: My Lords, first may I add my congratulations to my noble friend Lord Oxford for his brilliant maiden speech. I hope that we are going to hear him many times again because it is quite obvious from what we have heard from him this evening that he is going to



[Lord Gainford.]

receive every possible encouragement to take part in many debates in the future. My main contribution to this debate is to assure the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, of any support that I can give. If we are going to have a study group in your Lordships' House I shall be glad to be a volunteer to take part whenever I have the opportunity. I also thank him and others for initiating this debate, and for the pleasure of having such a refreshing subject to discuss in the midst of the present period of crises and strikes.

I am the 10th person to speak in this debate. I have noticed that so far none of your Lordships have actually reported a sighting, so here goes! I am going to stick my neck out, open my big mouth and trust I am not going to put my foot in it! I saw a UFO a little while ago. It was on 31st December about 8 p.m. All right, my Lords, have a good laugh, it was Hogmanay! Up in Argyll it was a New Year's Eve party and somebody said there was something funny flying across the sky. Fifteen of us came out to have a look, including some children. They had been drinking soft drinks anyway! The object was like a bright white ball with a touch of red followed by a white cone. In fact the whole object had the appearance of a small comet. It was heading eastwards and seemed rather low in the sky, passing over the hills between Loch Sweeney and Loch Fyne. The position from which we viewed it was outside the village of Tayvallich in Argyllshire on the West coast of Scotland about the same latitude as Glasgow.

As the ball disappeared into the distance it seemed to divide into two parts. It may have been a comet or a meteorite, but I should like to know what it really was. It would have been very beneficial if there had been some sort of centre to which I could write or telephone to report such an incident. No doubt setting up such an organisation would be an invitation to pranks, but for starting such a centre I suggest that volunteers could readily be found from the ranks of the former Civil Defence Service and/or the Royal Observer Corps. The Royal Observer Corps still exists but it has literally, if not metaphorically, gone underground where it is preparing to report and advise on nuclear fallout in the case of war. But there are many who used to serve it

and who have not yet disappeared from the scene who could make valuable use of their past experience in establishing centres in various districts throughout the country—and I do not suggest that we start opening up the old observer posts in the countryside—to receive and analyse any reported sightings from the public. Such people with a sense of responsibility could, with a little experience, sift the genuine reports from the false.

Suggesting that such an organisation be set up, particularly at times like these, can naturally give rise to a protest about the waste of public money; but volunteers who might be willing to work for a few hours are quite prepared to do it for very small remuneration, if any at all. I have mentioned the Civil Defence Service, and I did not know whether or not I should declare an interest, but I was a member of it during the 'sixties and I was one of many who were bitterly disappointed when it had to go into abeyance. I recall particularly the comradeship and the sense that we were doing a useful job for the community.

If I had the time and opportunity, I should enjoy volunteering for working in a UFO information centre, if that might be a suggested name for the organisation that would be required. I shall be interested to hear the summings up in this debate. I can give no explanation why there should be these phenomena concentrated within particularly the past 32 years as was confirmed by the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, and these flying saucers in the year 1947 when the phrase was coined; but I would just accentuate what has been said before and add that if they are man-made or some astronomical feature, and provided there is no risk of any security breach, then the public have a right to know about them.

9.20 p.m.

The Earl of HALSBURY: My Lords, in common with everyone else who has spoken, I should like to thank the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for giving us an opportunity to have, as it were, a scamper over the course and exchange views on this very interesting and controversial topic. At the same time, I should like to congratulate the noble Viscount on his maiden speech, which was obviously a very well thought out and well assemble

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set of considerations, which augurs well for his future in your Lordships' House, where I know he is already welcome.

At the risk of capping the stories of the noble Lord, Lord Gainford, I should like to tell your Lordships about some of the sightings I have seen. I will order them in terms of my *curriculum vitae*, beginning at the age of six, when I saw an angel. I do not know whether it was the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, who mentioned angels, or whether it was the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, or the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley; but it is perfectly true that there was my guardian angel sitting on the edge of my bed. Naturally, with the imagination of a child, I clothed this presence in human form with a large pair of feathery wings. This presence proceeded to rebuke me for initiating a practice which it said would get me into trouble if I persisted in it. Having remembered the rebuke all my life and acted upon it, I am not prepared to deny the reality of the presence that was there with me. This should be a sufficient answer to the noble Earl—I see I have put him to flight—who thinks that if scientists come across something they cannot explain they are afflicted with a kind of vertigo. On the contrary, we welcome something we cannot explain because it is a new phenomenon which, as it were, stretches our capacities and brings out something in us.

The next item came along in year two of World War I. I was about eight years old, and the next thing that I sighted were Zeppelins. I used to go out after dark into the garden of the house where we lived and come back reporting the number of Zeppelins I had seen. What I had seen, in my interpretation of it, a Zeppelin—it was a large illuminated cigar-shaped object. In fact what I was looking at was the lenticular shape that the perspective of a searchlight thrown on to a cloud-base makes, and I was interpreting it as a Zeppelin and I was telling my parents how many Zeppelins I had seen.

The next one is sundogs and this fits very closely with what the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, was saying about Macbeth's dagger and the laser holo-graphic reconstruction of things which really are not there. What sort of an interpretation would somebody who had

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never read about these or read about them put upon sundogs? Most people have not seen them or read about them. I was fortunate enough to have read about them and to have known the explanation before I saw the first.

When you look at a cloud with drops of water, you are looking at a diffuse reflection of the sun but if instead of there being drops of water in the cloud there are drops of ice, and if they were formed under meteorological conditions where all the facets of the crystals happen to be parallel as they fall through a rising stream so that they are remaining roughly stationary, the effect is of a rather dilute mirror, if one can so describe it. If the sun is up there, you see it actually reflected in this imaginary mirror down through the cloud, and one does not expect to see the sun looking down in this direction. Still less does one expect to perceive it travelling along beside one. Furthermore, one is not accustomed to focusing one's eyes on infinity in that particular direction. The only times it would be appropriate to do so would be if you were standing on top of a skyscraper where the vanishing point would be down here instead of over there, and it makes you rather dizzy.

Seeing a sky dog is a rather uncanny sort of phenomenon. You cannot focus on it properly; it does not seem to be anywhere in particular. It is flying along beside you—and what sort of terms would a person, who had never seen it before or read about it, report it in? I think that they would be rather bewildered. They might report it just as a child would report the vision of an angel as having human form and feathery wings. So it might easily be reported as anything that they had read about.

I now come to the green flash. I was about 20 and a student, and there was a controversy in the pages of *The Times* and in the correspondence columns of *Nature* about the green flash. What is it? Under certain rather rare atmospheric conditions, the last glim of the setting sun suddenly flashes brilliant emerald green. When I was a student 50 years ago, this phenomenon was not really established. It was possible to have a controversy as to whether there was such a phenomenon. People wrote to *The Times* saying that they had seen it. I remember one man who said that he



[The Earl of Halsbury.]  
had seen it when sitting by the shore off Bombay. It was eventually photographed during the International Geophysical Year, the IGY, some years ago.

However, before that I saw it myself in rather odd circumstances, after having read about it. I was bird watching in the far North-West of Scotland, by a sea loch called Loch Glencoul, near a little village called Drumbeg, where there is a cliff path. On that cliff path, there is a bench for the convenience of people who want to sit down and admire the view. Another traveller, a visitor to the district, was sitting upon the bench when I sat down and, by a chance coincidence, we were both using the same type of Hensholt binoculars and we got talking about our binoculars. There was a spectacular sunset, and when the sun was very low and it was safe to look at it through binoculars, I said to my fellow traveller, "Let us see if we can watch the green flash". So we trained our binoculars and this very rare meteorological phenomenon actually happened when I had just said to a fellow bird watcher, "Let us have a look to see if it happens". What would that person have made of it if I had not been there, just by chance, to tell him what the green flash was about?

Lastly, I come to ball lightning. I have never seen ball lightning, but the description one reads of it is so coherent, so similar in all cases, that one must accept it as a phenomenon which occurs regularly in nature, though we cannot reproduce it in nature and attempts to reproduce it in the laboratory are, to my mind, unconvincing. There is no theory of it. It appears to take the form of a football-shaped mass of glowing gas which hops around or, if it has a chance, gets on to a conductor such as the rail in the gallery here and migrates along the conductor until it finally disappears with a bang. It has never been satisfactorily photographed, to my knowledge. If it has been, then the photograph must be a fairly recent one, and, as I say, it has not been reproduced. But this, again, should assure the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, that, faced with an unknown phenomenon which I cannot explain, I do not get vertigo. I should be delighted to go ball lightning watching, as I go bird watching.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: My Lords, may I ask the noble Earl one question? Has he ever seen a mirage? That is easily explicable, and one can also see it easily.

The Earl of HALSBURY: Yes, my Lords, and one can reproduce a mirage in the laboratory. You have a long tray of sand with bunsen burners underneath it, and you look at it from one end. It is quite a reproducible kind of phenomenon. Science deals with material objects—things such as atoms and molecules; material processes—things such as the emission and absorption of radiation; and material forces—things such as the force fields which couple the objects to the processes. But if things are not material, then science has nothing to say. If you want to know what is the consciousness of a mind, I do not think science can either answer the question, on the one hand, or say whether it is a proper question, on the other hand. Therefore, from the scientific point of view, I can deal only with the assumption that these are material objects, and, if they are material objects, then, if they travel at the kind of speeds that are alleged, why do they not make supersonic bangs when travelling above Mach 1? The noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, made this point, and the noble Lord, Lord Rankeillour, also made it. I should like to go into the point in a little more depth.

We customarily express the speeds of fast moving objects in terms of Mach numbers. Mach 1 is the speed of sound appropriate to temperature and pressure where the sound is being propagated. In terms of miles per hour, it is not a constant figure, but the advantage of using it as a parameter is that no matter what the temperature and pressure may be, Mach 1 is the speed at which the kinetic energy of a moving object—that is, the power to pack punch—is equal to its thermal energy. This is an unstable condition. The least disturbance to these unstable conditions entails the conversion of kinetic energy into thermal energy with a bang, and this is what is called the shock wave. If one takes a cross section through a shock wave, there is a rise in pressure, temperature and entropy. There is complete discontinuity. That must happen when a material object is moving at Mach 1 or above through any medium.

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The answer to the question put by the noble Lord, Lord Rankeillour—I have not had very long to think it out because he sprung it on me as a bit of a surprise—is this. If you were to create a vacuum, what would happen to the air you had displaced? Would you pull it in in front and push it out behind? If that is your means of travelling through the medium, you are merely moving some air backwards at the speed of sound, and it would create a supersonic bang just the same. Customarily, very often we hear two bangs because there is a bow wave and a stern wave from the moving object. Sometimes the bang degenerates into a rumble, just as a thunderclap degenerates into a rumble. Any noble Lords who have been uncomfortably close to a lightning bolt are aware that it makes a very pronounced bang as the spark flies through the air.

If these are material objects and if they are moving at the speeds alleged, I cannot see them doing other than making a bang, so either they are not material objects or they are not moving at the speeds alleged, in which case the speeds are some kind of optical illusion. This throws doubt upon the rest of the reports that we received upon them.

In this week's *New Scientist*, published today, there is a report from New Zealand, and I should like to read to your Lordships a passage from it:

"Classic conditions for false reflections of radar beams"—

this tunes in very much with what the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, said—

"...existed in the atmosphere over New Zealand on the nights that the UFOs were spotted at the end of December, Christchurch meteorologist, Dr. Neil Cherry, has reported. UFOs were both spotted on radar and seen by an airline pilot, and a brilliant light was subsequently filmed by an airborne TV crew".

There is nothing in that report to suggest whether the optical sightings and the radar sightings came from the same point, or on the same alignment, or at the same time. We shall have to wait until the details become available.

I was much impressed by everything that the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich had to say on this matter and by some of the things which the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, had to say, too. I do not think that anybody who reads the C. S. Lewis trilogy of space

fiction, *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*, will ever have his faith disturbed by doing so. C. S. Lewis, who was a profoundly Christian apologist, wrote the most marvellous space fiction of a complex universe, in which some of the created species were tempted and fallen, like ourselves; others were tempted and unfallen; and others were untempted. And they all had to live together in the same universe. I have always regarded the depths of space and the immense time that it would take to travel from one inhabited world to another as being a kind of divine quarantine to prevent created beings from interfering with one another's cultures until they are civilised enough and mature enough to reach the point when they no longer want to do so. Too much of our science fiction is taken up with the supposition that vastly superior beings to ourselves are motivated by the same rather unworthy commercial motives as ours, and that they want to steal our coal mines or our water or set up imperialisms.

The little piece of fiction that I have always enjoyed most concerned a flying saucer which was hovering slowly in a circle round Central Park in New York and all the security forces turned out in order to do something about it. As it went round, it became more and more clear that it was going round in a spiral and not a circle and as the spiral grew smaller so the flying saucer grew smaller until it was very little more than the size of a waistcoat button going round the head of a maiden in New York Central Park. All the security forces converged on her because it was clear from the expression on her face that she was receiving a message, at which she smiled. Finally, the waistcoat button fell on to the path and was picked up and proved to be a waistcoat button and the security forces converged upon the maiden and bullied her into telling them—and she did not want to—what the flying saucer had told her. She said "I don't want to, because it will spoil it all." They said "Never mind, it may be very important for the security of the United States". She said "Well, all it said was 'Don't be unhappy; you are not the only lonely object in the universe'." I think that is a much more comforting thought with which to approach the subject of flying saucers than to suppose that they are engaged in some kind of imperialism.

## [The Earl of Halsbury.]

Personally I have always believed, with the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, in the Lochness monster. He is not the only person to believe in it. He was anticipated by Keats and I am quite sure that, when the poet wrote the line,

"Thou still unravished bride of quietness",

he must have had the monster in mind. Of course he did not go into it in great detail: he did not tell us whether the monster was viviparous or oviparous. It may, of course, lay eggs, but if unravished, then infertile, and that is perhaps why there is only one of it. I have always thought that just as mother, when baking bread, leaves a little of the dough over in order that the children may make funny little men with raisins for tummy buttons and put them into ovens and bake them alongside the bread or the cake for the day, so possibly on the day of creation a little of the Divine creative power was left in reserve for the lesser cherubim and seraphim to use and they were allowed to make funny little objects like the Abominable Snowman and the Lochness monster, and therefore by the grace of God since this is an orderly universe and a home is provided for everything, so the snows of Tibet were created for the benefit of the Yeti and Lochness was created for the monster.

Lord HEWLETT: My Lords, I join other noble Lords in congratulating the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfield, upon his maiden speech but I run the terrible risk of being accused by the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, of being an anthropological arrogant specimen. I am not quite sure what that means, and I am not quite sure that he knows what it means.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: Oh!

Lord HEWLETT: All right, I am prepared to stand by it. I am only sorry to appear to be a veritable Daniel in a lions' den of UFO believers and to spoil the fun, and I have no doubt that today's flights of—dare I say it?—fancy will command far more attention than our debate yesterday upon British industry, which scarcely made today's Press at all. More's the pity. Of course, there is a danger in terminology and in gross assumptions. Many noble Lords have spoken as though UFOs were actually

something, but of course we are precisely saying that if they are unidentified flying objects, we do not know what they are. So I quite agree, let us dismiss the concept of flying saucer equals UFO to start with. Let us try to take a slightly more scientific approach.

I would not dream of speaking in this debate had I not asked my very good friend and neighbour in the Cheshire village of Swettenham, Sir Bernard Lovell, Fellow of the Royal Society and Nuffield Professor of Radio Astronomy, to be good enough to brief me at Manchester University Department of Radio Astronomy at Jodrell Bank, of which he is the Director. I went there two days ago and what I am about to say to your Lordships is based entirely upon that round table meeting with Sir Bernard and the members of his senior staff at Jodrell Bank. Of all the thousands of reports of sightings that have been made, whenever it has been possible to make an investigation they have been found to be natural phenomena, or in some instances, I regret to say, pure myth. Over the United Kingdom, Jodrell Bank's radio telescope, the first and still one of the most powerful in the world, has observed thousands of possible subjects for identification as UFOs, but not a single one has proved other than natural phenomena. I would ask the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, to take the point on board. If UFOs, as he suggested, defy human knowledge, how do we really know by what possible means or possible background they even exist at all?

Let us get matters into perspective, my Lords, I beg you. At least 10,000 pieces of broken up rockets of American and Russian origin are known to exist in space and maybe there are many thousands more, and occasionally they do plough back into the atmosphere and burn up. Those must account, I think your Lordships would agree, for at least some of the so-called sightings of UFOs. Nature does provide fireballs, yes, meteorites, which bombard the earth at a rate of half a ton a day. Just take a tiny country like Holland. One hundred rocks the size of your fist come through the atmosphere and hit that country in one year. Consider Holland in relation to the size of the whole of the world's surface and you must surely realise that we are under constant bombardment, not with UFOs but with meteorites. A detailed study

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on the Canadian prairies has displayed how great is this bombardment which I have just described over a wide area. Even more staggering is the fact that it is estimated that 8,000 million pieces of stone and metal come to earth annually, many of these burning up on arrival and these give cause for these reports of unidentified flying objects.

What is noticeable is the close correlation between the position of the planet Venus and the reports of UFOs, for when Venus is low and bright in the sky and when it is shining through thick mist or thin cloud it does much more resemble something other than our next door planet of the solar system. Why, indeed, we are told even the great President Carter has spotted one, but it is a pity we did not read the rest of the subsequent report. It was later discovered that that was Venus precisely in those conditions I have described. If the great President of the United States can be wrong, it is just possible the few noble Lords remaining in this House tonight might be, too. Let us face it, we all would love to escape from the miseries and frustrations of our world, and particularly in these recent past days, by all means go and see "Star Wars" or "Jaws" or any other myth, but do not confuse that with very serious scientific study. That is carrying romance a little too far. We must make sure we do not make your Lordships' House a laughing stock by doing so.

One of the most advanced experimental stations at Jodrell Bank—just take these statistics on board please, my Lords—has been on watch 24 hours a day for 30 years. Do you not think it reasonable for me to suggest that if there were UFOs at least one claim would have been made, but every single thing that has been seen and observed by radio astronomy has been identified as natural phenomena and as occurring from the universe itself as we know it—I do not say from the solar system; I say from our universe. If there were something in it—and the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, is so right—of course the scientists would have been delighted to come forward with an announcement to that effect. After all, it was Jodrell Bank that managed to locate the Sputnik when the Russians, who so cleverly launched it, lost track of it in the atmosphere. So do not think that this is some denigrating comment by the

scientific lobby and some nasty, cheap debunking exercise. No, my Lords. We must take a serious scientific view of the actual surveys and of what has been discovered.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: My Lords, I am delighted to hear what the noble Lord says. However, I beg the noble Lord to remember that there are other scientists who say that of course we know that there are meteorites—there have been for the whole of time—but there are some factors outside that range which justify (and this is all we ask) an attempt at identification. There is no difficulty in identifying meteorites. We are not asking for that: we are asking for the identification of other types of phenomena.

Lord HEWLETT: My Lords, that promptly begs the question. That is precisely what I am saying. The identifications that have been made are not necessarily of individual meteorites: they are of endemic portions of rockets and so on. During 30 years study and a constant watch for 24 hours a day there has been not a single sighting of any description which could possibly or remotely be considered worthy of serious study as a UFO. Every single thing has been explicable. With all respect, it is no use noble Lords saying that this is not a convenient answer: we must find some things that are not explicable. I am telling your Lordships and it is perfectly fair. Your Lordships may say "Scientists". I am quoting one of the leading world, radio astronomers—indeed, probably the leading world radio astronomer. Frankly, scientists can be anything from a B.Sc. London University, passed yesterday. However, I am talking about 30 years experience of radio astronomy and a professorship of the highest standing and order in the whole world. Both the United States and the Soviet Union come to Sir Bernard at Jodrell Bank for assistance.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: My Lords, nobody is denigrating what the noble Lord is saying, but he is off beat here. All we are saying is that there are some of these phenomena that need investigation—that is all.

Lord HEWLETT: My Lords, perhaps the noble Lord could show me just one

[Lord Hewlett.]  
phenomenon which requires—I have given way a good number of times and I should be grateful if the noble Lord would let me finish my sentence. I am saying that Jodrell Bank, which covers the whole of the United Kingdom, has been on watch for 30 years. It is probably the most powerful radio telescope in the world. With great respect, if it has found nothing whatsoever to report in a positive way then, for the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, to throw at me, "some scientists think that..." is not good enough.

Lord DAVIES of LEEK: My Lords, we must not take more time.

Lord HEWLETT: No my Lords, we must not, so I fear that the noble Lord must give way to the argument. I shall give way to the noble Earl Lord Kimberley. I knew that I should have a rough time!

The Earl of KIMBERLEY: My Lords, does the noble Lord not think it conceivable that Jodrell Bank says that there are no UFOs because that is what it has been told to say?

Lord HEWLETT: I certainly think it inconceivable—absolutely and completely inconceivable. I have known this scientist personally for more than 30 years. I would not dream of going along for a briefing, so to speak, on the estimation that he was to con me or that I was some tool of the CIA to kid your Lordships. Please do not let us carry this fantasy too far. I shall deal with one or two other aspects of the noble Earl's speech and then he shall see some correlation to the whole of my argument.

Let us turn to the defence interests of the Pentagon and other Western defence establishments. When they have been challenged they have refused to say that UFOs do not exist. Nor have they said that UFOs do exist. They are not committed. We are all men of the world and frankly there are advantages in making an international over-estimate of the possible potential strength of one's potential enemy and his ability to combat one in sectors in which one cannot adequately reply. I think that it would be most unwise of any defence establishment to make a categorical denial of UFOs, and equally foolish of me to do so. I am not

trying to prove the existence of nothing or that something does not exist. I am saying that in the scientific evidence so far—and I can deal only in detail with the United Kingdom—there is no evidence whatever from the greatest radio telescope of a single UFO. I think that the attitudes of defence establishments worldwide, even including the Soviet Union, are probably wise: they must display the antithesis of over-confidence and complacency, lest there should perchance be some new arm of warfare that they have not adequately explored or even entered. Particularly did this attitude apply in the first decade after the Second World War when, frankly, the start of the "cold war" and the intense fear of the Soviet Union's possible aggression against the West when we were the sole possessors of atomic weapons, must have provoked such a degree of intense interest in the possibility of a new arm of warfare.

I am sorry that the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich is not here, but I am glad that the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, is on the Opposition Front Bench. I quote from Sir Bernard:

"Whether we are the only people in the universe is entirely another matter. That is a subject of very serious importance and is being investigated".

But there is no direct connection between the possibility of other persons occupying other bodies, either within or outside our own solar system. However, one thing is quite clear: there is an infinitesimal chance that there exists other people who could be within our time-frame—and I refer of course to the statements made by the noble Lord, Lord Gladwyn, and the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury—who would be able to spend perhaps ten or hundreds of light years getting here and who would have survived that length of time in those atrocious conditions and entered our earth atmosphere assuming that they are some sort of humanity and have some form of flying saucer, or whatever our friends proclaim it is. How could they possibly meet us in those circumstances? Let us take the million-to-one possibility that they could. Do your Lordships mean to tell me that they could get so close to us as to be sighted, but be incapable of any form of communication or identification whatever? No, I am sorry.

I have listened most carefully to everything that has been said. The noble

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Earls, Lord Clancarty and Lord Kimberley, have claimed sightings from times before Christ, through the Middle Ages up to the present day. Those noble Earls know full well that the amount of scientific knowledge in the Middle Ages, and particularly before the times of Christ, simply did not allow a tenable theory that they had that degree of knowledge to be able to understand any of the phenomena that we know today. Indeed, in the last 30 years there has been a dramatic change in the sum total of knowledge in this field. No doubt that is why Jedrell Bank can proclaim that they have had no evidence of sightings of any description which are not perfectly explicable as natural phenomena within our own universe.

I am sorry, the existence of UFOs is even more fanciful than Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*—charming indeed, but I am afraid a joke upon your Lordships' House. I am afraid that some of my noble friends join the flat-earthers, who will make the best playmates for this particular lobby. We have a duty to the country to explode the myth. Tonight we have been carried away in realms of fascination and delight, but they have precious little to do with the facts. I suggest that the myth must be exploded. We must return to work in this dreary old world and the difficulties we are in. But I beg your Lordships, and in particular the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, for heavens' sake, no more Government Departments of inquiries. That alone we should be spared as the result of this excellent debate.

9.55 p.m.

The Earl of CORK and ORRERY: My Lords, I hope that the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, will not be cast down by the speech to which he has just listened. I myself must confess that I know remarkably little about unidentified flying objects. I know a few things about them. I know quite a bit, and I have learned more since the beginning of this debate, about attitudes towards them. They are almost as interesting in some ways. There is one type of attitude towards them that I view with respect, and that is the attitude represented by people who call themselves, or perhaps to be fair are called by others, "ufologists". I do not know whether the noble Earl will accept that word. I rather hope he would not.

I admit the charm, the satisfaction, and the neatness of UFO as—this is the word the noble Lord, Lord Davies of Leek, is so good at—an acronym, coming from "unidentified flying object". But it unfortunately leads to a word which to disrespectful persons, and there are some about, might be suspected as originating somewhere between illiteracy and the purely silly; rather as though a keen student of the affairs of the United Nations should describe himself as a "Unologist", and his interest "Unology". That would have been severely distressing to my late lamented friend Lord Conesford, and indeed to me.

If there is an agency set up for collecting and correlation of information, as I hope there will be, I suppose it could be called "Ufo info", which would have a certain elfin charm. But I am admittedly being absurd, and being so on purpose. I am doing it for defensive reasons, and I hope that the noble Earl will not think that I am being offensive. I am not. I hope that somebody will think of a better word. There is in fact a Greek word "téras", meaning a portent in the sense of a marvel or wonder, which would generate quite nicely a teratologist, or teratology. In fact I am not sure that teratology is not in the dictionary as the study of monsters. It is not a word that is widely used. It is not on everyone's lips very often, and it would not really matter if it were taken over to refer to portents. There is a precedent for this kind of thing, in television. As noble Lords will know, television originally meant, before it meant what it means now in the familiar sense as we understand it, clairvoyance, and nobody finds any confusion now. Whatever it may be known as, let us proceed and not waste time.

I must make a remark—nobody has done so so far, I suspect rather to his surprise—about the speech of my noble friend Lord Trefgarne. If he had been speaking as a private Back-Bencher I would probably have not said anything, but he was speaking from the Dispatch Box. Therefore, he presumably represents the views of the Party to which I belong. It is a view I wish to disown entirely, because if a Party of any magnitude cannot produce better views than that on a serious subject, I confess I am ashamed

[The Earl of Cork and Orrery.]  
of it. If this represents all that the Conservative Party can produce in the way of thinking on what is undoubtedly a serious subject, whatever your opinion about it may be, then this is deplorable.

If the noble Lord really thinks that there is no serious interest or belief taken nowadays in witchcraft, perhaps he does not read the right newspapers, but I can assure him that this is far from true. He is not a believer in unidentified flying objects. "I am no believer in UFOs", he said. I do not know how you can not believe in UFOs. You can take it for granted, if your mind takes a leap ahead, that by an unidentified flying object something is intended that is supposed to have originated in outer space, and you can say you do not believe in that. But I do not know what it implies to say that you do not believe in an unidentified flying object. You do not believe in the object? You do not believe in its flying? You do not believe it is unidentified? There are things that are unidentified. Perhaps we are not trying. I do not think it is reasonable to say that they do not exist. Nobody, except my noble friend Lord Hewlett, has seriously contended that they do not exist. The question is, what are they?

Lord TREFGARNE: I am pleased my noble friend has allowed me to intervene, my Lords, because he has been very caustic about what I had to say. I do not deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. I simply say that most of them are identifiable, that some are not objects at all but simply a trick of the light or a meteorological phenomenon—I think that is so in many cases—and that I agree one cannot deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. It is simply a question of how we identify them.

The Earl of CORK and ORRERY: My Lords, I take my noble friend's point. I am anxious not to misquote him, but he also said that ufologists—it is difficult not to use that word—referred to unexplained sightings which would be explained if only we had better evidence; that was the gist of one part of my noble friend's argument. In other words, if we had better evidence we should be able to explain those sightings. That is the sole point on which the noble Earl initiated

this debate. That is what he is asking for: he wishes evidence to be collected, collated, examined, evaluated and reported on as to what these things are, and it is notable that he himself did not say what he thought they were. Other noble Lords have spoken as though he had said they were fairies or I do not know what, when in fact he said no such thing. I believe he is a leading authority on these matters—certainly he has studied them more closely than anyone else of whom I have heard—and he must have exercised very great restraint in this matter, and he is to be congratulated on that as well as on initiating the whole debate.

I once had an ancestor—I still have him in a sense, in that he is still my ancestor although he is dead—called Robert Boyle who founded a society called the Royal Society. I feel that if he returned to the rooms of that enormously prestigious society now and found that the present Royal Society contained Fellows of such erudition and charm as the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, he would feel entirely at home; a man of the most agreeable and totally non-sceptical nature, even if he did write a book called *The Sceptical Chemist*.

The noble Earl has done a service by displaying before our very eyes the scientist-philosopher who knows precisely the limits of science and makes no effort to go beyond them. Nor does he point the finger of scorn at anyone else. He must know, as others know, that it is impossible to prove anything by negative evidence. If you wish to prove that something is not so you can do it only in logic—by proving the existence of something that is so that makes that first premise impossible. Thus, you cannot prove that any particular type of flying object does not exist, and with respect to my noble friend, the fact that the Jodrell Bank telescope has not seen something not only does not prove, but is not even particularly good evidence, that it was not there. I am prepared to accept, if told, that the Jodrell Bank telescope has been operating on a frequency suited to the observation of UFOs of one kind or another for the last 30 years, but, until I am told that, I shall be sceptical in that matter.

Lord HEWLETT: Let me be quite clear about this, my Lords. I did not say other than that Jodrell Bank had made

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many thousands of sightings but had been able adequately to explain them away as natural phenomena from our own universe.

The Earl of CORK and ORRERY: I thought that I had my noble friend right, my Lords; in other words, the telescope has not seen anything that was inexplicable. But I do not think that that is really an argument that something does not exist. The question is: what kind of thing can it be? I hope that my noble friend does not think that I am going on about him—I no longer am. How is it possible to maintain more than a certain degree of doubt in 1979?

I remember, as may some other noble Lords, one or two of whom may be present in the Chamber, my predecessor who sat in this House. He was born in the year 1886. When he was born there were no motor-bicycles or gramophones, fountain pens, safety razors or electric trains. Messrs. Daimler and Benz in Germany were just putting the first petrol-driven car on to the road, and Einstein, I think, was eight years old. My noble and gallant kinsman, when he finally left the active list of the Navy at a very advanced age, had lived into the age of the nuclear submarine, having begun his first sea-going voyage under sail. That was the band of progress represented technologically in the lifetime of one serving naval officer. What would he have said had he been told that in my lifetime—and I am not even all that near the end of it, either—I should see men on the moon; or computer technology carried to the pitch that it has reached; or that there would be such an outbreak of wisdom following Einstein and men like Schrodinger, Heisenberg and others; or the astonishing ascent of knowledge into the atomic world?

This has all happened in the lifetime of many of us, and yet we sit here, some of us, and say that marvels which have been postulated by some, and which indeed are less in magnitude than most of those would have been to my uncle, are impossible. We are not all saying that—perhaps nobody is saying that—but the argument is quite untenable. I have no wish to express any view on what a UFO may be. What I wish to say is that there is no knowing what it is not. It may be a product of some kind of sign language, as the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, mentioned. It may be mechanical. It may

be purely terrestrial. I doubt if it is angels. But I believe that, for the clearing up of mystery, for the removal of doubt, for even the eliminating of some of the dangers which may exist and to which the right reverend Prelate referred, some kind of an open inquiry ought to be set up. I am rather inclined to agree with the noble Lord—I think that it was the noble Lord, Lord Kings Norton—who said that probably it should not be an intra-governmental inquiry. I think it should be something rather more open than that, but it ought to take place. If a group is set up within this House, as suggested by the noble Earl himself, that would be excellent. I should myself be entirely in favour of it. In any case, let us get this matter cleared up and into the open, and by all means let us take it seriously, because this is a serious subject. Far too many people are taking it seriously for it not to be a serious subject.

Finally, I wish to voice my most sincere congratulations to my noble friend who made his maiden speech this afternoon. It is very impertinent of me to congratulate him upon it, but I should like to say how much I enjoyed it. I have not yet said anything complimentary about the noble Earl who initiated the debate. I have left this to the end on purpose because I think it may not be entirely realised what a service he has done. This is the first such debate that has occurred in any society such as this particular one; and this society, by which I mean this noble House of Parliament, is probably the only legislative assembly in the world in which it could happen. I hope that it will have repercussions which will spread far beyond this Chamber. What the outcome will be I do not know, but, in initiating the ripples which I hope will spread all over the surface of the mill-pond, the noble Earl has done a most valuable service.

10.10 p.m.

Lord STRABOLGI: My Lords, I should like to join with the noble Earl, Lord Cork and Orrery, in saying how grateful we are to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for initiating this debate on UFOs. Of course, the subject has been of considerable interest in this country, and I hope our discussions, which, as the noble Earl rightly said, have been the first that we have had in your Lordships'



[Lord Strabolgi.]

House, will help to increase public understanding. But before I reply in detail to the debate—and I think it has been a most interesting one—I should like to join with my noble friend Lord Davies of Leek in congratulating the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfield, on his maiden speech. We were very glad to hear from him, if I may say so, and I hope we shall hear from him again on many other occasions. I shall be referring to some of the detail of his speech later, but at this stage I should like to offer him my warmest congratulations.

There are undoubtedly many strange phenomena in the skies, and it can be readily accepted that most UFO reports are made by calm and responsible people. However, there are generally straightforward explanations to account for the phenomena, as I think was said by the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, speaking for the Opposition—and I must say that I welcomed his constructive speech. There is nothing to convince the Government that there has ever been a single visit by an alien space craft, let alone the numbers of visits which the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, claims are increasing all the time. As has been said today, we live in a huge universe. I find as awe-inspiring as Pascal did the contemplation of infinite space. There are some 100,000 million stars in our galaxy alone, which it would take 100,000 years to cross at the speed of light. Beyond our own galaxy, the distances become even more daunting. The light year, as your Lordships know, is about 6 million million miles. The Andromeda galaxy is over 2 million light years away, and that is in our own local group of galaxies! There are, of course, other groups as well.

The evidence suggests that there is no intelligent life on the other planets of our own solar system, as the noble Viscount said. There are, of course, different views about whether there might be life elsewhere in the universe, but certainly there is no serious positive evidence to show that there is. If there were an advanced civilisation elsewhere in the universe, as my noble friend Lord Davies of Leek supposed, with the technology to traverse these colossal distances, there are many questions to be answered. What is the point of this alleged huge number of visits to our planet, over three decades

or more, to no apparent purpose? There seem to be internal inconsistencies in the idea. To put it simply, if these alleged aliens prefer to keep out of the way, the number of reported sightings would surely be only a tiny portion of the actual UFO movements, which would run into many millions. If they do not prefer to pass unnoticed, we could surely expect unmistakable appearances.

Why have they never tried to communicate with us? Why has there been no evidence on radio of attempts at communication? And would not such a large number of movements be picked up by our defence radar system? Why has not a single artefact been found? Assuming that each visit does not represent a journey from a distant star, where are these alien space craft supposed to be hiding? Now that the idea of such bases on the moon or on another planet in our solar system is barely tenable, ufologists have had to claim that the aliens are based in the depths of the sea or in a great hole in the earth, or even that they come from invisible universes and other space-time continua. Anyone who accepts the hypothesis of large numbers of alien visitations seems forced towards explanations that are ever more fantastic, and incapable of either proof or disproof.

As I have said, there really are many remarkable things to see in the sky: and most UFO reports relate to actual phenomena reported by sensible people. But, my Lords, let us consider the phenomena themselves—and the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, mentioned some of these. Huge quantities of space debris enter our atmosphere, and are often seen as meteors, and fireballs; bright planets and even the moon or stars have been reported as UFOs, in unusual atmospheric conditions, as the noble Lord, Lord Hewlett, said; there are tricks of light on cloud, and particular cloud structures; there is Aurora Borealis, St. Elmo's Fire and ball lightning which was referred to by the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, which has been known to drift along telephone or power lines. There are some 5,000 man-made objects in orbit, satellites and debris, some of which can be seen by the naked eye, some through binoculars. About 600 such man-made objects re-enter the atmosphere every year, as the noble Lord, Lord Hewlett, reminded us. The quantity is far less than natural space

debris, but, my Lords, it is astonishing.

Last April I received reports of re-entering aircraft. Most reports were of an

oval thing which disappeared for a while then re-appeared.

My Lords, we are not talking about a UFO, but about a plane and its place as known

Many reports of unusual conditions. One recent UFO report on local radio cannot prove that we do know that on a low-flying spot at the same course as the lights have led distant aircraft. I have seen aircraft, short of the sun after dark aircraft. On meteorological Office balloons every day in diameter and be lit by the sun organisations, balloons, some logical searchlight beam itself carried of light in the balloons and reported as UFO car headlights and airborne debris.

All these phenomena interpreted by the particularly when briefly and in conditions. This natural explanation of light tortions of light commonplace as to be barely reported. I am told that the 1947 sighting the noble Earl mirage effect.

Phenomena suspect. There within the eye

debris, but, my Lords, the phenomena can be astonishing.

Last April the Ministry of Defence received reports of a large piece of debris re-entering across the South of England. Most reports were factual, but one spoke of an

"... oval thing with a white cockpit which hovered for a while then shot off at great speed".

My Lords, we cannot prove that this was not a UFO, but it occurred at the same time and place as known re-entry of debris.

Many reports relate to aircraft seen in unusual conditions at unusual angles. One recent UFO was confidently reported on local radio. Again, my Lords, we cannot prove that it was not a UFO, but we do know that an RAF Vulcan bomber on a low-flying mission passed the same spot at the same time and on the same course as the reported UFO. Aircraft lights have led to UFO reports; as have distant aircraft with landing lights on—I have seen them myself—flares from aircraft, short condensation trails lit by the sun after dusk and light reflected from aircraft. Other phenomena include meteorological balloons. The Meteorological Office alone releases 50 such balloons every day, which expand to 40 ft. in diameter and rise to 100,000 ft. and can be lit by the sun after dark. Many other organisations, such as universities, use balloons, some much larger. Meteorological searchlights shine on clouds: the beam itself cannot be seen; only a point of light in the sky. There are hot air balloons and kites; even birds have been reported as UFOs; lights on distant towers; car headlights on distant hills; dust devils; and airborne debris carried by the wind.

All these phenomena can be misinterpreted by the most sensible observers, particularly when seen unexpectedly and briefly and in unusual atmospheric conditions. This is what opponents of the natural explanations forget. With distortions of light, and mirages, the most commonplace things can be so changed as to be barely recognisable. For instance, I am told that the US Air Force attributed the 1947 sighting by Arnold described by the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, to a mirage effect.

Phenomena seen through glass are suspect. There are phenomena generated within the eyeball and there are optical

illusions to which the noble Earl Lord Halsbury referred. One scientist, whose task includes watching satellites, describes how, when observing stars near moving clouds, he finds it difficult to escape the illusion that the stars are flying past stationary clouds. The noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, referred to the green flash. I used to see it myself in Alexandria when on leave. It was one of our evening pastimes to sit on the promenade and watch it go down over the sea.

My Lords, in 1968, the United States Air Force commissioned the University of Colorado to carry out an independent study into UFO phenomena. Their report, which was published in 1969, was very substantial and detailed and it covered some 50 examples of such phenomena, but added that it was impossible and potentially misleading to try to tabulate all of the possible causes of UFO perception: there are simply too many. The report's main conclusion was, and I quote:

" Nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge "

The findings of this report were endorsed by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences.

There really are tens of thousands of strange things to be seen. It is the custom to call such phenomena " UFOs ", and to transpose this easily into " alien space craft ". Often the appearance is too fleeting and the description too imprecise for a particular cause to be attributed. What we can say is that there is a great variety of plain explanations. There is no need, I suggest, for the far-fetched hypothesis of alien space craft.

To genuine sightings we must, however, add hallucinations; the excited tales of the gullible; and the embellishments of the born romantic. There are also indications that ufologists accept reports of UFOs somewhat uncritically. The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, referred to a papyrus found among the papers of a Professor Tulli recording flying saucers during the reign of Thutmose III. The Colorado Report, which I mentioned earlier, inquired into this story. The alleged papyrus could not be traced, but internal evidence in the translation suggested a fake; inquiries with the Vatican Museum

[Lord Strabolgi.]

also suggested that Tulli, an amateur Egyptologist, had been taken in by a fake.

There is a category of UFO cases which are difficult to explain because the description is too vague or the evidence too remote, coupled perhaps with a coincidence of different phenomena and with exceptional conditions. If one accepts that there are natural explanations that could account for most sightings, it is an enormous and irrational jump to claim that the residue of difficult cases constitute alien space craft when there is no positive evidence that they do constitute alien space craft.

I should mention the famous UFO reported over the United Kingdom in December 1978, on New Year's Eve in fact. This was the one probably seen by the noble Lord, Lord Gainford, to which he referred. The phenomenon was probably the re-entry of a launcher associated with the Russian space satellite COSMOS 1068, launched on 26th December. Of over 100 reports reaching the Ministry of Defence, nearly all were factual and consistent with the re-entry of satellite debris.

The recent sightings in New Zealand referred to by the noble Lord, Lord Kings Norton, attracted worldwide publicity, and we understand that the New Zealand Government may make an announcement when the facts have been assembled and appraised. Preliminary advice from our High Commission in New Zealand shows confident expectation that the sightings will prove to be due to natural phenomena, as I think the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, and the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, implied.

My Lords, the noble Earl who initiated this debate referred to the attitude of other Governments to UFOs. It is not for me to speak in this House for other Governments. I have however already made mention of the United States study in 1968 and I understand that nothing has happened since that time to cause the United States authorities to change their views or to warrant further official investigations of UFOs.

The noble Earl also referred to an interview which the then French Minister of Defence, M. Robert Galley gave in 1974 on the subject of UFOs. The noble

Earl suggested that M. Galley had said that UFOs were real but that he, the Minister, did not know where they came from. I have read the transcript of M. Galley's broadcast and I also took the trouble to check it in the original French. The essence of what the Minister said was that the phenomena were genuine and were reported by responsible people, but that there were aspects that were difficult to explain. Nowhere did the Minister say that UFOs were real in the sense that they represent alien spacecraft, as suggested by the noble Lord, Lord Rankeillour.

The noble Earl, Lord Kimberley, also said that these had been seen by astronauts. These reports by astronauts were examined in the Colorado Study. The astronauts were required, of course, to report anything unusual perceived on their missions; and indeed many strange phenomena were noted. All the phenomena except three were explained. There was nothing at all to suggest that the unexplained sightings were alien spacecraft, and the limited visibility from the small and smeared windows of a spacecraft did not make visual observation easy.

It has been suggested in this debate that our Government are involved in an alleged conspiracy of silence. I can assure your Lordships that the Government are not engaged in any such conspiracy. In view of what the noble Lord, Lord Gainford, said, I must emphasise that the Ministry of Defence examines any UFO reports received to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest, but nothing in the reports examined has ever given cause to believe that they represent alien spacecraft. There is nothing to have a conspiracy of silence about. What is more, a visitor from outer space would be one of the great events in history. It would certainly be an event of stupendous importance, but I hesitate to say the greatest event of all in the presence of my old friend the right-reverend prelate the Bishop of Norwich, whose moving speech we listened to with much interest.

As the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, said, scientists are rightly inquisitive people. If there was anything in the stories of UFOs, we would expect the scientific community as a whole to be devoting much effort to studying or to making contact with the supposed aliens;

but the idea by this and I suggest, to

Then the implied the cover-up. I security ban ask to see the files they are remain confidential mundane r contain volu people, and identity of t that the file the rules laid Acts, passed present procedure have elapsed ular correspondence the Minister 1962.

The noble mentioned government United Nations of Grenada and proposed decision was Assembly states" to national Secretary-General Secretary-General mit the relevant report Peaceful U not an international sense that is seeking, Grenada, countries, international

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Lord Strabolgi note of what it has been that Her set up a study the noble noble Lord from the Parties, did certainly not consider for the ex such a study

but the idea of a conspiracy of silence by this and other Governments belongs, I suggest, to the world of James Bond.

Then the noble Earl, Lord Kimberley implied that there was some kind of cover-up. There is no cover-up and no security ban. It is true that when people ask to see the Ministry of Defence UFO files they are told that the papers must remain confidential, but there is a very mundane reason for that. The files contain voluminous correspondence from people, and we cannot divulge the identity of the correspondents. It follows that the files must remain closed under the rules laid down in the Public Record Acts, passed by Parliament, which at present preclude disclosure until 30 years have elapsed since the date of the particular correspondence. The earliest reports the Ministry of Defence hold are dated 1962.

The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, mentioned the possibility of an intra-governmental study of UFOs. At the United Nations recently, representatives of Grenada made statements about UFOs and proposals for a study. A compromise decision was taken, wherein the General Assembly invited "interested member states" to co-ordinate research "on a national level" and to inform the Secretary-General of their findings. The Secretary-General was requested to transmit the Grenadan statements and other relevant reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This is not an inter-governmental study, in the sense that the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, is seeking, but he may be content that Grenada, and perhaps some other countries, may be reporting in an international forum.

Lord KINGS NORTON: My Lords, the word was "intra", not "inter".

Lord STRABOLGI: My Lords, I take note of what the noble Lord said. Then it has been suggested, too, in this debate that Her Majesty's Government should set up a study group. I am glad to say that the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, and the noble Lord, Lord Gladwyn, both speaking from the Front Benches for the Opposition Parties, did not support this proposal, and certainly Her Majesty's Government do not consider that there is any justification for the expenditure of public money on such a study.

I repeat that I am grateful to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for raising the subject of UFOs, and I am particularly grateful to him for informing me in advance of the points which he proposed to make to your Lordships. However, from all I have said, I am sure that your Lordships will agree that there is no reason for my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Defence to make a broadcast interview about UFOs, as the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, suggested. As for telling the public the truth about UFOs, the truth is simple. There really are many strange phenomena in the sky, and these are invariably reported by rational people. But there is a wide range of natural explanations to account for such phenomena. There is nothing to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that such phenomena are alien space craft.

Viscount BARRINGTON: My Lords, may I ask a question? I did rise to ask it when the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, rose. I was going to ask it of the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, but I think it would be more courteous to ask it of the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi. The subject of this debate is "objects", and in the expert speech—with almost all of which I agreed—of the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, he mentioned that scientists, as scientists, are dealing only with material objects. I have to be careful here, as a non-scientist who minds his p's and q's, and who hardly knows a quasar from a pulsar, but is a black hole a material object?

Lord STRABOLGI: My Lords, I should not at all like to follow the noble Viscount down that avenue. I do not think that even scientists or astronomers know what black holes are. I may say that, in a way, I think it is a pity that the noble Viscount did not take part in the debate.

10.34 p.m.

The Earl of CLANCARTY: My Lords, I should like to thank the noble Lord, Lord Strabolgi, for his assurances and for the information which he has given us. I am sorry that we are not to be able to listen to, or see, his right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Defence, giving a television interview about UFOs. There are just one or two very small points, before I end this debate. We

[The Earl of Clancarty.]  
have talked about the umpteen light years that some of these planets and stars are away from us. But we are looking at it from our own standpoint, because we started to fly only in 1903, when the Wright brothers took off. Now we have got Concorde, so we consider ourselves to be rather good. But we say that we cannot go right out into space because of all this distance in light years. Let us suppose, however, as has been suggested, that there are billions of planets with civilisations thousands of years old. Is it not possible that they could come here, after all that time, almost instantaneously? It is just a thought.

*A propos* of that, I should like to bring to the attention of your Lordships a famous scientist and astronomer, our own Sir Fred Hoyle. Some years ago he wrote a book called *Of Men and Galaxies*. He wrote a passage in that book which I was allowed to quote in one of mine. It read:

"You are all familiar with an ordinary telephone directory. If you want to speak to someone, you look up his number and you dial the appropriate code. My speculation"—

this is Sir Fred Hoyle speaking—

"is that a similar situation exists and has existed for billions of years in the galaxy. My speculation is that an interchange of messages is going on on a vast scale all the time and that we are as unaware of it as a pygmy in the African forests is unaware of the radio messages that flash at the speed of light round the earth. My guess is that there might be a million or more subscribers to the galactic directory. Our problem is to get our name into that directory".

I think that noble Lords will agree that there is a man of vision. Nothing is impossible in this world or in this universe. It is just that the seemingly impossible takes a little time to come about.

My Lords, we have had an interesting discussion this evening. I should like to thank the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich and all noble Lords who have taken part in this debate for their wonderful contributions. I should also like to congratulate the noble Viscount, Lord Oxfuird, upon his splendid maiden speech. May I also thank all other noble Lords for their rapt and

riveted attention. I beg leave to withdraw the Motion for Papers.

Motion for Papers, by leave, withdrawn.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS

### "BRITISH NATIONALITY LAW: DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES"

Lord AVEBURY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will publish the comments which the Home Office has so far received on the Green Paper *British Nationality Law: Discussion of Possible Changes* (Cmnd. 6795) which appeared in April 1977 and which invited comments from the public and from interested bodies "as part of the process of open government".

The MINISTER of STATE, HOME OFFICE (Lord Boston of Faversham): So far nearly 250 persons or organisations have sent in comments on the Green Paper. Understandably there is a good deal of repetition and Her Majesty's Government do not intend to publish all of this material verbatim. It is open to any of the authors of papers to publish them and some have done so at least in substance. Her Majesty's Government will have in mind the possibility of publishing in due course a summary of all comments received.

### DISABLED PERSONS: EMPLOYMENT QUOTA DEFICIENCY

Lord VAIZEY asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the number and percentage of firms failing to employ their quota of disabled persons for each year since 1960.

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Lord WALLACE of COSLANY: I am advised by the Manpower Services Commission that the required information is as follows:—

Year	Number of firms with a quota obligations not complying with 3 per cent. quota at annual review	Figure in previous column as % of firms subject to quota
1960 ...	24,974	38.2
1961 ...	25,340	38.6
*1962 ...	15,389	42.1
*1963 ...	14,899	42.1
1964 ...	29,271	45.2
1965 ...	31,038	46.8
1966 ...	31,661	48.3
1967 ...	34,176	52.3
1968 ...	34,319	53.7
1969 ...	35,102	55.5
1970 ...	36,396	57.3
1971 ...	36,382	58.2
1972 ...	34,794	57.8
1973 ...	33,779	58.4
1974 ...	33,106	60.0
1975 ...	32,340	60.9
1976 ...	31,065	61.3
1977 ...	31,763	62.9
1978 ...	30,446	63.2

\*In 1962 and 1963 a survey was made in respect of all firms with more than 500 staff but only a selection of firms with less than 500 staff (but which nevertheless had a quota obligations). The figures for the

years 1962 and 1963 are therefore percentages based on the number of firms reviewed in those years and not on all firms subject to quota.

### DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL: UN RESOLUTIONS

Lord KENNET asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will publish in convenient form the initiatives taken by Her Majesty's Government, whether unilaterally or in association with others, and the votes they cast, on disarmament and arms control resolutions at last autumn's General Assembly.

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: The Government's initiatives on resolutions on arms control and disarmament will be described in detail in the Report on the 33rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be published as a White Paper. A separate record will shortly be made available to non-governmental organisations with a special interest in disarmament and will be placed in the Library of the House.

House adjourned at twenty-two minutes before eleven o'clock.



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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

(53)

AF/JW 562/77

20<sup>th</sup> December 1977

Dear [REDACTED]

I am replying to the letter which you sent to Lord [REDACTED] on 8th December with a letter from Mr [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lancing, Sussex on the subject of flying saucers.

I am afraid that I can give you no immediate guidance on the form any investigation into flying saucers might take as a result of the recent debate in the United Nations Organisation. All I can suggest is that your constituent should address his enquiries to the Organisation itself.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dr Clarke - Request No 2.  
Papers released on request under the  
Code - 9-12-2002.  
Taken from file D/OS8/75/3A  
(D/OS8/25/3A)



M2

(50)

APS/US of S(RAF)

1. The Foreign Office might have given us some indication when they transferred these papers of the line they have taken at the United Nations Organisation. You will recall from the press reports that a debate on unidentified flying objects has been held there recently at the request of the Prime Minister of Grenada. However, we have tracked down a Mr [REDACTED] in the Energy, Science and Space Department of FCO who tells us (and, I hope, will confirm in writing) that a UN resolution calling for an investigation into UFOs has been shelved indefinitely. The UK did not support the resolution, the view being that such an investigation would bring the UN into disrepute. Matters now rest, I believe, on the understanding that countries interested in a UFO investigation should pool their resources.

2. Mr [REDACTED] does not seem to be particularly interested in his constituent's request - I suggest a reply as attached.

19 December 1977

[REDACTED]  
S4(Air)

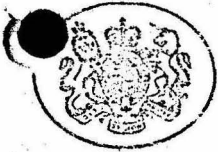
DRAFT

LETTER FROM US of S(RAF) to [REDACTED] MP

1. I am replying to the letter which you sent to [REDACTED] on 8 December with a letter from [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lancing, Sussex on the subject of flying saucers.

2. I can give you no immediate guidance on the form any investigation into flying saucers might take as a result of the recent debate in the United Nations Organisation. All I can suggest is that your constituent should address his enquiries to the Organisation itself.





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

48

Telephone 01-330 7022 ext 218

██████████ Esq.,  
Energy, Science & Space Dept.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Downing St (East)  
London SW1A 2AI

Your reference

Our reference  
D/S4(Air)8/3

Date  
16th December 1977

Dear Mr ██████████

*See ES 54-56*

We spoke earlier today about the United Nations resolution concerning an investigation into Unidentified Flying Objects.

2. Since we need to advise our Minister on this subject in connection with a Parliamentary Enquiry, I should be very grateful if you would confirm that my understanding of the situation, as stated below, is correct:-

a. The resolution has been shelved indefinitely, and it was suggested that countries interested in co-ordinating investigations should pool their resources.

b. The UK did not support, nor wish to be associated with the resolution, it being considered that participation in such an investigation could bring the United Nations into disrepute.

Yours sincerely

██

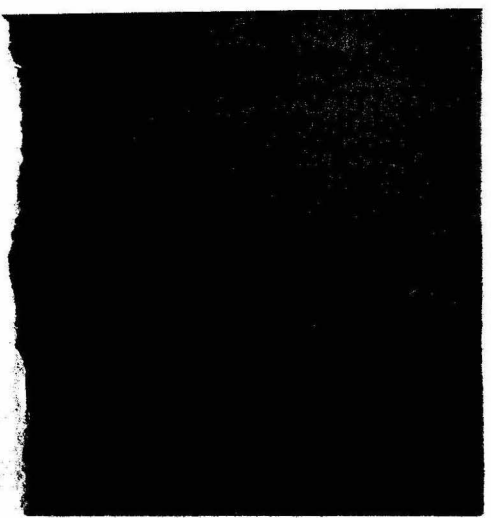
Spoke to Mr. [redacted] - FCO - Energy, Science & Space Dept. - [redacted]

The UN resolution about investigating flying saucers has been shelved indefinitely.

The UK did not support the resolution and wanted nothing to do with it, it being considered that the setting up of such an investigation might bring disrepute to the UN.

It was left at UN that countries interested in co-ordinating investigations should pool their resources. [redacted] 16/12/77

United Nations Organisation  
United Nations Building, New York  
New York 10022.



### UN GETS UFO MEN DOWN TO EARTH

UNITED Nations' diplomats found themselves lost for words in another world yesterday.

They had taken off on the first UN debate on unidentified flying objects. It was called by Sir Edward Gairy, premier of the Caribbean island of Grenada.

He insists that aliens regularly visit

his island, and proposed that 1978 ought to be the year of the UFO. Grenada's ambassador, Mr Wellington Friday said the UN should take an initiative.

But the debate ended in silence. The down-to-earth diplomats — who normally deal with wars or famine — were speechless.

John 30.11.77

D. Depp  
3/11/77

# A WORLD AGOG OVER UNO UFO's

By HENRY MILLER  
in New York

WHILE some members dozed, others joked and still others did their best to conceal their incredulity, the United Nations Special Political Committee formally took up the question of unidentified flying objects.

They did so at the instigation of Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, who has been campaigning for two years to promote an official U.N. study on the issue.

He called it "the fulfillment of my very high expectation" and added: "The world is looking on."

Although the world is more likely to consider that the 149-nation body has more serious matters with which to occupy itself, the committee nonetheless agreed to devote more debate to the topic today.

Sir Eric, who intersperses religious thoughts into his musings on UFO's, opened the debate by saying: "A U.N. study will not infringe on the sovereignty of any nation. We have the backing of many scientists and I look forward with confidence to the support of the world's nations."

### Carter Interest

President Carter himself has said that he once saw a UFO and Sir Eric said he had been encouraged by the President's interest in the subject.

Telling reporters of his own experience 2 1/2 years ago, Sir Eric said: "I saw a UFO as I was driving home at about two or three in the morning. It was a big object, a brilliant light, golden bright, moving at tremendous speed."

The Grenada delegation distributed to delegates free tickets to a new film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which deals with UFO's.

## UFOs INQUIRY CALL AT U.N.

D  
Depp  
3/12/77

Grenada has withdrawn a resolution to set up a special United National agency or department to conduct research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.

Instead it is circulating at the United Nations a draft resolution called on the Secretary-General, Dr Waldheim, to conduct a wide-ranging investigation into flying saucers, including an analysis of the benefits, problems, and dangers stemming from any contact with extra-terrestrial life.—Reuter.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

44

*From The Minister of State*

9 December 1977

This is just to let you know that I have transferred your letter of 8 December, enclosing one from your constituent, Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lancing, Sussex, about flying saucers to the ministry of Defence. You will be hearing from the appropriate Minister there soon.

MP [REDACTED] MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

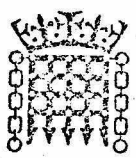


43

From: [redacted]

M.P. AF/JWS62/77

Head of P 54 (air)  
rec'd 13 Dec.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th December, 1977.

[redacted]

Minister of State,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Dear [redacted]

I have received the enclosed  
and I do not know whether you would care  
to give me any advice on it.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted signature]

(Dictated by [redacted] and signed in his  
absence).

1. Acknowledged .....
2. Minister of State has/has not seen
3. .... Department for  
advice and draft reply from  
.....

42

[Redacted]

19 Myrtle Road,  
Lancing,  
Sussex.  
24th November 1977.

Mr [Redacted]  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London. SVIA OAA.

Dear Sir,

Recent items in the press have indicated that the United Nations is to start an official probe into Flying Saucers. Although many people may consider such a project something of a waste of time I am personally glad that some steps are being taken to investigate this phenomena on a serious and official basis.

The main reason for my writing to you is that in my opinion not only should government bodies be involved in a project of this nature, but so should a team of ufologists who would obviously be used to the various problems involved.

Although I realise that no decisions may have been made regarding the form this project is to take I feel it essential that ufologists are involved in this venture. I should like your opinion on this matter and what you think the chances are of non government bodies and individuals being involved.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

(53)



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 [redacted] (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

AF/JW 562/77

20<sup>th</sup> December 1977

Dear [redacted]

I am replying to the letter which you sent to Lord [redacted] on 8th December with a letter from Mr [redacted] of [redacted] Lancing, Sussex on the subject of flying saucers.

I am afraid that I can give you no immediate guidance on the form any investigation into flying saucers might take as a result of the recent debate in the United Nations Organisation. All I can suggest is that your constituent should address his enquiries to the Organisation itself.

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Yours Sincerely

[redacted signature block]

[redacted] MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Redacted in  
accordance  
with Data Protection  
Act 98

M2

50

APS/US of S(RAF)

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12 December 1977

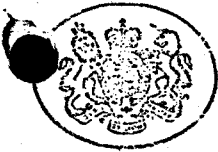
[REDACTED]  
S4(Air)

DRAFT

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48



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-330-7022 ext 218

[Redacted]  
Energy, Science & Space Dept.  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Downing St (East)  
London SW1A 2AL

Your reference

Our reference  
D/S4(Air)8/3

Date  
16th December 1977

*See ES 54-56*

Dear Mr [Redacted]

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[Redacted Signature]

Copy to Mr. [REDACTED] - FCO - Energy, Science &  
Space Dept. - [REDACTED]

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their resources.

[REDACTED]  
16/12/77

United Nations Organisation

United Nations Building, New York

New York 10022.



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Scan 30.11.77

D telegraph  
30/11/77

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By HENRY MILLER  
in New York

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They did so at the instigation of Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, who has been campaigning for two years to promote an official U.N. study on the issue.

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## UFOs INQUIRY CALL AT U.N.

D  
telegraph  
2/12/77

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

64

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

*From The Minister of State*

[REDACTED]

9 December 1977

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Mr [REDACTED] P  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

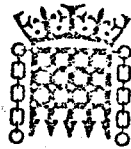
From: [REDACTED]

M.P.

AF/JWS62/77

Head of P 54/Air

rec'd 13 Dec.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th December, 1977.

[REDACTED]

Minister of State,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Lord [REDACTED]

I have received the enclosed  
and I do not know whether you would care  
to give me any advice on it.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(Dictated by Mr. [REDACTED] and signed in his  
absence).

1. Acknowledged .....
2. Minister of State has/has not seen
3. .... Department for  
advice and draft reply from

.....

[REDACTED]  
Lancing,  
Sussex.  
24th November 1977.

Mr [REDACTED]  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London. 3VIA OAA.

Dear Sir,

Recent items in the press have indicated that the United Nations is to start an official probe into Flying Saucers. Although many people may consider such a project something of a waste of time I am personally glad that some steps are being taken to investigate this phenomena on a serious and official basis.

The main reason for my writing to you is that in my opinion not only should government bodies be involved in a project of this nature, but so should a team of ufologists who would obviously be used to the various problems involved.

Although I realise that no decisions may have been made regarding the form this project is to take I feel it essential that ufologists are involved in this venture. I should like your opinion on this matter and what you think the chances are of non government bodies and individuals being involved.

Yours Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

Dr Clarke - Request No. 2.

Papers released on request - under the  
Code - 9-12-2002.

Taken from file DS2/75/3A  
(DS2/25/3A)

CLEAR COPY.

M.1

ded of S4 (Air)

Lords <sup>written</sup> ~~and~~ question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, ~~background note and notes for supplementaries.~~  
and ~~background note~~

Please return to Room 6332 by ..3.0 pm...25 Nov 77.

(Miss J. Ferguson)  
Parliamentary Clerk  
218 6312

Secretary of State's Office

M.2

PS/SofS (through DUS(Air))

Draft reply and background note placed opposite.

2. At the back of the folder I have placed copies of parallel questions to the Home Office and Department of Education and Science. Our enquiries suggest that the Home Office reply may be faintly ironic, to the effect that 'no instructions are given to the police, but they will no doubt investigate any unusual occurrences with their usual vigour.' Department of Education and Science are expected to say that they do have contact with the French body concerned, but not on UFOs.

3. A little detective work has suggested that the Earl has been prompted to these enquiries by his half-brother and heir, Hon Brinsley Le Poer Trench, who is a Vice President of the British UFO Research Association.

T M P STEVENS  
Hd S4(Air)  
MB 8245 7048MB

25 November 1977



MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER 1977

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY

- To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware that in an interview on France-Inter radio on 21 February 1974 Monsieur Robert Galley, then French Minister of Defence, stated that his Ministry had set up a section in 1954 to study eyewitness accounts of unidentified flying objects; and whether our Ministry of Defence also has a section to investigate these unidentified flying objects.

A N S W E R

The Government has no record of a statement made in February 1974 by the then French Minister of Defence.

Our Ministry of Defence has no specific organisation engaged on the examination of reports of unidentified flying objects; reports are examined by specialist staffs as part of their normal duties to see if they contain any implications for the defence of the United Kingdom. Investigations into any scientific significance of phenomena which go beyond defence interests are not carried out by the Department.



BACKGROUND NOTE

1. MOD interests in UFO investigation is solely to establish whether reports have any bearing on defence. Investigations of individual reports over a number of years have produced no evidence that UFOs represent a threat to defence. As might be expected, simple explanations have been found for most UFO reports, the most common single source of sightings being aircraft or the lights or aircraft seen under unusual meteorological conditions. There is nothing to justify the expenditure of Defence funds on setting up a section to investigate the reports.
  
2. We sometimes take the line: 'The MOD does not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space, but reports that have reached the Department to date contain no evidence to support the view that these alleged phenomena are of an extra-terrestrial origin'. However, that response is more likely to irritate the dedicated enthusiasts than to convince them, so it is customary to play a dead bat.
  
3. During 1976, the statement said to have been made by the French Minister of Defence in 1974 was brought to the Department's notice in correspondence from the public. Attempts by DPR(RAF) to verify the statement through the French Embassy were unsuccessful, since it was virtually impossible to check back on a radio programme broadcast two years earlier. Neither was the British Air Attache's staff in Paris able to produce information on the broadcast. It is understood, however, that the French Defence Ministry also study the Military implications and consider any scientific aspect that may have a bearing on military affairs. The reports are also considered by French scientists at a Government organisation known as the Centre Nationale D'Etude Spatial. The British Air Attache in

Paris was advised in 1976 that so far the Military had found nothing of an aggressive nature in the sightings - nor have the scientists been able to explain the phenomena.

25 November 1977

include persons detained on completion of a sentence of imprisonment.

(4) No information is readily available about the average time spent in custody prior to deportation by persons who had not been imprisoned for a criminal offence.

(5) The longest period for which such a person in custody on 31st October 1977 had been held under the 1971 Act awaiting deportation was 301 days.

(6) There is considerable variation in the circumstances of those held to await deportation after serving custodial sentences. The only information readily available relates to 74 people discharged from Pentonville prison in the first half of 1977: this shows that a quarter of those recommended for deportation spent less than 21 days in custody between the completion of their sentence and their deportation; a half spent 43 days or less; and three-quarters spent 63 days or less.

(7) Unconvicted prisoners, including those detained under the provision of the 1971 Act, can apply to make personal telephone calls within the United Kingdom for the following purposes:

- (a) for urgent domestic reasons,
- (b) to clear up immediate business problems,
- (c) to consult a solicitor,
- (d) to arrange bail securities,
- (e) to contact a national representative at an Embassy etc.

(8) A request for assistance for a visit to a detainee would be considered on the same basis as for a visit to a remand prisoner.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that Monsieur Robert Galley, the then French Minister of Defence, in his radio interview on the France-Inter radio on 21st February 1974 stated that the gendarmerie are playing a very large part in official investigations into unidentified flying object sightings and alleged landings; and whether our police have been likewise officially

instructed to collect reports and investigate these unidentified flying objects.

Lord HARRIS of GREENWICH: The Government has no knowledge of either the radio interview to which the Question refers, or the role played by the gendarmerie in investigating unidentified flying objects. The police in this country have not been asked to collect reports of, or investigate, unidentified flying objects. The jurisdiction and powers of the police are normally confined to terrestrial activities, but I have every confidence that should an occasion arise where there is evidence that an unidentified flying object has landed within a police area, the police force concerned will investigate it with its customary vigour. However, until there is some clear indication that the frequency of such occurrences is likely to impose a significant burden on the police, I doubt whether it would prove fruitful to issue guidance on this subject.

#### " A STUDY OF EXMOOR "

Lord NORTHFIELD asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will make a Statement on Lord Porchester's Report *A Study of Exmoor*.

Baroness STEDMAN: As the House was informed on 6th April last, my right honourable friends the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food appointed Lord Porchester to undertake a study of changes in the moorland areas of the Exmoor National Park, because they felt that the exceptional character of the moor as a national heritage and the need to balance and safeguard the various interests concerned called for special and immediate study.

My right honourable friends are greatly indebted to Lord Porchester for the fair and expeditious way in which he has conducted the Survey and prepared his report. This was published yesterday and copies are available in the Printed Paper Office.

The report establishes that since 1947 the total area of moorland in the National Park has been reduced by some 12,000 acres. Within the Critical Amenity Area

Aviation Terminal has been brought into use for domestic flights only, and therefore attendance by Customs and Immigration staff will not be necessary.

which go beyond defence interests are not carried out by the Department.

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS**

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that in an interview on France-Inter radio on 21st February 1974 Monsieur Robert Galley, then French Minister of Defence, stated that his Ministry had set up a section in 1954 to study eye-witness accounts of unidentified flying objects; and whether our Ministry of Defence also has a section to investigate these unidentified flying objects.

Lord WINTERBOTTOM: The Government have no record of a statement made in February 1974 by the then French Minister of Defence.

Our Ministry of Defence has no specific organisation engaged on the examination of reports of unidentified flying objects; reports are examined by specialist staffs as part of their normal duties to see if they contain any implications for the defence of the United Kingdom. Investigations into any scientific significance of phenomena

**ROAD SIGNS**

Lord DE CLIFFORD asked Her Majesty's Government:

What information the large yellow backed road signs exhibiting black triangles, diamonds, circles and squares now proliferating in the West Midlands meant to convey to the motorist; and whether they will be included in the new *Highway Code* for everyone's information.

Baroness STEDMAN: These new signs mark routes for traffic to follow when some emergency requires a section of motorway to be closed. They guide drivers from the motorway and back to it beyond the point of closure. Because the signs are at present individually authorised for each route and have not yet been prescribed in regulations for general use, they are not being included in the new *Highway Code*; but they have received press publicity and an explanatory leaflet has been produced for distribution to drivers. I shall be sending the noble Lord a copy of the leaflet and copies have been placed in the Library.

House adjourned at ten minutes before eight o'clock

though of course if the BBC wish to approach us on this matter sometime next year we will be perfectly prepared to listen to what they have to say.

I will, after what has arguably already been an overlong speech, sum up. I would repeat that we are glad to have had this opportunity—I speak for myself and, I am sure, for all who have participated in the debate—to pay tribute to the valuable work which broadcasters undoubtedly play in our society. When I was recently in the United States I was struck by the very high esteem with which programmes from this country were regarded. These programmes, both from the BBC and Independent Television, are finding their way on to the networks and public broadcasting stations in the United States. Both the BBC and Independent Television have offices in the United States selling British programmes and in 1976 the total volume of overseas sales for the BBC and IBA was over £18 million, and despite the undoubted fact that a substantial amount of foreign material is shown on British television, we still have a quite significant surplus on our balance of payments as far as television is concerned, which is a quite remarkable tribute to both the BBC and Independent Television.

In the light of what my noble friend Lord Vaizey said, I shall avoid the temptation to say we have the best television in the world. My Swedish is extremely poor, my German is non-existent and I am a little rusty even in my Norwegian, so I would certainly not make that claim. Nevertheless, choosing rather more neutral language, I would say that our programmes stand comparison with those made anywhere else in the world. That is not to say that we should be pleased with everything that is produced. To be blunt, that would be an absurdly complacent view. Inevitably, there will be cases from time to time where it is believed that there have been lapses in taste and sometimes in sensitivity, but it is for the broadcasting authorities, not the Government, to deal with those. A few such alleged lapses have been mentioned this afternoon and we have had them more than touched on in the Press in recent months. Nevertheless, we recognise how essential is the function that the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority perform at relatively modest cost to the community.

There are many general benefits available to all listeners and viewers, a point mentioned by many noble Lords in the debate. Apart from the dissemination of news and information, the encouragement of the arts and the promotion of education in all its forms, there are, as the noble Lord, Lord Winstanley, said, the special and particular benefits conferred on the aged, the infirm and the lonely, for whom life without the broadcasting services would indeed be a miserable existence. In the Government's view, no formal inquiry is needed to ensure that proper recognition is given to the valuable work done by our broadcasters. Nevertheless, this short debate has at least enabled some of the more positive achievements of the industry to secure wider recognition.

Lord FERRIER: My Lords, before the noble Lord sits down, I should like to point out that I was looking forward to hearing the Government's view on my point about the broadcasting of information about Parliament.

Lord HARRIS of GREENWICH: My Lords, despite what has been, as I have already indicated, an overlong speech, it has been impossible to deal with every point raised, but certainly what the noble Lord refers to is an important matter, and I will ensure that it is taken into account during our discussion of the Annan Report.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION: HEATHROW AIRPORT

Lord TREFGARNE asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many Customs and Immigration officials are presently employed at Heathrow Airport and how many will be needed to man the new General Aviation Terminal there.

The PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE, DEPARTMENT of the ENVIRONMENT (Baroness Birk): The numbers of Customs officers and Immigration Service staff employed at the Heathrow Airport passenger terminals on 31st October 1977 were, respectively, 392 and 509. The General

14- December 1977.

1453

Written

[LORDS]

Answers

1454

Aviation Terminal has been brought into use for domestic flights only, and therefore attendance by Customs and Immigration staff will not be necessary.

which go beyond defence interests are not carried out by the Department.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that in an interview on France-Inter radio on 21st February 1974 Monsieur Robert Galley, then French Minister of Defence, stated that his Ministry had set up a section in 1954 to study eye-witness accounts of unidentified flying objects; and whether our Ministry of Defence also has a section to investigate these unidentified flying objects.

Lord WINTERBOTTOM: The Government have no record of a statement made in February 1974 by the then French Minister of Defence.

Our Ministry of Defence has no specific organisation engaged on the examination of reports of unidentified flying objects; reports are examined by specialist staffs as part of their normal duties to see if they contain any implications for the defence of the United Kingdom. Investigations into any scientific significance of phenomena

#### ROAD SIGNS

Lord DE CLIFFORD asked Her Majesty's Government:

What information the large yellow backed road signs exhibiting black triangles, diamonds, circles and squares now proliferating in the West Midlands meant to convey to the motorist; and whether they will be included in the new *Highway Code* for everyone's information.

Baroness STEDMAN: These new signs mark routes for traffic to follow when some emergency requires a section of motorway to be closed. They guide drivers from the motorway and back to it beyond the point of closure. Because the signs are at present individually authorised for each route and have not yet been prescribed in regulations for general use, they are not being included in the new *Highway Code*; but they have received press publicity and an explanatory leaflet has been produced for distribution to drivers. I shall be sending the noble Lord a copy of the leaflet and copies have been placed in the Library.

House adjourned at ten minutes before eight o'clock.

countries. She has extended and extended in the best possible way our whole approach to aid, and I should like it made absolutely clear that that is what we want.

I should like to give the noble Lord another quotation from his article. He said that in this particular project the Government's case was based on "less elevated political motives". In answer to this I should like to give one quotation from a recent article of my right honourable friend. It is this:

"... we all need to take into account human interests, whether it be Cambodia or Uganda, Indonesia, Chile, or Bolivia, Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Union".

I am most grateful for the support I have received tonight from my two noble friends—indeed a powerful and impressive combination, and from the noble Lord, Lord Avebury, in another powerful contribution. I think now that on the question of aid for Bolivia we must look to the future. We shall not go back on our decision about the tin mining project. As I have said, our offer of assistance has been welcomed, and our commitment to help when we can find the right projects is a firm one. The Government's reasons for deciding against the mining projects are good ones. They are perfectly well understood by the Bolivian Government, and we look forward to mutually satisfactory relations over new projects.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that in France, since 1st September 1977, a section for the study of unidentified flying objects has been set up in the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse, under the direction of Monsieur Claude Poher, a distinguished scientist, and that this body is sponsored upon the French Ministry of Industry and Research; and whether there is a similar scientific organisation under Government sponsorship in the United Kingdom to study unidentified flying

objects, working closely with the French one.

The MINISTER of STATE, DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION and SCIENCE (Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge): Her Majesty's Government understand that a study group called the Groupe d'Etudes sur les Phenomenes Aerospatiales Non-Identifies (GEPAN) has been set up under the French Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Artisans at the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse. The group has no formal links with the United Kingdom, and we have no similar scientific group to study unidentified objects or phenomena.

LEGAL AID REFUSALS

Lord CHITNIS asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will list in the *Official Report* the number of applications for legal aid which have been refused for each year since 1970 and whether they will classify this information according to the following categories:

- (a) where the Supplementary Benefits Commission have determined the applicant's disposable income at an amount greater than the limit;
- (b) where the Supplementary Benefits Commission have determined the applicant's disposable capital at an amount greater than the limit;
- (c) where the proceedings to which the application related are not proceedings for which legal aid may be given;
- (d) where the applicant has not shown that he has reasonable grounds for taking, defending, or being a party to the proceedings;
- (e) where it appears unreasonable that the applicant should receive legal aid in the particular circumstances of the case.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: The available information is set out below in two tables. No information is available about category (c) and combined figures only are available for categories (a) and (b). In England and Wales combined figures only are available for categories (d) and (e).



LOOSE MINUTE

File  
40

D/S4(Air)8/3

Chief Librarian

In a recent House of Lords  
Parliamentary Question on Unidentified  
Flying Objects the Earl of Clancarty  
referred Ministry of Defence to a book -  
"The Crack in the Universe" by M.Jean-Claude  
Bourrett (publisher unknown).

2. Would you please obtain a copy and  
send it in the first instance to S4(Air).

[2 December 1977



S4(Air)

countries. She has extended and expanded in the best possible way our whole approach to aid, and I should like it made absolutely clear that that is what we meant.

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The LORD CHANCELLOR: The available information is set out below in two tables. No information is available about category (c) and combined figures only are available for categories (a) and (b). In England and Wales combined figures only are available for categories (d) and (e).

Miss Jamieson

Reference..... 7456

41

13/12

M. 1

Hd of S4 (An)

Lords ~~of~~ <sup>written</sup> question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, background note and ~~notes for supplementaries.~~

Please return to Room 6332 by ...10:00 a.m. on Wednesday

Please consult with the Home Office in preparation of your answer 14 Dec

Jill Ferguson

Secretary of State's Office

(Miss J. Ferguson)  
Parliamentary Clerk  
218 6312

Hd of SA (An)

Would you please supply a draft answers and background notes to reach this office through DUS (An) not later than:  
40/c Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Johnson

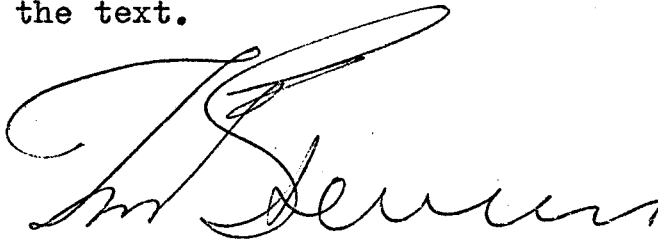
US of S (RAF)'s XT514  
PRIVATE OFFICE

12.12.77

PS/USofS(RAF)(Through DUS(Air))

As stated in the Background Note to the Earl of Clancarty's question on 1 December 1977 (file PQ 7343B attached) a member of the public drew our attention to this broadcast last year. Our enquiries in 1976 failed to produce any first hand information on remarks which the French Minister of Defence might have made. We have been unable to obtain a copy of M Jean-Claude Bournett's book, "The Crack in the Universe". S4(Air) have written to the British Air Attache in Paris to obtain a transcript and any other information which might be relevant, but this is bound to take time.

2. I suggest the enclosed draft reply to the Earl of Clancarty's question; the word 'official' is important, because it would be unwise to become involved in discussions based on possibly biased or selective 'transcripts'. The Home Office agree with the text.



12 December 1977

T M P STEVENS  
Hd S4(Air)  
MB 8245 7048 MB

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY -

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider their decision, implicit in their answers to two recent Questions for Written Answer (cols. 1347 and 1453), not to draw the attention of the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office to the interview on France-Inter radio in February 1974 of the then French Minister of Defence M. Robert Galley about unidentified flying objects by M. Jean-Claude Bourret which is transcribed in his book "The Crack in the Universe".

A N S W E R

(The Lord Winterbottom)

The Ministry of Defence are endeavouring to obtain an official transcript of the interview said to have taken place on France-Inter radio in February 1974.

E76

OFFICE OF THE AIR ATTACHÉ  
BRITISH EMBASSY  
35 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré  
75008 PARIS  
Téléphone: 265.91-42 ext: 449

PAR/106/9/AA

J A Peduzie, Esq,  
Ministry of Defence,  
S4 (Air),  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON.  
SW1A 2HB

30<sup>th</sup> January, 1978

Dear Mr. Peduzie,

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: D/S4(Air)8/1 dated 13th December, 1977. -E72  
Reference B: PAR/106/9/AA dated 2nd January, 1978. -E74

- ANNEX D
1. Reference A asked for certain information about French Ministry of Defence treatment of reports from the public about sightings of unidentified flying objects. In Reference B, I undertook to obtain a transcript of a 1974 broadcast on the subject.
  2. The French authorities have now replied, and I enclose the full text of M Robert Galley's radio interview on the subject.
  3. The procedures, set up just after the war for the analysis of reported sightings, and as noted on your files, remain unchanged - with one small exception: the reports compiled by the Gendarmerie now go simultaneously to the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and the Defence Ministry - to save time.
  4. Copy as ANNEX C The Ministry of Defence overall viewpoint on the subject remains exactly as described in the Article in "Air Actualités" (October 1976) written by Colonel Alexis, a copy of which was sent to you.
  5. Finally, a recent development has been the introduction of a small study group, under the auspices of CNES and chaired by Monsieur Claude Pöher, called the "Groupe d'Etude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux non-identifiés". The terms of reference for this group are not yet known, but the title seems to me to be self-explanatory.

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Enclosure.

INTERVIEW WITH M ROBERT GALLEY, MINISTER FOR THE ARMED FORCES ON FRANCE-INTER  
ON 21 FEBRUARY 1974 AT 2030 HOURS

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Interviewer

MG - M. Galley

I- Minister, you have granted France-Inter an interview which will certainly be significant because it is the first time that a Minister for the Armed Forces has agreed to speak about the problem of UFOs. Do you have information which allows you to answer the questions which the listeners are asking, information which we know nothing about?

MG- Well, I don't know about that, because I have spent a necessarily relatively limited time on that question, though it is a question which I must say has always interested me. But.... and consequently I cannot know everything that has been said during your broadcasts which I know certain people in the Armed Forces Ministry follow assiduously. What I deeply believe is that we must adopt a strict, extremely open attitude to these phenomena. A certain amount of progress has been made in the human race by the fact that attempts have been made to explain the inexplicable. Well, in these air phenomena, these visual phenomena - I say no more - that are grouped together under the term UFOs, it is certain that there are things which are not understood and which are at present relatively unexplained. And I shall even say that there are things today which are unexplained or poorly explained. In 1954 a section for considering and collecting evidence on the appearance of UFOs was set up in the Armed Forces Ministry. I ran through a certain number of statements and these statements developed up to 1970. There are about 50. Amongst the first things I found a report of a personal observation by Lt Jean Demery of the 107th Arty Brigade (?B.A.) at Villacoublay, dated 20 November 1953. There are reports by gendarmes, there are some report of observations by pilots, by personnel who are air centre heads; a fair amount of information the concentration of which was quite disturbing in 1954.

and, consequently, I think that the attitude of mind which must be adopted to these phenomena is a quite open attitude; that is, one which does not consist of an a priori negation, as our ancestors in previous centuries had to deny many things which seem to us today to be perfectly elementary, whether it be piezo-electricity, static electricity, to take only those two, not to mention a certain number of phenomena connected with biology. In fact, all these scientific developments consist in the fact that at a decisive moment it is seen that <sup>in</sup> the 50 years beforehand absolutely nothing was known or understood of the reality of the phenomena.

I- Have there been cases in which fighter aircraft - Mirages for example - have followed UFOs in France?

MG- Well, in France, after examining all the reports, I don't think so. I think that we had a certain number of radar observations in the 50s which were in Aquitaine. For 10 minutes, a quite inexplicable and still unexplained phenomenon. Other observations on the radar screen could be explained by jamming phenomena and therefore consequently they were explained. But there are a small number left, but a small number which are quite unexplained. Phenomena abroad are quite well known. There are phenomena in the US; there is the Turin phenomenon and to reply very precisely to your question, the number of statements by French military pilots on these UFOs is relatively small compared with what one finds abroad. But all the same there are some on record.

I- Are you in touch with other international military organisations,  
Minister?



No. Since 1970 we have sent back to the GEPA all the statements and each time there is a statement or something extraordinary happens, we continue to send it to them both through the pilots and through the gendarmerie. But the Air Force considered, before 1970, that as there was, within the framework of its Air Defence mission, no danger, you see that it is not their mission after all to study these phenomena on the scientific level - we consider that that is the role of the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) where people such as M Poher, are carrying out a study which seems to us to be quite interesting to follow. But it does not come within our province. Consequently we have no direct contact, though, I repeat, we make a contribution. Every time something appears, we send it to that specialist body which is working, basically, on behalf of the nation.

I- However, Minister, unidentified space objects in French air space seems to concern national defence?

MG- Yes, that does concern national defence and I would say that that is why we are following this question to try and see if any correlations can be established. And I would say that, personally, I am rather interested in this phenomena of the correlations which M Poher has explained, between the variations of the magnetic field and the passage of UFOs. There are a number of relatively disturbing phenomena which may, one day, have an explanation which is not an explanation of a specific flying object, which may be magnetic phenomena. But for the moment, we are obliged to recognise that there is something there which we do not understand. There is also the quite impressive increase in visual observations - I shall not go into descriptions which your listeners know, since many of them coincide - but the visual observations of luminous phenomena which are sometimes spherical, sometimes ovoid etc, and which are characterised by extraordinarily swift movements, all those are, I

must say, phenomena to which a certain amount of attention must be given, but must say that in the Air Force, for the moment, they have never seemed to come directly under air defence.

I- If you were asked, for example, to make a few of your radars available to a few scientists, or at least the observations made by the radar operators, what would be your reply?

MG- Oh, I would reply that we have no reason not to inform air defence, if there were anomalies on the radars, of the elements which if air defence does not manage to explain everything, I think that air defence would be bound to report these unusual or unorthodox observations to a scientific authority which would be entrusted with them. That is what we do at the moment since I have there all the reports of observations which could be, which come from the Air Force, the gendarmerie, from all the military authorities and we pass them on very directly.

I- Well, you have mentioned the Gendarmerie. France Inter listeners have already heard many reports from gendarmes, offering the good faith of witnesses when these witnesses state, not that they have seen unidentified luminous phenomena in the sky which can always actually be interpreted as something unsubstantial, but unknown by our natural science, but much more exact phenomena, since there are landings with traces left in the ground. And the gendarmes conclude them in favour of the good faith of the witnesses who state they have seen, not only UFO landings sometimes, but little creatures.

MG- Ah, well, on this matter, I shall be a great deal more cautious. But I must say that if your listeners could see the collection of reports from the gendarmerie - Air Gendarmerie, mobile gendarmerie, gendarmerie responsible for territorial inquiries - which have been passed on to the National Centre for

Space Studies through us - all the documents that we had - it is actually quite disturbing. I think that the gendarmes are serious people and that when the gendarmes make a report, they do not do it haphazardly, and that if there were only one or two, you could say that the gendarmes' sincerity was suspect. But I must say that there are a great number of gendarmes' reports which are very varied. It should be said that when they report incidents, if you like, which have been reported to them, few of them, but all the same some, report phenomena at ground level, you know, changes in the ground. All this, if you like, is still quite fragmented. I think, to conclude on this matter, that we must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to all this, not put into doubt the sincerity of people, some of whom are obviously sincere, but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion.

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Armed Forces Public Relations Information Service

1st Division

Paris 21 February 1974

Summary - Analysis Office

Analysis Sheet of the Spoken Press Interview

Station: France Inter

Date : 21 February 1974

Time : 1300 hours

Subject: Interview with M Galley on UFOs.

Jean-Claude Bourret, for the first time a member of the government is breaking the wall of silence, a silence which politicians assume when the subject under discussion is UFOs, in other words, flying saucers:

M Robert Galley

Actually the Minister responsible for National Defence, that is, a man who knows the problems of air defence since UFOs concern air defence first of all,

has agreed to talk and this is in fact the first time that a Minister for the Armed Forces has spoken on this problem of UFOs. We shall broadcast the whole of this interview this evening at 2030 hours in the programme "No Panic". But in this 1300 hours news, we wanted to give you a very short extract from this interview and you will see now, if M Galley speaks, it is not to "knock down" the problem of UFOs.

M Robert Galley:

"It is true that there are things which are not understood and which are at present relatively unexplained, and I would even say that it is irrefutable that there are things today which are unexplained or poorly explained. In 1954 a section for considering and collecting evidence on these appearances of UFOs was set up in the Armed Forces Ministry. I have run through a certain number of statements there and these statements developed up to 1970. There are about 50."

Jean-Claude Bourret

"Minister, aircraft pilots, military radar operators have seen UFOs, but it may be imagined that these are non-substantial air phenomena. Well, there are witnesses who state that they have seen UFOs land, who state that they have seen little creatures near these UFOs, little humanoid creatures. And your gendarmes, Minister, who have made inquiries, conclude in favour of the sincerity of the witnesses. What do you think of that?"

M Robert Galley

"Well, if you like, in this matter, I would be a great deal more cautious but I must say that if the listeners could see the collection of reports from the gendarmerie, air gendarmerie, mobile gendarmerie, gendarmerie responsible for territorial inquiries, which have been handed over to the CNES by us, all the documents that we had. It is actually rather disturbing. I think that the

gendarmes are serious people. When they make a report, the gendarmes do not do it haphazardly: and if there were only one or two, you could say that the gendarmes' sincerity was suspect. But I must say that there is a great number of gendarmes' reports which are very varied, it must be said. Sometimes they relate facts, if you like, which have been reported to them, few of them but all the same some talk of phenomena at ground level, you know, of changes in the ground, all this, if you like, is still quite fragmentary. I think, to conclude if you like in this matter, that we must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to all this, not put in doubt the sincerity of people, some of whom are obviously sincere, but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion."

Yves Mourousi

I would remind you that you will be able to hear the whole of this interview this evening at 2030 hours in the programme "No Panic" on France Inter.

MOD Ling Service  
GLS/2997  
VJR

THE FRENCH AIR FORCE VERSUS THE UFOs

by Lt Col Gaston Alexis

Since last year, the specialist and general press, radio and television networks have been paying an increasing amount of attention to UFOs. Certainly, public interest in this subject has not yet reached the level of 1954, which caused two MPs, Messrs Jean Nocher and Leofard, to put a written question before the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, on October 22, concerning the role of the armed forces in this area. It is true that Mr Galley, the then Minister of Defence, recalled it clearly at his interview on France-Inter.

In view of the currency of the subject, however, it seems useful to recall the role of the air force in this matter, to present the UFO dossier held by them and to summarize the various theories and counter-theories which exist in France.

The Role of the Air Force in this Area

At the end of the last world war, a scientific bureau was set up within the Air Ministry to follow the development of aero-space techniques and technologies and the progress in the knowledge of the aero-terrestrial and spatial environment in which aircraft and satellites have their being. It has since become a forecasting and development bureau but its roles have not changed. In 1951, when the wave of statements on the appearance of "mysterious heavenly objects" increased in volume in France, this bureau, on its own initiative, opened a dossier on the subject in order better to appreciate the nature and location of these manifestations in French airspace.

In 1954, the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces asked the air force to follow up this question on an official basis from that time on.

An Instruction from the air force staff put this decision into concrete form. All high commands were asked to communicate to the "air" scientific bureau all evidence of UFOs collected on their territory.

The role of the air force in this area is very clearly set out. The role of the air force staff consists solely in estimating whether certain information amongst the evidence that they receive is likely to affect national defence; this is not, in fact so, as we shall shortly see.

It is therefore clear that it is not within their province to make any statements on the origin of such a strange phenomenon, nor to question the veracity of observations communicated to them officially, either by police or by territorial or operational high commands.

However, it is their task, whenever possible, to correlate their observations with "real aero-space phenomena" which, under given atmospheric conditions might very easily be interpreted by non-specialized observers as strange phenomena.

After analysis of these dossiers from the "national defence" angle, they are sent to the CNES (National Centre for space studies) to be examined scientifically.

In 1976, study of reports recorded over 25 years by the air force has only enabled the following facts to be brought to light, from two points of view:

"National defence" Point of View

No acts of aggression, either against persons or property, civilian or military, have been detected.

These strange manifestations do not alter the geo-physical balance of the terrestrial environment. No atmospheric disturbance was detected after they had passed.

Air defence systems (radar and combat aircraft), which ensure continuous air cover of the national territory, and also meteorological department radars, do not "visualize" UFOs in 99.2% of cases.

To date, none of the observers has succeeded either in taking photographs of UFOs landed on the ground, with or without occupants, or in recovering pieces of such objects.

Apart from some traces seen on the ground, no object has been reported or recovered by observers, which would enable us to prove the material existence of UFOs.

#### Scientific point of View

It would be pointless to believe that observation of unidentified space phenomena is the prerogative of our civilization and that it dates back only to the start of this century. The first observations of these manifestations which are not based on the subjective interpretations of "Ufologists"<sup>(1)</sup> date back to the first known writings. The "Ufologists" think that certain writings, drawings and sculptures, particularly those of the South American civilizations make it possible to date these manifestations back to the origin of primitive civilizations.

Today, as in the past, this phenomenon is only very rarely revealed by scientific instruments, whilst visual observations abound. Therefore, in order to achieve greater objectivity, we shall not waste our time in giving a resume of any one sighting, but we shall present the overall aspect of the phenomenon as it can be deduced from the work of the CNES, where Mr Jean-Claude Poher, Assistant Head of the scientific programmes division, is the link with the airforce in respect of the study of these strange phenomena.

#### Sampling of the population of French observers

The distribution of French observers by occupation can be summarized as follows. It shows that no one privileged social stratum exists in this sphere:

\* astronomers : 5%                      technicians : 20%

(1) Name given to persons specializing in the study of UFOs. In number 3 of September 1975, "Armées d'aujourd'hui" featured an article on



\* researchers : 5%

\* Military personnel 13% (of whom less than 1% for military air defence controllers).

\* Civilian and military pilots : 10 (of whom less than 1% for military pilots)

\* workmen 15%  
farmers 15%  
shepherds 5%

Engineers : 12%

In other countries observations made by civilian and military pilots, military personnel and engineers are clearly higher. On the other hand they are less numerous among workmen, technicians and farmers.

Concerning the ages of the observers, the following distribution is noted, also identical with the distribution noted in other countries and seemingly proportional to the age-groups of the French population:

10% less than 13 years old

64% between 21 and 59

18% between 13 and 20

8% over 60

Having made the acquaintance of the observers, questions must be raised concerning the value of their observations and the credibility to be afforded to them.

In the vast majority of cases it can be said that the observers were quite sincere; their identity was known in three quarters of the cases. Since 1954, these observations have been the subject of reports made by the police to the Air force staff.

As a general rule, observations were made by more than one adult.

Finally, to judge from the distribution of observers over a map of France we see that the number of observations is (fortuitously or otherwise) proportional to the density of the population.

We also note a clear improvement in the description of the phenomenon. When it is a question of analysing this information and, especially, correlating it

with "known events" in the realm of aero-space or physics the smallest details take on considerable significance.

Analysis of observations

Correlations made at different levels enable it to be said that in about 80% of cases, "Strange" observations are without any possible doubt, due to known aero-space phenomena. They show from the evidence that the observer has indeed seen, and observed accurately a phenomenon that was strange to him, but which exists in reality since, on the basis of this description his statement can be correlated with aero-spatial or physical "events" which have indeed occurred at the site of the observation and at the stated time: it is therefore improbable that the remaining unexplained cases should be pure invention.

Analysis of observations

For the sake of objectivity, in France only unexplained operations of the same phenomenon by at least two adults have been retained for scientific analysis. The volume of observations thus retained for the period 1951-1975 is about 150 cases, which represent 8% of the initial volume of observations. The following information may be drawn from these:

DURATION OF OBSERVATION		WEATHER CONDITIONS		DISTANCE	
1 HOUR - 1 DAY	12%	RAINY OR		GREATER THAN 3KM	38%
20 MIN - 59 MIN	15%	SNOWY	3%		
1 - 19 MIN	41%	LOW CLOUD	12%	1 - 3 KM	12%
10 SEC - 1 MIN	18%	SKY COVERED WITH HIGH CLOUD	13%	900 - 150m	25%
LESS THAN 10 SEC	12%	THICK CLOUD	22%	20m - 10m	3%
		CLEAR SKY	50%	LESS THAN 10m	7%

CONDITIONS IN WHICH OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE

Distribution of twenty cases of "landings" reported, bearing in mind that no photograph of these particular cases exists:

- \* Two cases near an urban area
- \* Six cases near isolated dwellings.
- \* Twelve cases in an isolated region without any dwellings.

Of these twenty cases, only eight mention traces of imprints in the ground.

#### Characteristics of the phenomenon

The least that can be said is that the form of the phenomena observed, their dimensions, colour etc, are of the most variable, as can be judged from the following tables.

FORM		COLOUR		NATURE OF LUMINOSITY	
VARIOUS	14%	FIXED BUT VERY VARIOUS	17%	VARIOUS	14%
PIN-POINTS	9%	CHANGING	17%	NON LUMINOUS	1%
DOMED	3%	METALLIC	17%	GLOWING	10%
OVOID	14%	WHITE	17%	BRIGHT	15%
CIGAR SHAPE, CYLINDER	14%	ORANGE	16%	BRILLIANT	18%
ROUND, CIRCULAR, SPHERICAL	30%	RED	16%	LUMINOUS	42%
DISCS	16%				

#### Dimensions

Here again we find a very wide range of data. Each case seems to be a special case. In 38.64% there is no information. In 41.82% there is an apparent diameter which cannot be restituted because of inaccuracy over distance. In 4% of cases, the diameter is of the order of 1 meter. In 4.5% of cases, of the order of 7 to 10 meters. In the other cases it varies between 1 meter and 70 meters.

#### Speed and trajectory

This speed variation observed in the movements of the phenomena observed can be explained by the fact that it corresponds to portions of the trajectory which are

not identical, as the following table shows:

SPEED OF MOVEMENT		TRAJECTORY	
SUPERSONIC	16%	STRAIGHT LINE	35%
FAST (LIKE AIRCRAFT) SUCCESSIVELY MOVING AND ) * FAST )	14% 42%	ABNORMAL TRAJECTORIES (STOPS, ARABESQUES <u>SIC</u> DISAPPEARANCE)	45%
SLOW	22%	LANDING OR	
MOTIONLESS	1%	STATIONARY "PHASE"	20%

\*This is a literal translation of the words in the text. It is difficult to know what the writer means by "successivement mobile et rapid" - unless "mobile" (moving) is, in fact, a misprint for "immobile" (motionless) whereupon the entry would read "successively motionless and fast" which would make slightly better sense.

Emissions observed

SOUND		THERMAL EFFECTS		LUMINOUS AND THERMAL EFFECTS		SMELL	
VARIOUS NOISES	12%	NO EFFECT OBSERVED	97.27%	LUMINOUS PARALYSING RAY	0.46%	VARIOUS SMELLS	1.36%
WHISTLING	15%	EFFECT OBSERVED	1.37%	CORRELATION COLOUR SPEED	0.46%	NONE	98.64%
HUMMING	3%	EFFECT WITH TRACES	1.36%	NONE	92.08%		
SILENCE	70%						

Effects on observers and various effects

In France, apart from the effect of surprise, only minor effects were recorded on observers who reported on their observations to the police. None of them was traumatized by his experience nor underwent any psychological change.

To date, none of them claims to have received a "mission" or has created any ideological group based on the claim that he is the prophetic mouthpiece of the "apparition".

Similarly domestic animals seem only slightly disturbed by the phenomenon.

only 5.46% of cases was a manifestation of fear observed.

Summaries of effects obtained:

EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS		VARIOUS EFFECTS	
TRACES OF SKIN DISEASE OF INDETERMINABLE ORIGIN <sup>(1)</sup>	1.36%	FAILURE OF ENGINE WITH ELECTRICAL IGNITION	1.82%
HEADACHES, LOSS OF MEMORY	0.46%	EXTENDED ACTION ON VEGETATION	0.46%
TEMPORARY PARALYSIS OR FAINTING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PHENOMENON	2.73%	STRONG MECHANICAL ACTION	3.64%
DEATH, NAUSEA, RAPES, ASSAULTS	NONE	RADIO OR TV INTERFERENCE, TOTAL RADIO CUT-OUT, ELECTRICITY FAILURE ON PUBLIC SUPPLY, RADIO-ACTIVITY	NONE
FEAR	8.18%		
IMPOSSIBLE TO ACT OF ONES OWN VOLITION	1.82%		

(1) ALTHOUGH CERTAIN DOCTORS THINK THAT THESE PHENOMENA COULD BE CAUSED BY STRONG EMOTIONAL REACTIONS.

Distribution of observations in time

Since 1951, a certain periodicity has been recorded in the large-scale appearance of the phenomena, with clearly marked peaks in 1954, 1964, 1967 and 1975. However, scientific researchers have not yet been able to find any particular spatial occurrence in the universe that corresponds to this "periodicity". Only one piece of data could be put forward by Mr Poher: There seems to exist a correlation between UFO observations and temporary abnormal fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field.

At the overall level of the phenomenon, only the following points can therefore be put forward:

Observations cannot be suspect since in more than 80% of cases, they can be correlated with aero-space or physical "events",

In only 8 % of cases, observers are describing a phenomenon that has really been observed and is unknown.

The variety of characteristics of the phenomenon is such that it is not possible at present to formulate a definite scientific theory concerning its nature or origin (physical or otherwise); it also enables us to state that this phenomenon is not the result of human technology.

Its tangible effects on human beings are without danger.

Given the present state of our knowledge, it seems difficult to conclude otherwise than by confirming that science is incapable in this area. This phenomenon cannot, at present, be analysed by means of known measuring instruments and, in a word, it is only thanks to the accumulation of observations describing not only this phenomenon but also all the physical data regarding the environment that researchers may one day have the good fortune to discover the parameters that will enable them to give it a more satisfactory interpretation. Whilst maintaining an open mind, we must restrain ourselves from hasty conclusions regarding the nature and origin of the phenomenon and accept the fact that this problem, like so many others, remains suspended in space.

#### Translations of picture captions

(Pictures are numbered in pencil on the original)

(1) One of the rare photographs in the world to retain its mystery: a photograph taken on January 16th 1968 opposite the island of Trinidad (Atlantic Ocean) in the presence of geophysical specialists.

(2) A flying saucer around the Eiffel Tower? In fact it is only a successful piece of faking: the brilliant disk is the reflection of a lamp in the window through which the photograph was taken from a room in the Palais de Chaillot.

(3) Identified UFOs: Centicular clouds.



Un des rares clichés au monde à garder encore un mystère : photo prise, le 16 Janvier 1958, face à l'île Trinidad (océan Atlantique), en présence de spécialistes de géophysique.

(Photo Cowles Education Corporation, New York, gracieusement communiquée par le G. E. P. A.).

aux tranches d'âge de la population française :

- 10 % ont moins de 13 ans,
- 18 % sont âgés de 13 ans à 20 ans,
- 64 % sont âgés de 21 à 59 ans,
- 8 % ont plus de 60 ans.

Ayant fait connaissance avec les témoins, il convient de s'interroger sur la valeur de leurs témoignages et sur la crédibilité à leur accorder.

Une soucoupe autour de la tour Eiffel ? Il ne s'agit en réalité que d'un exemple réussi de trucage : le disque brillant est la réflexion d'un lampadaire dans la vitre à travers laquelle la photo a été prise, depuis une salle du palais de Châtillot. (Photo Look special, 1967).



Dans la très grande majorité des cas, on peut dire que les témoins sont de bonne foi, leur identité est dans les trois quarts des cas connue. Depuis 1954 ces témoignages font l'objet d'un rapport de gendarmerie adressé à l'état-major de l'armée de l'air.

En règle générale, les observations sont effectuées par plus de deux personnes adultes.

Enfin, si l'on en juge par la réparti-

tion des témoins sur une carte de France, on constate que le nombre de témoignages est (fortuitement ou non) proportionnel à la densité de la population.

On note par ailleurs une nette amélioration dans la description du phénomène. Dès lors qu'il s'agit d'exploiter ces renseignements et notamment de les corréler avec des « événements connus » aérospatiaux ou physiques, les moindres détails comptent énormément.

On peut en tirer les enseignements suivants :

Conditions dans lesquelles les observations ont été effectuées :

Durée de l'observation	Conditions météorologiques	Distance
De 1 h à 1 j	12 %	Supérieure à 3 km
De 20 mn à 59 mn	15 %	De 1 à 3 km
De 1 à 19 mn	41 %	De 900 à 150 m
De 10 sec. à 1 mn	18 %	De 20 m à 10 m
Moins de 10 sec.	12 %	Inférieure à 10 m
	Temp de pluie ou de neige	38 %
	Ciel bas	12 %
	Ciel couvert par des nuages en altitude	12 %
	Nuages épais	25 %
	Ciel clair	3 %
		7 %

Répartition des viage cas « d'atterrissage » signalés en rappelant qu'il n'existe aucune photo de ces cas particuliers :

● deux cas près d'une zone urbaine,

● six cas près d'habitations isolées,

● douze cas dans une région isolée sans habitation.

Parmi ces vingt cas huit seulement mentionnent des traces d'empreintes diverses sur le sol.

Caractéristiques du phénomène  
Le moins qu'on puisse dire est que la forme des phénomènes observés, leurs dimensions, leurs couleurs, etc. sont des plus variables comme on peut en juger par les tableaux ci-après :

#### L'analyse des témoignages

Les corrélations faites aux différents échelons permettent de dire que dans,

Forme	Couleur	Nature de la luminosité
Diverses	14 %	Diverses
Ponctuelles	9 %	Non lamineux
Coupole	3 %	Lueur
Ovoïdes	14 %	Éclatant
Cigares cylindres	14 %	Brillant
Rondes, circulaires, en boules	30 %	Lumineux
Disques	16 %	
	Fixes mais très diverses	14 %
	Changeantes	17 %
	Métallique	17 %
	Blanc	17 %
	Orangé	18 %
	Rouge	16 %
		10 %
		15 %
		18 %
		42 %

environ 80 % des cas, les observations « étranges » sont, sans aucun doute possible, dues à des phénomènes aérospatiaux connus. Elles démontrent à l'évidence que le témoin a bien observé avec précision un phénomène étrange pour lui mais qui existe réellement puisqu'à partir de cette description on peut corréler ses dires avec des « événements » aérospatiaux ou physiques qui se sont bien déroulés sur les lieux de l'observation à l'heure dite; il devient alors improbable que les cas restants inexpliqués soient purement inventés.

#### Dimensions

Là encore on retrouve une très grande dispersion des données. Chaque cas semble être un cas particulier. Dans 38,64 % il n'existe pas d'information. Dans 41,82 % il s'agit d'un diamètre apparent qui ne peut pas être restitué en raison de l'imprécision sur la distance. Dans 4 % des cas le diamètre est de l'ordre de un mètre. Dans 4,5 % des cas de l'ordre de sept à dix mètres. Dans les autres cas, il varie de un mètre à soixante-dix mètres.

#### Vitesse et trajectoire

Cette variation de vitesse constatée dans les déplacements des phénomènes observés peut s'expliquer par le fait qu'elle correspond à des portées et trajectoires qui ne sont pas identiques comme l'indique le tableau ci-dessous :

#### L'exploitation des témoignages

Par souci d'objectivité, en France, ne sont retenues pour un examen scientifique que les observations inexpliquées

Vitesse des déplacements	Trajectoire		
Supersoniques	11 %	Ligne droite	35 %
Rapides (comme des avions)	14 %	Trajectoires anormales (arrêts, arabesques, évitement scientifique)	48 %
Successivement mobiles et rapides	42 %	« Phase » d'atterrissage ou stationnaire	20 %
Lents	22 %		
Immobiles	11 %		

3

Emissions observées :

O.V.N.I. identifiés : nuages lenticulaires.

Son		Effets thermiques		Effets lumineux et thermiques		Odeur	
Bruits divers	12 %	Pas d'effet observé	97,27 %	Rayon lumineux paralysant	0,46 %	Odeurs diverses	1,36 %
Sifflement	15 %	Effet constaté	1,37 %	Corrélation couleur vitesse	0,46 %	Rien	98,64 %
Bourdonnement	3 %	Effet avec traces	1,36 %	Rien	92,08 %		
Silence	70 %						

Effets sur les témoins et effets divers

En France, l'effet de surprise mis à part on ne constate sur les témoins qui ont fait part de leurs observations à la gendarmerie, que des effets mineurs. Aucun d'eux n'a été traumatisé par l'apparition du phénomène ou n'a vu son psychisme modifié.

A ce jour, aucun d'eux ne prétend avoir reçu « une mission » et n'a créé un groupe idéologique se prétendant être l'émanation prophétique de l'« apparition ».

De même, les animaux domestiques semblent peu perturbés par le phénomène. Dans 5,46 % seulement des cas, une manifestation de frayeur est constatée.

Répartition des observations dans le temps

Depuis 1951, on constate une certaine périodicité dans l'apparition massive des phénomènes avec des pointes nettement marquées en 1954, 1964, 1967 et 1975.

Mais les chercheurs scientifiques n'ont pas pu encore trouver de conjoncture spatiale particulière de l'Univers qui corresponde à cette « périodicité ». Seule une donnée a pu être mise en évidence par M. Poher : il semble exister une corrélation entre les observations d'O.V.N.I. et des fluctuations passagèrement anormales du champ magnétique terrestre.

Au niveau global du phénomène, on ne peut donc retenir que les points suivants :

Synthèses des effets constatés :

Effets sur les êtres humains		Effets divers	
Traces de malade de la peau sans que l'on puisse en déterminer l'origine (1)	1,36 %	Mise en panne d'un moteur à allumage électrique	1,82 %
Maux de tête, perte de mémoire	0,46 %	Action prolongée sur la végétation	0,46 %
Paralysie temporaire ou évanouissement en présence du phénomène	2,73 %	Action mécanique ressentie	3,64 %
Décès, naissances, viols, agressions	néant	Parasites radio ou TV, coupure radio totale, panne d'électricité sur le réseau public, radio-activité	néant
Peur	8,18 %		
Impossibilité d'obéir à sa propre volonté	1,82 %		

(1) Bien que certains médecins pensent que ces phénomènes peuvent être causés par une forte émotion.

- les témoignages ne peuvent être suspectés puisque dans plus de 80 % des cas on peut les corrélérer avec des « événements » aérospatiaux ou physiques;
- dans 8 % des cas environ les témoins décrivent un phénomène réellement observé et inconnu;
- la diversité des caractéristiques du phénomène est telle qu'il n'est présentement pas possible d'élaborer une théorie scientifique rigoureuse quant à sa nature ou son origine (physique ou autre); elle permet également d'affirmer que ce phénomène n'est pas le fait d'une technologie humaine;
- ses effets tangibles sur les êtres humains et l'environnement sont sans danger.

★ ★

En l'état actuel de nos connaissances, il semble difficile de conclure autrement qu'en constatant l'impuissance de la science dans ce domaine. Ce phénomène ne pouvant présentement être analysé à l'aide d'instruments de mesure connus, ce n'est en définitive que grâce à l'accumulation de témoignages décrivant d'une façon précise, non seulement le phénomène, mais encore toutes les données physiques de l'environnement, que les chercheurs pourront peut-être un jour avoir la chance de découvrir les paramètres qui permettront de mieux l'interpréter.

Tout en faisant preuve d'une grande ouverture d'esprit, il faut se garder de conclusions hâtives quant à la nature et à l'origine du phénomène et admettre qu'actuellement le problème reste posé comme bien d'autres dans le domaine spatial.



months to learn how to avoid the dangers of using it within a burning or smoke-filled building. These considerations still hold good. There are, however, specialist RN and RAF firemen, equipped with breathing apparatus and fully trained to use it, who have been deployed in the major conurbations.

#### UFO's: FRENCH RADIO BROADCAST

The EARL of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will reconsider their decision, implicit in their answers to two recent Questions for Written Answer (cols. 1347 and 1453), not to draw the attention of the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office to the interview on France-Inter radio in February 1974 of the then French Minister of Defence M. Robert Galley about unidentified flying objects by M. Jean-Claude Bourret which is transcribed in his book *The Crack in the Universe*.

Lord WINTERBOTTOM: The Ministry of Defence are endeavouring to obtain an official transcript of the interview said to have taken place on France-Inter radio in February 1974.

#### GENEVA CONVENTIONS: ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

Lord BROCKWAY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Government have yet decided whether to sign the two additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which were adopted at the Humanitarian Law Conference in June of this year; and if he will make a Statement.

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: The two protocols were opened for signature on 12th December 1977. Protocol I relates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and Protocol II to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. Signature of both protocols on behalf of the United Kingdom took place on 12th December.

The Government consider that, overall, the two protocols mark a valuable advance in humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. In Protocol I we particularly

welcome the increased protection for the sick and wounded and for medical aircraft; the improved arrangements for information on persons reported missing; the protection of the civilian population against direct attack, and the new provisions on implementation and enforcement both of the protocol and the Geneva Conventions. Protocol II provides the minimum standards of conduct to be observed by both sides in civil wars, a field previously covered only by a single Article in each of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. We welcome the fundamental guarantees provided by Protocol II, in relation to e.g. accused and detained persons, protection of the wounded and sick and medical personnel and protection of the civilian population.

The United Kingdom's signature of the protocols was accompanied by formal declarations on various points, of which copies have been placed in the Library of the House. Almost without exception, these reflect statements made by the United Kingdom at the Conference which are already part of the negotiating history. The most significant of them concern the scope of application of the protocols. First, as with several recent international conventions, the Government have considered it necessary to reserve the right not to apply the protocols in relation to Southern Rhodesia unless and until they are in a position to ensure that the obligations of the protocols in respect of that territory can be fully implemented. Secondly, we have confirmed the understanding upon which we took part in the negotiations, that the new rules introduced by Protocol I were not intended to have any effect on and did not regulate or prohibit the use of nuclear weapons.

Thirdly the provisions of Protocol I, including that on prisoner of war status for irregular fighters, apply only to international armed conflict, which are now so defined by the protocol as to include certain self-determination conflicts. The Government have considered it desirable in this connection to place formally on record by means of an interpretative declaration their understanding of the meaning of the term "armed conflict", which implies a high level of intensity of military operations, and their understanding of the requirements to be fulfilled by any national

51  
48

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Thirdly the provisions of Protocol I, including that on prisoner of war status for irregular fighters, apply only to international armed conflict, which are now so defined by the protocol as to include certain self-determination conflicts. The Government have considered it desirable in this connection to place formally on record by means of an interpretative declaration their understanding of the meaning of the term "armed conflict", which implies a high level of intensity of military operations, and their understanding of the requirements to be fulfilled by any national

liberation movement which sought to invoke the protocol. Neither in Northern Ireland nor in any other part of the United Kingdom is there a situation which meets the criteria laid down for the application of either protocol. Nor is there any terrorist organisation operating within the United Kingdom which fulfils the requirements which a national liberation movement must meet in order to be entitled to claim rights under Protocol I. There is therefore no question of any of the provisions of either protocol benefiting the IRA or any others who may carry out terrorist activities in peacetime.

The protocols will not become binding upon the United Kingdom unless and until the signature is ratified. The Government intend to move towards ratification in due course. Legislation will be required to implement certain provisions of Protocol I, as it was for the Geneva Conventions themselves.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING  
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT  
(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1977

Baroness STEWART of ALVE  
CHURCH asked Her Majesty's Govern-  
ment:

Whether they will make a Statement about the Town and Country Planning General Development (Amendment) Order 1977.

Baroness BIRK: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State is arranging for the order to be withdrawn. The Government will shortly be presenting to Parliament the response to the *Eighth Report of the Expenditure Committee: Planning Procedures*. He intends to consider further the provisions of the general development order in the light of reactions to that response.

House adjourned at four minutes before eight o'clock.

ANNEX D

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB  
Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 5000 (Switchboard)

*See E74.  
76*

Group Captain Yetman (RAF)  
Air Attache  
British Embassy  
35, Rue du Faubourg  
St Honore  
Paris (8e)

Your reference

Our reference

D/S4(Air)8/1

Date

13 December 1977

*CMY on 8/2/77*

*Dear Group Captain Yetman,*

1. You probably know that the Ministry of Defence receives quite a considerable correspondence on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects including details of "sightings". We tell the public that we have not the resources to conduct a full scientific enquiry into these phenomena although we bring the reports to the attention of the specialist staffs of the Department to make sure that the objects thought to have been seen have no bearing on the national defences. We do not press the investigation to the point of positive identification but many of the "unidentified" objects are in fact, aircraft seen from unusual angles or under unusual conditions.
2. As you will see from the enclosed extracts from Hansard, a number of questions have been asked in the House of Lords in the last few days concerning an interview which Monsieur Robert Galley, the former French Minister of Defence is said to have given on France-Inter radio on 21 February 1974. There are also references to the National Centre for Space Studies which is said to have set up a section under the direction of Monsieur Claude Picher to study unidentified flying objects.
3. A member of the public wrote to MOD about the alleged radio interview last year and when S4(Air) consulted your staff by telephone in June 1976 we formed the impression that the French Government had not embarked on any particular initiative in this field. A note made on our files at the time suggests that French practice is as follows:
  - a. reports from the public go in the first instance to the Gendarmerie who if necessary interview observers and take statements
  - b. The Gendarmerie pass on the reports to the French Ministry of Defence (Air) who study the military implications by checking radars, aircraft movements and so on, and who consider any scientific aspects which may have a bearing on military affairs.

c. From the Defence Ministry the reports go to a Government Organisation known as the Centre Nationale d'Etude Spatial.

d. The reports are also fed into a computer so that they can be 'added to the statistics of the problem'.

We were also informed that "so far the military have never found anything of an aggressive nature from the sightings, nor have the scientists been able to explain the phenomena".

4. It is not unlikely that there will be further Parliamentary Questions about UFOs especially as the subject was debated recently in the United Nations and I have been asked to obtain the following information:

a. a transcript of the broadcast said to have been made by Mr. Galley in 1974. Some of the letters we have received allege that "the French Air Minister officially confirmed that so-called flying saucers exist".

b. What the views of the French Ministry of Defence really are on the subject of unidentified flying objects - and confirmation that the procedure as outlined at para 3 above is still followed when reports of UFOs are received from the public.

c. What the nature of the investigations is at the Centre Nationale d'Etude Spatial and whether these studies are conducted under the direction of Monsieur Claude Poirer.

5. I should be most grateful for your comments as soon as convenient please.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jabeduzie*

Miss Jamieson

Head of S4

Murray ~~Thomson~~ 3/3

6/1

This is another Pd from the Earl of  
Belancourt (due with the Private Office on Monday).

His previous question is at X.

I wrote to the Air Attache - Paris in December and  
received the official transcript a month later. In his report  
he confirmed in effect that the attitude of the ~~the~~ French Ministry  
of Defence <sup>to UFOs</sup> is much the same as our. Copies of the relevant  
papers are attached as Annexes to the Background Note

\*

As it happens Head of S4 consulted us at about  
the same time because he had been asked to drop a  
reply to for CDS to send to a clergyman enquiring about  
UFOs. I took the opportunity to confirm ~~the~~ our procedures  
in this subject - He has confirmed that we need <sup>do</sup> no more  
than look for defence implications. The key papers are  
Encl 71 and 78 on file S4/4/8/1 - Flaps Y and Z.

I have referred his ~~query~~ safety point to IPS.

J. Sedgwick  
2/3/78

Serialising  
stay of film

\* PS - I am afraid Annex C - the ~~area~~ ~~above~~ giving the  
French Ministry of Defence line is still being typed. I will bring it  
in as soon as it is returned

(61)

M.1

PS/US of S (RAF)

written  
Lords ~~oral~~ question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, background note and ~~notes for supplementaries.~~

Please return to Room 6332 by ..... 5 pm on Monday 6 March

*Jill Ferguson*

(Miss J. Ferguson)  
Parliamentary Clerk  
218 6312

Secretary of State's Office

ma

Hdq ST(Ar)

Would you please supply a draft answer and background notes to reach this office through DUS(Ar) not later than 12% Monday 6th March 1978.

*K. Johnson*

US of S (RAF)'s x 7514  
PRIVATE OFFICE

11378

M.3

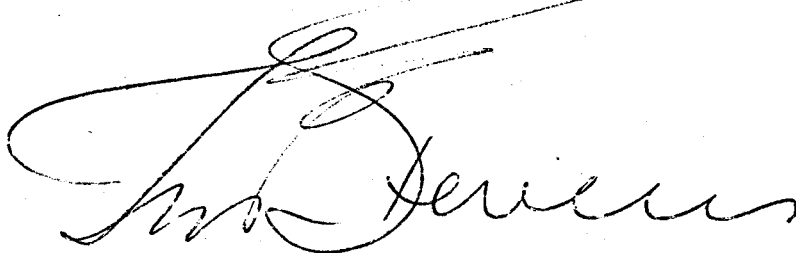
PS/US of S(RAF) - through DUS(Air)

This UFO question by the Earl of Clancarty relates to two he put down in December. The Earl, who succeeded recently, has written many books on UFOs and is a Vice President of the British UFO Research Association; he is seeking a Lords debate on UFOs. There is no chance of his being convinced by an MOD reply; or by anyone else's for that matter.

2. Concurrently the Daily Express is drumming up enthusiasm for UFOs, linked to their serialisation of the expensive sci-fi film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' shortly to be released - evidently 'hard' sci-fi, with an internationally recognised UFO man as adviser, not a light romance like 'Star Wars'. We may be in for a long haul on UFOs. The reply to the Earl will probably be reported at least in the Daily Express, who will make what they can of it.

3. Draft reply and background note placed opposite. The Earl presumably hopes for MOD recognition that 'M Galley admitted freely that UFOs exist; that they are a serious problem; that many landings have taken place and are still doing so' (to quote Lord Clancarty's recent letter to the Daily Telegraph). As the records in this file show, M Galley, equivocal though he was, admitted no such thing, only that the phenomena are sometimes difficult to explain. Official French MOD attitude is similar to our own: UFOs may or may not exist, but there is no evidence of military threat.

4. In one of his books the Earl suggests that UFO reports go back to the Star of Bethlehem and earlier. If 'They' have not attacked in the last 2000 years, it is doubtful whether the Earl's evidence could justify diversion of defence resources just at present; but it would be imprudent for MOD to say such things publicly, for we would merely draw argument.



3 March 1978

T M P STEVENS  
Head of S4(Air)  
MB 8245 7048 MB



THE EARL OF CLANCARTY -

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether since their last reply (Official Report, 1st December, col. 1453) they have now obtained the official transcript of the broadcast on France-Inter radio station, February 1974, when the then French Minister of Defence, Monsieur Robert Galley, was interviewed by Jean-Claude Bourret about unidentified flying objects.

A N S W E R

The Ministry of Defence now has the official transcript of M Galley's broadcast in 1974. Nothing in it indicates the existence of a threat to the United Kingdom.

## BACKGROUND NOTE

1. This question is a sequel to those put down by the Earl of Mancarty on 1st and 15th December 1977 (PQ 7343B and PQ 7456B) when we replied that there was no record of M Galley's statement but we were endeavouring to obtain an official transcript.
2. The official transcript has been provided by the RAF Air Attache in Paris, who has also confirmed the view of the French Ministry of Defence on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (See Annexes A-D).
3. The key points in M Galley's statement at Annex B are that:-
  - a. there are things about UFOs which are not understood and have not been explained.
  - b. "We must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to this, not put into doubt the sincerity of people (reporting UFOs) ..... but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion".
4. In view of the French Ministry of Defence (Annex C) may be summarised as follows:-
  - a. "The role of the Air Force staff consists solely in estimating whether certain information amongst the evidence they receive is likely to affect national defence: this is not in fact so ..... No acts of aggression, either against persons or property, civilian or military, have been detected".
  - b. "The phenomena cannot, at present, be analysed by means of known measuring instruments ..... whilst maintaining an open mind, we must restrain ourselves from hasty conclusions regarding the nature and origin of the phenomenon and accept the fact that this problem, like many others, remains suspended in space".
5. These statements are not significantly different from the line taken by MOD. We have been telling Parliament and the general public for years that we do not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space but that we have not the resources to investigate the nature of alleged Unidentified Flying Objects.

All reports about UFOs which are received in MOD are referred to the authorities responsible for our Air defences to make sure that they have no bearing on the security of the country. No convincing evidence has emerged to date that UFOs actually exist or have defence implications. Many reports turn out to have commonplace explanations, the most common being aircraft or aircraft lights seen under unusual conditions. The cause of some sightings has not been positively identified but the reports often lack essential detail. We have recently reviewed our policy on UFOs with Head of DI 54, who confirm that it is reasonable to confine our enquiries to the defence implications and that the exclusion of any investigation beyond this for MOD is not considered justified.

6. There has been a series of articles on UFOs in the Daily Express recently, although these seem to be linked with publicity for the multi million pound commercial film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" which is shortly to be released. The Evening News of 23 February 1978 carried a report about lights which followed a young housewife home adding that "The Earl of Clancarty, a UFO expert, believes the lights may have been those of a spacecraft sent to spy on us by an unknown civilisation from another planet. .... He is currently trying to get a House of Lords debate on UFOs and wants an international investigation". This intention has been documented in the 'No Day Named' section of the Lords' Order Paper for 28 February.

7. The book, "The Crack in the Universe" which the Earl of Clancarty referred to in his question of 14 December 1977 contains an accurate translation of M Robert Galley's broadcast in 1974. It also introduces the transcript quite fairly (on page 75) as an interview which gave the Minister the opportunity to declare that "there are phenomena which are unexplained". The blurb on the dust cover, however, has M Galley freely admitting that UFOs exist and that they are a serious problem.

Copy to: Hdys 54 (Am) 10/3

62

7/7  
13/3  
Mr Redfern  
Miss Jameson

EXTRACT FROM  
HOUSE OF LORDS  
OFFICIAL REPORT

Vol. 389. Col. 1033 <sup>oral</sup>/<sub>written</sub>

DATED 2.3.78

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether since their last reply (*Official Report*, 1st December, col. 1453) they have now obtained the official transcript of the broadcast on France-Inter radio station, February 1974, when the then French Minister of Defence, Monsieur Robert Galley, was interviewed by Jean-Claude Bourret about unidentified flying objects.

Lord WINTERBOTTOM: The Ministry of Defence now has the official transcript of M. Galley's broadcast 1974. Nothing in it indicates the existence of a threat to the United Kingdom.

Redacted in accordance with  
the Data Protection Act 1998.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

M.1

Hd of S4 (Air)

<sup>written</sup>  
Lords ~~and~~ question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, ~~background note and notes for supplementaries.~~  
~~and background note~~

Please return to Room 6332 by 3.0 pm 25 Nov 77



Secretary of State's Office

Parliamentary Clerk  
218

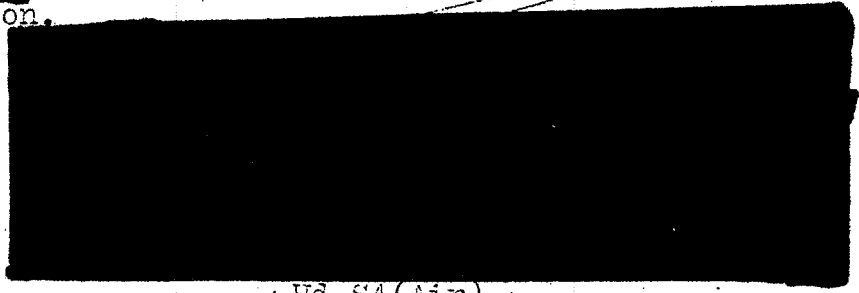
M.2

PS/SofS (through DUS(Air))

Draft reply and background note placed opposite.

2. At the back of the folder I have placed copies of parallel questions to the Home Office and Department of Education and Science. Our enquiries suggest that the Home Office reply may be faintly ironic, to the effect that 'no instructions are given to the police, but they will no doubt investigate any unusual occurrences with their usual vigour.' Department of Education and Science are expected to say that they do have contact with the French body concerned, but not on UFOs.

3. A little detective work has suggested that the Earl has been prompted to these enquiries by [redacted] who is a Vice President of the British UFO Research Association.



25 November 1977

Hd S4(Air)  
MB 8245

MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER 1977

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY

- To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware that in an interview on France-Inter radio on 21 February 1974 Monsieur Robert Galley, then French Minister of Defence, stated that his Ministry had set up a section in 1954 to study eyewitness accounts of unidentified flying objects; and whether our Ministry of Defence also has a section to investigate these unidentified flying objects.

A N S W E R

The Government has no record of a statement made in February 1974 by the then French Minister of Defence.

Our Ministry of Defence has no specific organisation engaged on the examination of reports of unidentified flying objects; reports are examined by specialist staffs as part of their normal duties to see if they contain any implications for the defence of the United Kingdom. Investigations into any scientific significance of phenomena which go beyond defence interests are not carried out by the Department.

## BACKGROUND NOTE

1. MOD interests in UFO investigation is solely to establish whether report have any bearing on defence. Investigations of individual reports over a number of years have produced no evidence that UFOs represent a threat to defence. As might be expected, simple explanations have been found for most UFO reports, the most common single source of sightings being aircraft or the lights or aircraft seen under unusual meteorological conditions. There is nothing to justify the expenditure of Defence funds on setting up a section to investigate the reports.
  
2. We sometimes take the line: 'The MOD does not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space, but reports that have reached the Department to date contain no evidence to support the view that these alleged phenomena are of an extra-terrestrial origin'. However, that response is more likely to irritate the dedicated enthusiasts than to convince them, so it is customary to play a dead bat.
  
3. During 1976, the statement said to have been made by the French Minister of Defence in 1974 was brought to the Department's notice in correspondence from the public. Attempts by DPR(RAF) to verify the statement through the French Embassy were unsuccessful, since it was virtually impossible to check back on a radio programme broadcast two years earlier. Neither was the British Air Attache's staff in Paris able to produce information on the broadcast. It is understood, however, that the French Defence Ministry also study the Military implications and consider any scientific aspect that may have a bearing on military affairs. The reports are also considered by French scientists at a Government organisation known as the Centre Nationale D'Etude Spatial. The British Air Attache in



Paris was advised in 1976 that so far the Military had found nothing of an aggressive nature in the sightings - nor have the scientists been able to explain the phenomena.

25 November 1977

Aviation Terminal has been brought into use for domestic flights only, and therefore attendance by Customs and Immigration staff will not be necessary.

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#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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#### ROAD SIGNS

Lord DE CLIFFORD asked Her Majesty's Government:

What information the large yellow backed road signs exhibiting black triangles, diamonds, circles and squares now proliferating in the West Midlands meant to convey to the motorist; and whether they will be included in the new *Highway Code* for everyone's information.

Baroness STEDMAN: These new signs mark routes for traffic to follow when some emergency requires a section of motorway to be closed. They guide drivers from the motorway and back to it beyond the point of closure. Because the signs are at present individually authorised for each route and have not yet been prescribed in regulations for general use, they are not being included in the new *Highway Code*; but they have received press publicity and an explanatory leaflet has been produced for distribution to drivers. I shall be sending the noble Lord a copy of the leaflet and copies have been placed in the Library.

House adjourned at ten minutes before eight o'clock.

though of course if the BBC wish to approach us on this matter sometime next year we will be perfectly prepared to listen to what they have to say.

I will, after what has arguably already been an overlong speech, sum up. I would repeat that we are glad to have had this opportunity—I speak for myself and, I am sure, for all who have participated in the debate—to pay tribute to the valuable work which broadcasters undoubtedly play in our society. When I was recently in the United States I was struck by the very high esteem with which programmes from this country were regarded. These programmes, both from the BBC and Independent Television, are finding their way on to the networks and public broadcasting stations in the United States. Both the BBC and Independent Television have offices in the United States selling British programmes and in 1976 the total volume of overseas sales for the BBC and IBA was over £18 million, and despite the undoubted fact that a substantial amount of foreign material is shown on British television, we still have a quite significant surplus on our balance of payments as far as television is concerned, which is a quite remarkable tribute to both the BBC and Independent Television.

In the light of what my noble friend Lord Vaizey said, I shall avoid the temptation to say we have the best television in the world. My Swedish is extremely poor, my German is non-existent and I am a little rusty even in my Norwegian, so I would certainly not make that claim. Nevertheless, choosing rather more neutral language, I would say that our programmes stand comparison with those made anywhere else in the world. That is not to say that we should be pleased with everything that is produced. To be blunt, that would be an absurdly complacent view. Inevitably, there will be cases from time to time where it is believed that there have been lapses in taste and sometimes in sensitivity, but it is for the broadcasting authorities, not the Government, to deal with those. A few such alleged lapses have been mentioned this afternoon and we have had them more than touched on in the Press in recent months. Nevertheless, we recognise how essential is the function that the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority perform at relatively modest cost to the community.

There are many general benefits available to all listeners and viewers, a point mentioned by many noble Lords in the debate. Apart from the dissemination of news and information, the encouragement of the arts and the promotion of education in all its forms, there are, as the noble Lord, Lord Winstanley, said, the special and particular benefits conferred on the aged, the infirm and the lonely, for whom life without the broadcasting services would indeed be a miserable existence. In the Government's view, no formal inquiry is needed to ensure that proper recognition is given to the valuable work done by our broadcasters. Nevertheless, this short debate has at least enabled some of the more positive achievements of the industry to secure wider recognition.

Lord FERRIER: My Lords, before the noble Lord sits down, I should like to point out that I was looking forward to hearing the Government's view on my point about the broadcasting of information about Parliament.

Lord HARRIS of GREENWICH: My Lords, despite what has been, as I have already indicated, an overlong speech, it has been impossible to deal with every point raised, but certainly what the noble Lord refers to is an important matter, and I will ensure that it is taken into account during our discussion of the Annan Report.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION: HEATHROW AIRPORT

Lord TREFGARNE asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many Customs and Immigration officials are presently employed at Heathrow Airport and how many will be needed to man the new General Aviation Terminal there.

The PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE, DEPARTMENT of the ENVIRONMENT (Baroness Birk): The numbers of Customs officers and Immigration Service staff employed at the Heathrow Airport passenger terminals on 31st October 1977 were, respectively, 392 and 509. The General

(11-December 1977)

1453

Written

[LORDS]

Answers

1454

Aviation Terminal has been brought into use for domestic flights only, and therefore attendance by Customs and Immigration staff will not be necessary.

which go beyond defence interests are not carried out by the Department.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

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House adjourned at ten minutes before eight o'clock.

include persons detained on completion of a sentence of imprisonment.

(4) No information is readily available about the average time spent in custody prior to deportation by persons who had not been imprisoned for a criminal offence.

(5) The longest period for which such a person in custody on 31st October 1977 had been held under the 1971 Act awaiting deportation was 301 days.

(6) There is considerable variation in the circumstances of those held to await deportation after serving custodial sentences. The only information readily available relates to 74 people discharged from Pentonville prison in the first half of 1977: this shows that a quarter of those recommended for deportation spent less than 21 days in custody between the completion of their sentence and their deportation; a half spent 43 days or less; and three-quarters spent 63 days or less.

(7) Unconvicted prisoners, including those detained under the provision of the 1971 Act, can apply to make personal telephone calls within the United Kingdom for the following purposes:

- (a) for urgent domestic reasons,
- (b) to clear up immediate business problems,
- (c) to consult a solicitor,
- (d) to arrange bail securities,
- (e) to contact a national representative at an Embassy etc.

(8) A request for assistance for a visit to a detainee would be considered on the same basis as for a visit to a remand prisoner.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that Monsieur Robert Galley, the then French Minister of Defence, in his radio interview on the France-Inter radio on 21st February 1974 stated that the gendarmerie are playing a very large part in official investigations into unidentified flying object sightings and alleged landings; and whether our police have been likewise officially

instructed to collect reports and investigate these unidentified flying objects.

Lord HARRIS of GREENWICH: The Government has no knowledge of either the radio interview to which the Question refers, or the role played by the gendarmerie in investigating unidentified flying objects. The police in this country have not been asked to collect reports of, or investigate, unidentified flying objects. The jurisdiction and powers of the police are normally confined to terrestrial activities, but I have every confidence that should an occasion arise where there is evidence that an unidentified flying object has landed within a police area, the police force concerned will investigate it with its customary vigour. However, until there is some clear indication that the frequency of such occurrences is likely to impose a significant burden on the police, I doubt whether it would prove fruitful to issue guidance on this subject.

#### " A STUDY OF EXMOOR "

Lord NORTHFIELD asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will make a Statement on Lord Porchester's Report *A Study of Exmoor*.

Baroness STEDMAN: As the House was informed on 6th April last, my right honourable friends the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food appointed Lord Porchester to undertake a study of changes in the moorland areas of the Exmoor National Park, because they felt that the exceptional character of the moor as a national heritage and the need to balance and safeguard the various interests concerned called for special and immediate study.

My right honourable friends are greatly indebted to Lord Porchester for the fair and expeditious way in which he has conducted the Survey and prepared his report. This was published yesterday and copies are available in the Printed Paper Office.

The report establishes that since 1947 the total area of moorland in the National Park has been reduced by some 12,000 acres. Within the Critical Amenity Area

countries. She has extended and extended in the best possible way our whole approach to aid, and I should like it made absolutely clear that that is what we want.

I should like to give the noble Lord another quotation from his article. He said that in this particular project the Government's case was based on "less elevated political motives". In answer to this I should like to give one quotation from a recent article of my right honourable friend. It is this:

"... we all need to take into account human interests, whether it be Cambodia or Uganda, Indonesia, Chile, or Bolivia, Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Union".

I am most grateful for the support I have received tonight from my two noble friends—indeed a powerful and impressive combination, and from the noble Lord, Lord Avebury, in another powerful contribution. I think now that on the question of aid for Bolivia we must look to the future. We shall not go back on our decision about the tin mining project. As I have said, our offer of assistance has been welcomed, and our commitment to help when we can find the right projects is a firm one. The Government's reasons for deciding against the mining projects are good ones. They are perfectly well understood by the Bolivian Government, and we look forward to mutually satisfactory relations over new projects.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS

##### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware that in France, since 1st September 1977, a section for the study of unidentified flying objects has been set up in the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse, under the direction of Monsieur Claude Poher, a distinguished scientist, and that this body is sponsored upon the French Ministry of Industry and Research; and whether there is a similar scientific organisation under Government sponsorship in the United Kingdom to study unidentified flying

objects, working closely with the French one.

The MINISTER of STATE, DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION and SCIENCE (Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge): Her Majesty's Government understand that a study group called the Groupe d'Etudes sur les Phenomenes Aerospatiales Non-Identifies (GEPAN) has been set up under the French Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Artisans at the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse. The group has no formal links with the United Kingdom, and we have no similar scientific group to study unidentified objects or phenomena.

#### LEGAL AID REFUSALS

Lord CHITNIS asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will list in the *Official Report* the number of applications for legal aid which have been refused for each year since 1970 and whether they will classify this information according to the following categories:

- (a) where the Supplementary Benefits Commission have determined the applicant's disposable income at an amount greater than the limit;
- (b) where the Supplementary Benefits Commission have determined the applicant's disposable capital at an amount greater than the limit;
- (c) where the proceedings to which the application related are not proceedings for which legal aid may be given;
- (d) where the applicant has not shown that he has reasonable grounds for taking, defending, or being a party to the proceedings;
- (e) where it appears unreasonable that the applicant should receive legal aid in the particular circumstances of the case.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: The available information is set out below in two tables. No information is available about category (c) and combined figures only are available for categories (a) and (b). In England and Wales combined figures only are available for categories (d) and (e).

LOOSE MINUTE

File  
40

D/S4(Air)8/3

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Chief Librarian

In a recent House of Lords  
Parliamentary Question on Unidentified  
Flying Objects the Earl of Clancarty  
referred Ministry of Defence to a book -  
"The Crack in the Universe" by M.Jean-Claude  
Bourrett (publisher unknown).

2. Would you please obtain a copy and  
send it in the first instance to S4(Air).

[2. December 1977

[REDACTED]

S4(Air)

countries. She has extended and expanded in the best possible way our whole approach to aid, and I should like it made absolutely clear that that is what we meant.

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REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

M.1

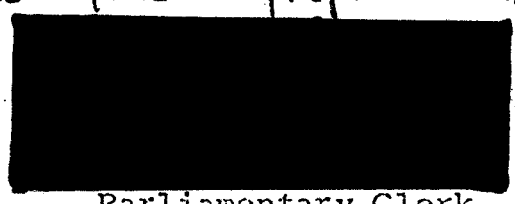
on 40  
13/12

Hd of S4 (An)

Lords <sup>written</sup> ~~oral~~ question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, background note and ~~notes for supplementaries.~~

Please return to Room 6332 by ...10:00 am... on Wednesday

Please consult with the Home Office in preparation of your answer 14 Dec

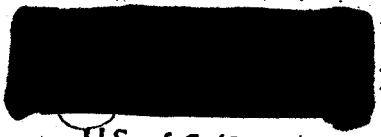


Secretary of State's Office

Parliamentary Clerk  
218

Hd of S4 (An)

Would you please supply a draft answers and background notes to reach this office through DUS (An) not later than: 40% Tuesday 13th December.



US of S (RAF)'s  
PRIVATE OFFICE


12.12.77

PS/USofS(RAF)(Through DUS(Air)

As stated in the Background Note to the Earl of Clancarty's question on 1 December 1977 (file PQ 7343B attached) a member of the public drew our attention to this broadcast last year. Our enquiries in 1976 failed to produce any first hand information on remarks which the French Minister of Defence might have made. We have been unable to obtain a copy of M Jean-Claude Bournett's book, "The Crack in the Universe". S4(Air) have written to the British Air Attache in Paris to obtain a transcript and any other information which might be relevant, but this is bound to take time.

2. I suggest the enclosed draft reply to the Earl of Clancarty's question; the word 'official' is important, because it would be unwise to become involved in discussions based on possibly biased or selective 'transcripts'. The Home Office agree with the text.

12 December 1977

Hd S4(Air)  
MB 8245 

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY -

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider their decision, implicit in their answers to two recent Questions for Written Answer (cols. 1347 and 1453), not to draw the attention of the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office to the interview on France-Inter radio in February 1974 of the then French Minister of Defence M. Robert Galley about unidentified flying objects by M. Jean-Claude Bôurret which is transcribed in his book "The Crack in the Universe".

A N S W E R

(The Lord Winterbottom)

The Ministry of Defence are endeavouring to obtain an official transcript of the interview said to have taken place on France-Inter radio in February 1974.

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#### UFO's: FRENCH RADIO BROADCAST

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#### GENEVA CONVENTIONS: ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

Lord BROCKWAY asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Government have yet decided whether to sign the two additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which were adopted at the Humanitarian Law Conference in June of this year and if he will make a Statement.

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS: The two protocols were opened for signature on 12th December 1977. Protocol I relates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and Protocol II to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. Signature of both Protocols on behalf of the United Kingdom took place on 12th December.

The Government consider that, overall, the two protocols mark a valuable advance in humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. In Protocol I we particularly

welcome the increased protection for the sick and wounded and for medical aircraft; the improved arrangements for information on persons reported missing; the protection of the civilian population against direct attack, and the new provisions on implementation and enforcement both of the protocol and the Geneva Conventions. Protocol II provides the minimum standards of conduct to be observed by both sides in civil wars, a field previously covered only by a single Article in each of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. We welcome the fundamental guarantees provided by Protocol II, in relation to e.g. accused and detained persons, protection of the wounded and sick and medical personnel and protection of the civilian population.

The United Kingdom's signature of the protocols was accompanied by formal declarations on various points, of which copies have been placed in the Library of the House. Almost without exception, these reflect statements made by the United Kingdom at the Conference which are already part of the negotiating history. The most significant of them concern the scope of application of the protocols. First, as with several recent international conventions, the Government have considered it necessary to reserve the right not to apply the protocols in relation to Southern Rhodesia unless and until they are in a position to ensure that the obligations of the protocols in respect of that territory can be fully implemented. Secondly, we have confirmed the understanding upon which we took part in the negotiations, that the new rules introduced by Protocol I were not intended to have any effect on and did not regulate or prohibit the use of nuclear weapons.

Thirdly the provisions of Protocol I, including that on prisoner of war status for irregular fighters, apply only to international armed conflict, which are now so defined by the protocol as to include certain self-determination conflicts. The Government have considered it desirable in this connection to place formally on record by means of an interpretative declaration their understanding of the meaning of the term "armed conflict", which implies a high level of intensity of military operations, and their understanding of the requirements to be fulfilled by any national

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liberation movement which sought to invoke the protocol. Neither in Northern Ireland nor in any other part of the United Kingdom is there a situation which meets the criteria laid down for the application of either protocol. Nor is there any terrorist organisation operating within the United Kingdom which fulfils the requirements which a national liberation movement must meet in order to be entitled to claim rights under Protocol I. There is therefore no question of any of the provisions of either protocol benefiting the IRA or any others who may carry out terrorist activities in peacetime.

The protocols will not become binding upon the United Kingdom unless and until the signature is ratified. The Government intend to move towards ratification in due course. Legislation will be required to implement certain provisions of Protocol I, as it was for the Geneva Conventions themselves.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING  
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT  
(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1977

Baroness STEWART of ALVE  
CHURCH asked Her Majesty's Govern-  
ment:

Whether they will make a Statement about the Town and Country Planning General Development (Amendment) Order 1977.

Baroness BIRK: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State is arranging for the order to be withdrawn. The Government will shortly be presenting to Parliament the response to the *Eighth Report of the Expenditure Committee: Planning Procedures*. He intends to consider further the provisions of the general development order in the light of reactions to that response.

House adjourned at four minutes before eight o'clock.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

OFFICE OF THE AIR ATTACHE  
BRITISH EMBASSY

35 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré  
75008 PARIS

Téléphone: [REDACTED]

ext: [REDACTED]

PAR/106/9/AA

[REDACTED]  
Ministry of Defence,  
S4 (Air),  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON.  
SW1A 2HB

30<sup>th</sup> January, 1978

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: D/S4(Air)8/1 dated 13th December, 1977. -E72

Reference B: PAR/106/9/AA dated 2nd January, 1978. -E74

- ANNEX D*
1. Reference A asked for certain information about French Ministry of Defence treatment of reports from the public about sightings of unidentified flying objects. In Reference B, I undertook to obtain a transcript of a 1974 broadcast on the subject.
  2. The French authorities have now replied, and I enclose the full text of M Robert Galley's radio interview on the subject.
  3. The procedures, set up just after the war for the analysis of reported sightings, and as noted on your files, remain unchanged - with one small exception: the reports compiled by the Gendarmerie now go simultaneously to the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and the Defence Ministry - to save time.
  4. The Ministry of Defence overall viewpoint on the subject remains exactly as described in the Article in "Air Actualités" (October 1976) written by Colonel Alexis, a copy of which was sent to you. *Copy as ANNEX C*
  5. Finally, a recent development has been the introduction of a small study group, under the auspices of CNES and chaired by Monsieur Claude Pöher, called the "Groupe d'Etude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux non-identifiés". The terms of reference for this group are not yet known, but the title seems to me to be self-explanatory.

*Yours sincerely,*

[REDACTED]

Enclosure.

Interviewer

MG - M. Galley

I- Minister, you have granted France-Inter an interview which will certainly be significant because it is the first time that a Minister for the Armed Forces has agreed to speak about the problem of UFOs. Do you have information which allows you to answer the questions which the listeners are asking, information which we know nothing about?

MG- Well, I don't know about that, because I have spent a necessarily relatively limited time on that question, though it is a question which I must say has always interested me. But.... and consequently I cannot know everything that has been said during your broadcasts which I know certain people in the Armed Forces Ministry follow assiduously. What I deeply believe is that we must adopt a strict, extremely open attitude to these phenomena. A certain amount of progress has been made in the human race by the fact that attempts have been made to explain the inexplicable. Well, in these air phenomena, these visual phenomena - I say no more - that are grouped together under the term UFOs, it is certain that there are things which are not understood and which are at present relatively unexplained. And I shall even say that there are things today which are unexplained or poorly explained. In 1954 a section for considering and collecting evidence on the appearance of UFOs was set up in the Armed Forces Ministry. I ran through a certain number of statements and these statements developed up to 1970. There are about 50. Amongst the first things I found a report of a personal observation by Lt Jean Demery of the 107th Arty Brigade (?B.A.) at Villacoublay, dated 20 November 1953. There are reports by gendarmes, there are some report of observations by pilots, by personnel who are air centre heads; a fair amount of information the concentration of which was quite disturbing in 1954.



And, consequently, I think that the attitude of mind which must be adopted to the phenomena is a quite open attitude; that is, one which does not consist of an apriori negation, as our ancestors in previous centuries had to deny many things which seem to us today to be perfectly elementary, whether it be piezo-electricity, static electricity, to take only those two, not to mention a certain number of phenomena connected with biology. In fact, all these scientific developments consist in the fact that at a decisive moment it is seen that <sup>in</sup> the 50 years beforehand absolutely nothing was known or understood of the reality of the phenomena.

I- Have there been cases in which fighter aircraft - Mirages for example - have followed UFOs in France?

MG- Well, in France, after examining all the reports, I don't think so. I think that we had a certain number of radar observations in the 50s which were in Aquitaine. For 10 minutes, a quite inexplicable and still unexplained phenomenon. Other observations on the radar screen could be explained by jamming phenomena and therefore consequently they were explained. But there are a small number left, but a small number which are quite unexplained. Phenomena abroad are quite well known. There are phenomena in the US; there is the Turin phenomenon and to reply very precisely to your question, the number of statements by French military pilots on these UFOs is relatively small compared with what one finds abroad. But all the same there are some on record.

I- Are you in touch with other international military organisations, Minister?

MG- No. Since 1970 we have sent back to the GEPA all the statements and each time there is a statement or something extraordinary happens, we continue to send it to them both through the pilots and through the gendarmerie. But the Air Force considered, before 1970, that as there was, within the framework of its Air Defence mission, no danger, you see that it is not their mission after all to study these phenomena on the scientific level - we consider that that is the role of the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) where people such as M Poher, are carrying out a study which seems to us to be quite interesting to follow. But it does not come within our province. Consequently we have no direct contact, though, I repeat, we make a contribution. Every time something appears, we send it to that specialist body which is working, basically, on behalf of the nation.

I- However, Minister, unidentified space objects in French air space seems to concern national defence?

MG- Yes, that does concern national defence and I would say that that is why we are following this question to try and see if any correlations can be established. And I would say that, personally, I am rather interested in this phenomena of the correlations which M Poher has explained, between the variations of the magnetic field and the passage of UFOs. There are a number of relatively disturbing phenomena which may, one day, have an explanation which is not an explanation of a specific flying object, which may be magnetic phenomena. But for the moment, we are obliged to recognise that there is something there which we do not understand. There is also the quite impressive increase in visual observations - I shall not go into descriptions which your listeners know, since many of them coincide - but the visual observations of luminous phenomena which are sometimes spherical, sometimes ovoid etc, and which are characterised by extraordinarily swift movements, all those are, I

st say, phenomena to which a certain amount of attention must be given, but must say that in the Air Force, for the moment, they have never seemed to come directly under air defence.

I- If you were asked, for example, to make a few of your radars available to a few scientists, or at least the observations made by the radar operators, what would be your reply?

MG- Oh, I would reply that we have no reason not to inform air defence, if there were anomalies on the radars, of the elements which if air defence does not manage to explain everything, I think that air defence would be bound to report these unusual or unorthodox observations to a scientific authority which would be entrusted with them. That is what we do at the moment since I have there all the reports of observations which could be, which come from the Air Force, the gendarmerie, from all the military authorities and we pass them on very directly.

I- Well, you have mentioned the Gendarmerie. France Inter listeners have already heard many reports from gendarmes, offering the good faith of witnesses when these witnesses state, not that they have seen unidentified luminous phenomena in the sky which can always actually be interpreted as something unsubstantial, but unknown by our natural science, but much more exact phenomena, since there are landings with traces left in the ground. And the gendarmes conclude them in favour of the good faith of the witnesses who state they have seen, not only UFO landings sometimes, but little creatures.

MG- Ah, well, on this matter, I shall be a great deal more cautious. But I must say that if your listeners could see the collection of reports from the gendarmerie - Air Gendarmerie, mobile gendarmerie, gendarmerie responsible for territorial inquiries - which have been passed on to the National Centre for

Space Studies through us - all the documents that we had - it is actually quite disturbing. I think that the gendarmes are serious people and that when the gendarmes make a report, they do not do it haphazardly, and that if there were only one or two, you could say that the gendarmes' sincerity was suspect. But I must say that there are a great number of gendarmes' reports which are very varied. It should be said that when they report incidents, if you like, which have been reported to them, few of them, but all the same some, report phenomena at ground level, you know, changes in the ground. All this, if you like, is still quite fragmented. I think, to conclude on this matter, that we must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to all this, not put into doubt the sincerity of people, some of whom are obviously sincere, but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion.

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Armed Forces Public Relations Information Service

1st Division

Paris 21 February 1974

Summary - Analysis Office

Analysis Sheet of the Spoken Press Interview

Station: France Inter

Data : 21 February 1974

Time : 1300 hours

Subject: Interview with M Galley on UFOs.

Jean-Claude Bourret, for the first time a member of the government is breaking the wall of silence, a silence which politicians assume when the subject under discussion is UFOs, in other words, flying saucers:

M Robert Galley

Actually the Minister responsible for National Defence, that is, a man who knows the problems of air defence since UFOs concern air defence first of all,

s agreed to talk and this is in fact the first time that a Minister for the Armed Forces has spoken on this problem of UFOs. We shall broadcast the whole of this interview this evening at 2030 hours in the programme "No Panic". But in this 1300 hours news, we wanted to give you a very short extract from this interview and you will see now, if M Galley speaks, it is not to "knock down" the problem of UFOs.

M Robert Galley:

"It is true that there are things which are not understood and which are at present relatively unexplained, and I would even say that it is irrefutable that there are things today which are unexplained or poorly explained. In 1954 a section for considering and collecting evidence on these appearances of UFOs was set up in the Armed Forces Ministry. I have run through a certain number of statements there and these statements developed up to 1970. There are about 50."

Jean-Claude Bourret

"Minister, aircraft pilots, military radar operators have seen UFOs, but it may be imagined that these are non-substantial air phenomena. Well, there are witnesses who state that they have seen UFOs land, who state that they have seen little creatures near these UFOs, little humanoid creatures. And your gendarmes, Minister, who have made inquiries, conclude in favour of the sincerity of the witnesses. What do you think of that?"

M Robert Galley

"Well, if you like, in this matter, I would be a great deal more cautious but I must say that if the listeners could see the collection of reports from the gendarmerie, air gendarmerie, mobile gendarmerie, gendarmerie responsible for territorial inquiries, which have been handed over to the CNES by us, all the documents that we had. It is actually rather disturbing. I think that the

gendarmes are serious people. When they make a report, the gendarmes do not do it haphazardly: and if there were only one or two, you could say that the gendarmes' sincerity was suspect. But I must say that there is a great number of gendarmes' reports which are very varied, it must be said. Sometimes they relate facts, if you like, which have been reported to them, few of them but all the same some talk of phenomena at ground level, you know, of changes in the ground, all this, if you like, is still quite fragmentary. I think, to conclude if you like in this matter, that we must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to all this, not put in doubt the sincerity of people, some of whom are obviously sincere, but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion."

Yves Mourousi

I would remind you that you will be able to hear the whole of this interview this evening at 2030 hours in the programme "No Panic" on France Inter.

MOD Ling Service  
GLS/2997  
VJR

## THE FRENCH AIR FORCE VERSUS THE UFOs

by Lt Col Gaston Alexis

Since last year, the specialist and general press, radio and television networks have been paying an increasing amount of attention to UFOs. Certainly, public interest in this subject has not yet reached the level of 1954, which caused two MPs, Messrs Jean Necher and Leotard, to put a written question before the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, on October 22, concerning the role of the armed forces in this area. It is true that Mr Galley, the then Minister of Defence, recalled it clearly at his interview on France-Inter.

In view of the currency of the subject, however, it seems useful to recall the role of the air force in this matter, to present the UFO dossier held by them and to summarize the various theories and counter-theories which exist in France.

### The Role of the Air Force in this Area

At the end of the last world war, a scientific bureau was set up within the Air Ministry to follow the development of aero-space techniques and technologies and the progress in the knowledge of the aero-terrestrial and spatial environment in which aircraft and satellites have their being. It has since become a forecasting and development bureau but its roles have not changed. In 1951, when the wave of statements on the appearance of "mysterious heavenly objects" increased in volume in France, this bureau, on its own initiative, opened a dossier on the subject in order better to appreciate the nature and location of these manifestations in French airspace.

In 1954, the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces asked the air force to follow up this question on an official basis from that time on.

An Instruction from the air force staff put this decision into concrete form. All high commands were asked to communicate to the "air" scientific bureau all evidence of UFOs collected on their territory.

The role of the air force in this area is very clearly set out. The role of the air force staff consists solely in estimating whether certain information amongst the evidence that they receive is likely to affect national defence; this is not, in fact so, as we shall shortly see.

It is therefore clear that it is not within their province to make any statements on the origin of such a strange phenomenon, nor to question the veracity of observations communicated to them officially, either by police or by territorial or operational high commands.

However, it is their task, whenever possible, to correlate their observations with "real aero-space phenomena" which, under given atmospheric conditions might very easily be interpreted by non-specialized observers as strange phenomena.

After analysis of these dossiers from the "national defence" angle, they are sent to the CNES (National Centre for space studies) to be examined scientifically.

In 1976, study of reports recorded over 25 years by the air force has only enabled the following facts to be brought to light, from two points of view:

#### "National defence" Point of View

No acts of aggression, either against persons or property, civilian or military, have been detected.

These strange manifestations do not alter the geo-physical balance of the terrestrial environment. No atmospheric disturbance was detected after they had passed.

Air defence systems (radar and combat aircraft), which ensure continuous air cover of the national territory, and also meteorological department radars, do not "visualize" UFOs in 99.2% of cases.



To date, none of the observers has succeeded either in taking photographs of UFOs landed on the ground, with or without occupants, or in recovering pieces of such objects.

Apart from some traces seen on the ground, no object has been reported or recovered by observers, which would enable us to prove the material existence of UFOs.

### Scientific point of View

It would be pointless to believe that observation of unidentified space phenomena is the prerogative of our civilization and that it dates back only to the start of this century. The first observations of these manifestations which are not based on the subjective interpretations of "Ufologists"<sup>(1)</sup> date back to the first known writings. The "Ufologists" think that certain writings, drawings and sculptures, particularly those of the South American civilizations make it possible to date these manifestations back to the origin of primitive civilizations.

Today, as in the past, this phenomenon is only very rarely revealed by scientific instruments, whilst visual observations abound. Therefore, in order to achieve greater objectivity, we shall not waste our time in giving a resume of any one sighting, but we shall present the overall aspect of the phenomenon as it can be deduced from the work of the CNES, where Mr Jean-Claude Poher, Assistant Head of the scientific programmes division, is the link with the airforce in respect of the study of these strange phenomena.

### Sampling of the population of French observers

The distribution of French observers by occupation can be summarized as follows.

It shows that no one privileged social stratum exists in this sphere:

\* astronomers : 5%    technicians : 20%

(1) Name given to persons specializing in the study of UFOs. In number 3 of September 1975, "Armées d'aujourd'hui" featured an article on

\* researchers : 5%

\* Military personnel 13% (of whom less than 1% for military air defence controllers).

\* Civilian and military pilots : 10 (of whom less than 1% for military pilots)

Engineers : 12%

\* workmen 15%  
farmers 15%  
shepherds 5%

In other countries observations made by civilian and military pilots, military personnel and engineers are clearly higher. On the other hand they are less numerous among workmen, technicians and farmers.

Concerning the ages of the observers, the following distribution is noted, also identical with the distribution noted in other countries and seemingly proportional to the age-groups of the French population:

10% less than 13 years old

64% between 21 and 59

18% between 13 and 20

8% over 60

Having made the acquaintance of the observers, questions must be raised concerning the value of their observations and the credibility to be afforded to them.

In the vast majority of cases it can be said that the observers were quite sincere; their identity was known in three quarters of the cases. Since 1954, these observations have been the subject of reports made by the police to the Air force staff.

As a general rule, observations were made by more than one adult.

Finally, to judge from the distribution of observers over a map of France we see that the number of observations is (fortuitously or otherwise) proportional to the density of the population.

We also note a clear improvement in the description of the phenomenon. When it is a question of analysing this information and, especially, correlating it

with "known events" in the realm of aero-space or physics the smallest details take on considerable significance.

Analysis of observations

Correlations made at different levels enable it to be said that in about 80% of cases, "Strange" observations are without any possible doubt, due to known aero-space phenomena. They show from the evidence that the observer has indeed seen, and observed accurately a phenomenon that was strange to him, but which exists in reality since, on the basis of this description his statement can be correlated with aero-spatial or physical "events" which have indeed occurred at the site of the observation and at the stated time: it is therefore improbable that the remaining unexplained cases should be pure invention.

Analysis of observations

For the sake of objectivity, in France only unexplained operations of the same phenomenon by at least two adults have been retained for scientific analysis. The volume of observations thus retained for the period 1951-1975 is about 150 cases, which represent 8% of the initial volume of observations. The following information may be drawn from these:

DURATION OF OBSERVATION		WEATHER CONDITIONS		DISTANCE	
1 HOUR - 1 DAY	12%	RAINY OR		GREATER THAN 3KM	38%
20 MIN - 59 MIN	15%	SNOWY	3%		
1 - 19 MIN	41%	LOW CLOUD	12%	1 - 3 KM	12%
10 SEC - 1 MIN	18%	SKY COVERED WITH HIGH CLOUD	13%	900 - 150m	25%
LESS THAN 10 SEC	12%	THICK CLOUD	22%	20m - 10m	3%
		CLEAR SKY	50%	LESS THAN 10m	7%

CONDITIONS IN WHICH OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE

Distribution of twenty cases of "landings" reported, bearing in mind that no photograph of these particular cases exists:

- \* Two cases near an urban area
- \* Six cases near isolated dwellings.
- \* Twelve cases in an isolated region without any dwellings.

Of these twenty cases, only eight mention traces of imprints in the ground.

#### Characteristics of the phenomenon

The least that can be said is that the form of the phenomena observed, their dimensions, colour etc, are of the most variable, as can be judged from the following tables.

FORM		COLOUR		NATURE OF LUMINOSITY	
VARIOUS	14%	FIXED BUT VERY VARICUS	17%	VARIOUS	14%
PIN-POINTS	9%	CHANGING	17%	NON LUMINOUS	1%
DOMED	3%	METALLIC	17%	GLOWING	10%
VOID	14%	WHITE	17%	BRIGHT	15%
CIGAR SHAPE, CYLINDER	14%	ORANGE	16%	BRILLIANT	18%
ROUND, CIRCULAR, SPHERICAL	30%	RED	16%	LUMINOUS	42%
DISCS	16%				

#### Dimensions

Here again we find a very wide range of data. Each case seems to be a special case. In 38.64% there is no information. In 41.82% there is an apparent diameter which cannot be restituted because of inaccuracy over distance. In 4% of cases, the diameter is of the order of 1 meter. In 4.5% of cases, of the order of 7 to 10 meters. In the other cases it varies between 1 meter and 70 meters.

#### Speed and trajectory

This speed variation observed in the movements of the phenomena observed can be explained by the fact that it corresponds to portions of the trajectory which are

not identical, as the following table shows:

SPEED OF MOVEMENT		TRAJECTORY	
SUPERSONIC	16%	STRAIGHT LINE	35%
FAST (LIKE AIRCRAFT) SUCCESSIVELY MOVING AND ) FAST )	14% 42%	ABNORMAL TRAJECTORIES (STOPS, ARABESQUES [SIC] DISAPPEARANCE)	45%
SLOW	22%	LANDING OR	
MOTIONLESS	11%	STATIONARY "PHASE"	20%

\*This is a literal translation of the words in the text. It is difficult to know what the writer means by "successivement mobile et rapid" - unless "mobile" (moving) is, in fact, a misprint for "immobile" (motionless) whereupon the entry would read "successively motionless and fast" which would make slightly better sense.

Emissions observed

SOUND		THERMAL EFFECTS		LUMINOUS AND THERMAL EFFECTS		SMELL	
VARIOUS NOISES	12%	NO EFFECT OBSERVED	97.27%	LUMINOUS PARALYSING RAY	0.46%	VARIOUS SMELLS	1.36%
WHISTLING	15%	EFFECT OBSERVED	1.37%	CORRELATION COLOUR SPEED	0.46%	NONE	98.64%
HUMMING	3%	EFFECT WITH TRACES	1.36%	NONE	92.08%		
SILENCE	70%						

Effects on observers and various effects

In France, apart from the effect of surprise, only minor effects were recorded on observers who reported on their observations to the police. None of them was traumatized by his experience nor underwent any psychological change.

To date, none of them claims to have received a "mission" or has created any ideological group based on the claim that he is the prophetic mouthpiece of the "apparition".

Similarly domestic animals seem only slightly disturbed by the phenomenon.

only 5.46% of cases was a manifestation of fear observed.

Summaries of effects obtained:

EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS		VARIOUS EFFECTS	
TRACES OF SKIN DISEASE OF INDETERMINABLE ORIGIN <sup>(1)</sup>	1.36%	FAILURE OF ENGINE WITH ELECTRICAL IGNITION	1.82%
HEADACHES, LOSS OF MEMORY	0.46%	EXTENDED ACTION ON VEGETATION	0.46%
TEMPORARY PARALYSIS OR FAINTING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PHENOMENON	2.73%	STRONG MECHANICAL ACTION	3.64%
DEATH, NAUSEA, RAGES, ASSAULTS	NONE	RADIO OR TV INTERFERENCE, TOTAL RADIO CUT-OUT, ELECTRICITY FAILURE ON PUBLIC SUPPLY, RADIO-ACTIVITY	NONE
FEAR	8.18%		
IMPOSSIBLE TO ACT OF ONES OWN VOLITION	1.82%		

(1) ALTHOUGH CERTAIN DOCTORS THINK THAT THESE PHENOMENA COULD BE CAUSED BY STRONG EMOTIONAL REACTIONS.

Distribution of observations in time

Since 1951, a certain periodicity has been recorded in the large-scale appearance of the phenomena, with clearly marked peaks in 1954, 1964, 1967 and 1975. However, scientific researchers have not yet been able to find any particular spatial occurrence in the universe that corresponds to this "periodicity". Only one piece of data could be put forward by Mr Poher: There seems to exist a correlation between UFO observations and temporary abnormal fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field.

At the overall level of the phenomenon, only the following points can therefore be put forward:

Observations cannot be suspect since in more than 80% of cases, they can be correlated with aero-space or physical "events",

In only 8 % of cases, observers are describing a phenomenon that has really been observed and is unknown.

The variety of characteristics of the phenomenon is such that it is not possible at present to formulate a definite scientific theory concerning its nature or origin (physical or otherwise); it also enables us to state that this phenomenon is not the result of human technology.

Its tangible effects on human beings are without danger.

Given the present state of our knowledge, it seems difficult to conclude otherwise than by confirming that science is incapable in this area. This phenomenon cannot, at present, be analysed by means of known measuring instruments and, in a word, it is only thanks to the accumulation of observations describing not only this phenomenon but also all the physical data regarding the environment that researchers may one day have the good fortune to discover the parameters that will enable them to give it a more satisfactory interpretation. Whilst maintaining an open mind, we must restrain ourselves from hasty conclusions regarding the nature and origin of the phenomenon and accept the fact that this problem, like so many others, remains suspended in space.

#### Translations of picture captions

(Pictures are numbered in pencil on the original)

(1) One of the rare photographs in the world to retain its mystery: a photograph taken on January 16th 1968 opposite the island of Trinidad (Atlantic Ocean) in the presence of geophysical specialists.

(2) A flying saucer around the Eiffel Tower? In fact it is only a successful piece of faking: the brilliant disk is the reflection of a lamp in the window through which the photograph was taken from a room in the Palais de Chaillot.

(3) Identified UFOs: Centicular clouds.



Un des rares clichés au monde à garder encore un mystère : photo prise, le 16 Janvier 1958, face à l'île Trinidad (océan Atlantique), en présence de spécialistes de géophysique.

(Photo Cowles Education Corporation, New York, gracieusement communiquée par le G. E. P. A.).

aux tranches d'âge de la population française :

- 10 % ont moins de 13 ans,
- 18 % sont âgés de 13 ans à 20 ans,
- 64 % sont âgés de 21 à 59 ans,
- 8 % ont plus de 60 ans.

Ayant fait connaissance avec les témoins, il convient de s'interroger sur la valeur de leurs témoignages et sur la crédibilité à leur accorder.

*Une soucoupe autour de la tour Eiffel ? Il ne s'agit en réalité que d'un exemple réussi de truquage : le disque brillant est la réflexion d'un lampadaire dans la vitre à travers laquelle la photo a été prise, depuis une salle du palais de Chailiot. (Photo Look special, 1967).*



Dans la très grande majorité des cas, on peut dire que les témoins sont de bonne foi, leur identité est dans les trois quarts des cas connue. Depuis 1954 ces témoignages font l'objet d'un rapport de gendarmerie adressé à l'état-major de l'armée de l'air.

En règle générale, les observations sont effectuées par plus de deux personnes adultes.

Enfin, si l'on en juge par la réparti-

tion faite sur un même phénomène par au moins deux personnes adultes, le volume des témoignages ainsi retenus pour la période 1951-1975 est de 150 environ, ce qui représente 8 % du volume initial des témoignages.

On peut en tirer les enseignements suivants :

Conditions dans lesquelles les observations ont été effectuées :

Durée de l'observation		Conditions météorologiques		Distance	
De 1 h à 1 j	12 %	Temps de pluie ou de neige	3 %	Supérieure à 3 km	38 %
De 20 mn à 59 mn	15 %				
De 1 à 19 mn	41 %				
De 10 sec. à 1 mn	18 %				
Moins de 10 sec.	12 %	Ciel bas	12 %	De 1 à 3 km	12 %
		Ciel couvert par des nuages en altitude	13 %	De 900 à 150 m	25 %
		Nuages épais	22 %	De 20 m à 10 m	3 %
		Ciel clair	50 %	Inférieure à 10 m	7 %

tion des témoins sur une carte de France, on constate que le nombre de témoignages est (fortuitement ou non) proportionnel à la densité de la population.

On note par ailleurs une nette amélioration dans la description du phénomène. Dès lors qu'il s'agit d'exploiter ces renseignements et notamment de les corréler avec des « événements connus » aérospatiaux ou physiques, les moindres détails comptent énormément.

#### L'analyse des témoignages

Les corrélations faites aux différents échelons permettent de dire que dans,

Répartition des vingt cas « d'atterrissage » signalés en rappelant qu'il n'existe aucune photo de ces cas particuliers :

- deux cas près d'une zone urbaine,
- six cas près d'habitations isolées,
- douze cas dans une région isolée sans habitation.

Parmi ces vingt cas huit seulement mentionnent des traces d'empreintes diverses sur le sol.

#### Caractéristiques du phénomène

Le moins qu'on puisse dire est que la forme des phénomènes observés, leurs dimensions, leurs couleurs, etc sont des plus variables comme on peut en juger par les tableaux ci-après :

Forme		Couleur		Nature de la luminosité	
Diverses	14 %	Fixes mais très diverses	17 %	Diverses	14 %
Ponctuelles	9 %				
Coupole	3 %	Changeantes	17 %	Non lamineux	1 %
Ovoïdes	14 %	Métallique	17 %	Lueur	10 %
Cigares cylindriques	14 %	Blanc	17 %	Éclatant	15 %
Rondes, circulaires, en boule	30 %	Orangé	16 %	Brillant	18 %
Disques	16 %	Rouge	16 %	Lumineux	22 %

environ 80 % des cas, les observations « étranges » sont, sans aucun doute possible, dues à des phénomènes aérospatiaux connus. Elles démontrent à l'évidence que le témoin a bien observé avec précision un phénomène étrange pour lui mais qui existe réellement puisqu'à partir de cette description on peut corréler ses dires avec des « événements » aérospatiaux ou physiques qui se sont bien déroulés sur les lieux de l'observation à l'heure dite; il devient alors improbable que les cas restants inexplicables soient purement inventés.

#### L'exploitation des témoignages

Par souci d'objectivité, en France, ne sont retenues pour un examen scientifique que les observations inexplicables

#### Dimensions

Là encore on retrouve une très grande dispersion des données. Chaque cas semble être un cas particulier. Dans 38,64 %, il n'existe pas d'information. Dans 41,82 %, il s'agit d'un diamètre apparent qui ne peut pas être restitué en raison de l'imprécision sur la distance. Dans 4 % des cas le diamètre est de l'ordre de un mètre. Dans 4,5 %, des cas de l'ordre de sept à dix mètres. Dans les autres cas, il varie de un mètre à soixante dix mètres.

#### Vitesse et trajectoire

Cette variation de vitesse constatée dans les déplacements des phénomènes observés peut s'expliquer par le fait qu'elle correspond à des portées et trajectoires qui ne sont pas identiques comme l'indique le tableau ci-dessous :

Vitesse des déplacements		Trajectoire	
Supersoniques	11 %	Ligne droite	35 %
Rapides (comme des avions)	14 %		
Successivement mobiles et rapides	42 %	Trajectoires irrégulières (arrêts, arabesques, évitement soudain)	45 %
Lents	22 %	« Phase » d'atterrissage ou stationnaire	20 %
Immobiles	11 %		

PROBLÈMES MILITAIRES



3

**Émissions observées :**

**O.V.N.I. identifiés : nuages lenticulaires.**

Son	Effets thermiques		Effets lumineux et thermiques		Odeur		
Bruits divers	12 %	Pas d'effet observé	97,27 %	Rayon lumineux paralysant	0,46 %	Odeurs diverses	1,36 %
Sifflement	15 %	Effet constaté	1,37 %	Corrélation couleur		Rien	98,64 %
Bourdonnement	3 %	Effet avec traces	1,36 %	vitesse	0,46 %		
Silence	70 %			Rien	92,08 %		

**Effets sur les témoins et effets divers**

En France, l'effet de surprise mis à part, on ne constate sur les témoins qui ont fait part de leurs observations à la gendarmerie, que des effets mineurs. Aucun d'eux n'a été traumatisé par l'apparition du phénomène ou n'a vu son psychisme modifié.

A ce jour, aucun d'eux ne prétend avoir reçu « une mission » et n'a créé un groupe idéologique se prétendant être l'émanation prophétique de l'« apparition ».

De même, les animaux domestiques semblent peu perturbés par le phénomène. Dans 5,46 % seulement des cas, une manifestation de frayeur est constatée.

**Répartition des observations dans le temps**

Depuis 1951, on constate une certaine périodicité dans l'apparition massive des phénomènes avec des pointes nettement marquées en 1954, 1964, 1967 et 1975.

Mais les chercheurs scientifiques n'ont pas pu encore trouver de conjoncture spatiale particulière de l'Univers qui corresponde à cette « périodicité ». Seule une donnée a pu être mise en évidence par M. Poher : il semble exister une corrélation entre les observations d'O.V.N.I. et des fluctuations passagèrement anormales du champ magnétique terrestre.

Au niveau global du phénomène, on ne peut donc retenir que les points suivants :

**Synthèses des effets constatés :**

Effets sur les êtres humains		Effets divers	
Traces de malaise de la peau sans que l'on puisse en déterminer l'origine (1)	1,36 %	Mise en panne d'un moteur à allumage électrique	1,82 %
Maux de tête, perte de mémoire	0,46 %	Action prolongée sur la végétation	0,46 %
Paralysie temporaire ou évanouissement en présence du phénomène	2,73 %	Action mécanique ressentie	3,64 %
Événements néant		Parasites radio ou TV, coupure radio totale, panne d'électricité sur le réseau public, radio-activité	néant
Événements néant			
Four	8,18 %		
Impossibilité d'obéir à sa propre volonté	1,82 %		

(1) Bien que certains médecins pensent que ces phénomènes peuvent être causés par une forte émotion.

- les témoignages ne peuvent être suspectés puisque dans plus de 80 % des cas on peut les corréler avec des « événements » aérospatiaux ou physiques;
- dans 8 % des cas environ les témoins décrivent un phénomène réellement observé et inconnu;
- la diversité des caractéristiques du phénomène est telle qu'il n'est présentement pas possible d'élaborer une théorie scientifique rigoureuse quant à sa nature ou son origine (physique ou autre); elle permet également d'affirmer que ce phénomène n'est pas le fait d'une technologie humaine;
- ses effets tangibles sur les êtres humains et l'environnement sont sans danger.

\* \* \*

En l'état actuel de nos connaissances, il semble difficile de conclure autrement qu'en constatant l'impuissance de la science dans ce domaine. Ce phénomène ne pouvant présentement être analysé à l'aide d'instruments de mesure connus, ce n'est en définitive que grâce à l'accumulation de témoignages décrivant le phénomène, mais encore toutes les données physiques de l'environnement, que les chercheurs pourront peut-être un jour avoir la chance de découvrir les paramètres qui permettront de mieux l'interpréter.

Tout en faisant preuve d'une grande ouverture d'esprit, il faut se garder de conclusions hâtives quant à la nature et à l'origine du phénomène et admettre qu'actuellement le problème reste posé comme bien d'autres dans le domaine spatial.

ANNEX B

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 5000 (Switchboard)

*See E74.  
76*

Your reference

Air Attache  
British Embassy  
35, Rue du Faubourg  
St Honore  
Paris (8e)

Our reference

D/S4(Air)8/1

Date

13 December 1977

*Copy on 8/2/77*

*Dear* [Redacted]

1. You probably know that the Ministry of Defence receives quite a considerable correspondence on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects including details of "sightings". We tell the public that we have not the resources to conduct a full scientific enquiry into these phenomena although we bring the reports to the attention of the specialist staffs of the Department to make sure that the objects thought to have been seen have no bearing on the national defences. We do not press the investigation to the point of positive identification but many of the "unidentified" objects are in fact, aircraft seen from unusual angles or under unusual conditions.
2. As you will see from the enclosed extracts from Hansard, a number of questions have been asked in the House of Lords in the last few days concerning an interview which Monsieur Robert Galley, the former French Minister of Defence is said to have given on France-Inter radio on 21 February 1974. There are also references to the National Centre for Space Studies which is said to have set up a section under the direction of Monsieur Claude Picher to study unidentified flying objects.
3. A member of the public wrote to MOD about the alleged radio interview last year and when S4(Air) consulted your staff by telephone in June 1976 we formed the impression that the French Government had not embarked on any particular initiative in this field. A note made on our files at the time suggests that French practice is as follows:
  - a. reports from the public go in the first instance to the Gendarmerie who if necessary interview observers and take statements
  - b. The Gendarmerie pass on the reports to the French Ministry of Defence (Air) who study the military implications by checking radars, aircraft movements and so on, and who consider any scientific aspects which may have a bearing on military affairs.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

c. From the Defence Ministry the reports go to a Government Organisation known as the Centre Nationale d'Etude Spatial.

d. The reports are also fed into a computer so that they can be "added to the statistics of the problem".

We were also informed that "so far the military have never found anything of an aggressive nature from the sightings, nor have the scientists been able to explain the phenomena".

4. It is not unlikely that there will be further Parliamentary Questions about UFOs especially as the subject was debated recently in the United Nations and I have been asked to obtain the following information:

a. a transcript of the broadcast said to have been made by Mr. Galley in 1974. Some of the letters we have received allege that "the French Air Minister officially confirmed that so-called flying saucers exist".

b. What the views of the French Ministry of Defence really are on the subject of unidentified flying objects - and confirmation that the procedure as outlined at para 3 above is still followed when reports of UFOs are received from the public.

c. What the nature of the investigations is at the Centre Nationale d'Etude Spatial and whether these studies are conducted under the direction of Monsieur Claude Poirer.

5. I should be most grateful for your comments as soon as convenient please.

*Yours sincerely,*



Head of S4 *Murray* 3/3

This is another Pd from the Earl of  
Blancastrey (due with the Private Office on Monday).

His previous question is at X.

I wrote to the Air Attache Paris in December and  
received the official transcript a month later. In his report  
he confirmed in effect that the attitude of the French Ministry  
of Defence <sup>to UFOs</sup> is much the same as ours. Copies of the relevant  
papers are attached as Annexes to the Background Note

\*

As it happens Head of S4 consulted us at about  
the same time because he had been asked to draft a  
reply to the CDS to send to a clergyman enquiring about  
UFOs. I took the opportunity to confirm ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> procedures  
in this subject - He has confirmed that we need <sup>do</sup> no more  
than look for defence implications. The key papers are  
Encl 71 and 78 on file S4/4/8/1 - Flaps Y and Z.

I have referred his major safety point to IPS.



2/3/78

Serialising  
copy of film

\* PS

I am afraid Annex C - the ~~area~~ <sup>area</sup> ~~above~~ <sup>above</sup> giving the  
French Ministry of Defence line is still being typed. I will bring it  
in as soon as it is returned.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

61

M.1

PS/US of S (RAF)

<sup>written</sup>  
Lords ~~oral~~ question forwarded for necessary action - draft reply, background note and ~~notes for supplementaries.~~

Please return to Room 6332 by ..... 5 pm on Monday 6 March



Secretary of State's Office

Parliamentary Clerk  
218

ma

Hdq ST(AH)

Would you please supply a draft answer and background notes to reach this office through DUS(AH) not later than 12% Monday 6th March 1978.



US of S (RAF)'s  
PRIVATE OFFICE

113 78

M.3

PS/US of S(RAF) - through DUS(Air)

This UFO question by the Earl of Clancarty relates to two he put down in December. The Earl, who succeeded recently, has written many books on UFOs and is a Vice President of the British UFO Research Association; he is seeking a Lords debate on UFOs. There is no chance of his being convinced by an MOD reply; or by anyone else's for that matter.

2. Concurrently the Daily Express is drumming up enthusiasm for UFOs, linked to their serialisation of the expensive sci-fi film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' shortly to be released - evidently 'hard' sci-fi, with an internationally recognised UFO man as adviser, not a light romance like 'Star Wars'. We may be in for a long haul on UFOs. The reply to the Earl will probably be reported at least in the Daily Express, who will make what they can of it.

3. Draft reply and background note placed opposite. The Earl presumably hopes for MOD recognition that 'M Galley admitted freely that UFOs exist; that they are a serious problem; that many landings have taken place and are still doing so' (to quote Lord Clancarty's recent letter to the Daily Telegraph). As the records in this file show, M Galley, equivocal though he was, admitted no such thing, only that the phenomena are sometimes difficult to explain. Official French MOD attitude is similar to our own: UFOs may or may not exist, but there is no evidence of military threat.

4. In one of his books the Earl suggests that UFO reports go back to the Star of Bethlehem and earlier. If 'They' have not attacked in the last 2000 years, it is doubtful whether the Earl's evidence could justify diversion of defence resources just at present; but it would be imprudent for MOD to say such things publicly, for we would merely draw argument.

3 March 1978

[REDACTED]  
Head of S4(Air)  
MB 8245 [REDACTED]

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY -

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether since their last reply (Official Report, 1st December, col. 1453) they have now obtained the official transcript of the broadcast on France-Inter radio station, February 1974, when the then French Minister of Defence, Monsieur Robert Galley, was interviewed by Jean-Claude Bourret about unidentified flying objects.

A N S W E R

The Ministry of Defence now has the official transcript of M Galley's broadcast in 1974. Nothing in it indicates the existence of a threat to the United Kingdom.

## BACKGROUND NOTE

1. This question is a sequel to those put down by the Earl of Scarborough on 1st and 15th December 1977 (PQ 7343B and PQ 7456B) when we replied that there was no record of M Galley's statement but we were endeavouring to obtain an official transcript.

2. The official transcript has been provided by the RAF Air Attache in Paris, who has also confirmed the view of the French Ministry of Defence on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (See Annexes A-D).

3. The key points in M Galley's statement at Annex B are that:-

- a. there are things about UFOs which are not understood and have not been explained.
- b. "We must adopt an extremely open attitude of mind to this, not put into doubt the sincerity of people (reporting UFOs) ..... but at the moment it is really far too soon to draw the least conclusion".

4. In view of the French Ministry of Defence (Annex C) may be summarised as follows:-

- a. "The role of the Air Force staff consists solely in estimating whether certain information amongst the evidence they receive is likely to affect national defence; this is not in fact so ..... No acts of aggression, either against persons or property, civilian or military, have been detected".
- b. "The phenomena cannot, at present, be analysed by means of known measuring instruments ..... Whilst maintaining an open mind, we must restrain ourselves from hasty conclusions regarding the nature and origin of the phenomenon and accept the fact that this problem, like many others, remains suspended in space".

5. These statements are not significantly different from the line taken by MOD. We have been telling Parliament and the general public for years that we do not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space but that we have not the resources to investigate the nature of alleged Unidentified Flying Objects.



All reports about UFOs which are received in MOD are referred to the authorities responsible for our Air defences to make sure that they have no bearing on the security of the country. No convincing evidence has emerged to date that UFOs actually exist or have defence implications. Many reports turn out to have commonplace explanations, the most common being aircraft or aircraft lights seen under unusual conditions. The cause of some sightings has not been positively identified but the reports often lack essential detail. We have recently reviewed our policy on UFOs with Head of DI 54, who confirm that it is reasonable to confine our enquiries to the defence implications and that the exclusion of any investigation beyond this for MOD is not considered justified.

6. There has been a series of articles on UFOs in the Daily Express recently, although these seem to be linked with publicity for the multi million pound commercial film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" which is shortly to be released. The Evening News of 23 February 1978 carried a report about lights which followed a young housewife home adding that "The Earl of Clancarty, a UFO expert, believes the lights may have been those of a spacecraft sent to spy on us by an unknown civilisation from another planet. .... He is currently trying to get a House of Lords debate on UFOs and wants an international investigation". This intention has been documented in the 'No Day Named' section of the Lords' Order Paper for 28 February.

7. The book, "The Crack in the Universe" which the Earl of Clancarty referred to in his question of 14 December 1977 contains an accurate translation of M Robert Galley's broadcast in 1974. It also introduces the transcript quite fairly (on page 75) as an interview which gave the Minister the opportunity to declare that "there are phenomena which are unexplained". The blurb on the dust cover, however, has M Galley freely admitting that UFOs exist and that they are a serious problem.

Copy to: Helys (Am) 1/2 (62)

7/7  
13/3  
Mr [redacted]  
[redacted]

EXTRACT FROM  
HOUSE OF LORDS  
OFFICIAL REPORT

Vol 389. Col 1033 <sup>oral/</sup> written

DATED 9.3.78

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The Earl of CLANCARTY asked Her Majesty's Government:

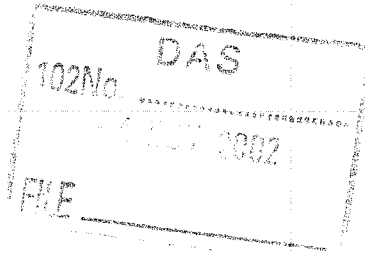
Whether since their last reply (*Official Report*, 1st December, col. 1453) they have now obtained the official transcript of the broadcast on France-Inter radio station, February 1974, when the then French Minister of Defence, Monsieur Robert Galley, was interviewed by Jean-Claude Bourret about unidentified flying objects.

Lord WINTERBOTTOM: The Ministry of Defence now has the official transcript of M. Galley's broadcast 1974. Nothing in it indicates the existence of a threat to the United Kingdom.

LOOSE MINUTE

DI BCR 10/8/3

1 November 2002



DAS - LA- Ops and Pol

Copy to:  
Head of DISSY  
DI 55b

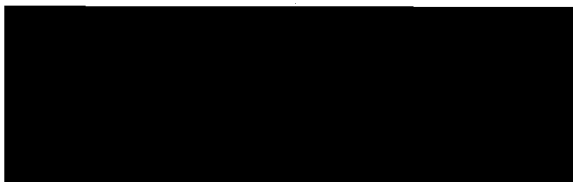
REQUEST FROM DR CLARKE - HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE - 18 January 1979

1. You forwarded a copy of Dr Clarke's letter of 7 October asking whether the DIS had retained any of the papers relating to the House of Lords debate on UFOS which took place on 18 January 1979.
2. We have located the advice that S4(Air) provided to US of S and an early copy of the draft speech. I hope that this is helpful.

*Dr Clarke - Request No. 2.*

*Papers released on request under  
the Code - 9-12-2002.*

*CLEAN COPY*



DI BCR CG 4

  
(Chots: DI ISEC SEC 4)

Attached: Copies of enclosures 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4 from file DI55/108/15/1 part 32.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)/8/3

DI55 - [REDACTED]  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Copy to: ACS(G)(RAF)

UFOs - DEBATE IN THE LORDS

I enclose a first draft of a proposed concluding speech for Lord Strabolgi in the Lords' debate.

2. The draft tries to take account of the points made to us on Thursday by Lord Strabolgi. However, on starting to re-read the Earl of Clancarty's book 'Mysterious Visitors' I have appreciated more fully how heavily the Earl has hedged his bets about space travel: indeed he suggests that the 'sky people' are 'paranormal' and come from 'another space/time dimension'. I do not recommend trying to track the Earl through other dimensions, and suggest we stick to the bare essentials that we proposed to Lord Strabolgi - that there are plenty of phenomena, that there are perfectly sensible explanations for them, and that the explanations offered by ufology are unnecessary and prove idiotic under critical examination.
3. I would be grateful for any recent recorded cases to cover the parts of para 6; otherwise I shall draw on the Condon Report and Klass (the anti-UFO investigator).
4. Clancarty is likely to produce some 'documented and fully authenticated cases'. I would like to be able to demolish one as an illusion. I have provisionally chosen the disappearance of the Norfolk Battalion at Gallipoli, which Clancarty quotes in one of his books: Hd of Army Historical Branch says that this is a 'regular', about which the facts can be produced.
5. I would be grateful for comments, criticisms and additional arguments or cases. At this stage I am particularly anxious to know whether you agree to the main line of arguments. Because time is short I would be grateful for telephone comments.
6. The present draft is about 2,000 words, around 15 minutes.
7. I have copied this minute to ACS(G)(RAF), and I would be grateful for his comments on the general line of argument.

18 December 1978

Head S4(Air)  
[REDACTED]

UFOs - DRAFT CLOSING ADDRESS

There are three grains of truth upon which the great myth of ufology is built.

FIRST: intelligent life could exist elsewhere in the universe. With 100,000 million stars in our own galaxy alone, it is probable that there are many planets capable of supporting life.

SECOND: the technical difficulties of inter-stellar travel are stunning. Even at the speed of light it would take 4 years to reach the nearest star, and 100,000 years to cross our galaxy. But it would be a brave man who said there could never, ever, be manned inter-stellar travel.

THIRD: there really are strange phenomena in the skies, and many are reported by cool and intelligent people.

2. But it is a far cry from this to the proposition that there have been great numbers of sightings of UFOs - implying alien space craft - sometimes claimed as running into hundreds of thousands. Her Majesty's Government is not in the least impressed with the idea that there is anything worth investigating in the information offered by ufologists.

3. On the one hand, there are perfectly simple explanations for the phenomena; on the other, the explanations offered by ufologists are most unconvincing. These explanations are unconvincing when they relate to space craft from other stars: they are even more unconvincing when they claim that UFOs come from another space-time dimension, from a hole in the earth, or the depths of the sea, as Lord Clancarty has suggested.

4. Let us first consider the phenomena. There have always been strange things to see in the sky, and strange explanations have been given. Since World War II we have seen development of powerful rockets, and voyages to the Moon and planets. We have also seen the development of science fiction, where space ships can be switched to 'inter-stellar drive' and our hero can <sup>cross</sup> come the 2M light years to Andromeda Galaxy in a flash. We have also seen the development of ufology and the UFO industry, which accepts the delightful fantasies of science fiction as proven fact and interprets the phenomena in our skies as alien space craft. Most of the phenomena are seen unexpectedly and very briefly, and are gone before the eye has focussed. The words 'UFO' and 'space craft' have been firmly implanted and too readily spring to mind.

6. But what are the real causes of the phenomena?

a. Some have always occurred: tricks of light on cloud; comets, meteors or showers of meteors; meteorites; bright planets, or even the moon or stars in unusual atmospheric conditions. Venus is popular: there are recorded cases of pilots reporting Venus as an 'unidentified flying object following them'.

b. Meteorological balloons. The Met Office alone release 50 a day, which expand to 40 foot diameter and rise to 100,000 feet and can be lit by the sun well after dark. Many other organisations use balloons, some are much larger, and there are recorded cases of balloons being reported as UFOs by airline pilots.

c. Meteorological searchlights shine on clouds: you cannot see the beam, only a light apparently dancing in the sky.

d. A surprising number of reports relate to aircraft seen in unusual conditions at unusual angles, some very high, some at low level. One recent 'UFO' was confidently reported on local radio: we cannot prove that it was not a 'UFO', but we do know that an RAF Vulcan bomber on a low flying mission passed the same spot at the same time and on the same course as the reported UFO.

e. And satellites: there are some 5000 listed objects in orbit, satellites and space debris. More are added each year, and about 600 re-enter the atmosphere every year. Early this year MOD received many reports of a large piece of debris re-entering across the South of England: most reports were factual, but one spoke of an 'oval shaped thing with a white cockpit which hovered for a while than shot off at great speed'. We cannot prove it wasn't a UFO, but it occurred at the same time and place as some known re-entry of space debris.

7. And of course there are optical illusions. Any phenomena seen through glass are particularly suspect.

8. There are also genuine hallucinations, sometimes on people under stress; the excited tales of the gullible; the embellishments of the born story teller. Also, I fear, downright lies. There are also hoaxes: there are some very effective aerial hoaxes which have been perpetrated by children - which I will not describe for fear of precipitating a new rash of UFO reports.

9. In sum, we cannot prove that all or even most of these so-called sightings were not UFOs. But we can say that there is a great variety of phenomena in the skies for which there are perfectly ordinary explanations. We have no reason to believe that the so-called UFOs are attributed to anything but these same causes.

10. But what of these famous arrivals of UFOs, claimed to be fully documented and authenticated by many witnesses. On scrutiny they tend to be elusive. I will select one, which Lord Clancarty has described in his book Mysterious Visitors as 'one of the most remarkable and unexplained mysteries of modern times'. He claims that during the Gallipots<sup>li</sup> campaign in 1975, an entire British regiment, the First Fourth Norfolks, was advancing towards Hill 60: a cloud descended and picked up the regiment and it was never heard of again ..... (checking with Army Historical Branch)

11. As I have indicated, there is no criticism of those who accurately report phenomena. The criticism is of over-readiness to call them 'UFOs', and to transpose that into 'alien space craft'. The reports are passed without critical scrutiny to the ufologists; who add<sup>them</sup>, without critical scrutiny, to their huge files of 'reported sightings and landings'.



12. I am sure no-one will deny that - at the least - there are possible rational explanations for the phenomena. Let us now look at the other side of the coin, the range of explanations offered by Lord Clancarty and other ufologists - it is a wide and confusing range, for there are as many different explanations as there are ufologists.

13. Lord Clancarty has been reported as claiming there have been some 80,000 sightings. Other ufologists would put the figure even higher. Now, there is a strange thing about these huge numbers. To put it in simple terms: either these 'space people' prefer to keep out of the way, or they don't. If they prefer to keep out of the way, we must assume that the number of 'sightings' is a tiny proportion of the actual UFO 'sorties', which must run into millions. If they don't one would expect some unmistakable appearances.

14. But let us look at their strange track record:

a. Not a single artefact has been produced - not a single extra-terrestrial chap has dropped an extra-terrestrial spanner, no bent pieces, no prongs from perhaps millions of sorties, no nothing. Lord Clancarty has an answer: the CIA has hidden them all.

b. There is no correlative evidence on radar of this huge number of movements.

c. There has been no radic contact (far easier than space travel) and no evidence on radio.

d. There have been no convincing photographs, in these days when so many people carry cameras.

d. There has been no approach to Governments, and no direct knowledge of UFOs by Governments. Lord Clancarty has an answer: there is a great inter-Governmental conspiracy of silence, initiated by the CIA.

15. The idea of the inter-Governmental conspiracy of silence is at once the most astonishing and the most flattering claim of all. On so few things can the Governments of the world agree unaminously, but they have all supposedly agreed to conceal the evidence of UFOs from their peoples. Let me assure this House that Her Majesty's Government has never been approached by people from outer space.

16. There is no internal consistency about the idea of this huge number of sightings. If they have come from another solar system, what is the point of this huge number of visits to our planet, to no apparent purpose? At best it seems wasteful. This was once explained by the claim that aliens had advance bases the other side of the moon. When that became untenable the bases were assumed to be on another planet in our solar system. As that has become untenable ever more fantastic explanations are advanced. In a recent TV broadcast Lord Clancarty claimed that the UFOs are based in a great hole in the earth. Elsewhere he has claimed that they have bases in remote parts of South America, or in the depths of the oceans. Because these physical places have become untenable he has claimed that (I quote): 'UFOs are paranormal, that is from invisible universes'. They come from 'other space-time continua'. Another ufologist talks of 'space mind/full mind/Mana'. Indeed the explanations get more and more fantastic, and more and more incapable of either proof or disproof.

17. The most telling argument of all is that the scientific community is unmoved by the claims of ufology. A visitor from outer space - or from another space time continuum<sup>um</sup>, or the depths of the sea, or anywhere else they are supposed to be hiding - would be<sup>one</sup> of the greatest events in human history, and the greatest scientific event. You would expect serious and sensible scientists to be devoting much time and effort to making contact with these supposed space people. The scientific community is as unimpressed as the Government. If the ufologists claim that the Government has gagged the scientific community, it would be as amazing as the alleged conspiracy of silence between Governments.

18. One could go on indefinitely trying to chase the elusive - indeed devious - arguments of the ufologists. Yes, there has been an increase in the number of 'sightings' reported to the Government: the biggest upsurges occurred when the BBC put out a programme on UFOs, and when the Daily Express launched a campaign in connection with the film premiere of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. No, the Government is not in the least concerned by the increases. [As has been said] Grenada is financing a study into UFOs, and the United Nations has, in a moment of casualness, given that study a vague sort of recognition, and one or two other countries have offered to contribute reports. Her Majesty's Government, if it contributes at all, will contribute on the lines of my speech.

19. There are tens of thousands of strange things to see in the sky. It has become fashionable to call these things 'UFOs'. There are perfectly sensible explanations for these sightings. The ufologist explanations are not sensible at all. In 1968

a comprehensive study on UFOs conducted for the U<sup>S</sup> Government  
by the University of <sup>Colorado</sup> California concluded that 'nothing has  
come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has  
added to scientific knowledge'. Ufologists may, if they wish,  
continue to believe that Governments and scientists alike are  
engaged in a massive cover-up. However, perhaps our debate  
will help confirm in some other peoples minds ufology may be  
pleasant fantasy but has nothing to do with truth.

The evidence is adapted to fit  
preconceived ideas. It should be  
to the point.

M

112

PS/USofS(RAF) through DUS(Air) and PS/USofS(RAF)

Copies to: PS/CS(RAF)  
ACS(G)(RAF)  
DI55 - Mr Asteraki  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Placed opposite is a draft closing address for the Lords debate on UFOs, and a Background Note; due at your office by 12 January 1979.

2. There is a temptation to equivocate about UFOs because of the thought that we might one day make contact with people from distant stars. However, there is nothing to indicate that ufology is anything but claptrap and no evidence at all of 'alien space craft'. The UFO industry has prospered from equivocation and, with 1979 being heralded as 'the year of the UFOs', it seems very proper for HMG to inject some massive common sense into the business and come out with an equivocal attack on ufology. With the impact of the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", and the increasing efforts of the UFO industry and increasing publicity given to its exponents, quite sensible people may begin to wonder whether there might not be something in ufology, on the "where there's smoke there's fire" principle. Less sensible people may be increasingly confused and perhaps even worried, to the increasing profit and encouragement of the UFO industry. The subject will not go away, the Department and probably Ministers are likely to find themselves increasingly involved and under pressure for formal statements; and the popular and UFO press are likely to make all the mileage they can out of the Lords Debate, particularly if there are signs of equivocation or phrases that can easily be misrepresented.

4. Accordingly it is strongly recommended that the Government take an unequivocal and uncompromising line.

UNCLASSIFIED

*written because the FCO has*

5. A small difficulty has<sup>^</sup> for purely tactical reasons unconnected with UFOs, acceded (with other countries) to a request by the Government of Grenada for a UN study group (at Grenadan expense) to monitor information on UFOs. The wording of that part of the draft speech has been supplied by FCO.
6. The general line adopted is that there really are strange phenomena in the sky, but there are perfectly rational explanations to account for them, so there is no need to introduce the highly questionable hypothesis of alien space craft. In other words, Occam's Razor.
7. The broad line was put to Lord Strabolgi at our meeting in December and agreed by him. Lord Strabolgi asked for further information about cosmic distances and the difficulties of space travel. I have not included this in the speech, because Lord Clancarty's "sky people" are evidently "paranormal" and can cross the light years in a trice; but some facts are included at the end of the background note.
8. Lord Strabolgi also mentioned the possibility of replying on any detailed cases produced by Lord Clancarty if the latter will give advance notice. I repeat the advice I gave in December: we should not attempt to argue these cases, which tend to be remote and elusive yet often cannot be refuted without very detailed examination; indeed we should not fight the battle on Lord Clancarty's ground at all.
9. DES have been consulted and are content.
10. You will no doubt confirm the time and place of the final briefing, which at present we have down for am Wednesday 17 January.

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

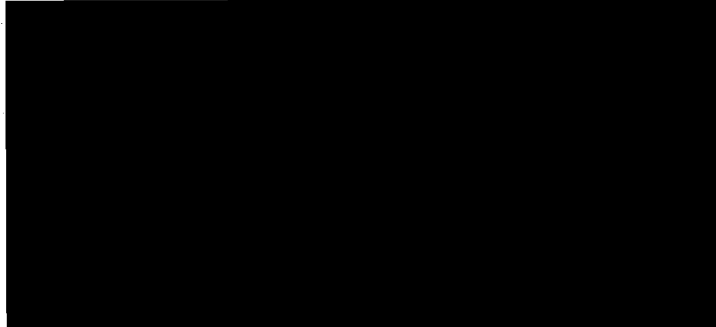
M6 Continued

Clas.

Encl.  
No.

10. Lord Strabolgi asked for a speech of 15-20 minutes plus defensive material. The draft is just under 3000 words, or 20 minutes; I have incorporated all suitable material in the speech, including responses to the points made by Lord Clancarty.

11. DES have been consulted and are content



10 January 1979

Head S4(Air)



M7

PS/Secretary of State

Copy to:

PS/CS(RAF)  
ACS(G)(RAF)  
DI55 - Mr Asteraki  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)  
Head of S4(Air)

US of S(RAF) has considered the draft closing address. Whilst he would not disagree with the general line taken, and whilst he accepts the need for an objective approach towards this subject, he feels that the current draft would benefit from being toned down so as not to pour quite so much scorn on 'believers'.



Sqn Ldr  
PAS/USofS(RAF)

12 January 1979

UNCLASSIFIED  
~~RESTRICTED~~

PQ 8530B



1/4

Copy to:

PS/US of S (RAF)

PS/CS(RAF)

PS/DUS(Air)

ACS(G)(RAF)

→ DI 55 [REDACTED]

Ops (GE) 2b (RAF)

Head of DS 8

DPR (RAF)

Head of S4 (Air)

LORDS DEBATE ON UFOs : 18th JANUARY 1979

Thank you for your minutes D/S4(Air)/8/3 of 15th and 16th January forwarding a revised draft of the speech for Lord Strabolgi and additional background information respectively.

2. I have discussed the revised speech with Lord Strabolgi and have made further - largely editorial - amendments.

// I attach a copy of a letter which I handed to Lord Strabolgi last night together with a fresh copy of the speech itself. Lord Strabolgi will be reading the speech again today and will let me know as soon as possible whether he wishes to have the briefing meeting which you and [REDACTED] have pencilled in for 1130 tomorrow.

3. You might like to know that the debate is causing a fair amount of interest in the House of Lords. In addition to the Earl of Clancarty others taking part will include (in the following order) Lord Trefgarne, the Earl of Kimberley, Viscount St Davids, Lords Rankeillour, Kings-Norton, Gladwyn and Hewlett, the Bishop of Norwich, Earl Halsbury and Viscount Oxfuird (who will be making his maiden speech).

4. We will not know for certain when the UFO debate will start. It depends, of course, on how long the earlier business takes, but it is unlikely to start before 1800. We will keep in touch with the House of Lords throughout the course of tomorrow afternoon and early evening and we will let you know as soon as we are needed. The debate is likely to last for between two and three hours.

/5. ....





2.

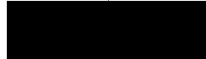
5. In view of the likely Press interest in this subject I am copying this minute and the draft speech to DPR(RAF) with the request that he pass his copy to the Duty Press Officer. I would be grateful if you would consider whether the DPO needs any additional information; and, if so, if you would provide it direct.



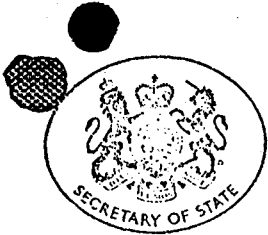
17th January 1979



APS/SECRETARY OF STATE



1/3



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone [REDACTED]

PQ 8530B

16th January 1979

*Dear Lord Strabolgi,*

Following the meeting which you held with [REDACTED] and myself on Friday 12th January the draft speech for you to make in response to the Earl of Clancarty's Unstarred Question on Thursday 18th January has been amended. I attach a folder containing the revised version which follows the line which you agreed.

I also attach a more detailed background note, and, as you requested, the transcript of the BBC television programme on UFOs in which the Earl of Clancarty appeared and in which a [REDACTED] was interviewed and alleged that she had been told by telephone to say nothing about her alleged sighting of a UFO. I do not suggest, unless you particularly wish to do so, that you read the transcript; but the parts in which you expressed an interest are on pages 23 and 24 [REDACTED] and pages 26 - 29 (Lord Clancarty).

When we spoke on the telephone yesterday you stressed the need for your speech to touch on Lord Clancarty's reference to Monsieur Galley's attitude to UFOs. This is covered briefly in the paragraph at the bottom of page 10. I attach, as you requested, a copy of the actual transcript of the interview with M. Galley.

The Box party for Thursday's debate will be [REDACTED] and myself.

*Yours sincerely,*

[REDACTED]  
Private Secretary

Redacted in accordance  
with the Data Protection Act 1998



1/4

PQ 8530B

Copy to:

PS/US of S (RAF)

PS/CS(RAF)

PS/DUS(Air)

ACS(G)(RAF)

→ DI 55 (Mr [REDACTED])

Ops (GE) 2b (RAF)

Head of DS 8

DPR (RAF)

Head of S4 (Air)

LORDS DEBATE ON UFOs : 18th JANUARY 1979

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// I attach a copy of a letter which I handed to Lord Strabolgi last night together with a fresh copy of the speech itself. Lord Strabolgi will be reading the speech again today and will let me know as soon as possible whether he wishes to have the briefing meeting which you and Mr [REDACTED] have pencilled in for 1130 tomorrow.

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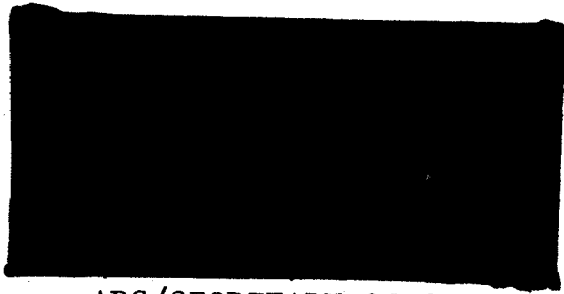
/5. ....



2.

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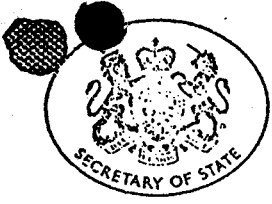
17th January 1979



APS/SECRETARY OF STATE



1/3



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
 Telephone 01-~~932 7022~~ 218 6169

PQ 8530B

16th January 1979

*Dear Lord Strabolgi,*

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The Box party for Thursday's debate will be Mr [redacted], Mr [redacted], Miss [redacted] and myself.

*Yours sincerely,*

[redacted signature]

Private Secretary

<sup>M</sup>  
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

1/2

PS/USofS(RAF) through DUS(Air) and PS/USofS(RAF)

Copies to: PS/CS(RAF)  
ACS(G)(RAF)  
DI55 - Mr [REDACTED]  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Placed opposite is a draft closing address for the Lords debate on UFOs, and a Background Note; due at your office by 12 January 1979.

2. There is a temptation to equivocate about UFOs because of the thought that we might one day make contact with people from distant stars. However, there is nothing to indicate that ufology is anything but claptrap and no evidence at all of 'alien space craft'. The UFO industry has prospered from equivocation and, with 1979 being heralded as 'the year of the UFOs', it seems very proper for HMG to inject some massive common sense into the business and come out with an equivocal attack on ufology. With the impact of the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", and the increasing efforts of the UFO industry and increasing publicity given to its exponents, quite sensible people may begin to wonder whether there might not be something in ufology, on the "where there's smoke there's fire" principle. Less sensible people may be increasingly confused and perhaps even worried, to the increasing profit and encouragement of the UFO industry. The subject will not go away, the Department and probably Ministers are likely to find themselves increasingly involved and under pressure for formal statements; and the popular and UFO press are likely to make all the mileage they can out of the Lords Debate, particularly if there are signs of equivocation or phrases that can easily be misrepresented.

4. Accordingly it is strongly recommended that the Government take an unequivocal and uncompromising line.

~~UNRESTRICTED~~

*arisen because the FCO has*

5. A small difficulty has/ for purely tactical reasons unconnected with UFOs, acceded (with other countries) to a request by the Government of Grenada for a UN study group (at Grenadan expense) to monitor information on UFOs. The wording of that part of the draft speech has been supplied by FCO.
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7. The broad line was put to Lord Strabolgi at our meeting in December and agreed by him. Lord Strabolgi asked for further information about cosmic distances and the difficulties of space travel. I have not included this in the speech, because Lord Clancarty's "sky people" are evidently "paranormal" and can cross the light years in a trice; but some facts are included at the end of the background note.
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9. DES have been consulted and are content.
10. You will no doubt confirm the time and place of the final briefing, which at present we have down for an Wednesday 17 January.

~~UNRESTRICTED~~  
UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

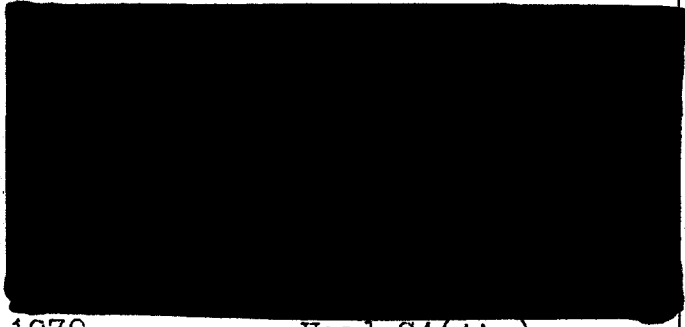
M6 Continued

Clas.

Encl.  
No.

10. Lord Strabolgi asked for a speech of 15-20 minutes plus defensive material. The draft is just under 3000 words, or 20 minutes; I have incorporated all suitable material in the speech, including responses to the points made by Lord Clancarty.

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10 January 1979

Head S4(Air)  
MB 8245

M7

PS/Secretary of State

Copy to:

PS/CS(RAF)  
ACS(G)(RAF)  
DI55 - Mr [redacted]  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)  
Head of S4(Air)

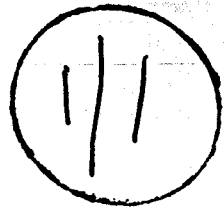
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12 January 1979

PAS/USofS(RAF)

UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

D/S4(Air)/8/3

DI55 - Mr [REDACTED]  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Copy to: ACS(G)(RAF)

UFOs - DEBATE IN THE LORDS

I enclose a first draft of a proposed concluding speech for Lord Strabolgi in the Lords' debate.

2. The draft tries to take account of the points made to us on Thursday by Lord Strabolgi. However, on starting to re-read the Earl of Clancarty's book 'Mysterious Visitors' I have appreciated more fully how heavily the Earl has hedged his bets about space travel: indeed he suggests that the 'sky people' are 'paranormal' and come from 'another space/time dimension'. I do not recommend trying to track the Earl through other dimensions, and suggest we stick to the bare essentials that we proposed to Lord Strabolgi - that there are plenty of phenomena, that there are perfectly sensible explanations for them, and that the explanations offered by ufology are unnecessary and prove idiotic under critical examination.
3. I would be grateful for any recent recorded cases to cover the parts of para 6; otherwise I shall draw on the Condon Report and Klass (the anti-UFO investigator).
4. Clancarty is likely to produce some 'documented and fully authenticated cases'. I would like to be able to demolish one as an illusion. I have provisionally chosen the disappearance of the Norfolk Battalion at Gallipoli, which Clancarty quotes in one of his books: Hd of Army Historical Branch says that this is a 'regular', about which the facts can be produced.
5. I would be grateful for comments, criticisms and additional arguments or cases. At this stage I am particularly anxious to know whether you agree to the main line of arguments. Because time is short I would be grateful for telephone comments.
6. The present draft is about 2,000 words, around 15 minutes.
7. I have copied this minute to ACS(G)(RAF), and I would be grateful for his comments on the general line of argument.



18 December 1978

Head S4(Air)  
MB 8245 [REDACTED]

UFOs - DRAFT CLOSING ADDRESS

There are three grains of truth upon which the great myth of ufology is built.

FIRST: intelligent life could exist elsewhere in the universe. With 100,000 million stars in our own galaxy alone, it is probable that there are many planets capable of supporting life.

SECOND: the technical difficulties of inter-stellar travel are stunning. Even at the speed of light it would take 4 years to reach the nearest star, and 100,000 years to cross our galaxy. But it would be a brave man who said there could never, ever, be manned inter-stellar travel.

THIRD: there really are strange phenomena in the skies, and many are reported by cool and intelligent people.

2. But it is a far cry from this to the proposition that there have been great numbers of sightings of UFOs - implying alien space craft - sometimes claimed as running into hundreds of thousands. Her Majesty's Government is not in the least impressed with the idea that there is anything worth investigating in the information offered by ufologists.

3. On the one hand, there are perfectly simple explanations for the phenomena; on the other, the explanations offered by ufologists are most unconvincing. These explanations are unconvincing when they relate to space craft from other stars: they are even more unconvincing when they claim that UFOs come from another space-time dimension, from a hole in the earth, or the depths of the sea, as Lord Clancarty has suggested.

Let us first consider the phenomena. There have always been strange things to see in the sky, and strange explanations have been given. Since World War II we have seen development of powerful rockets, and voyages to the Moon and planets. We have also seen the development of science fiction, where space ships can be switched to 'inter-stellar drive' and our hero can <sup>cross</sup> come the 2M light years to Andromeda Galaxy in a flash. We have also seen the development of ufology and the UFO industry, which accepts the delightful fantasies of science fiction as proven fact and interprets the phenomena in our skies as alien space craft. Most of the phenomena are seen unexpectedly and very briefly, and are gone before the eye has focussed. The words 'UFO' and 'space craft' have been firmly implanted and too readily spring to mind.

6. But what are the real causes of the phenomena?

a. Some have always occurred: tricks of light on cloud; comets, meteors or showers of meteors; meteorites; bright planets, or even the moon or stars in unusual atmospheric conditions. Venus is popular: there are recorded cases of pilots reporting Venus as an 'unidentified flying object following them'.

b. Meteorological balloons. The Met Office alone release 50 a day, which expand to 40 foot diameter and rise to 100,000 feet and can be lit by the sun well after dark. Many other organisations use balloons, some are much larger, and there are recorded cases of balloons being reported as UFOs by airline pilots.

c. Meteorological searchlights shine on clouds: you cannot see the beam, only a light apparently dancing in the sky.

d. A surprising number of reports relate to aircraft seen in unusual conditions at unusual angles, some very high, some at low level. One recent 'UFO' was confidently reported on local radio: we cannot prove that it was not a 'UFO', but we do know that an RAF Vulcan bomber on a low flying mission passed the same spot at the same time and on the same course as the reported UFO.

e. And satellites: there are some 5000 listed objects in orbit, satellites and space debris. More are added each year, and about 600 re-enter the atmosphere every year. Early this year MOD received many reports of a large piece of debris re-entering across the South of England: most reports were factual, but one spoke of an 'oval shaped thing with a white cockpit which hovered for a while than shot off at great speed'. We cannot prove it wasn't a UFO, but it occurred at the same time and place as some known re-entry of space debris.

7. And of course there are optical illusions. Any phenomena seen through glass are particularly suspect.

8. There are also genuine hallucinations, sometimes on people under stress; the excited tales of the gullible; the embellishments of the born story teller. Also, I fear, downright lies. There are also hoaxes: there are some very effective aerial hoaxes which have been perpetrated by children - which I will not describe for fear of precipitating a new rash of UFO reports.

9. In sum, we cannot prove that all or even most of these so-called sightings were not UFOs. But we can say that there is a great variety of phenomena in the skies for which there are perfectly ordinary explanations. We have no reason to believe that the so-called UFOs are attributed to anything but these same causes.

10. But what of these famous arrivals of UFOs, claimed to be fully documented and authenticated by many witnesses. On scrutiny they tend to be elusive. I will select one, which Lord Clancarty has described in his book Mysterious Visitors as 'one of the most remarkable and unexplained mysteries of modern times'. He claims that during the Gallipoli<sup>u</sup> campaign in 1915, an entire British regiment, the First Fourth Norfolks, was advancing towards Hill 60: a cloud descended and picked up the regiment and it was never heard of again ..... (checking with Army Historical Branch)

11. As I have indicated, there is no criticism of those who accurately report phenomena. The criticism is of over-readiness to call them 'UFOs', and to transpose that into 'alien space craft'. The reports are passed without critical scrutiny to the ufologists; who add<sup>them</sup>, without critical scrutiny, to their huge files of 'reported sightings and landings'.

12. I am sure no-one will deny that - at the least - there are possible rational explanations for the phenomena. Let us now look at the other side of the coin, the range of explanations offered by Lord Clancarty and other ufologists - it is a wide and confusing range, for there are as many different explanations as there are ufologists.

13. Lord Clancarty has been reported as claiming there have been some 80,000 sightings. Other ufologists would put the figure even higher. Now, there is a strange thing about these huge numbers. To put it in simple terms: either these 'space people' prefer to keep out of the way, or they don't. If they prefer to keep out of the way, we must assume that the number of 'sightings' is a tiny proportion of the actual UFO 'sorties', which must run into millions. If they don't one would expect some unmistakable appearances.

14. But let us look at their strange track record:

a. Not a single artefact has been produced - not a single extra-terrestrial chap has dropped an extra-terrestrial spanner, no bent pieces, no prangs from perhaps millions of sorties, no nothing. Lord Clancarty has an answer: the CIA has hidden them all.

b. There is no correlative evidence on radar of this huge number of movements.

c. There has been no radic contact (far easier than space travel) and no evidence on radio.

d. There have been no convincing photographs, in these days when so many people carry cameras.

α. There has been no approach to Governments, and no direct knowledge of UFOs by Governments. Lord Clancarty has an answer: there is a great inter-Governmental conspiracy of silence, initiated by the CIA.

15. The idea of the inter-Governmental conspiracy of silence is at once the most astonishing and the most flattering claim of all. On so few things can the Governments of the world agree unanimously, but they have all supposedly agreed to conceal the evidence of UFOs from their peoples. Let me assure this House that Her Majesty's Government has never been approached by people from outer space.

16. There is no internal consistency about the idea of this huge number of sightings. If they have come from another solar system, what is the point of this huge number of visits to our planet, to no apparent purpose? At best it seems wasteful. This was once explained by the claim that aliens had advance bases the other side of the moon. When that became untenable the bases were assumed to be on another planet in our solar system. As that has become untenable ever more fantastic explanations are advanced. In a recent TV broadcast Lord Clancarty claimed that the UFOs are based in a great hole in the earth. Elsewhere he has claimed that they have bases in remote parts of South America, or in the depths of the oceans. Because these physical places have become untenable he has claimed that (I quote): 'UFOs are paranormal, that is from invisible universes'. They come from 'other space-time continua'. Another ufologist talks of 'space mind/full mind/Mana'. Indeed the explanations get more and more fantastic, and more and more incapable of either proof or disproof.



17. The most telling argument of all is that the scientific community is unmoved by the claims of ufology. A visitor from outer space - or from another space time continua<sup>um</sup>, or the depths of the sea, or anywhere else they are supposed to be hiding - would be <sup>one</sup> of the greatest events in human history, and the greatest scientific event. You would expect serious and sensible scientists to be devoting much time and effort to making contact with these supposed space people. The scientific community is as unimpressed as the Government. If the ufologists claim that the Government has gagged the scientific community, it would be as amazing as the alleged conspiracy of silence between Governments.

18. One could go on indefinitely trying to chase the elusive - indeed devious - arguments of the ufologists. Yes, there has been an increase in the number of 'sightings' reported to the Government: the biggest upsurges occurred when the BBC put out a programme on UFOs, and when the Daily Express launched a campaign in connection with the film premiere of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. No, the Government is not in the least concerned by the increases. [As has been said] Grenada is financing a study into UFOs, and the United Nations has, in a moment of casualness, given that study a vague sort of recognition, and one or two other countries have offered to contribute reports. Her Majesty's Government, if it contributes at all, will contribute on the lines of my speech.

19. There are tens of thousands of strange things to see in the sky. It has become fashionable to call these things 'UFOs'. There are perfectly sensible explanations for these sightings. The ufologist explanations are not sensible at all. In 1968

a comprehensive study on UFOs conducted for the UN<sup>S</sup> Government  
by the University of <sup>Colorado</sup> California concluded that 'nothing has  
come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has  
added to scientific knowledge'. Ufologists may, if they wish,  
continue to believe that Governments and scientists alike are  
engaged in a massive cover-up. However, perhaps our debate  
will help confirm in some other peoples minds ufology may be  
pleasant fantasy but has nothing to do with truth.

*The evidence is adapted to fit  
preconceived ideas. It should be  
to the point.*



Dr Clarke - Request No 3

Papers released on request under the

Code - 9-12-2002

Taken from files D/DS8/75/2/2M &  
D/DS8/75/2/5B.

CLEAN COPY.

75/2/5/9/11

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB007 07/0707 25100367

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 070700Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 060245A SEP: 2.30 HRS

B. ONE LARGE BRIGHT LIGHT LIKE AN OVERGROWN LIGHT SHADE-FLAT AT  
BOTTOM AND TOP

C. LLANFOINT-ABERGAVENY GWENT: OUTDOOR: MOVING

D. NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS

E. NNW

F. OVERHEAD

G. 200 TO 500FT

H. STEADY ROUND THE VILLAGE THEN MOVED TO SW DIRECTION

J. CLEAR GOOD VISIBILITY

K. N/K

L. GWENT POLICE

M. ~~REDACTED~~ OF TRAFFIC DEPT GWENT POLICE

N. A RELIABLE EXPERIENCED UNEXCITABLE PERSON

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 001 UNCLAS

O. ~~REDACTED~~ ABERGAVENY

P. 070250A SEP

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F				
CAB	1	DS 8 ACTION (CXJ	1	DSC(AFDG))
CAM	1	ACS(P)		
CYD	1	DD Ops(GE)(RAF)		
CAV	1	DI 55B(SIC)		
CAV	2	DSTI		

75/2/5/1/28

FROM CH. SUPT. LA DIV. GIPTON

TO FORCE CONTROL FOR THE ATTENTION OF SUPTZ [REDACTED] HOME DEFENCE DEPT.

INFORMATION RE SIGHTING OF UFO.

AT 0341 HOURS THURSDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER 1980 AN ANONYMOUS CALL WAS RECEIVED AT GIPTON POLICE STATION RE THE SIGHTING OF A UFO IN THE SEACROFT AREA OF LEEDS.

A SHORT TIME LATER PC 325 [REDACTED] AND WPC 5391 [REDACTED] WERE ON PATROL IN YORK ROAD LEEDS 14 NEAR TO THE HIGHWAYS FLATS WHEN THEY SAW WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS A VERY BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT ( RESEMBLING THE LANDING LIGHTS OF AN AIRCRAFT AT VERY LOW ALTITUDE ). THERE WAS NO OTHER COLOURED LIGHTS ON THE CRAFT. THE LIGHT WAS TRAVELLING SLOWLY IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION FOLLOWING THE LINE OF THE YORK ROAD AT A VERY SLOW SPEED.

THE OFFICERS FOLLOWED THE OBJECT ALONG YORK ROAD INTO BARWICK ROAD TO THE CORONATION TREE AT SCHOLES WHERE THE LIGHT STOPPED AND REMAINED STATIONARY FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES DURING WHICH TIME THE INTENSITY OF THE LIGHT VARIED FROM VERY BRIGHT TO QUITE DIM.

AFTER THIS TIME THE LIGHT TO MOVE AWAY QUICKLY UPWARDS AND APPEARED TO BE GOING OUT OF SIGHT. THE OFFICERS BEGAN TO RETURN TOWARDS GIPTON POLICE STATION WHEN THE LIGHT REAPPEARED BEHIND THEM AND TRAVELLED ALSO TOWARDS LEEDS FROM THE AREA WHERE IT HAD BEEN SEEN LAST. THE LIGHT TRAVELLED BEHIND THE POLICE CAR FOR ABOUT HALF A MILE WHEN IT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AS IF THE LIGHT HAD BEEN SWITCHED OFF.

GIPTON RADIO WAS KEPT INFORMED THROUGHOUT AND THE RAF AT WEST DRAYTON WERE INFORMED.

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER PC [REDACTED] REFLA 2/11/9/80 TIME NOW 0520.

.9

V  
FROM CH. SUPT. LA DIVISION GIPTON  
TO FORCE CONTROL FRO SUPT FARELL HOME DEFENCE

FURTHER TO TPM LA/2/11/9/80

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE TPM RE THE SIGHTING OF POSSIBLE UFO IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE HIGHT OF THE OBJECT BUT IT WAS VERY LOW IN TE SKY AND I WOULD ESTIMTE ITS HEIGHT AT LESS THAN 1000 FEET.

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER PC WARNER REF LA/3/11/9/80.

.(.

FROM - CHIEF SUPT LC DIVISION (WETHERBY)

TO - CHIEF SUPT HOME DEFENCE

U. 0. SIGHTING REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

~~SECRET~~  
ADMIN 7/2/80/14

AT 03.10 HRS ON SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 80, AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT WAS SEEN BETWEEN BARDSEY AND WETHERBY. THE OBJECT WAS TRAVELLING NORTHWARDS AT A HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 FEET. IT TOOK THE FORM OF A BRIGHT LIGHT ABOUT 10 TIMES BRIGHTER THAN ANY STARS VISIBLE AND AT THAT TIME WAS 4 - 5 TIMES LARGER THAN ANY STAR THERE WAS NO AUDIBLE NOISE AND NO OUTLINE VISIBLE. LEEDS CONTROL WERE INFORMED AT 03.15 HRS. OVER WETHERBY THE OBJECT SUDDENLY CHANGED DIRECTION AND TRAVELLED EAST TOWARDS YORK. IT WAS ~~REKREKIXX~~ FOLLOWED AT APPROX 60 MPH AND PASSED EAST OF THE CITY WHERE SIGHT OF THE OBJECT WAS LOST.

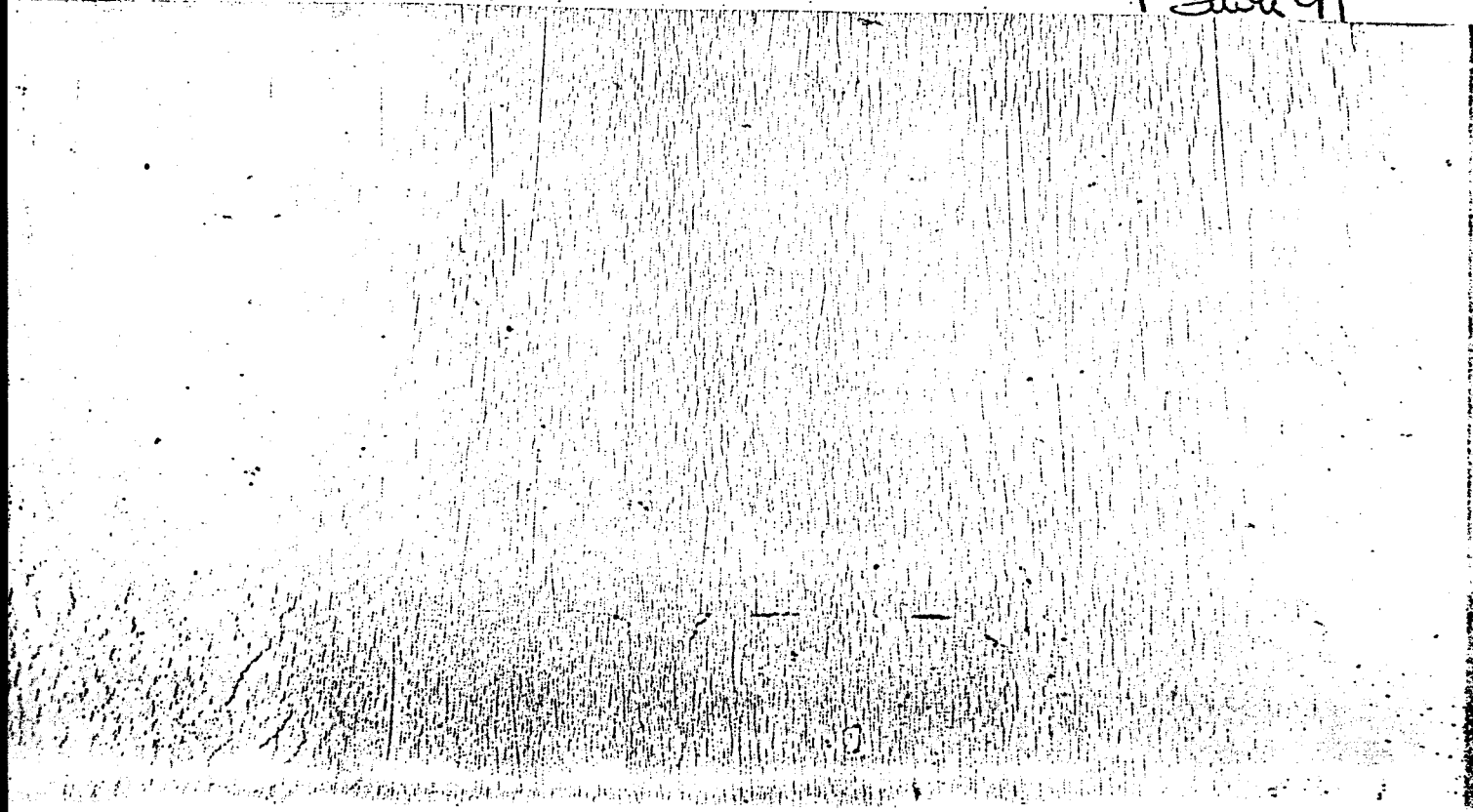
SERGEANT [REDACTED] THE DUTY OFFICER AT THE AIR MINISTRY AT LONDON CONFIRMED THAT THE OBJECT HAD BEEN TRACKED ON RADAR AT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT AND AT THE RADAR STATION AT STAXTON WOLD BUT COLD OFFER NO EXPLANATION.

THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WAS SEE BY [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED].

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER [REDACTED] REFERENCE LC.1/0700/13:9:80

*Letter to H. of Def*

*A. J. [Signature]*



7/2/5/9/86

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. <u>Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.</u>	130300Z to 130410Z SEP 80
B. <u>DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT</u> (Number of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	Circle of 4 bright lights, Cone shaped changing to Diamond shaped.
C. <u>EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER</u> (Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary, moving)	Outdoors, Moving slowly upto speeds of 60 MPH.
D. <u>HOW OBSERVED</u> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical devices, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. <u>DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT FIRST SEEN</u> (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	moving in an Easterly direction from Leeds to York.
F. <u>ANGLE OF SIGHT</u> (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Very Low to 2000'
G. <u>DISTANCE</u> (By reference to known landmark)	None
H. <u>MOVEMENTS</u> (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	No changes in course but speed was variable.
J. <u>MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATIONS</u> (Clouds, haze, mist etc)	Gale conditions in area.

<p>K. <u>NEARBY OBJECTS</u>          (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with flood lights or night lighting)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>L. <u>TO WHOM REPORTED</u>          (Police, military, press etc.)</p>	<p>RAF BOULMER, RAF STAXTON WOLD, UK RAOC, AN D AF Ops.</p>
<p>M. <u>NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT</u></p>	<p><del>REDACTED</del>          West Yorkshire Met  <del>REDACTED</del>          Leeds 1</p>
<p>N. <u>BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED</u></p>	<p></p>
<p>O. <u>OTHER WITNESSES</u></p>	<p><del>REDACTED</del></p>
<p>P. <u>DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT</u></p>	<p>130400Z SEP 80</p>
<p>Q. <u>ANY UNUSUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS</u></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>R. <u>REMARKS</u></p>	<p>The object was followed for the full time of the sighting by <del>REDACTED</del> and <del>REDACTED</del> in a Police car. Manchester Airport ATC also reported to Boulmer that they had a track on the radar screen flying in the same direction and hight as estimated by the police. Due to other reason Boulmer unable to track and Staxton Wold to close.</p>

*JAP Yardley*

Date 13 Sept 80

Sqn Ldr DOO AF Ops

Copies to: DS 8a Cps (GE)2 (RAF) DI 55 (RAF) File  
 Rm 8231 Rm 4260 Rm 3/17  
 Main Bldg Main Bldg Metropole.



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

75/2/5/9/31

UNCLASSIFIED

CWD004 13/0721 25700843

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 130650Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCNIE  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC-Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 130320A-SEP 80 48MINS

B ONE VARIABLE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT

C WETHERBY RACE COURSE

D NAKED EYE

E EAST

F OVERHEAD

G ONE HALF MILE

H STEADY

J SKY CLEAR

K NONE

L LEEDS POLICE STATION

M [REDACTED] LEEDS POLICE STATION WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

N NONE

O TWO POLICE CONSTABLES IN PATROL CAR

PAGE 2 REDPGA 001 UNCLAS

P 130337A SEP

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F			
CAB	1	DS 8 ACTION (CXJ	1 DSC(AFDO)
CAN	1	ACS(P)	
CYD	1	DB CDS(GE)(RAF)	
CAV	1	DI 55B(SIC)	
CAV	2	DSTI	

15 SEP 1980  
FILE

75/2/5/9/29

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB012 13/0542 25700724

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 130410Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BOULMER  
TO MODUK AIR  
INFO HQSTC

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT UFO REPORT REF MOD/AF/3459/75/PT11/S/4F

- A. 130325Z
- B. SLOW AND LOW
- C. MANCHESTER RADAR
- D. RADAR
- E. SOUTH FROM YORK TO WETHERBY
- F. NIL
- G. FAR
- H TO K. NIL
- L. RAF BOULMER
- M. MANCHESTER RADAR
- N. SOBER
- O. NIL
- P. 130335Z

PAGE 2 RBDPIN 001 UNCLAS

RAF BOULMER UNABLE TO ASSIST OWING TO RADAR UNSERVICABILITY.  
ADVISED MANCHESTER RADAR TO CONTACT WEST DRAYTON DRO  
ST

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS S ACTION (CXU 1 DSC(AFDG))
- CAN 1 ACS(P)
- CND 1 DD Cos(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
18 SEP 80  
FILE

75/2/5/9/41

UNCLASSIFIED  
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

CWDS19 18/1004 26201325

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 180910Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BINBROOK  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC-Z6F

SUBJECT-UFO REPORT FOR S4F(AIR)

A 172000A SEP FOR 4 MINS

B ROUND NO SOUND RED/WHITE REVOLVING LIGHT HOVERING

C CRAVEN PARK FOOTBALL GROUND

D NAKED EYE

E SOUTH EAST

F 45 DEGREES

G ONE AND ONE HALF TO TWO MILES HIGH

H NIL

J CLEAR

K NIL

L MILITARY

M [REDACTED], HULL, HUMBERSIDE [REDACTED]

N NIL

O CONSTABLE [REDACTED] FLEACHER, FORTH

PAGE 2= 4208. 003 UNCLAS

P 172359A SEP

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))  
CAN 1 ACS(P)  
CYD 1 DB Ops(GE)(RAF)  
CAY 1 DI 55B(SIC)  
CAY 2 DSTI

END

UNCLASSIFIED

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

D.S.  
19 SEP 1980

FILE

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB052 19/1119 263C1856 CORRECTED VERSION

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 190605Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 190525A SEP 4MINS

B ONE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT

C ADDLESTONE IN CAR

D NAKED EYE

E NORTHWARDS

F MEDIUM

G 2 MILES

H EAST TO WEST DESCENDING THOUGHT IT TO BE LIGHT AIRCRAFT ABOUT TO  
CRASH STOPPED CAR-INVESTIGATED CHERTSEY MEAD WITHOUT RESULT

J SMALL AMOUNT OF CLOUD

K SCATTERED HOUSES

L AISM LATCCMIL

M  SURREY CONSTABULARY WEYBRIDGE

N SERVING POLICEMAN

O PC   
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

CAE	1	DS 8 ACTION (CXJ	1	DSC(AFDO)
CAM	1	ACS(P)		
CYD	1	DD Ops(GE)(RAF)		
CAV	1	DI 55B(SIC)		
CAV	2	DSTI		

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
D.S.S.  
23 SEP 1980  
UNCLASSIFIED

75/2/5/9/57

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

CWDC07 23/0854 26700943

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 230809Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BINBROOK  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED  
Z6F

UFO SIGHTING-FOR 84F-

A 23-SEP, 0500A 30 MINS-

B 1 INTERMITTENT, FLASHING GREEN, RED AND WHITE LIGHTS

C OUTDCORS, STATIONARY M62 EASTBOUND, SOUTH OF SNAITH

D NAKED EYE

E SOUTH, SOUTHEAST TOWARDS VILLAGE OF THORNE

F ANGLE OF SIGHT 45 DEGREES

G GREAT DISTANCE

H NONE

J VIS GOOD, STILL NIGHT, NO CLOUDS

K NONE

L BY POLICE

M [REDACTED] HUMBERSIDE TRAFFIC CONTROL (ON DUTY AT TIME)

N NIL

O A NUMBER OF OTHER VEHICLES STOPPED

PAGE 2 RBDPIM 004 UNCLAS  
P 23 SEP 0525A

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- CND 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
- CNE 1 ACS(P)
- CND 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAY 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAY 2 DSTI

END

UNCLASSIFIED

75/2/5/9  
WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 9 WAKEFIELD WF1 3QP

Telephone: Wakefield (0924) 75222, Extn. 2207

*Our reference:* MS21/JI/SW

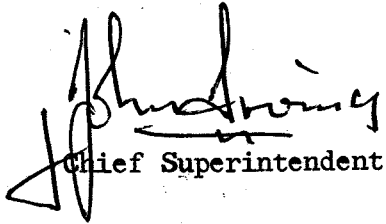
*Your reference:*

29 September 1980

Dear Sir

I enclose for your information a copy of a police report about an incident which occurred in the Gipton Division of this Force on 26 September 1980.

Yours faithfully

  
Chief Superintendent

ENC

• The Ministry of Defence  
Dept S4 (Air)  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE

FROM: Gipton Division

SUBJECT: SIGHTING OF U.F.O.

At 0455 hours Friday, 26 September 1980 PC Black was on patrol in a police vehicle in Selby Road, Leeds 15, travelling towards Selby, when he saw a very bright white light in the sky to his left. The object, which was spherical in shape moved with the police vehicle at a height of approximately 1,000 to 2,000 feet about half a mile away. When the police vehicle was stopped the object continued to move in the sky. When the police vehicle changed direction travelling down Selby Road, the object continued to follow and on approaching the railway bridge at the bottom of Selby Road the object rose into the sky and vanished.

75/2/5/9

From: LEEMING OPERATIONS

Reference: LEEM/4223/2/AIR

To: ~~REDACTED~~ MOI) DS8C

TELEPHONED REPORT OF FLYING COMPLAINT/SONIC BOOMS/CLAIMS ETCETRA / UFO REPORTS

1. Date and time, also position on Incident (GP/Co-ord if possible)  
SEP 23 2000 A OVERHEAD ~~REDACTED~~ BISHOP AUCKLAND
2. Height and heading ... 1000 FT. (HOVERING) HEADED ~~NORTH~~ EAST  
... TOWARDS SPENNYMOOR WHERE SIGHTED AGAIN AND LATER CROOKS
3. Number and description of ~~aircraft~~ UFO ... (CONICLE SHAPE), SPOKE SHAPE)  
MARKS ON BASE AND
4. Name and address of Complainant ... PCW EBERT, BISHOP AUCKLAND)  
... POLICE, NORTH YORKSHIRE  
SIGHTERS
5. Complainant's Telephone Number ... BISHOP AUCKLAND 250317
6. Date and Time report received ... SEP 23 1000
7. Additional information (ie Any Claims etc) ... UFO SIGHTED THREE  
... TIMES BY POLICE, FIRST AT NEWGATE ST BISHOP AUCKLAND,  
SPENNYMOOR AND FINALLY CROOK. NO NOISE REPORTED  
APOLOGIZE FOR LATE REPORTING OF INCIDENT, NIL INFO  
HELD AT LEEMING ON WHERE TO SEND REPORTS
8. Comments (Aircraft bookings where applicable at para 9) .....

ROYAL NAVAL ELEMENTARY FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL AT  
RAF TOPCLIFFE NIGHTFLYING BULLDOG A/C

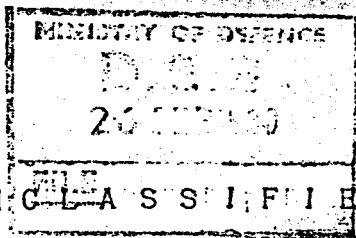
9. a. AIRCRAFT TYPE .....
- b. BASE .....
- c. CALLSIGN .....
- d. ENTRY POINT .....
- e. TIME IN .....
- f. EXIT POINT .....
- g. TIME OUT .....
- h. HEIGHT .....
- j. SPEED .....

Date ... 7 OCT 80

Signed ... *[Signature]*  
Rank ... SAC Ext 233



65



CWD014 26/1007 27001209

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 260950Z SEP 80

FROM RAF LEUCHARS  
 TO MODUK -  
 - MODUK AIR  
 INFO HQSTC  
 UKRAOC

U-N C L A S S I F I E D  
 SIC Z6F/Z99 (Z99 INSTD BY DCC NOT TO BE USED IN REPLY)  
 FOR THE ATTENTION OF AFOR(RAF) UFO REPORT

- A. 26 SEP-0030 HOURS 5-6 MINUTES
- B. ONE OBJECT, VERY LARGE SPOTLIGHT, STEADY LIGHT, NO BEAM. NO IDEA OF SIZE OR SHAPE. COLOUR WHITE
- C. OUTSIDE POLICE STATION STATIONARY FOR 2-3 MINUTES THEN SPED OFF
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. NORTH OF LIVINGSTONE THEN TRAVELLED WESTWARDS
- F. UNKNOWN
- G. 1-MILE
- H. FIRST HEADING NORTH AND THEN TURNED WEST
- J. VERY CLOUDY BUT OBJECT WAS BELOW CLOUDS

PAGE-2 RBDPIW 001 UNCLAS

- K. NIL
  - L. [REDACTED]
  - M. [REDACTED] POLICE STATION, WEST LOTHIAN
  - N. NIL
  - O. TWO OTHER POLICEMEN
  - P. 26 SEP 0550 HOURS
  - Q. YES
- BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
- CAM 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DB Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI
- C
- NO SDL

75/21218/83  
65

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
D.S. 8  
29 SEP 1980  
FILE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CABØ35 27/2255 27101421

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 27221ØZ SEP 8Ø

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 2722ØØA, 26 MINUTES
- B. ONE ELANGATED PEAR SHAPED OBJECT ORANGE LIGHT STEADY NO NOISE OR SMELL
- C. COATBRIDGE NR GLASGOW, OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. NORTH-EAST
- F. APPROX 5Ø DEGS
- G. APPROX 1Ø MILES
- H. SLOWLY TO SE
- J. SMALL AMOUNT AT 15ØØØFT MAINLY AT 25ØØØFT
- K. NOT GIVEN
- L. SCOTTISH ATC
- M. ██████████, ██████████ ██████████ COATBRIDGE NR GLASGOW
- N. NOT GIVEN

PAGE 2 RBDPGA ØØ1 UNCLAS

- O. TWO
- P. 272245A SEP
- Q. SAME PHENOMENA SEEN BY THREE POLICE CONSTABLES AT RUTHER GLEN NAMES ARE ██████████, ██████████ AND ██████████ OF RUTHER GLEN POLICE STATION. ALSO ██████████ TOOK STILL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE OBJECT POLICE CONSTABLES DESCRIBED THE OBJECT AS THIN VERTICAL BEAM ABOUT THREE FEET LONG
- BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDØ))
- CAM 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI

U N C L A S S I F I E D

75/2/5/9

REP. OF FOR.  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT  
MANUAL OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE Part 1  
20.12.76 Amendment 12.

Date, Time Duration of Sighting.

27092115 30 MINUTES

Description of Object

THIN VERTICAL BEAM - ORANGE COLOUR

Exact Position of Observer.

RUTHERGLEN - OUTDOORS - STATIONARY

How Observed.

NAKED EYE

Direction in which Object was first seen.

NORTH EAST

Angular Elevation of Object

45 DEG

Distance of Object from Observer.

10 - 15 MILES

Movements of Object.

STATIONARY

Meteorological Conditions During Observations.

Moving Clouds, Haze, mist etc.

CLEAR.

Nearby Objects.

To Whom Reported.

SCATEE

ATLANTIC HOUSE, PRESTWICK

Name & Address of Informant.

P.C. A. FLETCHER

P.C. A. KERR

P.C. J. CALLAN

} RUTHERGLEN  
POLICE OFFICE

Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered.

Other Witnesses.

Date & Time of Receipt of Report.

27092200 GMT

75/2/5/9/11

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB007 07/0707 25100367

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 070700Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

*Redacted in accordance  
with the Data Protection Act 98.*

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 060245A SEP: 2.30 HRS
- B. ONE LARGE BRIGHT LIGHT LIKE AN OVERGROWN LIGHT SHADE-FLAT AT BOTTOM AND TOP
- C. LLANFOINT-ABERGAVENY GWENT: OUTDOOR: MOVING
- D. NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS
- E. NNW
- F. OVERHEAD
- G. 200 TO 500FT
- H. STEADY ROUND THE VILLAGE THEN MOVED TO SW DIRECTION
- J. CLEAR GOOD VISIBILITY
- K. N/K
- L. GWENT POLICE
- M. [REDACTED] OF TRAFFIC DEPT GWENT POLICE
- N. A RELIABLE EXPERIENCED UNEXCITABLE PERSON

PAGE 2 RBDPGA-001 UNCLAS

O. [REDACTED] ABERGAVENY

P. 070250A SEP

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
- CAM 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI

75/2/5/1/2\*

FROM CH. SUPT. LA DIV. GIPTON

TO FORCE CONTROL FOR THE ATTENTION OF SUPTZ [REDACTED] HOME DEFENCE DEPT

INFORMATION RE SIGHTING OF UFO.

AT 0341 HOURS THURSDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER 1980 AN ANONYMOUS CALL WAS RECEIVED AT GIPTON POLICE STATION RE THE SIGHTING OF A UFO IN THE SEACROFT AREA OF LEEDS.

A SHORT TIME LATER PC [REDACTED] AND WPC [REDACTED] WERE ON PATROL IN YORK ROAD LEEDS 14 NEAR TO THE HIGHWAYS FLATS WHEN THEY SAW WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS A VERY BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT ( RESEMBLING THE LANDING LIGHTS OF AN AIRCRAFT AT VERY LOW ALTITUDE ). THERE WAS NO OTHER COLOURED LIGHTS ON THE CRAFT. THE LIGHT WAS TRAVELLING SLOWLY IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION FOLLOWING THE LINE OF THE YORK ROAD AT A VERY SLOW SPEED.

THE OFFICERS FOLLOWED THE OBJECT ALONG YORK ROAD INTO BARWICK ROAD TO THE CORONATION TREE AT SCHOLES WHERE THE LIGHT STOPPED AND REMAINED STATIONARY FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES DURING WHICH TIME THE INTENSITY OF THE LIGHT VARIED FROM VERY BRIGHT TO QUITE DIM.

AFTER THIS TIME THE LIGHT BEGAN TO MOVE AWAY QUICKLY UPWARDS AND APPEARED TO BE GOING OUT OF SIGHT. THE OFFICERS BEGAN TO RETURN TOWARDS GIPTON POLICE STATION WHEN THE LIGHT REAPPEARED BEHIND THEM AND TRAVELLED ALSO TOWARDS LEEDS FROM THE AREA WHERE IT HAD BEEN SEEN LAST. THE LIGHT TRAVELLED BEHIND THE POLICE CAR FOR ABOUT HALF A MILE WHEN IT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AS IF THE LIGHT HAD ~~BEEN~~ BEEN SWITCHED OFF.

GIPTON RADIO WAS KEPT INFORMED THROUGHOUT AND THE RAF AT WEST DRAYTON WERE INFORMED.

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER PC [REDACTED] REFLA 2/11/9/80 TIME NOW 0520.

.9

V  
FROM CH. SUPT. LA DIVISION GIPTON  
TO FORCE CONTROL FROM SUPT [REDACTED] HOME DEFENCE

FURTHER TO TPM LA/2/11/9/80

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE TPM RE THE SIGHTING OF POSSIBLE UFO IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE HEIGHT OF THE OBJECT BUT IT WAS VERY LOW IN THE SKY AND I WOULD ESTIMATE ITS HEIGHT AT LESS THAN 1000 FEET.

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER PC [REDACTED] REF LA/3/11/9/80.

.6

7/2/5/9/86

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. <u>Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.</u>	130300Z to 130410Z SEP 80
B. <u>DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT</u> (Number of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	Circle of 4 bright lights, Cone shaped changing to Diamond shaped.
C. <u>EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER</u> (Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary, moving)	Outdoors, Moving slowly upto speeds of 60 MPH.
D. <u>HOW OBSERVED</u> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical devices, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. <u>DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT FIRST SEEN</u> (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	moving in an Easterly direction from Leeds to York.
F. <u>ANGLE OF SIGHT</u> (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Very Low to 2000'
G. <u>DISTANCE</u> (By reference to known landmark)	None
H. <u>MOVEMENTS</u> (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	No changes in course but speed was variable.
J. <u>MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATIONS</u> (Clouds, haze, mist etc)	Gale conditions in area.

<p><u>K. NEARBY OBJECTS</u>          (Telephone lines, high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with flood lights or night lighting)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>L. TO WHOM REPORTED</u>          (Police, military, press etc.)</p>	<p>RAF BOULMER, RAF STAXTON WOLD, UK RAOC, AN D AF Ops.</p>
<p><u>M. NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT</u></p>	<p>[REDACTED]          West Yorkshire Met          [REDACTED]          Leeds 1</p>
<p><u>N. BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED</u></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><u>O. OTHER WITNESSES</u></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><u>P. DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT</u></p>	<p>130400Z SEP 80</p>
<p><u>Q. ANY UNUSUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS</u></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>R. REMARKS</u></p>	<p>The object was followed for the full time of the sighting by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in a Police car. Manchester Airport ATC also reported to Boulmer that they had a track on the radar screen flying in the same direction and height as estimated by the police. Due to other reason Boulmer unable to track and Staxton Wold to close.</p>

[REDACTED]

Date 13 Sept 80

Sqn Ldr DDO AF Ops

Copies to: DS 8a Ops (GE)2 (RAF) DI 55 (RAF) File  
 Rm 8231 Rm 4260 Rm 3/17  
 Main Bldg Main Bldg Metropole.

75/2/5/9/31

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

CWD004 13/0721 25700843

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 130650Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIE  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC-Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A 130320A-SEP 80 48MINS
- B ONE VARIABLE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT
- C WETHERBY RACE COURSE
- D NAKED EYE
- E EAST
- F OVERHEAD
- G ONE HALF MILE
- H STEADY
- J SKY CLEAR
- K NONE
- L LEEDS POLICE STATION
- M [REDACTED] LEEDS POLICE STATION WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE
- N NONE
- O TWO POLICE CONSTABLES IN PATROL CAR

PAGE-2 REDPCA 001 UNCLAS  
P 130337A SEP  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
- CAM 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DB OBS(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI



FROM - CHIEF SUPT LC DIVISION (WETHERBY)

~~SECRET~~  
ADMIN 7/2/80/4

TO - CHIEF SUPT HOME DEFENCE

U.F. SIGHTING [REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT]

AT 03.10 HRS ON SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 80, AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT WAS SEEN BETWEEN BARDSEY AND WETHERBY. THE OBJECT WAS TRAVELLING NORTHWARDS AT A HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 FEET. IT TOOK THE FORM OF A BRIGHT LIGHT ABOUT 10 TIMES BRIGHTER THAN ANY STARS VISIBLE AND AT THAT TIME WAS 4 - 5 TIMES LARGER THAN ANY STAR THERE WAS NO AUDIBLE NOISE AND NO OUTLINE VISIBLE. LEEDS CONTROL WERE INFORMED AT 03.15 HRS. OVER WETHERBY THE OBJECT SUDDENLY CHANGED DIRECTION AND TRAVELLED EAST TOWARDS YORK. IT WAS ~~REKREKXKX~~ FOLLOWED AT APPROX 60 MPH AND PASSED EAST OF THE CITY WHERE SIGHT OF THE OBJECT WAS LOST.

SERGEANT [REDACTED] THE DUTY OFFICER AT THE AIR MINISTRY AT LONDON CONFIRMED THAT THE OBJECT HAD BEEN TRACKED ON RADAR AT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT AND AT THE RADAR STATION AT STAXTON WOLD BUT COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION.

THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WAS SEEN BY [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

MESSAGE ENDS SENDER [REDACTED] REFERENCE LC.1/0700/13:9:80

T  
Letter to HQ of DE

A. J. [Signature]

15 SEP 1980  
FILE

75/2/S/A/29

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB012 13/0542 25700724

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 130410Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BOULMER  
TO MODUK AIR  
INFO HQSTC

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT UFO REPORT REF MOD/AF/3459/75/PT11/S/4F

- A. 130325Z
- B. SLOW AND LOW
- C. MANCHESTER RADAR
- D. RADAR
- E. SOUTH FROM YORK TO WETHERBY
- F. NIL
- G. FAR
- H TO K. NIL
- L. RAF BOULMER
- M. MANCHESTER RADAR
- N. SOBER
- O. NIL
- P. 130335Z

PAGE 2 RBDPIN 001 UNCLAS

RAF BOULMER UNABLE TO ASSIST OWING TO RADAR UNSERVICABILITY.

ADVISED MANCHESTER RADAR TO CONTACT WEST DRAYTON DRO

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFD0))
- CAN 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
18 SEP 80  
FILE

73/2/5/9/41

UNCLASSIFIED  
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

CWD019 18/1004 26201325

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 180910Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BINBROOK  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC-Z6F

SUBJECT-UFO REPORT FOR S4F(AIR)

A 172000A SEP FOR 4 MINS

B ROUND NO SOUND RED/WHITE REVOLVING LIGHT HOVERING

C CRAVEN PARK FOOTBALL GROUND

D NAKED EYE

E SOUTH EAST

F 45 DEGREES

G ONE AND ONE HALF TO TWO MILES HIGH

H NIL

J CLEAR

K NIL

L MILITARY

M [REDACTED] HULL, HUMBERSIDE [REDACTED]

N NIL

O CONSTABLE [REDACTED], FORTH

PAGE 2= 4208.003 UNCLAS

P 172359A SEP

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))  
CAM 1 ACS(P)  
CYD 1 DB Ops(GE)(RAF)  
CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)  
CAV 2 DSTI

END

UNCLASSIFIED

15/2/5/9/46

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
D.S.  
19 SEP 1980  
FILE

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB052 19/1119 263C1856 CORRECTED VERSION

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 190605Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A 190525A SEP 4MINS

B ONE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT

C ADDLESTONE IN CAR

D NAKED EYE

E NORTHWARDS

F MEDIUM

G 2 MILES

H EAST TO WEST DESCENDING THOUGHT IT TO BE LIGHT AIRCRAFT ABOUT TO  
CRASH STOPPED CAR- INVESTIGATED CHERTSEY MEAD WITHOUT RESULT

J SMALL AMOUNT OF CLOUD

K SCATTERED HOUSES

L AISM LATCCMIL

M [REDACTED] SURREY CONSTABULARY WEYBRIDGE [REDACTED]

N SERVING POLICEMAN

O PC [REDACTED]  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F					
CAB	1	DS 8 ACTION	( CXJ	1	DSC(AFDO) )
CAM	1	ACS(P)			
CYD	1	DD Ops(GE)(RAF)			
CAV	1	DI 55B(SIC)			
CAV	2	DSTI			

75/2/5/9

From: LEEMING OPERATIONS

Reference: LEEM/4223/2/AIR

To: ~~██████████~~ MOI) D88C

TELEPHONED REPORT OF FLYING COMPLAINT/SONIC BOOMS/CLAIMS ETCETRA / UFO REPORTS

1. Date and time, also position on Incident (GP/Co-ord if possible)  
SEP 23 2000 A. OVERHEARD ~~██████████~~ BISHOP AUCKLAND
2. Height and heading ... 1000 FT. (HOVERING) HEADED ~~NORTH~~ EAST  
TOWARDS SPENNYMOOR WHERE SIGHTED AGAIN, AND LATER CROOKS
3. Number and description of ~~UFO~~ (CONICLE SHAPE), SPOKE SHAPE)  
MARKS ON BASE AND
4. Name and address of Complainant ... PCW ██████████ BISHOP AUCKLAND  
POLICE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
5. Complainant's Telephone Number ... BISHOP AUCKLAND ██████████
6. Date and Time report received ... SEP 23 1000
7. Additional information (ie Any Claims etc) ... UFO SIGHTED THREE  
TIMES BY POLICE, FIRST AT NEWGATE ST BISHOP AUCKLAND  
SPENNYMOOR AND FINALLY CROOK. NO NOISE REPORTED  
APOLOGIZE FOR LATE REPORTING OF INCIDENT, NIL INFO  
HELD AT LEEMING ON WHERE TO SEND REPORTS
8. Comments (Aircraft bookings where applicable at para 9)

ROYAL NAVAL ELEMENTRY FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL AT  
RAF TOPCLIFFE NIGHTFLYING BULLDOG A/C

9. a. AIRCRAFT TYPE
- b. BASE
- c. CALLSIGN
- d. ENTRY POINT
- e. TIME IN
- f. EXIT POINT
- g. TIME OUT
- h. HEIGHT
- j. SPEED

Date ... 7 OCT 80

Signed ██████████  
Mark ... SAC Ext ██████████

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
D.S.S.  
23 SEP 80  
UNCLASSIFIED

75/2/5/9/57

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

CWD007 23/0854 267C0943

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 230809Z SEP 80

FROM RAF BINBROOK  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

ZC Z6F

UFO SIGHTING FOR S4F-

A 23-SEP, 0500A 30 MINS-

B 1 INTERMITTENT, FLASHING GREEN, RED AND WHITE LIGHTS

C OUTDOORS, STATIONARY M62 EASTBOUND, SOUTH OF SNAITH

D NAKED EYE

E SOUTH, SOUTHEAST TOWARDS VILLAGE OF THORNE

F ANGLE OF SIGHT 45 DEGREES

G GREAT DISTANCE

H NONE

J VIS GOOD, STILL NIGHT, NO CLOUDS

K NONE

L BY POLICE

M [REDACTED] HUMBERSIDE TRAFFIC CONTROL (ON DUTY AT TIME)

N NIL

O A NUMBER OF OTHER VEHICLES STOPPED

PAGE 2 RBDFIM 004 UNCLAS

P 23 SEP 0525A

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAE 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
- CAH 1 ACS(P)
- CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
- CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)
- CAV 2 DSTI

END

UNCLASSIFIED

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

75/2/5/9  
WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE



ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 9 WAKEFIELD WF1 3QP

Telephone: Wakefield (0924) [REDACTED]

Our reference: MS21/JI/SW

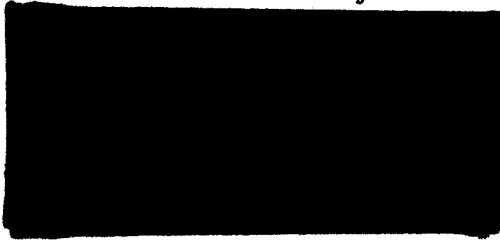
Your reference:

29 September 1980

Dear Sir

I enclose for your information a copy of a police report about an incident which occurred in the Gipton Division of this Force on 26 September 1980.

Yours faithfully



ENC

• The Ministry of Defence  
Dept S4 (Air)  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE

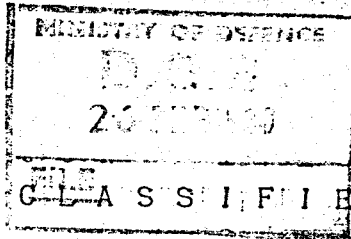
FROM: Gipton Division

SUBJECT: SIGHTING OF U.F.O.

At 0455 hours Friday, 26 September 1980 PC [REDACTED] was on patrol in a police vehicle in Selby Road, Leeds 15, travelling towards Selby, when he saw a very bright white light in the sky to his left. The object, which was spherical in shape moved with the police vehicle at a height of approximately 1,000 to 2,000 feet about half a mile away. When the police vehicle was stopped the object continued to move in the sky. When the police vehicle changed direction travelling down Selby Road, the object continued to follow and on approaching the railway bridge at the bottom of Selby Road the object rose into the sky and vanished.



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



UNCLASSIFIED

CWD014 26/1007 27001209

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 260950Z SEP 80

FROM RAF LEUCHARS  
TO MODUK --  
MODUK AIR  
INFO HQSTC  
UKRAOC

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC Z6F/Z99 (Z99 INSTD BY DCC NOT TO BE USED IN REPLY)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF AFOR(RAF) UFO REPORT

- A. 26 SEP-0030 HOURS 5-6 MINUTES
- B. ONE OBJECT, VERY LARGE SPOTLIGHT, STEADY LIGHT, NO BEAM. NO IDEA OF SIZE-OR SHAPE. COLOUR WHITE--
- C. OUTSIDE POLICE STATION STATIONARY FOR 2-3 MINUTES THEN SPED OFF
- D. NAKED EYE---
- E. NORTH OF LIVINGSTONE THEN TRAVELLED WESTWARDS
- F. UNKNOWN
- G. 1-MILE --
- H. FIRST HEADING NORTH AND THEN TURNED WEST
- J. VERY CLOUDY BUT OBJECT WAS BELOW CLOUDS

PAGE-2 RBDPIW 001 UNCLAS

K. NIL

L. [REDACTED]

M. [REDACTED] POLICE STATION, WEST LOTHIAN

N. NIL

O. TWO OTHER POLICEMEN

P. 26 SEP 0550 HOURS

Q. YES

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 DS 8 ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))

CAM 1 ACS(P)

CYD 1 DB Ops(GE)(RAF)

CAV 1 DI 55B(SIC)

CAV 2 DSTI

C

NO SDL

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

75/2/5/9/83  
65  
OF DEFENCE  
D.S.8  
29 SEP 1980  
FILE

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB035 27/2255 27101421

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 272210Z SEP 80

FROM LATCCMIL  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 272200A, 26 MINUTES
- B. ONE ELANGATED PEAR SHAPED OBJECT ORANGE LIGHT STEADY NO NOISE OR SMELL
- C. COATBRIDGE NR GLASGOW, OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. NORTH-EAST
- F. APPROX 50 DEGS
- G. APPROX 10 MILES
- H. SLOWLY TO SE
- J. SMALL AMOUNT AT 15000FT MAINLY AT 25000FT
- K. NOT GIVEN
- L. SCOTTISH ATC
- M. [REDACTED] COATBRIDGE NR GLASGOW
- N. NOT GIVEN

PAGE 2 RBDPGA 001 UNCLAS

O. TWO

P. 272245A SEP

Q. SAME PHENOMENA SEEN BY THREE POLICE CONSTABLES AT RUTHER GLEN  
 NAMES ARE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] OF RUTHER GLEN POLICE  
 STATION. ALSO [REDACTED] TOOK STILL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE OBJECT  
 POLICE CONSTABLES DESCRIBED THE OBJECT AS THIN VERTICAL BEAM  
 ABOUT THREE FEET LONG  
 BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB	1	DS 8 ACTION (CXJ	1	DSC(AFDO):)
CAM	1	ACS(P)		
CYD	1	DD Ops(GE)(RAF)		
CAV	1	DI 55B(SIC)		
CAV	2	DSTI		

U N C L A S S I F I E D

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

MANUAL OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE Part 1

20.12.76 Amendment 12.

Date, Time Duration of Sighting REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

27092115 30 MINUTES

Description of Object

THIN VERTICAL BEAM - ORANGE COLOUR

Exact Position of Observer.

RUTHERGLEN - OUTDOORS - STATIONARY

How Observed.

NAKED EYE

Direction in which Object was first seen.

NORTH EAST

Angular Elevation of Object

45 DEG

Distance of Object from Observer.

10 - 15 MILES

Movements of Object.

STATIONARY

Meteorological Conditions During Observations.

Moving Clouds, Haze, mist etc.

CLEAR.

Nearby Objects.

/

To Whom Reported.

SCATEE

ATLANTIC HOUSE, PRESTWICK

Name & Address of Informant.

P.C.  
P.C.  
P.C.



RUTHERGLEN  
POLICE OFFICE

Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered.

Other Witnesses.

Date & Time of Receipt of Report.

27092200 GMT



DR CLARKE - Request 5.

Papers released on request under the  
Code - 9-12-2002

Taken from: D/Sec (AS) 64/2 D and.  
D/Sec (AS) 64/4 B

CLEAN COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

POLICE IN CONFIDENCE

COS/87/2/Sy

RAF Police Flight  
RAF Cosford  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV7 3EX

OC RAF Police Flt

Mar 93

Sir,

POSSIBLE UFO SIGHTINGS

1. I have to report that at RAF Cosford on 31 Mar 93 at 0115 hours in company with Cpl [REDACTED] RAF Police, I was on mobile patrol of Leeming Road, adjacent to the Gravel Car Park when I saw two bright lights in the sky above the Airfield. The lights appeared to be flying at great velocity in a South Easterly direction at an altitude of approximately 1000 feet. The lights were circular in shape and gave off no beam. They were creamy white in colour and constant in size and in relation to each other.
2. I brought the vehicle to a standstill and pointed out the lights to Cpl [REDACTED] I switched off the vehicle engine and we both got out of the car and observed the lights. There was no sound of any engine noise despite there being no wind and the sky being free from cloud. The lights were observed over-flying the Unit and away towards the Wolverhampton area. A slight red glow could be seen from the rear of the lights as they disappeared from view over the horizon. The lights were visible for approximately one minute.
3. Myself and Cpl [REDACTED] then returned to the COC and I contacted RAF Shawbury. I was informed that there were no aircraft flying from there.
4. At 0125 hours, I contacted ATC at RAF Lyneham and was informed that there were no known aircraft in the area of Cosford.
5. At 0127 hours, I contacted RAF Brize Norton and was informed the same.
6. At 0128 hours, I was informed by the Ord Cpl, Cpl [REDACTED] 40 that a [REDACTED] tion 40 [REDACTED] Rugeley, Staffordshire had reported seeing the same lights over Rugeley. Four members of [REDACTED] party had also witnessed the lights. [REDACTED] had followed the lights which he described as being cream in colour at an altitude of 900-1000 feet and an estimated size of 200 metres. He could hear a humming noise as the object flew directly above him. [REDACTED] stated that he believed that the object landed in an area known as Hazelslade but when he approached he could not find any signs of the landing. [REDACTED] tion 40 [REDACTED] was instructed to inform his local Civil Police Force, which he did, and during a subsequent conversation, it was established that a Constable from Staffordshire Police had visited [REDACTED]
7. At 0130 hours, I informed West Mercia Police, [REDACTED] of the sightings.

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8. At 0140 hours, I informed HQ P&SS (UK), Cpl [REDACTED] of the incident.

9. At 0142 hours, I informed RAF West Drayton, Lt Cdr [REDACTED] of the incident, and he confirmed that there was no military aircraft of any kind in UK airspace and there had not been since 0001 hours.

10. At 0143 hours, the Senior Air Traffic Controller at Birmingham International Airport was contacted, and he confirmed that there were no civilian aircraft in Cosford Airspace and had not been for some hours.

11. At 0215 hours, OC RAF Police Flt and the Ord Off, Flt Lt [REDACTED] were informed of the incident.

12. At 0250 hours, [REDACTED] RAF Shawbury Met Office, contacted Cpl [REDACTED] and stated that he had seen two lights in the sky at RAF Shawbury. The lights were first sighted approximately 15-20 kms away and [REDACTED] on 40 [REDACTED] observed them travel towards him over the Airfield moving erratically at hundreds of miles per hour unlike any aircraft. He described the lights as appearing to be searching for something. He heard a low humming noise and watched the object for 5 minutes until it disappeared from sight in a southerly direction. [REDACTED] stated that he had been a Met Officer for 8 years and had never seen anything like it before.

13. At 0300 hours, Cpl [REDACTED] contacted a [REDACTED] the Met Officer at Bristol Airport, who stated that similar lights had been seen there at 0055 hours. He had initially put the lights down to adverse meteor activity but in the light of the subsequent reports recorded it as unidentified.

14. At 0310 hours, West Mercia Police were made aware of the further reports and would contact Staffordshire and Avon & Somerset Forces to correlate the reports.

15. At 0330 hours I resumed normal duties.

[REDACTED]  
Cpl [REDACTED]  
RAF Police

UNCLASSIFIED

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# RAF POLICE SITUATION REPORT.30-31 MAR 93.

DOB NO	DATE / TIME	PERSON REPORTING	OCCURRENCE	ACTION TAKEN
702/1/93	31 Mar 93 0115 hrs	RAFP Patrol	<b><u>POSSIBLE UFO SIGHTING.</u></b> Reports sighting two white lights overflying the Unit in a South Easterly direction at a height of 1000 feet. The velocity of the lights suggested fast jets, however, no collision beacons could be seen.	1. ATC units at Lyneham, Stize, Shawbury, Birmingham and West Drayton contacted and it was established that no Aircraft were flying.
	0125 hrs	[REDACTED] Rugeley	Reports the same lights in the Rugley area flying erratically. He had followed the lights and seen them land at Hazelslade. He had got within 200 feet of what he described as flying saucers, but on entering the area they had landed could not locate them. Report recorded by Ord Cpl.	2. All details passed to W. Mercia Police and P&SS.
	0250 hrs	[REDACTED] O Shawbury Met Office	Reports to the Ord Cpl that lights of the same description had been seen in RAF Shawbury Airspace heading South.	3. [REDACTED] contacted Staffs Police, who attended the scene.
	0300 hrs	[REDACTED] D Bristol Met Office	Report that the lights had been seen there also. Initially it was presumed they were meteorites, but in light of other sightings could offer no explanation and recorded the sighting as unidentified.	4. Ord Off and OC Police informed.  5. [REDACTED] 40 [REDACTED] certain that the lights could not be Aircraft of a known kind.  6. Avon & Somerset Police were informed by Airport Staff.  7. West Mercia Police were informed of the further sightings and will correlate all reports.  8. Report submitted by Cpl [REDACTED]

OC POLICE  
 31 MAR 1993  
 RAF COSFORD

D - U - F - O - R - O  
(Devon UFO Research Organisation)

[Redacted]

Honiton  
Devon [Redacted]

Tel: [Redacted]

14th March 1993

[Redacted]

SEC (AS) 2A  
Room 8245  
MOD Main Building  
Whithall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [Redacted]

Firstly, thankyou for your help when I rang you last week re: the sighting of an unknown object on Wednesday 31st March '93 over Wales and the Westcountry.

As requested I am enclosing a copy of my hastily prepared Interim Report concerning this event. It will obviously take some time to collate all the information I receive, but once this is completed I will let you have a copy of my final report.

I understood from our conversation, that you have also received some reports of this event and would appreciate anything you can tell me concerning this. I have no idea at present what flew over this area on the night in question, all I do know is that it was very big, was shaped something like a 'Catamaran' and was completely silent!

Once again many thanks for your help.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely  
[Redacted]

DUFORO



D - U - F - O - R - O  
(Devon UFO Research Organisation)

[REDACTED]  
Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

INTERIM REPORT

Case No 933

Case Name - 'Westcountry / Wales Sightings - 31st March 1993'

Introduction

At 2.20am on the morning of 31st March 1993, I received phone call from Sgt J. [REDACTED] of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force informing me that at 1.10am he had observed 2 very bright white objects hovering at approximately 2,000' north of his position, S.E. of Liskeard on the A38. He had been notified of the objects presence in the area, by two other Police Officers, P.Cs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. These officers were travelling out of Liskeard in a north westerly direction and had themselves observed the two objects approaching from the N.E. Sgt [REDACTED] watched the objects for a few seconds before they started to ascend fairly quickly and moved S.E. in an arc to a height of about 10,000' towards Torpoint, Plymouth, Devon.

Following this report, I contacted the Police Control Headquarters at Exeter, Devon and was informed by an officer on duty that they had received a number of similar reports from other Police Officers in Ilfracombe, Plymouth and East Devon. They also mentioned a report from the South Wales Gwent Police. Acting on this information, I telephoned the police station at Ilfracombe, (Nth Devon) and spoke to a Sgt [REDACTED] who informed me that at approximately 1.10am whilst driving down into Lynton, with another officer (P.C. [REDACTED]) they saw two

(2)

very large bright white lights approaching from the north, across the Bristol Channel. He estimated their height to be about 2,000'. As the lights passed overhead, both officers discerned a structure between the lights and estimated that an object some 500' wide with lights on either side had passed over their heads at low altitude! They subsequently logged a report of this event with their headquarters.

After this call, I contacted the Plymouth police and was informed that they had received a call, about 1.10am, from a gentleman who reported seeing two very bright lights, flying fairly high over Stoke (Plymouth) and proceeding in a S.Easterly direction. Because of the time of night and the improbability of what the person was reporting, this report was not officially logged.

Later in the day, I contacted the police at Merthyr Tydfil (South Wales) and after some delay obtained the names of two police officers stationed at Treharris Police Station who had also reported seeing two very bright white objects/lights flying across South Wales and heading across the Bristol Channel. Their report was also timed at about 1.10am.

That evening I contacted the Exeter Police and was given the names of three police officers who had earlier reported a sighting. These proved to be a Sgt D. [REDACTED] PC [REDACTED] and PC [REDACTED]. All three officers had been on duty in Paul Street, Exeter, when they observed two very bright objects flying parallel to each other and on an Easterly course over the city.

(3)

On Thursday 1st April 1993, I received a call from [REDACTED] at the British UFO Research Associations Office, giving me the name, address and telephone number of [REDACTED] from Pentregalar, Dyfed, who had also seen the two very bright lights in flight across N.W.Wales at 1.10am on Wednesday 31st March 1993.

At this point, I now had some seven or eight reports, mostly police officers, who had all observed two very bright white lights or objects, travelling across the night sky from approximately N.W to S.E. in complete silence and trailing some form of illuminated vapour trail behind them / it! What was noticeable about these sightings, was that all the persons I spoke too had great difficulty in describing the 'trails' and used the term vapour as a simply means of doing so. What was also noted was the fact that whatever it was that was trailing behind the objects, it was 'illuminated' or 'lit up' by some means or other. One person described them as 'like car head light beams shining backwards, another thought they looked like long thin fluorescent light tubes!

Because of the extraordinary similarity between the reports, it was obvious to me that at approximately 1.10am on the morning of the 31st March 1993, an object of enormous size had crossed N.W.Wales, S.Wales, N.Devon, Cornwall and E. Devon. During its flight it had descended from a great height over N.W.Wales to about 2,000' above the Bristol Channel and hovered at the same height north of Liskeard. From there it ascended to approximately 10,000' over Plymouth and subsequently E. Devon. From here I felt sure it must have travelled further east or south easterly and decided therefore to try and obtain some additional sightings by use of the local press. I contacted the Taunton Gazette and Honiton News, both weekly papers and gave them some details of the events of Wednesday 31st.

(4)

I avoided giving the time of the sightings and a full description of what had been seen.

These reports were published on Friday 2 April 1993 and by mid afternoon on that day my phone was ringing continuously. My callers were mainly from the Taunton, Minehead area and interestingly gave me a good picture of the objects journey over Somerset and onto the Dorset border. Again most of the reports were of two very bright white lights, flying parallel to each other and at a constant speed. The rear light source was again mentioned in all the reports and as before the callers had difficulty in describing this. The length of the trailing light varied from caller to caller and was anything from 100' to 100yds depending on the callers angle of sighting. Most of these sightings were timed between 1.10am and 1.17am, which indicated a 1.10am to 1.15am sighting, some five minutes later than the Welsh, Cornwall sightings.

In addition to the 1.10am - 1.15am sightings, I also received two reports concerning a large object carrying two very bright outward light sources. This object was seen at 2am over the River Parrot, Nr Bridgewater, flying very low, about 800', by some local fishermen known as 'Elvers'. Elvers being young eels. Both reports concerned a number of fishermen, but were initially made by two of them, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Bridgewater, Somerset. One of the sighters, [REDACTED], described the object as looking like a very large 'Catamaran'. It had two long ski like sections underneath which appeared to be joined by a centre structure about 400' to 500' apart! From the rear they described a long beam like light source, something like a cars headlights dimmed.

(5)

In all the reports received, there was no mention of any noise being associated with the lights / object, in fact the reverse appears to be the case, i.e. complete silence!

Whilst collating all these reports, I also received some reports concerning bright lights flying in formation and hovering over Bridgewater and Bishops Lydiard between 9pm and 10pm on the evening of 30th March 1993. I also received one report, again from a police officer, who was off duty and with some Scouts up on the Quantock Hills at about 9pm on the 30th. He reports seeing a large object flying in from the north, fairly low and said it resembled 'two concord aircraft fixed together' and covered in a number of white bright lights. Obviously this could not have been two 'Concords' but its not a bad description in comparison with the 'Elvers' description at 2am i.e. a large 'Catamaran'.

Since these reports I have received three more, only these have come from St Ives, Cornwall. again two very bright lights are reported flying parallel to each other and very high in the sky. This is some twenty minutes later than the earlier sightings on the 31st and indicates that the objects or objects were seen over the West Country and Wales, on at least three separate occasions i.e. 1.10am, 1.30am and 2am.

From the general description given, it would appear that the object seen was about 500' in width, carrying two very bright light sources at its outer edges with a number of smaller lights surrounding its main body. It left a tail of light, something like a vapour trail, only illuminated or lit up.

(6)

At this point in the investigation, Sunday 11th April 1993, I have now despatched 33 report forms to all the 'sighters' and once returned will hopefully be able to plot at least the 1.10am flight path of the object and provide a better description of its form, structure and performance. I will also have a better picture of the 1.30am St Ives, Cornwall and 2am Bridgewater, Somerset events.

As a matter of interest, two of my reports concerned the presence of two 'Jet Fighters' flying in from the East. one behind the other, and across Devon at 1.30am on the 31st. One report came from a retired airline pilot living in East Devon who gave the altitude of the jets as 20,000' and their speed as 1,500mph. He also said they were in a hurry and had their 'after burners' on! This report was later corroborated by a second report from a gentlemen living in Wellington, Somerset. My efforts to confirm the presence of these aircraft with SEC (AS) 2A at the MOD (AIR) was not successful. From their records no military aircraft were airborne at this time over Devon and are therefore unknown to anybody at this time!

I also received two reports of three military type helicopters flying in a radius of Bridgewater between 1.30am and 2am on the 31st. Both reporters are adamant that the helicopters were military - probably 'Sea Kings'? but again MOD (AIR) were unable to confirm their presence in the area. My information is that these Helicopters were on a search operation of some kind or another and that at one stage 'red flares' were seen due south of Bridgewater.

  
DUFORO

13th April 1993

FIN/236/016

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting. 30<sup>TH</sup> MAR 93 2130 5MINS
- B. Description of Object. ONE. GLASS BOTTOM. TWO ROWS OF BRIGHT LIGHTS ALONG ITS SIDE. UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH SHAPE DUE TO INTENSITY OF LIGHTS
- C. Exact Position Observer. PENINE MOORS IN AREA KNOWN AS <sup>PENING</sup> PENNINE SLOPES AT BIRCH WOOD IN AREA OF PENISTON
- D. How Observed. SIGHTED WHILST DRIVING CAR
- E. Direction in which Object was first seen.
- F. Angle of Sight.
- G. Distance. , THEN ~~WENT~~ TRAVELLED TO OBJECT UNTIL UNDERNEATH IT. A PPROX 200M.
- H. Movements. STILLTILL APPROACHED THEN MOVED TOWARDS WOOD AREA UNTIL OUT OF SIGHT
- I. Meteorological condistions during observation. FINE DRY CLEAR
- J. Nearby Objects.
- K. To whom reported. PC [REDACTED]
- L. Name and Address of Informant. [REDACTED]  
MONK BRETTON BARNSELEY [REDACTED]
- M. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.
- N. Other Witnesses. 2 POLICEMEN WITNESSED SEEING<sup>BRIGHT</sup> LIGHTS FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AT 0117 HRS, TRAVELLING FROM PENISTON TOWARDS SHEFFIELD. 1/PC [REDACTED] PENISTON POLICE STATION [REDACTED] 2/PC [REDACTED] GOTHORPE POLICE STATION
- O. Date and Time of receipt of Report. 30 MAR 93 2147 HRS
- P. Is a reply requested. YES

Signed [REDACTED]  
Name [REDACTED]  
Rank SGT Tel No [REDACTED]

Date 31 MARCH 93

### Witness Statement

Statement of



Age if under 21 0 21 (if over 21 insert 'over 21').

This statement (consisting of 2 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 31st day of March 19 93

Signature



I am a Sergeant in the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary stationed at Liskeard in Cornwall.

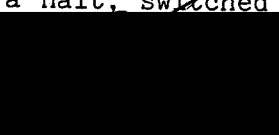
At about 0110 hrs on the morning of Wednesday 31st March 1993 I was on duty in uniform and driving a marked Police vehicle along the A38 at Looe Mills near Liskeard travelling in the direction of Dobwalls.

This was naturally during the hours of darkness and the weather was fine and dry, with some patchy cloud; the moon and a number of stars being visible. I was unaccompanied.

As I began to negotiate a sweeping uphill left hand bend at the bottom of Lantoom Hill, I became aware of what appeared to be two 'stars' just above the horizon in the approximate position of "two o'clock". They were due North of me and motionless in the sky. My attention was drawn to these "stars" because apart from being in a part of the sky where there are usually no stars, they were of a darker hue bordering on yellow instead of silvery-white. They were reasonably close together but as I could not begin to estimate their distance from me, I likewise cannot estimate how far they were from each other.


As I negotiated the bend I continued to observe them when I suddenly saw them begin to move what appeared to me vertically upwards. They maintained a parallel course and identical speed and as they approached the "one o'clock" position they began to leave vapour trails. I brought my car to a halt, switched off the engine and got out. My location now was

Signature



Signature witnessed by.....



Continuation of Statement of 

approximately 100 yards the Liskeard side of the lay by outside Lantocm Quarry, map ref 230 650.

My view of these objects was very good; the sky being clear, and they continued their ascent still at an identical speed to each other and still on a parallel course. I realised that they were not ascending vertically but rather curving overhead and heading due South. As they gained in height the vapour trails became much more pronounced. I was still unable to estimate their height because of their small size (identical to a star in the night sky) but I believe they were very high. As they passed directly overhead at "12 o'clock high", the heavens at this point were bright and moonlit and I could see that there was nothing between the objects apart from empty sky. They were definitely two separate objects.

At about this time I became aware of what I believed to be a third object visible only by its vapour trail which was considerably less obvious than the vapour trails of the other two objects. This third object seemed to be travelling to the right hand side of the left hand object (as I was looking up), and slightly to the rear of it. It maintained the identical speed and parallel course of the other objects.

As the objects continued on a dead straight north south course, they seemed to be travelling at a similar speed to a high flying passenger jet aircraft. I lost sight of them owing to the high ground of the quarry immediately on my left.

During the total duration of this sighting, which was between 45 seconds and 1 minute, my observation of these objects was continuous and uninterrupted. There was no sound whatever, the night being very still with no traffic.

Sign 

Signature witnessed by



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
 - 5 APR 1993  
**AIR FORCE OPERATIONS**

→ Please Pass this copy to Sec 1 (A)  
 Report passed to AFS  
 31/10/93 E4

**REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT**

<p>A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting Local times to be quoted</p>	<p>31/3/93. 0010Z Approx 1 min</p>
<p>B. Description of Object Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.</p>	<p>2 very bright (like stars) Parallel, slightly behind Silver tail / Gold tail</p>
<p>C. Exact position of observer Geographical location, indoors or out, stationery or moving.</p>	<p>Outside House [Redacted] East Haythorn (Bristol)</p>
<p>D. How Observed Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.</p>	<p>Naked eye 4 persons</p>
<p>E. Direction in which Object was First Seen A landmark more useful than badly estimated bearing.</p>	<p>E → W. (south of the position)</p>
<p>F. Angular Elevation of Object Estimated heights are unreliable.</p>	<p>view from 800ft Hill disappeared behind hill. long away trav. fast</p>
<p>G. Distance of Object from Observer Ref. to known landmark when possible.</p>	<p>long way (1)</p>
<p>H. Movements of Object Changes in E, F &amp; G more use than est. course and speed.</p>	<p>Same speed + direction</p>
<p>J. Met. Condition During Observation Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.</p>	<p>Very clear night 1/2 moon</p>
<p>K. Nearby Objects Telephone or high-voltage lines; dam, lake or reservoir; swamp or marsh; river; high building, tall chimney, steeples, spires or masts; airfields, generating plants; pits, factories or other lighted sites, or lighting.</p>	<p>/</p>
<p>L. To Whom Reported Police, Military org. the press, etc.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>M. Name and Address of Informant</p>	<p>[Redacted] East Haythorn (Bristol)</p>
<p>N. Any Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered</p>	<p>Graduate - Hist (BA)</p>
<p>O. Other Witness</p>	<p>3 (20-24)</p>
<p>P. Date and Time of Receipt of Report</p>	<p>1004 31/3/93</p>

Signature ..... [Redacted] .....

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March , 0109
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	one oval shaped object , 200 metre diameter, dark silhouette , 2 creamy white lights either side . v. little sound . Possible low hum.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Back garden of house in Rugeley , Cannock Chase .
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	First seen almost directly above house .
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Almost directly overhead . Heading towards Hazle Slade . 45° at me point .
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	Object very low + close when first seen
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Initially hovered , then descended in erratic way . Followed in car . Object then shot off v high speed + high level
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	clear
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Houses

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	RAF Cosford - Flt Lt [redacted]
L. Name & Address of Informant	[redacted] Rugeley, Staffs.
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	See Q
N. Other Witnesses	[redacted] wife, daughter + her boyfriend
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31st March, 0145
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	[redacted] <sup>40</sup> had observer recognition log with Army. RAF Cosford have received 10 reports. witnesses included CPl [redacted] <sup>40</sup> Cosford + colleague, [redacted] from Bristol + someone at Shrewsbury Met office, who saw something approx 15 km

away, moving erratically at approx 400 - 600 kts. Cosford checked with West Drayton - no radar trace. Birmingham airport also picked up nothing.

Signal reports to follow

witnesses - [redacted] Shrewsbury Met office  
CPl [redacted] <sup>40</sup> + colleague at  
RAF Cosford. Their boss is  
Pilot Officer Scourah on ext 244

Telex: 1.07, 31st March. Sitting in house. Daughter outside walking dog. came in hysterical. Rushed out - object spinning anticlockwise, 2 or 3 times then still + levelled off. 900-1000 ft. 150-200 metres diameter. Cylindrical shape. Two round objects on either side. Creamy pearly glow from them. Moved, with low, sideways hum (wife heard + saw too). Tilted away, then slow descent to 300-400 ft. Banked to right v slow, then shot off. 5 witnessed - [redacted] <sup>40</sup> wife, son, daughter + daughter's boyfriend. Object looked like classic UFO photo from The unexplained - Texas/New Mexico, 1957? Will send sketch.

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March, c 1.10 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	One oval shaped object, spinning, then stationary. 2 dull creamy coloured lights / glows on each side. Low humming noise heard
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Back garden of house
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	virtually overhead, then moved off in direction of Hazelstade
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Almost directly over house
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	When first seen, approx 1000 ft height, overhead. Descended to 300-400 ft.
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Spinning at first, then hovered. Slow descent, then banked and moved off at very high speed
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Clear night
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Houses

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Contacted RAF Cosford + local police
L. Name & Address of Informant	[REDACTED] Rugeley, Staffs
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	N/k
N. Other Witnesses	[REDACTED] wife, son, daughter, and daughter's boyfriend
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 1.45 am
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	[REDACTED] believed object had come down near Hazelstade, and went to investigate. Nothing found. Insistent that object wasn't anything explainable.



Sec (AS) 2a

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 March, 1.10 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	2 bright white lights in parallel - one slightly behind the other. No sound. No flashes. Marked vapour trail, not v long.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	outdoors, from high ground - witness was lambing. Brighter + larger than Jupiter
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Heading from NW to SE, towards Somerset
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Object v high. Covered horizon in under 2 minutes. 2/3 miles up?
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	Either very high + large or very low and quiet.
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Speed constant
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Still quiet night, no clouds, 1st quarter moon
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	None

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Sec (AS)2a , and Cardiff airport , who debated nothing on order
L. Name & Address of Informant	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Crymych , Pefydd [REDACTED]
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	Farmer . Has science degree , and is v used to seeing civil + military witnesses
N. Other Witnesses	None
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31st March , 9.15 am
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	Appeared to v sensible + reliable witness

Signal reports to follow



Sec (AS)2a



REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1993, 2110 HRS. DURATION 45 SECS - 1 MINUTE
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	2 OBJECTS, APPEARANCE COMPLETELY IDENTICAL TO STARS
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	DRIVING WEST ON A38 @ MAPLE LODGEMILLS NR. LINDSAY. <del>600 YDS</del> STOPPED + ALIGHTED FROM CAR + MADE FURTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM A STATIONARY POSITION.
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	DUE NORTH
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	APPRX 20' CLOCK
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	INESTIMABLE
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	BOTH OBJECTS MOVED VERTICALLY UPWARDS ON PARALLEL COURSE, THEN CURVED HIGH ABOVE ME BEARING NORTH - SOUTH
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	CLEAR, DRY, STILL NIGHT.
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	NOTHING

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	WITNESSED BY POLICE OFFICER + REPORTED TO DIVISIONAL CONTROL ROOM
L. Name & Address of Informant	SALVADOR [REDACTED]
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	14+ YEARS POLICE SERVICE.
N. Other Witnesses	VARIOUS POLICE OFFICERS IN DIVISION, ROBINHAM + WALS.
O. Date, Time of Receipt	12/4/83.
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	NONE.
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	AN UNACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH I AM UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR BY NORMAL EXPLANATIONS.

ROBINHAM  
CONTROL ROOM

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD148 31/0959 090C1185

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310720Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIRU N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 310110Z MAR 93. 30 SECONDS

B. TWO, POSSABLY THREE, STARSHAPED WITH VAPOUR TRAIL WHEN MOVING,  
YELLOW/GOLD AND BRIGHT

C. MOORSWATER, LISHEARD, CORNWALL, OUTDOORS, STATIONARY

D. NAKED EYE

E. NORTH

F. ABOVE

G. N/K

H. STATIONARY THEN MOVING STEADILY

J. CLEAR

L. POLICE

M. SGT [REDACTED] CORNWALL

N. POLICE OFFICERS

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0003 UNCLAS

O. SEEN BY OTHER POLICE OFFICERS THROUGHOUT DEVON AND CORNWALL

P. 310130Z MAR 93

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFIO )

CYD 1 DD GE/AEW

CAP 1 DI 55

REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

<p>A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting Local times to be quoted</p>	<p>TC 31st MARCH 1993 0115 am</p>
<p>B. Description of Object Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.</p>	<p>NO SOUND 2 BRIGHT LIGHTS BALL SHAPED. TRAILS OF VAPOUR</p>
<p>C. Exact position of observer Geographical location, indoors or out, stationery or moving.</p>	<p>INDOORS, STATIONARY BRIDGEWATER ON DOCKS.</p>
<p>D. How Observed Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.</p>	<p>NAKED EYE</p>
<p>E. Direction in which Object was First Seen A landmark more useful than badly bearing.</p>	<p>FM NORTH HEADING SE</p>
<p>F. Angular Elevation of Object Estimated heights are unreliable.</p>	<p>RIGHT OVER HOUSE</p>
<p>G. Distance of Object from Observer Ref. to known landmark when possible.</p>	<p>- 11 ~</p>
<p>H. Movements of Object Changes in E, F &amp; G more use than est. course and speed.</p>	<p>FASTER THAN AGROPLANE SE</p>
<p>J. Met. Condition During Observation Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.</p>	<p>CLEAR NIGHT CALM.</p>
<p>K. Nearby Objects Telephone or high-voltage lines; dam, lake or reservoir; swamp or marsh; river; high building, tall chimney, steeples, spires or masts; airfields, generating plants; pits, factories or other lighted sites, or lighting.</p>	<p>ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE OF B'WATER BY DOCKS</p>
<p>L. To Whom Reported Police, Military org. the press, etc.</p>	<p>B'WATER MERCURY - NO RESPONSE</p>
<p>M. Name and Address of Informant</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>N. Any Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered</p>	<p>BRIDGEWATER SAME.</p>
<p>O. Other Witness</p>	<p>HUSBAND</p>
<p>P. Date and Time of Receipt of Report</p>	<p>1st<sup>15</sup> APRIL 1800 L</p>

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
SECRET  
15 APR 1993  
FILE

Signature [REDACTED]

1st REPORTED 31st MARCH



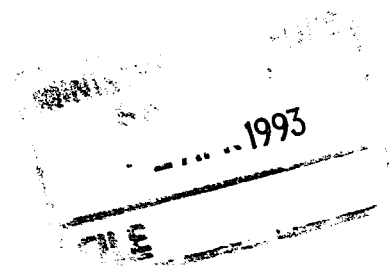
U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD153 01/1325 091C1129

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 010850Z APR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR



U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 310115Z MAR 93 30 SECONDS
- B. TWO WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELLING AT HIGH SPEED, FORTY TO FIFTY FEET APART
- C. GREATLY HAMPSHIRE, OUTDOORS AND STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. NORTH TO SOUTH
- F. 300 - 400FT AGL
- G. OVERHEAD
- H. HIGH SPEED
- J. REASONABLY CLEAR, SLIGHT OVERCAST
- K. LOCAL HILL (COSLEY HILL)
- L. SATCO MIDDLE WALLOP
- M. [REDACTED] GREATLY HAMPSHIRE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0003 UNCLAS  
 N. AVIATOR WITH ARMY FLYING ASSOCIATION, ENGINEER AND BOOKING SECRETARY  
 O. [REDACTED]  
 P. 010845Z APR 93  
 BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F  
 F  
 CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
 CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
 CAP 1 DI 55



U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB123 31/1257 090C2197

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 311220Z MAR 93

FROM RAF CHIVENOR  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

- SUBJECT AERIAL PHENOMENAL
- A. 310120L MAR 93
- B. 3. LARGE. VERY BRIGHT LIGHT
- C. BRAUNTON BURROWS/OUTDOORS/WALKING
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. OBJECT FLEW OVER BURROWS FROM SOUTH AND SEEMED TO LAND IN SAND DUNES
- F. NIL
- G. N/K
- H. STEADY
- J. CLEAR SKY
- K. NIL
- L. REPORTED TO RAF CHIVENOR OPERATIONS ALSO SEEN BY POLICE PATROL PASSING BURROWS IN CAR

PAGE 2 RBDIA 0013 UNCLAS

- M. [REDACTED] BRAUNTON, DEVON
- N. NIL
- O. POLICE OFFICERS PLUS FRIENDS
- P. 311230L MAR 93
- BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

- F
- CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDD )
- CYD 1 DD GE/AEW
- CAP 1 DI 55

UNCLASSIFIED

CWD203 31/1158 090C1975

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 311050Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 310010Z MAR 93

B. TWO, VERY BRIGHT, STAR LIKE OBJECTS IN A ECHELON MILITARY  
FORMATION LEAD OBJECT HAD POINTED TAIL OTHER HAD GOLD TAIL

C. OUTDOORS, STATIONARY

D. NAKED EYE

E. EAST TO WEST, SOUTH OF HOUSE

F. LOW

G. APPROX 20 KM

H. STEADY

J. VERY CLEAR, HALF MOON

M. [REDACTED] EAST HARPTREE,  
BRISTOL

N. BA HISTORY GRADUATE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0006 UNCLAS  
O. THREE OTHERS AGED 20-24  
P. 311015Z  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
CAP 1 DI 55

↑  
FEED  
DIRECTION

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD151 31/1002 090C1243

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310730Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 310110A MAR 93. 2 TO 3 MINUTES

B. TWO, VERY BRIGHT, CIRCULAR WITH TAILS, WHITE IN COLOUR

C. GELLIGAR COMMON TREHARRIS, MERTHER TYDFIL

D. NAKED EYE

E. OVERHEAD MOVING NORTH

F. LOW, APPROX 100-200 METRES

G. OVERHEAD

H. VERY SLOW

J. CLEAR

L. POLICE

M. [REDACTED] MERTHYR TYDFIL, CENTRAL POLICE STATION, SWAN STREET,

N. NONE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0005 UNCLAS

O. OTHER POLICE OFFICERS

P. 310154A MAR 93

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
CAP 1 DI 55



 FEED  
DIRECTION

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB092 31/1001 090C1238

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310725Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIRU N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 310055A MAR 93

B. TWO METEORITE TYPE OBJECTS, ORANGE AND WHITE WITH TRAIL AND BRIGHT

C. INDOORS, MOVING

D. BINOCULARS

E. SOUTH, RIGHT TO LEFT

F. LOW

G. UNKNOWN

H. STEADY

J. CLEAR

K. NONE

M. [REDACTED] LULSGATE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL LULSGATE BRISTOL B519  
3DY

N. WITNESSED BY AIRCREW AND OTHER AIRPORT STAFF

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0004 UNCLAS

P. 310334A MAR 93

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )

CYD 1 DD GE/AEW

CAP 1 DI 55

END

U N C L A S S I F I E D

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 12.15 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	2 bright lights, with lit vapour trail. No noise.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	From balcony of house, looking out near St Brides Bay
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Heading from North to South
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Thought object was fairly low
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	N/k
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Crossed the bay (7/8 miles) in 25 secs, i.e. approx 1100 mph?
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Clear
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	N/k

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Sec (AS)2a
L. Name & Address of Informant	[REDACTED] on 40 Haverford West, Pembrokeshire.
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	None
N. Other Witnesses	None
O. Date, Time of Receipt	1/4/93 - PM
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	man was behind object - surprised he couldnt make out shape - witness said it mustve been absolutely matt. witness believed object was big - from 7/8 miles could still see both lights.



Sec (AS)2a

# STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Telephone: Cannock 574545

Our Ref. CAN/JC/SAT

Your Ref.



Police Station,  
Wolverhampton Road,  
Cannock,  
Staffs.  
WS11 1AW

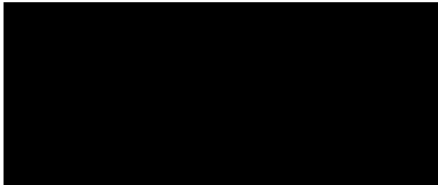
7th May, 1993

Department of Trade and Industry,  
National Air Traffic Control Services,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London SW1H 0ET

Dear Sirs,

I attach hereto copy reports received from my officers in connection with alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Yours faithfully,



Superintendent.

Secretary (Air Staff) 2A  
MOD  
Main Building  
Room 8245  
Whitehall

London SW1A 2H

FAO



The person dealing with this correspondence is:

## Staffordshire Police

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

FROM: P.C. [REDACTED]

STATION: RUGELEY

TO: SUPT. [REDACTED]

DATE: 31.3.93

SUBJECT: U.F.O. REPORT

1. With reference to the attached report by P.C. [REDACTED] concerning a U.F.O. being sighted in the Brereton Area of Rugeley, more information has been received by myself from a Cpl [REDACTED] of the Military Police at R.A.F. Cosford.
  2. Cpl [REDACTED] has informed me that from enquiries he has made he has further sightings of the U.F.O. in Bristol at 0100 hours by an Andrew Hughes at Bristol Airport, at Ternhill Barracks at 0200 hours by two guards on duty there and at R.A.F. Stafford where two guards also saw it travelling at a speed of approximately '400 knots' on a very low flight path.
  3. Cpl [REDACTED] informed me that he has liaised with R.A.F. Shrewsbury, at [REDACTED] who informed him that he had seen a U.F.O. in the sky travelling at high speed but riding erratically at different attitudes. He observed it for approx. 15 minutes until it went off at speed (400 knots) in a southern direction.
  4. Enquiries have been made with all aviation centres and there was no activity in the area at all by any military or civil aeroplanes.
  5. All the above information has been recorded at R.A.F. Cosford and a separate report has been compiled by Cpl [REDACTED] 40
  6. If any more information is required it can be obtained from The Military Police at R.A.F. Cosford Tel. No. [REDACTED] Extension [REDACTED] 40
-

## Staffordshire Police

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

FROM: P.C. [REDACTED]

STATION: RUGELEY

TO: SUPERINTENDENT [REDACTED]

DATE: 31st March, 1993

SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. At 0149 hours on Wednesday 31st March, 1993 a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Rugeley, reported to Rugeley Police Station that he had sighted a U.F.O. in the Brereton area. The informant was visited and the following details were obtained:

A TIME - 0109 hrs  
DATE - 31.3.93  
DURATION OF SIGHTING - Approx. 1 minute

B DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

Shape - Oval  
Size - Approximately 150 metres in length  
Colour - Shiny. Unable to state colour.  
Brightness - The object had lights at each end which were cream and very bright  
Sound - Loud humming noise.

C EXACT POSITION OBSERVED

The informant sighted the object whilst stood in the garden of his home address.

D HOW OBSERVED

Naked eye

E DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT WAS FIRST SEEN

The informant saw the object over the Stile Cop area of Cannock Chase.

F ANGLE OF SIGHT

Approximately 45 degrees

G DISTANCE

Approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile

H MOVEMENTS

Moved away into the distance slowly

J METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Dry and Clear

Cont'd Overleaf / ~~SECRET~~

Chief Superintendent [redacted] Department [redacted]

- 1. I would ask that a copy of this report be forwarded as outlined in Minute 1 (2) above.

26 April 1993



[redacted]  
Chief Inspector

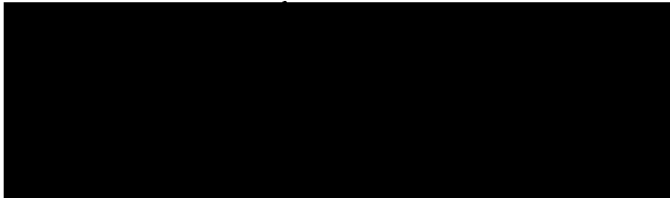
PAB.

- 4 -

Superintendent [redacted] Cannock.

- 1. This type of report need not be referred to Headquarters and may be forwarded direct to the Department of Trade and Industry.

5th May, 1993.



D - U - F - O - R - O  
(Devon UFO Research Organisation)

Ref: Case No 933

[Redacted]

Honiton  
Devon [Redacted]

Tel: [Redacted]

26th May 1993

[Redacted]

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Room 8245  
Ministry Of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [Redacted] 0

Firstly, many thanks for your help over the last few weeks, it really has been appreciated.

Just a quick update on the events of 30th/31st March 1993 re: the sightings here in the Westcountry.

It is almost certain that the majority of the 1.10am sightings were in fact the re-entry of a Russian second stage rocket that had put a Cosmos Radio Satellite (2238) into orbit sometime before midnight.

What we don't know is what the object or objects seen at 1.30am over St Ives, Cornwall and 2.00am over Bridgewater, Somerset and indeed the hovering object(s) seen over Nth Devon between 8.00pm and 11.00pm on the 30th!

From the evidence to date, something was most definitely haunting the sky over Nth Devon on the evening of the 30th and I have substantiated reports confirming this.

The 2.00am Bridgewater sighting also appears to be genuine and I can see no reason to doubt it.



(2)

Then there is the collection of sightings you kindly gave me covering Avon, Shropshire and South Yorkshire up to 2.40am on the 31st - it certainly was a busy night for something.

At the moment I am busy putting together a 16 page report on these events and once completed will despatch it to the appropriate authorities - you will of course receive a copy.

However, before finalising this report, I wondered if you had been able to obtain any information re: the two fighter aircraft seen over Devon at 1.30am on the 31st or the 3 helicopters seen over and around Bridgewater at 1.30am also on the 31st.

Could I please ask if you could once again check your records and ascertain, if possible, what they were doing! I realise this may be difficult, but I do honestly believe that they have a bearing on this case.


Once again, many thanks for your help to date and do hope I,m not causing you any undue trouble or inconvenience.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



P.S. Thanks for the letter sent to you by the Post office - I received it this morning.



D - U - F - O - R - O  
(Devon UFO Research Organisation)

Ref: Case No 933

[Redacted]

Honiton  
Devon [Redacted]

Tel [Redacted]

26th May 1993

[Redacted]

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Room 8245  
Ministry Of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [Redacted]

Thankyou for your letter received today in reply to mine of the 26th May last.

As promised please find enclosed a copy of my report re: the events of the night 30th/31st March 1993. As is usual with these types of cases once the event has passed there is not much more we can do with it. Our only hope is that something else might pop out of the woodwork at a later date to throw some light on it.

There appears to have been a lot of ufo activity over the last few months particularly in the Gwent area of South Wales. Some of the sightings are very similar to the events in that area in 1980 and 1982 which were in themselves quite extraordinary - but again once reported upon what else can we do. One day perhaps we shall have a landing or some tangible evidence of what these 'things' are and more importantly - what their doing!

I hope you find the report of some interest and if you have any ideas or theories on this event please let me know.

Once again many thanks for your help and look forward to speaking to you again.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
S20 (431)  
08 JUN 1993  
FILE

D - U - F - O - R - O

(Devon UFO Research Organisation)

[REDACTED]  
Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

20th May 1993

INVESTIGATION REPORT

CASE NO 933 - 'The Wales and Westcountry Sightings'  
30th / 31st March 1993

This report has been compiled with information received from, and with the much appreciated co-operation of [REDACTED] Chairman of the Plymouth UFO Research Group (PUFORG). It also includes information received from [REDACTED] of the Ministry of Defence (Sec Air)2a, [REDACTED] of the British Astronomical Association (BAA), [REDACTED] a BBC correspondent for BBC Radio 4, based in Dublin, Ireland, members of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force and numerous members of the British public living in Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Introduction

On Wednesday the 31st March 1993, at approx 2.20am, I received a telephone call from Sgt J. [REDACTED] of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force. He is stationed at Bodmin, Cornwall and was reporting an incident that had occurred at 1.10am that morning whilst on duty near Liskeard. Briefly he reported that at 1.10am, whilst driving towards Dobwalls on the A38, he noticed 2 very bright lights of objects hovering at about 2,000' above the N.W. Horizon. Knowing the night sky fairly well he immediately realised that 'they' were not stars and did not conform to any known aircraft or their navigation lights. At this point he stopped his patrol car and got out. he watched the objects for a few seconds and was amazed to see them suddenly start to ascend at a fairly fast rate of knots.

(2)

They seemed to move in an arc over his position and disappeared to the south. At their highest point, about \*10,000' 2 vapour like trails appeared behind each object and they appeared to be self luminous. \* This height is based on information obtained from the control tower at Exeter Airport later that day.

At the end of his report, Sgt [REDACTED] informed me that several other police officers had made similar reports to their operations room at Exeter.

Shortly after this call, I contacted the Ops. Room at Exeter and was told that they had received a number of reports, all from police officers on duty within the counties of Cornwall and Devon. They also said that 2 other officers of the Gwent Police Force, had also logged a similar report.

In total I was given the names and contact addresses of 11 officers. In addition I was informed that 2 other officers who were on a special surveillance operation somewhere in East Devon, had also reported something very similar. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain these officers names and can do no more than note their sightings.

During that day, I managed to contact (by phone) all the officers concerned and after taking details of their sightings and with their permission despatched each a copy of our UFO report forms for completion and return.

\* Strangely, to date I have only received back 3 completed sets of forms and what is even more puzzling, is the fact that all of these have been from police sergeants - none from police constables! Whether there is a particular reason for this remains to be seen, but it does seem a bit odd to say the least.

(3)

From the original phone reports and the returned report forms a fairly comprehensive picture of the nights events soon became apparent.

\* At appendix 'A' to this report is a summary of these reports, coupled with others received from members of the public during the course of the investigation.

What emerged from these reports, ( with the exception of Sgt [REDACTED] (Liskeard) and Sgt [REDACTED] (Lynton) was that they all virtually told the same story - this is as follows:

The time is 1.10am on the 31st March 1993, and a number of police officers on duty within Devon & Cornwall, observed 2 very bright white lights or objects, traversing the sky from the N.W. to the S.E., and at a high altitude. All report seeing some sort of vapour trails behind and staying with the objects. Most had problems in describing these 'trails' but most thought they were self luminous or lit by some light source from the objects. What is certain is that they were not the usual vapour trails associated with high flying conventional aircraft. Most reported the objects as fairly fast - somewhat faster than a Jet aircraft. In addition all reported that the objects were completely silent.

As stated earlier all the reports are very similar, given due regard to these officers knowledge or otherwise of the night sky and their abilities to judge the height or speed of objects traversing it. This is not doubting these officers truthfulness or their observation powers, but I do think it's a case of 'horses for courses'. Objects in the night sky, as we all know, can be very deceptive and this is particular so when uncommon phenomenon such as decaying space hardware is concerned.

(4)

Most of these reports (if not all!) were, I have reason to believe, their observations of a Russian 2nd stage launch vehicle of the Tsyklon class, which had previously (about midnight) put into orbit a Cosmos 2238 Satellite. Its return to earth had occurred at approx 1.05am and was first seen over Innis, Ireland at that time. From its orbital direction of 65 degrees it would have traversed the sky at a height of between 80kms and 100kms in a S.E. direction. If it did cross Innis at 1.05am and I have reliable evidence to support this, then it would have crossed Lands End shortly after - approx 1.10am. Given the officers locations in Cornwall & Devon, it is I believe reasonable to assume that what they saw was the re-entry of this space vehicle. However, at this time a final conclusion cannot be given, until receipt of a report from a BUFORA investigation team in Ireland, which will hopefully confirm the spent rockets course over Innis.

This leaves me with the problem of the reports from Sgt [REDACTED] and Sgt [REDACTED], they tell a different story! Sgt [REDACTED] in company with P.C. [REDACTED] were approaching the the coast town of Lynton, Nth Devon, at 1.10am. Their direction of travel was due north and as they neared the town they noticed 2 very bright lights approaching from the north across the Bristol Channel. Stopping their patrol car they watched as the lights drew nearer to them. The lights or object(s) passed to the west going in a S.Easterly direction. As it / they passed over, they noticed a third light, much smaller than the other two and positioned somewhere between them. Sgt [REDACTED] states - that as it passed silently by, he got the impression that the lights were attached to a very large object, but could not make out any shape of other details. As it went away from from them, both officers saw two white vapour like trails

/5

(5)

behind each light. They described these trails as 'self luminous' but not the same as normal aircraft vapour - more like beams of light! They estimated the elevation of the objects to be 40 degrees to the horizon at a distance of between 1,000' and 2,000'.

This is obviously at variance to the other reports, but would seem to substantiate Sgt [REDACTED] report who was at the same time S.W. of their position and saw the objects in a stationary mode N.W. of his position. This suggests that both the Sgts sighting are in many respects different to the others and indicate that their objects were extremely low and appeared to have the ability to stop and hover!

I personally have no doubts about their sightings, because, as whereas some people may have difficulty in judging objects at great height, I hardly think these officers could be mistaken in their judgements - 2,000' is one thing, but anywhere between 10,000' and 80kms is another. It is therefore my considered opinion that these two sightings are of different to that of the re-entry rocket and may be associated with certain other events that took place later in the morning, at 2.00am and indeed the previous evening between 8.00pm and 11.00pm over Nth Devon.

Most of these reports were received following the publication of some news articles in two local papers. (Honiton News & Somerset Gazette) The articles did not specify the type of objects seen or the time. As a result I received a large number of phone calls from members of the public and another police officer, this time from Somerset. After evaluating these reports and filing away those which I considered were not relevant to this case, it became apparent that in addition to the initial 1.10am police reports, there were a number which were very similar and did therefore have some association.

(6)

In an effort to give these events some clarity - they have been separated into groups with each group being given its own heading, they are as follows:-

<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
'A'	Innis, Ireland	31/3/93	1.05am
'B'	* Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.	31/3/93	1.10am to 1.17am
'C'	Bridgewater, Somerset	31/3/93	2.00am
'D'	North Devon	30/3/93	7.00pm to 11.00pm
'E'	St Ives & Penzance, Cornwall	31/3/93	1.30am
'F'	** Wales, Westcountry, Avon, Shropshire, Sth Yorkshire	30-31/3/93	Various

\* The reports associated with this event include those received from the police officers who initially saw the objects at 01.10am on 31/3/93.

\*\* These reports are the subject of a letter received from the MoD (Sec Air)2a giving some details of reports received by them. They are thought to be associated with the events of 30-31/3/93 because of the similarities between them and those already known to me.



(7)

## Investigation

### Event 'A' - Innis, Ireland.

This event occurred at 1.05am on Wednesday 31st March 1993 over Innis, Ireland, when 2 bright lights were observed traversing the sky. It is believed that they were seen at high altitude, displaying white vapour trails. They appeared to be flying parallel to each other, on a N.W. to S.E. course. Evidently this sighting caused some concern to the Irish Government and as a consequence a fighter aircraft was despatched to monitor the objects. It seems the operation was not successful as the objects were thought to have been travelling at about 3,000mph - obviously too fast for the jets. The full details of this sighting are not yet to hand, but it is thought to be basically correct.

As with the 1.10am police reports and some of the other 1.10am reports, this sighting is also believed to be result of the previously mentioned rocket re-entry, but more of that later!

\* Information supplied by [REDACTED] a BBC Correspondent based in Dublin.

### Event 'B' - Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

At various times between 1.10am and 1.17am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, 12 people (excluding the original 11 police officers) reported the sighting of two very bright objects flying across the night sky in a south easterly direction. With the exception of one, they all report seeing some sort of vapour trails, but describe them slightly differently! In the main they were white, and trailed back from the objects and appeared to be self luminous.

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This indicates that they were not normal jet aircraft trails, but do seem synonymous with something like the trail of a 'shooting star'.

After evaluating these reports and giving due regards to peoples different perspectives of the objects, it is reasonable to assume that they, like the police officers, had also observed the spent rocket on its south easterly travels.

As a footnote, I have also received a report from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the British Astronomical Association, that two people, one in Belgium and one from the south of France, also observed some bright objects flying in a south easterly direction. The French report indicates a number of objects (6 or 7) and this I believe is the breakup of the original two seen earlier over Ireland and the south west coast of England. The Belgium report is not very comprehensive, but the 'sighter' is believed to have seen them from his location, most probably over France, but not over Belgium.

What is evident here, is that although I cannot be absolutely certain that the two objects seen was the re-entry of the Russian Space Rockets, their presence at this time and their reported locations, must be a strong consideration. Given the known height of these objects - between 80kms and 100kms, and the time they would have taken to traverse from horizon to horizon, some 2 to 3 minutes and certainly not less than one minute, then it can be reasonable assumed that from their known flight path i.e. from Ireland over Lands End and on over France, they would easily have been seen from as far away as Somerset and most probably even further! On the night in question there was very little cloud cover, which would have afforded all of the 'sighters' a clear view for many miles.

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At this point, given all the known facts, what we are dealing with is the following scenario:-

At sometime between 1.10am and 1.17am two very bright white objects with some sort of vapour trails, were observed flying N.W. to S.E. at high altitude and parallel to each other and appear to have been on a pre-determined course. There were I believe the remnants of a Russian Space Rocket that had earlier deposited a Cosmos Radio Satellite into orbit.

But, at the same time i.e. 1.10am, two brightly lit objects or a very large one with two lights attached, crossed the Bristol Channel, flew low over Lynton and somewhere between there and Liskeard came to a halt and hovered for a few seconds. They /it then ascended at great speed to about 10,000' and then altered course taking a southerly course over the English Channel.

If the information contained in the letter from the MoD is correct, then the object or objects were later seen over or near Bristol, Avon, at approx 1.15am heading south easterly! Also, if the MoD information is correct, similar objects were seen between 9.10pm on the 30th March 1993 and 2.40am on the 31st covering area from Cornwall to South Yorkshire! The implication of this being that some 4 hours before the re-entry an 'unknown' object or objects were flying across the Westcountry up into Avon and on to South Yorkshire with the last known sighting over Shropshire at 2.40am. It also indicates that the objects appeared to be crisscrossing these areas during this period.

(10)

Event 'C' - Bridgewater, Somerset.

On Wednesday 31st March 1993, a group of fishermen (known as Elvers) were fishing the river Parrot, Nr Bridgewater, Somerset. At approx 1.30am they noticed 3 military type helicopters flying in a radius from Bridgewater to Hinkley Point. This activity was observed for some 30 minutes or so. At a little before 2.00am the 'elvers' saw two bright orange coloured lights approaching from the north. As they drew closer, the 'elvers', who had previously thought they were the returning helicopters, realised they were not. Firstly there was the absence of any engine or rotor blade noise and navigation lights. The objects approached their position at a steady pace, not over fast, and appeared to be at a height of about 800'. On their final approach, in addition to the orange lights seen, two very bright white lights seem to be glowing from the rear of the objects. As they passed overhead, one of the elvers ( [REDACTED] ) thought the objects were joined by some sort of structure and likened this to a 'Large Catamaran' As the object(s) cleared their position, two very bright light sources were seen at the rear of the 'craft' throwing light beams backwards. These were described as like car headlights. What amazed the sighters most ( [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ) was the complete absence of any noise, in fact quite the opposite - deathly silence! the objects proceeded on a south easterly course towards Dorset and were in view for 2 to 3 minutes before disappearing.

I have personally spoken to both of these gentlemen and received a written report from one [REDACTED] has not returned his report form and this I believe is because he has difficulty in writing - (don't we all!). and therefore feel it best not to persue the matter any further.

(11)

One other interesting point that I noted during conversation with [REDACTED] was this. During the early hours, somewhere between midnight and 1.00am, the cows occupying an adjacent field appeared to be very restless, which I am told was very unusual. Just after their sighting, [REDACTED] and their wives, were astonished to see all the cows had congregated in the middle of the field. They were all facing each other in a circular formation and had gone very quiet! This is also I'm told very unusual.

**Event 'D' - Nth Devon and Somerset.**


During the evening of Tuesday 30th March 1993, 6 independent witnesses reported an object or objects flying over and or hovering over Somerset and Nth Devon.

The first sighting occurred at 9.00pm, when [REDACTED] observed two glowing white/orange objects hovering north west of her position. At the time she was travelling from her home at Kington-St-Mary, Somerset, towards Bishops Lydeard and thought they were somewhere above or just beyond the town. They remained stationary for some 2 or 3 minutes, were very silent and [REDACTED] got the feeling that 'something was going to happen' as everything seemed to have gone very quiet.! She eventually lost sight of the objects behind some clouds.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED] a local business man, who lives at [REDACTED] Nr Lydeard-St-Lawrence, Somerset, - just north of Bishops Lydeard, had gone out into his garden to feed his fish. It was about 8.00pm and on looking up observed a triangular formation of 3 objects approx 5 miles north west of his home. They were brightly lit (self luminous) and each object was larger than a star.

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He likened them to golf balls, two at the top with the other immediately below (  ). From the lowest object a light beam seemed to be shining down at an angle of about 45 degrees. on 40

[REDACTED] kept the objects in view for a little over 3 hours. During this time his daughter [REDACTED] had also been out to see the objects and has confirmed the sighting.

At this point I think it is worth pointing out that from the evidence the object(s) seen by [REDACTED] and that by [REDACTED] are probably one and the same. The direction is right i.e.N.W. and although [REDACTED] feels the object(s) were over Bishops Lydeard I think in this she could be mistaken and that they were a bit further away towards the N.W.

The third report came from P.C. [REDACTED] 40 who is stationed at Bishops Lydeard. His report (by phone) was as follows: At approx 9.00pm he was up on the Quantock Hills, Nth Somerset, with a group of Scouts carrying out some field exercises, when his attention was drawn to a series of bright lights approaching from the north west. They appeared to be at a height of about 3,000' and travelling at a constant speed, but not over fast! As the lights got closer he made out the outline of a large craft, which he said "looked like two Concorde flying side by side and joined together". the lights he had seen appeared to be around the object(s) and were similar to cabin lights on an aircraft, only much brighter. the object passed to his left and after 2 or 3 minutes was lost to sight as it proceeded on a south easterly course.

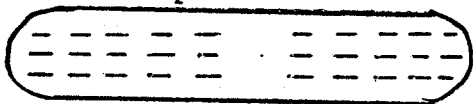
Strangely, as with the other P.Cs, despite agreeing to complete a report form, this has never been returned - I wonder why?

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At approx 10.30pm, [REDACTED] a Traffic Warden, was standing outside his home on the [REDACTED] at Bishops Lydeard when he noticed a brightly lit object approaching from the south. At arms length he describes the object as about the size of a Zippo Lighter and had 6 rows of lights numbering 30 in all. They were in two sections of 15 which were spaced in 3 rows of 5 lights in each.

\*



The objects speed was similar to a jet aircraft and appeared to be at a high altitude. Because of this [REDACTED] had the object in sight for nearly 15 minutes before it disappeared to the north. Some 5 minutes after the event [REDACTED] observed a civil airliner on the same course at approx the same altitude and he was able to identify this without any problem.

The 5th report came from [REDACTED] who lives in Taunton, Somerset. At approx 10.20pm ( maybe a bit later) he observed 2 white lights, apparently connected, flying parallel to each other in an easterly direction. Again there was no noise from the objects and they appeared to be moving very fast. He gave the length of his sighting as 2 minutes and is convinced it /they was not an aircraft.

The 6th and last report for this evening, came from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who lives at Milverton, Devon. At sometime before midnight - about 11.30pm, he saw 2 groups of lights flying along side each other. He describes them as 2 objects with 3 lights in a triangular formation. He says that they were moving very fast and watched them for 2 minutes before they disappeared in a south westerly direction.

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Notes

From these reports it is obvious that during the evening (8.00pm to 11.00pm) an object or objects were clearly visible and seen hovering over Nth Devon. This is substantiated by [REDACTED] 40 and [REDACTED] 40 in their reports. In addition other objects of a similar type, were seen traversing the sky from north to south and south to north. Although the reports are not identical, i.e. they are different in their descriptions, they do indicate that a fairly large twin hulled craft was airborne that evening and flying low over some areas. What this object was, is of course unknown and must therefore, temporally at least, be classed as an Unidentified Flying Object!

Event 'E' - St Ives & Penzance, Cornwall

At just before 1.30am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, two men living in St Ives, Cornwall, observed two very bright objects flying on a N.N.W. to S.S.E. course over the town. Their height was estimated to be about 2,000' and were described as rockets with light trails. they were moving very fast and were only in sight for 5 to 10 seconds. At one stage one of the sighters [REDACTED] thought that the two lights seemed to dim and come on brightly again. The other observer [REDACTED] did not see this particular effect. He, however, only had the objects in sight for a couple of seconds.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED] who lives at Crowles, Nr Penzance, was himself watching two very bright objects, with trails, heading S.E. at a very low altitude 2,000' to 3,000'. He also observed a third object behind the other two, but was less bright. none of the objects made any noise and the light trails "were" he said "thin and straight like a light tube". At the rear of the



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2 large objects he also noticed a pink and blue light source but was unable to say if they were attached to the objects or the smaller one flying close by. From his southerly position the objects were to the north and not moving very fast. In fact he had them in sight for at least 2 minutes. this of course is at variance with the other two sighters at St Ives, who said their objects were very fast!, but this maybe because they saw the objects overhead whilst [REDACTED] was looking at them from a distance. It's my belief that this sighting was of the same 2 objects seen over St Ives only from a different location and therefore different line of sight.

**Event 'F' - Ministry of Defence reports 30th/31st March 1993**

During the course of this investigation, I received a non Ufo report from a gentleman (name on file) who is a recently retired airline pilot. he had phoned me in response to one of the local newspaper articles and thought he had the answer to this case? He told me that at 1.30am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, he had observed two Jet Fighter Aircraft travelling at 30,000' in a westerly direction and at a very fast speed - about 1,500mph. They had their 'after burners' on which indicated they may still have been climbing! As an airline pilot he was well qualified to identify these 'jets' and was also certain that they were of a single engine type. Once I explained our sightings, ( at this time I only had a number of 1.10am sightings) it was fairly obvious that his sighting was not connected to my reports - or was it?

Thanking him for this information, I resolved to contact the MoD to try and ascertain if they had any knowledge of these aircraft. The next day I phoned [REDACTED] at the MoD (Sec Air) 2a office and relayed my information to him. He was most helpful and promised to look into it for me - and would ring

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back. About an hour later he did, but what he had to tell me was nothing short of amazing. He had been unable to discover any details regarding these aircraft and was at a loss to explain their presence over East Devon at the time. To his knowledge there had not been any flyovers by RAF, NATO or other aircraft and stated that all known flights would most certainly have been logged and there was no way that aircraft of this type could fly over Britain without the MoD's knowledge.

However, having explained to him why I was making this enquiry he did tell me that 'they' also had received a number of calls and letters reporting the same kind of 'objects' i.e. two very bright lights traversing the sky during the evening of the 30th and early morning of the 31st March 1993. Upon request, he later sent me a list of these sightings, giving locations, times and directions of travel. A study of these locations and times was most informative and I have to say, also somewhat puzzling. Because I had sent [REDACTED] 140 a summary of my reports, some of these were mine and were in accordance with them. There were, however, a number which were not. Briefly his reports covered the period 10.10pm on the 30th to 02.40am on the 31st, and indicated that these objects had been seen as far north as South Yorkshire, Shropshire and the counties of Cornwall, Devon and Hampshire - all at different times and in many cases flying in different directions!

This as you can imagine was very confusing. For example, there were 3 sightings from South Yorkshire, all at different times i.e. 9.10pm, 11.40pm & 1.17am. the 9.10pm sighting had the objects travelling S.E., the 11.40pm ones travelling north whilst the 1.17am ones were unknown. In addition there was a sighting from Bristol at 1.10am but these objects were travelling westwards - and so it went on. \* A copy of the MoD report with map is attached to this report.

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What all this means is anybody's guess. Was the information correct and I see no reason why it shouldn't be, or was it incorrect and a deliberate ploy to confuse the issue and try to put me off the scent? - I really don't know.

If correct, and lets suppose it is, then this surely means that not only were there 'unknown' objects flying and hovering over the westcountry between 8.00pm and 2.00am on the night, but were also tracking across the Midlands, South Yorkshire and Hampshire - what were they doing?

### Conclusions

As a Ufo researcher, it's my job to try and evaluate all reports and information received in an objective and hopefully methodical way. This case has, to date, shown all the hallmarks of a typical ufo event with evidence swaying the urgently sought answers one way and then the other. Were the events on this night nothing more or less than the re-entry of a man made space vehicle, or was it a ufo phenomenon related to that event? I think it may well be the latter. My reasons for thinking this are twofold.

Firstly, there is no doubt that the re-entry took place and that this occurred at approximately 01.05am on the 31st. From the evidence collected and collated it is almost certainly a fact that the reports describing the events at 1.10am indicate that what these people witnessed was the re-entry of this missile. The heights given are synonymous with a re-entry of this kind and the length of 'sighting time' likewise. All the 'sighters' give the objects direction of flight as N.W. to S.E. or N. to S. giving some margin of error and this would certainly been the spent rockets course.

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This I believe, is evidence enough to suggest that this is exactly what these people saw - a rocket re-entry.

What is also evident is that on the evening before, between 8.00pm and 11.00pm, objects were seen traversing the North Devon sky and indeed hovering N.W. of the same area. In addition it is fairly certain that at 2.00am on the 31st, an object of some considerable size, flew over the River Parrot at Bridgewater, disturbing not only the local fishermen, but also the cattle in the adjacent fields. Also at this time we have the mystery of the 3 helicopters seen. They were almost certainly of a military type, but as with the 2 fighter aircraft over East Devon earlier, their presence has been denied by the MoD - Why?

In association with this we have the 1.30am sightings at St Ives and Penzance and the other numerous sightings over Cornwall, Devon, Shropshire, South Yorkshire and Hampshire, starting at 10.10pm on the 30th and ending at 2.40am on the 31st.

If these reports are correct, and as I said earlier, I have no reason to doubt them and my reports are also correct, then it must be the case that at least one, if not more, unidentified flying objects were active over these areas on the night in question - but what was their purpose? Were they / it here on a specific mission, or just carrying out a nighttime surveillance operation. The latter scenario is of course quite feasibly given what we already know from their well documented past, but what about the first proposition?

Well if we examine the evidence and what we already know about this alleged mode of operation, there is clearly a case for this line of thinking.

In Timothy Goods latest book 'Alien Update' he edits a whole chapter on this very subject. He cites a number of cases from

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Russia where ufos have been observed tracking rocket launches, space flights and more importantly their re-entry procedures. It seems that this activity has been monitored for some years and that the Soviet Authorities are fully aware that their space program has been subjected to some very intense scrutiny by unidentified objects, which appear disc like and are able to traverse their air space at will, and in some extraordinary ways!

Additionally, it seems that Britain has also been the victim of such activity. In her new book 'From Out Of The Blue' Jenny Randles also explores this possibility. This book is the follow up to another entitled 'Sky Crash' which she co-authored with Dot Street and Brenda Butler and is more than just a spectacular account of a ufo landing in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, Nr the Bentwaters Air Base jointly manned by the RAF and USAF. Around the time of the alleged landing it is known that a similar re-entry of a Russian space rocket occurred over the area. Following this, and in addition to the events at the Bentwaters Base, a number of ufo sightings were received. Some of the sightings were before the known re-entry time and indeed after. This strongly implies that some unknown craft was present over the area and as suggested by Jenny, may have been interested in the re-entry.

The events at Bentwaters are in themselves quite remarkable and suggest that a space vehicle of unknown origin actually landed in Rendlesham Forest and that a possible 'alien liaison' took place. The evidence presented does seem to substantiate this, but as with most, if not all of these cases, will we ever learn the truth!

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Unlike the Bentwaters case, this one has not to date thrown up any evidence of a ufo landing, but there is certainly enough evidence to imply a ufo presence over the Westcountry, and possible other parts of the country, on the evening before and after the known re-entry of a Russian space rocket at 1.10am. My gut feeling is that this is exactly what occurred, and until the present 'unknown object(s) reported upon are identified, then they should without question be classified for what they are - 'Unidentified Flying Objects'.

  
**Devon UFO Research Organisation**

WESTCOUNTRY AND WALES SIGHTINGS - 31st March 1993Event 'B'

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1. [REDACTED] Nr Kerris, Cornwall

Time 1.10am - 2 very bright lights, travelling fast, flying parallel with wonderful vapour like trails. \*Two smaller trails to left hand trail! thought there might have been two other smaller objects. Looking towards moon, from north, very high. No sound from object/s but audible rumbling sound from ground level. Time of sighting 30 seconds. When in cloud, object/s illuminated them. Distance apart as seen from the ground = 1" to 1½".

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2. [REDACTED] Crymyn, Dyfed

Time 1.10am. Lady on hill side approximately 1,000' above sea level. Attending sheep, observes 2 large white objects, flying parallel, one slightly in front of the other. Time 2 minutes - maybe less!, very high - vapour trail.

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3. PCs [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Treharris, Nr Merthyr.

Time 1.10am. 2 bright white objects (brighter than stars) came from north west travelling south east, flying parallel to each other - approximately same height as conventional aircraft - steady pace. light vapour trail but third light or vapour trail between the other two! Sighting time 2 to 2½ minutes. No noise. Object passed overhead.

PC [REDACTED] phoned MOD - told no aircraft known to be in the area.

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4. Sgt [REDACTED] Bideford [REDACTED]

Time 1.10am. Accompanied by PC [REDACTED] East of Ilfracombe driving into Lynton. Looking towards the Bristol Channel and saw two white lights, which they thought were attached to a very large object. Estimated distance between lights as 500'. No sound. Object passed overhead and headed south, south west. Time of sighting 10 to 15 seconds. Height 2,000' plus!

\* Same night, PC [REDACTED] en-route to Holsworthy after departing Lynton, observed white lights pass over his vehicle going in south westerly direction.

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(2)

5. Sgt [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Bodmin

Time 1.10am. Two bright slightly yellowish objects / lights, stationary 2,000' due north of his position - S.E. of Liskeard. Watched object lift up and ascend banking left towards the S.E. Object dropped slightly, then climbed and continued S.E. over Torpoint, Plymouth. No sound. At height (about 10,000') a vapour like trail appeared and what appeared to be a third object or light source behind the object. Objects /Lights gave the impression of being controlled or guided.

\* Other side of Liskeard at approximately the same time, PCs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were N.W. of liskeard and saw two very bright white dot like objects appear from the north and head towards Liskeard.

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6. Plymouth police received a call from a gentleman at approx 1.10am who reported seeing twp white lights flying over Stoke, Plymouth. Incident not officially logged but noted by officer on duty!

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7. Torquay. Two lights seen over gentlemans house. Report with [REDACTED] (PURORG).

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8. Sgt [REDACTED] and PCs [REDACTED] Exeter.

Time 1.10am Saw two dot like objects / lights flying parallel, fairly high, heading east. Sighting time 15 seconds.

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9.\* East Devon. Two police officers observe two white objects flying easterly. Objects seen through binoculars - report to follow from station Inspector.

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10 [REDACTED] Cotleigh, Devon [REDACTED]  
Time after 1.05am! Two large light gold / yellowish lights heading towards Stockland. No noise, fairly fast, one light slightly in front of the other!

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11 [REDACTED] Wellington, Somerset

Time 1.11am Two bright white lights - like round balls, Small vapour trails (lit up!) Very high. Speed very fast. No noise. Time of sighting 20 seconds. Flying pararell N.W to S.E. but could have been West to East!

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12. [REDACTED] Taunton, Somerset..  
Time 1.15 (approx) Two very bright white / yellowish objects, flying parallel to each other. Long vapour trail - not smoke! Objects approx 3" apart at height. Very high but not star height! Time of sighting 20 seconds. Passed left to right in a southerly direction.

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13. Taunton Man - Wishes to remain anonymous.  
Time 1.13am two very large luminous objects - glowing, silent. After glow that stayed with objects - (fluorescent). Speed- Gliding very fast. Direction N.N.W. to S.E. Seemed to turn right. Time of sighting 2 minutes. Objects 2" to 3" apart at height. Seen through binoculars. Felt compelled to get up and go outside. No noise.

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14 [REDACTED] Taunton, Somerset. Time 1.15am Returning from Bristol Airport. Saw two bright white objects with whitish vapour trail. Thought vapour trail was lit up by another light source! Very high in sky, appeared cigar shaped and silver in colour. Flying parallel (in tandem) in an easterly direction, south of his position. Objects appeared 6" to 7" apart at height. No noise.

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15. [REDACTED] Bridgewater, Somerset [REDACTED]  
Time 1.15am 2 Balls of light - followed by vapour trail or a light! No noise. Flying over Bridgewater in a south easterly direction. Knew it was not an aircraft!.

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16. PC [REDACTED] Wiveliscombe, Somerset. Time 1.15am to 1.20am. Two bright objects - vapour like trail. From right hand object/light appeared to be a long light shining backwards! Height 10,000' Speed 2 or 3 times faster than a jet airliner. 3" apart at height. Flying N.W. to S.E. Right object appeared to be leading.

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17. [REDACTED] Bridgewater [REDACTED]  
Time 1.17am Two very bright lights - trail of light behind. flying parallel, left object slightly in front. No Noise - completely silent 'OZ FACTOR?' Time of sighting 50 to 55 seconds. Very low - if piloted could have seen pilot.

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18. [REDACTED] Minehead [REDACTED]  
Time 1.10am to 1.15am Two white coloured lights - trailing  
vapour reddish/orange in colour! First one object seen, then  
followed by second 30 seconds later. Flew parallel to each  
other and descended to approximately 2,000'. Observer thought  
they /it was going to land! No noise. Flying in easterly  
direction.

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/1

16 Apr 93

Head of Sec(AS) - through [REDACTED]

Copy to:  
[REDACTED]SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT - WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH

Head of Sec(AS).

[REDACTED] has spent a lot of time following this up, within the confines of restricting his approaches to official sources and not speaking to members of the general public. It would certainly appear that some unidentified object was seen. The problem is to decide what, if anything, to do next. [REDACTED] on 40 16/4

1. In the early hours of Wednesday 31 March an unidentified object was seen over several parts of the UK. Most of the sightings were in Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Shropshire, although reports were received from other locations. We are aware of at least 30 or 40 people who witnessed something, although this number is growing.
2. Aside from the fact that so many people reported seeing something strange, a number of other factors combine to make these sightings highly unusual; firstly, there is some commonality in the description of the object, and considerable commonality in the times of the sightings (around 1.10am). Secondly, none of the usual explanations for UFOs seem applicable, and thirdly, the reliability of the witnesses, most of whom were police officers, and some of whom were military and civil aviation personnel. I have attached the report made by a Corporal at RAF Cosford, together with three of the many other reports, as illustrations.
3. As far as can be ascertained, no military aircraft of any kind were operating in UK airspace at the time, as confirmed by both HQ MATO at RAF Uxbridge, and RAF West Drayton.
4. Sector Operations Centre (South) at RAF Neatishead have told D Air Def's staff that nothing was detected on Air Defence radar. London Air Traffic Control Centre (Military) confirmed that nothing was detected on Air Traffic Control radar.
5. RAF Fylingdales told me that a Russian rocket re-entering the atmosphere at 12.10am would have been visible from the UK, but this time does not match the majority of the sightings; furthermore, the descriptions from witnesses are not consistent with this explanation. The Royal Observatory at Greenwich were aware of no meteorite showers or similar occurrences.
6. DI55c have been consulted, but have not as yet been able to come to any conclusions about the sightings.
7. Some of the reports state that the object was moving at a very high speed (one estimate, based on timing the object over a known distance, was of 1100 mph), while some reported that the object hovered, moved slowly, and then flew off at high speed. This, together with some of the other descriptions given, suggests Aurora. Notwithstanding the US denials, these sightings might prompt renewed speculation.
8. The UK's two main UFO groups are well aware of this wave of sightings, and have told me that they have received many reports themselves. At least one local newspaper has reported the sightings. Although we have not received any press enquiries yet, there is always a possibility that questions will be asked, and it might be difficult to maintain our usual line that no further action was being taken as the sightings had been looked at, and were judged to be of no defence significance.

9. I have spoken to as many of the police and military witnesses as I could contact; nearly everyone I spoke to said that the object was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

10. Given the above, it would not seem sufficient to simply write these sightings off. It seems that an unidentified object of unknown origin was operating in the UK Air Defence Region without being detected on radar; this would appear to be of considerable defence significance, and I recommend that we investigate further, within MOD or with the US authorities.



Sec(AS)2a  
MB8245 82140MB

MEMORANDUM

To Sec (AS) 2a

From WO [REDACTED]  
AIS(M)

Date 19 April 93

Tel Ext [REDACTED]

Your ref D/Sec(AS)12/1

Our ref INC 055/93

Subject UFO Sightings - 31 March 1993.

1. As requested we have completed the radar replay for Wednesday the 31 March, transferring this information onto a video recording for further examination.

2. I have attached your map on which I have now placed the radar heads used together with numbers which now relate to individual timings. Unfortunately the Clee-Hill radar head was not working on primary radar during the recording period, therefore, only aircraft working Secondary Surveillance Radar can be seen.

3. Listed below is the breakdown for each incident time you gave us which we have now changed to zulu time.

1. 302310z Clee-Hill Squawk 1461/039 N/E to S/W
2. 302315z Clee-Hill Nothing seen.
3. 302355z Clee-Hill Traffic out of Bristol going north squawk 4652/086 vicinity Mommouth 2355z. Squawk 1461/040 vicinity Bristol Filton 2347z going S/W, changing to 7201.
4. 310009z Clee-Hill Squawk 6416/090 northbound.
- 5A. 310010z Burrington 0015z primary contacts slow vicinity of Launcester and Bodmin.
- 5B. 310010z Clee-Hill Northbound traffic on A25 squawk 2363/242.
- 5C. 310010z Clee-Hill Nothing seen.
- 6A. 310015z Clee-Hill Squawk 4651/110 from the north through Pease Pottage Salisbury Plain area towards Southampton.
- 6B. 310015z Clee-Hill Squawk 2363/239 north on A25 and squawk 6416/090 15nm east of Shawbury northbound.
7. 310020z Burrington Intermittent slow primary contacts close to the radar head moving N/E towards Chivenor, another to south manoeuvring. East of the radar head primary contact slow heading east.
8. N/K No times given.
9. 310140z Clee-Hill Squawk 2304/200 descending on A25. At 0146z overhead Shawbury squawk 5231/203 southbound.

5. Unfortunately I would say there was nothing unusual seen on the radar recordings, I will hold the master tapes and video recordings until we hear from you. Should you require any further assistance please call we are only to happy to help.

Rank WO Name [REDACTED] Signature [REDACTED]

Pattern of WFO spring 1953

+ multiple place springs in Devon / Cornwall



19 APR '53 8:20 FROM A I S M

Notes : All times are local  
Pencil arrows show estimated heading of U.



Redacted in accordance with  
the Data Protection Act 1998.



~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
POLICE IN CONFIDENCE

COS/87/2/Sy

RAF Police Flight  
RAF Cosford  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV7 3EX

OC RAF Police Flt

Mar 93

Sir,

POSSIBLE UFO SIGHTINGS

1. I have to report that at RAF Cosford on 31 Mar 93 at 0115 hours in company with Cpl [REDACTED] RAF Police, I was on mobile patrol of Leeming Road, adjacent to the Gravel Car Park when I saw two bright lights in the sky above the Airfield. The lights appeared to be flying at great velocity in a South Easterly direction at an altitude of approximately 1000 feet. The lights were circular in shape and gave off no beam. They were creamy white in colour and constant in size and in relation to each other.
2. I brought the vehicle to a standstill and pointed out the lights to Cpl [REDACTED]. I switched off the vehicle engine and we both got out of the car and observed the lights. There was no sound of any engine noise despite there being no wind and the sky being free from cloud. The lights were observed over-flying the Unit and away towards the Wolverhampton area. A slight red glow could be seen from the rear of the lights as they disappeared from view over the horizon. The lights were visible for approximately one minute.
3. Myself and Cpl [REDACTED] then returned to the COC and I contacted RAF Shawbury. I was informed that there were no aircraft flying from there.
4. At 0125 hours, I contacted ATC at RAF Lyneham and was informed that there were no known aircraft in the area of Cosford.
5. At 0127 hours, I contacted RAF Brize Norton and was informed the same.
6. At 0128 hours, I was informed by the Ord Cpl, Cpl [REDACTED] that a Mr [REDACTED] Brereton, Rugeley, Staffordshire had reported seeing the same lights over Rugeley. Four members of Mr [REDACTED] party had also witnessed the lights. Mr [REDACTED] had followed the lights which he described as being cream in colour at an altitude of 900-1000 feet and an estimated size of 200 metres. He could hear a humming noise as the object flew directly above him. Mr [REDACTED] stated that he believed that the object landed in an area known as Hazelslade but when he approached he could not find any signs of the landing. Mr [REDACTED] was instructed to inform his local Civil Police Force, which he did, and during a subsequent conversation, it was established that a Constable from Staffordshire Police had visited Mr [REDACTED].
7. At 0130 hours, I informed West Mercia Police, WPC [REDACTED] of the sightings.

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8. At 0140 hours, I informed HQ P&SS (UK), Cpl [REDACTED] of the incident.
9. At 0142 hours, I informed RAF West Drayton, Lt Cdr [REDACTED] of the incident, and he confirmed that there was no military aircraft of any kind in UK airspace and there had not been since 0001 hours.
10. At 0143 hours, the Senior Air Traffic Controller at Birmingham International Airport was contacted, and he confirmed that there were no civilian aircraft in Cosford Airspace and had not been for some hours.
11. At 0215 hours, OC RAF Police Flt and the Ord Off, Flt Lt [REDACTED] were informed of the incident.
12. At 0250 hours, Mr [REDACTED] RAF Shawbury Met Office, contacted Cpl [REDACTED] and stated that he had seen two lights in the sky at RAF Shawbury. The lights were first sighted approximately 15-20 kms away and Mr [REDACTED] observed them travel towards him over the Airfield moving erratically at hundreds of miles per hour unlike any aircraft. He described the lights as appearing to be searching for something. He heard a low humming noise and watched the object for 5 minutes until it disappeared from sight in a southerly direction. Mr [REDACTED] stated that he had been a Met Officer for 8 years and had never seen anything like it before.
13. At 0300 hours, Cpl [REDACTED] contacted a Mr [REDACTED], the Met Officer at Bristol Airport, who stated that similar lights had been seen there at 0055 hours. He had initially put the lights down to adverse meteor activity but in the light of the subsequent reports recorded it as unidentified.
14. At 0310 hours, West Mercia Police were made aware of the further reports and would contact Staffordshire and Avon & Somerset Forces to correlate the reports.
15. At 0330 hours I resumed normal duties.

[REDACTED]  
RAF PolicePOLICE IN CONFIDENCE  
UNCLASSIFIED

# RAF POLICE SITUATION REPORT.30-31 MAR 93.

DOB NO	DATE / TIME	PERSON REPORTING	OCCURRENCE	ACTION TAKEN
702/1/93	31 Mar 93 0115 hrs	RAFP Patrol	<b><u>POSSIBLE UFO SIGHTING.</u></b> Reports sighting two white lights overflying the Unit in a South Easterly direction at a height of 1000 feet. The velocity of the lights suggested fast jets, however, no collision beacons could be seen.	1. ATC units at Lyneham, Stize, Shawbury, Birmingham and West Drayton contacted and it was established that no Aircraft were flying.
	0125 hrs	Mr [REDACTED] Rugeley.	Reports the same lights in the Rugeley area flying erratically. He had followed the lights and seen them land at Hazelade. He had got within 200 feet of what he described as flying saucers, but on entering the area they had landed could not locate them. Report recorded by Ord Cpl.	2. All details passed to W. Mercia Police and P&SS.
	0250 hrs	Mr [REDACTED] Shawbury Met Office	Reports to the Ord Cpl that lights of the same description had been seen in RAF Shawbury Airspace heading South.	3. Mr [REDACTED] contacted Staffs Police, who attended the scene. 4. Ord Off and OC Police informed.
	0300 hrs	Mr [REDACTED] Bristol Met Office	Report that the lights had been seen there also. Initially it was presumed they were meteorites, but in light of other sightings could offer no explanation and recorded the sighting as unidentified.	5. Mr [REDACTED] was certain that the lights could not be Aircraft of a known kind. 6. Avon & Somerset Police were informed by Airport Staff. 7. West Mercia Police were informed of the further sightings and will correlate all reports. 8. Report submitted by Cpl [REDACTED]

100 POLICE  
 31 MAR 1993  
 RAF COSFORD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Honiton

Devon [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

14th March 1993

[REDACTED]

SEC (AS) 2A  
Room 8245  
MOD Main Building  
Whithall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Firstly, thank you for your help when I rang you last week re: the sighting of an unknown object on Wednesday 31st March '93 over Wales and the Westcountry.

As requested I am enclosing a copy of my hastily prepared Interim Report concerning this event. It will obviously take some time to collate all the information I receive, but once this is completed I will let you have a copy of my final report.

I understood from our conversation, that you have also received some reports of this event and would appreciate anything you can tell me concerning this. I have no idea at present what flew over this area on the night in question, all I do know is that it was very big, was shaped something like a 'Catamaran' and was completely silent!

Once again many thanks for your help.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

INTERIM REPORT

Case No 933

Case Name - 'Westcountry / Wales Sightings - 31st March 1993'

Introduction

At 2.20am on the morning of 31st March 1993, I received phone call from Sgt [REDACTED] of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force informing me that at 1.10am he had observed 2 very bright white objects hovering at approximately 2,000' north of his position, S.E. of Liskeard on the A38. He had been notified of the objects presence in the area, by two other Police Officers, P.Cs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. These officers were travelling out of Liskeard in a north westerly direction and had themselves observed the two objects approaching from the N.E. Sgt [REDACTED] watched the objects for a few seconds before they started to ascend fairly quickly and moved S.E. in an arc to a height of about 10,000' towards Torpoint, Plymouth, Devon.

Following this report, I contacted the Police Control Headquarters at Exeter, Devon and was informed by an officer on duty that they had received a number of similar reports from other Police Officers in Ilfracombe, Plymouth and East Devon. They also mentioned a report from the South Wales Gwent Police. Acting on this information, I telephoned the police station at Ilfracombe, (Nth Devon) and spoke to a Sgt [REDACTED] who informed me that at approximately 1.10am whilst driving down into Lynton, with another officer (P.C. [REDACTED]) they saw two

(2)

very large bright white lights approaching from the north, across the Bristol Channel. He estimated their height to be about 2,000'. As the lights passed overhead, both officers discerned a structure between the lights and estimated that an object some 500' wide with lights on either side had passed over their heads at low altitude! They subsequently logged a report of this event with their headquarters.

After this call, I contacted the Plymouth police and was informed that they had received a call, about 1.10am, from a gentleman who reported seeing two very bright lights, flying fairly high over Stoke (Plymouth) and proceeding in a S.Easterly direction. Because of the time of night and the improbability of what the person was reporting, this report was not officially logged.

Later in the day, I contacted the police at Merthyr Tydfil (South Wales) and after some delay obtained the names of two police officers stationed at Treharris Police Station who had also reported seeing two very bright white objects/lights flying across South Wales and heading across the Bristol Channel. Their report was also timed at about 1.10am.

That evening I contacted the Exeter Police and was given the names of three police officers who had earlier reported a sighting. These proved to be a Sgt [REDACTED] PC [REDACTED] and PC [REDACTED]. All three officers had been on duty in Paul Street, Exeter, when they observed two very bright objects flying parallel to each other and on an Easterly course over the city.

(3)

On Thursday 1st April 1993, I received a call from [REDACTED] at the British UFO Research Associations Office, giving me the name, address and telephone number of Mrs [REDACTED] from Pentregalar, Dyfed, who had also seen the two very bright lights in flight across N.W.Wales at 1.10am on Wednesday 31st March 1993.

At this point, I now had some seven or eight reports, mostly police officers, who had all observed two very bright white lights or objects, travelling across the night sky from approximately N.W to S.E. in complete silence and trailing some form of illuminated vapour trail behind them / it! What was noticeable about these sightings, was that all the persons I spoke too had great difficulty in describing the 'trails' and used the term vapour as a simply means of doing so. What was also noted was the fact that whatever it was that was trailing behind the objects, it was 'illuminated' or 'lit up' by some means or other. One person described them as 'like car head light beams shining backwards, another thought they looked like long thin fluorescent light tubes!

Because of the extraordinary similarity between the reports, it was obvious to me that at approximately 1.10am on the morning of the 31st March 1993, an object of enormous size had crossed N.W.Wales, S.Wales, N.Devon, Cornwall and E. Devon. During its flight it had descended from a great height over N.W.Wales to about 2,000' above the Bristol Channel and hovered at the same height north of Liskeard. From there it ascended to approximately 10,000' over Plymouth and subsequently E. Devon. From here I felt sure it must have travelled further east or south easterly and decided therefore to try and obtain some additional sightings by use of the local press. I contacted the Taunton Gazette and Honiton News, both weekly papers and gave them some details of the events of Wednesday 31st.

(4)

I avoided giving the time of the sightings and a full description of what had been seen.

These reports were published on Friday 2 April 1993 and by mid afternoon on that day my phone was ringing continuously. My callers were mainly from the Taunton, Minehead area and interestingly gave me a good picture of the objects journey over Somerset and onto the Dorset border. Again most of the reports were of two very bright white lights, flying parallel to each other and at a constant speed. The rear light source was again mentioned in all the reports and as before the callers had difficulty in describing this. The length of the trailing light varied from caller to caller and was anything from 100' to 100yds depending on the callers angle of sighting. Most of these sightings were timed between 1.10am and 1.17am, which indicated a 1.10am to 1.15am sighting, some five minutes later than the Welsh, Cornwall sightings.

In addition to the 1.10am - 1.15am sightings, I also received two reports concerning a large object carrying two very bright outward light sources. This object was seen at 2am over the River Parrot, Nr Bridgewater, flying very low, about 800', by some local fishermen known as 'Elvers'. Elvers being young eels. Both reports concerned a number of fishermen, but were initially made by two of them, Mr [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] of Bridgewater, Somerset. One of the sighters, [REDACTED] described the object as looking like a very large 'Catamaran'. It had two long ski like sections underneath which appeared to be joined by a centre structure about 400' to 500' apart! From the rear they described a long beam like light source, something like a cars headlights dimmed.



(5)

In all the reports received, there was no mention of any noise being associated with the lights / object, in fact the reverse appears to be the case, i.e. complete silence!

Whilst collating all these reports, I also received some reports concerning bright lights flying in formation and hovering over Bridgewater and Bishops Lydiard between 9pm and 10pm on the evening of 30th March 1993. I also received one report, again from a police officer, who was off duty and with some Scouts up on the Quantock Hills at about 9pm on the 30th. He reports seeing a large object flying in from the north, fairly low and said it resembled 'two concord aircraft fixed together' and covered in a number of white bright lights. Obviously this could not have been two 'Concords' but its not a bad description in comparison with the 'Elvers' description at 2am i.e. a large 'Catamaran'.

Since these reports I have received three more, only these have come from St Ives, Cornwall. again two very bright lights are reported flying parallel to each other and very high in the sky. This is some twenty minutes later than the earlier sightings on the 31st and indicates that the objects or objects were seen over the West Country and Wales, on at least three separate occasions i.e. 1.10am, 1.30am and 2am.


From the general description given, it would appear that the object seen was about 500' in width, carrying two very bright light sources at its outer edges with a number of smaller lights surrounding its main body. It left a tail of light, something like a vapour trail, only illuminated or lit up.

(6)

At this point in the investigation, Sunday 11th April 1993, I have now despatched 33 report forms to all the 'sighters' and once returned will hopefully be able to plot at least the 1.10am flight path of the object and provide a better description of its form, structure and performance. I will also have a better picture of the 1.30am St Ives, Cornwall and 2am Bridgewater, Somerset events.

As a matter of interest, two of my reports concerned the presence of two 'Jet Fighters' flying in from the East. one behind the other, and across Devon at 1.30am on the 31st. One report came from a retired airline pilot living in East Devon who gave the altitude of the jets as 20,000' and their speed as 1,500mph. He also said they were in a hurry and had their 'after burners' on! This report was later corroborated by a second report from a gentlemen living in Wellington, Somerset. My efforts to confirm the presence of these aircraft with SEC (AS) 2A at the MOD (AIR) was not successful. From their records no military aircraft were airborne at this time over Devon and are therefore unknown to anybody at this time!

I also received two reports of three military type helicopters flying in a radius of Bridgewater between 1.30am and 2am on the 31st. Both reporters are adamant that the helicopters were military - probably 'Sea Kings'? but again MOD (AIR) were unable to confirm their presence in the area. My information is that these Helicopters were on a search operation of some kind or another and that at one stage 'red flares' were seen due south of Bridgewater.



13th April 1993

FIN/2286/016

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting. 30<sup>TH</sup> MAR 93 2130 5MINS
- B. Description of Object. ONE. GLASS BOTTOM. TWO ROWS OF BRIGHT LIGHTS ALONG ITS SIDE. UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH SHAPE DUE TO INTENSITY OF LIGHTS
- C. Exact Position Observer. PENINE MOORS IN AREA KNOWN AS PENING PENNINE SLOPES AT BIRCH WOOD IN AREA OF PENISTON
- D. How Observed. SIGHTED WHILST DRIVING CAR
- E. Direction in which Object was first seen.
- F. Angle of Sight.
- G. Distance. , THEN ~~WAS~~ TRAVELLED TO OBJECT UNTIL UNDERNEATH IT . A PROX 200M .
- H. Movements. STILLTILL APPROACHED THEN MOVED TOWARDS WOOD AREA UNTIL OUT OF SIGHT
- I. Meteorological condistions during observation. FINE DRY CLEAR
- J. Nearby Objects.
- K. To whom reported. PC [REDACTED]
- L. Name and Address of Informant. [REDACTED]  
MONK BRETTON BARNSELY [REDACTED]
- M. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.
- N. Other Witnesses. 2 POLICEMEN WITNESSED SEEING<sup>BRIGHT</sup> LIGHTS FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AT 0117 HRS, TRAVELLING FROM PENISTON TOWARDS SHEFFIELD. / PC [REDACTED] PENISTON POLICE STATION [REDACTED]
- O. Date and Time of receipt of Report. 3/PC [REDACTED] GOTHORPE POLICE STATION  
30 MAR 93 2147 HRS
- P. Is a reply requested. YES

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank SGT Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

Date 31 MARCH 93

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Witness Statement

Statement of [Redacted]

Age if under 21 0 21 (if over 21 insert 'over 21').

This statement (consisting of 2 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 31st day of March 19 93

Signature [Redacted]

I am a Sergeant in the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary stationed at Liskeard in Cornwall.

At about 0110 hrs on the morning of Wednesday 31st March 1993 I was on duty in uniform and driving a marked Police vehicle along the A38 at Looe Mills near Liskeard travelling in the direction of Dobwalls.

This was naturally during the hours of darkness and the weather was fine and dry, with some patchy cloud; the moon and a number of stars being visible. I was unaccompanied.

As I began to negotiate a sweeping uphill left hand bend at the bottom of Lantocm Hill, I became aware of what appeared to be two 'stars' just above the horizon in the approximate position of "two o'clock". They were due North of me and motionless in the sky. My attention was drawn to these "stars" because apart from being in a part of the sky where there are usually no stars, they were of a darker hue bordering on yellow instead of silvery-white. They were reasonably close together but as I could not begin to estimate their distance from me, I likewise cannot estimate how far they were from each other.

As I negotiated the bend I continued to observe them when I suddenly saw them begin to move what appeared to me vertically upwards. They maintained a parallel course and identical speed and as they approached the "one o'clock" position they began to leave vapour trails. I brought my car to a halt, switched off the engine and got out. My location now was

Signature [Redacted]

Signature witnessed by.....

Continuation of Statement of 

Continuation sheet No .

approximately 100 yards the Liskeard side of the lay by outside Lantoom Quarry, map ref 230 650.

My view of these objects was very good; the sky being clear, and they continued their ascent still at an identical speed to each other and still on a parallel course. I realised that they were not ascending vertically but rather curving overhead and heading due South. As they gained in height the vapour trails became much more pronounced. I was still unable to estimate their height because of their small size (identical to a star in the night sky) but I believe they were very high. As they passed directly overhead at "12 o'clock high", the heavens at this point were bright and moonlit and I could see that there was nothing between the objects apart from empty sky. They were definitely two separate objects.

At about this time I became aware of what I believed to be a third object visible only by its vapour trail which was considerably less obvious than the vapour trails of the other two objects. This third object seemed to be travelling to the right hand side of the left hand object (as I was looking up), and slightly to the rear of it. It maintained the identical speed and parallel course of the other objects.

As the objects continued on a dead straight north south course, they seemed to be travelling at a similar speed to a high flying passenger jet aircraft. I lost sight of them owing to the high ground of the quarry immediately on my left.

During the total duration of this sighting, which was between 45 seconds and 1 minute, my observation of these objects was continuous and uninterrupted. There was no sound whatever, the night being very still with no traffic.

  
Signature

Signature witnessed by

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

-5 APR 1993

AIR FORCE OPERATIONS

REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

Report passed to H12  
31/10192 E

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

<p>A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting Local times to be quoted</p>	<p>31/3/93. 0010Z Approx 1 min</p>
<p>B. Description of Object Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.</p>	<p>2 very bright (like stars) Parallel, slightly behind Silver tail / gold tail</p>
<p>C. Exact position of observer Geographical location, indoors or out, stationery or moving.</p>	<p>Outside House [Redacted] Bristol</p>
<p>D. How Observed Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.</p>	<p>Naked eye 4 persons</p>
<p>E. Direction in which Object was First Seen A landmark more useful than badly estimated bearing.</p>	<p>E → W. (south of the position)</p>
<p>F. Angular Elevation of Object Estimated heights are unreliable.</p>	<p>View from 800ft Hill disappeared behind hill. long away trav. fac</p>
<p>G. Distance of Object from Observer Ref. to known landmark when possible.</p>	<p>long way (1)</p>
<p>H. Movements of Object Changes in E, F &amp; G more use than est. course and speed.</p>	<p>Same speed + direction</p>
<p>J. Met. Condition During Observation Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.</p>	<p>Very clear night 1/2 moon</p>
<p>K. Nearby Objects Telephone or high-voltage lines; dam, lake or reservoir; swamp or marsh; river; high building, tall chimney, steeples, spires or masts; airfields, generating plants; pits, factories or other lighted sites, or lighting.</p>	<p>/</p>
<p>L. To Whom Reported Police, Military org. the press, etc.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>M. Name and Address of Informant</p>	<p>Miss [Redacted] East Hampton Bristol</p>
<p>N. Any Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered</p>	<p>Graduate Hist (BA)</p>
<p>O. Other Witness</p>	<p>3 (20-24)</p>
<p>P. Date and Time of Receipt of Report</p>	<p>1004 31/3/93</p>

Signature ....

[Redacted Signature]

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March , 0109
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	one oval shaped object , 200 metre diameter, dark silhouette , 2 creamy white lights either side . v. little sound . Possible low hum.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Back garden of house in Rugeley , Cannock Chase .
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	First seen almost directly above house .
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Almost directly overhead . Heading towards Hazle Slade . 45° at me point .
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	Object very low + close when first seen
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Initially hovered , then descended in erratic way . Followed in car . Object then shot off v high speed + high level
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	clear
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Houses

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	RAF Cosford - Flt Lt [redacted] [redacted] cat [redacted]
L. Name & Address of Informant	Mr [redacted] Rugeley, Staffs. [redacted]
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	See Q
N. Other Witnesses	Mr [redacted] wife, daughter + her boyfriend
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31st March, 0145
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	Mr [redacted] has had observer recognition trg with Army. RAF Cosford have received 10 reports. witnesses included CPl [redacted] from Cosford + colleague, [redacted] from Bristol + someone at Shawbury met office, who saw something approx 15 km away, moving easterly at approx 400 - 600 kts. Cosford checked with West Drayton - no radar trace. Birmingham airport also picked up nothing.

Signal reports to follow

witnesses - Mr [redacted] Shawbury met office  
CPl [redacted] + colleague at  
RAF Cosford. Their boss is  
Pilot Officer [redacted]

Telecom: 1.07, 31st March. Sitting in house. Puffeter outside walking dog. came in hysterical. Rusted out - object spinning anticlockwise, 2 or 3 times then still + levelled off. 900-1000 ft. 150-200 inches diameter. Cylindrical shape. Two round disks on either side. Creamy pearly glow from them. Moved, with low, sideways hum (wife heard + saw too). Tilted away, then slow descent to 300-400 ft. Banked to right v slow, then shot off. 5 witnessed - Mr [redacted] wife, son, daughter + daughter's boyfriend. Object looked like classic UFO photo from The Unexplained - Texas/New Mexico, 1957? Will send sketch.



REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March, c 1.10 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	One oval shaped object, spinning, own stationary. 2 dull creamy colored lights/gloves on each side. Low humming noise heard
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Back garden of house
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	virtually overhead, then moved off in direction of Hazelstade
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Almost directly over house
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	When first seen, approx 1000 ft height, overhead. Descended to 300-400 ft.
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Spinning at first, then hovered. Slow descent, then banked and moved off at very high speed
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Clear night
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Houses

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Contacted RAF Cosford + local police
L. Name & Address of Informant	Mr [REDACTED], Breckon, Rugeley, Staffs
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	N/k
N. Other Witnesses	Mr [REDACTED] wife, son, daughter, and daughter's boyfriend
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 1.45 am
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	Mr [REDACTED] believed object had come down near Hazelstade, and went to investigate. Nothing found. Insistent that object wasn't anything explainable.



Sec (AS) 2a

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 March, 1.10 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	2 bright white lights in parallel - one slightly behind the other. No sound. No flashes. Marked vapour trail, not v long.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	outdoors, from high ground - witness was lambing. Brighter + larger than Jupiter
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Heading from NW to SE, towards Somerset
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Object v high. Covered horizon in under 2 minutes. 2/3 miles up?
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	Either very high + large or very low and quiet.
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Speed constant
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Still quiet night, no clouds, 1st quarter moon
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	None

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Sec (AS) 2a, and Conliff airport, who debriefed nothing on order
L. Name & Address of Informant	[REDACTED] Crymych, Puffall [REDACTED]
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	Farmer. Has science degree, and is v used to seeing civil + military witnesses
N. Other Witnesses	None
O. Date, Time of Receipt	Wed 31st March, 9.15 am
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	Appeared to v sensible + reliable witness

Signal reports to follow



Sec (AS) 2a

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

E

<p>A. Date, Time &amp; Duration of Sighting</p>	<p>31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1993, 0110 HRS. DURATION 45 SECS - 1 MINUTE</p>
<p>B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)</p>	<p>2 OBJECTS, APPEARANCE COMPLETELY IDENTICAL TO STARS</p>
<p>C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving</p>	<p>DRIVING WEST ON A38 @ MAP OF LOGEMILL N. LINDSAY. <del>475</del> STOPPED + ALIGHTED FROM CAR + 230 GS MADE FURTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM A STATIONARY POSITION.</p>
<p>D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)</p>	
<p>E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)</p>	<p>DUE NORTH</p>
<p>F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)</p>	<p>APPX 2 O'CLOCK</p>
<p>G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)</p>	<p>INESTIMABLE</p>
<p>H. Movements (Changes in E, F &amp; G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)</p>	<p>BOTH LIGHTS MOVED VERTICALLY UPWARDS ON PARALLEL COURSE, THEN CURVED HIGH ABOVE ME BEARING NORTH - SOUTH</p>
<p>I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)</p>	<p>CLEAR, DRY, STILL NIGHT.</p>
<p>J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)</p>	<p>NOTHING</p>

<p>K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)</p>	<p>WITNESSED BY POLICE OFFICER + REPORTED TO DIVISIONAL CONTROL ROOM SERGEANT [REDACTED]</p>
<p>L. Name &amp; Address of Informant</p>	<p>[REDACTED] <i>REDACTED</i></p>
<p>M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered</p>	<p>14+ YEARS POLICE SERVICE.</p>
<p>N. Other Witnesses</p>	<p>VARIOUS POLICE OFFICERS IN DUBLIN, ROSSNAPRA + WALS.</p>
<p>O. Date, Time of Receipt</p>	<p>17/4/93.</p>
<p>P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Q. <u>Remarks</u></p>	<p>AN UNPREDICTABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH I AM UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR BY NORMAL EXPLANATIONS.</p>

*REDACTED*  
*ESTIMATED*  
*CONVIN*

↑ FEED DIRECTION

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD148 31/0959 090C1185

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310720Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 310110Z MAR 93. 30 SECONDS
- B. TWO, POSSABLY THREE, STARSHAPED WITH VAPOUR TRAIL WHEN MOVING, YELLOW/GOLD AND BRIGHT
- C. MOORSWATER, LISHEARD, CORNWALL, OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. NORTH
- F. ABOVE
- G. N/K
- H. STATIONARY THEN MOVING STEADILY
- J. CLEAR
- L. POLICE
- M. SGT [REDACTED] LISKEARD, CORNWALL
- N. POLICE OFFICERS

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0003 UNCLAS  
 O. SEEN BY OTHER POLICE OFFICERS THROUGHOUT DEVON AND CORNWALL  
 P. 310130Z MAR 93  
 BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F  
 F  
 CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
 CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
 CAP 1 DI 55

U N C L A S S I F I E D

REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time and Duration of Sighting Local times to be quoted	TC 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1992 0115 am
B. Description of Object Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.	NO SOUND 2 BRIGHT LIGHTS BALL SHAPED. TRAILS OF VAPOUR
C. Exact position of observer Geographical location, indoors or out, stationery or moving.	INDOORS, STATIONARY BRIDGEWATER ON DOCKS.
D. How Observed Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.	NAKED EYE
E. Direction in which Object was First Seen A landmark more useful than badly bearing.	FM NORTH HEADING SE
F. Angular Elevation of Object Estimated heights are unreliable.	RIGHT OVER HOUSE
G. Distance of Object from Observer Ref. to known landmark when possible.	- 11 -
H. Movements of Object Changes in E, F & G more use than est. course and speed.	FASTER THAN AGROPLANE SE
J. Met. Condition During Observation Moving clouds, haze, mist, etc.	CLEAR NIGHT CALM
K. Nearby Objects Telephone or high-voltage lines; dam, lake or reservoir; swamp or marsh; river; high building, tall chimney, steeples, spires or masts; airfields, generating plants; pits, factories or other lighted sites, or lighting.	ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE OF B'WATER BY DOCKS
L. To Whom Reported Police, Military org. the press, etc.	B'WATER MERCURY - NO RESPONSE
M. Name and Address of Informant	MRS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BRIDGEWATER
N. Any Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered	SAME.
O. Other Witness	HUSBAND
P. Date and Time of Receipt of Report	15 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1800 L (1 <sup>ST</sup> REPORTED 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
SECRETARIAT  
1993  
FILE

Signature [REDACTED]



↑  
FEED  
DIRECTION

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD153 01/1325 091C1129

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 010850Z APR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 310115Z MAR 93 30 SECONDS

B. TWO WHITE LIGHTS TRAVELLING AT HIGH SPEED, FORTY TO FIFTY FEET APART

C. GREATLY HAMPSHIRE, OUTDOORS AND STATIONARY

D. NAKED EYE

E. NORTH TO SOUTH

F. 300 - 400FT AGL

G. OVERHEAD

H. HIGH SPEED

J. REASONABLY CLEAR, SLIGHT OVERCAST

K. LOCAL HILL (COSLEY HILL)

L. SATCO MIDDLE WALLOP

M. MR [REDACTED]

GREATLY HAMPSHIRE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0003 UNCLAS

N. AVIATOR WITH ARMY FLYING ASSOCIATION, ENGINEER AND BOOKING SECRETARY

O. MISS [REDACTED]

P. 010845Z APR 93

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDD )  
CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
CAP 1 DI 55

END

U N C L A S S I F I E D

↑  
FEED  
DIRECTION

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB123 31/1257 090C2197

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 311220Z MAR 93

FROM RAF CHIVENOR  
TO MODUK AIRU N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT AERIAL PHENOMENAL

A. 310120L MAR 93

B. 3. LARGE, VERY BRIGHT LIGHT

C. BRAUNTON BURROWS/OUTDOORS/WALKING

D. NAKED EYE

E. OBJECT FLEW OVER BURROWS FROM SOUTH AND SEEMED TO LAND IN SAND  
DUNES

F. NIL

G. N/K

H. STEADY

J. CLEAR SKY

K. NIL

L. REPORTED TO RAF CHIVENOR OPERATIONS ALSO SEEN BY POLICE PATROL  
PASSING BURROWS IN CAR

PAGE 2 RBDIAIA 0013 UNCLAS

M. MR [REDACTED] BRAUNTON, DEVON

N. NIL

O. POLICE OFFICERS PLUS FRIENDS

P. 311230L MAR 93

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )

CYD 1 DD GE/AEW

CAP 1 DI 55

↑ FEED  
DIRECTION

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD203 31/1158 090C1975

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 311050Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 310010Z MAR 93
- B. TWO, VERY BRIGHT, STAR LIKE OBJECTS IN A ECHELON MILITARY FORMATION LEAD OBJECT HAD POINTED TAIL OTHER HAD GOLD TAIL
- C. OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. EAST TO WEST, SOUTH OF HOUSE
- F. LOW
- G. APPROX 20 KM
- H. STEADY
- J. VERY CLEAR, HALF MOON
- M. MISS [REDACTED] EAST HARPTREE, BRISTOL
- N. BA HISTORY GRADUATE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0006 UNCLAS  
O. THREE OTHERS AGED 20-24  
P. 311015Z  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F  
CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
CYD 1 DD GE/AEW  
CAP 1 II 55



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD151 31/1002 090C1243

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310730Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC Z6F  
SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 310110A MAR 93. 2 TO 3 MINUTES
- B. TWO, VERY BRIGHT, CIRCULAR WITH TAILS, WHITE IN COLOUR
- C. GELLIGAR COMMON Treharris, Merthyr Tydfil
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. OVERHEAD MOVING NORTH
- F. LOW, APPROX 100-200 METRES
- G. OVERHEAD
- H. VERY SLOW
- J. CLEAR
- L. POLICE
- M. PC [REDACTED] MERTHYR TYDFIL, CENTRAL POLICE STATION, SWAN STREET,
- N. NONE

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0005 UNCLAS  
O. OTHER POLICE OFFICERS  
P. 310154A MAR 93  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F					
CAB	1	SEC(AS)	ACTION	( CXV	1 AFDO )
CYD	1	DD GE/AEW			
CAP	1	DI 55			

↑ FEED DIRECTION

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB092 31/1001 090C1238

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 310725Z MAR 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 310055A MAR 93
- B. TWO METEORITE TYPE OBJECTS, ORANGE AND WHITE WITH TRAIL AND BRIGHT
- C. INDOORS, MOVING
- D. BINOCULARS
- E. SOUTH, RIGHT TO LEFT
- F. LOW
- G. UNKNOWN
- H. STEADY
- J. CLEAR
- K. NONE
- M. [REDACTED] LULSGATE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL LULSGATE BRISTOL BS19  
3DY
- N. WITNESSED BY AIRCREW AND OTHER AIRPORT STAFF

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0004 UNCLAS  
P. 310334A MAR 93  
BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB	1	SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV	1	AFDO )
CYD	1	DD GE/AEW		
CAP	1	DI 55		

END

U N C L A S S I F I E D

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 12-15 am
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	2 bright lights, with lit vapour trail. No noise.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	From balcony of house, looking out over St Brides Bay
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Heading from North to South
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	Thought object was fairly low
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	N/k
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Crossed the bay (7/8 miles) in 25 secs, at approx 1100 mph?
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Clear
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	N/k

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	Sec (AS) 2a
L. Name & Address of Informant	Mr [REDACTED] Solve, Haverford west, Leicestershire.
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	None
N. Other Witnesses	None
O. Date, Time of Receipt	1/4/93 - PM
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	None
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	man was behind object - surprised he couldn't make out shape - witness said it must've been absolutely null. witness believed object was big - from 7/8 miles could still see both lights.



Sec (AS) 2a

# STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Telephone: Cannock 574545

Our Ref. CAN/JC/SAT

Your Ref.



Police Station,  
Wolverhampton Road,  
Cannock,  
Staffs.  
WS11 1AW

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

7th May, 1993

Department of Trade and Industry,  
National Air Traffic Control Services,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London SW1H 0ET

Dear Sirs,

I attach hereto copy reports received from my officers in connection with alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Yours faithfully,



Superintendent.

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A  
MOD  
Main Building  
Room 8245.  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2H

FAO Mr. [Redacted]

The person dealing with this correspondence is:



## Staffordshire Police

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

FROM: P.C. [REDACTED]

STATION: RUGELEY

TO: SUPT. [REDACTED]

DATE: 31.3.93

SUBJECT: U.F.O. REPORT

1. With reference to the attached report by P.C. [REDACTED] concerning a U.F.O. being sighted in the Brereton Area of Rugeley, more information has been received by myself from a Cpl [REDACTED] of the Military Police at R.A.F. Cosford.
2. Cpl [REDACTED] has informed me that from enquiries he has made he has further sightings of the U.F.O. in Bristol at 0100 hours by an [REDACTED] at Bristol Airport, at Ternhill Barracks at 0200 hours by two guards on duty there and at R.A.F. Stafford where two guards also saw it travelling at a speed of approximately '400 knots' on a very low flight path.
3. Cpl [REDACTED] also informed me that he has liaised with R.A.F. Shrewsbury, at Mr [REDACTED], who informed him that he had seen a U.F.O. in the sky travelling at high speed but riding erratically at different attitudes. He observed it for approx. 15 minutes until it went off at speed (400 knots) in a southern direction.
4. Enquiries have been made with all aviation centres and there was no activity in the area at all by any military or civil aeroplanes.
5. All the above information has been recorded at R.A.F. Cosford and a separate report has been compiled by Cpl [REDACTED]
6. If any more information is required it can be obtained from The Military Police at R.A.F. Cosford Tel. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

P.C. [REDACTED]

## Staffordshire Police

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

FROM: P.C. [REDACTED]

TO: SUPERINTENDENT [REDACTED]

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

STATION: RUGELEY

DATE: 31st March, 1993

SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. At 0149 hours on Wednesday 31st March, 1993 a Mr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Brereton, Rugeley, reported to Rugeley Police Station that he had sighted a U.F.O. in the Brereton area. The informant was visited and the following details were obtained:

A TIME - 0109 hrs  
DATE - 31.3.93  
DURATION OF SIGHTING - Approx. 1 minute

B DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

Shape - Oval  
 Size - Approximately 150 metres in length  
 Colour - Shiny. Unable to state colour.  
 Brightness - The object had lights at each end which were cream and very bright  
 Sound - Loud humming noise.

C EXACT POSITION OBSERVED

The informant sighted the object whilst stood in the garden of his home address.

D HOW OBSERVED

Naked eye

E DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT WAS FIRST SEEN

The informant saw the object over the Stile Cop area of Cannock Chase.

F ANGLE OF SIGHT

Approximately 45 degrees

G DISTANCE

Approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile

H MOVEMENTS

Moved away into the distance slowly

J METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Dry and Clear

Cont'd Overleaf / SHAW 115

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Chief Superintendent [REDACTED]

- 1. I would ask that a copy of this report be forwarded as outlined in Minute 1 (2) above.

26 April 1993



Chief Inspector [REDACTED]

PAB.

Superintendent [REDACTED] Cannock.

- 1. This type of report need not be referred to Headquarters and may be forwarded direct to the Department of Trade and Industry.

5th May, 1993.

[REDACTED] f Superintendent.

37  
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Ref: Case No 933

[REDACTED]  
Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

26th May 1993

[REDACTED]  
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Room 8245  
Ministry Of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [REDACTED]

Firstly, many thanks for your help over the last few weeks, it really has been appreciated.

Just a quick update on the events of 30th/31st March 1993 re: the sightings here in the Westcountry.

It is almost certain that the majority of the 1.10am sightings were in fact the re-entry of a Russian second stage rocket that had put a Cosmos Radio Satellite (2238) into orbit sometime before midnight.

What we don't know is what the object or objects seen at 1.30am over St Ives, Cornwall and 2.00am over Bridgewater, Somerset and indeed the hovering object(s) seen over Nth Devon between 8.00pm and 11.00pm on the 30th!

From the evidence to date, something was most definitely haunting the sky over Nth Devon on the evening of the 30th and I have substantiated reports confirming this.

The 2.00am Bridgewater sighting also appears to be genuine and I can see no reason to doubt it.

/2

(2)

Then there is the collection of sightings you kindly gave me covering Avon, Shropshire and South Yorkshire up to 2.40am on the 31st - it certainly was a busy night for something.

At the moment I am busy putting together a 16 page report on these events and once completed will despatch it to the appropriate authorities - you will of course receive a copy.

However, before finalising this report, I wondered if you had been able to obtain any information re: the two fighter aircraft seen over Devon at 1.30am on the 31st or the 3 helicopters seen over and around Bridgewater at 1.30am also on the 31st.

Could I please ask if you could once again check your records and ascertain, if possible, what they were doing! I realise this may be difficult, but I do honestly believe that they have a bearing on this case.

Once again, many thanks for your help to date and do hope I, m not causing you any undue trouble or inconvenience.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



P.S. Thanks for the letter sent to you by the Post office - I received it this morning.

 40

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

Ref: Case No 933

[REDACTED]

Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

26th May 1993

[REDACTED]

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Room 8245  
Ministry Of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Dear [REDACTED]

Thankyou for your letter received today in reply to mine of the 26th May last.

As promised please find enclosed a copy of my report re: the events of the night 30th/31st March 1993. As is usual with these types of cases once the event has passed there is not much more we can do with it. Our only hope is that something else might pop out of the woodwork at a later date to throw some light on it.

There appears to have been a lot of ufo activity over the last few months particularly in the Gwent area of South Wales. Some of the sightings are very similar to the events in that area in 1980 and 1982 which were in themselves quite extraordinary - but again once reported upon what else can we do. One day perhaps we shall have a landing or some tangible evidence of what these 'things' are and more importantly - what their doing!

I hope you find the report of some interest and if you have any ideas or theories on this event please let me know.

Once again many thanks for your help and look forward to speaking to you again.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Sec 11/311  
08 JUN 1993  
FILE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Honiton  
Devon [REDACTED]

20th May 1993

INVESTIGATION REPORT

CASE NO 933 - 'The Wales and Westcountry Sightings'  
30th / 31st March 1993

This report has been compiled with information received from, and with the much appreciated co-operation of [REDACTED] - Chairman of the [REDACTED] Research Group. It also includes information received from [REDACTED] of the Ministry of Defence (Sec Air)2a, Mr [REDACTED] of the British Astronomical Association (BAA), Mr [REDACTED] a BBC correspondent for BBC Radio 4, based in Dublin, Ireland, members of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force and numerous members of the British public living in Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Introduction

On Wednesday the 31st March 1993, at approx 2.20am, I received a telephone call from Sgt [REDACTED] of the Devon & Cornwall Police Force. He is stationed at Bodmin, Cornwall and was reporting an incident that had occurred at 1.10am that morning whilst on duty near Liskeard. Briefly he reported that at 1.10am, whilst driving towards Dobwalls on the A38, he noticed 2 very bright lights of objects hovering at about 2,000' above the N.W. Horizon. Knowing the night sky fairly well he immediately realised that 'they' were not stars and did not conform to any known aircraft or their navigation lights. At this point he stopped his patrol car and got out. he watched the objects for a few seconds and was amazed to see them suddenly start to ascend at a fairly fast rate of knots.

(2)

They seemed to move in an arc over his position and disappeared to the south. At their highest point, about \*10,000' 2 vapour like trails appeared behind each object and they appeared to be self luminous. \* This height is based on information obtained from the control tower at Exeter Airport later that day.

At the end of his report, Sgt [REDACTED] informed me that several other police officers had made similar reports to their operations room at Exeter.

Shortly after this call, I contacted the Ops. Room at Exeter and was told that they had received a number of reports, all from police officers on duty within the counties of Cornwall and Devon. They also said that 2 other officers of the Gwent Police Force, had also logged a similar report.

In total I was given the names and contact addresses of 11 officers. In addition I was informed that 2 other officers who were on a special surveillance operation somewhere in East Devon, had also reported something very similar. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain these officers names and can do no more than note their sightings.

During that day, I managed to contact (by phone) all the officers concerned and after taking details of their sightings and with their permission despatched each a copy of our UFO report forms for completion and return.

\* Strangely, to date I have only received back 3 completed sets of forms and what is even more puzzling, is the fact that all of these have been from police sergeants - none from police constables! Whether there is a particular reason for this remains to be seen, but it does seem a bit odd to say the least.



(3)

From the original phone reports and the returned report forms a fairly comprehensive picture of the nights events soon became apparent.

\* At appendix 'A' to this report is a summary of these reports, coupled with others received from members of the public during the course of the investigation.

What emerged from these reports, ( with the exception of Sgt [REDACTED] (Liskeard) and Sgt [REDACTED] (Lynton) was that they all virtually told the same story - this is as follows:

The time is 1.10am on the 31st March 1993, and a number of police officers on duty within Devon & Cornwall, observed 2 very bright white lights or objects, traversing the sky from the N.W. to the S.E., and at a high altitude. All report seeing some sort of vapour trails behind and staying with the objects. Most had problems in describing these 'trails' but most thought they were self luminous or lit by some light source from the objects. What is certain is that they were not the usual vapour trails associated with high flying conventional aircraft. Most reported the objects as fairly fast - somewhat faster than a Jet aircraft. In addition all reported that the objects were completely silent.

As stated earlier all the reports are very similar, given due regard to these officers knowledge or otherwise of the night sky and their abilities to judge the height or speed of objects traversing it. This is not doubting these officers truthfulness or their observation powers, but I do think it's a case of 'horses for courses'. Objects in the night sky, as we all know, can be very deceptive and this is particular so when uncommon phenomenon such as decaying space hardware is concerned.

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Most of these reports (if not all!) were, I have reason to believe, their observations of a Russian 2nd stage launch vehicle of the Tsyklon class, which had previously (about midnight) put into orbit a Cosmos 2238 Satellite. Its return to earth had occurred at approx 1.05am and was first seen over Innis, Ireland at that time. From its orbital direction of 65 degrees it would have traversed the sky at a height of between 80kms and 100kms in a S.E. direction. If it did cross Innis at 1.05am and I have reliable evidence to support this, then it would have crossed Lands End shortly after - approx 1.10am. Given the officers locations in Cornwall & Devon, it is I believe reasonable to assume that what they saw was the re-entry of this space vehicle. However, at this time a final conclusion cannot be given, until receipt of a report from a [REDACTED] investigation team in Ireland, which will hopefully confirm the spent rockets course over Innis.

This leaves me with the problem of the reports from Sgt [REDACTED] and Sgt [REDACTED]; they tell a different story! Sgt [REDACTED], in company with P.C. [REDACTED], were approaching the coast town of Lynton, Nth Devon, at 1.10am. Their direction of travel was due north and as they neared the town they noticed 2 very bright lights approaching from the north across the Bristol Channel. Stopping their patrol car they watched as the lights drew nearer to them. The lights or object(s) passed to the west going in a S.Easterly direction. As it / they passed over, they noticed a third light, much smaller than the other two and positioned somewhere between them. Sgt [REDACTED] states - that as it passed silently by, he got the impression that the lights were attached to a very large object, but could not make out any shape of other details. As it went away from from them, both officers saw two white vapour like trails

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behind each light. They described these trails as 'self luminous' but not the same as normal aircraft vapour - more like beams of light! They estimated the elevation of the objects to be 40 degrees to the horizon at a distance of between 1,000' and 2,000'.

This is obviously at variance to the other reports, but would seem to substantiate Sgt [REDACTED] report who was at the same time S.W. of their position and saw the objects in a stationary mode N.W. of his position. This suggests that both the Sgts sighting are in many respects different to the others and indicate that their objects were extremely low and appeared to have the ability to stop and hover!

I personally have no doubts about their sightings, because, as whereas some people may have difficulty in judging objects at great height, I hardly think these officers could be mistaken in their judgements - 2,000' is one thing, but anywhere between 10,000' and 80kms is another. It is therefore my considered opinion that these two sightings are of different to that of the re-entry rocket and may be associated with certain other events that took place later in the morning, at 2.00am and indeed the previous evening between 8.00pm and 11.00pm over Nth Devon.

Most of these reports were received following the publication of some news articles in two local papers. (Honiton News & Somerset Gazette) The articles did not specify the type of objects seen or the time. As a result I received a large number of phone calls from members of the public and another police officer, this time from Somerset. After evaluating these reports and filing away those which I considered were not relevant to this case, it became apparent that in addition to the initial 1.10am police reports, there were a number which were very similar and did therefore have some association.

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In an effort to give these events some clarity - they have been separated into groups with each group being given its own heading, they are as follows:-

<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
'A'	Innis, Ireland	31/3/93	1.05am
'B'	* Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.	31/3/93	1.10am to 1.17am
'C'	Bridgewater, Somerset	31/3/93	2.00am
'D'	North Devon	30/3/93	7.00pm to 11.00pm
'E'	St Ives & Penzance, Cornwall	31/3/93	1.30am
'F'	** Wales, Westcountry, Avon, Shropshire, Sth Yorkshire	30-31/3/93	Various

\* The reports associated with this event include those received from the police officers who initially saw the objects at 01.10am on 31/3/93.

\*\* These reports are the subject of a letter received from the MoD (Sec Air)2a giving some details of reports received by them. They are thought to be associated with the events of 30-31/3/93 because of the similarities between them and those already known to me.

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Investigation

Event 'A' - Innis, Ireland.

This event occurred at 1.05am on Wednesday 31st March 1993 over Innis, Ireland, when 2 bright lights were observed traversing the sky. It is believed that they were seen at high altitude, displaying white vapour trails. they appeared to be flying parallel to each other, on a N.W. to S.E. course. Evidently this sighting caused some concern to the Irish Government and as a consequence a fighter aircraft was despatched to monitor the objects. It seems the operation was not successful as the objects were thought to have been travelling at about 3,000mph - obviously too fast for the jets. The full details of this sighting are not yet to hand, but it is thought to be basically correct.

As with the 1.10am police reports and some of the other 1.10am reports, this sighting is also believed to be result of the previously mentioned rocket re-entry, but more of that later!

\* Information supplied by Mr [REDACTED] a BBC Correspondent based in Dublin.

Event 'B' - Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

At various times between 1.10am and 1.17am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, 12 people (excluding the original 11 police officers) reported the sighting of two very bright objects flying across the night sky in a south easterly direction. With the exception of one, they all report seeing some sort of vapour trails, but describe them slightly differently! In the main they were white, and trailed back from the objects and appeared to be self luminous.

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This indicates that they were not normal jet aircraft trails, but do seem synonymous with something like the trail of a 'shooting star'.

After evaluating these reports and giving due regards to peoples different perspectives of the objects, it is reasonable to assume that they, like the police officers, had also observed the spent rocket on its south easterly travels.

As a footnote, I have also received a report from Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the British Astronomical Association, that two people, one in Belgium and one from the south of France, also observed some bright objects flying in a south easterly direction. The French report indicates a number of objects (6 or 7) and this I believe is the breakup of the original two seen earlier over Ireland and the south west coast of England. The Belgium report is not very comprehensive, but the 'sighter' is believed to have seen them from his location, most probably over France, but not over Belgium.

What is evident here, is that although I cannot be absolutely certain that the two objects seen was the re-entry of the Russian Space Rockets, their presence at this time and their reported locations, must be a strong consideration. Given the known height of these objects - between 80kms and 100kms, and the time they would have taken to traverse from horizon to horizon, some 2 to 3 minutes and certainly not less than one minute, then it can be reasonable assumed that from their known flight path i.e. from Ireland over Lands End and on over France, they would easily have been seen from as far away as Somerset and most probably even further! On the night in question there was very little cloud cover, which would have afforded all of the 'sighters' a clear view for many miles.

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At this point, given all the known facts, what we are dealing with is the following scenario:-

At sometime between 1.10am and 1.17am two very bright white objects with some sort of vapour trails, were observed flying N.W. to S.E. at high altitude and parallel to each other and appear to have been on a pre-determined course. There were I believe the remnants of a Russian Space Rocket that had earlier deposited a Cosmos Radio Satellite into orbit.

But, at the same time i.e. 1.10am, two brightly lit objects or a very large one with two lights attached, crossed the Bristol Channel, flew low over Lynton and somewhere between there and Liskeard came to a halt and hovered for a few seconds. They /it then ascended at great speed to about 10,000' and then altered course taking a southerly course over the English Channel.

If the information contained in the letter from the MoD is correct, then the object or objects were later seen over or near Bristol, Avon, at approx 1.15am heading south easterly! Also, if the MoD information is correct, similar objects were seen between 9.10pm on the 30th March 1993 and 2.40am on the 31st covering area from Cornwall to South Yorkshire! The implication of this being that some 4 hours before the re-entry an 'unknown' object or objects were flying across the Westcountry up into Avon and on to South Yorkshire with the last known sighting over Shropshire at 2.40am. It also indicates that the objects appeared to be crisscrossing these areas during this period.

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**Event 'C' - Bridgewater, Somerset.**

On Wednesday 31st March 1993, a group of fishermen (known as Elvers) were fishing the river Parrot, Nr Bridgewater, Somerset. At approx 1.30am they noticed 3 military type helicopters flying in a radius from Bridgewater to Hinkley Point. This activity was observed for some 30 minutes or so. At a little before 2.00am the 'elvers' saw two bright orange coloured lights approaching from the north. As they drew closer, the 'elvers', who had previously thought they were the returning helicopters, realised they were not. Firstly there was the absence of any engine or rotor blade noise and navigation lights. The objects approached their position at a steady pace, not over fast, and appeared to be at a height of about 800'. On their final approach, in addition to the orange lights seen, two very bright white lights seem to be glowing from the rear of the objects. As they passed overhead, one of the elvers ( [REDACTED] ) thought the objects were joined by some sort of structure and likened this to a 'Large Catamaran'. As the object(s) cleared their position, two very bright light sources were seen at the rear of the 'craft' throwing light beams backwards. These were described as like car headlights. What amazed the sighters most ( [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ) was the complete absence of any noise, in fact quite the opposite - deathly silence! the objects proceeded on a south easterly course towards Dorset and were in view for 2 to 3 minutes before disappearing.

I have personally spoken to both of these gentlemen and received a written report from one ( [REDACTED] ). [REDACTED] has not returned his report form and this I believe is because he has difficulty in writing - (don't we all!). and therefore feel it best not to persue the matter any further.

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One other interesting point that I noted during conversation with [REDACTED], was this. During the early hours, somewhere between midnight and 1.00am, the cows occupying an adjacent field appeared to be very restless, which I am told was very unusual. Just after their sighting, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and their wives, were astonished to see all the cows had congregated in the middle of the field. They were all facing each other in a circular formation and had gone very quiet! This is also I'm told very unusual.

Event 'D' - Nth Devon and Somerset.




During the evening of Tuesday 30th March 1993, 6 independent witnesses reported an object or objects flying over and or hovering over Somerset and Nth Devon.




The first sighting occurred at 9.00pm, when [REDACTED] observed two glowing white/orange objects hovering north west of her position. At the time she was travelling from her home at Kington-St-Mary, Somerset, towards Bishops Lydeard and thought they were somewhere above or just beyond the town. They remained stationary for some 2 or 3 minutes, were very silent and Mrs [REDACTED] got the feeling that 'something was going to happen' as everything seemed to have gone very quiet.! She eventually lost sight of the objects behind some clouds.


Meanwhile, [REDACTED] a local business man, who lives at Crowcombe Heathfield, Nr Lydeard-St-Lawrence, Somerset, - just north of Bishops Lydeard, had gone out into his garden to feed his fish. It was about 8.00pm and on looking up observed a triangular formation of 3 objects approx 5 miles north west of his home. They were brightly lit (self luminous) and each object was larger than a star.

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He likened them to golf balls, two at the top with the other immediately below (  ). From the lowest object a light beam seemed to be shining down at an angle of about 45 degrees. Mr  kept the objects in view for a little over 3 hours. During this time his daughter  had also been out to see the objects and has confirmed the sighting.

At this point I think it is worth pointing out that from the evidence the object(s) seen by Mrs  and that by Mr  are probably one and the same. The direction is right i.e.N.W. and although Mrs  feels the object(s) were over Bishops Lydeard I think in this she could be mistaken and that they were a bit further away towards the N.W.

The third report came from P.C.  who is stationed at Bishops Lydeard. His report (by phone) was as follows: At approx 9.00pm he was up on the Quantock Hills, Nth Somerset, with a group of Scouts carrying out some field exercises, when his attention was drawn to a series of bright lights approaching from the north west. They appeared to be at a height of about 3,000' and travelling at a constant speed, but not over fast! As the lights got closer he made out the outline of a large craft, which he said "looked like two Concorde flying side by side and joined together". the lights he had seen appeared to be around the object(s) and were similar to cabin lights on an aircraft, only much brighter. the object passed to his left and after 2 or 3 minutes was lost to sight as it proceeded on a south easterly course.

Strangely, as with the other P.Cs, despite agreeing to complete a report form, this has never been returned - I wonder why?

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At approx 10.30pm, Mr [REDACTED] a Traffic Warden, was standing outside his home on the [REDACTED] at Bishops Lydeard when he noticed a brightly lit object approaching from the south. At arms length he describes the object as about the size of a Zippo Lighter and had 6 rows of lights numbering 30 in all. They were in two sections of 15 which were spaced in 3 rows of 5 lights in each.

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The objects speed was similar to a jet aircraft and appeared to be at a high altitude. Because of this Mr [REDACTED] had the object in sight for nearly 15 minutes before it disappeared to the north. Some 5 minutes after the event Mr [REDACTED] observed a civil airliner on the same course at approx the same altitude and he was able to identify this without any problem.

The 5th report came from Mr [REDACTED] who lives in Taunton, Somerset. At approx 10.20pm (maybe a bit later) he observed 2 white lights, apparently connected, flying parallel to each other in an easterly direction. Again there was no noise from the objects and they appeared to be moving very fast. He gave the length of his sighting as 2 minutes and is convinced it /they was not an aircraft.

The 6th and last report for this evening, came from Mr [REDACTED] who lives at Milverton, Devon. At sometime before midnight - about 11.30pm, he saw 2 groups of lights flying along side each other. He describes them as 2 objects with 3 lights in a triangular formation. He says that they were moving very fast and watched them for 2 minutes before they disappeared in a south westerly direction.

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Notes

From these reports it is obvious that during the evening (8.00pm to 11.00pm) an object or objects were clearly visible and seen hovering over Nth Devon. This is substantiated by Mrs [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] in their reports. In addition other objects of a similar type, were seen traversing the sky from north to south and south to north. Although the reports are not identical, i.e. they are different in their descriptions, they do indicate that a fairly large twin hulled craft was airborne that evening and flying low over some areas. What this object was, is of course unknown and must therefore, temporally at least, be classed as an Unidentified Flying Object!

Event 'E' - St Ives & Penzance, Cornwall

At just before 1.30am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, two men living in St Ives, Cornwall, observed two very bright objects flying on a N.N.W. to S.S.E. course over the town. Their height was estimated to be about 2,000' and were described as rockets with light trails. they were moving very fast and were only in sight for 5 to 10 seconds. At one stage one of the sighters ([REDACTED]) thought that the two lights seemed to dim and come on brightly again. The other observer ([REDACTED]) did not see this particular effect. He, however, only had the objects in sight for a couple of seconds.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED] who lives at Crowles, Nr Penzance, was himself watching two very bright objects, with trails, heading S.E. at a very low altitude 2,000' to 3,000'. He also observed a third object behind the other two, but was less bright. none of the objects made any noise and the light trails "were" he said "thin and straight like a light tube". At the rear of the

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2 large objects he also noticed a pink and blue light source but was unable to say if they were attached to the objects or the smaller one flying close by. From his southerly position the objects were to the north and not moving very fast. In fact he had them in sight for at least 2 minutes. this of course is at variance with the other two sighters at St Ives, who said their objects were very fast!, but this maybe because they saw the objects overhead whilst Mr [REDACTED] was looking at them from a distance. It's my belief that this sighting was of the same 2 objects seen over St Ives only from a different location and therefore different line of sight.

**Event 'F' - Ministry of Defence reports 30th/31st March 1993**

During the course of this investigation, I received a non Ufo report from a gentleman (name on file) who is a recently retired airline pilot. he had phoned me in response to one of the local newspaper articles and thought he had the answer to this case? He told me that at 1.30am on Wednesday 31st March 1993, he had observed two Jet Fighter Aircraft travelling at 30,000' in a westerly direction and at a very fast speed - about 1,500mph. They had their 'after burners' on which indicated they may still have been climbing! As an airline pilot he was well qualified to identify these 'jets' and was also certain that they were of a single engine type. Once I explained our sightings, ( at this time I only had a number of 1.10am sightings) it was fairly obvious that his sighting was not connected to my reports - or was it?

Thanking him for this information, I resolved to contact the MoD to try and ascertain if they had any knowledge of these aircraft. The next day I phoned [REDACTED] at the MoD (Sec Air) 2a office and relayed my information to him. He was most helpful and promised to look into it for me - and would ring

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back. About an hour later he did, but what he had to tell me was nothing short of amazing. He had been unable to discover any details regarding these aircraft and was at a loss to explain their presence over East Devon at the time. To his knowledge there had not been any flyovers by RAF, NATO or other aircraft and stated that all known flights would most certainly have been logged and there was no way that aircraft of this type could fly over Britain without the MoD's knowledge.

However, having explained to him why I was making this enquiry he did tell me that 'they' also had received a number of calls and letters reporting the same kind of 'objects' i.e. two very bright lights traversing the sky during the evening of the 30th and early morning of the 31st March 1993. Upon request, he later sent me a list of these sightings, giving locations, times and directions of travel. A study of these locations and times was most informative and I have to say, also somewhat puzzling. Because I had sent [REDACTED] a summary of my reports, some of these were mine and were in accordance with them. There were, however, a number which were not. Briefly his reports covered the period 10.10pm on the 30th to 02.40am on the 31st, and indicated that these objects had been seen as far north as South Yorkshire, Shropshire and the counties of Cornwall, Devon and Hampshire - all at different times and in many cases flying in different directions!

This as you can imagine was very confusing. For example, there were 3 sightings from South Yorkshire, all at different times i.e. 9.10pm, 11.40pm & 1.17am. the 9.10pm sighting had the objects travelling S.E., the 11.40pm ones travelling north whilst the 9.10pm ones were unknown. In addition there was a sighting from Bristol at 1.10am but these objects were travelling westwards - and so it went on. \* A copy of the MoD report with map is attached to this report.

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What all this means is anybody's guess. Was the information correct and I see no reason why it shouldn't be, or was it incorrect and a deliberate ploy to confuse the issue and try to put me off the scent? - I really don't know.

If correct, and lets suppose it is, then this surely means that not only were there 'unknown' objects flying and hovering over the westcountry between 8.00pm and 2.00am on the night, but were also tracking across the Midlands, South Yorkshire and Hampshire - what were they doing?

### Conclusions

As a Ufo researcher, it's my job to try and evaluate all reports and information received in an objective and hopefully methodical way. This case has, to date, shown all the hallmarks of a typical ufo event with evidence swaying the urgently sought answers one way and then the other. Were the events on this night nothing more or less than the re-entry of a man made space vehicle, or was it a ufo phenomenon related to that event? I think it may well be the latter. My reasons for thinking this are twofold.

Firstly, there is no doubt that the re-entry took place and that this occurred at approximately 01.05am on the 31st. From the evidence collected and collated it is almost certainly a fact that the reports describing the events at 1.10am indicate that what these people witnessed was the re-entry of this missile. The heights given are synonymous with a re-entry of this kind and the length of 'sighting time' likewise. All the 'sighters' give the objects direction of flight as N.W. to S.E. or N. to S. giving some margin of error and this would certainly been the spent rockets course.

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This I believe, is evidence enough to suggest that this is exactly what these people saw - a rocket re-entry.

What is also evident is that on the evening before, between 8.00pm and 11.00pm, objects were seen traversing the North Devon sky and indeed hovering N.W. of the same area. In addition it is fairly certain that at 2.00am on the 31st, an object of some considerable size, flew over the River Parrot at Bridgewater, disturbing not only the local fishermen, but also the cattle in the adjacent fields. Also at this time we have the mystery of the 3 helicopters seen. They were almost certainly of a military type, but as with the 2 fighter aircraft over East Devon earlier, their presence has been denied by the MoD - Why?

In association with this we have the 1.30am sightings at St Ives and Penzance and the other numerous sightings over Cornwall, Devon, Shropshire, South Yorkshire and Hampshire, starting at 10.10pm on the 30th and ending at 2.40am on the 31st.

If these reports are correct, and as I said earlier, I have no reason to doubt them and my reports are also correct, then it must be the case that at least one, if not more, unidentified flying objects were active over these areas on the night in question - but what was their purpose? Were they / it here on a specific mission, or just carrying out a nighttime surveillance operation. The latter scenario is of course quite feasibly given what we already know from their well documented past, but what about the first proposition?

Well if we examine the evidence and what we already know about this alleged mode of operation, there is clearly a case for this line of thinking.

In Timothy Goods latest book 'Alien Update' he edits a whole chapter on this very subject. He cites a number of cases from



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Russia where ufos have been observed tracking rocket launches, space flights and more importantly their re-entry procedures. It seems that this activity has been monitored for some years and that the Soviet Authorities are fully aware that their space program has been subjected to some very intense scrutiny by unidentified objects, which appear disc like and are able to traverse their air space at will, and in some extraordinary ways!

Additionally, it seems that Britain has also been the victim of such activity. In her new book 'From Out Of The Blue' Jenny Randles also explores this possibility. This book is the follow up to another entitled 'Sky Crash' which she co-authored with Dot Street and Brenda Butler and is more than just a spectacular account of a ufo landing in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, Nr the Bentwaters Air Base jointly manned by the RAF and USAF. Around the time of the alleged landing it is known that a similar re-entry of a Russian space rocket occurred over the area. Following this, and in addition to the events at the Bentwaters Base, a number of ufo sightings were received. Some of the sightings were before the known re-entry time and indeed after. This strongly implies that some unknown craft was present over the area and as suggested by Jenny, may have been interested in the re-entry.

The events at Bentwaters are in themselves quite remarkable and suggest that a space vehicle of unknown origin actually landed in Rendlesham Forest and that a possible 'alien liaison' took place. The evidence presented does seem to substantiate this, but as with most, if not all of these cases, will we ever learn the truth!

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Unlike the Bentwaters case, this one has not to date thrown up any evidence of a ufo landing, but there is certainly enough evidence to imply a ufo presence over the Westcountry, and possible other parts of the country, on the evening before and after the known re-entry of a Russian space rocket at 1.10am. My gut feeling is that this is exactly what occurred, and until the present 'unknown object(s) reported upon are identified, then they should without question be classified for what they are - 'Unidentified Flying Objects'.



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5. Sgt [REDACTED] Fletchers Bridge, Bodmin

Time 1.10am. Two bright slightly yellowish objects / lights, stationary 2,000' due north of his position - S.E. of Liskeard. Watched object lift up and ascend banking left towards the S.E. Object dropped slightly, then climbed and continued S.E. over Torpoint, Plymouth. No sound. At height (about 10,000') a vapour like trail appeared and what appeared to be a third object or light source behind the object. Objects / Lights gave the impression of being controlled or guided.

\* Other side of Liskeard at approximately the same time, PCs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were N.W. of Liskeard and saw two very bright white dot like objects appear from the north and head towards Liskeard.

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6. Plymouth police received a call from a gentleman at approx 1.10am who reported seeing two white lights flying over Stoke, Plymouth. Incident not officially logged but noted by officer on duty!

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7. Torquay. Two lights seen over gentlemans house. Report with [REDACTED].

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8. Sgt [REDACTED] and PCs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Heavitree Police Station, Heavitree Road, Exeter. Time 1.10am Saw two dot like objects / lights flying parallel, fairly high, heading east. Sighting time 15 seconds.

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9.\* East Devon. Two police officers observe two white objects flying easterly. Objects seen through binoculars - report to follow from station Inspector.

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10. [REDACTED], Cotleigh, Devon [REDACTED] Time after 1.05am! Two large light gold / yellowish lights heading towards Stockland. No noise, fairly fast, one light slightly in front of the other!

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11. [REDACTED], Wellington, Somerset

Time 1.11am Two bright white lights - like round balls, Small vapour trails (lit up!) Very high. Speed very fast. No noise. Time of sighting 20 seconds. Flying parallel N.W to S.E. but could have been West to East!

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12. [REDACTED] Taunton, Somerset..  
Time 1.15 (approx) Two very bright white / yellowish objects,  
flying parallel to each other. Long vapour trail - not smoke!  
Objects approx 3" apart at height. Very high but not star  
height! Time of sighting 20 seconds. Passed left to right in a  
southerly direction.

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13. Taunton Man - Wishes to remain anonymous.  
Time 1.13am two very large luminous objects - glowing, silent.  
After glow that stayed with objects - (fluorescent).  
Speed- Gliding very fast. Direction N.N.W. to S.E. Seemed to  
turn right. Time of sighting 2 minutes. Objects 2" to 3" apart  
at height. Seen through binoculars. Felt compelled to get up  
and go outside. No noise.

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14. [REDACTED] Taunton, Somerset. Time  
1.15am Returning from Bristol Airport. Saw two bright white  
objects with whitish vapour trail. Thought vapour trail was lit  
up by another light source! Very high in sky, appeared cigar  
shaped and silver in colour. Flying parallel (in tandem) in an  
easterly direction, south of his position. Objects appeared 6"  
to 7" apart at height. No noise.

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15. [REDACTED], Bridgewater,  
Somerset [REDACTED]  
Time 1.15am 2 Balls of light - followed by vapour trail or a  
light! No noise. Flying over Bridgewater in a south easterly  
direction. Knew it was not an aircraft!.

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16. PC [REDACTED] Wiveliscombe,  
Somerset. Time 1.15am to 1.20am. Two bright objects - vapour  
like trail. From right hand object/light appeared to be a long  
light shining backwards! Height 10,000' Speed 2 or 3 times  
faster than a jet airliner. 3" apart at height. Flying N.W. to  
S.E. Right object appeared to be leading.

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17. [REDACTED], Bridgewater [REDACTED]  
Time 1.17am Two very bright lights - trail of light behind.  
flying parallel, left object slightly in front. No Noise -  
completely silent 'OZ FACTOR?' Time of sighting 50 to 55  
seconds. Very low - if piloted could have seen pilot.

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18. [REDACTED] Carhampton, Minehead [REDACTED]  
Time 1.10am to 1.15am Two white coloured lights - trailing  
vapour reddish/orange in colour! First one object seen, then  
followed by second 30 seconds later. Flew parellel to each  
other and decended to approximately 2,000'. Observer thought  
they /it was going to land! No noise. Flying in easterly  
direction.

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DUFORO Case No 933

Annex 'A'

WESTCOUNTRY AND WALES SIGHTINGS - 31st March 1993

Event 'B'

1. [REDACTED], Nr Kerris, Cornwall

Time 1.10am - 2 very bright lights, travelling fast, flying parallel with wonderful vapour like trails. \*Two smaller trails to left hand trail! thought there might have been two other smaller objects. Looking towards moon, from north, very high. No sound from object/s but audible rumbling sound from ground level. Time of sighting 30 seconds. When in cloud, object/s illuminated them. Distance apart as seen from the ground = 1" to 1½".

2. [REDACTED] Pentregaler, Crymyn, Dyfed

Time 1.10am. Lady on hill side approximately 1,000' above sea level. Attending sheep, observes 2 large white objects, flying parallel, one slightly in front of the other. Time 2 minutes - maybe less!, very high - vapour trail.

3. PCs [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] Treharris Police Station, Perrot Street, Treharris, Nr Merthyr.

Time 1.10am. 2 bright white objects (brighter than stars) came from north west travelling south east, flying parallel to each other - approximately same height as conventional aircraft - steady pace. light vapour trail but third light or vapour trail between the other two! Sighting time 2 to 2½ minutes. No noise. Object passed overhead.

PC [REDACTED] phoned MOD - told no aircraft known to be in the area.

4. Sgt [REDACTED] Bideford [REDACTED]

Time 1.10am. Accompanied by PC [REDACTED] East of Ilfracombe driving into Lynton. Looking towards the Bristol Channel and saw two white lights, which they they thought were attached to a very large object. Estimated distance between lights as 500'. No sound. Object passed overhead and headed south, south west. Time of sighting 10 to 15 seconds. Height 2,000' plus!

\* Same night, PC [REDACTED] en-route to Holsworthy after departing Lynton, observed white lights pass over his vehicle going in south westerly direction.

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UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

D/Sec(AS)12/1

16 Apr 93

Head of Sec(AS) - through Mr [redacted] 16/4

Copy to:  
Mr [redacted]

Head of Sec(AS).

Mr [redacted] has spent a lot of time following this up, within the confines of restricting his approaches to official sources and not speaking to members of the general public. It would certainly appear that some unidentified object was seen. The problem is to decide what, if anything, to do next [redacted] 16/4

SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT - WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH


1. In the early hours of Wednesday 31 March an unidentified object was seen over several parts of the UK. Most of the sightings were in Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Shropshire, although reports were received from other locations. We are aware of at least 30 or 40 people who witnessed something, although this number is growing.
2. Aside from the fact that so many people reported seeing something strange, a number of other factors combine to make these sightings highly unusual; firstly, there is some commonality in the description of the object, and considerable commonality in the times of the sightings (around 1.10am). Secondly, none of the usual explanations for UFOs seem applicable, and thirdly, the reliability of the witnesses, most of whom were police officers, and some of whom were military and civil aviation personnel. I have attached the report made by a Corporal at RAF Cosford, together with three of the many other reports, as illustrations.
3. As far as can be ascertained, no military aircraft of any kind were operating in UK airspace at the time, as confirmed by both HQ MATO at RAF Uxbridge, and RAF West Drayton.
4. Sector Operations Centre (South) at RAF Neatishead have told D Air Def's staff that nothing was detected on Air Defence radar. London Air Traffic Control Centre (Military) confirmed that nothing was detected on Air Traffic Control radar.
5. RAF Fylingdales told me that a Russian rocket re-entering the atmosphere at 12.10am would have been visible from the UK, but this time does not match the majority of the sightings; furthermore, the descriptions from witnesses are not consistent with this explanation. The Royal Observatory at Greenwich were aware of no meteorite showers or similar occurrences.
6. DI55c have been consulted, but have not as yet been able to come to any conclusions about the sightings.
7. Some of the reports state that the object was moving at a very high speed (one estimate, based on timing the object over a known distance, was of 1100 mph), while some reported that the object hovered, moved slowly, and then flew off at high speed. This, together with some of the other descriptions given, suggests Aurora. Notwithstanding the US denials, these sightings might prompt renewed speculation.
8. The UK's two main UFO groups are well aware of this wave of sightings, and have told me that they have received many reports themselves. At least one local newspaper has reported the sightings. Although we have not received any press enquiries yet, there is always a possibility that questions will be asked, and it might be difficult to maintain our usual line that no further action was being taken as the sightings had been looked at, and were judged to be of no defence significance.

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9. I have spoken to as many of the police and military witnesses as I could contact; nearly everyone I spoke to said that the object was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

10. Given the above, it would not seem sufficient to simply write these sightings off. It seems that an unidentified object of unknown origin was operating in the UK Air Defence Region without being detected on radar; this would appear to be of considerable defence significance, and I recommend that we investigate further, within MOD or with the US authorities.



Sec(AS)2a  
MB8245 



MEMORANDUM

To Sec (AS) 2a

From WO [REDACTED]  
AIS(M)

Date 19 April 93

Tel Ext [REDACTED] 0

Your ref D/Sec(AS)12/1

Our ref INC 055/93

Subject UFO Sightings - 31 March 1993.

1. As requested we have completed the radar replay for Wednesday the 31 March, transferring this information onto a video recording for further examination.

2. I have attached your map on which I have now placed the radar heads used together with numbers which now relate to individual timings. Unfortunately the Clee-Hill radar head was not working on primary radar during the recording period, therefore, only aircraft working Secondary Surveillance Radar can be seen.

3. Listed below is the breakdown for each incident time you gave us which we have now changed to zulu time.

- |     |         |            |   |
|-----|---------|------------|---|
| 1.  | 302310z | Clee-Hill  | Squawk 1461/039 N/E to S/W  |
| 2.  | 302315z | Clee-Hill  | Nothing seen.   |
| 3.  | 302355z | Clee-Hill  | Traffic out of Bristol going north squawk 4652/086 vicinity Mommouth 2355z. Squawk 1461/040 vicinity Bristol Filton 2347z going S/W, changing to 7201.                          |
| 4.  | 310009z | Clee-Hill  | Squawk 6416/090 northbound.   |
| 5A. | 310010z | Burrington | 0015z primary contacts slow vicinity of Launcester and Bodmin.  |
| 5B. | 310010z | Clee-Hill  | Northbound traffic on A25 squawk 2363/242.  |
| 5C. | 310010z | Clee-Hill  | Nothing seen.   |
| 6A. | 310015z | Clee-Hill  | Squawk 4651/110 from the north through Pease Pottage Salisbury Plain area towards Southampton.  |
| 6B. | 310015z | Clee-Hill  | Squawk 2363/239 north on A25 and squawk 6416/090 15nm east of Shawbury northbound.  |
| 7.  | 310020z | Burrington | Intermittent slow primary contacts close to the radar head moving N/E towards Chivenor, another to south manoeuvring. East of the radar head primary contact slow heading east. |
| 8.  | N/K     |            | No times given.   |
| 9.  | 310140z | Clee-Hill  | Squawk 2304/200 descending on A25. At 0146z overhead Shawbury squawk 5231/203 southbound.   |

5. Unfortunately I would say there was nothing unusual seen on the radar recordings, I will hold the master tapes and video recordings until we hear from you. Should you require any further assistance please call we are only to happy to help.

Rank WO Name [REDACTED] Signature [REDACTED]

+ multiple place sightings in Devon / Cornwall

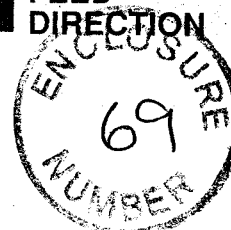


Notes : All times are local  
Pencil arrows show estimated heading of U.



Redacted in accordance with  
the Data Protection Act 1998.

↑ FEED  
DIRECTION



U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWV079 05/1804 279C0988

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 051630Z OCT 96

FROM UKCAOC HIGH WYCOMBE  
TO MODUK AIR  
INFO HQ 11/18 GP BENTLEY PRIORY  
CRC NEATISHEAD

U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

MSGID/AERIAL PHENOMENA//

A/DTG/050214Z//

B/DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT/A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT OR POSSIBLY PAIR OF OBJECTS FLASHING RED, GREEN, BLUE AND WHITE OVER BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. VERY BRIGHT. NO NOISE. NO HEIGHT BUT ASSESSED BY VISUAL SIGHTINGS AS APPROX 1 MILE HIGH TO VERY HIGH/RADAR CONTACT REPORTED BY LONDON RADAR AND CRC NEATISHEAD ON CLAXBY NATS RADAR HEAD BUT INITIAL PLOT HAD BEEN SUSPECTED AS CLUTTER//

C/EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER/SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS RANGING FROM BOSTON POLICE, CREW OF MV CONOCAUST AND POSSIBLE SIGHTING FROM CREW OF AC UNDER LONDON RADAR CONTROL. FURTHER CONTACTS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC//  
D/HOW OBSERVED/VISUAL BY BINOCULARS(MV CONOCAUST). VIDEO(BOSTON

PAGE 2 RXDBHW 0986 UNCLAS

POLICE)AND NAKED EYE BY OTHERS//

E/DIRECTION OF OBJECT AT 1ST SIGHTING/OVER BOSTON//

F/ANGLE OF SIGHT/40-45 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON(BOSTON POLICE)//

G/DISTANCE NIL//

H/MOVEMENTS/OBJECTS APPEARED TO MOVE NE/SW OVER A RANGE OF ABOUT 8NM//

J/MET CONDITIONS OBSERVED DURING OBSERVATIONS/GOOD WITH GOOD VMC REPORTED BY AC/HOWEVER. A NUMBER OF THUNDERSTORMS ACTIVE IN EAST ANGLIA REGION//

K/NEARBY OBJECTS/CONTROLLER AT ANGLIA RADAR REPORTED THAT A BUNCH RESPONSE COULD BE CAUSED BY QUOTE BOSTON STUMP REPORTED BY CHURCH STEEPLE WHICH DOES OCCASIONALLY APPEAR ON RADAR//

L/TO WHOM REPORTED/MV CONOCAUST TO GT YARMOUTH COASTGUARD, LATTER TO RCC KINLOSS. THEN ONTO CRC NEATISHEAD. PUBLIC ALSO TO POLICE AT SKEGNESS//

M/NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMER/AS ABOVE//

N/BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED/NIL//

P/DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT/050214Z OCT 96//

Q/ANY UNUSUAL MET CONDITIONS/THUNDERSTORMS EAST ANGLIA//

R/REMARKS/FAX OF TRANSCRIPT FROM YARMOUTH COASTGUARD WILL BE FAXED

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PAGE 3 RXDBHW 0986 UNCLAS

TO MOD SEC(AS)2A(POC [REDACTED] 40) DUTY OFFICER AT RAF  
 NEATISHEAD ORDERED TO REFER ANY PRESS ENQUIRIES TO MOD(AIR)PRESS  
 OFFICE. STCDO TELCON TO MOD DUTY OFFICER TO INFORM OF SITUATION. STC  
 DUTY AIR DEFENCE COMMANDER INFORMED THIS MORNING//  
 POC CIVIL [REDACTED] RAETN [REDACTED] 40 STCDO\_EXT [REDACTED] 40 GESM EXT  
 2579)///  
 BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )  
 CXL 1 DD GE/AEW  
 CAI 1 DI 55

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 Covering

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F Sig 927

**Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet**  
**USE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE LINES WHEN AVAILABLE**

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	DTG:	Reference:
From: FX Lt [redacted] SDO 5 Oct 96 RAF Nottishead Norwich, Norfolk NR12 8YB	Fax Number: [redacted] Telephone Number: [redacted]	Subject: UPO Sighting 5 Oct 96
To: GBSM	Fax Number: [redacted] Telephone Number: [redacted]	Total Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 5

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operator
Rank, Name and Appointment: FX Lt [redacted] SDO, RAF Nottishead	Rank/Grade and Name:
Date: 5 Oct 96	Signature:

**Message/Remarks:**

**REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - 5 OCT 96**

- Date, time and location. Notified to Nottishead at 0502110Z by RCC Kinloss following report from coastguard. Object still visible on radar at 0510115, time of writing report.
- Description of object. First reports indicated a 'strange red and green rotating light, or a possible pair of objects described as flashing red, green, blue and white lights. Stationary over Boston, Lincolnshire, no exact height but reports range from 'about a mile high' to 'very high'. Objects seen on radar showed possible pair of plots, moving in a NE/SW direction over a distance of up to 8nm and stationary for short periods. No height information available as no contact on ADGE Radar only on NATS Claxby. No sound was associated with the sightings.
- Exact position of observer. Several observers reported sighting including Nottishead, Anglia Radar, Waddington Approach, London Radar all report plots over Boston Lincolnshire. Surface sightings reported from Boston Police who report bright light, SE of Boston 40-45 degrees up in the sky. Surface sighting from ship MV CONOCOAST, beam position 5312N00034E, reported 2 contacts with flashing blue, red, white and green lights over Boston. Possible airborne sighting from aircraft working London Radar at 050557Z who reported 'indistinct flashing lights'. Numerous other sightings phoned in to the police from members of the public.
- How observed. See above. The visual contact by MV CONOCOAST was using binoculars. Sleaford police have video footage taken either by them or the Boston PC. A copy is being sent to Nottishead.

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 Classification

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5. Direction in which object first seen. MV CONOCOAST reported object 'just appeared' overhead Boston.
6. Angle of sight. Reported as 40 - 45 degrees above the horizon, by Boston PC.
7. Distance. No distance given only reported as 'just SE of Boston'.
8. Movements. Objects appeared to move NE/SW over a range of about 8nm. First report indicated that the contact was a 'strange red and green rotating light'.
9. Met conditions during period. Conditions reported to be good with airborne reports indicating good VMC. However, a number of thunderstorms were active in the East Anglia region.
10. Nearby Objects. All reports indicated objects were high so no nearby objects available for comparison. The controller at Anglia Radar suspects that the radar response could be caused by the 'Boston Stump', a church steeple which does occasionally show up on radar.
11. To whom reported. The MV CONOCOAST reported the sighting to the Gt Yarmouth Coastguard who passed it on to RCC at Kinloss. Public also reported to Coastguard and to police at Skegness. Nestishhead informed by RCC Kinloss and has been sent a fax, on request, from the Coastguard.
12. Names of informants. As above.
13. Background. Unknown.
14. Other witnesses. As above.
15. Date and time of receipt. 050210Z Oct 96.
16. Unusual met conditions. Thunder storms.
17. Remarks. FAX received from Yarmouth Coastguard included in transmission for information. Press have made contact and been referred to MOD Air Press Office and RAF Nestishhead PRO. Phone calls subsequently received from DC Gregory, Norwich Airport Police, asking for any INFO. Coastguard also interested in whether we are responding to object. Object is still visible and still showing on Clady Radar although at 051105z an ac under control of Waddington Approach flew through area at 3000 feet and reported no contacts.

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DTG: 050600 For LRC Full Incident Report (Live) Page 1  
Incident reference 0214 received at 02:14 UTC on 05/10/96

Incident received from UFO SIGHTING 0175 at BEARING 345 T AND  
160 T FROM SOUTH INNER DONSING.  
In circumstances FROM SKEGNESS POLICE AND NY CONOCAST/0552.

Incident Summary

Incident Narrative

Time Anchor Message

050014 LRC SKEGNESS POLICE [REDACTED]  
WE CAN SEE A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT IN THE  
SKY DIRECTLY SOUTHWEST FROM SKEGNESS. LOOKS TO BE HIGH IN THE  
SKY DIRECTLY OVER THE WASH. MANY PEOPLE HERE ARE OBSERVING IT  
LOOKS STRANGE AS ITS STATIONARY. NO A/C SOUND IN THE AREA.//  
OK WILL RUN SOME CHECKS AND CALL YOU BACK WITH RESULT.

050220 LRC  
050220 LRC TO ARCCX SITREP PASSED RNO CHECK WITH RAF HEATHROW RADAR //  
HEATHROW REPORT NEGATIVE A/C ACTIVITY IN THE WASH AREA AND NO  
RADAR CONTACTS MADE BY HEATHROW.

050225 LRC  
050225 LRC TO ARCCX PSE CHECK WITH D & D NORTHWOOD // OK  
FM ARCCX - D & D HAVE A RADAR CONTACT BEARING 221 DEGREES FM  
SKEGNESS AT 16 MILES. LOOK TO BE STATIONARY AND NO WAY OF  
DETERMINING ITS HEIGHT BUT IT MUST BE QUITE A SIZE TO BE VISIBLE  
FROM HR. // OK REQ YOU INFORM HEATHROW AND TRY TO ASCERTAIN  
WHY THEIR RADAR ISN'T PICKING IT UP AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN HEIGHT  
FROM THEM // OK WILL COME BACK.

050230 LRC  
050231 LRC FM ARCCX - HEATHROW NOW REPORT THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION  
CONFIRMS A COUPLE OF RADAR CONTACTS IN THAT AREA BUT NO HEIGHT  
THEY SEEM TO BE STATIONARY. DEFINITELY NO MILITARY A/C IN THE  
AREA AND NO NOTIFIED CIVIL FLIGHTS SHOULD BE THERE. WE ARE  
INVESTIGATING FURTHER AND WILL ADVISE YOU OF RESULT // OK IN THE  
MEANTIME I WILL PUT A D/C OUT TO SHIPPING IN THE AREA AND REQ  
REPORTS.

050235 RN  
050235 ANY VELS IN THE WASH AREA BE YTH CG OR 16 DO U BX // BE JOPE //  
STW -E- CH 05Y CH 67  
ANY VEL WASH AREA

050236 LRC  
050240 LRC TO JOPE/ NAUTIC V. ANY A/C LIGHTS VISUAL FROM YOUR OTW // HBS I  
AM BY THE S RACE BUOY AND NO SIGHTINGS.

050246 RN  
050249 LRC FM CONOCAST C/S 0516 TO YTH CG // BE YTH CG 05Y CH67  
TO CONOCAST/0552 SITREP PASSED ANY SIGHTINGS // YES WE ARE BY  
THE SCOTT BAY AND HAVE THESE LIGHTS VISUAL NOW THEY ARE  
FLASHING RED GREEN AND WHITE CANNOT ID IT AS AN AIRCRAFT AS IT  
LOOKS STATIONARY AND APPROX ONE MILE HIGH // DID YOU SEE FROM  
WHICH DIRECTION IT APPEARED // NO IT JUST APPEARED AND IS  
STATIONARY // OK PSE KEEP UNDER OBS AND ADVISE ME OF ANY  
DIRECTIONAL MOVEMENT. CALL ME ON CH 16 // OK

050250 LRC  
050253 LRC FM ARCCX - HEATHROW SAY IT COULD BE CAUSED BY THE WEATHER //  
DOESN'T THINK SO AS WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT // WILL HEATHROW AND  
NORTHWOOD REPORT THAT THERE IS NO TRANSPONDER ON THIS OBJECT AND

THEREFOR NO MEANS OF INTERROGATION ITS IS OBVIOUS THAT WHATEVER IT IS, IT DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ITS THERE. ALSO HEATISHEAD REPORT ITS OTH AS DIRECTLY OVER BOSTON. // OR I WILL ASK BOSTON POLICE IF THEY HAVE IT VISUAL - WILL UPDATE YOU.

050307 LRC 90 CONOCAST STILL VISUAL ? // YES STILL STATIONARY AND NOW FLASHING RED GREEN BLUE AND WHITE. LOOKS VERY HIGH. NO ENGINE NOISE. // OR HQ OTH UPDATE // 2 MILES SE OF SCOTT PATCH BUOY //

050311 LRC WHAT IS RELATIVE BEARING OF OBJECT // NORTH OF US. TO SEBORGES POLICE [REDACTED] HQ UPDATE // STILL VISUAL AND STATIONARY BUT NO NOISE // DO YOU HAVE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF IT // NO BUT CAN ARRANGE TO GET SOME // I THINK IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA AS THE RAF ARE VERY INTERESTED AND MAY REQUIRE IT LATER // OR WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

050324 RN FM RCC KINLOSS - HAVE SPOKE TO HEATISHEAD DUTY CONTROLLER, THEY ARE KEEPING A LOG OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE CLUTTER ON THE RADAR, AND WE THEY HAVE PASSED IT UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AND THEY WOULD LIKE THE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF IT.

050329 LRC TO CUSTOMS BRIVE CONTROL [REDACTED] FULL SITREP PASSED DO YOU HAVE ANY MEANS OF PUTTING AN A/C UP TO INVESTIGATE THIS // NOT SURE BUT WILL CHECK AND COME BACK TO YOU THANKS FOR THE CALL AS IT SOUNDS VERY SUSPICIOUS AND COULD BE A MISS TRANSPORTED SHIPMENT OF [REDACTED] IN AS IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.

050334 RN TO BOSTON POLICE FM YTH CG // [REDACTED] THE RAF AT HEATISHEAD ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO GET SOME VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THIS // THAT IS HOW WE DO NOT HAVE THAT FACILITY.

050336 LRC FM CUSTOMS IPWITICH [REDACTED] - NO CHANCE OF OUR A/C INVESTIGATING AS ITS DOWN IN THE SW OF ENGLAND.

050337 RN FM YTH CG TO CONOCAST - STILL 2 LIGHT STILL OF SOUTH BOWING ONE OF PORT QUARTER FLASHING GREEN AND RED // DOES THE ONE ON THE STAR SIDE LOOK THIS WAY? // STAY 1 // HOW TUES THE OTHER BOWING ONE OF PORT QUARTER COULD BE OFF HELLS AREA // IS IT STILL HIGH IN THE SKY // AFTER IT STILL OUTS A DISTANCE // WHAT IS YOUR POSN AT THIS MOMENT // AT THE SOUTH INNER BOWING // HOW STAY // CAN U SEE THE LIGHT // AFTER THE ONE ON THE PORT QUARTER IS THE BRIGHTEST //

050352 LRC TO CONOCAST - DO YOU EXACT OTH AND A BEARING ON BOTH THESE OBJECTS // OR I AM BY THE SOUTH INNER BOWING IN 53-12N 000-34E ONE STATIONARY LIGHT AT 345 DEG TRUE AND THE OTHER 160 TRUE THE LIGHTS ARE VISUAL WITH NAKED EYE AND BOTH SHINING THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS FLASHING RED BLUE GREEN AND WHITE. // OR WILL YOU BE IN THAT AREA FOR VERY LONG // YES I AM A TANKER WITH HUNKERS FOR THE DRIPPING BRIDE OFF THOOLHILLS // OR YOU ADVISE ME OF ANY MOVEMENT IN THESE OBJECTS // OR

050409 LRC TO ARCCX - SITREP AS ABOVE // FOR POC KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY MOVEMENT AND ALSO WHAT CUSTOMS SAY.

050411 RN TO BOSTON POLICE - CAN YOU SEE THIS OBJECT STILL? / YES IS NOW TOWARDS THE SOUTHWEST SEEMS LIKE ABOUT 40-45 DEGREES UP IN THE SKY, JUST A BRIGHT LIGHT TO BE.

050412

050417

050421 LRC FN ARCC - NEATISHEAD ARE RUNNING A TRACE ON THIS AND CANNOT EXPLAIN IT. IF THEY ARE HELICOPTERS THEY ARE FAST APPROACHING THE END OF THEIR ENDURANCE AS ITS WELL OVER TWO HOURS SINCE THE FIRST REPORT LET ALONE HOW LONG THEY WERE UP BEFORE THEY WERE ACTUALLY SIGHTED, BUT WE HAVE TO BE TASKED BEFORE WE CAN PUT AN A/C UP TO INVESTIGATE AND AS THEY DO NOT PRESENT A THREAT THE REQ TO INVESTIGATE MUST COME FROM A CIVIL SOURCE IE POLICE OR CUSTOMS, CAN YOU SEE NEAT CUSTOMS THINK // OK WILL DO.

050427 LRC TO CUSTOMS IPSWICH [REDACTED] SORRY NO CUSTOMS REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE THESE LIGHTS. I THINK ITS A POLICE MATTER. // OK I WILL ADVISE ARCC/

050433 LRC TO SK POLICE [REDACTED] RED UPDATE // YES LIGHTS STILL VISUAL QUITE BRIGHT AND FLASHING BEARING SSE FROM ME AND BETWEEN 30 AND 60 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON. // OK DID YOU MANAGE TO OBTAIN ANY VIDEO FOOTAGE // YES I HAVE IT HERE ON TAPE // OK I WILL INFORM THE RAF AS THEY ARE INTERESTED

050445 LRC TO ARCC - CONFIRM VIDEO FOOTAGE AVAILABLE FROM BERKNESS POLICE IF REQD // OK TKS WILL PASS IT ON TO NEATISHEAD WHO ARE STILL TRACKING THESE OBJECTS.

050448 LRC FN BOSTON POLICE [REDACTED] STILL HAVE THIS LIGHT VISUAL TO THE SOUTH EAST APPROX 60 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON NO HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT VERY BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT, BUT IT MUST BE VERY LARGE FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT AS ITS VERY FAR AWAY // DO YOU HAVE ANY BINOCULARS // YES AND NO VIDEO CAMERA SORRY.

050450 LRC TO ARCC - ANY INDICATION OF HEIGHT FROM RAF NEATISHEAD // YES THEY ONLY HAVE PRIMARY RADAR AS DO B & D AND AS OBJECTS DONT HAVE TRANSPONDERS THERE IS NO WAY TO INTERROGATE THEM.

050451 JAB CONOCCOAST

050452 JAB CALLING // NO REPLY // CALLED AGAIN AND HE

050453 LRC \*\*\*\*\* Narrative chronological to this point \*\*\*\*\*

050454 LRC TO CONOCCOAST/GENS CN 67 - DO YOU STILL HAVE THE TWO LIGHTS VISUAL // YES STILL VISUAL AND ON ORIGINAL BEARINGS BUT THEY SEEM HIGHER AND DIMMER BUT AS THE BARR IS BEARING WE WILL LOSE VISUAL CONTACT SOON THEY ARE STILL FLASHING THE SAME COLOURS - THIS SEEN THROUGH BINOCULARS.

050455 LRC TO ARCC SITREP // OK VMT.

ANNEX 1

(050421) call details collected by LRC between 02:14 and 02:20 on 05/10/96

From  
Notes

BERKNESS POLICE [REDACTED]

WE CAN SEE A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT IN THE SKY DIRECTLY SOUTHEAST FROM BERKNESS. LOOKS TO BE HIGH IN THE SKY DIRECTLY OVER THE WASH. MANY PEOPLE HERE ARE OBSERVING IT LOOKS STRANGE AS ITS STATIONARY. NO A/C SOUND IN THE AREA.// OK WILL RUN SOME CHECKS AND CALL YOU BACK WITH RESULT.

ANNEX 2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

7 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 Oct 96

1. After efforts to analyse the various sightings of unusual lights which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96, I believe that three separate phenomena can be identified; each is briefly described below with a possible or probable explanation.

LIGHTS IN THE WASH AREA

2. Stationary and generally red/green/white flashing lights to the south east at about 40-45 degrees above the horizon; no reliable height or range could be determined. The lights were observed by Skegness and Boston Police between 0214Z and approximately 0600Z (daybreak); similar lights were observed from the MV Conocoast (approx 8 miles ESE of Skegness from 0345Z until daybreak. The lights observed from Skegness were captured on video which is being sent to RAF Neatishead, however, the result is believed to be of poor quality.

3. The fact that these lights were observed from three separate locations high above the horizon and in the same general direction, without corroborating radar data, suggests a distant celestial source. Venus rising may be a possible explanation since the planet can appear bright, coloured and to flash in certain conditions.

LIGHTS TO THE NORTH OF MV CONOCOAST

4. Stationary red, blue, green and white flashing lights to the north and 'very high', 40-45 degrees above the horizon. Lights observed from the MV Conocoast between 0246Z and approximately 0600Z (daybreak).

5. These lights were observed from a single location out at sea in the opposite direction to those at para 2. They would appear to have originated from an area over the North Sea but again at an angle well above the horizon. These lights were not the object of any attention on 5 Oct, or subsequently, but remain unexplained.

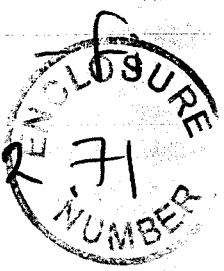
PERMANENT RADAR ECHOS

6. Generally stationary radar returns, without height or IFF/SSR, observed on the NATS Claxby radar at 0210Z until 1105Z over Boston and later on the RAF Waddington ATC radar.

7. These returns were almost certainly from a permanent geographical feature (St Botolph's church spire in Boston, 273ft) which were initially observed while attempting to associated an air track with the lights; in fact, no aircraft movement was

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DISC

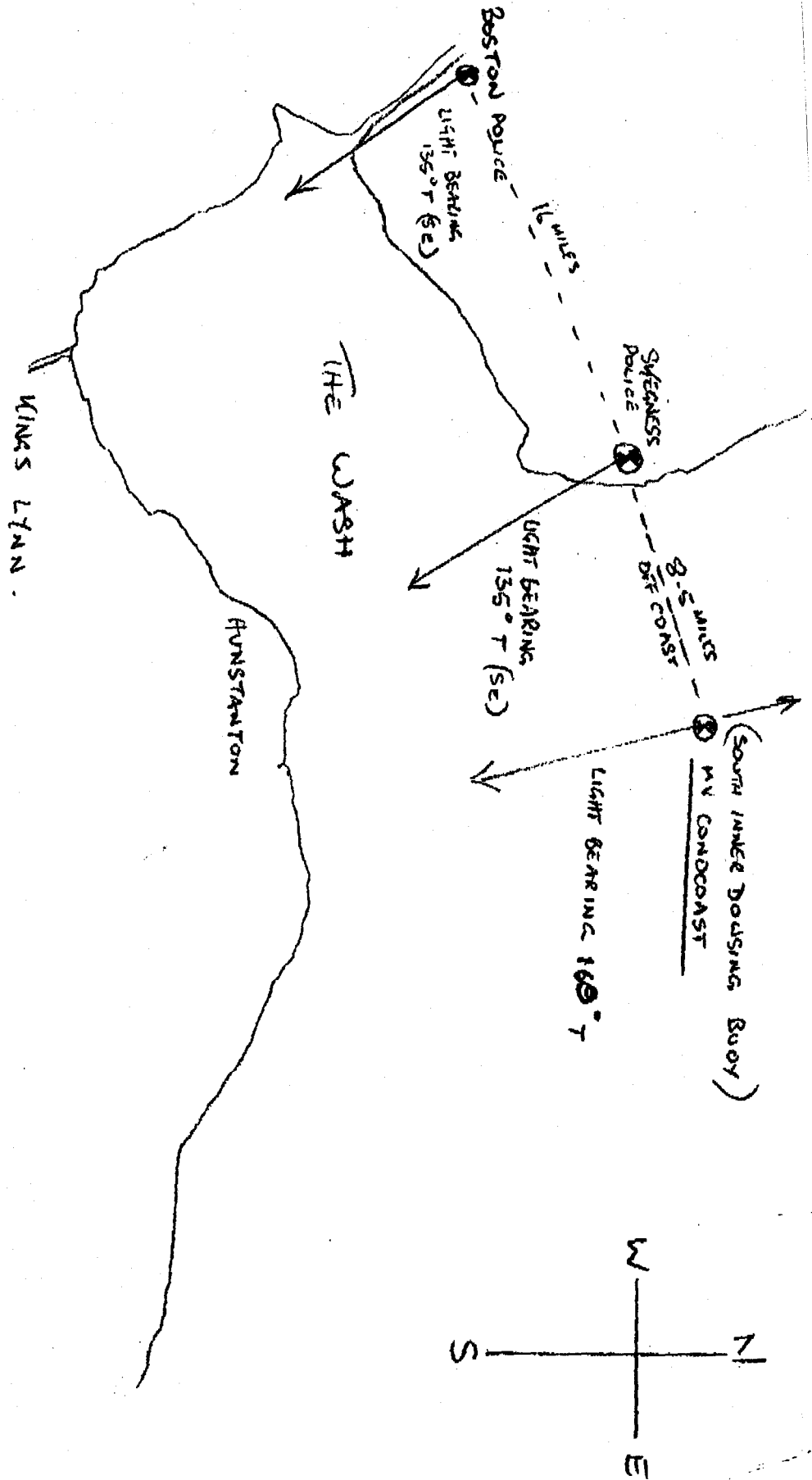
A64/R



ultimately associated with lights in the Wash or E Anglian area. This church spire is known in aviation circles as the 'Boston Stump' and appears occasionally on some radars in certain radar propagation conditions.

8. Conclusion. The prolonged sighting of stationary coloured flashing lights reported by the Skegness police on 5 Oct 96 had no significance for the integrity of UK Airspace and no associated air vehicle was detected by civil or military radars.

  
Wg Cdr  
ADGE 1  

81 RIGS = THE DARK STONE (COVERED)  
 VENUS : WHITE (NO COLOUR)

64/4  
ENCLOSURE  
601  
NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

13 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

Copy to: AOAD1

LETTER TO SOFS FROM MR MARTIN REDMOND MP CONCERNING ALLEGED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CRAFT SIGHTINGS' ON 5 OCT

Reference: Mr Redmond's letter to SofS dated 24 Oct 96.

1. At Reference, Mr Martin Redmond MP raises several points concerning visual and radar observations which occurred during the early hours of Saturday 5 Oct 96 and which are referred to, incorrectly, as 'a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems'. The substance of Mr Redmond's letter is based on various reports which appeared in the local press, some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which I understand were provided to him by [REDACTED] of the Staffordshire UFO Group. In addition, the letter includes serious criticism of the Service, and of the UK Air Defence system in particular; for this reason, exceptionally, the facts surrounding the incident have been established in considerable detail and set out below, together with resumes of observations, actions and explanations. A map showing the location of key agencies, equipment and observations is at Annex A.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

2. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 Oct 96 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at nearby Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights to the east and low in the sky which he reported to the control room in Skegness. As a precaution, the control room relayed the sighting to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), suspecting it could be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss whether they were aware of any air activity or incident in the Wash area. The ARCC had no knowledge of any such air activity and, in turn, asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead if any aircraft activity was present on the radar in that area; Neatishead had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area and ARCC subsequently asked the Distress and Diversion (D&D), located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton (not at RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported). The D&D Cell reported a radar plot on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar over Boston to ARCC, thence to MRCC. At the same time, CRC Neatishead, which had conducted a search on

all available displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. This information was also relayed to ARCC thence to MRCC; by now, MRCC had consciously or subconsciously associated the reports of lights with the Boston radar return and assumed an investigative and coordination role for the rest of the night.

3. Actions by Air Defence System. Meanwhile, CRC Neatishead's inquiries had revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar; the stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR support, therefore, was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D Cell to be a permanent echo, and the separate stationary lights as some form of natural phenomena of no air defence or air concern. It was clear that no flying craft had penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar; furthermore, the unrelated stationary light reports were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety, therefore, no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo or the reported lights was sought.

4. Subsequent Reporting. Updates and further information on both the plot and lights continued to be sought by MRCC from several sources on open circuits and reported, and sometimes distorted, in the process. Further interest in the radar plot was kept alive at the instigation of the coastguard, leading to the eventual involvement of several other control agencies including LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach. Further interest in the lights was maintained by the coastguard until they disappeared with the dawn, involving a tanker vessel at sea, Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil).

#### INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

5. The various observations which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96 and the various phenomenae have been investigated in considerable detail. The relevant logs maintained by on-duty Military and Civilian personnel have been studied and, where possible, key observers and operators, both civil and military, have been interviewed by telephone.

#### THE BOSTON PLOT

6. Plot Characteristics. A radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston, Lincs, on the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) sensor at Claxby, near Market Rasen, when attention was drawn to the area by Great Yarmouth Coastguard. It was observed by the D&D Cell from approximately 0225Z and by CRC Neatishead from 0230Z; both organisations have access to the same radar display although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in the Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead, which opened at



0600, again on the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, the plot was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham; although a stationary return was detected on the AR15 approach radar at RAF Waddington at 0749Z, this was inaccurate reporting of a separate permanent echo. Three aircraft, which transitted the Boston area at 0710Z, 0830, and 1105, failed to sight any airborne object. A map showing radar locations and the position of the plot is at Annex B.

7. Plot Analysis. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo, and the fact that it could only be detected by a single nearby sensor indicates a relatively low physical feature which, however, appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions; for example, it was not present on the Claxby radar on 8 Nov but could be seen on 11 Nov. It is highly probable that the echo was caused by the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump'), as suggested at 1105Z by Anglia Radar, a unit familiar with operating aircraft in the Wash area; however, it is not possible to be absolutely certain without conducting further detailed technical study.

#### THE STATIONARY LIGHTS

8. Analysis of Observations. Various sightings of either stationary, multicoloured, flashing lights or a stationary bright white light were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, when asked at 0227 and 0240Z respectively, police at Kings Lynn and the MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, observed no lights which they considered unusual. In addition, the crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at between 0520 and 0530Z reporting no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only one unsolicited observation of lights seems to have occurred: by PC [REDACTED] at approximately 0205Z on patrol at Addlethorpe near Skegness. All other recorded observations were made on the instigation of Great Yarmouth Coastguard. Moreover, while various reference has been made to an object associated with the lights, this has been by inference only on the part of the observers. A full synopsis of sightings, times, bearings and angles is at Annex C together with maps showing the locations of observation. There is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information since several observers confessed to being either unconcerned, not very interested, or admitted to being poor at angles; the only accurate measurements are derived from the Skegness police video tape of the lights, filmed at 0350Z and from the MV CONOCOAST at 0401Z which measured bearings based on the Ship's compass. While the lights were generally regarded as unusual, no observer confessed to being alarmed by them; indeed, the initial observer watched the multicoloured flashing lights change characteristics and elevation until dawn when 'they looked just like any other star'.

9. Expert Opinion. The observations were examined by the Royal Greenwich Observatory and a report of its findings is at Annex D. The report acknowledged the uncertainties in the estimates of azimuth and elevation of the observations and could only provide a best guess of the likely light source(s) as summarized below.

a. The Boston Police may have been looking at the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 Oct, rising at 0209Z on a bearing slightly north of east; this is consistent with the first Boston observation.

b. Based on measurements obtained from the police video, the Skegness observations could also have been Venus. The Observatory notes that when a bright star or planet is low in the sky, even to elevation  $20^{\circ}$ , it is quite common for it to appear to show colours which are often described as flashing or rotating. These characteristics and the report of the first Skegness observer tend to favour the Venus theory.

c. The Observatory can offer no likely celestial explanation for either sets of lights observed from the MV CONOCOAST.

#### SUMMARY

10. Following extensive investigation, it can be concluded that the radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo; it was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead at the time and no further air defence related action taken. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably due to light from the planet Venus which began rising at the time of the first observation; it was particularly bright and could have appeared multicoloured and flashing to some observers. No explanation can be offered for the two sets of lights observed from MV CONOCOAST.


11. For completeness and further reference, various notes are attached at Annex E, together with a list of organizations and persons consulted in the course of this investigation. In addition, abbreviated comment on the detail contained in Mr Redmond's letter to SofS are at Annex F. A copy of the video of the Skegness lights, copied by Lincolnshire Police HQ, is attached.

12. This report is the result of almost full time, painstaking investigation over a period of 8 working days and, although all the light phenomenae have not been conclusively explained, research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were being witnessed. It is likely that similar detailed investigation into light phenomenae would produce

equally less than conclusive but unastonishing results; they could not be achieved on a routine basis, however, without dedicated resources being allocated to the task.

  
Wg Cdr

ADGE 1

MB4227 

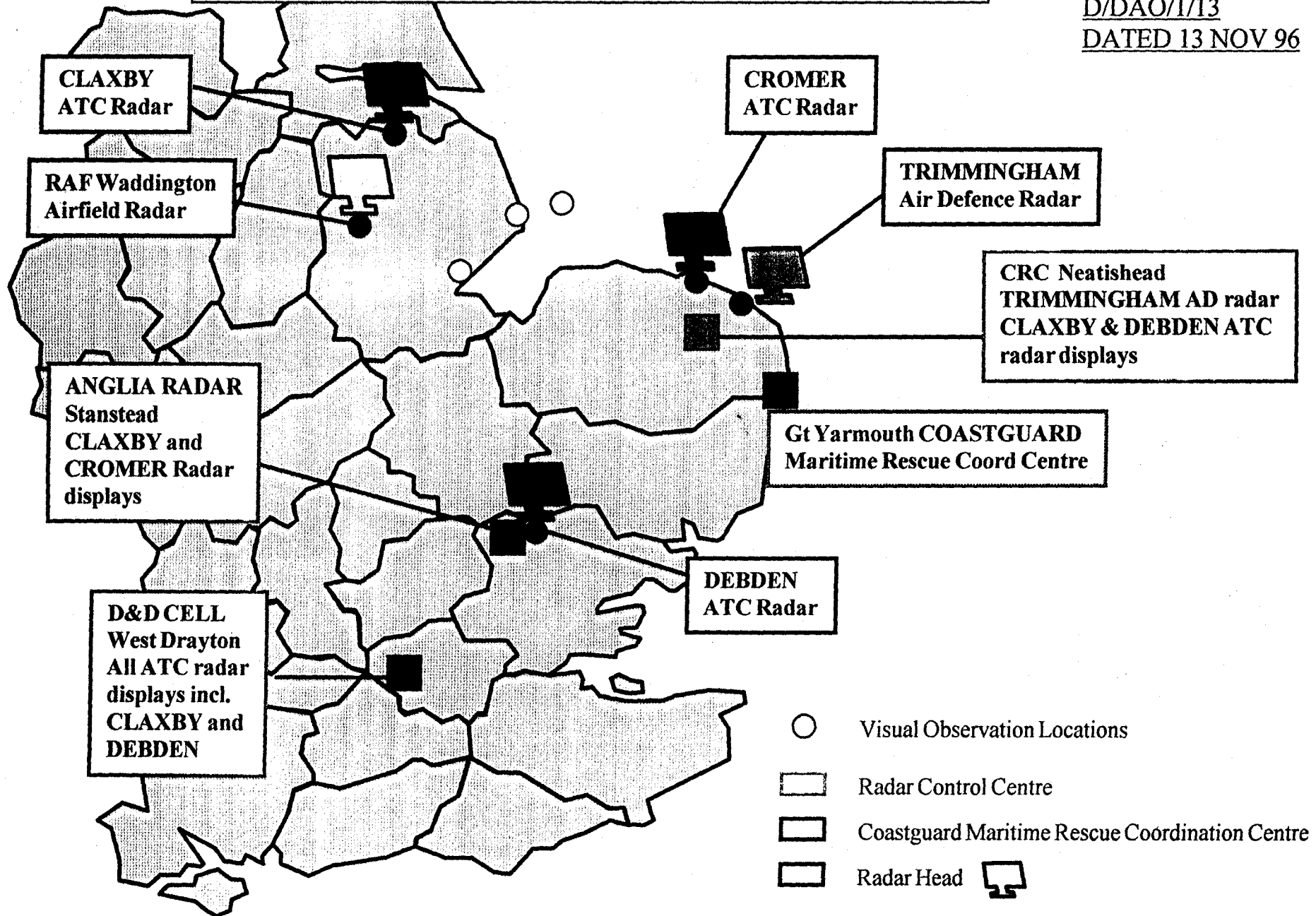
Annexes:

- A. Agencies, Locations and Equipment.
- B. Radar Plots over Boston.
- C. Synopsis on Observations of Lights.
- D. Royal Greenwich Observatory Report.
- E. Miscellaneous Notes
- F. Abbreviated Comments on Mr Redmond's Letter.

Attached: Lincolnshire Police copy of Skegness Video

**AGENCIES, LOCATIONS AND EQUIPMENT - 5 OCT 96**

ANNEX A TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96



**RADAR PLOTS OVER BOSTON - 0200-1200Z OCT 96**

ANNEX B TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

**CLAXBY**  
Approx 0230 - 1200Z  
Plot 221°/16nm from  
Skegness - stationary,  
no height or IFF. Observed  
on CLAXBY radar displays  
at CRC Neatishead, Anglia  
Radar & D&D Cell.

**CROMER**  
No Plot

**TRIMMINGHAM**  
No Plot

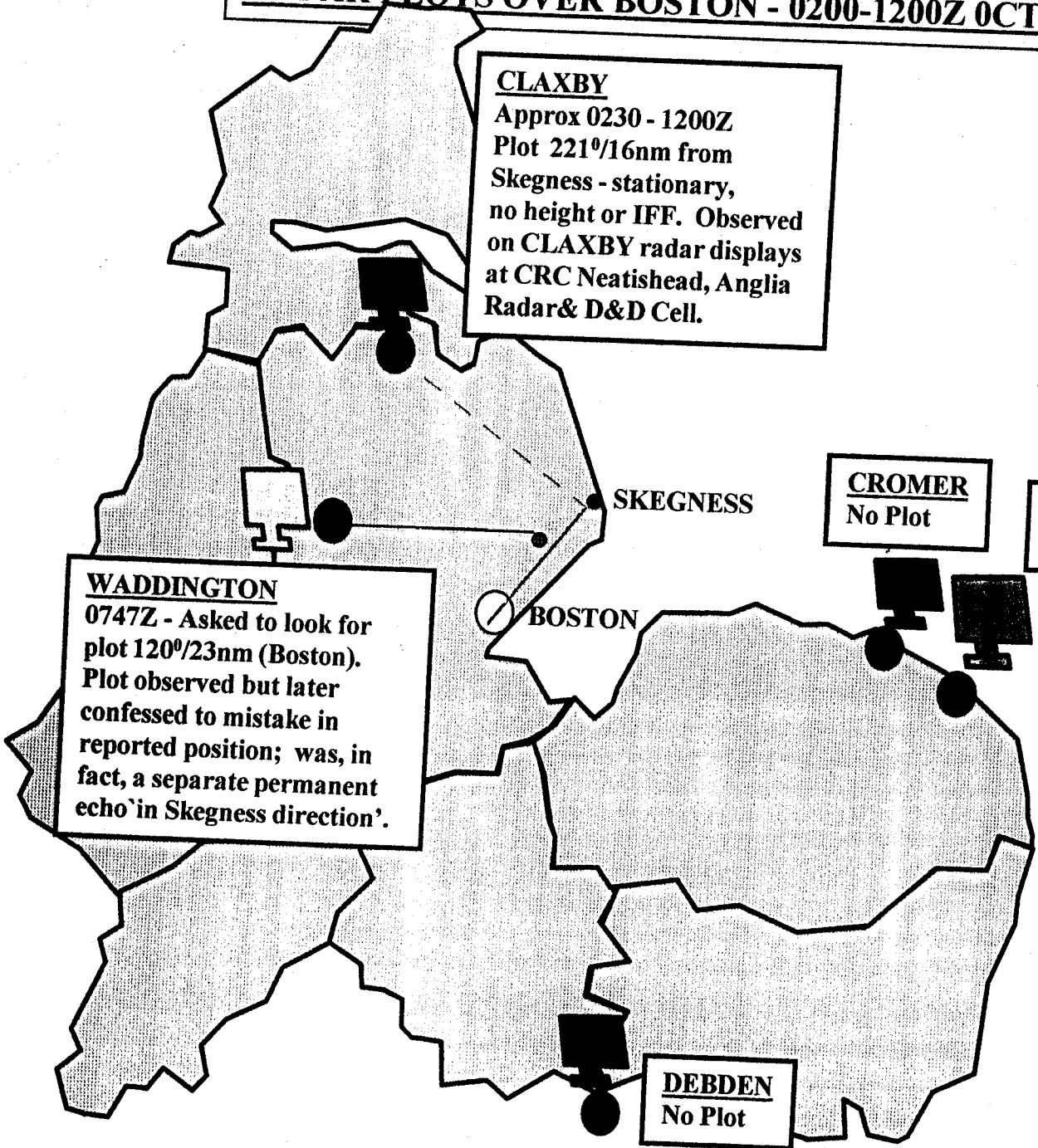
SKEGNESS

BOSTON

**WADDINGTON**  
0747Z - Asked to look for  
plot 120°/23nm (Boston).  
Plot observed but later  
confessed to mistake in  
reported position; was, in  
fact, a separate permanent  
echo in Skegness direction'.

**Boston Plot - Active Investigation**  
  
0710 - London Mil 6153 squawk passed 3nm  
from plot FL150 - no contact  
  
0830 - Anglia radar 7000 squawk flew  
through plot at 900ft - no contact  
  
1105 - Waddington Approach 1743 squawk  
transitted Boston area at 2000ft - nothing  
seen

**DEBDEN**  
No Plot



SYNOPSIS OF OBSERVATIONS OF UNUSUAL LIGHTS - 5 OCT

SKEGNESS POLICE

**Observer:** PC [REDACTED] Mobile patrol at Addlethorpe. Stationary, blue green red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z 'the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.

**Observer:** PC [REDACTED] Skegness. First seen 0205Z following information from PC [REDACTED] static white light with red green and yellow lights rotating around it - much lower than any star, estimate 50,000ft. Last observed at 0420 when 'it looked just like any other star'.

**Observer:** [REDACTED] (Control Room [REDACTED]) - visual plus video

**Position:** Visual from 3rd floor window, video from roof above.

Four observations at 0214, 0350, 0450 (when lights videoed) and just before going off duty at 0600Z. Stationary red, green, blue and white flashing light. Observer admitted to being 'not very interested' in the lights.

BOSTON POLICE

**Observer:** Inspector [REDACTED]

**Position:** Through 3rd floor window of Police station and outside.

Observed intermittently between approx 0230 and dawn: stationary bright white light, constant azimuth and elevation - slightly north of east and about 40 degrees up - 'did not fit the description of the lights being reported by Skegness' - saw the same light 'a couple of months ago but further north on that occasion'

**Observer:** [REDACTED] (Control Room [REDACTED])

**Position:** Through control room window on 3rd floor.

Two observations at 0412 and 0503 - Just a fixed bright light, not flashing, no colours.

KINGS LYNN POLICE

0227Z - No reports of unusual lights.

MV CONOCOAST

Tanker operating from Rochester carrying fuel to Dredgers off Ingoldmells on north westerly heading - 4 crew

Crew: [REDACTED] (Master), [REDACTED] AN Other (now on ONWARD MARINER - phone [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Still on CONOCOAST [REDACTED])

Two sets of similar lights to north and south; observed by all crew members intermittently (busy working the ship) from 0246 til daybreak. - observed about every 30 mins or so. Constant azimuth from ship, 345 and 160 degrees, could not say whether relative bearing changed since ship was moving - elevation about 20 degrees according to Ship Captain; other observer states northerly light about 10 degrees above the horizon and southerly 30 degrees. Both sets of lights bright and flashing red, green, blue and white lights to the south were brightest.

MV NAUTIC W

Cargo vessel by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N, 000.44.00E)

No lights observed.

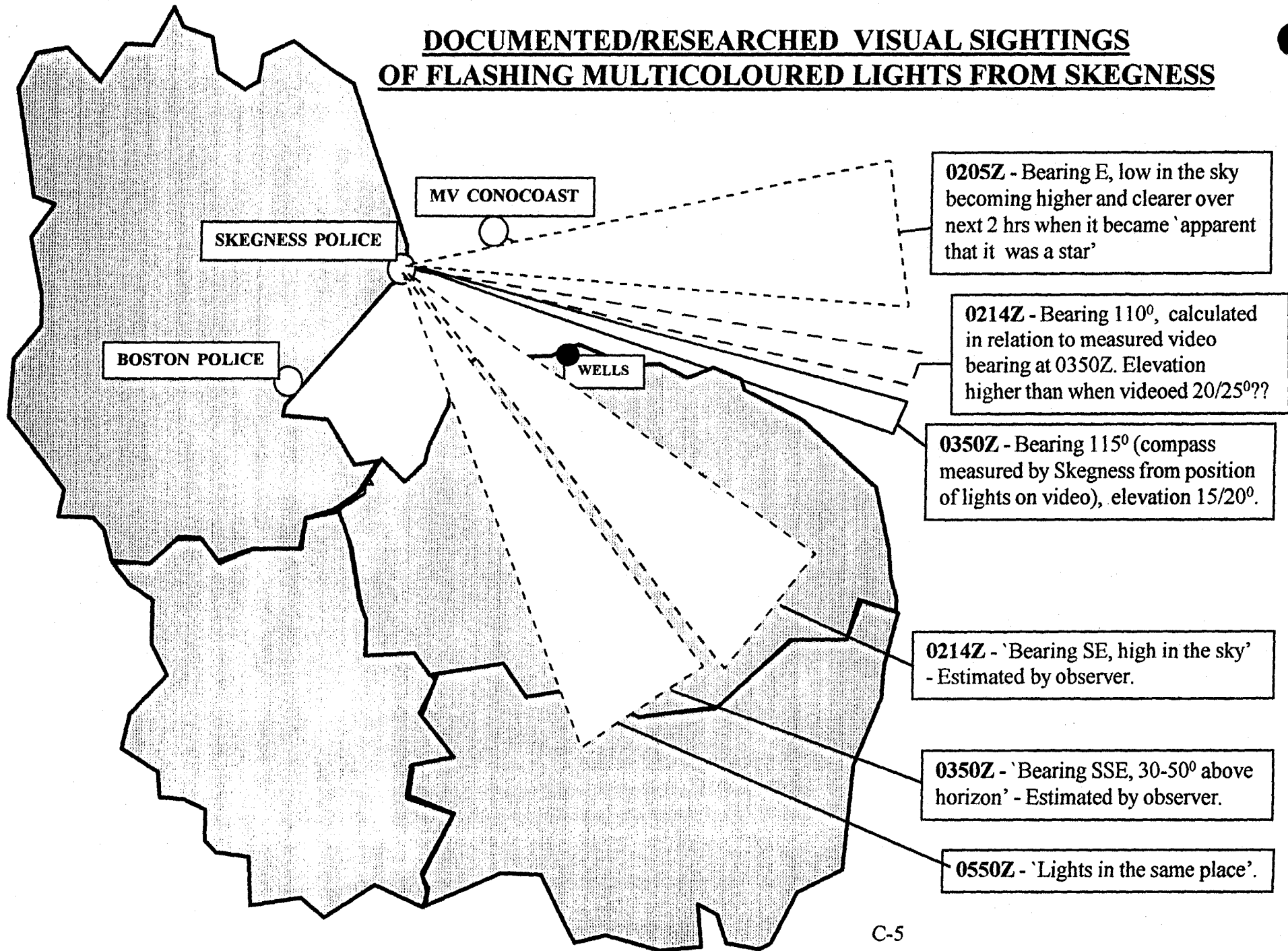
**TABLE SHOWING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF OBSERVATIONS**

Time	Source	Observation	Remarks
0200ish	PC ██████████ Skegness	Stationary, blue green and red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z 'the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.	Assume azimuth 090 +or- 15/20, elevation 5-20 degrees.
0214	██████████ Skegness	Very bright, stationary but rotating coloured lights in easterly direction; position about 5 degrees higher in elevation than when video taken (0450) and 5-10 degrees further to the north in azimuth. Lights appeared over LHS of roof of 3 storey block of flats as seen in the video.	Elevation approx 20-25 degrees Azimuth approx 110 degrees
0230ish	Insp ██████████ Boston	<i>Single bright white light, not coloured or flashing, direction ENE (based on it being 'south of the direction of Skegness'), fairly high about 40 degrees elevation. Constant azimuth and elevation until it disappeared as dawn broke - observer confessed to be poor at angles.</i>	<i>Assume azimuth about 070 degrees +or- 20; assume elevation 30 +or- 0</i>
0227	Police - Kings Lynn	No unusual lights reported.	
0240	MV NAUTIC W	No lights seen.	
0246	CONOCOAST - ██████████	) MV heading NW. Two sets of stationary red, green and white )flashing lights; one set to north, other off port quarter, ie southerly, )one mile high. First noticed approx 0225 (continues..../)	)Assume azimuth 345 and 160 )degrees from 0225 until 0550 )Assume elevation constant at 20 )degrees

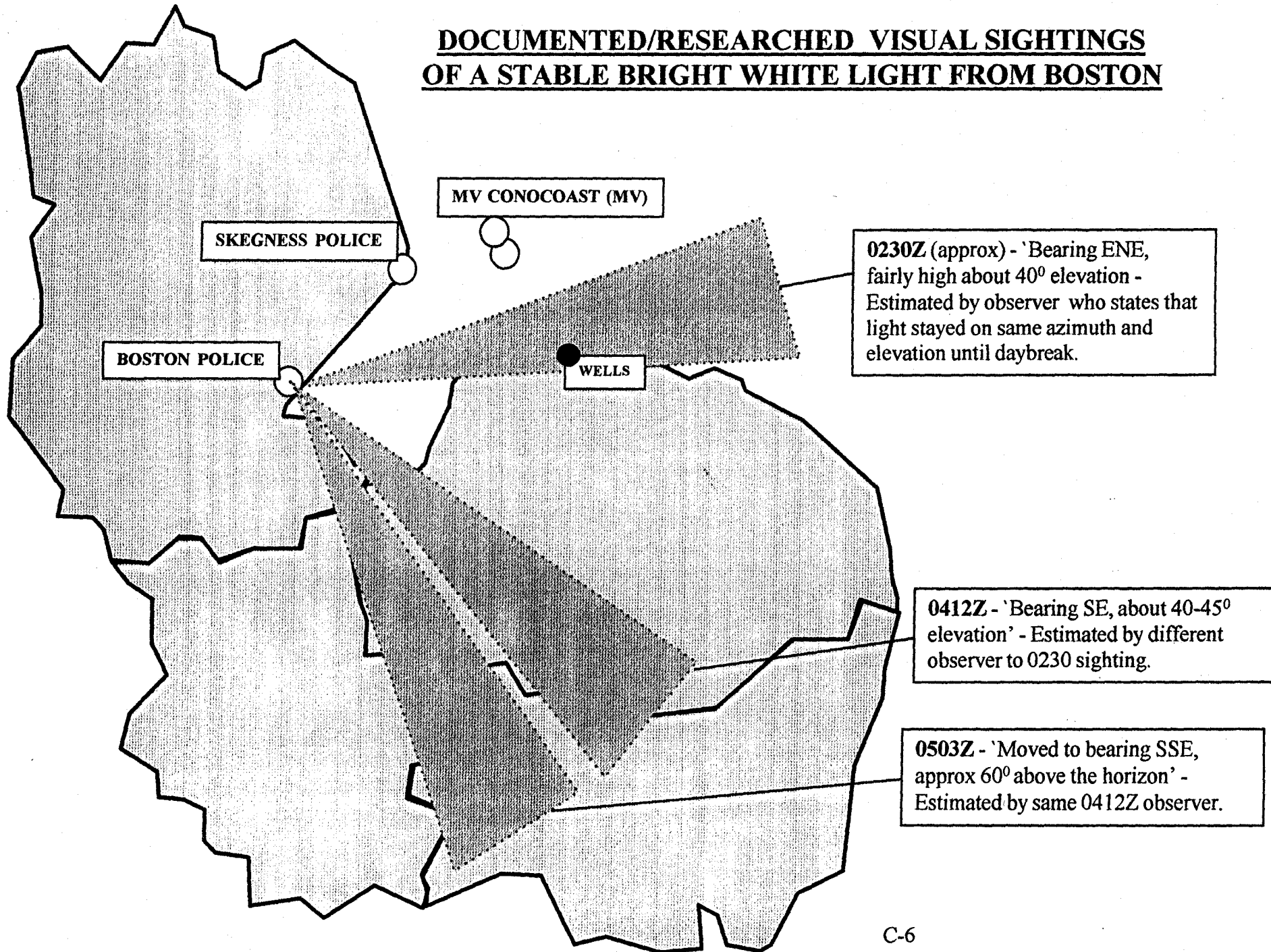


0308	CONOCOAST	)Lights stationary on seemingly constant bearing (but ship was )moving). Constant elevation assessed at 20 degrees. Southerly set of )lights were brightest. Lights observed every 30 minutes or so until )daybreak at constant azimuth and elevation - )bearing 345 and 160 degrees true at 20 degrees elevation.	)Assume mean position 53 12N, ) 00 34E
0345	CONOCOAST		
0350	[REDACTED] Skegness	<b>Video made of lights. Position measured (7 Nov by duty staff through Police HQ Lincoln - Sgt [REDACTED] 40 15-20 degrees elevation and 115 degrees azimuth.</b>	<b>Azimuth 115 degrees, elevation 15-20 degrees</b>
0401	CONOCOAST	Same characteristics as before	
0412	[REDACTED] Boston	<i>Fixed bright white single light to SE (cardinal estimated using St Botolph's spire as reference) 40-45 degrees elevation.</i>	<i>Assume azimuth 135 degrees +or- 15/20; elevation 40 degrees +or- 10/15.</i>
0445	[REDACTED] Skegness	<b>Lights still `quite bright and flashing bearing SSE and 30-50 degrees above horizon.</b>	<b>Assume elevation 40 degrees +or- 10; Assume azimuth 135 + or - 10/15?</b>
0503	[REDACTED] Boston	<i>Lights moved to SSE, 60 degrees elevation, same fixed bright white stable light.</i>	<i>Assume elevation 60 +or- 10/15 degrees, Azimuth 157 +or- 10/15 say between 140 and 170 degrees.</i>
0552	CONOCOAST	As above: Azimuth still 345 and 160 degrees, Elevation 20 or 30 degrees.	
0550 approx	[REDACTED] Skegness	<b>Lights still in same place.</b>	<b>Unreliable observation for exact coords.</b>

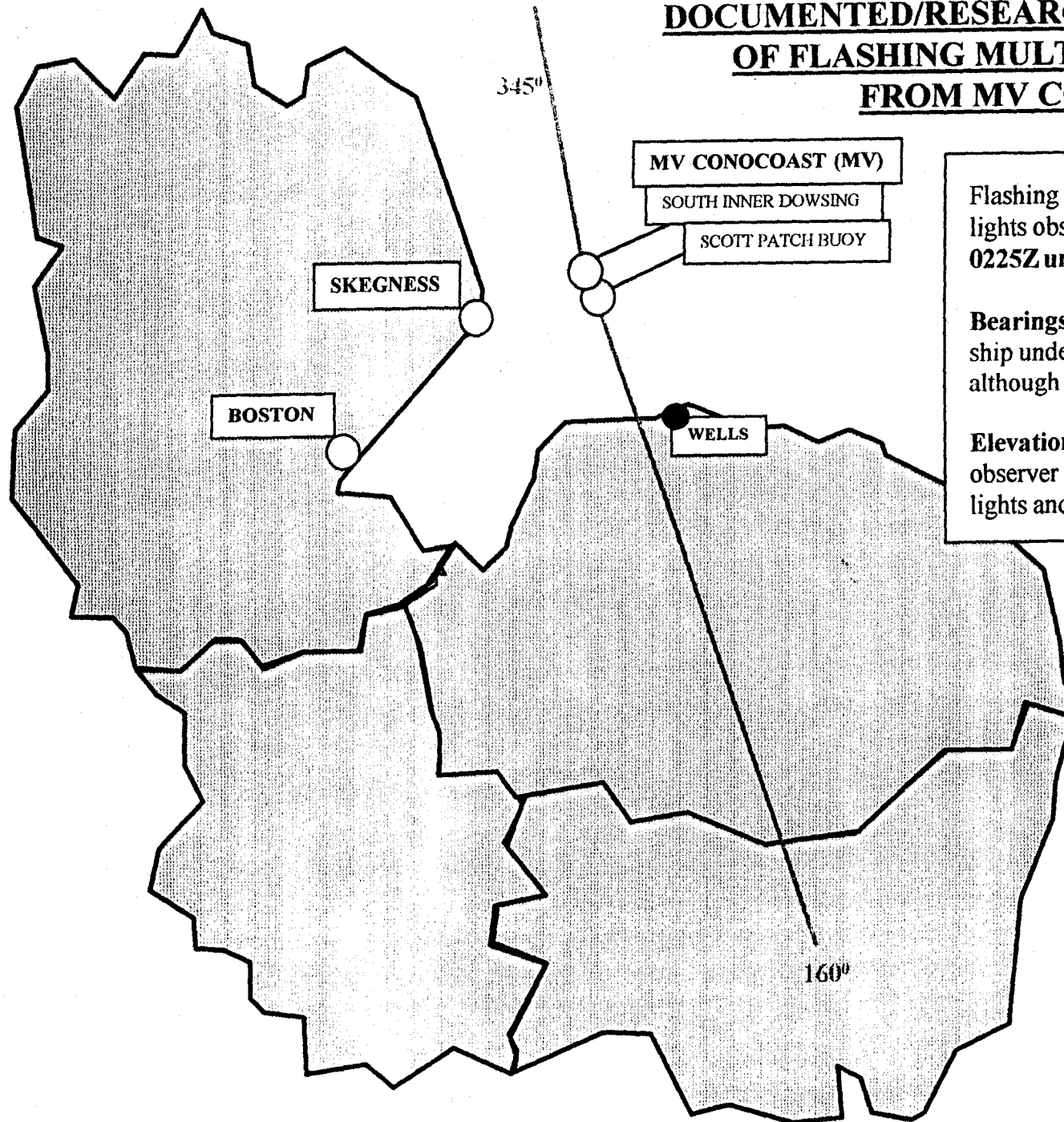
**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM SKEGNESS**



**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS  
OF A STABLE BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT FROM BOSTON**



**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS**  
**FROM MV CONOCOAST**

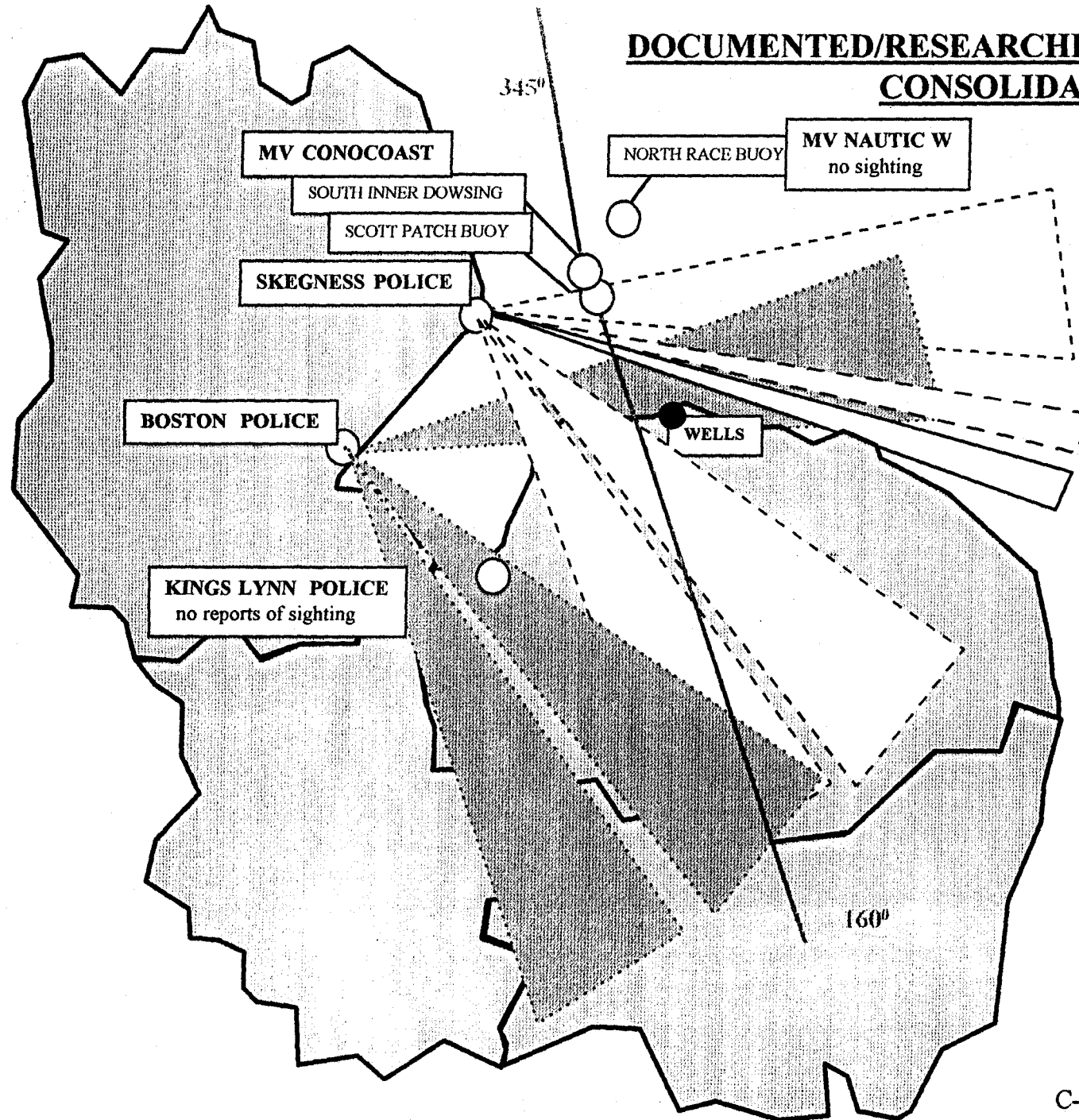


Flashing stationary red, green, blue and white lights observed about every 30 mins from approx 0225Z until 0550Z.

Bearings seemingly constant at 345° and 160° but ship under way. Lights on both bearings identical, although southernmost set brightest.

Elevation constant: assessed at 20° by one observer or by another at 10° for the northern lights and 30° for the southern.

**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**CONSOLIDATED**



PPARC

Royal Greenwich Observatory

Madingley Road  
Cambridge CB3 0EZ  
United Kingdom  
Telephone [redacted]  
Facsimile [redacted]

Wing Commander [redacted]  
ADGE 1, MOD [redacted]

FAX [redacted]

ANNEX D TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

Direct Line [redacted]  
email: [redacted]

13 November 1996

Dear Wing Commander [redacted]

I have examined the reports of bright lights seen on October 5 as set out in your fax of 11 November.

When a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20°) it is quite common for it to appear to show colours, which are often described as 'flashing' or 'rotating'. It is important to consider a person's eyesight in interpreting their descriptions of sightings.

It seems to me in this case that the different observers may have been looking at different objects. Because of the uncertainties in the estimates of elevation and azimuth I cannot be certain as to what was seen, but this is my best guess.

I think that both Inspector [redacted] 49d [redacted] of Boston Police may have been looking at Venus. Venus has been exceptionally bright in the early morning sky over the past weeks and has stood out from all around it. The actual positions of the planet on October 5 are as follows.

UT	BST	Altitude	Azimuth	
02:00	03:00	-2°	68°	Venus-rise
02:09	03:09		70°	
03:00	04:00	+7°	80°	
04:00	05:00	+16°	92°	
05:00	06:00	+25°	105°	
06:00	07:00	+33°	118°	
07:00	08:00	+40°	135°	

I confess to being puzzled as to what the crew of MV CONOCOAST were watching. Presumably they would have had a clear view of the whole sky. Can you rule out that they may have been seeing some laser show with the beams reflected in a hazy sky? I am also puzzled as to why they saw two sets of lights at approximately 180° apart.

(continued)

[REDACTED] observations are also hard to interpret. What does he mean when he says he was 'not very interested'? Why did he take the video? It is possible from his own record of his observation that he was looking at the same lights as the crew of MV CONOCOAST seen at azimuth  $160^{\circ}$ , although the later compass measurement of the light seen on the video could have been Venus!

Also, one should note that the Moon was just past Last Quarter on 4th October, rising at 23:36 BST on October 4 and setting at 15:13 BST on October 5. This would have had the effect of 'washing out' all but the brightest stars. If this was so then the bright stars Sirius or Canopus might be candidates for these sightings. However, if the sky was really clear I don't think either of these objects would have fooled people who are presumably all quite used to working at night and therefore are quite familiar with looking at the sky.

I hope this has helped.

Best regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Head, Education and Information Services

ANNEX E TO  
DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANISATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Skegness Police Station

Obs: [redacted] and [redacted]

Obs: [redacted] on duty in police control room until 0600Z 5 Oct  
[redacted] extension

Boston Police Control Room

Obs: Inspector [redacted] on duty 5 Oct

Obs: [redacted] (on duty 5 Oct 96)

Kings Lynn Police

0237Z No lights reported

HQ Lincolnshire Police

Head of Media Services

Nettleham

LINCOLN

Sgt [redacted] Ext [redacted] 40

Skegness Police Video sent by HQ Lincolnshire Police to MOD ADGE 1 on 5 Nov 96, received 6 Nov together with copies of Skegness police incident log and statements from PCs [redacted] and [redacted] Video taken from Police Station roof (3rd storey) Runs for about 5mins - taken at approx 00350Z - lights on a bearing of 115 degrees true about 15-20 degrees elevation. Building in bottom left corner is 3 storey block of flats

Copy of Video sent to:

[redacted] Briggate

North Walsham

Norfolk [redacted]

Tel: [redacted]

( 'independent UFO Researcher' and believed to be collaborating with [redacted] of the Staffordshire UFO Group who is investigating the incident and who confesses to have 'got Mr Redmond to ask the questions' - Tel [redacted] )

Copy of video requested by:

Lincolnshire UFO Research Team [redacted]

Sleaford [redacted]

Lincoln UFO Research Team

Tel: [redacted]



Tel: [REDACTED]

Access to Claxby and Cromer Watchman Radars

Gt Yarmouth Coastguard  
Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre  
[REDACTED] on duty 5 Oct

MV CONOCOAST (out of Rochester on 5 Oct with fuel for Dredgers off Ingoldmells) - 4 crew, very busy, observed lights intermittently every 30 mins or so- bearings measured using ship's compass.

Spoke to [REDACTED] 8 Nov on CONOCOAST [REDACTED] - lights consistently 10 deg and 30 deg up (N & S respectively)

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED] part of crew on 5 Oct now on 'ONWARD MARINER' [REDACTED] Spoke to [REDACTED] (Master of vessel who was at wheel) on 11 Nov 96 - confirmed observation from about 0225 til dawn - two sets of lights 346 & 160 (brightest), both about 20 degrees above horizon

MV NAUTIC W (callsign J8FK)  
Cargo Vessel registered in St Vincent  
Position by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N 000.44.00E)  
No lights observed

CRC Neatishead

Flt Lt [REDACTED] - duty Track Production Officer and Station Duty Officer 5 Oct til 0700Z then relieved by Flt Lt [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] home: [REDACTED]

Kinloss Air Rescue Coordination Centre

Flt Lt [REDACTED]

LATCC Distress and Diversion Cell, West Drayton

[REDACTED] 40

Duty Controller 5 Oct: Flt Lt [REDACTED]

LATCC(Civil) Controller [REDACTED] (Civil Supervisor number) working N Sea radar on 5 Oct - Asked 2 civil aircraft between 0520 and 0530Z if they could see any unusual lights in area of Wash/East Anglia as they flew by.

- Aircraft 1, DELTA Airlines FL 370 from USA on track from Isle of Man to Amsterdam; asked when near Scunthorpe, no contact in Wash/East Anglia area but saw 'indistinct lights which might have been flares' about 20 minutes previously in Irish Sea area.

- Aircraft 2, UK Air out of Manchester to Continent; asked when 30nm south east of Ottringham heading south east; nothing seen.

Waddington Approach AR15 radar

DSATCO [REDACTED] Pbt Lt [REDACTED]

Lower Airspace Radar Service for Civil and Military aircraft  
within 30nm and up to FL95.

Fg Off [REDACTED] on duty 5 Oct 96

Met Office Bracknell

Weather Records

Roshan [REDACTED]

No thunderstorm activity on 5 Oct - clear night

Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge

[REDACTED]  
Fax [REDACTED]

ANNEX F TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

ABBREVIATED COMMENTS ON MR REDMOND'S LETTER

1. General. Mr Redmond's comments are largely based on radio traffic between Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and various agencies which was either released or intercepted then reported in the press and interpreted in various ways; erroneously, the visual observations of lights have been linked with persistent radar returns from a permanent echo at Boston Lincs.
2. Para 1. There was no visual identified flying craft only unusual lights; correlation by 'various different military radar systems' did not occur.
3. Para 2.
  - a. Lights with different characteristics were observed to the E and/or SE of Skegness and Boston by Police and by the crew of MV Conocoast some 8 miles east of Skegness. A separate stationary object was detected on one ATC radar at Claxby, Lincs, over Boston and observed on the same radar display at Neatishead, Anglia Radar (later) and the D&D Cell at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton; a stationary object was also detected much later on the Waddington approach radar, however this was in a separate position, not over Boston. Three aircraft subsequently flew close to the 'object' but no sighting of an airborne vehicle was made.
  - b. RAF Northwood was never involved in this event. confusion has arisen because Gt Yarmouth Coastguard, referred incorrectly to 'D&D Northwood' instead of 'D&D West Drayton' in several transmissions or conversations; this error was reproduced in press reports.
4. Para 3.
  - a. Aircraft were not scrambled because there was no evidence whatsoever of an unidentified airborne vehicle in the vicinity.
  - b. Tornado F3 QRA aircraft are held on high alert at RAF Leuchars but not routinely at Leeming or Coningsby.
  - c. The RAF Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC), Kinloss was only involved by Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ascertain whether they knew of any air activity in the area. ARCC, in turn, asked CRC Neatishead and D&D who replied in the negative; ARCC subsequently relayed several messages between D&D/Neatishead and the MRCC concerning the stationary radar plot.
5. Para 4. Locations of permanent echoes are well known to

adar operators who work routinely in particular areas using the same radar head, as is borne out by the information from Anglia concerning the Boston Stump. No Air Defence radar detected the Boston echo. Neatishead's 'skilled operators' rarely use the Claxby ATC Radar in the Boston area, nor do D&D and, hence, had not encountered this particular radar echo before; the echo was seen by 3 control agencies using the same radar at Claxby; Waddington reported an echo at 0749 when they were asked to look 120<sup>0</sup>/23nm (over Boston), however, investigations revealed a reporting error and this plot was a separate permanent echo towards Skegness. The radar plots could not be correlated with the visual sightings of lights and, geographically, were quite separate.

6. Para 5

a. The video taken by the Skegness police did not disappear into the bowels of the Ministry's Main Building. It was sent by Inspector [REDACTED] of Skegness police to Lincolnshire Police HQ and held by the Head of Media Services. A copy was supplied to [REDACTED] an 'independent UFO researcher' on 18 Oct and to MOD, DAO ADGE 1, on 5 Nov 96. No copy was sent to Neatishead.

b. RAF Air Defence Ground Environment units, including CRC Neatishead, produce a Recognised Air Picture of air activity in the UKADR 24 hours a day. Standard procedures exist for investigating unidentified aircraft and these were followed in this case. Experienced operators carefully judged that there was no evidence of unidentified flying craft present in the UKADR and did not, therefore, seek authority to scramble air defence aircraft held on alert at RAF Leuchars.

7. Para 6

a. Question 1

- CRC Neatishead - Responsible for:

-- the compilation of the Recognised Air Picture in that portion of the UKADR south of 55 degrees north.

-- Control of Air Defence aircraft on missions to preserve the Integrity of UK airspace.

- ARCC Kinloss - To liaise with and support national emergency organisations by allocating air search and rescue resources to incidents.

- D&D Cell, West Drayton - Provide Air Traffic Control Emergency and Fixer services to Civilian and Military aircraft operating in the London Flight Information Region

- RAF Waddington - Task includes the provision of a Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) to Military and Civil ac on request out to 30nms (or further if airspace quiet) and up to FL095

- Video - see above.

b. Question 2

- There was no evidence of unidentified aircraft being present in the UKADR on 5 Oct 96, therefore, there was no reason to scramble aircraft on alert. Police and the tanker MV CONOCOAST saw LIGHTS not objects or any flying craft. No lights were observed by any aircraft in the area; negative reports were received from 2 civilian aircraft which flew by the area at 0520-0530Z

c. Question 3

Procedures exist to scramble aircraft to investigate unidentified aircraft detected on radar, which was not the case on 5 Oct.

↑  
FEED  
DIRECTION

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWV079 05/1804 279C0988

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 051630Z OCT 96

FROM UKCAOC HIGH WYCOMBE  
 TO MODUK AIR  
 INFO HQ 11/18 GP BENTLEY PRIORY  
 CRC NEATISHEAD

U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

MSGID/AERIAL PHENOMENA//

A/DTG/050214Z//

B/DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT/A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT OR  
 POSSIBLY PAIR OF OBJECTS FLASHING RED, GREEN, BLUE AND WHITE OVER  
 BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. VERY BRIGHT. NO NOISE. NO HEIGHT BUT ASSESSED  
 BY VISUAL SIGHTINGS AS APPROX 1 MILE HIGH TO VERY HIGH/RADAR CONTACT  
 REPORTED BY LONDON RADAR AND CRC NEATISHEAD ON CLAXBY NATS RADAR HEAD  
 BUT INITIAL PLOT HAD BEEN SUSPECTED AS CLUTTER//

C/EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER/SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS RANGING FROM BOSTON  
 POLICE, CREW OF MV CONOCAUST AND POSSIBLE SIGHTING FROM CREW OF AC  
 UNDER LONDON RADAR CONTROL. FURTHER CONTACTS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC//  
 D/HOW OBSERVED/VISUAL BY BINOCULARS(MV CONOCAUST). VIDEO(BOSTON

PAGE 2 RXDBHW 0986 UNCLAS

POLICE)AND NAKED EYE BY OTHERS//

E/DIRECTION OF OBJECT AT 1ST SIGHTING/OVER BOSTON//

F/ANGLE OF SIGHT/40-45 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON(BOSTON POLICE)//

G/DISTANCE NIL//

H/MOVEMENTS/OBJECTS APPEARED TO MOVE NE/SW OVER A RANGE OF ABOUT  
8NM//

J/MET CONDITIONS OBSERVED DURING OBSERVATIONS/GOOD WITH GOOD VMC  
 REPORTED BY AC/HOWEVER. A NUMBER OF THUNDERSTORMS ACTIVE IN EAST  
 ANGLIA REGION//

K/NEARBY OBJECTS/CONTROLLER AT ANGLIA RADAR REPORTED THAT CHURCH  
 RESPONSE COULD BE CAUSED BY QUOTE BOSTON STUMP UNQUOTE WHICH CHURCH  
 STEEPLE WHICH DOES OCCASIONALLY APPEAR ON RADAR//

L/TO WHOM REPORTED/MV CONOCAUST TO GT YARMOUTH COASTGUARD, LATTER TO  
 RCC KINLOSS. THEN ONTO CRC NEATISHEAD. PUBLIC ALSO TO POLICE AT  
 SKEGNESS//

M/NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMER/AS ABOVE//

N/BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED/NIL//

P/DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT/050214Z OCT 96//

Q/ANY UNUSUAL MET CONDITIONS/THUNDERSTORMS EAST ANGLIA//

R/REMARKS/FAX OF TRANSCRIPT FROM YARMOUTH COASTGUARD WILL BE FAXED

U N C L A S S I F I E D

27900988  
FEED  
DIRECTION

PAGE 3 RXDBHW 0986 UNCLAS  
TO MOD SEC(AS)2A(POC IAW STCDO [REDACTED] DUTY OFFICER AT RAF  
NEATISHEAD ORDERED TO REFER ANY PRESS ENQUIRIES TO MOD(AIR)PRESS  
OFFICE. STCDO TELCON TO MOD DUTY OFFICER TO INFORM OF SITUATION. STC  
DUTY AIR DEFENCE COMMANDER INFORMED THIS MORNING//  
POC CIVIL [REDACTED] RAFTN [REDACTED] (STCDO EXT [REDACTED] OR GESM EXT  
[REDACTED] /

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

F

- CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION ( CXV 1 AFDO )
- CXL 1 DD GE/AEW
- CAI 1 DI 55

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F Sigs 927

**Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet**  
**USE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE LINES WHEN AVAILABLE**

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	DTG:	Reference:
From: Fk Lt [REDACTED] SDO 5 Oct 96 RAF Nottishead Norwich, Norfolk NR12 8YB	Fax Number: [REDACTED] Telephone Number: [REDACTED]	Subject: UPO Sighting 5 Oct 96
To: GBSM	Fax Number: [REDACTED] Telephone Number: [REDACTED]	Total Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 5

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operator
Rank, Name and Appointment: Fk Lt [REDACTED] SDO, RAF Nottishead	Rank/Grade and Name:
Signature: [REDACTED]	Signature:
Date: 5 Oct 96	

**Message/Remarks:**

**REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - 5 OCT 96**

- Date, time and location.** Notified to Nottishead at 0502110Z by RCC Kinloss following report from coastguard. Object still visible on radar at 0510115, time of writing report.
- Description of object.** First reports indicated a 'strange red and green rotating light, or a possible pair of objects described as flashing red, green, blue and white lights. Stationary over Boston, Lincolnshire, no exact height but reports range from 'about a mile high' to 'very high'. Objects seen on radar showed possible pair of plots, moving in a NE/SW direction over a distance of up to 8nm and stationary for short periods. No height information available as no contact on ADGB Radar only on NATS Chixby. No sound was associated with the sightings.
- Exact position of observer.** Several observers reported sighting including Nottishead, Anglia Radar, Waddington Approach, London Radar all report plots over Boston Lincolnshire. Surface sightings reported from Boston Police who report bright light, SE of Boston 40-45 degrees up in the sky. Surface sighting from ship MV CONOCOAST, 8nm position 53 12N00094E, reported 2 contacts with flashing blue, red, white and green lights over Boston. Possible airborne sighting from aircraft working London Radar at 050557Z who reported 'indistinct flashing lights'. Numerous other sightings phoned in to the police from members of the public.
- How observed.** See above. The visual contact by MV CONOCOAST was using binoculars. Stages police have video footage taken either by them or the Boston PC. A copy is being sent to Nottishead.

Covering  
 Caveat  
 Classification

UNCLASS



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Covered  
Covering

UNCLASS

F Sigs 927

5. Direction in which object first seen. MV CONOCOAST reported object 'just appeared' overhead Boston.
6. Angle of sight. Reported as 40 - 45 degrees above the horizon, by Boston PC.
7. Distance. No distance given only reported as 'just SE of Boston'.
8. Movements. Objects appeared to move NE/SW over a range of about 3nm. First report indicated that the contact was a 'strange red and green rotating light'.
9. Met conditions during period. Conditions reported to be good with airborne reports indicating good VMC. However, a number of thunderstorms were active in the East Anglia region.
10. Nearby Objects. All reports indicated objects were high so no nearby objects available for comparison. The controller at Anglia Radar suspects that the radar response could be caused by the 'Boston Stump', a church steeple which does occasionally show up on radar.
11. To whom reported. The MV CONOCOAST reported the sighting to the Gt Yarmouth Coastguard who passed it on to RCC at Kinloss. Public also reported to Coastguard and to police at Skegness. Nestishead informed by RCC Kinloss and has been sent a fax, on request, from the Coastguard.
12. Names of informants. As above.
13. Background. Unknown.
14. Other witnesses. As above.
15. Date and time of receipt. 050210Z Oct 96.
16. Unusual met conditions. Thunder storms.
17. Remarks. FAX received from Yarmouth Coastguard included in transmission for information. Press have made contact and been referred to MOD Air Press Office and RAF Nestishead PRO. Phone calls subsequently received from DC Gregory, Norwich Airport Police, asking for any INFO. Coastguard also interested in whether we are responding to object. Object is still visible and still showing on Clady Radar although at 051105z an ac under control of Waddington Approach flew through area at 2000 feet and reported no contacts.

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Classification

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## REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DTG: 050600 For LRC Full Incident Report (Live) Page 1  
 Incident reference 0214 received at 02:14 UTC on 05/18/96

Incident received from UFO SIGHTING 0175 at BEARING 345 T AND  
 160 T FROM SOUTH INNER DONSING.  
 In circumstances: FROM SKEGNESS POLICE AND NY CONOCAST/0882.

Incident SummaryIncident NarrativeTime AHEAD MESSAGE

050214 LRC SKEGNESS POLICE NR. [REDACTED]  
 WE CAN SEE A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT IN THE  
 SKY DIRECTLY SOUTHEAST FROM SKEGNESS. LOOKS TO BE HIGH IN THE  
 SKY DIRECTLY OVER THE WASH. MANY PEOPLE HERE ARE OBSERVING IT  
 LOOKS STRANGE AS ITS STATIONARY. NO A/C SOUND IN THE AREA. //  
 OK WILL RUN SOME CHECKS AND CALL YOU BACK WITH RESULT.

050220 LRC TO ARCCX SITREP PASSED RDO CHECK WITH RAF HEATHROW RADAR //  
 HEATHROW REPORT NEGATIVE A/C ACTIVITY IN THE WASH AREA AND NO  
 RADAR CONTACTS HELD BY HEATHROW.

050225 LRC TO ARCCX PER CHECK WITH D & D NORTHWOOD // OK  
 FM ARCCX - D & D HAVE A RADAR CONTACT BEARING 221 DEGREES FW  
 SKEGNESS AT 16 MILES. LOOK TO BE STATIONARY AND NO WAY OF  
 DETERMINING ITS HEIGHT BUT IT MUST BE QUITE A SIZE TO BE VISIBLE  
 FROM SE. // OK REQ YOU INFORM HEATHROW AND TRY TO ASCERTAIN  
 WHY THEIR RADAR ISN'T PICKING IT UP AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN HEIGHT  
 FROM THEM // OK WILL COME BACK.

050230 LRC FM ARCCX - HEATHROW NOW REPORT THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION  
 CONFIRMS A COUPLE OF RADAR CONTACTS IN THAT AREA BUT NO HEIGHT  
 THEY SEEM TO BE STATIONARY. DEFINITELY NO MILITARY A/C IN THE  
 AREA AND NO NOTIFIED CIVIL FLIGHTS SHOULD BE THERE. WE ARE  
 INVESTIGATING FURTHER AND WILL ADVISE YOU OF RESULT // OK IN THE  
 MEANTIME I WILL PUT A D/C OUT TO SHIPPING IN THE AREA AND RDO  
 REPORTS.

050235 RN ANY VELS IN THE WASH AREA BE YTH CG OR 16 DO U BX // BE JOFZ //  
 STW -E- CH DSY CH 67  
 ANY VEL WASH AREA

050240 LRC TO JOFZ/ NAUTIC V. ANY A/C LIGHTS VISUAL FROM YOUR STN // HSC I  
 AM BY THE B RACE BUOY AND NO SIGHTINGS.

050245 RN FM CONOCAST C/S 0812 TO YTH CG // BE YTH CG DSY CH67  
 TO CONOCAST/0882 SITREP PASSED ANY SIGHTINGS // YES WE ARE BY  
 THE SCOTT HATCH AND HAVE THESE LIGHTS VISUAL NOW THEY ARE  
 FLASHING RED GREEN AND WHITE CANNOT ID IT AS AN AIRCRAFT AS IT  
 LOOKS STATIONARY AND APPROX ONE MILE HIGH // DID YOU SEE FROM  
 WHICH DIRECTION IT APPEARED // NO IT JUST APPEARED AND IS  
 STATIONARY // OK PER KEEP UNDER OBS AND ADVISE US OF ANY  
 DIRECTIONAL MOVEMENT. CALL US ON CH 16 // OK

050250 LRC FM ARCCX - HEATHROW SAY IT COULD BE CAUSED BY THE WEATHER //  
 DONT THINK SO AS WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT // WELL HEATHROW AND  
 NORTHWOOD REPORT THAT THERE IS NO TRANSPONDER ON THIS OBJECT AND

(Live) Page 2

THEREFOR NO MEANS OF INTERROGATION ITS IS OBVIOUS THAT WHATEVER IT IS, IT DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ITS THERE. ALSO HEATISHEAD REPORT ITS ON AS DIRECTLY OVER BOSTON. // OR I WILL ASK BOSTON POLICE IF THEY HAVE IT VISUAL - WILL UPDATE YOU.

050307 LRC TO CONCOAST STILL VISUAL ? // YES STILL STATIONARY AND NOW FLASHING RED GREEN BLUE AND WHITE. LOOKS VERY HIGH. NO ENGINE NOISE. // OK REQ DTH UPDATE // 2 MILES SE OF SCOTT PATCH BUOY //

050311 LRC WHAT IS RELATIVE BEARING OF OBJECT // NORTH OF US. TO SAGBESS POLICE [REDACTED] REQ UPDATE // STILL VISUAL AND STATIONARY BUT NO NOISE // DO YOU HAVE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF IT // NO BUT CAN ARRANGE TO GET SOME // I THINK IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA AS THE RAF ARE VERY INTERESTED AND MAY REQUIRE IT LATER // OR WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

050324 RN FM RCC KINGLOSS - HAVE SPOKEN TO HEATISHEAD DUTY CONTROLLER, THEY ARE KEEPING A LOG OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE CLUTTER ON THE RADAR, AND WE THEY HAVE PASSED IT UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AND THEY WOULD LIKE THE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF IT.

050330 LRC TO CUSTOMS BRUCE CONTROL [REDACTED] FULL SIZED PASSED DO YOU HAVE ANY MEANS OF PUTTING AN A/C UP TO INVESTIGATE THIS // NOT SURE BUT WILL CHECK AND COME BACK TO YOU THANKS FOR THE CALL AS IT SOUNDS VERY SUSPICIOUS AND COULD BE A WELD TRANSPORTED SHIPMENT OF [REDACTED] IN AS IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.

050334 RN TO BOSTON POLICE FM YTH CG // [REDACTED] THE RAF AT HEATISHEAD ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS AND WE WOULD IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO GET SOME VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THIS // THAT IS HOW WE DO NOT HAVE THAT FACILITY.

050336 LRC FM CUSTOMS IPWITCH [REDACTED] - NO CHANCE OF OUR A/C INVESTIGATING AS ITS DOWN IN THE SW OF ENGLAND.

050338 RN FM YTH CG TO CONCOAST - STILL 2 LIGHT STILL OF SOUTH BOWLING ONE OF PORT QUARTER FLASHING GREEN AND RED // DOES THE ONE ON THE STAR SIDE LOOK THE SAME BOSTON // STUT 1 // HOW TALL THE INNER BOWLING ONE OF PORT QUARTER COULD BE OFF WELLS AREA // IS IT STILL HIGH IN THE SKY // AFFIRM IT STILL OUTS A DISTANCE // WHAT IS YOUR POSN AT THIS MOMENT // AT THE SOUTH INNER BOWLING // HOW STAY // CAN U SEE TWO LIGHT // AFFIRM THE ONE ON THE PORT QUARTER IS THE BRIGHTEST //

050352 LRC TO CONCOAST - REQ YOUR EXACT GTH AND A BEARING OF BOTH THESE OBJECTS // OR I AM BY THE SOUTH INNER BOWLING IN 53-15N 000-34E ONE STATIONARY LIGHT AT 045 DEG TRUE AND THE OTHER 160 TRUE THE LIGHTS ARE VISUAL WITH NAKED EYE AND BOTH EXHIBIT THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS FLASHING RED BLUE GREEN AND WHITE. // OR WILL YOU BE IN THAT AREA FOR VERY LONG // YES I AM A TANKER WITH BUNKERS FOR THE DRIPPING BOATS OFF INGOLWELLS // OR FOR ADVISE ME OF ANY MOVEMENT IN THESE OBJECTS // OR

050409 LRC TO ARCCX - EXTRIP AS ABOVE // FOR FOR KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY MOVEMENT AND ALSO WHAT CUSTOMS SAY.

050411 RN TO BOSTON POLICE - CAN YOU SEE THIS OBJECT STILL? / YES IS NOW TOWARDS THE SOUTHWEST SEEMS LIKE ABOUT 10-15 DEGREES UP IN THE SKY, JUST A BRIGHT LIGHT TO US.

050412

050417

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

050421 LRC FN ARCC - NEATISHEAD ARE RUNNING A TRACE ON THIS AND CANNOT EXPLAIN IT. IF THEY ARE HELICOPTERS THEY ARE FAST APPROACHING THE END OF THEIR ENDURANCE AS ITS WELL OVER TWO HOURS SINCE THE FIRST REPORT LET ALONG HOW LONG THEY WERE UP BEFORE THEY WERE ACTUALLY SIGHTED, BUT WE HAVE TO BE TASKED BEFORE WE CAN PUT AN A/C UP TO INVESTIGATE AND AS THEY DO NOT PRESENT A THREAT THE REQ TO INVESTIGATE MUST COME FROM A CIVIL SOURCE IE POLICE OR CUSTOMS, CAN YOU SEE WHAT CUSTOMS THINK // OK WILL DO.

050427 LRC TO CUSTOMS IPSWICH (REDACTED) SORRY NO CUSTOMS REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE THESE LIGHTS. I THINK ITS A POLICE MATTER. // OK I WILL ADVISE ARCC/

050433 LRC TO SR POLICE (REDACTED) REQ UPDATE // YES LIGHTS STILL VISUAL QUITE BRIGHT AND FLASHING BEARING 090 FROM ME AND BETWEEN 30 AND 50 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON. // OK DID YOU MANAGE TO OBTAIN ANY VIDEO FOOTAGE // YES I HAVE IT HERE ON TAPE // OK I WILL INFORM THE RAF AS THEY ARE INTERESTED

050435 LRC TO ARCC - CONFIRM VIDEO FOOTAGE AVAILABLE FROM SRECONS POLICE IF REQD // OK YES WILL PASS IT ON TO NEATISHEAD WHO ARE STILL TRACKING THESE OBJECTS.

050440 LRC FN BOSTON POLICE (REDACTED) STILL HAVE THIS LIGHT VISUAL TO THE SOUTH EAST APPROX 60 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON NO HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT VERY BRIGHT WITH LIGHT, BUT IT MUST BE VERY LARGE FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT AS ITS VERY FAR AWAY // DO YOU HAVE ANY BINOCULARS // YES AND NO VIDEO CAMERA SORRY.

050445 LRC TO ARCC - ANY INDICATION OF HEIGHT FROM RAF NEATISHEAD // YES THEY ONLY HAVE PRIMARY RADAR AS DO B & D AND AS OBJECTS DONT HAVE TRANSPONDERS THERE IS NO WAY TO INTERROGATE THEM.

050450 LRC CONVOCAST CALLING // NO REPLY // CALLED AGAIN AND HE

050455 LRC \*\*\*\*\* Narrative chronological to this point \*\*\*\*\*

050457 LRC TO CONVOCAST/GENX CN 67 - DO YOU STILL HAVE THE TWO LIGHTS VISUAL // YES STILL VISUAL AND ON ORIGINAL BEARINGS BUT THEY SEEM HIGHER AND DIMMER BUT AS THE BARR IS BEARING WE WILL LOSE VISUAL CONTACT SOON THEY ARE STILL FLASHING THE SAME COLOURS - THIS SEEN THROUGH BINOCULARS.

050459 LRC TO ARCC SITREP // OK VMT.

ANNEX 1

(Initial) call details collected by LRC between 02:14 and 02:20 on 05/10/96

From SRECONS POLICE NR. (REDACTED)

Notes WE CAN SEE A STRANGE RED AND GREEN ROTATING LIGHT IN THE SKY DIRECTLY SOUTHEAST FROM SRECONS. LOOKS TO BE HIGH IN THE SKY DIRECTLY OVER THE WASH. MANY PEOPLE HERE ARE OBSERVING IT LOOKS STRANGE AS ITS STATIONARY. NO A/C SOUND IN THE AREA. // OK WILL RUN SOME CHECKS AND CALL YOU BACK WITH RESULT.

ANNEX 2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

7 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 Oct 96

1. After efforts to analyse the various sightings of unusual lights which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96, I believe that three separate phenomena can be identified; each is briefly described below with a possible or probable explanation.

LIGHTS IN THE WASH AREA

2. Stationary and generally red/green/white flashing lights to the south east at about 40-45 degrees above the horizon; no reliable height or range could be determined. The lights were observed by Skegness and Boston Police between 0214Z and approximately 0600Z (daybreak); similar lights were observed from the MV Conocoast (approx 8 miles ESE of Skegness from 0345Z until daybreak. The lights observed from Skegness were captured on video which is being sent to RAF Neatishead, however, the result is believed to be of poor quality.

3. The fact that these lights were observed from three separate locations high above the horizon and in the same general direction, without corroborating radar data, suggests a distant celestial source. Venus rising may be a possible explanation since the planet can appear bright, coloured and to flash in certain conditions.

LIGHTS TO THE NORTH OF MV CONOCOAST

4. Stationary red, blue, green and white flashing lights to the north and 'very high', 40-45 degrees above the horizon. Lights observed from the MV Conocoast between 0246Z and approximately 0600Z (daybreak).

5. These lights were observed from a single location out at sea in the opposite direction to those at para 2. They would appear to have originated from an area over the North Sea but again at an angle well above the horizon. These lights were not the object of any attention on 5 Oct, or subsequently, but remain unexplained.

PERMANENT RADAR ECHOS

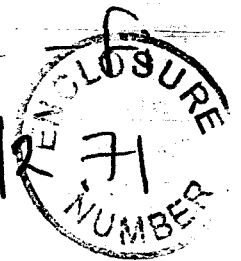
6. Generally stationary radar returns, without height or IFF/SSR, observed on the NATS Claxby radar at 0210Z until 1105Z over Boston and later on the RAF Waddington ATC radar.

7. These returns were almost certainly from a permanent geographical feature (St Botolph's church spire in Boston, 273ft) which were initially observed while attempting to associated an air track with the lights; in fact, no aircraft movement was

Copied to

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A64/R

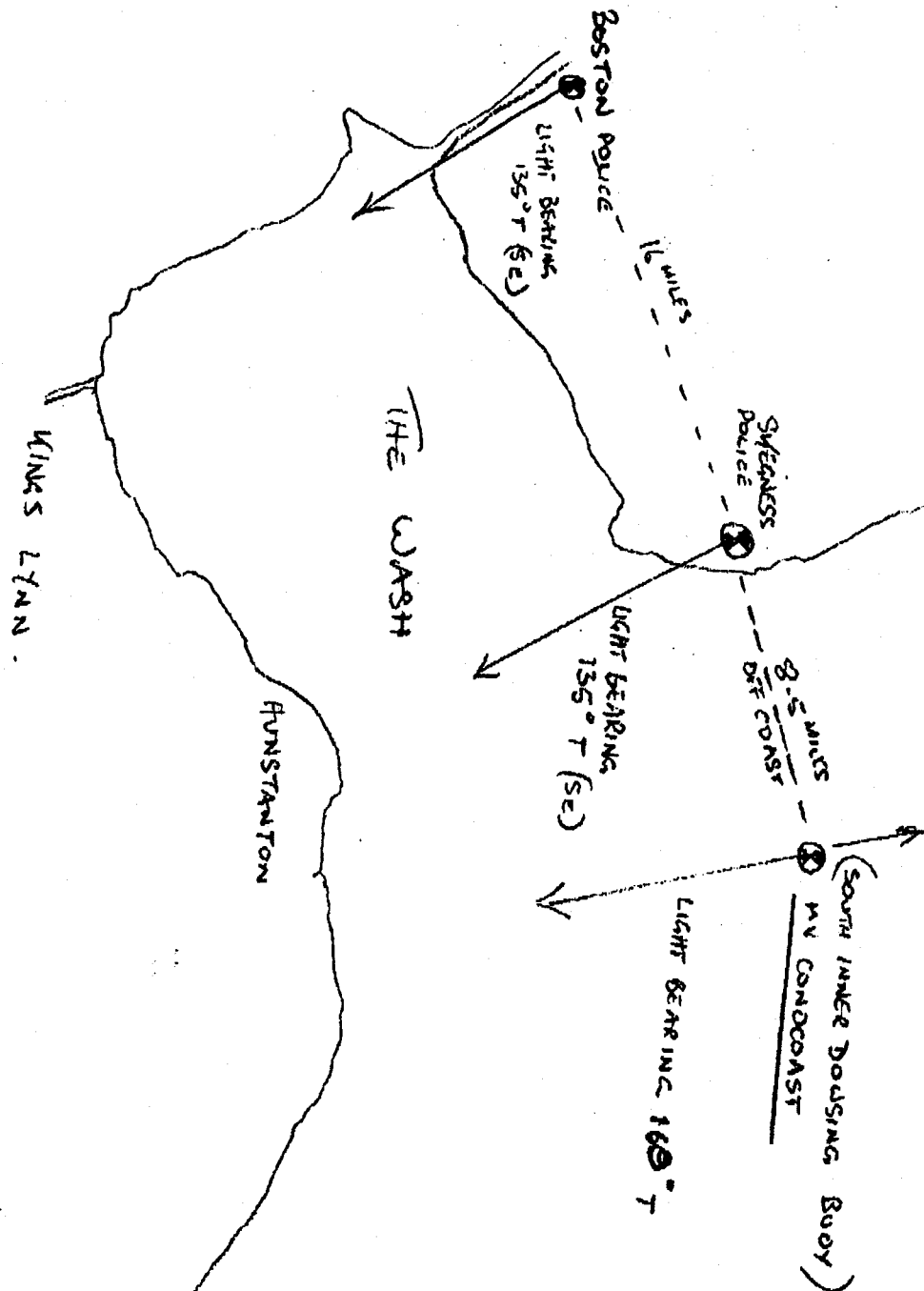


ultimately associated with lights in the Wash or E Anglian area. This church spire is known in aviation circles as the 'Boston Stump' and appears occasionally on some radars in certain radar propagation conditions.

8. Conclusion. The prolonged sighting of stationary coloured flashing lights reported by the Skegness police on 5 Oct 96 had no significance for the integrity of UK Airspace and no associated air vehicle was detected by civil or military radars.

[REDACTED]  
Wg Cdr

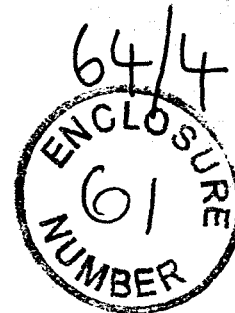
[REDACTED]  
MB4227



BRIGS = THE DARK STAR (COVERED)

VENUS : WHITE (NO COLOUR)

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

13 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

Copy to: AOAD1

LETTER TO SOFS FROM MR. [REDACTED] CONCERNING ALLEGED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CRAFT SIGHTINGS' ON 5 OCT

Reference: Mr [REDACTED] letter to SofS dated 24 Oct 96.

1. At Reference, Mr [REDACTED] raises several points concerning visual and radar observations which occurred during the early hours of Saturday 5 Oct 96 and which are referred to, incorrectly, as 'a visual unidentified flying craft sighting which was correlated by various different military radar systems'. The substance of Mr [REDACTED]'s letter is based on various reports which appeared in the local press, some incorrect, ill-informed or speculative, which I understand were provided to him by [REDACTED] of the Staffordshire UFO Group. In addition, the letter includes serious criticism of the Service, and of the UK Air Defence system in particular; for this reason, exceptionally, the facts surrounding the incident have been established in considerable detail and set out below, together with resumes of observations, actions and explanations. A map showing the location of key agencies, equipment and observations is at Annex A.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

2. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 Oct 96 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at nearby Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights to the east and low in the sky which he reported to the control room in Skegness. As a precaution, the control room relayed the sighting to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), suspecting it could be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss whether they were aware of any air activity or incident in the Wash area. The ARCC had no knowledge of any such air activity and, in turn, asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead if any aircraft activity was present on the radar in that area; Neatishead had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area and ARCC subsequently asked the Distress and Diversion (D&D), located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton (not at RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported). The D&D Cell reported a radar plot on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar over Boston to ARCC, thence to MRCC. At the same time, CRC Neatishead, which had conducted a search on



all available displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. This information was also relayed to ARCC thence to MRCC; by now, MRCC had consciously or subconsciously associated the reports of lights with the Boston radar return and assumed an investigative and coordination role for the rest of the night.

3. Actions by Air Defence System. Meanwhile, CRC Neatishead's inquiries had revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar; the stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR support, therefore, was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D Cell to be a permanent echo, and the separate stationary lights as some form of natural phenomena of no air defence or air concern. It was clear that no flying craft had penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar; furthermore, the unrelated stationary light reports were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety, therefore, no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo or the reported lights was sought.

4. Subsequent Reporting. Updates and further information on both the plot and lights continued to be sought by MRCC from several sources on open circuits and reported, and sometimes distorted, in the process. Further interest in the radar plot was kept alive at the instigation of the coastguard, leading to the eventual involvement of several other control agencies including LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach. Further interest in the lights was maintained by the coastguard until they disappeared with the dawn, involving a tanker vessel at sea, Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil).

#### INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

5. The various observations which occurred in the early hours of 5 Oct 96 and the various phenomenae have been investigated in considerable detail. The relevant logs maintained by on-duty Military and Civilian personnel have been studied and, where possible, key observers and operators, both civil and military, have been interviewed by telephone.

#### THE BOSTON PLOT

6. Plot Characteristics. A radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston, Lincs, on the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) sensor at Claxby, near Market Rasen, when attention was drawn to the area by Great Yarmouth Coastguard. It was observed by the D&D Cell from approximately 0225Z and by CRC Neatishead from 0230Z; both organisations have access to the same radar display although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in the Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead, which opened at

0600, again on the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, the plot was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham; although a stationary return was detected on the AR15 approach radar at RAF Waddington at 0749Z, this was inaccurate reporting of a separate permanent echo. Three aircraft, which transitted the Boston area at 0710Z, 0830, and 1105, failed to sight any airborne object. A map showing radar locations and the position of the plot is at Annex B.

7. Plot Analysis. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo, and the fact that it could only be detected by a single nearby sensor indicates a relatively low physical feature which, however, appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions; for example, it was not present on the Claxby radar on 8 Nov but could be seen on 11 Nov. It is highly probable that the echo was caused by the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump'), as suggested at 1105Z by Anglia Radar, a unit familiar with operating aircraft in the Wash area; however, it is not possible to be absolutely certain without conducting further detailed technical study.

#### THE STATIONARY LIGHTS

8. Analysis of Observations. Various sightings of either stationary, multicoloured, flashing lights or a stationary bright white light were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the MV CONOCOAST some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, when asked at 0227 and 0240Z respectively, police at Kings Lynn and the MV NAUTIC W, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, observed no lights which they considered unusual. In addition, the crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at between 0520 and 0530Z reporting no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only one unsolicited observation of lights seems to have occurred: by PC [REDACTED] at approximately 0205Z on patrol at Addlethorpe near Skegness. All other recorded observations were made on the instigation of Great Yarmouth Coastguard. Moreover, while various reference has been made to an object associated with the lights, this has been by inference only on the part of the observers. A full synopsis of sightings, times, bearings and angles is at Annex C together with maps showing the locations of observation. There is little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information since several observers confessed to being either unconcerned, not very interested, or admitted to being poor at angles; the only accurate measurements are derived from the Skegness police video tape of the lights, filmed at 0350Z and from the MV CONOCOAST at 0401Z which measured bearings based on the Ship's compass. While the lights were generally regarded as unusual, no observer confessed to being alarmed by them; indeed, the initial observer watched the multicoloured flashing lights change characteristics and elevation until dawn when 'they looked just like any other star'.

9. Expert Opinion. The observations were examined by the Royal Greenwich Observatory and a report of its findings is at Annex D. The report acknowledged the uncertainties in the estimates of azimuth and elevation of the observations and could only provide a best guess of the likely light source(s) as summarized below.

a. The Boston Police may have been looking at the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 Oct, rising at 0209Z on a bearing slightly north of east; this is consistent with the first Boston observation.

b. Based on measurements obtained from the police video, the Skegness observations could also have been Venus. The Observatory notes that when a bright star or planet is low in the sky, even to elevation  $20^{\circ}$ , it is quite common for it to appear to show colours which are often described as flashing or rotating. These characteristics and the report of the first Skegness observer tend to favour the Venus theory.

c. The Observatory can offer no likely celestial explanation for either sets of lights observed from the MV CONOCOAST.

#### SUMMARY

10. Following extensive investigation, it can be concluded that the radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo; it was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead at the time and no further air defence related action taken. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably due to light from the planet Venus which began rising at the time of the first observation; it was particularly bright and could have appeared multicoloured and flashing to some observers. No explanation can be offered for the two sets of lights observed from MV CONOCOAST.

11. For completeness and further reference, various notes are attached at Annex E, together with a list of organizations and persons consulted in the course of this investigation. In addition, abbreviated comment on the detail contained in Mr Redmond's letter to SofS are at Annex F. A copy of the video of the Skegness lights, copied by Lincolnshire Police HQ, is attached.

12. This report is the result of almost full time, painstaking investigation over a period of 8 working days and, although all the light phenomenae have not been conclusively explained, research has not revealed evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were being witnessed. It is likely that similar detailed investigation into light phenomenae would produce

equally less than conclusive but unastonishing results; they could not be achieved on a routine basis, however, without dedicated resources being allocated to the task.

[REDACTED]

Wg Cdr

MB4227 [REDACTED]

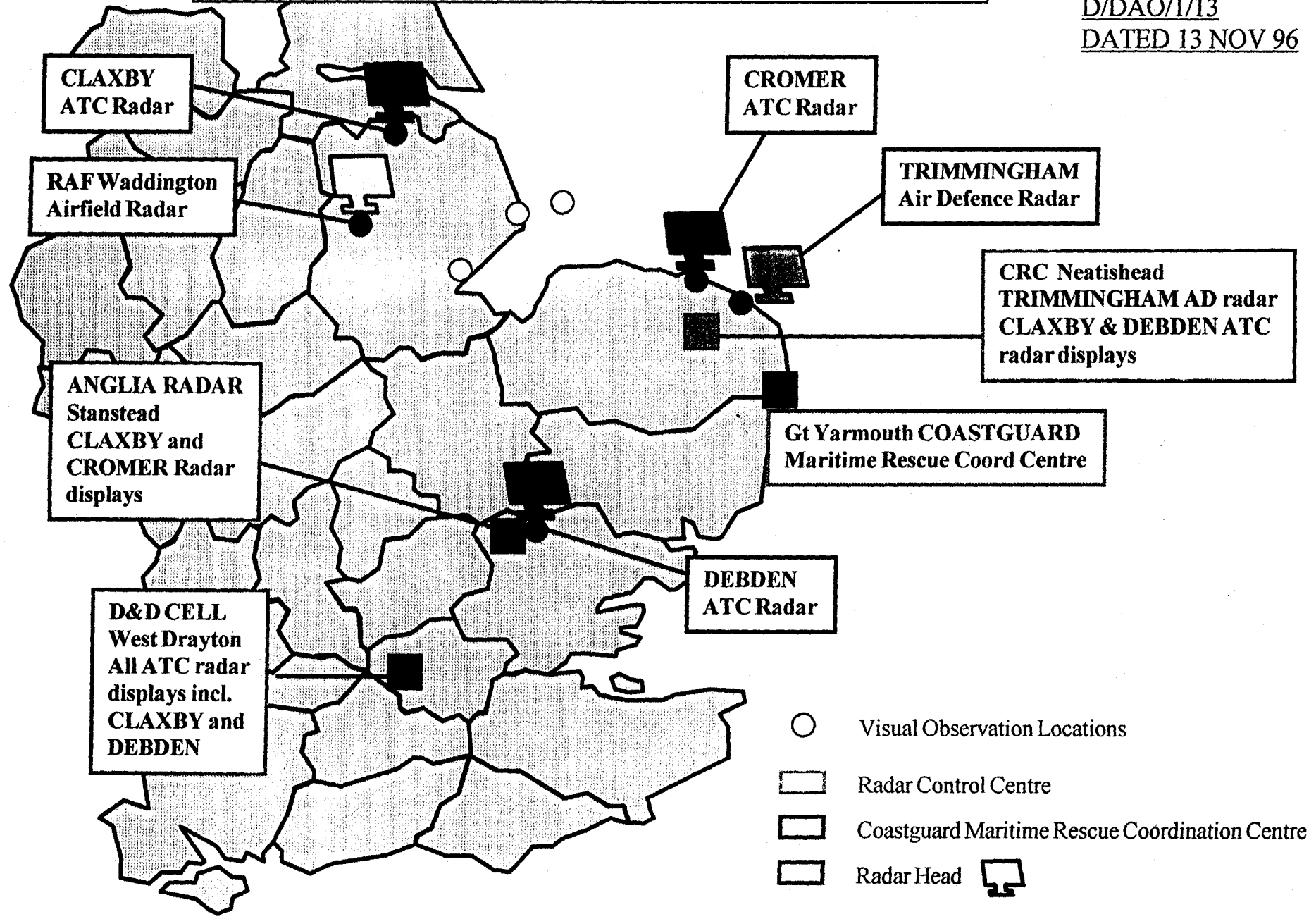
Annexes:

- A. Agencies, Locations and Equipment.
- B. Radar Plots over Boston.
- C. Synopsis on Observations of Lights.
- D. Royal Greenwich Observatory Report.
- E. Miscellaneous Notes
- F. Abbreviated Comments on [REDACTED] s Letter.

Attached: Lincolnshire Police copy of Skegness Video

**AGENCIES, LOCATIONS AND EQUIPMENT - 5 OCT 96**

ANNEX A TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96



**RADAR PLOTS OVER BOSTON - 0200-1200Z OCT 96**

ANNEX B TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

CLAXBY  
Approx 0230 - 1200Z  
Plot 221°/16nm from  
Skegness - stationary,  
no height or IFF. Observed  
on CLAXBY radar displays  
at CRC Neatishead, Anglia  
Radar & D&D Cell.

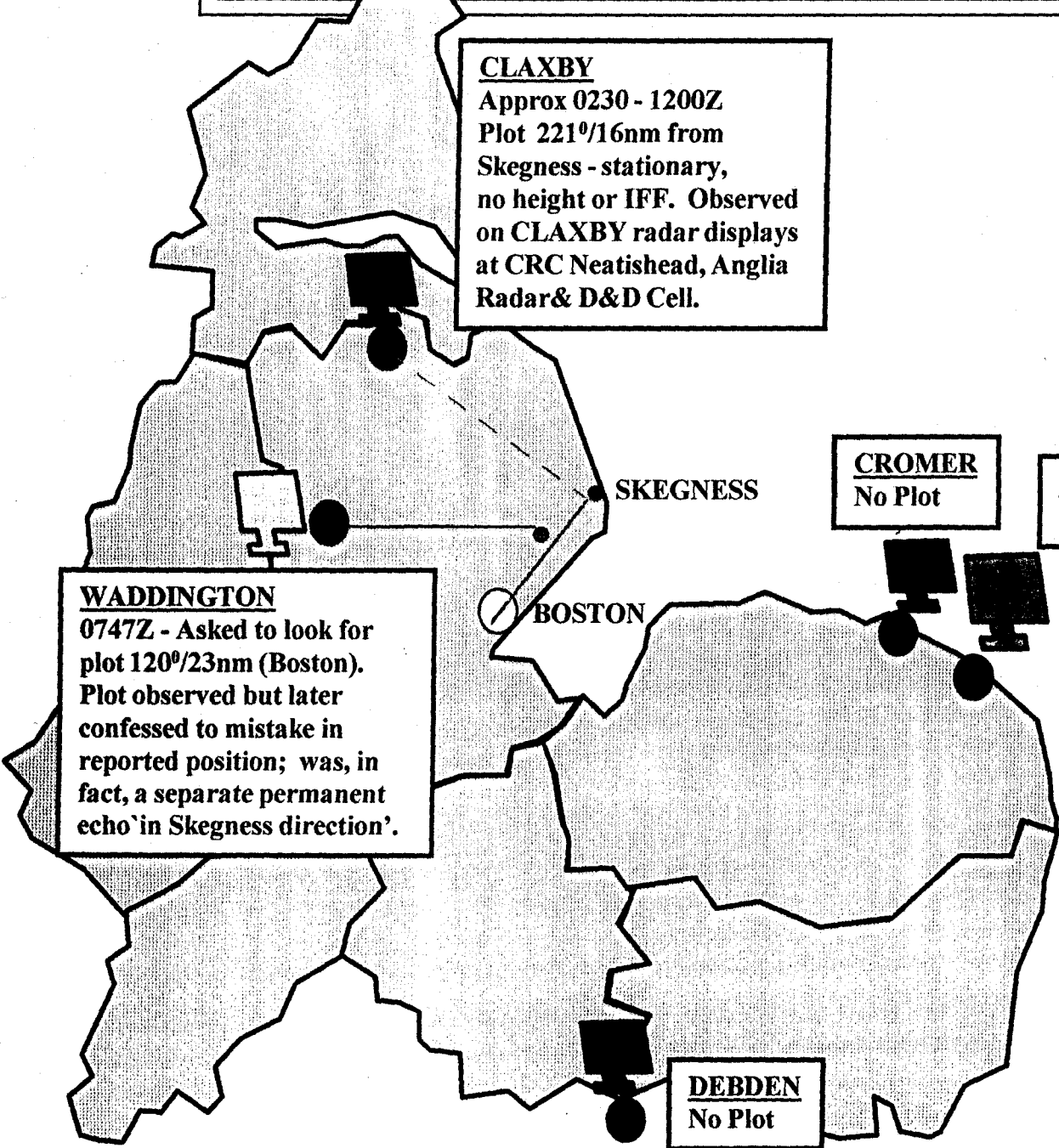
CROMER  
No Plot

TRIMMINGHAM  
No Plot

WADDINGTON  
0747Z - Asked to look for  
plot 120°/23nm (Boston).  
Plot observed but later  
confessed to mistake in  
reported position; was, in  
fact, a separate permanent  
echo in Skegness direction'.

Boston Plot - Active Investigation  
  
0710 - London Mil 6153 squawk passed 3nm  
from plot FL150 - no contact  
  
0830 - Anglia radar 7000 squawk flew  
through plot at 900ft - no contact  
  
1105 - Waddington Approach 1743 squawk  
transitted Boston area at 2000ft - nothing  
seen

DEBDEN  
No Plot



ANNEX C TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

SYNOPSIS OF OBSERVATIONS OF UNUSUAL LIGHTS - 5 OCT

SKEGNESS POLICE

**Observer:** PC [REDACTED] Mobile patrol at Addlethorpe. Stationary, blue green red lights to the East, appeared elongated, low in the sky. Observed at about 0200Z then periodically until 0400Z; light remained stationary but became progressive higher and clear; by 0400Z 'the star was fairly high in the sky looking very similar to the rest'.

**Observer:** PC [REDACTED] at Skegness. First seen 0205Z following information from PC [REDACTED] static white light with red green and yellow lights rotating around it - much lower than any star, estimate 50,000ft. Last observed at 0420 when 'it looked just like any other star'.

**Observer:** Mr [REDACTED] Control Room [REDACTED] - visual plus video

**Position:** Visual from 3rd floor window, video from roof above.

Four observations at 0214, 0350, 0450 (when lights videoed) and just before going off duty at 0600Z. Stationary red, green, blue and white flashing light. Observer admitted to being 'not very interested' in the lights.

BOSTON POLICE

**Observer:** Inspector [REDACTED]

**Position:** Through 3rd floor window of Police station and outside.

Observed intermittently between approx 0230 and dawn: stationary bright white light, constant azimuth and elevation - slightly north of east and about 40 degrees up - 'did not fit the description of the lights being reported by Skegness' - saw the same light 'a couple of months ago but further north on that occasion'

**Observer:** [REDACTED] Control Room [REDACTED]

**Position:** Through control room window on 3rd floor.

Two observations at 0412 and 0503 - Just a fixed bright light, not flashing, no colours.

KINGS LYNN POLICE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

0227Z - No reports of unusual lights.

MV CONOCOAST

Tanker operating from Rochester carrying fuel to Dredgers off Ingoldmells on north westerly heading - 4 crew  
Crew: [REDACTED] (Master), [REDACTED] AN Other (now on ONWARD MARINER - phone [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Still on  
CONOCOAST [REDACTED]

Two sets of similar lights to north and south; observed by all crew members intermittently (busy working the ship) from 0246 til daybreak. -  
observed about every 30 mins or so. Constant azimuth from ship, 345 and 160 degrees, could not say whether relative bearing changed since  
ship was moving - elevation about 20 degrees according to Ship Captain; other observer states northerly light about 10 degrees above the  
horizon and southerly 30 degrees. Both sets of lights bright and flashing red, green, blue and white lights to the south were brightest.

MV NAUTIC W

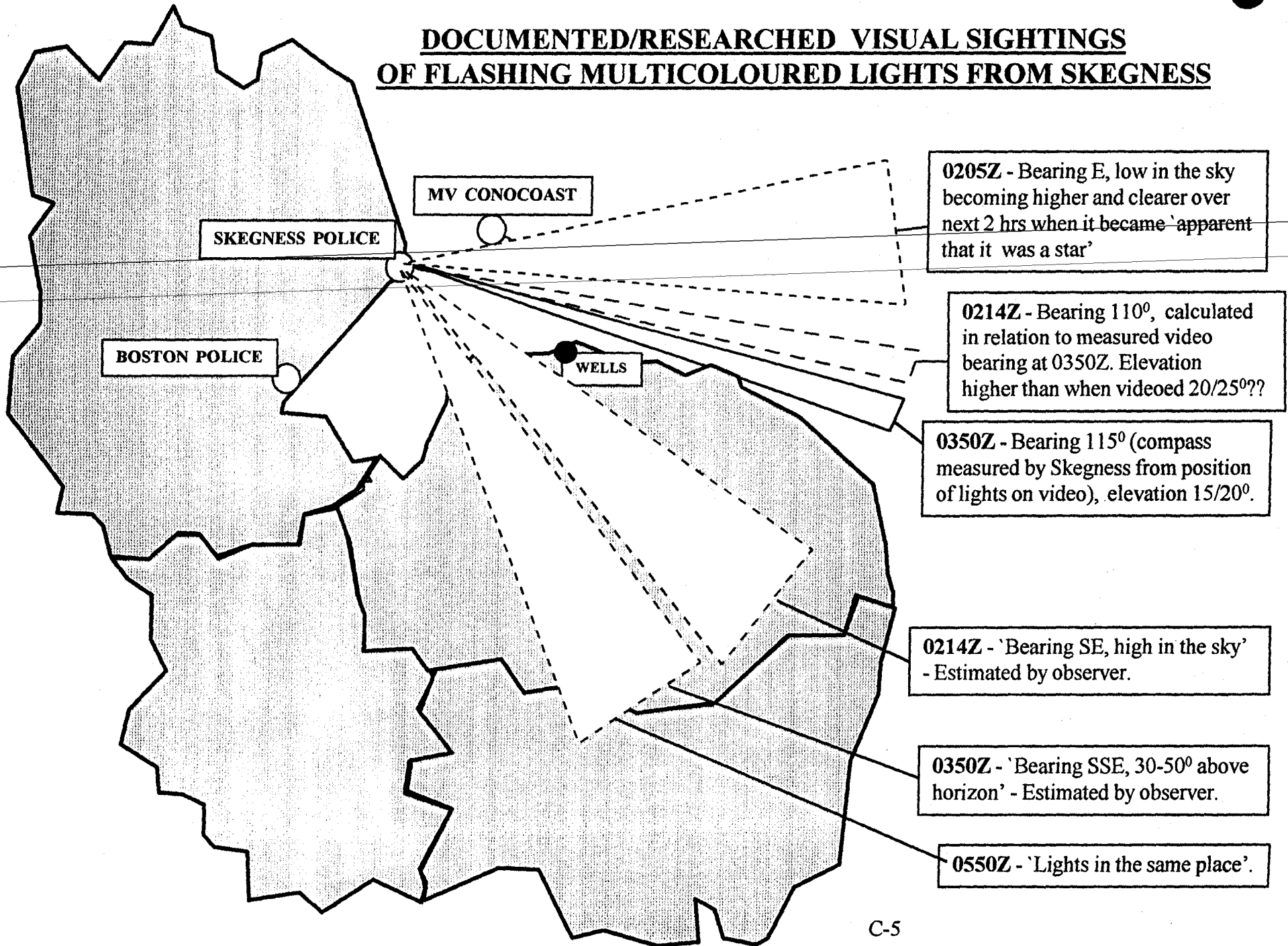
Cargo vessel by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N, 000.44.00E)

No lights observed.

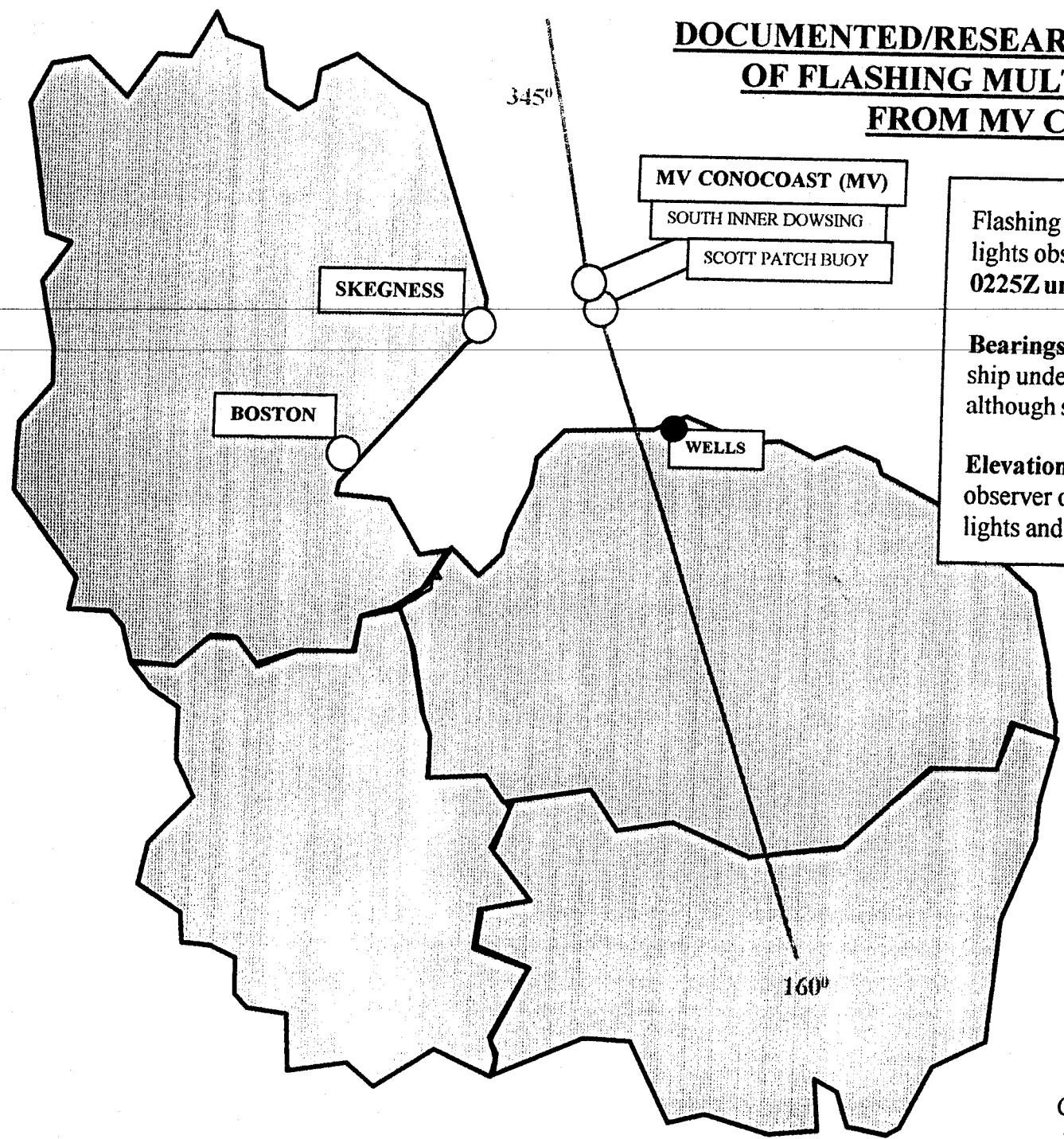


0308	CONOCOAST	)Lights stationary on seemingly constant bearing (but ship was moving). Constant elevation assessed at 20 degrees. Southerly set of lights were brightest. Lights observed every 30 minutes or so until daybreak at constant azimuth and elevation - bearing 345 and 160 degrees true at 20 degrees elevation.	)Assume mean position 53 12N, 00 34E
0345	CONOCOAST		
0350	Mr. ██████████ Skegness	Video made of lights. Position measured (7 Nov by duty staff through Police HQ Lincoln - Sg. ██████████) at 15-20 degrees elevation and 115 degrees azimuth.	Azimuth 115 degrees, elevation 15-20 degrees
0401	CONOCOAST	Same characteristics as before	Assume azimuth 135 degrees +or- 15/20; elevation 40 degrees +or- 10/15.  Assume elevation 40 degrees +or- 10; Assume azimuth 135 + or - 10/15?  Assume elevation 60 +or- 10/15 degrees, Azimuth 157 +or- 10/15 say between 140 and 170 degrees.  Unreliable observation for exact coords.
0412	Mr. ██████████ - Boston	Fixed bright white single light to SE (cardinal estimated using St Botolph's spire as reference) 40-45 degrees elevation.	
0445	Mr. ██████████ Skegness	Lights still quite bright and flashing bearing SSE and 30-50 degrees above horizon.	
0503	Mr. ██████████ - Boston	Lights moved to SSE, 60 degrees elevation, same fixed bright white stable light.	
0552	CONOCOAST	As above: Azimuth still 345 and 160 degrees, Elevation 20 Or 30 degrees.	
0550 approx	Mr. ██████████ Skegness	Lights still in same place.	

**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS FROM SKEGNESS**



**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**OF FLASHING MULTICOLOURED LIGHTS**  
**FROM MV CONOCOAST**

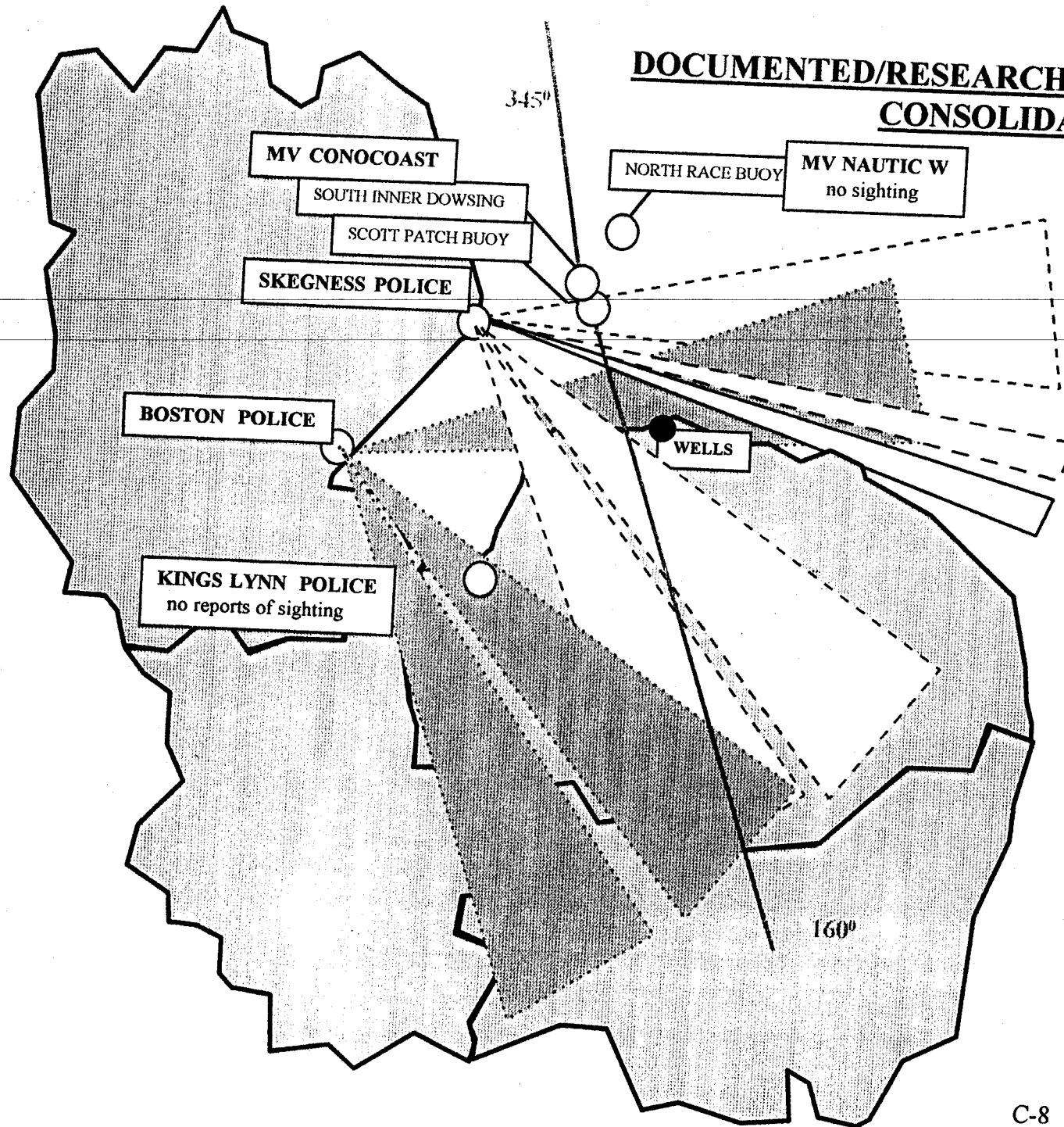


Flashing stationary red, green, blue and white lights observed about every 30 mins from approx 0225Z until 0550Z.

Bearings seemingly constant at 345° and 160° but ship under way. Lights on both bearings identical, although southernmost set brightest.

Elevation constant: assessed at 20° by one observer or by another at 10° for the northern lights and 30° for the southern.

**DOCUMENTED/RESEARCHED VISUAL SIGHTINGS**  
**CONSOLIDATED**



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

PPARC

Royal Greenwich Observatory

Madingley Road  
Cambridge CB3 0EZ  
United Kingdom  
Telephone [redacted]  
Facsimile [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] MOD

FAX [redacted]

ANNEX D TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

Direct Line [redacted]  
email: [redacted]

13 November 1996

Dear [redacted]

I have examined the reports of bright lights seen on October 5 as set out in your fax of 11 November.

When a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20°) it is quite common for it to appear to show colours, which are often described as 'flashing' or 'rotating'. It is important to consider a person's eyesight in interpreting their descriptions of sightings.

It seems to me in this case that the different observers may have been looking at different objects. Because of the uncertainties in the estimates of elevation and azimuth I cannot be certain as to what was seen, but this is my best guess.

I think that both Inspector [redacted] and [redacted] of Boston Police may have been looking at Venus. Venus has been exceptionally bright in the early morning sky over the past weeks and has stood out from all around it. The actual positions of the planet on October 5 are as follows.

UT	BST	Altitude	Azimuth	
02:00	03:00	-2°	68°	Venus-rise
02:09	03:09		70°	
03:00	04:00	+7°	80°	
04:00	05:00	+16°	92°	
05:00	06:00	+25°	105°	
06:00	07:00	+33°	118°	
07:00	08:00	+40°	135°	

I confess to being puzzled as to what the crew of MV CONOCOAST were watching. Presumably they would have had a clear view of the whole sky. Can you rule out that they may have been seeing some laser show with the beams reflected in a hazy sky? I am also puzzled as to why they saw two sets of lights at approximately 180° apart.

(continued)

RGU 4003  
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Mr [REDACTED] observations are also hard to interpret. What does he mean when he says he was 'not very interested'? Why did he take the video? It is possible from his own record of his observation that he was looking at the same lights as the crew of MV CONOCOAST seen at azimuth  $160^{\circ}$ , although the later compass measurement of the light seen on the video could have been Venus!

Also, one should note that the Moon was just past Last Quarter on 4th October, rising at 23:36 BST on October 4 and setting at 15:13 BST on October 5. This would have had the effect of 'washing out' all but the brightest stars. If this was so then the bright stars Sirius or Canopus might be candidates for these sightings. However, if the sky was really clear I don't think either of these objects would have fooled people who are presumably all quite used to working at night and therefore are quite familiar with looking at the sky.

I hope this has helped.

Best regards

[REDACTED]  
Head, Education and Information Services

ANNEX E TO  
DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANISATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Skegness Police Station

Obs: PCs [REDACTED]

Obs: Mr [REDACTED] on duty in police control room until 0600Z 5 Oct  
[REDACTED] extension

Boston Police Control Room

Obs: Inspector [REDACTED] on duty 5 Oct

Obs: Mr [REDACTED] (on duty 5 Oct 96)

Kings Lynn Police

0237Z No lights reported

HQ Lincolnshire Police

Head of Media Services

Nettleham

LINCOLN

Sgt [REDACTED]

Ext [REDACTED]

Skegness Police Video sent by HQ Lincolnshire Police to MOD [REDACTED]  
on 5 Nov 96, received 6 Nov together with copies of Skegness  
police incident log and statements from PCs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
Video taken from Police Station roof (3rd storey)  
Runs for about 5mins - taken at approx 00350Z - lights on a  
bearing of 115 degrees true about 15-20 degrees elevation.  
Building in bottom left corner is 3 storey block of flats

Copy of Video sent to:

[REDACTED]  
North Walsham

Norfolk [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

('independent UFO Researcher' and believed to be collaborating  
with [REDACTED] of the Staffordshire UFO Group who is  
investigating the incident and who confesses to have 'got Mr  
[REDACTED] to ask the questions' - Tel: [REDACTED])

Copy of video requested by:

Lincolnshire UFO Research Team [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sleaford [REDACTED]

Lincoln UFO Research Team

Tel: [REDACTED]

Anglia Radar

Tel: [REDACTED]

Access to Claxby and Cromer Watchman Radars

Gt Yarmouth Coastguard

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

[REDACTED] on duty 5 Oct

MV CONOCOAST (out of Rochester on 5 Oct with fuel for Dredgers off Ingoldmells) - 4 crew, very busy, observed lights intermittently every 30 mins or so- bearings measured using ship's compass.

Spoke to [REDACTED] 8 Nov on CONOCOAST [REDACTED] - lights consistently 10 deg and 30 deg up (N & S respectively)

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED] part of crew on 5 Oct now on 'ONWARD MARINER' [REDACTED] Spoke to [REDACTED] (Master of vessel who was at wheel) on 11 Nov 96 - confirmed observation from about 0225 til dawn - two sets of lights 346 & 160 (brightest), both about 20 degrees above horizon

MV NAUTIC W (callsign J8FK)

Cargo Vessel registered in St Vincent

Position by North Race Buoy at 0240Z (53.14.97N 000.44.00E)

No lights observed

CRC Neatishead

Flt Lt [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] duty Track Production Officer and Station Duty Officer 5 Oct til 0700Z then relieved by Flt Lt [REDACTED] home: [REDACTED]

Kinloss Air Rescue Coordination Centre

Flt Lt [REDACTED]

LATCC Distress and Diversion Cell, West Drayton

Duty Controller 5 Oct: Flt Lt [REDACTED]

LATCC(Civil) Controller [REDACTED] (Civil Supervisor number) working N Sea radar on 5 Oct - Asked 2 civil aircraft between 0520 and 0530Z if they could see any unusual lights in area of Wash/East Anglia as they flew by.

- Aircraft 1, DELTA Airlines FL 370 from USA on track from Isle of Man to Amsterdam; asked when near Scunthorpe, no contact in Wash/East Anglia area but saw 'indistinct lights which might have been flares' about 20 minutes previously in Irish Sea area.

- Aircraft 2, UK Air out of Manchester to Continent; asked when 30nm south east of Ottringham heading south east; nothing seen.



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Waddington Approach AR15 radar

DSATCO [REDACTED] Flt Lt [REDACTED]  
Lower Airspace Radar Service for Civil and Military aircraft  
within 30nm and up to FL95.  
Fg Off [REDACTED] on duty 5 Oct 96

Met Office Bracknell  
Weather Records

[REDACTED]  
No thunderstorm activity on 5 Oct - clear night

Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge

Fax [REDACTED]

ANNEX F TO  
D/DAO/1/13  
DATED 13 NOV 96

ABBREVIATED COMMENTS ON MR REDMOND'S LETTER

1. General. Mr [REDACTED]'s comments are largely based on radio traffic between Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and various agencies which was either released or intercepted then reported in the press and interpreted in various ways; erroneously, the visual observations of lights have been linked with persistent radar returns from a permanent echo at Boston Lincs.

2. Para 1. There was no visual identified flying craft only unusual lights; correlation by 'various different military radar systems' did not occur.

3. Para 2.

a. Lights with different characteristics were observed to the E and/or SE of Skegness and Boston by Police and by the crew of MV Conocoast some 8 miles east of Skegness. A separate stationary object was detected on one ATC radar at Claxby, Lincs, over Boston and observed on the same radar display at Neatishead, Anglia Radar (later) and the D&D Cell at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton; a stationary object was also detected much later on the Waddington approach radar, however this was in a separate position, not over Boston. Three aircraft subsequently flew close to the 'object' but no sighting of an airborne vehicle was made.

b. RAF Northwood was never involved in this event. confusion has arisen because Gt Yarmouth Coastguard, referred incorrectly to 'D&D Northwood' instead of 'D&D West Drayton' in several transmissions or conversations; this error was reproduced in press reports.

4. Para 3.

a. Aircraft were not scrambled because there was no evidence whatsoever of an unidentified airborne vehicle in the vicinity.

b. Tornado F3 QRA aircraft are held on high alert at RAF Leuchars but not routinely at Leeming or Coningsby.

c. The RAF Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC), Kinloss was only involved by Gt Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ascertain whether they knew of any air activity in the area. ARCC, in turn, asked CRC Neatishead and D&D who replied in the negative; ARCC subsequently relayed several messages between D&D/Neatishead and the MRCC concerning the stationary radar plot.

5. Para 4. Locations of permanent echoes are well known to

radar operators who work routinely in particular areas using the same radar head, as is borne out by the information from Anglia concerning the Boston Stump. No Air Defence radar detected the Boston echo. Neatishead's 'skilled operators' rarely use the Claxby ATC Radar in the Boston area, nor do D&D and, hence, had not encountered this particular radar echo before; the echo was seen by 3 control agencies using the same radar at Claxby; Waddington reported an echo at 0749 when they were asked to look 120<sup>0</sup>/23nm (over Boston), however, investigations revealed a reporting error and this plot was a separate permanent echo towards Skegness. The radar plots could not be correlated with the visual sightings of lights and, geographically, were quite separate.

6. Para 5

a. The video taken by the Skegness police did not disappear into the bowels of the Ministry's Main Building. It was sent by Inspector [redacted] of Skegness police to Lincolnshire Police HQ and held by the Head of Media Services. A copy was supplied to [redacted] an 'independent UFO researcher' on 18 Oct and to MOD, DAO ADGE 1, on 5 Nov 96. No copy was sent to Neatishead.

b. RAF Air Defence Ground Environment units, including CRC Neatishead, produce a Recognised Air Picture of air activity in the UKADR 24 hours a day. Standard procedures exist for investigating unidentified aircraft and these were followed in this case. Experienced operators carefully judged that there was no evidence of unidentified flying craft present in the UKADR and did not, therefore, seek authority to scramble air defence aircraft held on alert at RAF Leuchars.

7. Para 6

a. Question 1

- CRC Neatishead - Responsible for:

-- the compilation of the Recognised Air Picture in that portion of the UKADR south of 55 degrees north.

-- Control of Air Defence aircraft on missions to preserve the Integrity of UK airspace.

- ARCC Kinloss - To liaise with and support national emergency organisations by allocating air search and rescue resources to incidents.

- D&D Cell, West Drayton - Provide Air Traffic Control Emergency and Fixer services to Civilian and Military aircraft operating in the London Flight Information Region

- RAF Waddington - Task includes the provision of a Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) to Military and Civil ac on request out to 30nms (or further if airspace quiet) and up to FL095

- Video - see above.

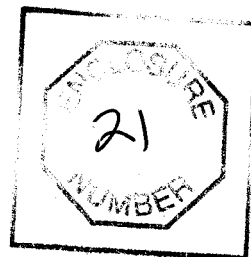
b. Question 2

- There was no evidence of unidentified aircraft being present in the UKADR on 5 Oct 96, therefore, there was no reason to scramble aircraft on alert. Police and the tanker MV CONOCOAST saw LIGHTS not objects or any flying craft. No lights were observed by any aircraft in the area; negative reports were received from 2 civilian aircraft which flew by the area at 0520-0530Z

c. Question 3

Procedures exist to scramble aircraft to investigate unidentified aircraft detected on radar, which was not the case on 5 Oct.

## DR CLARKE – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION



### Request 1

**Copy of the file relating to a UFO report by Mrs J Bowles and Mr E Pratt near Winchester, Hampshire, on 14 November 1976.**

File AIR 2/18977 identified. Recalled from the PRO. It contained 11 UFO reports made to the MOD between 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 1976. There were no reports for the 14<sup>th</sup> November and none from Mrs Bowles or Mr Pratt. Dr Clarke informed in my letter of 31 October 2002.

### Request 2

**Copy of the files containing briefing and background notes on UFOs prepared by the Head of S4(Air), with contributions from RAF Ops (GE)2 and DI55 for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.**

We had two files on this –D/DS8/75/3/1 Parts A and B – Parliamentary Correspondence-House of Lords Debate 1979. Both were destroyed in 1990. Dr Clarke was informed in my letter of 16 September 2002.

In his reply of 7 October Dr Clarke expressed surprise at this because a file D/DS8/75/3 – UFO Parliamentary Correspondence, was listed as being held by the MOD in answer to a PQ by Lord Hill-Norton on 14 October 1998. This file was in fact a general Parliamentary Correspondence file. When retrieved from archives it was found to contain the following background papers, relevant to the Lords debate.

- 1. Signal message (Unclassified) from UKMIS New York to FCO dated 6 Dec 1977. Concerning a draft UN resolution on UFOs.*
- 2. Signal message (Confidential) from FCO to UKMIS New York dated 1 Dec 1977. Talks of UK opposition to a Grenada resolution on UFOs and our intention to vote against any such resolution.*
- 3. Signal message (Restricted) from FCO to UKMIS New York dated 30 November 1977. Ministers view that an agency on UFOs would reduce the credibility of the UN and the UK should oppose it.*
- 4. Agenda Item No.128, 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, dated 15 September 1978. (Restricted). Concerns the establishment of an agency or department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.*
- 5. Letter from the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, to UN Dept of FCO, date 21 November 1978. (Restricted). Refers to a letter circulated to Missions by the Permanent Mission of Grenada concerning their wish to set up an agency for the study of UFOs.*

6. Signal message from UKMIS New York to the FCO dated 25 Nov 1978. (Restricted)  
Concerns Mr Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada visiting New York especially to make a statement and to make statements from experts about UFOs.

7. Signal message from UKMIS New York to the FCO dated 28 Nov 1978.  
(Restricted).

Draft resolution on possible UN research into UFOs.

8. Signal message from UKMIS New York to the FCO dated 28 Nov 1978  
(Restricted).

Mr Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada introduction of new resolution instead of the one already circulated to UN Missions.

9. Loose Minute to Miss Brown/ PS/Mr Luard (possibly FCO) from Mr Richardson of the Energy Science & Space Department of the FCO dated 4 Dec 1978.  
(Confidential).

Background material on how they were to react to further proposals by Grenada following up on the 1977 initiative on UFOs.

10. Signal message from FCO to UKMIS New York dated 5 Dec 1978. (Confidential)  
Instruction from FCO for UKMIS to oppose the resolution put forward by the Grenadans, but to try to help them "off the hook".

11. Signal message from UKMIS New York to FCO dated 6 Dec 1978. (Restricted).  
Notification that the Grenadans and the Russians have authority to accept the consensus text of the resolution and that the Americans also intend to go along with the consensus text.

12. Signal message from UKMIS New York to FCO dated 5 Dec 1978. (Unclassified).  
The General Assembly (of the UN) invite to member states to take appropriate steps to co-ordinate on a national level scientific research and investigation into extraterrestrial life, including UFOs and to inform the Secretary-General of their activities.

13. Letter from Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly dated 27 Nov 1978. (Unclassified).

Summary Record of the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting concerning the establishment of an agency of the UN for research into UFOs and related phenomena.

These papers are relevant to Dr Clarke's request for information because during the House of Lords Debate Lord Clancarty mentioned the possibility of an intra-governmental study of UFOs and in addressing that point in his speech, Lord Strabolgi said that Grenada had proposed a study into UFOs (Col 1313). It is therefore likely that the MOD obtained these papers from the FCO as background material for the debate. Anticipating that Dr Clarke would agree to pay for this material (as he always has done in the past), I sent these papers to the FCO Records and Historical Department on 7 November for their advice on release.

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Also on file D/DS8/75/3 I discovered a number of other papers which are mainly draft ministerial correspondence but relate to the debate in the United Nations. They are as follows;

14. *Letter from a member of the public (24 Nov 1977) and covering letter from Richard Luce MP to Minister of State for the FCO (8 Dec 1977) about press reports that the United Nations were to start an official probe into UFOs. (Unclassified)*
15. *Letter from Minister of State at FCO to Richard Luce MP (9 Dec 1977) to say his letter had been transferred to the MOD. (Unclassified)*
16. *Copies of two newspaper cuttings from the Daily Telegraph (30 Nov 1977 and 2 Dec 1977) about the President of Grenada's proposal for a UN Study into UFOs. (Unclassified)*
17. *Copy of a newspaper cutting from The Sun (30 Nov 1977) on the UN debate on UFOs. (Unclassified)*
18. *File note dated 16 Dec 1977 saying the UN resolution had been shelved indefinitely and that the UK did not support it. (Unclassified)*
19. *Letter from S4(Air) to the Energy, Science & Space Department at the FCO dated 16 Dec 1977 requesting confirmation of the situation regarding the UN resolution. (Unclassified)*
20. *Draft letter from US of S (RAF) to Richard Luce MP in answer to ministerial correspondence mentioned at (1) above. (Unclassified)*
21. *Background note from S4(Air) to US of S (RAF) covering the above mentioned draft, dated 19 Dec 1977. (Unclassified)*
22. *Letter in reply to Richard Luce MP as mentioned at (1) above. Dated 20 December 1977. (Unclassified)*

These papers may be considered relevant to Dr Clarke's request as they also concern the UN debate on UFOs. We can not make a decision on the release of these until we have heard from the FCO about the other batch of papers.

-----

File D/DS8/75/3 also contained a number of papers concerning a radio broadcast that the French Minister of Defence, M. Galley, gave in 1974 in which it was alleged he had said UFOs were real.

23. *Copy of extract from House of Lords Hansard dated 9 March 1978 in which the Earl of Clancarty asked HMG whether they had obtained an official transcript of the broadcast on French-Inter radio of the interview with the French Minister of Defence. (Unclassified)*

24. Draft reply to above parliamentary question, background note and file minutes dated March 1978. (Unclassified)
25. File note dated 2 March 1978 saying that S4(Air) had obtained the official transcript of the radio broadcast from the Air Attaché in Paris who also provided details of the attitude of the French MOD to UFOs. (Unclassified)
26. Letter from S4(Air) to Air Attaché in Paris dated 13 Dec 1977 requesting a transcript of the French Defence Minister's radio broadcast, details of how the French MOD handle UFO reports, and the nature of the investigations at the Centre nationale d'Etude Spatial. (Unclassified).
27. Copy of House of Lords Hansard dated 14 Dec 1977 when The Earl of Clancarty requested that the MOD and Home Office would reconsider their previous answers to PQs and draw their attention to a book "The Crack in the Universe". (Unclassified)
28. Letter from Air Attaché in Paris dated 30 Jan 1978 in reply to (4). Includes a copy of the transcript of the radio broadcast made by the French Defence Minister and a copy of a document entitled "Air Actualités" dated October 1976, which describes the French handling of UFO reports. (Unclassified)
29. Draft reply, background note and file minutes concerning Lord Clancarty's further parliamentary question on the French Minister of Defence interview on radio. Dated Dec 1977. (Unclassified)
30. Loose Minute dated 12 Dec 1977 from S4(Air) to the Chief Librarian requesting a copy of an extract from a book "The Crack in the Universe" mentioned in Lord Clancarty's parliamentary question (28). (Unclassified).
31. Copy of Hansard Extract dated 6 Dec 1977 answered by the Minister of State, Department of Education and Science concerning a study group set up in France called "Groupe d'Etudes sur les Phenomenes Aerospatiales Non- Identifies". (Unclassified).
32. Copy of extract from House of Lords Hansard dated 1 Dec 1977 when The Earl of Clancarty stated that France had set up a section in 1954 to study UFOs and asked if the MOD had a similar section. (Unclassified).
33. Copy of extract from House of Lords Hansard dated 30 Nov 1977 when The Earl of Clancarty asked HMG if they were aware of the French Minister of Defence radio broadcast. (Unclassified)

These papers are relevant to Dr Clarke's request as the French Minister's broadcast was raised by Lord Clancarty in the House of Lords Debate and addressed by Lord Strabolgi (Col 1311 & 1312) in his reply.

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Dr Clarke also asked us to check with RAF Ops (GE) (now DAO ADGE 1) and DI55 to see if they had any relevant papers. DAO had no files for this period. DI55 have identified papers as follows.

34. *Copy of the original draft speech for Lord Strabolgi to use in his closing address to the House of Lords Debate and the covering loose minute by Head of S4(Air) dated 18 Dec 1978. (Management in Confidence).*

35. *Background note from Head of S4(Air) to PS/US of S(RAF) concerning the draft closing address for Lord Strabolgi. Dated 10 January 1979. (Restricted).*

36. *Letter from the Private Secretary to Lord Strabolgi dated 16 Jan 1979 enclosing his draft closing address. (Unclassified)*

37. *Letter from APS/SofS to Head of S4(Air) dated 18 January 1979 covering (36). (Unclassified).*

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### **Request 3**

**Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified object/s tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD. Also any sightings made by MOD Police and civilian (West Yorkshire) police officers on about the same date.**

**Dr Clarke also expanded this request (his letter of 7 October 2002) to ask us to look for any reports from PC Alan Godfrey of Todmorden, West Yorkshire police concerning a UFO he observed in the early hours of 28 November 1980.**

Two files were examined. D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B (covering reports from August to November 1980) and D/DS8/75/2/2 Part M (covering edited reports from August to September 1980).

This search revealed no reports from RAF Fylingdales. No reports from PC Godfrey on the 28 November 1980. As Dr Clarke requested reports "on or about 13 September" I have included all those from MOD and civilian police officers for the whole of September. This amounts to 14 reports. (All Unclassified).

---

### **Request 4**

**Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public, from a number of locations including RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. Also copies of assessment made.**

There is one file D/Sec(AS)12/7 – Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) – Alleged UFO incident – 31<sup>st</sup> March 1993. The file was put together by Mr N Pope in 1993 and contains a number of UFO reports and correspondence between Mr Pope, the Head of Sec(AS) and the ACAS.

I have identified 21 reports fitting Dr Clarke's request. There are difficulties with supplying the assessment because despite the fact that there is a paragraph in one of Mr Pope's loose minutes to the Head of Sec(AS) saying that D Air Def (now DAO) said that RAF Neatishead confirmed nothing was detected on air defence radar, Mr Pope continued to make enquiries with a number of other departments and the case was eventually put through the Head of Sec(AS) to ACAS. This makes the case look unusual because once established with D Air Def that they were not concerned from an air defence point of view, no other enquiries would normally be made. The file contains no real conclusion to these events and Mr Pope was eventually told by the Head of Sec(AS) to "drop the subject".

-----

### **Request 5**

**Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire Police and the Skegness coastguard. Copies of investigation notes and assessment made.**

File D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part D searched and the following papers were identified.

*Signal message from UKCAOC High Wycombe to MODUK AIR (Copied to HQ 11/18 Gp Bentley Priory and CRC Neatishead) dated 5 Oct 1996 concerning a UFO report made by MV Conocoast to Great Yarmouth Coastguard.*

*A fax message from RAF Neatishead to GESM dated 5 Oct 1996 attached to a transcript of conversations between Neatishead, the Coastguard, MV Conocoast and Skegness Police. (The file copy is difficult to read and despite our best efforts it has not copied well. DAO ADGE 1 contacted Neatishead to see if they had retained a clearer copy, but unfortunately their files have been destroyed).*

*Loose minute from DAO ADGE 1 to Sec(AS)2a1 dated 7 October 1996 given his thoughts on what may have been seen on 5 Oct 1996.*

File D/Sec(AS)64/4 also contained a very detailed loose minute from ADGE 1 to Sec(AS)2a1 dated 13 Nov 1996 about the events of 5 Oct 1996. This was prepared as background material to a letter from Mr Martin Redmond MP to the Secretary of State in which Mr Redmond seriously criticised UK Air Defence systems. The current ADGE 1 has looked at this and with some removal of names, posts etc, he is happy for it to be supplied to Dr Clarke.



## Ministry of Defence

Room 830 St Giles Court. 1-13 St Giles High Street. London WC2H 8LD  
Telephone (Direct dialling) [REDACTED] (Fax) [REDACTED]

Directorate of Information (Exploitation)  
Access 2

[REDACTED]  
Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations and Policy 1  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue  
London WC2N 5BP

26<sup>th</sup> November 2002

**Dear** [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your query regarding a letter from Dr Clarke. I suggest you include in your reply a few words along the following lines:

'The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a right of access to all information held by public authorities. Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed whether the public authority holds such information and, if that is the case, to have the information communicated to them unless an exemption applies. As you have noted, this right of access becomes effective on 1 January 2005. Both MOD and the Public Record Office (PRO) are public authorities under the terms of the Act and therefore the information in the public records they hold is within its scope.

The FOI Act repeals the access provisions in section 5(1) of the Public Records Act 1958-1967 and hence from January 2005 access to public records, wherever they are and irrespective of the age of the records, will be governed by the FOI Act. The 30 year closure period as a default goes, therefore, although the 30 year point remains significant for two reasons: first, the obligation on departments to transfer records to the PRO before they reach 30 years old remains (PRA s 3(4)) and second, some exemptions cease to apply after 30 years (FOIA s 63(1)).

The FOI Act requires the PRO, as the authority holding the records, to respond to requests for information relating to closed records by reviewing them to determine whether an exemption applies. This is done in consultation with the department. If it is

decided that an exemption applies, and the exemption is one to which the public interest test applies, the department then considers the public interest in disclosing the exempt information, in consultation with the Lord Chancellor. These procedures are set out at s 66 of the FOI Act, supported by s 15 which requires the PRO to copy a request to the department when a public interest decision must be made.

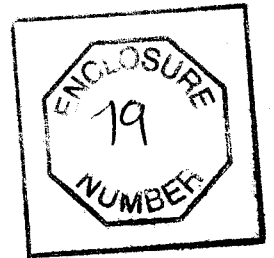
One of the exemptions relates to 'information intended for future publication'. This might be relevant to files that are awaiting release, but the exemption says that withholding the information until the intended publication date would have to be 'reasonable in all the circumstances'. You might like to note that this exemption cannot be claimed by the PRO if the records are over 30 years old (s 64(1)).

I hope this summary has helped to explain the position. If you want to know more about what the Freedom of Information Act says, you might like to look at the Explanatory Notes published by HMSO (ISBN 010 563 600 2).

If you have any more enquiries, please contact me at the above address. If your questions relate to the application of FOI to public records held by the PRO, please contact [REDACTED] h 40 [REDACTED] Head of Information Legislation Unit, Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey TW9 3DU.

***Yours sincerely***

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations and Policy 1  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,  
LONDON WC2N 5BP

Telephone: (Direct dial) [REDACTED]  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) [REDACTED]  
CHOTs address: DAS-LA-Ops+Poll  
E-Mail: [das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk](mailto:das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk)

### FAX MESSAGE

TO: [REDACTED] Info(Exp) Records 1

SUBJECT: Dr Clarke

DATE: 12 November 2002

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 2

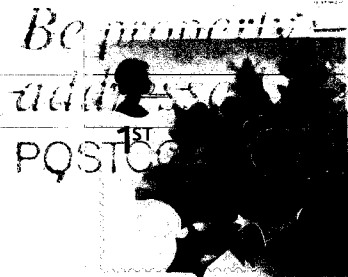
[REDACTED] 40

Please see paragraph 3 of Dr Clarke's letter. My understanding is that the 30 year rule is in accordance with the Public Records Act. Do you know what will happen to this when the Freedom of Information Act comes in in January 2005. I assume that our files would still generally be closed in accordance with the PRA but that the public can request information from them under the FOIA.

I would be grateful for any advice you can give me on this.

[REDACTED] D

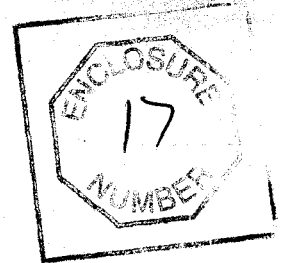




DIRECTORATE OF AIR STAFF (LOWER AIRSPACE)  
OPERATIONS & POLICY 1  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
ROOM 6/73 METROPOLE BUILDING  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE  
LONDON WC2N 5BP



From: [REDACTED]  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations & Policy 1  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) [REDACTED]  
(GTN) [REDACTED]

Dr David Clarke  
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
31 October 2002

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 7 October regarding your request for copies of UFO-related documents. I will address your comments in the same order as your letter.

1. **Copy of the file relating to a UFO report made by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] near Winchester, Hampshire on 14 November 1976.**

I have now received file AIR 2/18977 from the PRO and it consists of eleven individual folders containing UFO sighting reports made to the MOD between 5<sup>th</sup> November and 30<sup>th</sup> November 1976. They are filed in date order and there is a list of correspondents in the front of the file. An examination of this list has revealed no reports for the 14<sup>th</sup> November, nor any from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

2. **Copies of the files containing briefing and background notes on UFOs prepared by the head of S4 (Air), with contributions from RAF Ops (GE) 2 and DI55 for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.**

The file referred to in Hansard on 17 December 1998 was D/DS8/75/3 Part A, which is a general parliamentary correspondence file covering 1978. I have recalled this file from our archives and a brief examination has revealed several papers that may have some relevance to your request. These papers were not generated by this Department so if you wish us to pursue this request we would have to make further enquiries about their release.

With regard to your request for any papers that may be held by RAF Ops (GE) 2 and DI55, both branches have been consulted. The Directorate of Air Operations (successor to Ops(GE)) hold no relevant surviving files from this period. DI55 are still checking their archives, but nothing relevant has been found so far.



**3. Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified objects tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD.**

While checking file D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B for the above, we will also search for a report from PC [REDACTED] on 28 November 1980 as requested. As we would be reviewing this file for the above mentioned report, there will be no additional charge for this search.

**4. Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public.**

We have not located any additional information to that contained in D/Sec(AS)12/7 since my letter of 16 September. We are however content to examine this file for the information you have requested.

**5. Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire Police and Skegness coastguard.**

As I said in my previous letter, we have located one file which may contain relevant information.

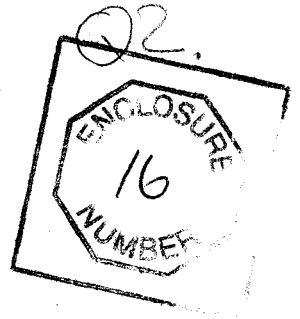
Given the above, if you wish us to pursue your requests regarding 2 to 5, I estimate that this would still require 23 hours to complete, four hours of which would be conducted free, leaving 19 hours, which would attract a fee of £15 an hour, or a total of £285. I should inform you that while the files you may have seen in the PRO and those older UFO report files that we have recalled from archives show that UFO reports were once filed in date order, this has not always been the case. Today (and we believe for a number of years) the reports have been filed in the order in which the Department has received them. The only way to identify the information requested is to search whole files covering the relevant period. Our estimate, therefore, takes in to account not only the cost of copying and removing personal details from any relevant papers found, but also the time taken to conduct these searches. This estimate indicates the largest period of time that might be required, clearly if the work can be accomplished in less time, the cost will be lowered accordingly. Please let me know if you wish us to proceed with your request.

Finally, you asked if we keep a list of the files destroyed in 1990 and the reason for their destruction. It appears from our records that 18 files were destroyed in March 1990. These included four policy files, four parliamentary correspondence, seven report and/or correspondence files, one entitled "Solar Satellite Power Station" and the two House of Lords Debate files mentioned in my earlier letter. We have found no record of why these files were destroyed.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



To file Reference: - D58/15/3 - Part A

F.A.O. ? [redacted] - Telephone [redacted]

Branch DAS(sec) LA - Ops & Pd 1 Room 6/73

Metropole Building Northumberland Avenue

I am sorry we are unable to locate the file(s) you requested on the information you have provided. If you can furnish any further details please complete and return the following questionnaire so that we can conduct another search.

Any previous Branch Reference(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of the Files / Titles UFO Parliamentary Correspondence

Classification Unclassified

Date of last enclosure 1978

Branch recommendation date for retention / disposal - on 262f For Permanent retention then transfer to PRO

Date sent to Hayes Archive Not known

Do you hold a receipt from Hayes for these Docs YES / NO (NO circled)  
If YES please enclose a photocopy.

Any other information that may be helpful Confirmed as held at Hayes for Parliamentary question in 1998.  
Continue overleaf if necessary

Signed [redacted]

Date 17/10/2002

Files Section  
A Building  
Bourne Avenue  
Hayes.  
Middlesex. UB3 1RF

Telephone: [redacted]

Fax: [redacted]

D58/25/3 identified by Hayes. Will send 18/10/02.

● E = TRANSMISSION

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-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

\*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] - \*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\*\*\*

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Q2

From: DAO ADGE1  
Sent: 15 October 2002 08:28  
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
Subject: RE: UFOs

15

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It is highly unlikely that we hold anything going back that far (even parliamentary correspondence), but I would be happy if you wish to check with our registry direct. Talk to Cpl [redacted] on Ext [redacted] 3401S: DAO COORD JNCO - mention that you have already spoken with me.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
Sent: 14 October 2002 16:14  
To: DAO ADGE1  
Subject: UFOs

0

Dr Clarke has asked us for any briefing or background notes on UFOs prepared for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, on 18 January 1979. We had two files on this, but these were destroyed in 1990. He has now stated that he believes DI55 and RAF Ops(GE)2 contributed briefings to assist Lord Strabolgi's response and has ask us to confirm whether either of these retained copies of their own contributions within their own files.

I have asked DI55 to check their filing systems and I would be grateful if you could confirm whether DAO have retained any files (parliamentary correspondence) that may contain relevant information. If you would prefer me to speak to your registry about these sort of enquiries please let me know.

[redacted]

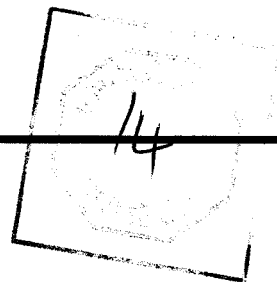
*DAO reg confirm they have no files dating back this far.*

[redacted]

29/10/2002

To:  
Subject:

DAO ADGE1  
UFOs



40

Dr Clarke has asked us for any briefing or background notes on UFOs prepared for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, on 18 January 1979. We had two files on this, but these were destroyed in 1990. He has now stated that he believes DI55 and RAF Ops(GE)2 contributed briefings to assist Lord Strabolgi's response and has ask us to confirm whether either of these retained copies of their own contributions within their own files.

I have asked DI55 to check their filing systems and I would be grateful if you could confirm whether DAO have retained any files (parliamentary correspondence) that may contain relevant information. If you would prefer me to speak to your registry about these sort of enquiries please let me know.

✓ DAO registry checking 15/10/02.

02

Post-Net Notes 7689	To: DR2a2	
	Fax: [REDACTED]	
	From: DAS-LA-Ops+811	[REDACTED]
	Date: 14/10/2002	Pages: 1

**REQUISITION FOR A REGISTERED FILE**

To:- DR2a2

File Nos:  <b>(1) D/DS8/75/3 UFOs – Parliamentary Correspondence (1978)</b>
---

SUBJECT: UFO Parliamentary Correspondence

TRACED TO YOU ON:

(DATE) IS REQUIRED BY:  
ASAP please

BRANCH: DAS (SEC) LA –Ops&Pol 1

BUILDING:  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building,  
Northumberland Avenue  
London

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

TEL.EXT: [REDACTED]

RANK: D

DATE: 14/10/02

NOTE:-If the file is not immediately available for any reason,  
please advise the requisitioning branch by telephone.

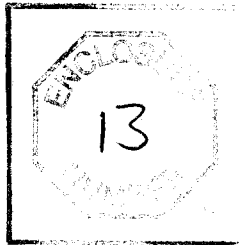
● E = TRANSMISSION

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-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

\*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] - \*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\*\*\*



Dr David Clarke



**Directorate Air Staff  
Ministry of Defence  
Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue  
London WC2N 5BP**

Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11




7 October, 2002

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 16 September in response to my request for copies of UFO-related documents under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. I'm grateful for the detailed estimation of time and costs you have provided.

I have examined your responses to the five individual requests drawing upon my knowledge of the content of similar files already available at the PRO under the 30 year rule. On that basis I assume that by now you will have located most of the material I have requested and that it have will have taken less time to locate, review and sanitise these documents than you have estimated in your letter.

I make the following observations:

1. **Copy of the file relating to a UFO report made by  and  <sup>40</sup>  near Winchester, Hampshire, on 14 November 1976.**

I assume that you have now received file AIR 2/18977 from the PRO. If the UFO reports it contains are filed in chronological order as is the case in earlier files in this series, this particular enclosure (if it exists) should have been located. I would be surprised if it consists of more than two or three pieces of paper.

2. **Copies of the file containing briefings and background notes on UFOs prepared by the head of S4 (Air), with contributions from RAF Ops (GE) 2 and DI 55 for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.**

*File received.  
No report  
matching request.*

15 days 31 Oct 2002  
 20 days 7 Nov.  
 2002 OCT 2002  
 102NO. DAS



I note with surprise that the briefing files referred to above were among a batch destroyed in 1990.

On 14 October 1998 in the House of Lords, Lord Hill-Norton asked the Minister of State (MOD) to list the names and locations of MOD files relating to UFOs covering the period 1970-85. In reply, Lord Gilbert published a list (Hansard, House of Lords, 17 December 1998 Column WA178) of files which "have been identified and are earmarked for review by MOD"; the list contains the following:

"D/DS8/75/3 -one part - UFO, Parliamentary Correspondence."

The name of this file appears similar, if not identical, to that of the two destroyed in 1990. However, it was listed as existing in the file store in 1998. Does it contain related material and if so, could I make an application for a copy of this file?

On a related point, both DI 55 and RAF Ops(GE)2 contributed briefings to assist Lord Strabolgi's response in the House of Lords debate of 1979. Have these two MOD branches retained copies of their own individual contributions within their own file store?

- 3. Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified object/s tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD**

Comments relevant to (1) above.

Since you are reviewing file D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B which contains UFO reports from August-November, 1980 I wish to make a supplementary request. I understand an officer from the West Yorkshire Police (PC [redacted] of Todmorden) filed a report concerning a UFO he observed in the early hours of **28 November 1980**. Following procedure, this should have been copied to MOD. If, during the course of your review, a report or enclosure relating to this incident is located, I wish to apply for a copy of this document.

- 4. Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public,**

The file reference D/Sec(AS)12/7 UFOs, alleged UFO incident, 31<sup>st</sup> March 1993, appears to refer to the incident which is the subject of my request. I note that it contains 40 enclosures; I would of course be interested in any additional relevant information that you may have located since your letter of 16 September.

- 5. Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire police and the Skegness coastguard.**

Part A  
in Hayes  
recalled. 14/10/02

Asked  
DI Sec  
+ DAO to  
check for  
files

No extra  
change

No additional  
papers on  
DI file

Comments relevant to (1) above. In this case I am particularly interested in obtaining any reports submitted by Neatishead relating to unusual meteorological phenomena detected by the SOC at the time of the alleged 'sightings.'

Perhaps you are now able to provide a more detailed estimate of the sum involved in undertaking the work I have requested. If the sum does exceed the amount cited in your original estimate please let me know so that I can decide if I wish the work to continue.

I have one further question that relates to my request (2) above. Does your branch retain a list of UFO files that have been destroyed, and the reasons for destruction? If so, is that list available for scrutiny?

Thank you for your attention to my requests. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

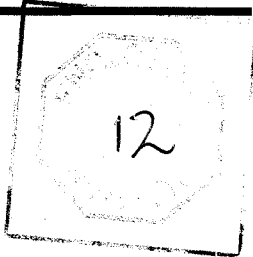
  
Dr D.W. Clarke

 40

04

**DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1**

**From:** DI55B  
**Sent:** 19 September 2002 11:38  
**To:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Cc:** DI ISEC SEC4  
**Subject:** RE: Code of pratice



**Importance:** Low

[REDACTED] 40

I shall the retian the file in my office.

Regards

[REDACTED] 40

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Sent:** 16 September 2002 16:04  
**To:** DI55B  
**Subject:** RE: Code of pratice

Thank you. I do not think we will need to mention your file to Dr Clarke at this stage. We may, however, need to consult you about its contents when we come to do the actual search for material, so I would be grateful if you would keep it to hand for the time being. I am going on leave today until the 4th October, so I will not be doing the search for a couple of weeks.

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DI55B  
**Sent:** 16 September 2002 10:52  
**To:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Subject:** Code of pratice  
**Importance:** Low

[REDACTED] 40

Sorry for the delay I was only passed your request today. I see that you need bits of D/DI55/108/15/2 part1 to answers Clarke's questions. I have look at the encloeuers in the file and can report that apart from a photocopied map of the UK and a summary statement all the documents were copies of corresponce from or to [REDACTED] of Sec(AS) 2a. While you are welcome to see the file I think you already have the documents on your file (D/Sec(AS)12/7).

Regards

[REDACTED]

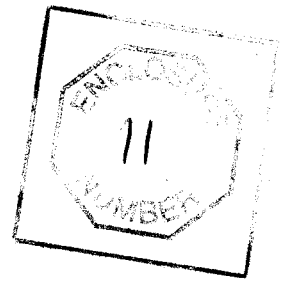
DI55b

QS

**DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1**

---

**From:** DAO ADGE1  
**Sent:** 17 September 2002 08:43  
**To:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Subject:** FW: UFO



**Importance:** Low

[REDACTED] 40

Looks like a deadend I am afraid.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** 2GP-ASACS-Ops1-SO2  
**Sent:** 16 September 2002 15:46  
**To:** DAO ADGE1  
**Subject:** UFO  
**Importance:** Low

Sir

Unfortunately, Neatishead destroyed their files (and therefore any transcript of telephone calls) of unusual activity in 02. Bit of a dead end on this one.

[REDACTED]

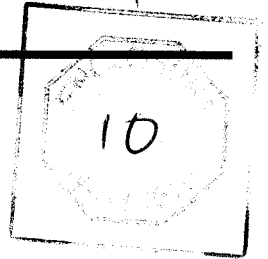
Sqn Ldr  
SO2 ASACS Ops1

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

QL4

**From:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Sent:** 16 September 2002 16:58  
**To:** DAO ADGE1  
**Subject:** Request for Information



██████████ 40

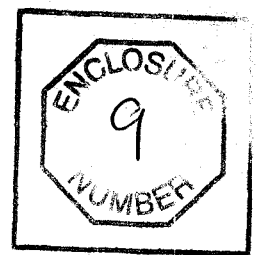
As you will be aware Dr Clarke has made five new requests for Information under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. One of the incidents he has asked about was on 30/31 March 1993 when a large number of military personnel, Police, civilians etc made UFO reports. Dr Clarke has asked for a copy of the reports and the assessment made. Our files contain reports and ██████████ letters to DI55 and notes about D Air Def but no assessment from your predecessors. We are going to search our other files for this period but I would be grateful if you could ask your registry to call back D Air Def 111/6/4 Part G which I believe is in archives and may contain a copy of D Air Def's assessment of these events.

I will be on leave until the 4th October, but perhaps we can discuss further on my return.

██████████ 40



From: [REDACTED]  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations & Policy 1  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) [REDACTED]  
(GTN)

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
16 September 2002

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 29 August in which you requested an estimate of the time and cost of supplying documents under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. I will address your requests in the same order as your letter.

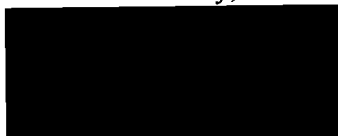
1. **Copy of the file relating to a UFO report made by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] near Winchester, Hampshire, on 14 November 1976.** – I can confirm that AIR 2/18977 appears to be the appropriate file. It is currently held at the Public Record Office awaiting release in 2007. We have recalled the file which should reach us within the next two weeks. Without sight of the file we do not know how many enclosures it contains, but for the purposes of this estimate, we have assumed 100 enclosures.
2. **Copies of the file containing briefings and background notes on UFOs prepared for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.** – There were two files D/DS8/75/3/1 Parts A and B – Parliamentary Correspondence-House of Lords Debate, January 1979. These files were among a batch destroyed in 1990, so I am sorry that we will be unable to supply these documents.
3. **Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified object/s tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD. Also any sightings made by MOD Police and civilian (West Yorkshire) police officers on about the same date.** – We have identified two files which may hold relevant material, D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B – UFO Reports. The file contains 248 UFO sightings reported to the MOD, covering the period August to November 1980. Also D/DS8/75/2/2 Part M – UFO Reports – Edited Copies which contains 100 UFO sightings reported to the MOD, covering the period August to September 1980.

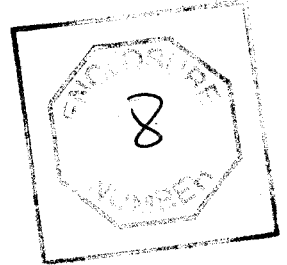
4. **Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public, from a number of locations including RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. Also copies of assessment made.** – We have identified one file which may contain relevant information. D/Sec(AS)12/7 – Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)- Alleged UFO Incident – 31<sup>st</sup> March 1993 which contains 40 enclosures. We are also looking to see if there is any further material on these events.
  
5. **Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire Police and the Skegness coastguard. Copies of investigation notes and assessment made.** – We have identified one file which may contain relevant material. D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part D – UFO Sighting Reports contains 181 enclosures and covers reports from August to December 1996.

I estimate that undertaking the work you have requested will take around 23 hours. Four hours work would be conducted free, leaving 19 hours which would attract a fee of £15 an hour, or a total of £285. This assumes it will take two minutes to check each page, and photocopy and sanitise any relevant documents. This would be a three day task spread over six half days. As one file is being retrieved from the Public Record Office and another is to be reviewed by a different division, we could make the material available to you during October 2002. In advance of conducting a careful review of the documentation this sum remains an estimate only. The final cost may be lower, but if, during the course of the review, it appears that the cost may be in excess of this sum I shall let you know so that you may decide whether you wish the work to continue.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,





From [REDACTED]  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)  
Operations and Policy 1  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,  
LONDON WC2N 5BP

Telephone: (Direct dial) [REDACTED]  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) [REDACTED]  
CHOTs address: DAS-LA-Ops+Poll  
E-Mail: [das-laopspoll@defence.mod.uk](mailto:das-laopspoll@defence.mod.uk)

## FAX MESSAGE

**TO: DR2a2**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REGISTERED FILES**

**DATE: 11 September 2002**

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 1**

My colleague [REDACTED] recently requested eight files, two of which could not be found in your archives. I have contacted [REDACTED] at Information - Records 1 in Great Scotland Yard and he informs me that these files are shown on the return he had from yourselves (dated September 2000) for review in 2005. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could conduct a search for these files and indicate to me asap whether they are held at Hayes. If they are not there, is there anywhere else they may have been sent, other than to [REDACTED] who assures me his Department do not have them.

The files concerned are:

D/DS8/75/2/2 Part L (1980) UFO Reports: Edited

D/DS8/75/2/2 Part M (1980) UFO Reports: Edited

I would appreciate an early response as this concerns a request for information under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Thank you for your assistance.

[REDACTED]





MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=11-SEP 14:50

END=11-SEP 14:50

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	*	[REDACTED]	001	00:00'30"

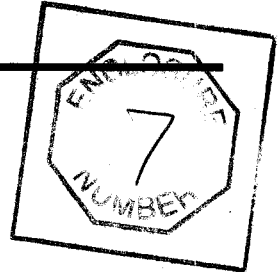
-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

\*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] - \*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] \*\*\*\*\*

**DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1**

---

**From:** Info-Records1  
**Sent:** 11 September 2002 11:06  
**To:** Info(Exp)-Records/Registry; DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Subject:** UFO FILES



[REDACTED]

Please order from Q AIR 2/18977.

On receipt pl pass to [REDACTED] DAS, Rm 6/73, Metropole.

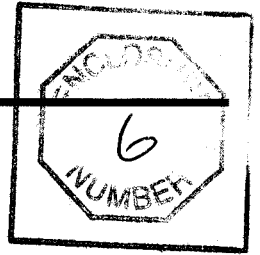
[REDACTED]

No trace of DS8/75/2/2 Pts L & M in GSY. We have only listed up to parts A thru C!

Interesting - Pts L & M are shown on the original return from Hayes (dated September 2000) for review 2005 ie too soon to action for a while. The 2000 return was in turn based on a 1998 list. This was produced because it was believed that some UFO files might have been over looked for review. I therefore asked for approx 24 files covering dated up to the mid 1970s to be transferred to London. Hayes identified a few more, resulting in a total of 34 that were passed to me.

[REDACTED] 40

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

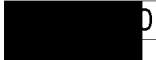


**From:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol  
**Sent:** 10 September 2002 14:43  
**To:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Subject:** CHARGING UNDER THE CODE

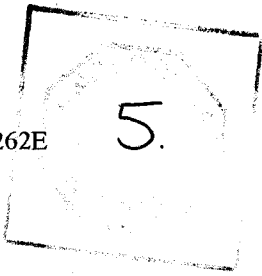
**Importance:** Low

Suggest that the following might be used in any letter in which you estimate what undertaking a certain amount of work might cost.

"I estimate that undertaking the work you have requested will cost in the order of £XXX. This assumes [repeat formula X2minutes]. In advance of conducting a careful review of the documentation this sum remains an estimate only. The final cost may be lower but if, during the course of review, it appears that the cost may be in excess of this sum I shall let you know so that you may decide whether you would wish the work to continue."



fax:



MOD Form 262E

**REQUISITION FOR A REGISTERED FILE**

To:- DR2a2

File Nos:

- 1) D/DS8/75/7 Pt A (1979) Satellite Debris ✓
- 2) D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L (1980) UFO Reports: Edited
- 3) D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M (1980) UFO Reports: Edited
- 4) D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G (1980) UFO Reports & Correspondence ✓
- 5) D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H (1980) UFO Reports & Correspondence ✓
- 6) D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A (1980) UFO Reports ✓
- 7) D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B (1980) UFO Reports ✓
- 8) D/Sec(AS)12/7 (1993) UFOs – Alleged UFO incident – 31 March 1993 ✓

SUBJECT: See above

TRACED TO YOU ON:

(DATE) IS REQUIRED BY:

ASAP

BRANCH: DAS (SEC) LA –Ops&Pol 1a

BUILDING:  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building,  
Northumberland Avenue  
London

SIGNATURE:



TEL.EXT:



RANK: E1

DATE:

3/9/02

NOTE:-If the file is not immediately available for any reason,  
please advise the requisitioning branch by telephone.

MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=03-SEP 10:45

END=03-SEP 10:46

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK		[REDACTED]	001	00:00'26"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

\*\*\*\*\* - [REDACTED] - \*\*\*\*\*

D/DS8/75/7	PE A.	1979	Satellite Debris
D/DS8/75/2/2	PE L	1980	UFO Reports: Edited
D/DS8/75/2/2	PE M	1980	UFO Reports: Edited
D/DS8/75/2/1	PE G	1980	UFO Reports & Correspondence
D/DS8/75/2/1	PE H	1980	UFO Reports & Correspondence
D/DS8/75/2/5	PE A	1980	UFO Reports
D/DS8/75/2/5	PE B	1980	UFO Reports
D/Sec(AS)12/7		1993	UFOs - Alleged UFO incident - 31. March 1993.



To Metropole Buda

FAO [Redacted]

Branch DAS(sec)LA Ops + Pol 1a Room 6/73

DSS/75/2/2 PTS L + M

I am sorry we are unable to locate the file(s) you requested on the information you have provided. If you can furnish any further details please complete and return the following questionnaire so we can conduct another search.

Any previous Branch Reference(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of the File(s) / Title(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last enclosure \_\_\_\_\_

Branch recommendation date on 2017 for retention / disposal \_\_\_\_\_

Date sent to Hayes Archive \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a receipt from Hayes for these Docs. Yes / No  
If yes please enclose a photocopy.

Any other information that may be helpful \_\_\_\_\_

Continue overleaf if necessary

Signed [Redacted]

Date 3.9.02

Files Out Section  
A Building  
Bourne Ave  
Hayes  
Middx  
UB3 1RF

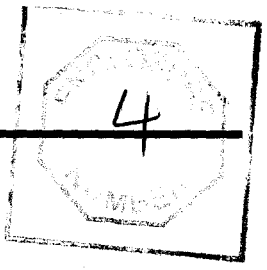
Telephone [Redacted]

Fax [Redacted]

QH.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

3/09/02



To: DI ISEC SECT AD  
Subject: FW: Code of Practice Request

I sent the message below to [redacted] and have had an out of office reply. I need to answer this request before [redacted] returns and would be grateful if you could find someone else to deal with it in [redacted] absence. I am happy to discuss if required.

[redacted]  
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
Sent: 03 September 2002 10:22  
To: DI ISEC SEC4  
Subject: Code of Practice Request

[redacted]  
I have received a request for some more documents under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, from Dr Clarke who you may remember recently published a book about MOD Policy on [redacted] since 1947.

One of the five sets of documents he has asked for is as follows;

"Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public, from a number of locations including RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. In addition copies of assessment made".

We have a file on these events, but I know DIS also have a file D/DI55/108/15/2 Part 1 - Cosford Incident. DG Info tell me that unless the person requesting the information specifically says "records held by DAS" a request should be taken to mean a request to MOD and should include any material known to be held by any branch. We will, therefore, need to include your file in this request.

Under the Code, Dr Clarke has been charged for his previous requests requiring more than four hours work and he has asked that before we proceed with this request, we provide an estimate of the time and cost of providing this information. The way we usually estimate this is the number of enclosures on the file X 2 minutes per enclosure to search, photocopy any relevant papers, remove any personal data (under the Data Protection Act) and anything else which needs to be removed under an exemption of the Code, and photocopy again. Dr Clarke is entitled to the first four hours work free and every following hour (or part of) is charged at £15 per hour.

Based on the above, I would be grateful if you could give me an estimate of the time it would take for DI staff to search the above mentioned file and providing the information requested by Dr Clarke. You do not need to worry about the cost because I will calculate that when I have assessed his whole request.

I need to answer Dr Clarke's letter by 19th September, but I will be on leave from the 16th, so would appreciate a reply by 9 September if possible. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

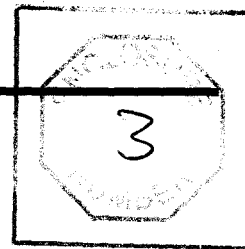
[redacted]  
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
[redacted]



Q1.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

3/9/02



To: Info(Exp)-Records1  
Subject: Request of Information

[Redacted] n 40

I have received another request for information under the Code of Practice from Dr Clarke and would be grateful if you could retrieve a file from the PRO for me.

The file I need is PRO reference AIR 2/18977 UFO Reports - due for release in 2007.

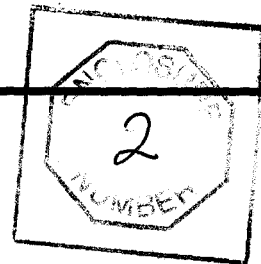
I would appreciate an indication of how long it may take to arrive.

[Redacted]  
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
[Redacted]

Q. S.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

**From:** DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1  
**Sent:** 02 September 2002 16:54  
**To:** DAO ADGE1  
**Subject:** Dr Clarke



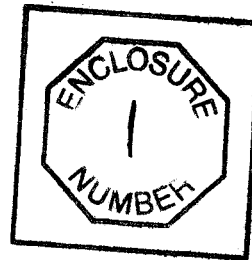
40

Thanks for you help earlier. Having gone through Dr Clarke's questions again, I realise there is another I should have asked you about. He has requested

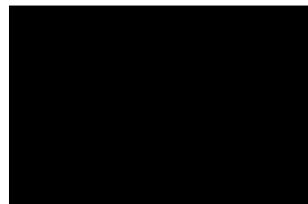
*"Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO Reports made by Lincolnshire Police and the Skegness Coastguard. Copies of investigation notes and assessment made."*

I will look for any reports from the Police and Coastguard, but do you have any information / comments on the Neatishead bit of the request?

40



Dr David Clarke



Directorate Air Staff  
Ministry of Defence  
Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue  
London WC2N 5BP

29 August, 2002

Dear [Redacted]



Thank you for your letters of 16 July and 25 July enclosing copies of documents I requested under the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information.

I now wish to make five new applications for UFO related material under the terms of the Code. I understand that, as in previous applications, a charge may be made to cover staff time involved in searching for and reviewing records. I am willing to pay any reasonable charge, and ask that you provide an estimate of length of time and cost before you proceed.

The applications are as follows:

- Copy of the file relating to a UFO report made by [Redacted] and [Redacted] near Winchester, Hampshire, on 14 November 1976. I have reason to believe this was the subject of inquiries by S4f (Air) and RAF Ops (GE) 2. The case file may possibly be located in the PRO file AIR 2/18977 currently retained under the 30 year rule.
- Copies of the file containing briefings and background notes on UFOs prepared by the head of S4 (Air), with contributions from RAF Ops (GE) 2 and DI 55 for reference by Lord Strabolgi in his closing address during the House of Lords debate on UFOs, 18 January 1979.
- Copies of report made by RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, of unidentified object/s tracked by the BMEWS on or about 13 September 1980, and reported to MOD. This file may also contain visual reports of sightings made by MOD Police and civilian (West Yorkshire) police officers on or about the same date.

*UFO Reports  
Do for release  
2007*

*D1053/75/3/1  
A+B  
Destroyed 22-3-90  
Parliamentary Correspondence  
House of Lords Debate  
- Jan 1979*

*Check UFO  
Report files  
7 Files*

*D1053/75/2/5B Aug-Nov 1980  
UFO Reports*

DAS	
102No	.....
26/08/2002	.....
26 <sup>th</sup> -9. 2002	.....
FILE	20 days

*15 days  
19<sup>th</sup> 9. 2002*

3) Fylingdales track space objects (Satellites, Rockets, space debris). They do not send their reports to MOD.

likely scenario is that we received a number of reports and checked with Fylingdales for Satellites/Meteors etc

4. Copies of UFO reports made in the early hours of 30/31 March 1993 by RAF and meteorological office personnel and by members of the public, from a number of locations including RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. In addition copies of assessment made. D/Sec(CAS)12/7  
D/DisS/108/15/2 PH
5. Reports of unusual phenomena on radar in the early hours of 5 October 1996 reported by the SOC Neatishead and UFO reports made by Lincolnshire police and the Skegness coastguard. Copies of investigation notes and assessment made. 64/2 D ✓  
64/4 B ✓

I am grateful for your assistance,

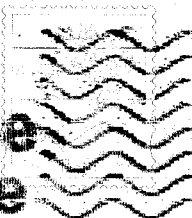
Yours sincerely,

  
Dr W. Clarke



Royal Mail  
Sheffield  
Mail Centre  
29.08.02  
05:08 pm  
23402812

Please  
PRINT the  
Postcode



[REDACTED]  
DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
METROPOLE BUILDING  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE  
LONDON WC2N 5BP