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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)
11 Dec 02

Registered file number D/DAS/64/3

Part No. 2

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

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT UFOs

Public Correspondence and Requests for Information.

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

DO NOT DESTROY
For permanent preservation in
The National Archives

Referred to		Date

CLOSED

Continued on Part AA

Last Enclosure 40

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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

(2025)

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
UFO's —
Public Correspondence and Requests

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/DAS/64/3
Part: 2

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Date of last enclosure: 13 June 2003

Date closed:

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

	✔
~~Destroy after _____ years~~	
Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after 10 years	
For permanent retention ~~No recommendation~~	

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

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~~ indefinately for the following reason(s):

	✔		✔
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐ [Public Interest]
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☐ For permanent retention by agreement with the National Archives

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(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. ☐ ✔

PAR Section 40 **C2/equivalent)**

Sign _____

Nam _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 28/6/04

Branch Title and Full Address:

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: _____

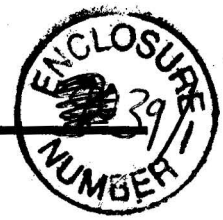
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

ENCLOSURE 40 IS PLACED ON 64/3/15 PT A E 19 Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1



To: Section 40

Subject: Mr Nick Pope

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 June concerning Mr Nick Pope's involvement with the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. Your message has been passed to me because this Department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFOs'.

First, it may be useful if I explain that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/ flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The MOD examines any reports of 'UFOs' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to Mr Nick Pope, I can confirm that he worked in the Secretariat (Air Staff), a former part of this Department between 1991 and 1994. Mr Pope is now working in another unrelated area of the MOD. The views expressed by Mr Pope on the subject of 'UFOs' are entirely his own personal opinions and do not represent, nor reflect, the views of the MOD.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40
das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

13th June 2003

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: Info-Access3
Sent: 04 June 2003 10:19
To: DAS4A1(SEC); DAS-LA OpsPol1
Cc: Info-Access4
Subject: FW: information verification

Section 40

Are you able to respond to this request received from the PS? I have heard you mention Nick a few times and think you know more about this than me!

As Nick put himself in the public domain from all the books that he has written I am not sure that DPA applies. Grateful for your advice!

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 04 June 2003 08:04
To: info-access3@defence.mod.uk
Subject: information verification

Greetings -

My name is Section 40 an American curious about a web article involving a Mr. Nick Pope allegedly of you Ministry of Defense.

Mr Pope is reported to had been involved in the study of unidentified flying objects.

Can you verify the existence of Mr. Pope and does he work for you?

Sincerely,

Section 40
Rochester NY USA

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 39

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Eastchurch
Kent
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
19 May 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to my earlier letter to you of 21 March 2003. I promised to respond once I'd consulted other branches in the Ministry of Defence on "Project Insight". I am sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I am afraid that, to the best of our knowledge, we are unaware of any project with that name. In your letter, you said you thought it might have been an American project and you might like to contact the US DoD at the Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0700. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
21 March 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter. Firstly, you enquired about a 'UFO' sighting from Skegness, Lincolnshire. You did not specify the date on which it occurred, but I can confirm that we have not received any sighting reports of 'UFOs' from Skegness in the last year.

Second, you asked if we could provide you with any recently released documents. It might be helpful if I explain that, in the time remaining before the full implementation of the Freedom of Information Act in January 2005, we will be reviewing the information we hold to see what material my be made more generally available via the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. This Scheme was launched on 29 November 2002 as the first step towards the introduction of the FOIA and can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under "UFO" will take you to the papers already released, which include those sent to you with our letter of 10 September 2003.

Finally, you enquired about a "Project Insight". We are currently consulting other sections within the Department to see if they have heard of any such project. Please be assured that we will write to you again as soon as we have heard from them. I hope this is helpful.

I checked with DISS + Library no trace of project insight

Section 40

Isles los

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

20 days
28 March

In replying to this letter, please write on the envelope:
Number Section 40 Name Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Dear Section 40

I hope that you received your christmas card, and had a nice new year, I was wondering if you could find out if the Air Staff have any files on a U.F.O sighting that was reported over Skegness Lincolnshire, I know that Skegness police were also witness to this as I live in the area, I was wondering could you maybe verify this for me, if so could you send me a copy of the files as I would like to investigate it myself.

Please turn over.....

If not could you be so kind as to send me any new released documents relating to strange aerial phenomenon.

I hope you are well, and I have the upmost respect for every member of the military, as my cousin and grandfather were and still are in the forces, well my cousin atleast my grandfather was unfortunately a casualty of war.

I dont know wether or not "project insight" is British or American if it turns out to be an English project could you please elabirate what this is if you are authorised to do so.

I understand you are busy so this will be my last contact for a long time.

Take Care God bless

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40

[redacted]

I hope to join the forces when I am released, so maybe we will meet one day, after all it is a small world.

Thankyou for your time

GodBless

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

SHEERNESS 20.02.03

GREAT BRITAIN POSTAGE PAID 0019

Directorate of Air Staff
(Lower Airspace)
Operations + Policy I
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

OL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40
Subject: The Rendlesham Forest File
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message of 10 May concerning access to the papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident. Your message has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence regard 'UFOs'.

I am sorry to hear you have had trouble locating the documents referred to as "The Rendlesham Forest file". These can be found in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at www.foi.mod.uk . A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to these documents, or alternatively, you may wish to search under UFO, as this will take you to all the UFO classes of information in the Scheme.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40
das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

19th May 2003

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) PtP

cc. DG Info

TO Ref No 5579 /2003

Date 13-5-03

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date** *(our target is now to answer 100% of letters from members of the public within this timeframe)*. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An 'Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information' came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under 'Service First', all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2003 07:15
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: "The Rendlesham File"

Hello,

I am looking for the so-called "The Rendlesham File" that is to be found on your web site. Can you please help me where to find it?

Reference: http://www.sky.com/skynews/article/0,,15410-12182835,00.html

Regards Section 40 [redacted]

Phone Section 40 [redacted]
Mobile [redacted]
Mailto: [redacted]
- -
Sasser Media Lab Ltd, http://www.sasser.net
Address: Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted] Stockholm, Sweden

the links at www.fo.mod.uk to .pdf files appear to keep changing, or are just not that easy to locate

Grrr!

Section 40 [redacted]

Policy Branch

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 37

Section 40
Hull
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
15 May 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter concerning access to information about 'unidentified flying objects'. This Department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 'UFOs'.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to the files containing 'UFO' sighting reports, it was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards are routinely released to the Public Record Office when 30 years have elapsed since the last enclosure on the file.

For information less than 30 years old, the Ministry of Defence operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will come into force in January 2005, when it will supersede the Code. As part of our commitments under the Act, the MOD has launched a Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the internet containing information the MOD makes available to the Public. This includes classes of information on UFOs and if you wish to look at these please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

HULL Section 40
TEL Section 40 [redacted]

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to you in the hope you can help me gain access to information about UFO investigation, sighting's or encounter's under the "Freedom of information act". Thank's

Your's faithfully Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

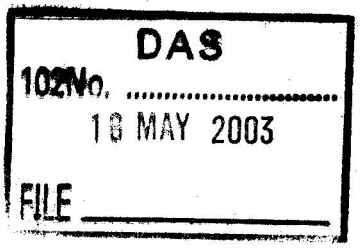
Hull [redacted]

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in the hope you can help me to see documental evidence of UFO sighting's or encounter's.

Thank's your's sincerely

[redacted]



ENCLOSURE NUMBER 36

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

Staffordshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
2 ~~April~~ May 2003

Thank you for your letter dated 12 April 2003.

Firstly, you mentioned a 'UFO' which allegedly crashed in Cannock Chase in 1974. I have looked through our files from around that date and could not find any papers relating to any such incident.

You also mentioned an alleged incident in the Berwyn Mountains in that same year. Please find enclosed copies of sighting reports the Ministry of Defence received for the 23 January 1974 and papers concerning enquiries made with various departments at the time. Personal details have been removed to protect the privacy of those who have corresponded with the MOD and MOD employees.

The documents you may find to be of particular interest are the file note (marked 23) and the letter dated 11 March 1975 (marked 107) which appear to give an explanation of the sightings. The RAF Mountain Rescue Team mentioned in the documents as having participated in a search of the area, were based at RAF Valley in 1974 and RAF Valley's Operations Record Book for the period was examined. This book is a historical record of activities at the Station, but it contained no record of these events.

With regard to your concerns about unknown objects penetrating the UK Air Defence Region, I should wish to assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of the UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Defence Region would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft).

From that perspective, reports provided to us of 'UFO' sightings are examined, but consultation with air defence staff and others as necessary is considered only where there is sufficient evidence to suggest a breach of UK air space. The vast majority of reports we receive are very sketchy and vague. Only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat. Please find enclosed for your information a copy of the form which is used to report sightings to this office.

Finally, as requested I enclose a hard copy of the document relating to the 'Flying Saucer Working Party' in 1951. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

STAFFORDSHIRE
Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations and Policy 1a
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON
WC2N 5BP

Saturday April 12th 2003
Reference: JD/MOD/2/03

Dear Sir,

RE: Information on Unidentified Flying Objects

Further to your recent correspondence (your ref: D/DAS/64/3, of the 9th April 2003), I would like to thank you for your speedy reply to my request and for the information you sent on the alleged UFO incident at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

It is on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects that I again write in the hope that you may be able to assist me with my research.

I have been researching the subject for a number of years but am only now beginning correspondence with you as I have only just finished sorting the massive amount of information I have already obtained.

In the course of my research I discovered information on an event that was alleged to have occurred in my local area in 1974 where an alleged 'crashed UFO' is said to have been recovered from Cannock Chase, in Staffordshire by the military, possibly in the same time frame that another or part of the same UFO was removed from the Berwyn Mountains in North Wales.

I include below for your information, extracts from an article on the incidents based on the book "Cosmic Crashes"

"One of the most contentious stories concerning crashed UFOs in Britain are the allegations surrounding the so called Berwyn Mountains Incident in January 1974..... claims that something had impacted on the Berwyn Mountains and that people had seen strange helicopters and lights and that there had been a strong military presence in the area during the time frame.

...In 1996...I was contacted by a credible guy, a very credible guy as it turns out, who used to work for ATV Television in the 1970's...

He told me that ATV had received a report of a fairly interesting UFO incident which had occurred in the Hednesford area of Cannock Chase on a particular night in January 1974....

...He told me that he could not remember the details of how they determined the exact location, but that it was in the Hednesford area...

....They managed to get out there, it was snowing that particular night, and when they got out to the particular site, they found two guys sitting in a car by the edge of a field, and no less than 10 troop carriers, army lorries, with about 100 troops milling around and basically all hell breaking loose...

...These two guys had seen what they had initially thought was a plane coming down in a field. It looked like like a fire ball with something trailing behind it. When they pulled up and managed to get out to the field, they described it as a flying saucer. Now when I pressed the ATV guy, he said that was literally the description they gave "a flying saucer"...

...When the ATV team ..Pulled up at the field, the army was milling around, they would not let them enter the field and would not allow them to basically do anything..

..But they did a small interview with the driver of the car who seemed to be very ill. He was sweating and had just shirt sleeves on despite the fact that it was throwing it down with snow. When they completed the interview and got back to their van, the camera man actually sneaked out from the back of the van and did a quite long detour round into the field from the reverse side..

..He got into the field and found a huge circular burn mark in the field, he got this down on tape and took it back to the studios. The following day he said that people came from the Home Office and removed the film..

...What's interesting is that if you tie this in with the Berwyn Mountains case then you have got military presence at two fairly spectacular alleged UFO sites in Britain both in January 1974..

...In the Berwyn Mountains case, we know from the testimony of some of the people involved that there was a fall of snow that night. In the Staffordshire case, the witness told me it was snowing heavily. It's entirely possible that both incidents could have occurred in the same time frame..

.. In the account from the Ex British Army personnel, he said that his unit was based in the South of England and that they received, and this is the bizarre thing, the received advanced notice that they were going to be required to take part in some sort of operation and on the specific night in question they headed up towards Birmingham..

..Now Birmingham is a stones throw from Cannock Chase and it's entirely possible that the team which eventually made it's way to North Wales was the very same one seen swarming all over the chase..

..Given the fact that the Ex Army guy said they had prior knowledge they were going to be required and when I spoke to the ATV guy, he told me that the incident at Cannock Chase had

not been reported but the two guys in the car who were just in shock. I asked him "How do you explain that? and he said in his opinion the army had advanced notice that something was going to take place.

..When I interviewed Section 40 she told me she was approached by a science journalist from a national Sunday Paper who was doing research for a story concerning the alarming increase in childhood cancers in the area. Now the ATV guy from Cannock Chase incident said that the guy who was ill in the car was suffering from radiation burns and actually died very, very quickly afterwards from his injuries.

..Now I've been looking into the allegations concerning where he was taken, where he died and so on and have literally hit a brick wall, not because I can't track people down but that all those I have found have really clamed up almost to a level of fear being expressed."

So in response to this incident I would like to make the following observations/questions:

1. You (The MOD) has stated in the past that your only interest in the investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects are if they pose significant threats to the United Kingdom. If this is the case then these incidents clearly involves not only an Unknown object Penetrating the United Kingdom Air Defence Region, but one or more of these objects actually coming to grief over the United Kingdom.
2. This surely must have warranted some sort of investigation, especially in view of the fact that, in both cases, the military are said to have been involved and expecting something to happen and that subsequently it is said that material was taken away from the site(s).
3. The British Government must have clearly been involved in this incident and been clearly concerned over not allowing the truth to be known, if as the ATV cameraman states, the Home Office removed the film they had shot of the incident on Cannock Chase that night in January 1974.

Do The Ministry Of Defence have any information on these particular incidents which could be made available to me (please could you pass on this letter to the relevant department if you are unable to assist me)? Were these incidents investigated?

Finally a couple of quick requests which I hope you may be able to also assist me with.

I am interested in exactly what information the MoD requires from those who are making reports to you of Unidentified Flying Objects and was wondering if you could send me a copy of the sightings report form used.

Lastly, I understand that on your Website there is a 1951 report document issued by the so called 'Flying Saucer Working Party', I was wondering if you could send me a copy of this also.

Again may I extend my thanks for the assistance you have given previously and I hope that you or your colleagues will be able to assist me with the requests in this letter.

I very much look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

(4)

Yours Faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

UFO Researcher

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 36

Section 40

Roswell
NM 88202-0583 USA

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
22 April 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your letter of 3 April addressed to the Ministry of Defence, Ministerial Correspondence Unit, regarding the papers released into the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme relating to the "Rendlesham Forest" incident. Your letter has been passed to me as this office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFOs.'

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest, all available substantiated evidence would have been looked at in the usual manner by those within the Department with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and no further investigation into the matter was deemed to be necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 22 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by the Department was incorrect.

A copy of the file containing papers relating to these events was released to a member of the public in 2000 following a request made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The documents are a compilation of papers which were put together on one file some time after this event. Some are contemporary with the events and others are later correspondence showing MOD staff attempts to reconstruct the action taken in order to answer public enquiries. The whole file was included in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme in order to

make it more widely available to those who may not have been aware of its release.

As for the document you enclosed with your letter, I can inform you that this was sent to the MOD by a member of the public who claimed they had received it from an unknown source. Although written on what appears to be MOD headed paper, it was not an official document, but a forgery. The covering letter from the member of the public and a loose minute from this Department (then called DS8) to an MOD Security Department about this letter are also included in the released file, but for ease of reference I have enclosed copies with this letter. Although the letter was a forgery, these papers form part of the "Rendlesham Forest" file and were therefore included when the whole file was released.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DS 17

[redacted]

RECORDED DELIVERY

30th March, 1984

For the attention of Miss P. Titchmarsh

Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Dear Miss Titchmarsh,

re: UFO Matters and Rendlesham Forest Sighting.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I received in January, together with a copy of the front of the envelope which contained the same, and would be gratefu to receive your comments thereon.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

MINUTE

DS8/10/209

Apr 84

AD MOD Sy 1

CORRESPONDENCE FROM [redacted]

1. I attach a letter and attachments we recently received from a [redacted] for your information and whatever action you think necessary.

2. As you will see, [redacted] has sent us a copy of a letter which purports to be a report of landing of a UFO crewed by several "entities" near RAF Bentwaters in 1980. This letter is clearly a forgery. Although it is written on MOD headed paper it is most certainly not an official document. I do not want to be too alarmist about what could be simply a harmless joke, but this could prove rather embarrassing if it ever found its way to a newspaper. The News of the World ran a very sensational story in October last year, alleging that a UFO had landed near RAF Bentwaters. They based this on a report by a USAF Colonel, of some unexplained lights near the base, which they had managed to get hold of. They would no doubt seize on this letter as further "proof" that something had happened. There could also be Parliamentary interest. Sir Patrick Wall MP has recently asked 2 questions on the MOD's interest in UFO reports and might ask questions about this. In the worst case, then, this letter could cause a good deal of unnecessary and unwelcome bother.

3. [redacted] addressed the letter to Mrs Titchmarsh, my predecessor in this post, because he had spoken to her shortly after the News of the World story appeared: my phone number has become fairly well known amongst UFO spotters. The reference to DS8 in the text of the letter is also easily explained; anyone who has received a letter explaining our policy on UFO reports would know that DS8 are the responsible division, although we do not, contrary to what the letter suggests, carry out investigations.

4. By way of background, I attach a note explaining the limited extent of our interest in UFO reports and the 2 recent PQS. I should, of course, be happy to speak to you about this.

A MATHEWSON
DS8
MB 7230 2638 MB

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

has Flying/UFO

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) PtP.

TO Ref No 4336 **/2003**

cc.

Date 11th April 2003

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date** *(our target is now to answer 100% of letters from members of the public within this timeframe)*. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An 'Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information' came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under 'Service First', all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Section 40 [redacted]
Roswell, NM 88202-0583 USA

Tel. Section 40 [redacted] Email: Section 40 [redacted]

3 April 2003

Ministry of Defence
The Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222
Old War Office
Whitehall
London SW1A2EU
United Kingdom

To Whom it May Concern:

As a UFO researcher I have learned that on 29 November 2002 the MoD declassified and released a large number of documents relating to the so-called "Rendlesham Forest" UFO landing incident of December 1980 at Bentwaters/Woodbridge air bases in England. Indeed these documents have been posted on the MoD website.

In particular, one document (page 107 as hand-numbered in the document set, copy attached to this letter) with an MoD letterhead mentions that "[t]ape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesised version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975. (See attached-- Flag A.)" [No attachments in evidence.]

Naturally anyone serious about the field of UFO studies would find this document stunning in its implications, and on 26 February 2003, I submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the National Security Agency (NSA) for any existing transcripts of the intercepted transmissions to which the MoD document alludes. (I attach, for your reference, a copy of my FOIA request sent to them.) As you can see from their response (a copy of which is also attached hereto) they not only deny having any knowledge of the transmissions to which the MoD document refers, but also state: "In addition, we question the validity of the document as a true and legitimate British MoD document."

This response is rather startling, as the document in question is posted on the MoD website, so that it appears that NSA is saying that the MoD has posted a less than legitimate document on its site, which I am quite confident is not the case. I would be most interested in any response that the MoD could communicate to me concerning this matter. Ahead of time, many thanks.

Most sincerely yours,

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 01-218 [redacted]

(Switchboard) 01-218 9000

[redacted]

Dear [redacted],

As you know, OSI has completed a report on the landing of a craft of unknown origin crewed by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980.

Interestingly, OSI reports that the entities were approximately 1½ metres tall, wore what appeared to be nylon-coated pressure suits, but no helmets. Conditions on the night were misty, giving the appearance that the entities were hovering above ground level.

Tape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesised version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975.(See attached - Flag A)

According to OSI, entities had claw-like hands with three digits and an opposable thumb.

Despite original reports (Flags B - C), OSI said the craft was not damaged but landed deliberately as part of a series of visits to SAC bases in USA and Europe. Reports that craft was repaired by US servicemen or was taken on to the base are not confirmed by OSI.

Landing is not considered a defence issue in view of the overt peaceful nature of the contact, but investigations by DS8 are to be continued on [redacted] authority. Precautionary plan for counter-information at a local level involving [redacted] and a [redacted], is strongly recommended.

Sincerely

[redacted]

107

Section 40 [redacted]
Roswell, NM 88202-0583

Tel. Section 40 [redacted] Email: Section 40 [redacted]

26 February 2003

National Security Agency
ATTN: FOIA Office (DC321)
Section 40 [redacted] STE 6248
Ft. Section 40 [redacted]

Dear FOIA Officer:

A collection of documents recently declassified, as I understand, by the British government, has come to my attention, documents concerning the reported sighting and landing of an unidentified flying object in late December 1980 in the Rendlesham Forest region of England, specifically near the former joint US/UK air bases known as Bentwaters and Woodbridge bases, USAF/RAF.

I attach hereto a copy of one particular document from this group, which as you can see is a letter from someone (name redacted) in the UK Ministry of Defence, reading in part:

> "Tape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesized version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975. (See attached -- Flag A.)"
> [No attachments in evidence.]

I must say that I was delighted to see (1) this kind of governmental openness on the part of the UK and (2) this evidence of coöperative interest between the two governments, and wish to learn more of this matter in connection with research that I am conducting.

Accordingly, I request, through FOIA, that you release to me any transcripts that you have of the type of tape recordings cited in the British MoD document, or any other documents relating thereto. In the event that you possess such transcripts/documents but conclude that you cannot release them to me, I ask that in accordance with FOIA law you specify which of the nine exemptions justifies the non-release. Also I ask that if at all possible you reply within the twenty working days specified by law. If necessary I am willing to remit up to $20.00 in photocopying fees as part of your tasking of my request; if such charges would exceed this amount please check with me first.

Many thanks ahead of time for your assistance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Section 40 [redacted]

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 42605
19 March 2003

Section 40 [redacted]

Roswell, NM 88202-0583

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

This is in response to your 26 February 2003 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was received by this office on 6 March 2003, for information relating to a "reported sighting and landing of an unidentified flying object in late December 1980 in the Rendlesham Forest region of England, specifically near the former joint US/UK air bases known as Bentwaters and Woodbridge bases, USAF/RAF." Specifically, you requested "any transcripts that you have of the type of tape recordings cited in the British MoD document, or any other documents relating thereto." Your request has been assigned Case Number 42605. There is certain information relating to this processing about which the FOIA and applicable Department of Defense (DoD) and NSA/CSS regulations require we inform you.

For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. Since processing fees were minimal, no fees were assessed.

Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA. We are unaware of any such transcripts and/or tape recordings as cited in the British MoD document you provided with your request. In addition, we question the validity of the document as a true and legitimate British MoD document. The National Security Agency/Central Security Service is responsible for centralized coordination, direction and performance of highly specialized technical functions in support of U.S. Government activities to protect U.S. communications and produce foreign intelligence information. In addition, NSA helps ensure the security of U.S. Government computers.

Since your request relates to UFOs, it may interest you that NSA has reviewed and declassified 461 pages of material related to UFOs and has made the material available on the Internet. You can access the NSA FOIA Home

FOIA Case: 42605

Page at address/URL: http://www.nsa.gov/docs/efoia. The UFO material is found by clicking on "Frequently Requested Information. Released Records." There is also a listing of UFO terms for which we hold no records.

If you would like this office to provide you with a copy of the released material, please be advised that duplication charges are $54.15 (461 pages - 100 free pages=361 pages x $.15 per page = $54.15). Costs are computed in accordance with DoD Regulation 5400.7-R, which assesses $.15 per page for duplication. There are no search fees since no search is required to locate the material. The material will be released to you upon receipt of your certified check or money order within 30 days of the date of this letter made payable to the Treasurer of the United States in the amount of $54.15.

Correspondence related to your request should include the Case Number assigned to your request, which is included in the first paragraph of this letter. Your letter should be addressed to National Security Agency, FOIA Office (DC321), 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248 or may be sent by facsimile to 443-479-3612. If sent by fax, it should be marked for the attention of the FOIA office. The telephone number of the FOIA office is 301-688-6527.

Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Chief
FOIA/PA Services

ENCLOSURE 35 FROM Section 40 [redacted] IS NOW PLACED ON FILE 64/3/14 PT A E15

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

Staffordshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
9 April 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 6th April 2003, in which you request paper copies of the documents relating to the alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. Please find them enclosed for your information.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

STAFFORDSHIRE
Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence (MOD)
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Sunday April 6th 2003
Reference: JD/MOD/1/03

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today in the hope that you may be able to help me. I recently discovered an article which I had kept from some time ago about the publication of various material and documents relating to the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) on your website. As a researcher, I was pleased to discover that such material was available particularly such information as that relating to the Rendlesham forest incident which I am particularly interested in, and the many other documents which were mentioned and the many others that were not. Unfortunately I do not have access to Internet facilities and have not been able to view the data which you have made available. I was wondering if there is any possibility of getting hold of paper copies/printouts of the material which you have made available and published on your official website as I would very much like to read it but as I said, simply do not have the facilities to access the website and printout my own copies.

I am grateful for any assistance in this matter which your department may be able to offer me in this matter and thank you for your time even if you are not able to assist me.

I very much look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours Faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
UFO Researcher

ENCLOSURE 33 IS PLACED ON 64/3/17 PLEA. [redacted] Section 40

ENCLOSURE 32 IS PLACED ON 64/3/15 PT A E18 Section 40 [redacted]

31

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Chester-Le-Street
County Durham
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
21 March 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2003 in which you requested a copy of documents concerning the alleged 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.

The Ministry of Defence file on this incident has been included in the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme and can be viewed at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under 'Rendlesham Forest' will take you directly to these papers. Alternatively, if you wish to see all the material on 'UFOs' included in the Publication Scheme, please search under 'UFO'.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

17th March 2003

Section 40

[redacted]

Chester-Le-Street,
Co. Durham

Section 40

[redacted]

Dear Sir,

I am writing in the hope that you would be able to provide me with any existing information, documents or memorandums relating to the unexplained aerial phenomena reported in the Rendlesham forest area, near RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge on consecutive nights beginning 26th December 1980. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

30

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

Section 40

Glasgow
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
14 March 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to UFOs.

First it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to the records of 'UFO' sightings reported to the MOD, it was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU (Tel: 0208 876 3444 Fax: 0208 878 8905). Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office when they have reached 30 years old, in accordance with the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967.

Requests for information from files less than 30 years old are handled in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions of the Code.

In your letter you also mention "a top secret room – no. 801" in the former Metropole Hotel where UFO reports were examined, and question whether it is still in use. Room 801, Metropole Building is believed to have been used by the Flying Saucer Working Party which was set up in August 1950 at the suggestion of Sir Henry Tizard who thought "flying saucers should be investigated". Records show that at the 11th meeting of the Joint Technical Intelligence Committee in June 1951 the Chairman of the Flying Saucer Working Party presented his report. The Committee decided that "the document should be regarded as the final report and, in view of the conclusions the Working Party should be dissolved". The papers of the Flying Saucer Working Party and the final report have been released to the Public Record Office. Due to the public interest in this report, a copy has also been included in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and can be viewed at www.foi.mod.uk, search under UFO, and then Report. Directorate of Air Staff is the only department within the MOD which deals with UFO reports today and our interest is limited to that described above.

Finally, you mentioned UFO reports possibly held by the F.B.I and C.I.A. Clearly this is a matter for the US government. If you wish to request information under the US Freedom of Information Act please look at the US Bureau of Administration's web site at www.foia.state.gov/ which shows material already released and gives details of how to make a request.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS LA PJP. **TO Ref No** 2163 **/2003**

Date 27.2.03.

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

DAS LA Pap

Dear MrBlair

I know that you are a very busy man & i don't wish to seem like a right pest but i was wondering if you could possibly release all the u.f.o. file's that the military appear to have aquired from all over the country in the past 50 year's . I know that whenever anybody ask's the military about the u.f.o.s that have landed near & sometime's right outside air base's all over the country since the early 1950s & to show you what i mean i will give you a few example's. The examples are

(1) RAF Topcliffe when in 1952 during NATOs ' Exercise Mainbrace' two RAF officers & three aircrew observed a ufo apparently following a Meteor jet fighter as it was comming in to land .

(2) The West Malling Incident in 1953 when the two man crew of a Vampire jet night-fighter reported observing a ufo while on a sector reconnaissance .

(3) The RAF pilots close encounter over Southend in 1954.

(4) The landing at Broadlands in 1955 which at that time was the home of Lord Mountbatten.

(5) RAF BENTWATERS/LAKENHEATH in 13/14 august 1956 when at least one ufo was tracked simultaneously by no less than three ground based radars & one airbourne radar.

(6) The Wardle mystery of 15 February 1957 when a large circular object was seen by indepedent witnesses & it even prompted an MP called J.A. Leavey to table a House of Commons question to the secretary for air requesting an explanation.

(7) RAF/USAF Upper Heyford 15 March 1983 when an unidentified object described as a primary target by a US Air Force air traffic controller was tracked from about 5.00pm to 9.15pm.

I have listed here in this letter just a few of the many sightings over the past 50 years & although the cases that i have listed here are almost all from before the 1970s there are more & more reports every year . There is also said to be a room where the air ministry is said to have conducted top secret research into the ufo phenomenon at one of its offices in Northumberland Avenue, london . The report that i read stated that on the ninth floor of what was formerly the hotel Metropole, a top secret room --no.801--where all reports of ufos were collected & studied by experts. I dont know if the room in question is still being used by the air ministry to examine the ufo reports that continue to get reported to the military & police. It is said that at least 10,000 reports on file somewhere in Whitehall that cannot be explained by conventionall phenomenon like balloons, aircraft, birds or insects that make up about 90% of ALL ufo reports but there is still the 10% of reports that remain unexplained that ufologists find interesting & if i recall correctly there are even more files hidden in the offices of the F.B.I that are still classified above top secret on the grounds of national security but the U.S government claims that ufos dont exist so the question arises how can something that does not exist pose a threat to national security ?. I know that you are a very busy man what with the comming war & all the problems that you are having to deal with at the present time but perhaps you could even get Mr Bush to release all ufo reports that are being held by both the F.B.I & C.I.A since the C.I.A are rumoured to have started a group that deals EXCLUSIVELY with ufos that are reported in the U.S. . The group that the C.I.A are rumoured to have started are called M.J.12 or MAJESTIC 12 to give it its full name & it was said to have been started in 1947 after the infamous Roswell crash . There will of course be people who will claim that there are no ufo files in the government archives but there are files from the 1950s that refer to unexplained lights following aircraft including one that flew to within five feet of concorde when it was flying .

YOURS SINCERELY

Section 40 [redacted] GLASGOW Section 40 PHONE Section 40 [redacted]

29

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

Hull
East Yorkshire

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/2

Date
11 March 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 11 February 2003, concerning a sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Hull and the surrounding areas back in December 1980. This office is the focal point for correspondence relating to 'UFOs'.

I should perhaps explain that sighting reports are generally filed in the order in which they are received. However, it is sometimes the case that members of the public submit reports at a much later date, perhaps years after the sighting. These are not filed in chronological order.

You will appreciate that it would not be practicable in terms of time and resources to conduct a complete search of all files from 1980 to the present day. However, I have examined those from around the time and can confirm that they contained no reports from either military or civilian sources pertaining to a sighting over Hull, around the last week of December 1980. I hope this is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Section 40
[redacted]
Hull, East Yorks

Dear Sir/Madam

I am researching a case in the Hull and outlying area's which occurred aroud last week of December 1980.

I appeciate this was some years ago, but feel you may be of help.

Firstly, this is not a 'Criminal' case, so does not infringe anyones civil liberties, althogh, confidentiality is assured.

There was anomalous aerial activity on Christmas week, and the following nights, the term U.F.O. has been used, though at this time, it is the only term applicable. I have a number of facts, and civilian witness testimony, and am trying to establish that some of the 'Services' may have witnessed this event/s.

A book of the event is in process, and this enquiry is to further solidify the accounts. If you could pass this query on to your retired staff, and others who may be able to elaborate, on an already, very fascinating and enigmatic case, I would be very grateful.

Yours Sincerely.

Section 40
[redacted]

SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) 2a Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING, WHITEHALL
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

28

From: Section 40
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) Section 40
(GTN)

Section 40

Hessle
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
11 March 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Board of Inquiry file into the aircraft accident involving Captain William Schaffner USAF. I will answer your questions in the same order as your letter.

1. I have not seen the BBC Inside Out programme, but can confirm that a number of photographs and details of Captain Shaffner's last communication with ground controllers were given to Captain Shaffner's two sons who visited the UK to take part in the programme. They in turn, made them available to the programme makers, as they are entitled to do. These documents do form part of the Board of Inquiry file.

2. Yes, the Board of Inquiry file still exists in its entirety.

3. Board of Inquiry files into aircraft accidents vary in size depending on the complexity of the circumstances of the accident and the amount of evidence gathered. The file involving Captain Shaffner is 4 inches thick.

4. Once a Department has selected records for preservation, the Public Record Office (PRO) has to check, catalogue and allocate them a unique PRO reference. The PRO has limited resources and this process can take several months to complete. Once transferred there is a delay of 70 days before documents are publicly available. The Aircraft Accident Report I sent to you with my last letter has been assigned a PRO reference (AIR 2/19173) and we hope it will be transferred within the next few months. As there is a public interest in this particular accident the Board of Inquiry file is also to be reviewed for possible retention in the PRO. If selected, we expect it to be at the PRO by the end of the year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 05 March 2003 14:29
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

On collection there is a delay of 70 days (I assume that this is so the part of the PRO that collected the records has time to tell all the other departments at Kew that the record is there! I kid you not!).

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 05 March 2003 14:02
To: Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Request for information

Thanks Section 40 excuse my ignorance, but can the Public look at these as soon as they are transferred, or is there any delay between transfer and public access?.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Info-Records1
Sent: 05 March 2003 13:14
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

Your two questions:

1. the Aircraft Accident Report has been assigned PRO ref AIR 2/19173. It has not been transferred to the PRO. In recent months there has been a considerable delay in transfers. However, I hope that transfer can be achieved with the next month or two.

2. the BOI - as with the AAR transfer is likely to take some time, I hope that by the end of the year Kew will have it!

Sorry this is all so vague, but PRO have to check our work and they have limited resources (I checker covering several Departments).

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 04 March 2003 10:20
To: Info-Records1; AHB(RAF)-Head of
Subject: RE: Request for information

Thanks Section 40 as soon as I have answered my enquirers letter, I will send the file over to you.

When I answered this person's last letter we sent him a copy of the Aircraft Accident Report (AAR) and told him it had been earmarked for the PRO. He has now asked for an indication of when it will be accessible at the PRO. Do you know?

With regard to the BOI file, if you endorse the file for retention in the PRO, when is this likely to be a accessable to the public? i.e. as soon as possible or in 2022.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Info-Records1
Sent: 04 March 2003 07:24
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1; AHB(RAF)-Head of
Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

The endorsement on the file - Destruction 2022 - is probably a Records 1 review decision.

File AF/FS 340/70 Sent to Records 1 11/2/2003

As [previously discussed I am quite happy to overrule this decision and endorse the file for the PRO, subject to a final check on any potential sensitivity (I expect none). DASC need not get involved.

Please let me have the file and I will arrange for a final review, and probable transfer tom the PRO.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 03 March 2003 17:03
To: AHB(RAF)-Head of; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

Section 40 BOI files belong to DASC and I have only become involved with this one because Ufologists have taken an accident and made it into an elaborate UFO story. In order to answer the enquiries we received after the BBC Inside Out programme, I attempted to find out what happens to BOI files and in particular to locate the one for this particular accident. Although there are some BOI files open in the PRO, DASC were unable to say whether all the files are sent to the PRO or whether only a few are selected. I assumed that as this accident happened over 30 years ago the file would be in the PRO, but as we later discovered it was still held at Hayes. I now have the file and the cover is marked for Destruction in September 2022 (50 years after the last enclosure). Section 40 has already suggested to me that because this accident has become particularly well known (all be it for misguided reasons) that consideration should be given to permanently retaining this file in the PRO. I would fully support that view, but as I am not the owner of file, I do not think it is for me to say.

Section 40 Do we have to approach DASC with this suggestion, or can you/your staff mark the file for retention? Also it would appear that these files are generally closed for 50 years, so could it be released to the PRO before 2022, as Section 40 suggests?

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: AHB(RAF)-Head of
Sent: 03 March 2003 14:24
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

TY Section 40 Might I suggest to you both that, with the amount of interest which this incident has generated over the years, as well as a BBC documentary an dusggestions of disinformation, we should simply place the BOI file in the PRO and refer enquirers there? What think you both?

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 28 February 2003 16:03
To: AHB(RAF)-Head of

Subject: RE: Request for information

Section 40

With the help of Section 40 Info-Records, Hayes have now found the BOI file and sent it to me.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: AHB(RAF)-Head of
Sent: 24 February 2003 11:25
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Cc: AHB3(RAF)
Subject: RE: Request for information
Importance: High

Section 40

We hold the original of the accident card and a computer printout from Flight Safety, but not the BOI file. If HAyes do not hold it then it was in all probability destroyed, but we will check the PRO's holdings as well, since it is older than 30 years old.
The computer printout does make reference to the exchanges between the pilot and the ground controllers, but it is not a verbatim transcript.
I am out of the office from 1130 today until Thurs 0900. If you need copies of the card and the printout before then, or any other info please talk to Section 40 x

Section 40

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 21 February 2003 15:05
To: AHB(RAF)-Head of
Subject: Request for information

Section 40

You may recall that last November the BBC made a programme about the loss of a Lightning aircraft on the 8 September 1970 which resulted in the death of the pilot,
Captain William Shaffner USAF. I have been asked some questions by a member of the public concerning the Board of Inquiry file and I am trying to locate it. There are some BOI files in the PRO catelogue but these only go up to 1968. DASC say they send their files to the archives at Hayes, but while Hayes have got some BOI files, they can find no trace of this one. Therefore please could you let me know if AHB holds the file? I know a copy of the aircraft accident card, some photographs of the aircraft and the transcript of the RT between the aircraft and the ground controller were given to the Shaffner family, but I do not know whether they came from the BOI file, or were stored separately.

I am grateful for any assistance you can give.

Section 40
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Search Results

help

You ran a basic search on "Board of Inquiry" restricted to reference(s): AVIA.

There were **14** hits within catalogue entry details. Hits **1** to **14** are shown below sorted by catalogue reference.

PRO Reference	Title/Scope and Content	Covering Dates
AVIA 101/677	Gnat T Mk 1 XR568 near RAF Valley, Holyhead, Gwynedd on 14 January 1965: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1965
AVIA 101/678	Buccaneer XK 524 at Holme, on Spalding Moor, Lincs on 13 May 1965: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1965
AVIA 101/679	Lightning Mk3 XP 739 near Wattisham RAF station, Suff on 29 September 1965: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1965-1966
AVIA 101/680	Sioux XT 125 Helicopter near Musaymir, Aden on 6 December 1966: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1966-1967
AVIA 101/681	Lightning T4 XM 971 near Coltishall, Norf on 2 January 1967: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1967
AVIA 101/682	Lightning Mk 3 XP 699 near Wattisham, Suff on 3 March 1967: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1967
AVIA 101/683	Vulcan B2 XL 385 destroyed by fire at RAF Scampton, Lincs on 6 April 1967: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1967-1968
AVIA 101/684	Gnat T1 XM 707 near Kemble, Glos on 30 June 1967: RAF and AIB reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1967
AVIA 101/685	Shackleton Mk 3 XF-702 near Lochailort, Invers on 21 December 1967: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1967-1968
AVIA 101/686	Vulcan B2 XM-604 near Cottesmore, Rutland on 30 January 1968: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1968
AVIA 101/687	Hunter TYA XL-611 near Salisbury, Wiltshire on 14 May 1968: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1968
AVIA 101/688	Lightning T5 XS-418 on transit flight to Stradishall, Suffolk on 23 August 1968: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1968
AVIA 101/689	Lightning T6 X5-896 at Tengah, Singapore on 12 September 1968: AIB and RAF reports and proceedings of Board of Inquiry	1968
AVIA 13/1380	Data and photographs presented at board of inquiry into accident to Breguet Atlantic 43 aircraft at Farnborough on 20 Sept together with associated information	1968

refine

Sort results by covering dates.
Sort results by former reference.
Sort results using relevance ranking.

summary

AF/SF340/70 Lightning XS894
J Sqdn 8-9-1970
Been reviewed - for destruction 2022.
Identified at Hayes - Section 40 requested file - 26/2/2003.

From: Section 40
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) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOts address: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
E-Mail: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

FAX MESSAGE

TO: General Section – DR2 Hayes

SUBJECT: Location of file

DATE: 18 February 2003

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 1

I would be grateful if you could inform me whether you hold a Board of Inquiry file for the following RAF aircraft accident. I have examined the PRO catalogue which contains a number of Board of Inquiry files (PRO reference AVIA 101 series) but these only go up to 1968.

The file I am seeking concerns the loss of Lightning F6 XS894, 5 Squadron on 8 September 1970 off the Yorkshire coast. The pilot, Captain W Shaffner USAF was killed.

I believe the branch which dealt with Aircraft Accidents at the time was the Directorate of Flight Safety (RAF) so the file may have the prefix DFS(RAF).

Please give me a call if you need any further information.

Section 40

Awaiting info from Hayes.
18/2/2003 cannot find file in Archives

********** -COMM. JOURNAL- ********** DATE 18-FEB-2003 ***** TIME 11:35 *** P.01

MODE = TRANSMISSION START=18-FEB 11:35 END=18-FEB 11:35

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK		Section 40	001	00:00'26"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 **********

Section 40

Section 40
DAS (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1,
Ministry of Defence,
Room 6/73 Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue,
London. WC2N 5BP.

Section 40
East Yorkshire.
Section 40

Dear Section 40

Sorry for the long delay in replying to your letter of 5 November 2002. Thanks for the enclosures of the Aircraft Accident report and the Accident card for the tragic events involving Captain W. O . Schaffner on 8 September 1970; these were very much appreciated. I note that some photographs and a transcript of Captain Schaffner's last communication with RAF Patrington featured on the BBC InsideOut website, are these a part of the Board of Inquiry report?

After reading the report that you kindly sent, my curiosity is satisfied and I am sure there was never any UFO in the Captain Schaffner tragedy; this was a later invention when the Grimsby Evening Telegraph and Hull Daily Mail newspapers published Pat Otter's story in October 1992. However, there are a few questions about the Board of Inquiry report for the Schaffner accident, which will help clear up some other widely spread ambiguous ideas.

1. Does the Board of Inquiry report for the Captain Schaffner air accident exist in it's entirety, are any parts missing or destroyed?
2. How thick is the Board of Inquiry report of the Captain Schaffner accident? (Several UFOlogists, authors and others, who claim knowledge of it state different values for the thickness, one UFOlogist said it was 11 inches thick and another stipulates over 4 inches thick). Knowing the approximate thickness would be useful in further deconstructing the mythology.
3. In your last letter you mention that a copy of the report is 'earmarked for preservation in the Public Record Office in the near future.' Can you give any indication when that report will be accessible?

Thanks again. Looking forward to your reply, I remain

Yours Sincerely Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Royal Mail
05.02.03
06.06 pm
13603468

7 SEP 2004
5 FEB
2003

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1.
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73 Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue,
London WC2N 5BP

FOI 64/3

27

DAS-LA OpsPol1a

From: Section 40

Sent: 13 February 2003 14:12

To: DAS-LAOpsPol1a@defence.mod.uk

Subject: RE: E-mail of 9 feb 21:55

Thank you for replying. The problem is that the met office have no record of unusual weather on this occasion and so this is what has made me extremely curious.
After having E-Mailed them I have sent the same message to several authorities just to see if I can get an explanation though it is looking like it will remain a mystery.
Once again thank you for your time Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LAOpsPol1a@defence.mod.uk [mailto:DAS-LAOpsPol1a@defence.mod.uk]
Sent: 12 February 2003 11:46
To: Section 40
Subject: E-mail of 9 feb 21:55

Dear Section 40

Your e-mail of 9 Feb 21:55 to public@ministers.mod.uk concerning strange weather conditions over Leyland in Lancashire on 3rd Feb, has been forwarded to this office, which is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

Considering the content of your e-mail, it perhaps might be more appropriate for you to contact the Meterological Office. Their address is: London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 2SZ (Tel: 0845 300 0300 Fax: 0845 300 1300). Alternatively, you can e-mail them at enquiries@metoffice.com

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Section 40
DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1a

DAS-LA OpsPol1a

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1a
Sent: 12 February 2003 11:46
To: Section 40
Subject: E-mail of 9 feb 21:55
Signed By: das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Your e-mail of 9 Feb 21:55 to public@ministers.mod.uk concerning strange weather conditions over Leyland in Lancashire on 3rd Feb, has been forwarded to this office, which is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

Considering the content of your e-mail, it perhaps might be more appropriate for you to contact the Meterological Office. Their address is: London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 2SZ (Tel: 0845 300 0300 Fax: 0845 300 1300). Alternatively, you can e-mail them at enquiries@metoffice.com

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1a

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA) P+P

TO Ref No 1544 /2003

Date 11th Feb 2003

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40
CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 09 February 2003 21:55
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: Wierd Weather ???

Dear Sir or madam,

I live in Leyland in Lancashire a small town just south of Preston.

On Monday 3rd February in the early evening it was snowing lightly there was hardly any wind, when all of a sudden a very very bright light lit up the curtains and for a split second appeared to be heading straight for the window. This was followed immediately by an extremely loud bang like a crack of thunder but a lot louder. Then everything went back to normal. No more thunder or any more flashes. To me it seemed as if this phenomenon had occurred right outside my window.

On speaking to others they were saying the same thing ? I know for a fact that this also occurred at the same time as far away as Royton, which is the other side of Manchester.
I have never in 51 years known it to either thunder or lighten whilst snowing and this did not seem like either of those things.

It has been suggested that it was a Meteor but if this was the case it would have been on the TV news. The incident has not been in any papers or news programs to my knowledge.

Can you shed any light on this subject.

Yours faithfully Section 40 [redacted]

My address is Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]
Leyland
Lancs
Section 40 [redacted]

26+1

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Middleton
Manchester
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
11 February 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 27 January, which was passed to this office. We are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

You requested a copy of documents concerning the alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. The Ministry of Defence file on this incident has been included in the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme on the Internet and can be viewed at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to these papers. Alternatively, if you wish to see all the material on UFOs included in the Publication Scheme, please search under UFO.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

UFOs

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS LA PgP **TO Ref No** 1182 **/2003**

Date 3rd Feb 2003

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

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As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **
** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

27. JAN. 03.

DAS LA P&P

Section 40
Section 40 MIDDLETON
MANCHESTER Section 40

Dear Sir/Madam.

I believe the U F.O. sighting near R. A. F. Woodbridge of more than 20yrs ago has been released by the goverment under the freedom of information act. I am refering to the M. O. D.ss restricted (Rendlesham file) in which a glowing triangular object was discribedin the woods, this file is now released as part of the opening of the inner workings of Whitehall. I would appreciate an actual accurate copy of this file. and also the statements of the AMERICAN army personell who entered the wood andhad a clear observation of this phenomenon, or is that still classified.

(Thank you.)

SINCERELY.

Section 40

Section 40

25/1

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

Section 40
Hull
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
4 March 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your request for a copy of file D/DS8/75/7 – Unidentified Flying Objects- Satellite Debris.

I am now in a position to provide a copy of the file, which is attached. Personal details such as names and telephone numbers have been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

MOD Form 329 C

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Registered file number D/DS8/75/7

Date opened 25.6.79

1. ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE NOTES ON THE INSIDE FLAP
2. ENTER NOTES OF RELATED FILES ON PAGE 2 OF THIS JACKET

DIVISION

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

SUBJECT

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.
SATELLITE DEBRIS.

Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE

MOD
CS(RM)1
14 DEC 1998
SECOND
REVIEW

2004

1555

A86 6A14 5-7

Thet San

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review Date

2nd Review Date

(to be completed

(i) This file may be

Certifyin

Date.....

OR

(ii) Return for reviev

File Ref: DS8/75/7

Part.

Sent Out Date

Ext 311

From DI53 Ops (AP)R2

Rounne Avenue

Hayes Middx UB3 1RF

85M 8/77

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

S/Sgt [redacted]

~~Secret~~ Ao Eng 31 b.

Used as a Post Office for piece of metal handed to Eastbourne Police

Passed to

D161B - S/Sgt [redacted] - [redacted] Metropole.

[redacted] BBC TV

wanted the metal for a documentary

[redacted]

Editor [redacted]

BBC TV

[redacted] - said they would advise DSS & forget it all

[redacted]

x 34

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

BBC TV

Eastbourne Police Station

Sent Piece of Cosmos Rocket

Sq Ldr. [redacted]

Sounds Greek

Room 374 of Old War Office Building

[redacted] 0658

0.8.3 pm

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

With Compliments

F6 Division
(Emergency Services)
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Tel: [redacted]

SUBJECT: SKYLAB REENTRY

REF: STATE 126102

(9)

1. SUMMARY. AS FOLLOW-UP TO REFTEL (PROCEDURES WE INTEND TO USE IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE OVERSEAS IMPACT OF SKYLAB), OUTLINED BELOW ARE PROCEDURES RELATING TO AVIATION AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, WHICH US FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO USE. SKYLAB ACTION OFFICERS AT ALL POSTS SHOULD NOTE THAT PARAS 7 AND 8 BELOW ESTABLISH SIMILAR PROCEDURES, WHICH WILL BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SKYLAB CONTINGENCY WORKING GROUP IN CONVEYING INFORMATION ON SKYLAB'S FINAL ORBITS AND REENTRY TO POSTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ASSESSING THE RISK TO AIRCRAFT FROM THE REENTRY OF SKYLAB FRAGMENTS, THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED THAT THE RISK, ALTHOUGH NOT LARGE, ISAVOIDABLE AND THEREFORE THAT- CERTAIN ACTIONS ARE APPROPRIATE IN US CONTROLLED AIRSPACE. THE FAA INTENDS TO USE ITS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM TO SEQUENTIALLY CLOSE BLOCKS OF DOMESTIC AIRSPACE LYING UNDER POTENTIAL REENTRY DEBRIS TRACKS AND TO DIVERT AIR CARRIERS FROM ENTERING THESE BLOCKS FOR PERIODS ON THE ORDER OF TWENTY MINUTES PER BLOCK SHOULD

THE PREDICTED FINAL REENTRY ORBITS THREATEN AT AIRSPACE.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAA RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), THE FAA HAS ISSUED AN INTERNATIONAL CLASS I NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) NUMBER 072149, JUNE 7 FOR WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL NOTAM OFFICES ADVISING (A) OF INTENDED US ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL AIRSPACE UNDER US CONTROL AND (B) THAT THE FAA INTENDS TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO PERFORM SUCH PROCEDURES IF SIMILAR ACTIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE EXACT TIME AND LOCATION OF SKYLAB REENTRY CANNOT BE ACCURATELY PREDICTED, THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF LIKELY REENTRY, CORRESPONDING TO A FAMILY OF CONSECUTIVE ORBITS, CAN BE DETERMINED WITH INCREASING CERTAINTY AS THE TIME OF REENTRY IS APPROACHED. BASED UPON PROJECTIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE FAA OF THE TIME AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE SATELLITE DURING THE FINAL REENTRY PHASE, THE FAA WILL TRANSMIT, VIA INTERNATIONAL NOTAM, THE GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF AIRSPACE BLOCKS WITH CORRESPONDING TIMES OUR-

ING WHICH TH BLOCKS ARE POTENTIALLY WITHIN THE IMPACT FOOTPRINT. THE DIMENSIONS OF THESE BLOCKS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 2,000 KM X 200 KM EXTENDING FROM GROUND LEVEL UP.

5. DURING THE FINAL 24 HOURS PRIOR TO REENTRY, A SERIES OF FOUR NOTAMS WILL BE TRANSMITTED. THESE WILL REFLECT THE INCREASING CERTAINTY WITH WHICH THE ACTUAL REENTRY ORBITS MAY BE DETERMINED. THE PLANNED NOTAM TRANSMISSION AND CONTENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REENTRY TIME (UNDERSCORED)		MESSAGE CONTENT (UNDERSCORED)
T MINUS 24 HRS.	-	PREDICTED TIMEFRAME FOR REENTRY
T MINUS 12 HRS.	-	PREDICTED TIMEFRAME FOR REENTRY
T MINUS 6 HRS.	-	PREDICTED TIMEFRAME FOR REENTRY. INFORMATION ON AIRSPACE BLOCKS ACTUALLY AFFECTED
T ----------	-	ADVISORY THAT SKYLAB HAS REENTERED AND NO FURTHER TRANSMISSIONS MAY BE EXPECTED.

6. THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 1-4, ALONG WITH A SAMPLE NOTAM FORMAT, IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY THE FAA TO ALL CLASS 1 INTERNATIONAL NOTAM RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. THIS OUTLINE OF FAA ACTION AND INTENTIONS IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE AS APPROPRIATE IN ADVISING HOST COUNTRIES' SKYLAB CONTACT POINT OF SKYLAB STATUS AND CONTINGENCY ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY FAA.

ANY DECISION REGARDING THE CLOSING OF OR DIVERSION OF AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS FROM THE BLOCKS OF AIRSPACE TO BE IDENTIFIED IN THE FAA NOTAMS IS SOLELY THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT AIRSPACE. POSTS SHOULD REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT PRECAUTIONARY PREPARATIONS BY LOCAL AVIATION AUTHORITIES THAT COME TO THEIR ATTENTION.

7. ALL POSTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION TO PASS TO HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES ON THE PROJECTED REENTRY PARAMETERS OF SKYLAB BEGINNING AT T MINUS 48 HOURS, SUCH MESSAGES WILL NOT IDENTIFY ;SPECIFIC AIRSPACE BLOCKS BUT WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ALLOW IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROJECTED REENTRY TRACK AND ASSOCIATED DEBRIS FOOTPRINT. PREDICTION UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED BEGINNING AT 48 ;OURS BEFORE EXPECTED REENTRY (T MINUS 48) AND AT T MINUS 36, T MINUS 24, T MINUS 18, T MINUS 12, T MINUS 6, T MINUS 2 AND AT T. THE MESSAGE AT T WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MESSAGE CONFIRMING THE REENTRY AS SOON AS CONFIRMATORY REPORTS ARE RECEIVED. THIS COULD OCCUR FROM ONE TO SIX HOURS AFTER REENTRY.

8. DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO PROVIDE POSTS WITH MAPS ON WHICH ARE PRINTED CODED TRAJECTORIES OF SKYLAB TO PERMIT EASY IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROJECTED TRACK. IF DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAPS SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE REENTRY THE TRACK WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY TIME IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT) ALONG WITH THE CORRESPONDING LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE POINTS OF A STRAIGHT LINE APPROXIMATION TO THE APPROPRIATE SEGMENT OF THE TRACK.

9. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT THE RISK TO AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT IS CONSIDERED MINIMAL AND THAT THE ACTION PROPOSED BY THE FAA IS INTENDED TO AVOID EVEN THAT MINIMAL RISK.

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To Sqn Ldr [redacted]

From MB [redacted] D1524

Date DS 8C MB.

Your ref 22 June 79.

Tel X [redacted]

Our ref 8/1.

Subject UNIDENTIFIED DEBRIS

Thank you for forwarding the debris samples on to us.

I attach the covering letter which I understand you wished to be returned.

[redacted]

Official communications to be addressed to the Chief Superintendent

(8)

NORTH WALES
POLICE

COUNTIES OF CLWYD AND GWYNEDD

TEL. No. [redacted]

DIVISIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS
BODHYFRYD
WREXHAM
CLWYD
LL12 7BW.

Ref: D/2/AT/DR. Your Ref: Date: 22nd June, 1979.

Mr. [redacted]
Ministry of Defence (D.S. 8c),
Room 8241, The Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW 1.

Dear Sir,

Unidentified Debris - Saturday 16th June, 1979 - [redacted] Llangollen

At 5 a.m. on Saturday, 16th June, 1979 Miss [redacted] of the above address was woken up by the sound of something falling on the roof of her house. Miss [redacted] went outside and found twenty pieces of rock type debris. No damage had been caused to the house. Miss [redacted] was concerned because the debris is not like any substance in, on or around the house and believed it may have come from the sky, perhaps the sky lab satelite.

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 19th June Miss [redacted] reported this incident to Constable [redacted] at Llangollen Police Station, and as a result you were informed by telephone.

I now attach the sample you requested.

The debris collected was divided into three samples and placed into marked sealed polythene bags. The other two samples have been retained at Llangollen.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

D/DSTI/17/9

DS 8c Sqn Ldr [redacted]

DEBRIS FROM SPACE

Reference: D/S4(Air)8/1B

1. I attach a copy of the Home Office circular on satellite accidents which you requested.

2. On the matter of the BBC TV documentary and Ms [redacted] request, we arranged for the object which supposedly fell on Eastbourne golf course to be examined with a view to determining its origin. Our investigation has led us to conclude that it is simply a piece of molten scrap metal. There is no positive indication that it came from space. Consequently it has been disposed of. I suggest you inform the BBC that the object is no longer available and furthermore, prior to disposal MOD Research Staff were unable to positively identify it as an object from space. No mention should be made of the potential intelligence interest which existed at the time of discovery of the object.

[redacted]
DI 54
[redacted]
Met

18 June 79

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

PC [redacted] LLANGOLLEN (4)

North Wales Police

Elderly lady [redacted]

20 pieces – burnt-dried material

rock

found ~~last~~ 5pm last ~~last~~

Saturday evening

(16/6/79)

Have the material

3 samples

Will send me

~~20~~ 7 small pieces

½ lb

Ref D3 2279

Occurrence Register

~~Wrexh~~ Wrexham

[redacted]

Forward

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

D154 advised of this call on 25/6/79

(3)

LOOSE MINUTE

D/S4(Air)8/1B

DDS(I)

Copies to
DI54
DI55

1. You spoke to me in March about the increasing interest in debris from space and the circular which, at your request, the Home Office would be sending to Civil Police Forces to ensure that any debris found by the public was reported to MOD. I agreed that as my branch (then known as S4f(Air)) already handled correspondence about UFOs, it might be quoted in the circular as the address to which the Police should write. So far we have had no letters or telephone calls from the Police on this subject.

2. I did get a telephone call yesterday however from Ms [redacted] of BBC TV who addressed me by name and said she would like to use in a documentary a piece of a Cosmos rocket which the Eastbourne Police had sent recently to Squadron Leader [redacted] in Old War Office Building. I fobbed her off but she will probably ring again and I should be grateful for urgent advice on the answer she should be given.

3. I am still not clear how she got my name unless it was quoted by the Eastbourne Police. Incidently, I have not seen the Home Office circular. Do you think I could have a copy?

13 Jun 79

[redacted]
DS8c
MB [redacted] MB

(21)

HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate, LONDON, SW1H 9AT
Direct line: 01-213
Switchboard: 01-213 3000

Our reference:
Your reference:

6 June 1979

The Chief Executive

County Councils
District Councils
in England and Wales

London Borough Councils

The Director General, the Greater London Council

The Town Clerk, City of London

Chief Officers of Police
Chief Fire Officers
in England and Wales

Dear Sir

Satellite Accidents - SKYLAB

The United States space laboratory "SKYLAB" is expected to descend from orbit within the next few weeks. A note is enclosed giving information about the situation as at present known or foreseen. This may be used in answering enquiries from the public.

2. The special arrangements described in Home Office Circular No ES 5/1979 will not be applicable, since SKYLAB contains no nuclear material.

3. The risk of injury or damage by debris from SKYLAB falling in this country is extremely remote. In the unlikely event of an incident occurring, the normal emergency services (fire, ambulance, police) should be able to handle the situation within their normal resources.

4. If, despite the probabilities, debris does land in this country, the police are likely to become aware of the fact locally. Chief officers of police are asked to give particulars of any confirmed landing of debris as promptly as possible to Mr [redacted], Head of S4 f (Air), Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, preferably by telephone (no. [redacted]).

5. Any enquiries about the subject of this letter may be addressed to the Home Office, F6 Division (Mr [redacted], tel. no. [redacted], Mr [redacted], tel. number [redacted] or Mr [redacted], tel. no. [redacted]) or by telex (no [redacted]). Outside normal office hours the duty officer may be contacted, tel. no. [redacted].

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

E.R.

THE AMERICAN SPACE STATION SKYLAB

SKYLAB was launched as a space laboratory in 1973 and was manned until February 1974. It has now come to the end of its life and is expected to fall to earth towards the end of June or the first half of July 1979.

The satellite is about 100 feet long by 20 feet wide and weighs about 70 tons. It contains no nuclear material. It is fitted with gas jets by which its attitude in space can be corrected, but it has no propulsion system which could take it away from the earth, nor can it be destroyed. As it gradually loses speed it falls closer to the earth, and when it enters the outer atmosphere this will happen more quickly. It is expected that eventually friction with the air will cause it to break up, probably into some thousands of pieces most of which will be burnt up before they reach the earth's surface, but it is possible that many pieces could survive and strike the earth over a wide area.

The descent of the satellite is being continuously monitored and the US authorities are making information regularly available to the media. But the time of its fall is unlikely to be known more accurately until about 10 days before it happens, and an indication of the area in which the debris might land will probably not be available until a few hours in advance.

SKYLAB circles the earth in an orbit which lies between the latitudes of 50°N and 50°S. This just crosses the southern-most part of Cornwall, but if it breaks up the pieces might be scattered up to about 50 miles each side of the orbit and the area in which fragments might land includes most of Cornwall, southern Devon and Dorset, the Isle of Wight and the coastal areas of Hampshire and Sussex. If any pieces should drop here they are far more likely to fall comparatively harmlessly in open country than to cause any injury or damage to buildings. It is extremely unlikely, however, that any debris will land in this country, having regard to the small area affected compared with the area of the earth traversed by the satellite's orbits.

Even if a forecast can be made, nearer the time, as to the area in which SKYLAB may come down, it will be quite impossible to say where any particular piece would land. The emergency services (fire, ambulance and police) are accustomed to dealing with accidents causing damage or injury. If anyone should suffer from SKYLAB's fall, any claim for compensation would be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate international convention, under which the launching state would be responsible for settling claims.

(1)

This [redacted]

DDSTI called me today when they are taking increasing interest in debris coming in from space (from space vehicle launches etc not UFOs!) and he is concerned that there is no proper system for his staff to enquire it.

He has been in to the Home Office who are willing to send out a circular to Civil Police Forces asking for reports if debris is reported to them or handed in but HO want an address for the police to write to.

I told DDSTI that S4 Branch could be included in the circular (which I emphasise is to Police Forces not UFO Societies!) All we have to do as I understand it is to pass on the reports direct to DDSTI who is not necessarily with an UFO procedure ongoing.

DDSTI promised to send copies of the relevant correspondence with the Home Office.

[redacted]
7/3/79

RESTRICTED

HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate, LONDON, SW1H 9AT
Direct line: 01-213
Switchboard: 01-213 3000

Our reference:
Your reference:

20 April 1979

For Action: Chief Officers of Police in England and Wales

For Information: Chief Fire Officers in England and Wales

Chief Executives/Clerks of -

The Greater London Council and all County Councils in England and Wales

The Common Council of the City of London, London Borough Councils and all District Councils in England and Wales

Dear Sir

Home Office Circular No ES 5/1979

Satellite Accidents

Introduction

Following the descent of a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite in Canada on 24 January 1978, consideration has been given to contingency arrangements for dealing with the possibility of a similar incident in the United Kingdom. It is recognised that the likelihood of such an accident is remote. Moreover, the additional hazards to life from nuclear-powered satellites are very small and are limited to potential exposure to radioactive debris following accidental re-entry. Nevertheless, the special considerations that affect the use of nuclear materials and the safety standards applied to them make it prudent to devise plans to deal with such an incident on United Kingdom territory, should it ever occur.

2. A crash involving a satellite which was not powered by nuclear fuel would present problems which would fall to be dealt with through normal major accident procedures. This circular is therefore concerned only with contingency arrangements for dealing with the crash of a satellite which is known to be nuclear-powered or whose energy source has not been established (but see paragraph 21 for reporting arrangements for non-nuclear space objects). Similar circulars are being issued by the Scottish Office and Northern Ireland Office.

Features of a Satellite Accident

3. In the absence of extensive experience it is difficult to make any firm assumptions about the features of a satellite accident. A major problem is that the prediction of the location of a satellite's point of return to earth is very difficult. Although it is likely that knowledge

of changes in the orbital pattern which might lead to premature return to earth would be available many hours or even days before re-entry occurred, it would not be such that a reasonably accurate prediction of the final orbit over the earth could be made until 12-24 hours before impact. Even then forecasts of the precise point of re-entry along this track might still be in error by thousands of kilometres. It is therefore probable that accurate warning would not be available until a few minutes before impact, and it is possible that there might be no warning at all.

4. On re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, the behaviour of the satellite would largely be determined by its mechanical construction. Some satellites are designed in such a way that they will disintegrate on re-entry; others are so designed that fairly large components will remain intact on entering the earth's atmosphere. The debris from a crashing satellite might thus vary from minute dust particles to heavy and sizeable objects, and the latter might include the radioactive source - but any part might be radioactive.

5. Although the parameters of the orbit of a crashing satellite can be fairly closely defined, debris might fall over an area 2000 kilometres long by 200 kilometres wide. It would not therefore be possible to alert police forces on a selective basis; in the event of a warning that a satellite might crash in or near the United Kingdom, all police forces would have to be alerted.

6. The crash of a nuclear-powered satellite would present particular problems such as -

a. there would be a possible radiation hazard, the degree of which could not be determined in advance;

b. debris from the crashed satellite might be scattered over a very large area, perhaps the greater part of the country;

c. individual pieces of debris might be very small, yet each might present a small radiation hazard.

There would be no explosion of the type associated with the detonation of an atomic bomb.

Contingency Arrangements

7. If the malfunctioning of a satellite became known before it came out of orbit the Ministry of Defence (MOD) would be responsible for arranging for the preparation of an assessment

Chief Officers will no doubt wish to consider in advance what procedure should be instituted locally to allocate reference numbers to findings. One way would be for the force operational headquarters to allocate a unique serial number to each finding as soon as there is reason to believe that it may have come from a satellite. Each reference number should consist of two letters identifying the police force concerned followed by a number allocated locally (e.g. MP7). Following are the letters to be incorporated in these reference numbers:

Avon and Somerset	AV	Lincolnshire	LI
Bedfordshire	BE	Merseyside	ME
Cambridgeshire	CA	Metropolitan	MP
Cheshire	CH	Norfolk	NF
City of London	CY	Northamptonshire	NH
Cleveland	CV	Northumbria	NU
Cumbria	CM	North Wales	NW
Derbyshire	DE	North Yorkshire	NY
Devon and Cornwall	DC	Nottinghamshire	NT
Dorset	DO	South Wales	SW
Durham	DU	South Yorkshire	SY
Dyfed-Powys	DP	Staffordshire	ST
Essex	EX	Suffolk	SF
Gloucestershire	GL	Surrey	SR
Greater Manchester	GM	Sussex	SX
Gwent	GW	Thames Valley	TV
Hampshire	HA	Warwickshire	WA
Hertfordshire	HE	West Mercia	WC
Humberside	HU	West Midlands	WD
Kent	KE	West Yorkshire	WY
Lancashire	LA	Wiltshire	WI
Leicestershire	LE		

of the possible risks to the United Kingdom. A Government decision would then be sought on whether the police should be alerted and whether a public statement should be made. If such action were decided on, overall responsibility for the measures to deal with an incident would be exercised from a central control point in Whitehall, in a manner similar to procedures already established to handle a terrorist incident and with similar Ministerial and senior official representation from all the Government Departments concerned. Warning to the police would be given by means of a broadcast over the Police National Computer (PNC) system. The focal point for the collection of scientific data would be the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE), Aldermaston, which would in conjunction with the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) arrange for appropriate scientific and technical advice to be made available to central Government and to police forces who might be involved.

8. On receipt of the warning message, police forces should arrange to gather reports of debris. Chief fire officers should be informed of the warning and asked to notify the police promptly of any reports which they may receive. Fire service personnel are trained to fight fires involving radioactive sources and have a limited range of equipment for the detection of radiation; they are able to confirm the presence of some but not all types of radioactivity, and are not able therefore to say authoritatively that debris is not radioactive.

9. When reports of suspected or actual locations have been received, the police should take such steps as may be needed locally to prevent people entering areas which may be dangerous because of radioactive material (see also paragraph 15 below). For advice as to the dangers of radioactivity and for the examination and disposal of suspect material they should call upon the National Arrangements for Incidents involving Radioactivity (the NAIR scheme). Under this the immediate attendance of the Stage 1 contact is requested, followed if necessary by calling out the Stage 2 establishment (Home Office Circulars ES 7/1972 and ES 3/1977). The NAIR representatives should advise local police on their own initiative until contact is established with, and scientific and technical advice received from, AWRE and/or NRPB under the arrangements described in paragraph 7. All persons should be told to keep well away from possible radioactive debris. Although highly unlikely, some large pieces of debris might have radiation fields of significance over distances of the order of 100 metres, and some limited evacuation might be necessary; widespread continuous contamination is, however, unlikely. Advice on the degree of evacuation required would be available in the first instance from the NAIR representatives

and subsequently from representatives of the AWRE and the NRPB. In the case of damage requiring rescue or firefighting operations, the possible hazard from radioactivity should be borne in mind and existing disaster plans relating to rescue operations in such circumstances should be implemented as appropriate.

10. Details of all findings of material which the police have reason to believe is satellite debris should be reported immediately, together with a brief outline of the action taken and quoting a unique reference number identifying the police force concerned. Such reports should be sent via the PNC system to New Scotland Yard (from where they will be passed to the central control point) in accordance with standard proforma headings - see Annex A. This will enable a nationwide picture of confirmed sightings to be built up and consideration to be given to the need for specialist assistance. The central control point will pass the reports received to the scientific data centre at AWRE (paragraph 7 above). If debris is expected over a considerable area of the country it may be necessary to set up a field operations centre to provide overall direction of both land and air searches, and this centre would operate within general directions provided by the central control point. Special communications equipment available at the central control point could be deployed locally if there were a need to reinforce facilities in particular areas.

11. If the warning time was only a matter of minutes, it would not be possible to alert police forces before reports of falling debris began to come in. A PNC broadcast would, however, be sent as soon as possible and a subsequent message would confirm that the central control point arrangements had been established. The reports required under paragraph 9(c) above should then be passed immediately to the control point.

12. If no warning at all were received, the first indication that a satellite had crashed might be reports to the police of debris. In many cases such reports might prove to be false or it might be possible to establish immediately that the debris could not have come from a satellite. Whenever a report of debris has been confirmed, however, and there are no valid reasons for believing that the debris could not have formed part of a satellite, the action outlined in paragraph 9 above should be taken and the central control point should be notified immediately. The appropriate contact is the Duty Officer on 01-[redacted] or [redacted]. Action would then be taken to bring the central control point arrangements into operation if necessary.

Search for Unreported Fragments

13. Since much of the debris would be very small many of the fragments would not be sighted and unnoticed irradiated debris might be scattered over an area of thousands of square

kilometres. A major search operation might have to be mounted to locate radioactive fragments. Whether to mount a search, and if so what area should be covered, would be decided by the central control point. Arrangements would be made to deploy, using the framework of the NAIR scheme, the resources of every available technical support service, including teams from MOD, NRPB, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) and the Electricity Generating Boards, using specialist aircraft and vehicle search techniques. In rural areas the most effective initial search to locate major sources of radioactivity might be from the air. Police forces would then be asked to organise ground searches of specific areas under arrangements by the central control point or forward operations centre and with the advice of AWRE and NRPB staffs.

Recovery of Fragments

14. Special arrangements would be made centrally under AWRE advice for the recovery of all fragments, when they had been located and examined, and these would be notified to the police forces concerned. Where, in the interests of public safety, and on scientific advice, a fragment is removed from the point of impact, the central control point should be informed where it is to be stored while awaiting recovery.

Public Warning about Radioactivity

15. It is for the Government to decide whether, and if so by what means, a public warning of danger from radioactivity should be given. In reaching that decision, the need to prevent unnecessary alarm would be carefully considered. Chief Officers should therefore ensure that nothing is done locally to anticipate a Government statement.

Press and Publicity

16. It is essential that those dealing locally with a satellite accident and the Government team in Whitehall should not issue inconsistent statements. Chief Officers should ensure that all local press enquiries are directed to a senior officer at force headquarters, who is briefed to deal with them, working in close liaison with Government Information Officers who would make appropriate arrangements to co-ordinate the national dissemination of information from Whitehall.

Extra Costs

17. International law makes provision for a country in which a satellite falls to be reimbursed for any damage and other costs arising from the incident. In order to establish facts and enable costs to be calculated, for inclusion in any claim submitted by the United Kingdom, police forces (and fire and local authorities) should keep a record of all debris found and all action taken from the receipt of the warning message (or, if no warning message is given, from the receipt of the first reports of falling debris) until the incident is closed.

Claims Procedure

18. The Government is under an obligation to consider claims from the general public for injury or death following a nuclear accident and there is already a registration procedure in existence for this purpose. In the event of a nuclear powered satellite accident a Government announcement would be published about how to obtain registration forms to provide information of assistance in looking into claims for compensation by those in the affected area at the relevant time.

Communications

19. As indicated in paragraph 10, reports will be sent via the PNC terminal in New Scotland Yard and from there, depending on the volume of traffic, by Telex or by courier to the central control point. Any general directions issued by the control point will be sent by these means.

20. Messages addressed to the central control point should be confined to operational matters concerning the search for debris, public control, etc. Any enquiry about subsidiary administrative matters arising in consequence of the operations envisaged in this circular should be addressed to the Home Office, F6 Division - by telephone to Mr [redacted] (tel no [redacted]) or Mr [redacted] (tel no [redacted]) or by Telex message. The normal Home Office Telex number is [redacted]. The additional number [redacted] (answer back code [redacted]) may be activated to handle such messages exclusively when the need arises

Non-nuclear debris from space

21. As indicated in paragraph 2, the contingency arrangements set out in this circular are applicable to the crash of a satellite known or believed to be carrying radioactive material. Nuclear powered satellites are few but many non-nuclear satellites and other space debris are in orbit and there is continuing likelihood of such objects falling from space and parts of them surviving re-entry to the atmosphere and landing on the earth's surface. Though the likelihood

is small the police may become aware of such debris if the fall is observed and reported to them. In that event it would be appreciated if chief officers would inform the Ministry of Defence so that the object may be examined and if possible identified. The point of contact at the Ministry of Defence is Mr [redacted], Head of S4f(Air), Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (tel no [redacted]).

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

ANNEX A

SATELLITE ACCIDENT REPORT PROFORMA

To be reported via the Police National Computer terminal in New Scotland Yard to the Government Central Control Point (See paragraph 9).10

ADDRESSEE - 0286 SATELLITE

Item	
ALPHA	From (state name of force).
BRAVO	Date/Time (state ONE, time of sighting; TWO, time report submitted).
CHARLIE	Reference No (state local unique ref no *).
DELTA	Exact location of debris (giving grid reference and map sheet number where possible; otherwise by direction and distance from easily identified point on Ordnance Survey map).
ECHO	Description (state rough size and shape, material, whether radioactive).
FOXTROT	Casualties/Damage (brief description of dead/ seriously injured and damage to property).
GOLF	RV (state location, telephone number if available, of guide to lead investigator to incident).
HOTEL	Action (state what action taken locally or proposed and any other relevant information).
INDIA	Assistance already at or ordered to scene, other than police.
JULIET	Assistance Required (state type and approximate number).

* It will be very important, in making initial reports and to assist subsequent action and enquiries, to identify each finding of possibly dangerous debris by means of a reference number unique to that finding. The reference number, when allocated, should be notified to those concerned with action on the spot as well as to the central government control point.

UNCLASSIFIED

CAB086 11/1332 192C2396

FOR CAB

FLASH 111140Z JUL 20

FROM NAIC PINNER
TO AIG 1111

contains notes on procedures to be followed in case of satellite accidents

UNCLASSIFIED
SIC KZA/I2D (SIC I2D INSERTED BY
NIL A3062
NFDC C0018 NOTAMN KFDC SKYLAB / SKYLAB
NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REQUIRED REPEAT DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THIS NOTAM.
IT IS EXPECTED THAT SKYLAB WILL REENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE
SOME TIME BETWEEN 1348Z AND 2352Z, JULY 11. AIRSPACE BEGINNING
AT LINE ENTRY 42 OF NOTAM C0017 IN THIS SERIES WILL BE WITHIN
THE REENTRY TRACK AT THE TIME INDICATED. A SUBSEQUENT NOTAM IN
THIS SERIES WILL CONFIRM REENTRY AT WHICH TIME ANY ACTIONS WHICH
HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO AVOID THE SKYLAB REENTRY TRACK SHOULD BE
TERMINATED.
ET

DISTRIBUTION KZA
N
NO SDL
F
NO SDL

DISTRIBUTION I2D
N
CXV 4 DNAW ACTION (CXU 1 DNOT(DO))
CWP 1 ACNS(O)
CXU 2 DNOT
CYL 1 DPR(N)
CAG 2 DS 16
F
CYD 1 DD Ops(O S&JW)(RAF) ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
CWV 1 DDC(AP)2
CAB 1 S 4 (Air)

(B)

MOD Form 136

Minute Sheet No. Reference.....

Minutes and Brief Details of Enclosures	Clas.	Encl. No.
Miss [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] Mrs. [redacted] copy to Head of DS8 Debris from space and descent of SKYLAB – My note of 25/6/79		2 pgs

1) Please note that if we receive any calls from the police or others about the physical removal of debris the drill is :–

(a) to tell the caller we will ~~do this~~ report their request to the appropriate military authorities – and then to ring off

(b) to inform the Defence Situation Centre by separate telephone call to [redacted] or [redacted]

2) On no account should we tell the caller to ring DSC direct as try to transfer the call to the DSC number. This would block the lines to DSC

[redacted]

4/7/79

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted] Sec—

→ IP

(12)

Head of DS8/[redacted]

Debris from Space

1) My name figures in the Home Office letter about SKYLAB because, with my responsibilities for UFOs, I am already nominated in Home Office circular no. ~~ES~~ ES 5 (1979), para 21 about the descent of non-nuclear debris from space.

2) The latter stems from an agreement with DSTI who told me some time ago that he wanted to keep tabs on debris from space and hitherto there had been no proper system for his staff to inspect it. I agreed to accept telephone calls on his behalf because it is helpful to know about them in connection with the UFO correspondence. My responsibilities cease once I have passed the information on but there might of course be requests for the physical removal of the debris (particularly SKYLAB) which would invoke the established procedures for military assistance to the civil ~~power~~ community.

3) Having consulted the various authorities I propose to deal as follows with any telephone calls received under the Home Office circular:-

(a) All calls will invariably be reported to DI54 (Miss [redacted] Extn [redacted])

(b) any appeals for assistance in removing debris will be referred to the Defence Situation Centre [redacted] or [redacted]

I assume you mean passed on. We cannot have the public or Police bringing the debris to the DSC

(c) if there any enquiries about compensation we

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

will tell the caller:

(i) to ring the US Embassy in the case of SKYLAB

(iii) that we will make further enquiries in all other cases. I will then seek the guidance of the Chief Claims Officer.

[redacted]

25/6/79

Copies to [redacted]

+ Chief Claims Officer.

(11)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DS8c
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

The Chief Superintendent,
Divisional Police Headquarters
BODHYFRYD
WREXHAM,
Clywd, LL12, 7BW

Your reference
D/2AT/DR
Our reference
D/S4(Air)8/7
Date
28th June 1979

Dear Sir,

C8

Receipt of your letter of 22nd June, together with debris samples passed to you by Miss [redacted] of Llangollen, is acknowledged.

Thank you for advising us of this incident and for forwarding the samples.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

D/SK(Ops)8/7

(10)

DDC(AP)2

DD Gps(OS+JW)(RAF)

SKYLAB RE-ENTRY

I received the attached this afternoon. It is not clear who sent it but as it was received by the Home Office bomb Co-ordinating Other SKYLAB arrangements with local authorities and Government Departments we can take it as authentic – if indeed the information has not already reached You from other sources.

We will let you have the name of the original sender as soon as possible.

27 June 1979

[redacted]
DS&C

DDC(AP)2 & OS+JW Offices notified that original sender was F+CO Science & Spare Dept.

[redacted]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: Sec(HSF)1a
Sent: 04 March 2003 12:59
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: RE: Release of file

Section 40

Yes, I can confirm that I am happy for it to be released.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 04 March 2003 11:29
To: Sec(HSF)1a
Subject: Release of file

Section 40

We discussed a little while ago the release of our file from 1979 on satellite debris. I have the papers ready to send to my enquirer, but could I just confirm that you are happy for us to send a copy of the whole file including the Home Office circular. I have remove personal information such as names, and telephone numbers.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Awaiting advice on release of Satellite file from. Section 40 [redacted] (SEO)
Sec(HSF)1a - Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

Section 40

Hull
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
12 February 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning the request you made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government for copies of two Ministry of Defence files.

Please find enclosed a copy of file D/DS8/76/6 – Unidentified Flying Objects – TV Discussion. You will notice that personal data has been removed. This is to protect the privacy of those who have corresponded with the MOD and MOD employees.

With regard to the other file you requested (D/DS8/75/7 – Unidentified Flying Objects – Satellite Debis), we are currently consulting another department about the release of these documents and as soon as we have a decision, I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40
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) Section 40
(GTN)

Section 40

Hull
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
7 January 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 6 January in which you made a request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information for copies of two Ministry of Defence files. These files are currently held in archives, but they have been recalled and when I have received them, I will write to you again. In the meantime, you asked what charges may be incurred.

The Ministry of Defence is bound by the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and this means that we are committed to providing you with the information you require, as long as it is not exempted under the Code. However, to ensure that this does not create an extra burden on the taxpayer, we have a charging regime for more complicated requests. If a request is likely to require over four hour's work, each hour's work over the four hours (or part thereof) is charged at £15 per hour. These cost include locating relevant material, photocopying, and the removal of personal details to protect the identity of MOD employees and those who have corresponded with the MOD.

If when we receive the files it looks likely that your request will take more than four hours to complete and a charge will be necessary, I will provide an estimate of the cost so that you may decide if you wish us to proceed.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

T[redacted]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue, London.
WC2N 5BP

[redacted]
Hull.
East Yorkshire.
[redacted]

DAS
102No. .....
- 7 JAN 2003
FILE _____

6 January 2003.

Dear [redacted]

Under the new Code of Practice for providing information to the public (relating to FOI law implementation), I request whether the following two files may be released in their entirety and what charges may be incurred for copying them etc?

D/DS8/75/7: UFO Satellite Debris

And:

D/DS8/75/6: UFO: TV Discussion.

In anticipation of your reply.
Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Files requested from Hayes 7/1/2003.

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 329 D

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Registered file number D/DS8/75/6

Date opened

1. ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE NOTES ON THE INSIDE FLAP
2. ENTER NOTES OF RELATED FILES ON PAGE 2 OF THIS JACKET

DIVISION

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

SUBJECT

Unidentified Flying Objects
Television Discussion

Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE	Referred to	DATE

SR

Thet San

File Ref: D/DS8/75/6

Part:

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review Date

2nd Review Date

2004

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed as necessary, and in any event when the file goes out of current use)

(i) This file may be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED on .....
(insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... APPOINTMENT AND BRANCH.....

OR

(ii) Return for review on *(insert date)* .....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

92—0169/1C D. 583612 350m 11/78 XBD

[redacted]

D.S. Form 6

SE(Air)

"Close Encounters" attached. It seems to get rather heated at the end !!

[redacted]

With the Compliments of the

Chief of Public Relations

PR(Admin)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall
London, S.W.1A 2HB

[redacted]

30.1.79.

Report No...MD.81..... Transmitted on...Yorkshire T.V. - "Tuesday Calendar"

Length.....30 mins. Date.....23rd January, 1979..... Time...3.20.p.m.

Short Title.....U.F.Os.....

Richard Whiteley: Hallo and welcome to "Calendar Tuesday" whoever you are and indeed wherever you are. Well, I say that because this afternoon we're going to ask some rather ... well, rather disturbing questions like - do U.F.Os exist? Should we believe people who claim they've had a close encounter of the third kind? Have the world's governments conspired in a galactic cover-up as indeed certain members of the House of Lords seemed to indicate last week, or is the whole thing just plain and simply 'in the mind'? Well, with us to try and answer those questions are the Reverend Ray Nielsen who is the Secretary of the European Headquarters of the Aetherius Society which believes very much in the existence of U.F.Os. We have Mr.Brian Straight, a co-ordinator of Chrysis, that's the U.F.O. research organisation based in Cleveland County. We've got Miss Heather Cooper, an astronomer and lecturer at Greenwich Planetarium in London and in our London studio Mr.Patrick Stevens, who's the Assistant Secretary in the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence.

Well, before we actually get involved in that discussion, let's first of all see for ourselves films of reported U.F.Os shot recently in Italy and in New Zealand, sightings like these led to the debate in the House of Commons... or rather the House of Lords last week.

(Filmed extracts)

Well, as the man said the chances are a million to one, but still they come. Let's find out if people believe they really are coming. Let's ask you, first of all, Reverend Ray Nielsen, can I hear it first from your own lips, you personally are 100%, nay, a 1,000% convinced that U.F.Os do exist?

Rev. Nielsen: Yes, I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever, after studying the subject very thoroughly, mind you, since 1960. I believe that flying saucers are here, they have been coming here for centuries and the fact that there is a controversy is due that certain information is not released, so therefore there is argument and I think that information should be made public by all world

governments and I agree absolutely wholeheartedly with the Lords debate.

R. Whiteley: Okay, now you're holding a model of a U.F.O., we would call it a flying saucer, you believe, do you, that U.F.Os look like that?

Rev. Nielsen: I believe that a certain type of flying saucer is like this one, this is what we in the Aetherius Society refer to as a scout craft, it's the type of craftwhich Adamski* photographed, indeed Stephen Darbyshire of the Lake District photographed twenty years after Adamski. It's been featured in almost all government reports as being widely reported in newspapers, all over the world especially by papers like the Brazilian Press, for example, who published fully all the photographs taken by their Brazilian Navy many, many years ago and this type of craft is, shall we say, a very commonly seen craft.

R. Whiteley: Okay, well, you've made your position perfectly clear, thank you very much indeed. Heather Cooper, as an astronomer, what is your view?

Miss Cooper: My view is that perhaps 95% of UFO sightings can be explained by other phenomena such as meteorological phenomena, natural phenomena in the atmosphere and manmade things like balloons. There is perhaps a residue, 5% of sightings, which haven't been explained and those are the ones we should be interested in. Now there has been an attempt to do this, Professor Alan Heinek*, a very distinguished astro-physics Professor in the States, has been analysing the small minority of sightings which haven't been explained by other means. He's whittled it down to about 2% now and those 2% haven't yet been explained. But I think I speak for most astronomers when I say that I think that these 2% of sightings will be explained by phenomena which perhaps aren't yet understood, but I don't see why we have to start recoursing to imagining people from other civilisations are coming to contact us and I'd like to describe my thoughts on that a bit later.

R. Whiteley: Yes, okay, well, lots of fascinating points there, but let's go straight to you, Brian because your job at Chrysis is basically when you hear of them you go out and investigate sightings. People ring you up and say - look, there's been a sighting and you nip off straightaway and have a look. Is that basically what you do?

Mr. Straight: Not really, no, it depends very much on how important we consider the sighting is. If it's just lights in the sky, or something like that, we won't bother. If we get a sighting which is obviously of an unusual object , say, close to the ground seen by a large number of people then we tend to go out on that. Our position, however, is very similar to Heather's, that we believe that there is at present absolutely no scientific evidence for the existence of U.F.Os, however there is .. after scientific analysis has been applied to UFO sightings a disturbing residue of cases which are left unexplained. We are more interested in looking at these unexplained cases in an attempt to try and explain exactly what they are.

R. Whiteley: Well, Patrick Stevens in London, you've heard there the view of the people in the studio here. Can I ask you then what - if I may put it this way - the professional view is of the existence of U.F.Os because one of your jobs is to deal with U.F.Os.

Mr. Stevens: Well, I can tell you what the Ministry of Defence view is and that is very similar to Heather Cooper's, that there's no doubt at all that there are extraordinary phenomena in the skies that can be seen and there's no doubt in our mind that most of the reports come from eminently sensible and responsible people. The only question is what is behind those phenomena and what worries us is the way people immediately transfer the term UFO, they've seen something which is unexplained and unidentified and they immediately turn that into a flying saucer and they immediately transpose that into alien spacecraft. There is no evidence for this whatsoever.

R. Whiteley: What about this 2% that Heather says is unexplained?

Mr. Stevens: I think Heather made the point there that there are a great many extraordinary ... there are very many strange reasons to account for the phenomena and there may well be a residue which cannot be explained because you haven't got sufficient detail, or because you get a conflict of evidence sometimes and sometimes the situation is very unusual, the atmospheric conditions are rare and you can't quite explain what it is. It's rather like a mirage, if you look and see something in a mirage you cannot possibly know what is the other end of that mirage unless you have independent evidence.

R. Whiteley: Just again, I'm anxious to get things quite clear, can I hear it from your lips, that officially the Ministry of Defence is not saying U.F.Os do not exist?

Mr. Stevens: What we say is there are strange things to be seen in the sky, what we say most emphatically is we don't believe that those represent alien spacecraft, we don't believe there's been a single alien spacecraft in our sky.

R. Whiteley: Ah, well, you, Ray Nielsen, probably wouldn't agree with that?

Rev. Nielsen: Well, of course I wouldn't agree with that. There are a good many people around the world who wouldn't agree with that for the simple reason that if you research this subject very, very carefully and, Mr.Stevens, I remember a case in 1962 where we're not talking about a thin pinpoint of light in the sky, we're talking about an encounter that a member of this country had and he was seventy-five feet away from an object which he described perfectly as a craft of this nature. That man released his information after his experience and his account was published in the daily Press with a full explanation from your Department saying that what he'd seen was the reflections of his headlamps off a low flying cloud and yet your Department did not investigate that man until the day after you released that statement. Now that is the kind of treatment I think that this ... the people in this country are fed-up with, is the too simple explanation of something which obviously is an encounter of a very unusual kind.

R. Whiteley: What you're saying is that it's too easy to laugh it off, what you would call is a sighting?

Rev. Nielsen: Yes, absolutely, especially one of that close proximity.

R. Whiteley: Well, Brian Straight ... I mean Brian Straight is not laughing it off, you don't laugh off every claim that's made do you?

Mr. Straight: No, certainly not, but Chrysis itself has recourse to a number of people with university backgrounds in everything from astronomy through physics to psychology and our researches have indicated very strongly that the UFO phenomena is very much connected with the psychology of the witness. We think that this is very important, in that if you examine - as Ray said UFOs have been seen for hundreds of years, if you look at the sightings, the UFO itself always mirrors the level of technology of the society in which the witness exists.....

R. Whiteley: Are you saying basically.... are you saying that a person who actually wants to see a UFO probably will?

Mr. Straight: No.

R. Whiteley: .. because of that state of mind.

Mr. Straight: No, I'm not saying that, what I'm saying is that there appears to be some external phenomenon which is very badly understood which witnesses interpret in certain ways, exactly what that external phenomenon is is of course very difficult to say, as I say Romans saw flying shields, Americans saw steam-powered airships, people nowadays see spacecraft.

R. Whiteley: Yes, but I mean the design hasn't actually changed, I mean they're very old-fashioned, they've been like that for years and years, haven't they, that shape?

Rev. Nielsen: Well, I think logic tells you that if - and I'm not being dogmatic here, I'm just saying what we believe and other people too - if we believe that these are intelligently controlled, and I believe they are, then whoever can manufacture a craft that can transverse millions of miles of space and still be that size must be pretty well advanced.

R. Whiteley: Lady and gentlemen, just hold it there for a couple of minutes, I want you all to listen to a clip of tape recorded specially for us by Mr.Raymond Cass of Bridlington.

Mr. Cass: UFOs are a visual phenomenon. Things seen in the sky. Voices or radio signals of unknown origin are an audio curiosity which nevertheless have interesting parallels with UFOs. Present day UFO investigators are divided now between the nuts and bolts theory, that is extra-terrestrial craft of a tangible nature and a rival and revolutionary hypothesis rapidly gaining ground that the UFOs are non-physical, possibly projections from the collective unconscious of mankind.

R. Whiteley: Well, Mr.Cass there posing a couple of questions, but he goes on to claim that he has in claim recorded unexplained abnormal voices speaking in polyglot, that's an element where two or more voices are combined in one set of speech. Listen to this.
(Extract)

Well, Mr. Cass reckons that he's recorded that polyglot far out in space. We've listened to it again and again and again and it seems to be a combination of sort of German, but we thought we heard the word a couple of times "Elvis", now, you know - I'm being serious, we thought we heard the name "Elvis". Now... we're all laughing away - you're not.

Rev. Nielsen: I'm not.

R. Whiteley: No, because you believe that but can I ask you, Mr.Stevens in London, what do you think about this polyglot claim, recording voices from out of space?

Mr. Stevens: Well, it's very difficult. All I got there was a bit of atmospherics and a couple of words which might have come from anywhere and I've no idea what they were, or what was said and I can't really comment seriously on that, but I will comment on what was said earlier on, which is that .. this idea that these alien spacecraft are not material and you find that the ufologists get forced more and more into these extraordinary explanations. They suggest that there are tens of thousands of visits every year, it's inconceivable that these can be fresh visits from distant .. some perhaps ten hundred light years away, so they must be hiding somewhere and when it can be proved that they aren't hiding it somewhere, people have to invent the kind of paranormal explanation, that they come from other space time continuance.

R. Whiteley: Heather Cooper, I wonder why don't these people land?

Miss Cooper: Well, there are two wonderful paradoxes which Patrick has brought up: astronomers believe that we are very, very common in the universe, that life is probably very likely to be common, we're made out of the most widespread chemicals and elements and that sort of thing. Okay, so life is common in the universe then why on earth are all these people coming to look at us, are we some sort of celestial curiosity. So if all these things are indeed artifacts of another civilisation coming to look at us, why are they doing so? On the other hand if life isn't common in the universe then why do we see so many UFOs?

R. Whiteley: Why don't they land then?

Rev. Nielsen: Well, they have. The answer very simply, Richard, is that they have landed, that at the moment they are unable to land openly as many people would like them to, for example, in Central Park or Hyde Park. They are governed very strictly by a law we believe which 'unables' them to directly interfere with our free will, in other words their introduction into our atmosphere is part of a controlled plan, something which has already been planned to help mankind, if mankind wants to be helped, but if he treats the subject with ridicule, with contempt, with scientific and intellectual narrowmindedness, then they can only help us to the degree that we accept them.

R. Whiteley: You're taking the brunt of this I think really, but never mind. Most of the photos we see of flying saucers ...

Rev. Nielsen: ... are blurred.

R. Whiteley: Yes.

Rev. Nielsen: Out of focus.

R. Whiteley: With the great sophistication we've got these days in photography and tele vision and so on, why ...

Rev. Nielsen: I've gone into this very, very carefully, as you can well imagine, and a lot of photographs have been taken to general film in Hollywood, Kodak examines an awful lot of them, and it's the same not only with flying saucer phenomenon but with an awful lot of terrestrial phenomenon. It's very, very difficult to photograph a clear picture of phenomena of this type. I believe that around each of these spacecraft that visits this earth is what we call a field or force field and this interferes, or interrupts with the emulsion on the film so that you cannot get an absolutely clear-cut .... as a matter of fact....

R. Whiteley: What's your view on that, Brian, do you agree with that?

Mr. Straight: Well, no, it's very .... obviously one hesitates to say that all the photographs that have been handed in to you .. research groups and governments are fakes, in fact. I've never yet seen a photograph which could not be faked in some way and to me that means that the photograph is, therefore, devalued. What interests me much more is why people need to think that these photographs are of extra-terrestrial objects. You know, I think that there's a very.... in modern man there is some sort of need to believe that these things are extraterrestrial and they're brothers from out of space who're coming to save us. It seems to me that's

a much more interesting thing to look at than actually to take the photograph apart, because you can't ever really prove when it comes to the sort of nth degree of analysis whether a photograph is genuine or not, you can only say whether it's likely to be.

R. Whiteley: Well, what I'm able to do now actually is to introduce you to some exclusive "Calendar" film which we managed to take the other day, have a look at this.

(Film)

You can see it there, it's coming through the murk there, you can just see.... there it is. Well, Ray Nielsen, that film has come into our possession, does that say anything to you?

Rev. Nielsen: Not really, no, to be really honest with you, I mean I'd have to see it in freeze frame and identify it, the same way that the New Zealand Government is taking the trouble to examine the film there.

R. Whiteley: Yes, okay, it was a difficult condition for you to see it in the bright lights of the studio on the monitor. Heather, did you have any theories on that?

Miss Cooper: Well, I thought it was a frizby but I'm not saying anything more!

R. Whiteley: Well, actually that's very good because .. what a clever girl you are, because we have to come clean. We shot that yesterday afternoon in the garden outside the studios by tossing a tureen ... covers a dish from the canteen up in the air.

Rev. Nielsen: Well, freeze frame would have shown that up.

R. Whiteley: You reckon? Okay, yes, I take the point. Now a lot of people say, indeed the House of Lords said on Thursday, governments - certain governments are hushing up the whole question of U.F.Os, so let me first ask you if you, very briefly, go along with that?

Rev. Nielsen: Yes, I do. I was part of a scientific delegation last year to New York where I met Sir Eric Geary*. who's leading the delegation to the United Nations and I met scientists including Professor Heinek and they are all agreed that after years of investigation the evidence is overwhelmingly against, I'm afraid, the idea that everything's in the open. I'm afraid that there is a cover-up, the big powers do not ....

R. Whiteley: You call it the Cosmic Watergate I see.

Rev. Nielsen: Yes, that term was coined by a nuclear physicist by the name of Dr.Stanton Cleeton*....

R. Whiteley: Okay. Well, let's ask Mr.Patrick Stevens of the M.O.D., he is the man who'll be called upon to defend us from these things eventually: is the government covering up on these things, I mean do you know that they exist but you're sort of saying... the government's saying 'nonsense, they don't exist', when you really know they do exist?

Mr. Stevens: It's total nonsense the idea of a cover-up and this is a thing which the ufologists keep coming back to, they know that if there were visits from alien spacecraft on anything like the scale that's suggested, it must have come to the attention of governments, so when governments deny that they know anything at all about alien spacecraft ever having arrived, the ufologists promptly say it must be a cover-up, but there really isn't any cover-up, there's nothing to cover up, there never have been any alien spacecraft here and all the evidence, including the very extensive scientific studies done by the Americans, indicate that there's nothing at all in the way of alien spacecraft visiting here. UFOs there are, in the sense of things which are seen in the sky and require explanation, but there are perfectly sensible explanations for them.

R. Whiteley: Well, of course Mr.Nielsen thinks that they are friendly, but I just wondered if you gentlemen in the Ministry of Defence are taking precautionary steps in case they do exist and in case they're hostile. Are there any defence systems we have to use against them?

Mr. Stevens: No, at least to use against curious phenomena in the sky, you don't need any defence systems. I don't know how I can convince somebody who really believes that there's a cover-up. Lord Strabolgi said in the House of Lords the other day, speaking on behalf of the Government he said 'really there is no cover-up' and he gave his total assurance. What evidence can I produce?

Rev. Nielsen: He's hardly liable to say anything else, but permit me to say this, I mean the Earl of Kimberley and I were discussing this the other day and he doesn't regard the House of Lords debate as being a defeat. You don't expect somebody to turn round and say - 'oh yes, yes, you're right, all these years we have been withholding evidence', you can't say that. All that we can hope is that there are at least ten governments now who have told the U.N. that they are willing to submit

evidence that they have collected over the years, let's hope that gradually when this comes out in the open, more governments will follow suit and say - there you are, there's the evidence, you make up your own mind.

R. Whiteley: Heather, I know you haven't said, you know, that you don't believe... you're prepared to believe the 2%, but is there one thing would convince you as an astronomer that they exist. Would one have to land basically in Hyde Park and chaps get out of it for you to believe ....

Miss Cooper: I'd like that very much indeed. I want physical evidence which can be analysed in the laboratory basically, I want ...

R. Whiteley: A bit of metal or what?

Miss Cooper: A bit of metal, if it had an unusual composition, if it had unusual radioactive properties or something like that. I would like perhaps to ... for more astronomers to see UFOs, it's very strange that astronomers don't see UFOs, they're the chaps who're out all night observing. People who're out at night don't tend to see UFOs, it tends to be - and can I come back to your psychological point - people perhaps who want to see UFOs do see them.

R. Whiteley: Very briefly because we've only got thirty seconds left.

Rev. Nielsen: Well, in the House of Lords it was mentioned that a Ministry of Defence document was published where it listed eighteen people who had had contacts over the last two years.

Mr. Stevens: I've got that document in my hand ... I have that document in my hand ....

R. Whiteley: (interrupting) Well, we're focussing on it, we can see a jolly good....

Mr. Stevens: I can tell you straightaway that it is nothing like ... remotely like any Ministry of Defence document, it's got these alleged sightings, but anybody who knows anything about Ministry of Defence documents could tell you that's a fraud. (interruptions) Refer to anybody who knows anything about the Ministry of Defence, there's no date, there's no such Department....

R. Whiteley: (interrupting) Thank you very much indeed. All of you in the studio thank you very much.

...ooOoo...

* denotes phonetic spelling

 VIEWPOINT AQUARIUS (3)

FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Sightings continue unabated, appealing to newcomers; old hands tend to skip them; veterans realise that Governments knew in 1947 that Saucers were real and had made contact.

In 1947. All the lies, investigations, pontifications of the past 31 years have been a cynical cover-up. Let's face that.

Let's please, too, *spare a thought of thanks to the Space Peoples* for the prodigious effort of providing constant/world-wide sightings, and let's be grateful for the progress we earthlings have made in truly opening our minds,

so that the Space Peoples can increase the repeat-visits-to-the-same-area - because we all now welcome/accept their quiet help, and our group aura has lightened enough to

raise the frequency of contacts.

= = HOME NEWS = =

IMPORTANT: Please don't skip this one

UFO/45/MEMO/666/78 COPY 17/ 75

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT OF AERIAL STUDIES

*** CLASSIFIED TO ALL PERSONNEL BELOW AGDO 2

CONTACTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 22/2/78 (23) AS FOLLOWS:

K5634	[redacted]	LEICESTER	559/7C	CLASS 5	23/ 5/77 0935
K5635		BRADFORD	IIA/?	CLASS 5	24/ 5/77 1116
K5636		LONDON (SW)	559/7C	CLASS 3	16/ 6/77 0600
K5637					
K5638		LONDON (SW)	559/7C	CLASS 5	23/ 7/77 1755
K5639		FALMOUTH	558/0'X	CLASS 2D	23/ 7/77 1721
K5640		LLANELLI	555/C4S	CLASS 5	1/ 8/77 0931
K5641		SOUTHALL	640 OKW/2	CLASS 16	11/ 9/77 1159
K5642		LEEDS	559/7C	CLASS 5	18/10/77 0445
K5643		BELFAST	088/23	CLASS 16	22/11/77 2350
K5644		ABERDEEN	088/23	CLASS 6	23/11/77 0020
K5645		SLOUGH	559/7C	CLASS 5	14/12/77 1807
K5646		BELPER	H6/44/46	CLASS 16	23/12/77 2300
K5647		DERBY	559/KW	CLASS 5	31/12/77 1305
K5648		TRURO	559/?	CLASS 8	2/ 1/78 0430
K5649		SELBY	1080/46	CLASS 16	23/ 1/78 1056
K5650		GLASGOW	559SERIES	CLASS 5	1/ 2/78 0945
K5651		LONDON (E)	7A/7C	CLASS 23	22/ 2/78 1201

/*ENDLIST

CLASSIFICATION NOTIFIED TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

METRPOLITAN POLICE
DEFENCE (AIR FORCE)
DEFENCE (CIVIL)
SPECIAL PATROL GROUPS
B.B.C. (INTELLIGENCE BRANCH)
SUB-REGIONAL CONTROLS
COMPUTER DATA SECTION
MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
/*ENDLIST

FURTHER CONTROLS AND DATELINE NETWORK CMDAR VIA NDHQ CHELTENHAM

OPERATION 23 NOTIFICATION TO SECTIONS B H W Z VIA NDHQ CHELTENHAM
NORAD CYBERTECH LINKF6

DATA COMPILATION NETWORK SECTIONS H K W

FURTHER NOTIFICATION FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN VIA COMM. 46 (78)

RLD CIA NORAD UFO 23

*** LISTED AND CLASSIFIED

/*END COPY 17/ 75 CLASSIFIED 2298/44/C/AGDO 2/23M

"I would like to mention to you what a wonderful sight my husband and I about four weeks ago. It was one whole field covered in Angel Hair. The field is grown for hay so there is clover and lots of tufts of grass and it was on a Sunday morning at 7.15 a.m. It was a lovely morning, so peaceful and quiet and nobody was about, only us and we always take Simba, our dog, on this field. Then we saw it - it was lovely, everywhere was this Angel Hair. I was picking it up on my hands and as it was melting, Simba was licking it off like little droplets of water and on every tuft of grass they looked like little silvery domes and they glistened in the sunlight. The whole field was covered. Now they can't say it was spiders' webs because it would have taken millions of spiders to have done that in one night. Even my husband said that, it was so thick. It was a lovely sight."

Mrs. [redacted] Faversham, Kent.

Kent and Sussex Courier 23.6.78 (credit C.E.Woodcraft)

Silent UFO speeding over the forest puzzles surveyors

" 'I could not believe my eyes,' said 34 year old Mr. [redacted], who is carrying out a geology survey for the Southern Water Authority. 'I was looking down the valley towards Lady Castle Stewart's estate when I just saw something silhouetted against a high bank of fir trees. The forest around the radio station is something like 600 ft above sea level and I was sort of looking down on it. It was 500 to 600 yards away and about 50 to 60 ft below me, but about 100ft above the ground. It was flying down the valley towards Nutley and I would have only seen it because it was outlined against the trees. It moved on over the A22 and vanished in the horizon. From where my mate, [redacted], and I picked up seeing it we reckon it covered about four miles in three to four seconds.

I am colour blind but my mate tells me it was light coloured underneath and red on top. The first glance, the first instant impression, was of the shape of a high-powered speed boat, the sort that race in the channel. There was no engine noise and I could not imagine anything like a plane travelling that fast and that low. It was moving too fast for a crop spraying machine, and anyway there is nothing to spray there. It's just forest. I contacted the police in the hope that someone else might have reported seeing it. It was about 2.30p.m. on Tuesday June 13, and as the object went over the big lay-by on the A22 I thought a lorry driver or someone who stopped there might have seen it or could have corroborated the sighting.

I suppose a couple of seconds had passed before I tapped my mate on the shoulder to draw his attention to the object. He agreed with me that we could not see wings on it. *It was about 20 to 30 feet long.* I could not get a true shape of its depth because I was looking at it sideways and on top and it flew diagonally across our view. I had the impression it was wedge shaped with possibly a slight rise in the middle. It was very eerie because it moved at such a fantastic speed, 300 to 500 mph, we worked out, and very low to the ground.

I have never seen anything like it. When the Biggin Hill air show is on we always hear the noise of the jets as they scream over the hill, *but this was completely silent.* I suppose we might have heard a murmur if we had not had the rig running. I just could not explain it. It was good daylight and I don't drink. It could not have been an aeroplane. It just did not click with anything I had ever seen before."

Wythenshawe Express and Recorder 2.6.78

"[redacted] and [redacted] were walking along Nearbrook Road, Benchill looking for [redacted]'s sister when a strange object suddenly appeared just above the rooftops as they approached Broadoak Road, shaped like a world war two tin helmet. [redacted] aged 13 said: 'It was massive, bigger than a jet plane. There were lights all around it and two beams coming out from it.'

[redacted], aged 14, added: 'It was low down, just above the house, and it hovered for a couple of minutes and then disappeared. We ran towards it trying to get a closer look.' It was [redacted]'s second close encounter. Once when he was on holiday in Wales, he saw 'two bright things' flash across the sky. 'There was no explanation

Mrs [redacted]

Participants were:

Chairman - Mr Whiteley

Rev Roy Neilson of Alternus.

Mr Brian Straight — Chrysis UFO researcher. Fairly sensible

Heather Cooper — Astronomer at Greenwich. V good & sensible.

Me.

I could not see them (no monitor) nor the bits of film shown.

All seemed to go fairly well, but I don't remember too much.

We were all asked our views about UFOs. I said yes there were UFOs, in sense of unidentified, (real paranormal etc) but no flying saucers or aliens.

I got in the bit about internal inconsistencies (ie where hiding fell), & extraordinary lengths of paranormal /.

There was chat about photographs, fakes etc. which I think went well.

Talk of Hynek having whittled down his 'unexplaineds' to 2 %.

The astronomer was asked about 'irrefutable evidence' & answered well.

I was asked about cover up, & banged on line.

Ron Neilson quoted 'contactees' with 30 secs to go. I interrupted, & tied up the link, & banged on about it being a fable. I don't know how far I got before the Chairman cut in!

PS. Please speak about getting a tape or script.

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE

MINUTE SHEET

Reference

Subject

Report of U.F.O.

Station Milnsbridge Date 21st April 1978

Chief Superintendant [redacted]

I have to report that at 7.00am Friday 21st April 1978, I attended at [redacted], Golcar, Huddersfield and there interviewed Mr [redacted], 62 Years, Butcher, and his wife [redacted]. Telephone No [redacted].

[redacted] stated at 8.30pm she looked from her rear room window and saw a bright object in the sky upon closer examination she saw what appeared to be a round white bright object around 4 times bigger than a star. She summond her husband, he looked through the window and saw the same.

Mr [redacted] then looked at the object through his binoculars and described it as round, bright red circular in shape with a dark band circumscribing asmall area to the upper half of the sphere.

Mr [redacted] stated the object hung around for 1 hour flying in a North South direction, then went away in a western direction.

He could only describe its location as directly above the village of Scapegoat Hill.

The area around Scapegoat hill is surrounded by varies types of transmitting and receivingaerials I have checked these out and all appear in order. I have spoken to personnel at the BBC radio transmitting station at Pole Moor and they have informed me that all is in order.

Could a copy of this please be passed to the war department at Wakefield for there information. There have been no other reports of a UFO in this area at this time.

PC [redacted]

WEST YORKS MET. POLICE
24 APR 1978
HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION

24/4

8/2/3/4/81

S[illegible]FORDSHIRE
[illegible]OLICE

REPORT

Form 65.

STATION. Tunstall	DIVISION. S.O.T. North	DIVN. REF.	H.Q. REF. 78/43/7
RANK. P.C.	No. [redacted]	NAME. [redacted]	DATE. 10.4.78

SUBJECT Report of unidentified flying object.

At 8p.m. on Thursday 6th April 1978 I was on duty at the Tunstall Police Office, Stoke North Division when a Mr. [redacted], aged 57years of [redacted], Wesley Street, Tunstall reported that he had seen an unidentified flying object in the Weston Coyney/Weir area of the City between 2205hrs and 2225hrs on Wednesday 5th April 1978.

On receipt of this report the proforma as laid out in Force Weekly Order 784 of December 1971 was completed by Inspector [redacted] Headquarters Control Room and myself.

No other reports of a UFO have been received at this station. It will be seen that Mr. [redacted] did not report this matter until 8 p.m. the following day after the evening news bulletin and the local paper reported a sighting of a similar object in the South of England on that Wednesday night.

I ask that this covering report be forwarded to Headquarters Stafford for their information.

[redacted]
P.C. [redacted]

The Chief Constable.
STAFFORD.

- 2 -

Chief Superintendent Hemmings,

Please forward to Headquarters.

[redacted]

11.4.78. Superintendent

UFO Aldershot — Wednesday
5th April 1978.

Mr. [redacted], RAE Farnborough phoned to say that he understood kite flying took place on Invesdown, Aldershot.

He thought it possible that night-time kite flying with lights attached to the kites could produce the effect described in the UFO reports

[redacted]

[redacted]

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB017 06/0717 0960060Z

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 060625Z APR

FROM LATCCMIL
TO PODUK AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
DIG LGZ 134
AERIAL PHENOMENA
A 052130Z APRIL
B ONE LARGE STAR CHANGABLE VERY BRIGHT NONE NONE
C ASH SURREY OUTDOORS STATIONARY
D BINOCULARS
E NORTH
F 40 DEGS
G N/K
H ERRATIC
J CLEAR SKY
K INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
L ASH SURREY POLICE
M MR [redacted] CARETAKER [redacted] ASH SURREY
N NONE

PAGE 2 RTDPGA 001 UNCLAS
O PC 112 ASH POLICE
P 052130Z APR
ST

DISTRIBUTION - LGZ
F
CAB 2 S 4 (Air) ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
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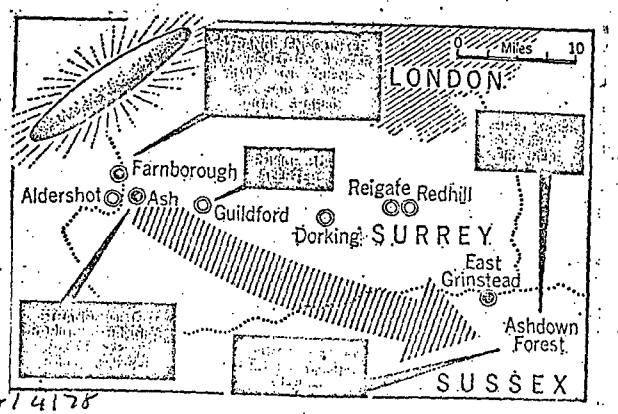
Police hunt scorched earth UFO



Express p 20-21 7/4/78

DOWN IN the forest something glowed . . . and yesterday police were searching for a UFO which started a fire.

But first they swept the area with a geiger counter counter for possible radio-activity.

The UFO came down in the Kingstanding area of Ashdown Forest, near East Grinstead, Sussex, on Wednesday night.

It was seen by Mrs M. R. Knotting, of Yew Tree Farm, Clockhouse Lane, Nutley.

She reported a mysterious ball of light dropping through the sky at a low trajectory and break into two as it hit the ground. The time: 10.30.

Immediately fire broke out in two areas—one spreading to three acres, the other to one acre.

Firemen put out the blaze.

And as police combed through the scorched earth yesterday, came reports from other people who had witnessed the strange sighting.

In neighbouring Surrey, Police Constable Alan Craggs had answered an emergency call from a baffled school caretaker. The time: 9.50.

By JACK HILL and GILL MARTIN

Colours

He ended up booking a multi-coloured UFO. The 24-year-old officer stationed at Ash, near Aldershot, stood watching the object for 25 minutes.

With him was the caretaker, Peter Inwood, aged 50, a former member of the Royal Observer Corps, and Mr Inwood's daughters, Jacqueline, 13, and Christine, 15.

Together, they saw the UFO change colour from red to blue to white to green.

"It was moving erratically over Twesledown, Aldershot.

"My first impression when I stepped out of my Panda car was that a very bright white star was overhead," said Constable Inwood.

"It appeared to be moving up and down and then across the sky.

"And all the time it was changing colour.

"I saw passing aircraft because the night sky was very clear and I'm absolutely emphatic that this was not one.

"I didn't believe in UFOs before, but now I have an open mind on the matter."

He wound up making an official report to county police headquarters in Guildford.

Caretaker Inwood told how he focused his binoculars on the bright flashing object.

"All I had to drink that night was Lucozade," he said.

"This was no aircraft or helicopter, I'd stake my life on that.

"Eventually, after more than two hours, it dropped behind some trees on the horizon and we went to bed."

Scared

The strange encounter was also witnessed in Farnborough by housewife Mrs Maureen Slater, of Hindle Close, and her 11-year-old son, Andrew.

The boy, and two pals, were playing on a local recreation ground when, as Andrew told his mother, "We saw a large, cigar-shaped object hovering over the playing fields."

The time: 9 o'clock.

Scared, the boys raced to Andrew's home. His mother walked outside to stare into the sky . . . and disappearing into the distance she saw flashing lights she could not explain.

Meanwhile, back in Sussex, police, who have called off the UFO hunt suggest two explanations: aircraft from nearby Gatwick or Army flares.

The Ministry of Defence confirms that flares could have been used by a cadet force camped in the forest.

And flares were certainly fired by soldiers on exercises near Ash.

But the flares are white—not like the multi-coloured lights sighted—and only last 10 seconds.

"So if anyone saw anything else it must have been one of those famous UFOs" said a Ministry of Defence spokesman.

X See note attached
& report in April folder 8/2/3/4/2

D. Telegraph

7 April 78.

MULTI-COLOUR UFO SIGHTED BY POLICEMAN

A former Royal Observer Corps member and a policeman told yest coloured object wh Wednesda Inwood, Craggs, 2 said the and Ham

At th Maureen Farnboro and two cigar-shap hovered a local re said it ha and red

Meanw in the Ashdown Grinstead which wa resident heathland called of ing was

MULTI-COLOUR UFO SIGHTED BY POLICEMAN

Police C3 7/4/78

A former Royal Observer Corps member and a policeman told yesterday of a multi-coloured unidentified flying object which both watched on Wednesday night. Mr Peter Inwood, 50, and Pc Alan Craggs, 24, both of Ash, Surrey, said the UFO was over Surrey and Hampshire.

At the same time Mrs Maureen Slater, 36, of nearby Farnborough, Hants, her son and two of his friends saw a cigar-shaped UFO which hovered close to the ground at a local recreation ground. She said it had flashing blue, green and red lights.

Meanwhile a police search in the Kingstanding area of Ashdown Forest near East Grinstead, Sussex, for a UFO which was reported by a local resident to have set fire to heathland on Wednesday was called off yesterday after nothing was found.

Down in the forest—a UFO

E/S. P5. 6.4.78

By Ian Morton

POLICE were searching part of Ashdown Forest in Sussex and carrying out radioactivity checks today after a UFO incident in which gorse was set on fire.

In a separate incident two men watched a multi-coloured UFO for more than an hour near Aldershot and a Farnborough woman reported that her young son had been frightened by a UFO.

The sightings are the latest in a series of UFO reports in the Surrey and Sussex areas, some of them by people with experience of aeronautical matters.

In the Kingstanding area of Ashdown Forest a 10-strong police squad searched the ground for a UFO said to have set fire to gorse at about 10.30 last night.

A resident at a nearby farm reported a mystery object which fell from the sky and broke in two as it hit the ground, causing the fire, said Inspector Pat Regan, of East Grinstead.

Firemen put out the blaze. Police were checking for possible radioactivity as well as evidence of the falling object.

Red, white, blue

A policeman at Ash, Surrey, who was formerly in the RAF, said he watched a multi-coloured UFO for more than 20 minutes.

P-c Alan Craggs was called to Ash Walsh School by the caretaker who had been watching the object for more than an hour.

Both men saw the UFO change colour from red to blue to white and finally to green. It moved erratically in the sky over Twesledown, Aldershot, travelling north.

P-c Craggs, a one-time corporal at RAF West Drayton, rang his old base, where it was confirmed that the RAF had no knowledge of the object.

At the same time a woman at Farnborough rang police to say her young son had been frightened by an object in the sky which gave out bright golden flashes as it hovered over playing fields.

● LOS ANGELES: What appeared to be a meteor flashed across the sky above Los Angeles leaving a trail of brilliant light and prompting hundreds of telephone calls (UPI).

10/3/14/17

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

5th April 1948 9.20 pm — 10.10 pm.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Bright light flashing green & white - appeared to have red light at each end & to be rotating

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

Outdoors. Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

...y objects. (Telephone lines; high voltage lines; reservoir, lake ...amp 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 other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

54F(ai)

M. Name and address of informant.

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted] Welwyn Garden City Herts.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

Informants mother

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

11.45 am 9/4/78.

0/2/3/4/16.

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

5th. april 1978 - from 9.30 pm - 10.10 pm.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Like a large bright twinkling star — changed colour from White - blue - red - green - appeared to be rotating

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

In car at Chadwell Heath, Essex, travelling towards London

D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

Looking towards London (West)

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

Low in sky

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

—

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

—

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

—

...y objects. (Telephone lines; high voltage lines; reservoir, lake ...amp 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 other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

S4F(a)

M. Name and address of informant.

Mrs [redacted] Islington.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

11.30 am 7/4/78.

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

5th april 1978 between 9-10 pm.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

like a helicopter - red - turned green & flashed back to normal silver

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

Upstairs window - indoors

D. How observed. (~~Naked eye~~, also binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

Very low

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

appeared to be over a village 3-4 miles away

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

—

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Very clear.

...y objects. (Telephone lines; high voltage lines; reservoir, lake ...amp 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 other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

5 of (a) & Daily Express.

M. Name and address of informant.

Mr. [redacted]
Winchester, Hants.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

3 others

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

2.45 pm 7/4/78.

[redacted]

OVERNMENT
OVER UP

THIS REALLY IS NONSENSE. THERE'S NOTHING TO COVER UP FROM ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO MOD, WE DON'T BELIEVE THERE HAS EVER BEEN AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT HERE.
FIRST: LORD STRABOLGI, SPEAKING IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS LAST WEEK, GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO GOVERNMENT COVER UP. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE HIM, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONVINCE YOU. BUT I'LL TRY.
SECOND: THE ARRIVAL OF ONE ALIEN SPACE CRAFT WOULD BE A STUNNING EVENT. THE SKIES FULL OF ALIEN SPACE CRAFT, AS THE UFOLOGISTS CLAIM, COULD NEVER BE KEPT HIDDEN FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT WISHED. ANY IDEA OF A COVER UP MUST INCLUDE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THAT WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING.
THIRD: I'LL TELL YOU PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENS ABOUT UFO REPORTS IN MOD. I HAVE ONE LADY WHO SPENDS A SMALL PART OF HER TIME DEALING WITH UFO ENQUIRIES. UFO REPORTS ARE SENT TO THE OPERATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC STAFFS. AT EACH PLACE ONE PERSON, PART TIME, LOOKS AT THEM TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY THING OF DEFENCE INTEREST. NOTHING HAS EVER SUGGESTED ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

IST OF
ONTACTS

THIS PAPER SHOWS THE LENGTHS TO WHICH SOME PEOPLE GO TO CONVINCE OTHERS THAT THE MOD DOES SERIOUS UFO RESEARCH. IT PRETENDS TO BE A LIST OF PEOPLE CONTACTED BY MOD ABOUT UFOS. ~~LIST OF PEOPLE CONTACTED BY MOD ABOUT UFOS~~ - NUMBERS K5643 to K5651. ANYONE KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT MOD CAN EXPLAIN IT IS PHONEY. THERE IS NO DEPARTMENT OF AERIAL STUDIES IN MOD, THE LAYOUT IS RUBBISH, THERE IS NO PROPER CLASSIFICATION AND SO ON. IT IS A FAKE. MORE BLUNTLY, A LIE. BUT I SUPPOSE SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IT.

NO DATE

OVERNMENT
OVER UP 2

THIS IS NONSENSE. UFOLOGISTS KNOW THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN ACTIVITY ON ANYTHING LIKE THE SCALE THEY CLAIM, IT MUST HAVE COME TO THE NOTICE OF GOVERNMENTS. WHEN GOVERNMENTS DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF ALIEN SPACE CRAFT, UFOLOGISTS DON'T BELIEVE IT.

PERHAPS WE IN MOD ARE PARTLY TO BLAME. WE HAVE TAKEN THE EASY WAY OUT AND JUST SAID "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT UFOS POSE A THREAT TO DEFENCE". THAT HAS SAVED US FROM ARGUMENTS. WHAT WE SAY NOW IS MORE TO THE POINT - UFOS HAVE NATURAL EXPLANATIONS LIKE FIREBALLS AND SO ON: THEY ARE NOT ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

OS WHICH
VER AND THEN
SH AWAY

WE GET SOME REPORTS WITH THIS DESCRIPTION AND THERE COULD BE A NUMBER OF EXPLANATIONS. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS AIRCRAFT SEEN HEAD-ON AND THEREFORE APPEARING TO BE STATIONARY, WHICH THEN TURN AT AN ANGLE AND CAN THEREFORE BE SEEN TO BE MOVING AT SPEED. IT IS STRANGE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO JUDGE DISTANCE. LAST YEAR WE GOT MANY REPORTS OF A KNOWN SATELLITE RE-ENTRY, BUT ONE DESCRIBED "AN OVAL THING WITH A WHITE COCKPIT WHICH HOVERED AND THEN SHOT OFF AT GREAT SPEED".

TERNAL
CONSISTENCIES

THERE IS SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THE CLAIM OF HUGE NUMBERS OF SIGHTINGS. WHAT IS THE POINT OF ALL THESE VISITS OVER SO MANY DECADES, TO NO APPARENT PURPOSE? DO "THEY" MIND BEING SEEN OR NOT? IF THEY DON'T, WHY HAVE "THEY" NEVER COMMUNICATED WITH GOVERNMENTS? WHY IS THERE NO EVIDENCE ON RADAR FOR THIS HUGE NUMBER OF VISITS? WHY HAS JODRELL BANK RADIO TELESCOPE NEVER FOUND ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT? WHY HAVE NO ARTEFACTS BEEN FOUND, NO BROKEN BITS OF SPACE CRAFT? WHY IS THERE NOT A SINGLE CONVINCING PHOTOGRAPHY OF ALIEN SPACE CRAFT? ASSUMING EACH SIGHTING IS NOT A VISIT FROM ANOTHER STAR, WHERE ARE THEY HIDING?

UFOLOGISTS HAVE TO INVENT MORE EXTRAORDINARY STORIES TO EXPLAIN THE DICREPANCIES. THE ALIENS ARE HIDING IN A HUGE HOLE IN THE EARTH? OR THE EARTH IS HOLLOW. OR THEY ARE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA. OR THEY COME FROM "ANOTHER SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM". IT ISN'T JUST A QUESTION OF VISITS BY ALIEN SPACE CRAFT. UFOLOGISTS ARE FORCED INTO EXPLANATIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS MORE EXTRAORDINARY AND INCAPABLE OF BEING EITHER PROVED OR DISPROVED.

I HAVE SEEN A
FO"

PEOPLE SAY "I HAVE SEEN A UFO", AS THOUGH THERE IS ONE SPECIAL KIND OF THING UP THERE. BY DEFINITION IT IS UNIDENTIFIED, JUST AN UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENON. THEY TRANSPOSE "UFO" INTO "FLYING SAUCER", AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT HAS BECOME AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

I WAS TALKING TO A LADY ABOUT UFOS, AND SHE SAID "AH, BUT I'VE SEEN A UFO". SHE DESCRIBED IT - JUST AFTER DUSK, VERY HIGH, GLOWING, MOVING IRREGULARLY ABOUT THE SKY. I TOLD HER THAT WAS A CLASSIC DESCRIPTION OF A METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON.. BUT SHE SAID "NO, IT WAS A UFO".

THE NAME UFO STICKS. BUT IT JUST MEANS SOMETHING YOU DON'T RECOGNISE.

NO EXPERTS WHY
CONFIDENT

IT DEPENDS WHICH WAY YOU TACKLE THE PROBLEM. IF YOU SAY "EVERYTHING STRANGE IN THE SKY IS A UFO, AND EVERY UFO IS AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT, THEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE. IF YOU SAY "THERE ARE STRANGE PHENOMENA, WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CAUSES?" YOU FIND THERE ARE PLENTY OF SENSIBLE CAUSES. THEN THERE IS NO NEED TO INVENT THE FANTASTIC EXPLANATION OF ALIEN SPACE CRAFT - FOR WHICH THERE IS NOT ONE JOT OF DIRECT EVIDENCE.

BESIDES, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ALIEN SPACE CRAFT, YOU FIND THEY ARE FULL OF INTERNAL INCONSISTENCIE

(ABOVE

Some kinds of reports

ANY STRANGE HINGS

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF STRANGE THINGS TO SEE IN THE SKY, REPORTED BY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER THESE SIGHTINGS REPRESENT NATURAL PHENOMENA OR ALIEN SPACE CRAFT. WE SAY THERE ARE NATURAL EXPLANATIONS - FIREBALLS, MET BALLOONS, AIRCRAFT LIGHTS, MIRAGES AND SO ON. THERE IS NO NEED TO INVENT ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

OD VIEW

WE DON'T BELIEVE THERE HAS EVER BEEN A SINGLE VISIT BY AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT. THERE ARE LOTS OF STRANGE PHENOMENA IN THE SKY, BUT THERE ARE PERFECTLY NATURAL EXPLANATIONS FOR THEM.

HAT EXPLANATIONS

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS. HUGE QUANTITIES OF SPACE DEBRIS ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE, AS METEORS AND FIRE-BALLS; BRIGHT PLANETS AND EVEN THE MOON HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS UFOs; SATELLITE DEBRIS (600 BITS RE-ENTER EVERY YEAR); ST ELMO'S FIRE, BALL LIGHTNING, CURIOUS CLOUD FORMATIONS; MET BALLOONS, AIRCRAFT LIGHTS, AND LANDING LIGHTS; KITES; EVEN BIRDS; CAR LIGHTS ON DISTANT HILLS. A STUDY BY THE COLORADO UNIVERSITY REPORTED 50 EXAMPLES - AND ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIST THEM ALL, THERE WERE SIMPLY TOO MANY.

IRAGE ETC

ALL THOSE PHENOMENA CAN BE MISINTERPRETED IF SEEN UNEXPECTEDLY AND BRIEFLY. WITH DISTORTIONS OF LIGHT, EVEN MIRAGES, THE MOST ORDINARY THINGS ARE QUITE UNRECOGNISABLE, AS ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN A MIRAGE IN THE DESERT CAN SAY.

PECIAL PHENOMENA

SOME OF THE PHENOMENA ARE VERY STRANGE. FOR EXAMPLE:
FIREBALLS: ARE VERY LARGE METEORS, VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL "SHOOTING STAR". THEY HAVE VIVID COLOURS, AND COLOUR CHANGES. THEY MAY BREAK UP, WITH FRAGMENTS CIRCULING OR FLYING AS IF "IN FORMATION". THEY ARE SO BRIGHT THAT PEOPLE OFTEN UNDERESTIMATE THE DISTANCE.
BALL LIGHTNING. STRANGE ELECTRICAL PHENOMENON, WHEN YOU GET A GLOWING BALL THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL, WHICH DRIFTS NEAR THE GROUND, OR EVEN HIGH IN THE AIR. IT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO DRIFT ALONG POWER CABLES AND TELEPHONE LINES.
SUNDOGS, ARE REFLECTIONS OF THE SUN FROM LAYERS OF ICE CRYSTAL IN CLOUDS. IT'S RATHER LIKE SEEING THE SUN IN A CLOUDY MIRROR YOU ALSO GET MOON-DAYS.
SATELLITE DEBRIS CAN OFTEN PRODUCE DRAMATIC PHENOMENA WHEN IT BURNS UP ON RE-ENTRY, SOMETIMES SPLITTING UP.

FOs

OF COURSE THERE ARE "UFO"s, IN THE SENSE OF UNIDENTIFIED THINGS IN THE SKY. THE TROUBLE IS THAT SOME PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY TRANSPOSE "UFO" INTO ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.
SOMETIMES FLYING SAUCER.

STRONAUTS

THE 1968 COLORADO STUDY LOOKED AT THE CLAIM THAT ASTRONAUTS HAD REPORTED UFOS. THE ASTRONAUTS HAD REPORTED MANY STRANGE PHENOMENA, BUT ALL EXCEPT THREE WERE EXPLAINED. THERE WAS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT THE UNEXPLAINED SIGHTINGS WERE ALIEN SPACE CRAFT. REMEMBER THAT SPACE CRAFT USUALLY HAVE SMALL AND SMEARY WINDOWS.

RADAR

RADAR IS IN SOME WAYS MORE FALLIBLE THAN THE HUMAN EYE. MANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS PRODUCE FALSE ECHOES, DUST, FLOCKS OF BIRDS, ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS. A COMMON ONE IS KNOWN AS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION, ANYWAY IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT VISUAL AND RADAR SIGHTINGS ARE OF THE SAME PHENOMENA.

where the pulses bounce off layers in the atmosphere

DIFFICULT CASES

SOME CASES ARE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, BECAUSE THE DESCRIPTION IS TOO VAGUE OR THE EVIDENCE TOO REMOTE, COUPLED WITH EXCEPTIONAL CONDITIONS. IF ONE ACCEPTS THAT NATURAL EXPLANATIONS COVER MOST SIGHTINGS, IT IS AN ENORMOUS AND IRRATIONAL JUMP TO CLAIM THAT THE RESIDUE CONSTITUTE ALIEN SPACE CRAFT WHEN THERE IS NO POSITIVE EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

DETAILED REPORTS

ALWAYS UNWISE TO EVALUATE SUCH REPORTS WITHOUT THE FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE. UFO STORIES ARE LIABLE TO BE EMBELLISHED WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE TELLING. TO ASSESS THEM ONE WOULD HAVE TO READ THE STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, AND KNOW PRECISE DIRECTIONS TIMES, ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AND SO ON. SOME STORIES ARE VERY STRANGE. ON A RECENT TV PROGRAMME TWO PEOPLE DESCRIBED A HUGE GLOWING SPACECRAFT THAT FLEW VERY LOW OVER WEST LONDON: BUT NO-ONE ELSE IN LONDON SAW IT.

UNCRITICAL

MANY UFOLOGISTS SEEM TO ACCEPT UFO REPORTS UNCRITICALLY. THE COLORADO REPORT EXAMINED TWO FAMOUS CASES QUOTED BY LEADING UFOLOGISTS. ONE WAS AN OLD MANUSCRIPT DESCRIBING A UFO SEEN IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: IT WAS A FAKE BY TWENTIETH CENTURY SCHOOLBOYS. THE OTHER WAS THE SO-CALLED TULLI PAPYRUS REFERRING TO UFOS IN THE TIME OF THE PHAROAH THUTMOSE III: THEY ASSESSED THAT A FAKE TOO. ANYWAY NO-ONE CAN PRODUCE THE PAPYRUS. *

VERY THOROUGH SCIENTIFIC STUDY HAS BEEN DONE

COLORADO STUDY/ AMERICANS

IN 1968 THE US AIR FORCE GOT COLORADO UNIVERSITY TO DO AN INDEPENDENT STUDY. THEIR VERY DETAILED SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS WAS PUBLISHED, AND ITS MAIN CONCLUSION WAS (I QUOTE): "NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE STUDY OF UFOS IN THE LAST 21 YEARS THAT HAS ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE". THE REPORT WAS ENDORSED BY A PANEL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. THE ADVICE WE HAVE HAD IS THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN TO CAUSE THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES TO CHANGE THEIR VIEWS.

FRENCH

IT IS OFTEN CLAIMED THAT THE FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE, IN A 1974 BROADCAST, SAID THAT UFOs WERE REAL. I HAVE READ THE TRANSCRIPT. HE SAID THAT THE PHENOMENA WERE GENUINE AND REPORTED BY SENSIBLE PEOPLE. BUT NOWHERE DID HE SAY THAT UFOs WERE REAL IN THE SENSE OF BEING ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

* ONE CASE, DESCRIBED AS 'THE MOST REMARKABLE MYSTERIES OF MODERN TIMES', DESCRIBES HOW AT THE 1915 BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI A UFO DESCENDED IN A CLOUD AND TOOK AWAY A BATTALION OF THE NORFOLK REGIMENT. BUT THE TRUTH IS WRITTEN IN THE OFFICIAL HISTORIES: THE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED FIGHTING AND THEIR BODIES WERE FOUND. A TRAGIC STORY, BUT NOT A TRUE UFO MYSTERY

HERE THERE'S SMOKE (HERE'S FIRE) — THE UFO INDUSTRY IS MAKING A GREAT DEAL OF SMOKE, TO THE CONFUSION OF COMMON SENSE /AND TO ITS OWN SUBSTANTIAL PROFIT/

ORDS DEBATE — VERY LONG DEBATE. ABOUT THREE HOURS. EARL OF HALSBURY, A SCIENTIST, MADE SOME TELLING POINTS ABOUT THE PHENOMENA THAT GET CALLED UFOS (SUN DOGS, GREEN FLASH). LORD HEWLETT WAS BRIEFED FOR THE DEBATE BY SIR BERNARD LOVELL. HE SAID JODRELL BANK RADIO TELESCOPE HAD BEEN ON WATCH FOR 30 YEARS AND NEVER SEEN ANYTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

NEW YEAR SIGHTINGS — THE SIGHTING OVER ENGLAND ON NEW YEARS EVE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE RE-ENTRY OF THE LAUNCHER OF A RUSSIAN SATELLITE, COSMO 1068, LAUNCHED ON 26 DECEMBER. NEARLY ALL THE 100 REPORTS RECEIVED IN MOD WERE CONSISTENT WITH RE-ENTRY OF SPACE DEBRIS.

THE NEW ZEALAND SIGHTINGS ATTRACTED SUCH WIDE PUBLICITY THAT THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THE ADVANCE INFORMATION FROM OUR HIGH COMMISSION THERE LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A NATURAL EXPLANATION.

THE FACT THAT THERE WERE BOTH VISUAL AND RADAR SIGHTINGS CONFUSED SOME PEOPLE. WE ALREADY KNOW THAT CONDITIONS LED TO WHAT IS KNOWN AS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION, WHERE RADAR PULSES BOUNCE OFF LAYERS IN THE ATMOSPHERE: AND IT IS NOT YET SHOWN THAT THE VISUAL AND RADAR SIGHTINGS WERE OF THE SAME THING.

THAT INVESTIGATION ARE MADE — THE REPORTS ARE MAINLY LOOKED AT BY THE OPERATIONS STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR DEFENCE. THIS IS NO PLACE TO GO INTO DETAILS OF AIR DEFENCE, BUT THE MAIN THINGS ARE OBVIOUS - possible INTRUDER AIRCRAFT: SATELLITE DEBRIS IS SOMETIMES INTERESTING.

OW MANY ARE NEXPLAINED — WE DON'T INVESTIGATE TO THE POINT WHERE POSITIVE INVESTIGATION IS MADE, BECAUSE WE ONLY LOOK FOR DEFENCE IMPLICATIONS: ONCE THE [redacted] STAFF ARE SATISFIED THERE ARE NO SUCH IMPLICATIONS, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE MADE. MOD USED TO ENQUIRE A BIT FURTHER SOME YEARS AGO, AND THEN ABOUT 10 PER CENT WERE UNEXPLAINED. BUT THEY WERE ONLY UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE THE DETAILS WERE VAGUE.

FFICIAL SECRETS — ALL GOVERNMENTS PAPERS ARE COVERED BY THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, BUT RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS CAN BE AUTHORISED. THE ONLY REASON OUR UFO SIGHTINGS ARE NOT MADE PUBLIC IS THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC IS CONFIDENTIAL BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE WRITER. WE COULD NOT RELEASE IT WITHOUT EITHER GETTING PERMISSION FROM EVERY WRITER OR DELETING THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES TO PRESERVE THE WRITER'S PRIVACY. YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF YOU WROTE TO A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND THEY PROMPTLY PUBLISHED YOUR LETTER.

NOW, I HAVE ONLY ONE LADY PART TIME ON UFOS. I COULD NOT SPARE HER FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS EDITING THOSE PAPERS. ANYWAY WHAT'S THE POINT? WE HAD 800 REPORTS LAST YEAR, (AND I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY DIFFER MUCH FROM THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY UFOLOGISTS - EXCEPT THAT MOST OF OUR REPORTS ARE GIVEN ON CLEAR PRO-FORMAN.

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

U N C L A S S I F I E D

[illegible] 05/0052 Ø9601080 DUPLICATE

FOR CAJ

ROUTINE Ø5Ø655Z APR

FROM LATCOMIL
TO NODUX AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D
DIG LQZ136
AERIAL PHENOMENA
A Ø5224ØA APR-4Ø MINS
B ONE CONICAL TO SPHERICAL ORANGE WHITE AND RED GREEN BRIGHT
C [redacted] WISBOROUGH GREEN SUSSEX OUTDOORS STATIONARY
D NAKED EYE THEN 25 MAG TELESCOPE
E SOUTH WEST
F 45 DEGS
G NIL
H CHANGING
J NIL
K NONE
L LEWES SUSSEX POLICE
M MR [redacted] WISBOROUGH GREEN SUSSEX
N NIL

PAGE 2 RBDPGA ØØ3 UNCLAS
O NONE
P Ø5223ØZ APR
BT

DISTRIBUTION LQZ

CAB 2 S 4 (Air) ACTION (CXJ 1 DSC(AFDO))
CAM 1 ACS(T)(RAF)
CYD 1 DD Ops(GE)(RAF)
CAL 1 DI 55 B(SIC)
CAV 2 DI 13 d

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

8/2/3/4/12

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

5.4.78

evening

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Golden object with flashing blue/red/white/green lights

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

...y objects. (Telephone lines; high voltage lines; reservoir, lake ...amp 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 other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

Police at Aldershot

M. Name and address of informant.

[redacted]

Farnham Surrey

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

School children & Teacher. Children were asked to draw object that they saw. Caretaker

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

6.5.78 Telephone call to SHf(air).

Police came and were witnesses and reported the incident to [redacted].

From Section 40
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)	Section 40
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	
	(GTN)	Section 40
CHOts		DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
E-Mail		das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
D INFO(EXP)R 1c
Room 012
Old War Office
Whitehall
London
SW1P 2EU

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/1
Date
11 February 2003

RELEASE OF INFORMATION – FILE AF/584 AIR 2/19083 – UFO REPORTS – JANUARY 1974

Copies of the contents of the following folders in this file have been released today to a member of the public in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code).

Folders 584/1/13
584/1/14
584/1/15
584/1/16
584/1/17

All personal details were removed to protect the privacy of those corresponding with the MOD and MOD employees.

The Code states that where information is released it should be noted on the minute sheet of the file, but as this file was requisitioned from the Public Record Office, in accordance with your instructions, I have not added anything to it. You may of course, wish to add a copy of this letter, but I will leave this to your discretion. The request for information and copies of the papers released have been placed on file D/DAS/64/3 Part Z Enclosure 23 which is held in this office.

Section 40

MOD RECORDS ORGANISATION

To: [redacted]

Records Requisitioned from the Public Record Office

The enclosed records were requisitioned for you from the Public Record Office (PRO).

They must not to be mutilated, altered, annotated or added to in any way; and on no account must they be passed to any other authority without written permission from this branch.

You will be held personally responsible for this material whilst it is on charge to you, and accountable for any breach of the above instructions.

THESE RECORDS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY:-

16th MARCH 2003

DO NOT RETURN DIRECTLY TO THE PRO

[redacted]
D INFO(EXP)RECORDS 1c
Room 012
Old War Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SWIA 2EU
Tel/Fax [redacted]

Please sign one copy of this receipt and return it to the address above.

Received: AIR 2/18873
AIR 2/18903 – returned 29/1/03 – Wrong file sent
AIR 29/4200 – RAF Operations Record

Signature [redacted] Name [redacted]

Rank D Branch DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Date 29/1/2003 Tel No [redacted]

Nothing relevant to enquiry found in AIR 2/18873 or AIR 29/4200.
Both returned 12/2/2003

MOD RECORDS ORGANISATION

To: [redacted]

Record Requisitioned from the PRO

The enclosed piece, was requisitioned for you from the Public Record Office (PRO)
It is not to be mutilated, altered, annotated or added to in any way and on no account is it to be passed to any other authority without written permission from this branch.
You will (be held personally responsible for this material whilst it is on charge to you, and accountable for any breach of the above instructions.

THIS RECORD MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY:-

19th March 2003

DO NOT RETURN DIRECTLY TO THE PRO

Return to

[redacted]
D INFO(EXP)R 1c
Room 012
Old War Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1P 2EU
Tel/Fax [redacted]

Please sign one copy of this receipt and return it to the address above.

Received: Air 2/19083 – File returned 12/2/2003

Signature [redacted] Name [redacted]

Rank D Branch DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Date 6/2/2003 Tel No [redacted]

Copies of folders 584/1/13 released. 11/2/2003
584/1/14
584/1/15
584/1/16
584/1/17

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

Section 40
Leyland
Lancashire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
11 February 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your request for the release of documents concerning the alleged 'UFO' crash in the Berwyn mountains range in Wales on 23 January 1974.

Please find attached copies of the sighting reports the Ministry of Defence received for the 23 January 1974 and papers concerning enquiries made with various departments at the time. Personal details have been removed to protect the privacy of those who have corresponded with the MOD and MOD employees.

The documents you may find to be of particular interest are the file note (marked 23) and the letter dated 11 March 1975 (marked 107) which appear to give an explanation for the sightings. The RAF Mountain Rescue Team mentioned in the documents as having participated in a search of the area, were based at RAF Valley in 1974, so I also examined RAF Valley's Operations Record Book for the period. This book is a historical record of activities at the Station, but it contained no record of these events.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

copy for AF/7464/72

14

[redacted]

S4f(Air)584/1/13

15 March 1974

Dear Mr [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 10 March, the contents of which have been noted.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Papers taken from
AF/7464/72 Part III

Air 2/18874
UFO Reports 1974-75

SUNDAY MARCH THE TENTH I974 LONDON U.K. TIME I4.52

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter dated February I4th, the information it contained was interesting and of value particularly when one discovers that the five reports you passed on of sightings on the evening of January 23 come from locations which, when plotted, all seem to lie along the same North to South or South to North track. The object that fell close to Corwen in North Wales on that evening, since POSITIVELY verified in all aspects except location, however lies not upon that track so one has to assume that either it was not the sky object common to the eyes of the five observers or that it was and that it changed course. That point of analysis however can await further investigation.

That 'something' came down in the Berwyn mountains on that night I am certain. A visit to the area within 96 hours went on to include many interviews with local residents many of whom saw a ball of incredibly bright white light come in and hit the reverse side of Bwlch y Gaseg, a hill spot heighted at I805 ft or therabouts. The point of impact laying on the reverse side of the hill allowed only the flash and strong tremor together with the immense bang to be observed, felt and heard by those near enough to be affected. My point being that even though some local residents did not experience all three reactions, they occurred. And they occurred at the same time.

It is certain to the minds of both my friends who came with me and to me that we were visited by an object that evening. It is a shame that reaction to this highly important piece of news was met with such lack of enthusiasm by those who could have helped so much to further mankind's knowledge for may I humbly point out that there are only two ways at the moment that man's knowledge of the universe is extended. One by light and two by meteors placing aside for the moment the achievements of NASA.

May I humbly make reference to your sentence, " Help to a private individual is a different matter again however..."

Please be kind enough to understand that I seek no action from your department or in fact assistance from any source whatever purely for my own enlightenment.

If the logical application of a good idea, regardless of where or from whom it originated, results in the knowledge of mankind being extended then obviously it is beneficial for us all. Hopefully (!) somewhere along the way we are all 'private' individuals. We are certainly individuals. One hopes that the country's defence system is not controlled by some mammoth, nerveless uninterested computer. Well may it be that it can tell us how, can it tell us why though ?

No, each idea, whether submitted by civilian clerk or NATO General, market gardener or me is worthy of consideration on one level only. Is it a good idea and worth acting upon, not whether the individual submitting it is classified as being 'private' or not. Let us try and use the immense technological summit now reached by man for the extension of knowledge and not the termination of life as has been the case up to now. War is over so it might be a reasonable idea to find some new ways of using all our glistening objects of war. Phantoms included.

Enclosed a cutting from the London Evening Standard for your attention. And perhaps the Ministry of the Furthering of Man's Knowledge could see it in their heart to alert RAF Coningsby to the possibility of their being another such visitation and if this is the case then the immediate scrambling of one of their Phantoms would be much appreciated !

Thanks for all your help so far, I look forward to meeting you one day. Perhaps when I manage to get a job we can lunch together.

[redacted]

(107)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

[redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
AF/7464/72/S4f(Air)
Date
11 March 1975

105

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter asking for information about the incident that occurred in North Wales on 23/24 January 1974.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence investigates reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) solely to see if there are any defence implications. We cannot normally pursue our research, other than for defence reasons, to a point where positive correlation with a known object is established, nor to advise observers of the probable identity of the object seen.

With regard to the events of the evening of 23 January in the Berwyn Mountains; we did receive a number of reports of an unusual object seen in the sky just before 10.00 pm on the evening in question. These came from Willesden, Greenford in Middlesex, Mill Hill, Boston in Lincolnshire and Chigwell Row in Sussex. They described a bright light seen in the north-west which appeared to be falling towards the horizon. One report gave the time precisely as 9.57 pm, and another said that the object appeared to break up following a brilliant flash of light. Later on personnel of the Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Team participated in a search of the area where the object was thought to have come down, but as you probably know nothing was found.

These reports of a bright light apparently falling towards the horizon and then exploding could well have been caused by the descent of a meteor through the atmosphere burning up as it went and finally disintegrating before it reached the ground. Such a hypothesis would also explain the absence of any signs of impact. It has also been suggested that about an hour and a half earlier at 8.32 pm there was an earth tremor in the Berwyn Mountains which produced a landslide with noises like detonations. This latter aspect of the affair however is outside the field of the Air Force Department, and is not considered to be connected with the reports referred to above.

I hope this information will be of somehelp to you.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

1053

[redacted]

To
Ministry of Defence
Meteors/UFO Enquiry Dept.

Reply at E 107

Dear Sir,

I am very interested in "strange happenings" In particular the occurence on the night of 23/24th January 1974 in North Wales in the Bala vicinity. There was a loud bang and the earth shook (it was reported in the press at the time to have been heard from Liverpool to Bristol and also that something was seen to fall from the sky.)

Could you give me any information by way of explanation. R.A.F. Anglesey & A.I.S. West Drayton were unable to help but suggested your department would be able to tell me something.

I look forward to your reply

Yours appreciately

[redacted]

P.S. I am not a journalist or writer and any information you give me will not be published or put to any commercial use.

My telephone number daytime is [redacted]

Incident - 23/1/74

DI SS H([redacted]) considers that the object seen by the individuals who reported seeing an unusual phenomenon in the sky between 9.45 pm and 10pm on 23rd January 1974 could have been a meteorite which could have been falling on a course which would have passed over N. Wales some 30-50 seconds after it was visible in and around London.
He had received no information about any unusual phenomena over N. Wales on that day.

On the advice of the Royal Observatory, I spoke to Dr [redacted] (formerly of Leeds University) who had undertaken research into the occurrences in N. Wales on 23rd Jan. 74, in a private capacity for the British Astronomical Society. He told me of the following two events which affected N. Wales during the evening of 23 Jan, but which were quite unconnected

(1) An earth tremor occurred at 2032 hours

causing

causing a landslide with noises like detonations on the Berwyn Mountains.

(2) At 21.59 hours a fireball was visible over most of UK. It was estimated that the fireball descended from about 120 kilometres to a height of about 35 kilometres before disintegrating, it was thought over the Manchester area. Reports of sightings of the fireball were received from various parts of the UK, including Somerset, Norfolk, Manchester & Edinburgh.

[redacted]

9/5.

Papers taken from.

AF/5824 - UFO Reports

January 1974

AIR 2/19083

File

Hidden copy to:
DS8b
Met O 9

[redacted]

13
D4f(Air)584/1/12
14 February 1974

Dear Sir

When we spoke on the telephone I promised to let you have a summary of the various reports we have received of an unusual object seen in the sky on the evening of 23 January. These were five in number, from Willesden, Greenford in Middlesex, Mill Hill, Boston in Lincolnshire and Chigwell Row in Sussex, (we received no reports from North Wales). In each case the time of observation was stated to have been either 10.00 pm or during the preceeding quarter of an hour. In one case it was specified precisely as 9.57 pm. As to the nature of the object seen, we were given the following details:—

Appearance

i. Cone-shaped, sent off sparks, yellow;

ii. Whitish-green light;

iii. White vertical track in sky, followed by green flash;

iv. Brilliant flash of light, object appeared to break up;

v. Green with long tail.

Direction of Observation

i. Eastwards (looking towards Kilburn from Willesden);

ii. Northwards;

iii. North-westwards;

iv. "Compass heading of 330°" (therefore presumably north-westwards);

v. Not provided.

PTO

File

Direction of Movement

i. Falling to earth;

ii. Falling to earth;

iii. Falling to earth;

iv. Falling;

v. Travelling from east to west.

It is interesting that reports three and four both describe a falling object which disappeared in a flash. This could have been a "bolide" or meteor that disintegrates during its passage through the atmosphere. Disintegration would be associated with an air explosion which could be audible up to a distance of 50 miles.

I am sorry if I sounded somewhat unenthusiastic on the telephone about your suggestion that RAF aircraft be used to identify any material from the object which may have reached the ground. I should explain that the interest of the Ministry of Defence in unidentified flying objects is directed towards any implications they may have for national defence, and that we have no interest in them from a purely academic or scientific point of view. We are of course severely limited (not least by Parliament) in the uses to which we can put resources provided specifically for defence. There are certain fields in which it is a recognised practice (coastal search and rescue is one such area) for us to assist other Government Departments. There are certain other areas in which (subject to a code of rules) we can give assistance to other recognised agencies or bodies in both the public and private sectors. Help to a private individual is a different matter again however, and requires very detailed consideration on a case by case basis, which, almost by definition, makes a swift response unlikely. I should in short be at fault if I were to leave you with the impression that on any future occasion assistance could automatically be made available.

I enclose a summary of all UFO reports received in the Ministry since 1959 categorised according to our estimation of the likely cause, in the hope that you may find it of some interest.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

1 Enc

LOOSE MINUTE

AF/M 868/73/Met O 9

S4F(Air)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:

A. S4F(Air)584/1/12 dated 29 January 1974.

1. With regard to the 4 reports forwarded with reference A it would appear that Mrs [redacted]'s sighting (note time, description and movement) was not related to the others. A copy of a fifth report, received via Met O 7, is attached.

2. In all cases weather at the time and location of the reported event was dry with small amounts of cloud and good, locally moderate, visibility. Earlier, rain associated with a cold front had moved eastwards across the area but by 2200 hours only the extreme SE of Kent was still affected. Winds in the lowest 50,000 ft of the atmosphere were from W'ly points. Also, no radio-sonde or meteorological research balloons were launched in the vicinity near the times of interest.

3. No satisfactory meteorological explanation can be offered to account for what Mrs [redacted] observed but, if not an aircraft, it might have been due to light reflected from objects above the flats, eg light from a vehicle which was at first stationary and then moved.

4. The passage of a meteor could provide a reasonable explanation for the other sightings. This need not have been a meteorite, which would have reached the earth's surface, but may have been a "bolide" the destruction of which in the atmosphere would be associated with an air explosion which could be audible up to a distance of about 50 miles. If nothing is found at ground level then a bolide would appear to provide a possible answer - Dr [redacted]'s comment concerning the green flash and the object disappearing whilst still 20° above the horizon is noteworthy.

[redacted]

5 February 1974

[redacted]
Met O 9
Room [redacted] Ext [redacted]
HQ Met Office
Bracknell
EB

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

MOD FORM 78

MEMORANDUM

To D4f(AIR) <-t

From OPS(G)2c(RAF)
MR. ROOM [redacted]

Ref. AF/CX1528/72 Date 30 Jan 74.

Tel. [redacted] Ext. [redacted]

Subject UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference. S4f(AIR) 58 4/1/12 dated 29 Jan 74.

1. Thank you for your t/m at reference enclosing the UFO reports and inviting our suggestions as to identification. Having studied them, I am afraid we can be of no help to you.

Rank/Appointment [redacted] Name in block letters [redacted] Signature [redacted]

Complete this form in manuscript unless there are special reasons for typing.

J.-P.Ltd. 56-2165

MOD Form 4A

MEMORANDUM

To S 4 f (A.R) | From STEIC

Ref. STEIC/211/ASR Date | Tel. M/B Ext. [redacted]

Subject U.F.O.

Ref: Loose minute S4f(AR)584/1/13 dated 29 Jan 74.

These sightings which were seen over a wide area would appear to confirm that the object seen was a meteorite entering the atmosphere.

Because of the direction of movement - east to West - it is not considered that it was a satellite decay.

Rank/ Appointment [redacted] Name in block letters [redacted] Signature [redacted]

Complete this form in manuscript unless there are special reasons for typing.

J.-P.Ltd. 56-2365

LOOSE MINUTE

S4f(Air)584/1/13

STCOC
Ops(GE)2(RAF)
DI55b [redacted]
STCIC
Met O 9

also as 584/1/13 JS
584/1/17 in yfon

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The attached reports of an unidentified flying object are forwarded for investigation. All appear to refer to the incident reported in the national press and on the radio and television on 24 Jan. It was then suggested that this might have been a meteorite, but (so far as we know) this has not yet been confirmed. Addressees are requested to report their findings, together with any comment they may wish to make, to S4f(Air).

2. In order to assist us to analyse reports for statistical purposes, any suggestions as to the possible identification of the object seen would be helpful.

[redacted]

29 Jan 74

S4f(Air)
MB[redacted] [redacted]MB

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

23.1.74 2200 hrs

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Size of full moon. Green in colour. Long tail

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

At home, indoors

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 may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

Travelling from east to west

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Clear night

K. 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 flood-lights or other night lighting).

No obstructions

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

Inf. Room Scotland Yard. Ext. 344
at 1510 24.1.74

M. Name and address of informant.

[redacted] Chigwell Row, Ex

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

24.1.74 1520

"

"

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

Approx: 10 p.m. 23/1/74.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

White vertical track in sky - green flash occurred before it disappeared behind horizon.

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

At Mill Hill - driving towards N.W.

D. How observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera).

E. Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

Looking north-west.

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

About 40° above horizon - travelled to about 20° above horizon before green flash occurred & object disappeared.

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

See F.

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Meteorite (see AF/584/1/13)

K. 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 flood-lights or other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

MOD S4F (Ai) 9.15 am.

M. Name and address of informant.

Dr. [redacted] Radlett, Herts.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

Son aged 16

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

9.15 am 24/1/74.

1/15

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

23.1.74 6.45pm - 10.00 pm

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Cone-shaped, seemed to send off sparks - yellow in colour

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

Indoors - looking thro' window

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 may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

Looking towards Kirkburn (from Willerdin)

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

/

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

/

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

Appeared to be falling to earth

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Meteorite (see file)

CS4/1/13

K. 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 flood-lights or other night lighting).

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

MOD

M. Name and address of informant.

[redacted]

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

NW2

O. Other witnesses.

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

24/1/74 2 pm

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

23.1.74 9.45pm – 10.0pm.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Large whitish-green light

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

Facing north. Sitting indoor - looking through window. Small light in room

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 may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

See 'C' above

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

Not given

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

Not given

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

Appeared to be falling to earth. Looked like fireworks.

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Meteorite (see file 584/1/13

K. 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 flood-lights or other night lighting).

Not given

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

MOD

M. Name and address of informant.

[redacted]
Greenford, Middx

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

/

O. Other witnesses.

/

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

24. 1. 74 11. 30 AM

1/17 HH

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, time and duration of sighting. (Local times to be quoted).

9.20 p.m. 23/1/74.

B. Description of object. (Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc).

Triangular shaped object with three bright lights - white - no sound - appeared larger than an aeroplane.

C. Exact position observer. (Geographical location. Indoors or outdoors. Stationary or moving).

Islington - at first in a car & then got out to observe object.

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 may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing).

Looking east.

F. Angle of sight. (Estimated heights are unreliable).

appeared to be very low (about 250')

G. Distance. (By reference to a known landmark wherever possible).

—

H. Movements. (Changes in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed).

Object at first appeared to be stationary, but it then appeared to turn south at an angle of about 45° & gained speed.

J. Meteorological conditions during observations. (Moving clouds, haze mist etc).

Meteorite (see file 584/1/13)

K. 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 flood-lights or other night lighting).

Objects appeared to be over block of flats.

L. To whom reported. (Police, military organisations, the press etc).

MOD S4F(A4)

M. Name and address of informant.

[redacted]

[redacted]

HODDESDON HERTS.

N. Any background on the informant that may be volunteered.

O. Other witnesses.

P. Date and time of receipt of report.

9 am 24/1/74

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: Documentation

Dear Section 40

Thank you. I will send the documents to you today.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 11 February 2003 11:11
To: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Subject: Documentation

Dear Section 40
Thank you for looking up the relevant documentation for me.
My address is as follows:

Section 40

Leyland
Lancashire
Section 40

Thank you once again.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 20 December 2002 17:09
To: AHB2(RAF)1
Subject: Request for Information

Section 40

I have received a request for information about an alleged 'UFO' incident on 23 January 1974. I have reason to believe that RAF Valley's search and rescue unit and possibly a mountain rescue team were involved, and there may be mention of it in Valley's F540.

Do you have the F540's for this period and if so could you possibly send me a copy of the January 1974 extract from RAF Valley's? I will not release any of it to the correspondent without consulting you first.

Have a lovely Christmas and I will speak to you again in the new year.

Section 40
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 20 December 2002 16:41
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: Request for files

Section 40

I would be grateful if you could recall these two files from the PRO for me. They are due for release in 2005.

AF/7464/72 Part II (AIR2/18873) UFO Reports 1973-74 ✓Rec.

AF/584 (AIR 2/19083) UFO Reports Jan 1974

Thanks. Have a very Happy Christmas.

Section 40
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
MT 6/73 Section 40

20 December 2002

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 20 December 2002 17:23
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Request for Information.
Signed By: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

We only make a charge if the work involved in responding to a request for information is likely to exceed 4 hours work. At present I would not expect your request to exceed 4 hours, but on retrieval of the files, if it looks like this may be the case, I will advise you so that you may decide whether you wish us to proceed. If a charge is involved the fee is £15 per hour for every hour over the first 4 hours.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 20 December 2002 16:51
To: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Subject: Request for Information.

Dear Section 40
Thank you for your response.
If you have any documents that you can send me concerning the alledged incident in question, please let me know and I will send you my address.
Would there be any cost involved and if so how much?

Best wishes
Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
To: Section 40
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2002 4:32 PM
Subject: Request for Information

Dear Section 40

I have been passed your message of 3 December in which you requested documentation concerning an alleged 'UFO crash' on the Berwyn mountains on the

23 January 1974. This department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs.

Our files for this period are currently held at the Public Record Office awaiting release in 2005. I have asked for them to be recalled and will write to you again when I have had a chance to examine them. In the meantime, please could you send me your address, as these records are not held electronically and if there are any we can send you, they will have to be sent by post. My e-mail address is das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk.

Also, you may wish to look at the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which was launched on the 29 November and can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the classes of information on UFOs included in the scheme.

Section 40

DAS[redacted]A OpsPol1

To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Request for Information

Dear Section 40

I have been passed your message of 3 December in which you requested documentation concerning an alleged 'UFO crash' on the Berwyn mountains on the 23 January 1974. This department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs.

Our files for this period are currently held at the Public Record Office awaiting release in 2005. I have asked for them to be recalled and will write to you again when I have had a chance to examine them. In the meantime, please could you send me your address, as these records are not held electronically and if there are any we can send you, they will have to be sent by post. My e-mail address is das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk.

Also, you may wish to look at the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which was launched on the 29 November and can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the classes of information on UFOs included in the scheme.

Section 40 [redacted]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: Info-Access3
Sent: 04 December 2002 09:20
To: DAS-LA OpsPol1; DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: (U) Request for Information.

Do you know what this refers to?

Would you like to respond - I've only been given an email address.

Grateful for your views

Section 40

Section 40

Information Exploitation Access
829 St Giles Court
1-13 St Giles High Street
London
WC2H 8LD

Email: Info-Access3@defence.mod.uk

Tel: Section 40
Fax:

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 03 December 2002 23:58
To: Info-access3@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Request for Information.

Dear Sir/Madam,
I wonder if you would be so kind as to release the documentation/information surrounding the alleged crash of a UFO into the Berwyn mountain range in Wales.
The incident took place on January 23rd 1974 and involved the MOD and the Army.

Kind regards

Section 40

ENCLOSURE 22 IS PLACED ON 64/3/15 PT A E17 Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: Pilot Observation

Dear Section 40

The MOD operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will gain full public access in January 2005 when it will supersede the Code.

With regard to your request for copies of 'UFO' reports from Pilots for the last 5 years, I should inform you that we receive reports from a variety of sources and they are filed on manual files in the order in which they are received. No separate record is keep of any group of individuals. This means that the only way to identify reports specifically from Pilots is to search all our files for the whole five years. Any found would then have to be copied and all the personal details (such as Names, address, telephone numbers etc) removed to protect their privacy. I hope you appreciate that this would be a very time consuming task for such a long period of time and therefore such a request is likely to be refused under Exemption 9 of the Code (voluminous & vexatious). We also have charging arrangements for more complexed requests requiring over 4 hours work, so this could also attract a fee. If, however, you could narrow your request to a more manageable amount of material we may be able to assist you.

Finally, you may be interested to see the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which was launched on 29 November 2002. It can be found at www.foi.mod.uk and is the first step towards the inplementation of the FOIA. A search under UFO will take you to all the classes of information on UFOs included in the scheme.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 30 January 2003 16:00
To: DAS-LAOpsPol1@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Re: Pilot Observation

Thank you so much for youre reply.Regarding the pilot reports you handle is there any way that i could get a copy ,say of the last 5 yrs, and would be most grateful to hear about youre policy on freedom of information.

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 30 January 2003 13:19
To: Section 40
Cc: 'public@ministers.mod.uk'
Subject: Pilot Observation
Signed By: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Your e-mails of 24-27 January have been passed to me by the MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

This section was formerly Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. The Directorate was merged with the Director of Air Staff and reorganised. We are now part of the Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Operations & Policy 1. We are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence regarding 'unidentified flying objects' and we also have other duties concerning Freedom of Information issues.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA) P+P **TO Ref No** 1001 **/2003**

Date 29th Jan 2003

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 24 January 2003 16:00
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: pilot observations

Is it at all possible to find out the workings of a section in the M.O.D. called ,secretariat (air staff) 2a.I have come across this name several times in my reading ,and find myself asking ,if there is total denial why is it there .thanks

Ministers

From: Ministers
Sent: 24 January 2003 17:35
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: RE: pilot observations
Signed By: ministers@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Thank you for your email to public@ministers.mod.uk. For a reply, please re-send your message to this email address (Ministers@defence.mod.uk) and ensure that you add your full postal address.

Alternatively, you might like to email lowflying@defence.mod.uk, or visit the http://www.mod.uk/issues/lowflying/index.html webpage, as Secretariat (Air Staff)2a is now part of DAS.

Many thanks,

MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Section 40 [redacted] **Old War Office Building,**
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 24 January 2003 17:46
To: ministers@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Re: pilot observations

Is it at all possible for you to tell me the workings and findings of a DAS section ,Secretariat (air staff)2a.I was given youre details by the mod.thank you.

Ministers

From: Ministers
Sent: 27 January 2003 08:58
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: RE: pilot observations
Signed By: ministers@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Thank you for your email. For a reply, please provide your full postal address.

Many thanks,

MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building,
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 27 January 2003 16:21
To: Ministers@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Re: pilot observations

i would be very gratefil to hear youre reply Section 40 [redacted] Smithton Inverness, Section 40

D[redacted]-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40

Subject: Freedom of Information

Dear Section 40

I have been passed a copy of your e-mail of 15 January in which you requested copies of documents held by the MOD on UFOs. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the MOD examines any reports of UFOs it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UKs airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to requests for information from our files, you may wish to be aware that our files are passed to the Public Record Office when they reach 30 years old and are then open for public viewing. Requests for information from records less than 30 years old are dealt with in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions of the Code. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will gain full public access in January 2005 when it will supersede the Code.

If you would like to view information included in the MOD Freedom of Information Publications Scheme please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40
das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

6th Feb 3

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Law Flying/UFOs /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA)PtP

TO Ref No 550 /2003

Date 17th Jan 2003

The ~~Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS~~/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the ~~PM/Minister~~/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Sent: 15 January 2003 10:46

To: public@ministers.mod.uk

Subject: Freedom Of Information

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing to you to request copies of any documents held by the MOD relating to the sighting of UFOs under the Freedom Of Information act 2000.

Thankyou for your time, and please send any information to:

Section 40 [redacted]

Prescot
Merseyside

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: Section 40

Sent: 29 January 2003 14:27

To: DAS-LA OpsPol1

Subject: Re: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Dear Section 40

I'm afraid that I responded too quickly, as I have just found the documents exactly where you said they'd be! (Can you imagine?) I guess that they just weren't obvious enough for my unobservant self! Because my interest is very casual, and for my own personal edification, I suffered no inconvenience. Again, thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Section 40

---- Original Message ----
From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
To Section 40
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 1:56 AM
Subject: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Dear Section 40

The MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit have passed me your message about your difficulties with accessing the UFO Rendlesham Forest file in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs.

There have not been any problems with the Publication Scheme, but I note you were advised to look at www.foi.mod.uk. This is correct except there should be no dot after uk and this may be why you have been unable to access these records. I appologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

If after trying again you still have difficulties, you can e-mail me direct at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 29 January 2003 14:00
To: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Subject: Re: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you so much for your reply! I was sent a list of the links to the reports, so I never really had the URL's. The original e-mail looked like this:

	Date	Next version
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 1)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 2)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 3)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 4)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 5)	01/12/1980	n/a

I've had several friends try to access them also, considering my lack of expertise with computers, but they all had no luck as well. I looked around at the site you mentioned, but couldn't find specific references to these reports, although it's possible I missed them -- there's a lot of information there! I will continue to try to poke around and see if I can't call them up, but in the meantime, would it be possible to purchase hard copies? Please let me know at your earliest convenience. I appreciate your time and your assistance!

Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]
Roseville, MI 48066-1625 USA
Phone: Section 40 [redacted]
Fax Section 40 [redacted]

----- Original Message -----
From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2003 1:56 AM
Subject: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Dear Section 40

The MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit have passed me your message about your difficulties with accessing the UFO Rendlesham Forest file in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs.

There have not been any problems with the Publication Scheme, but I note you were advised to look at www.foi.mod.uk. This is correct except there should be no dot after uk and this may be why you have been unable to access these records. I appologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

If after trying again you still have difficulties, you can e-mail me direct at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

29/01/2003

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40

Subject: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Dear Section 40

The MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit have passed me your message about your difficulties with accessing the UFO Rendlesham Forest file in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs.

There have not been any problems with the Publication Scheme, but I note you were advised to look at www.foi.mod.uk. This is correct except there should be no dot after uk and this may be why you have been unable to access these records. I appologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

If after trying again you still have difficulties, you can e-mail me direct at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: MOD FOI Publication Scheme

Reference Treat Official Correspondence 863/2003

Please note that the URL which you gave the correspondent in the above was incorrect. The correct URL is www.foi.mod.uk (there should be no dot after uk). This may seem a small thing but means the link fails if a dot is added.

I have advised the correspondent and would be grateful if you would note this should you get any other enquiries of this nature.

Section 40
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****

DAS
102No. ....
28 JAN 2003
FILE ____________

Lan/Policy/UFO E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA)P+P **TO Ref No** 863 **/2003**

Date 27 1 03

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on [redacted]

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
[redacted]
[redacted] CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 23 January 2003 21:59
To: Ministers
Subject: Re: FOI publication

Dear Sir,

Unfortunately these links are not working either. I had a friend a bit more savvy with computers try to access them, and he couldn't either, which leads me to believe that the problem is somewhere on your end. I'd really like to see this stuff! If you cannot locate the file locations, would it be possible to obtain hard copies? Of course I'd be willing to pick up any costs involved.

Thanks again for your help!

Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]
Roseville, MI 48066-1625 USA
Phone Section 40 [redacted]
Fax: Section 40 [redacted]

----- Original Message -----
From: Ministers
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2003 3:23 AM
Subject: RE: FOI publication

	Date	Next version
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 1)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 2)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 3)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 4)	01/12/1980	n/a
Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 5)	01/12/1980	n/a

Hopefully above will work OK (someone appears to have moved these from their original location on our website!).

Regards,

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU
email: Ministers@defence.mod.uk

24/01/2003

Ministers

From: Ministers
Sent: 22 January 2003 08:54
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI publication
Signed By: ministers@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Thank you for your email to public@ministers.mod.uk. The links you are looking for can be found via www.foi.mod.uk. For ease, they are:

Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 1)

Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 2)

Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 3)

Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 4)

Unidentified Flying Objects Rendlesham Forest Incident 1980 (Part 5)

Regards,

MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building,
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 22 January 2003 02:42
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: FOI publication

Dear MOD:

After a quick search of your site, I am unable to find any information that I'm told was recently released under the new FOI act on the subject of U.F.O.s. Was this information ever actually published and, if so, is it somewhere on your site? I'm interested to see any official reports that might be available.

Thank you for your assistance.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Roseville, MI 48066-1625 USA
Phone Section 40 [redacted]
Fax: Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1

18

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 27 January 2003 11:41
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: more information
Signed By: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

This department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFOs'. We know of no other UK government department with an interest in 'UFO' reports.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.
The MOD examines any 'UFO' reports it receives solely to establish whether what was seen has any defence significance; namely whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide an aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

The reports and correspondence we receive are placed on manual files and released to the Public Record Office when they have been closed for 30 years (in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967). The MOD also operates within the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested from these files is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code.

For further details of our policy and to see MOD documents which have been released in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 26 January 2003 03:38
To: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Subject: more information

greetings,
i would like to receive more information about the procedure of the UFO matter. Could you tell me wich department in the whole british bureaucracy who is the main database of information or the main phenomenon inspecting expert.

regards,

Section 40

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: can u help?

17

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

I have been passed your e-mail of 16 January concerning the Rendlesham Forest incident in December 1980. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to UFOs.

You mentioned that you had read the papers on this incident and queried how we came to the conclusion that there was nothing of defence concern. It may therefore help if I explain that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time and might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft. From that perspective, reports provided to us of 'UFO' sightings are examined in consultation with air defence experts, where necessary, to determine whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for reports, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide an aerial identification service and we could not justify expenditure on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

In the case of the Rendlesham Forest ("Bentwaters") incident all available substantiated evidence was examined at the time in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these events, nothing has emerged over the last 22 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

In your e-mail you also asked about DI55 and DS8. DI55 are a branch of the Defence Intelligence Staff and reports of sightings were sent to them in case they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies. None of the UFO reports sent to DIS over a 30 year period yielded any valuable information whatsoever and DIS therefore decided in December 2000, not to receive these reports any longer. DS8 was a former name of my branch, which is now callled the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS). Our role is to deal with all reports and correspondence regarding UFOs, in consultation with air defence experts where necessary.

Finally, you may wish to be aware that the in November 2002 the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. This is the first step in the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act which will gain full public access in January 2005. The Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk and a search under UFO will take you to all the classes of information on UFOs included in the Scheme.

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40 [redacted]
das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Law Ployley /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) PSP TO Ref No 619 /2003

Date 20th Jan 2003

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Sent: 16 January 2003 21:54

To: public@ministers.mod.uk

Subject: can u help?

i recently read about the bentwaters incident and was curious about a couple of things.

the report admits something happened, but the object was not tracked on radar.
the m.o.d states it did not present a threat to national security so was not investigated further (even though the official line is "the m.o.d does not waste public funds etc on such matters)
surely then, if something happened that could not be explained and was not tracked on radar then this must constitute a breach in air defence?

my second query is during reading those documents there were mentions of two departments DI55 and DS8? what do they do?

i am not looking for a smoking gun or anything i am just interested in the subject, more so from a technology point of view.
i also appreciate that the subject matter is not as black and white as it appears.

Section 40 [redacted]
knottingley
west yorkshire

From Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

16

Section 40

Epsom
Surrey
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
15 January 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your research on 'unidentified flying objects'. This department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFO matters, but you may wish to note that our title and address have changed to those at the head of this letter.

It may be helpful if I explain that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. Any reports of UFO sightings received are examined solely to establish whether they whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

If you wish to see papers on UFO matters released as part of the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, please look at www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Epsom,
Surrey
Section 40

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Graphic Design student studying at The Surrey Institute of Art and Design. As part of one of my modules I am researching the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects.

I would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions:

- Do you regard UFO's as extraterrestrial?
- Do you regard UFO's as a national security risk?
- What is your opinion on the UFO phenomena?
- What makes a credible witness?

Answers to the above questions and any other relevant information would be gratefully received.

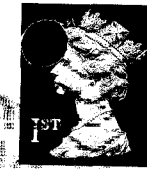
Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

Royal Mail
Exp. Bristol
Taunton
07.04.03
23303453

Please PRINT th
Postcode



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) 2a
ROOM 8245
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

DAS-LAOpsPol1

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: http://channels.netscape.com/ns/atplay/content.jsp?file=alien9.inc

Dear Section 40

Since the launch of the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on 29 November, there have been a number of misleading press reports concerning our release of papers concerning an alleged 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest in 1980. It may therefore be helpful if I clarify the situation.

As is the case with other UK government files, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The MOD does, however, operate in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested from closed files is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code.

The MOD "Rendlesham Forest file" consists of over 170 pages which were not originally on one file, but were gathered together sometime after these events. Some papers are contemporary and others, later correspondence between members of the public and the MOD. A copy of the Rendlesham file was first released to a member of the public in May 2001 following a request made under the Code. Five papers were witheld under exemptions of the Code, but these were later released on appeal. Since May 2001, 22 others have requested and been sent copies of the file.

On the 29 November the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. This is the first step in the introduction of the UK's Freedom of Information Act 2000 which will gain full public access in January 2005, when it will supersede the Code. The FOI Publication Scheme has given us the opportunity to make the Rendlesham file more generally available to those who may not have previously been aware of its release. If you wish to view the Publication Scheme, please go to www.foi.mod.uk. A search under "Rendlesham Forest" will take you straight to these documents, or alternatively, if you search under 'UFO' you will be able to find all the UFO classes of information in the scheme.

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 23 December 2002 10:51
To: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Subject:
http://channels.netscape.com/ns/atplay/content.jsp?file=alien9.inc

I would like to know what you have to say about the subject matter http://channels.netscape.com/ns/atplay/content.jsp?file=alien9.inc. By the way my school Kellogg is the number one graduate business school in the world because of the best ethics in the world and other stuff as reported by Business Week. See your own "Economist" ratings at http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,809623,00.html which placed Kellogg numero uno and your Oxford and Cambridge in 72nd and 74th, probably because one of them accepted sleezy Bill Clinton as a student. I am not a "yuppy-puppy", my expertise lies in a totally different area, a scientific field.
Your mod.uk site seems to be silent about the 20 or so reports you

reportedly have released on the subject. I do not believe in UFO's, but your [redacted]ence is defeaning and probably unneceasarily suspicious. About time you take the pith helmets off your heads so you hear the questions if for nothing else cause we (or at least my adopted country) saved your butts in WWII while we lost half a million soldiers.

Cheers,

Section 40 [redacted] Kellogg MBA, Section 40 [redacted]
Philippines Section 40 [redacted]

Are There Aliens Among Us?

British Military 'Suppressed UFO Info'

The British government tried to cover up one of the country's most famous sightings of an unidentified flying object, a parliamentary watchdog ruled Tuesday.

The "Rendlesham Files," which were finally published on the Internet Sunday, contain eyewitness accounts by U.S. Air Force officers at a military base close to Rendlesham Forest, near Ipswich in eastern England, who saw a brilliantly lit object land in the forest in December 1980.

The incident is widely regarded as one of the most significant UFO sightings – the British equivalent of the 1947 incident in which a spacecraft supposedly crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, with aliens aboard.

Several people had complained to the British parliamentary ombudsman, Ann Abraham, that the Ministry of Defense had refused to divulge full details of the Rendlesham witness accounts. Abraham ruled the ministry had "withheld three documents relating to reported sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena in 1980 – the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident."

A ministry spokeswoman said the files had not been deliberately withheld and had always been available to anyone who asked.

In late December 1980, U.S. officers investigating what they thought must have been a crashed plane in the forest saw a triangular "strange glowing object" that sent farm animals into a frenzy.

"The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters (seven to 10 feet) across the base and approximately two meters (seven feet) high," reads a report in the file by Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Charles Halt.

Get a Giggle

Joke of the Day

CompuSwami

News of the Weird

NETWORK SPECIAL
They're Dumb but True!

Daily Clicks

- Read the Funnies
- Lottery Results
- UFOs & Ghosts
- Today in History
- Print Central
- Entertainment Weekly
- Strange News

What is the first thing you do when you get online?

- Check my mail.
- Play games.
- Check my horoscope.
- Catch up on current events.
- Take silly polls.
- Sorry, I can't tell you.

Submit

Paranormal Trivia: Play Now!

- Paranormal Coverage
- News of the Weird
- Sci-Fi Trivia

Silly Stuff

- CompuSwami
- Penalty Shot
- Whack a Terrorist
- Sci-Fi Trivia
- Misheard Lyrics
- Slip Shot Diner

Special Features

- PlayFour! Puzzle
- News of the Weird
- The Answer Man
- Laughable Lawsuits
- Play Memory Match
- Game Cheats & Codes
- Oddly Enough News

"It illuminated the entire forest with a white light," he added. "The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering, or on legs."

Skeptics say the witnesses were merely seeing the beam from a lighthouse on the nearby coast.

But the report adds that the next day three depressions seven feet in diameter were found in the grass and that readings of beta and gamma radiation were 10 times higher than normal. Disturbances were also noted on air force radar at the time.

Later in the night, a second UFO was seen, described as a red sun-like light. "At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects," said the file.

A Ministry of Defense memo in the file notes that: "No evidence was found of any threat to the defense of the United Kingdom. In the absence of any hard evidence, the MoD remains open minded."

Until last week, only around 20 members of the public had seen the file. The government said it would also be publishing other files on reported UFO sightings on www.mod.uk.

The Rendlesham File contains a Ministry of Defense memo suggesting British requests for audiotapes made by the American officers at the time were brushed aside by the United States. Later reports by UFO enthusiasts claimed that photographs and tapes were taken away by senior U.S. officers.

Back to UFO Main

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

ENCLOSURE 14 NUMBER

Section 40

Liverpool
Merseyside
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
2 January 2003

Dear Section 40

I am writing in reply to your letter of 24th December 2002, in which you requested a detailed map of RAF Woodbridge and the section of Rendlesham Forest where it is alleged a 'UFO' was sighted.

All the papers the MOD holds on this incident have already been sent to you and are also now part of the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. We do not hold any maps of the area and are therefore unable to provide the information you are seeking on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Director of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/73, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue,
London
WC2N 5BP

24th Dec 2002

Section 40

Section 40 iverpool
Merseyside
Section 40
Tel Section 40

Dear Section 40

I am wrighting this letter to respectfully ask for more information on the sighting of a U.F.O near R.A.F Woodbridge. Would it be possible to provide me with a detailed map of R.A.F Woodbridge and the section of Rendlesham Forest where the sighting is said to have taken place.

Thank You for your time and effort in this matter.

Yours Faithfully

Section 40

13

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Winsford
Cheshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
23 December 2002

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your letter of 8 December 2002 in which you request a copy of documents concerning the alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. Your letter was passed to this office by the Public Record Office, as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

The Ministry of Defence file on this incident has been included in the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme and can be viewed at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to these papers. Alternatively, if you wish to see all the material on UFOs included in the Publication Scheme, please search under UFO. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

~~Refd to~~

~~Air Historical Branch~~

DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

FILE

10 DEC 2002

Section 40 [redacted]

CHESHIRE

Section 40 [redacted]

8/12/2002

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to your office if you give me any information on a file called the Rendlesham File of a Incident of December 1980 connection M O D office asking please can a pay one or their his other department need to know about Thank you my regards

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The National Archives

Our Ref: SR 1/1B

10- 12 02

Dear Sir

We are forwarding the attached letter, since the subject appears to be more appropriate for reply by you than by this Office.

We have not informed the writer of the disposal of the letter.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Reader Information Services Department

Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU, United Kingdom

Tel: +44(0)20 8876 3444 Fax: +44(0)20 8878 8905 Minicom: +44(0)20 8392 9198
Web Site: http://www.pro.gov.uk/ E-mail:

From: Section 40
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) Section 40
(GTN)

12

Section 40

Bath
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
20 December 2002

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your recent (undated) letter concerning documents about an alleged 'UFO' incident near Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. It may assist you if I clarify our position with regard to the documents on these events.

As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The Ministry of Defence does however, operate in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested from closed files is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code.

The MOD Rendlesham Forest file consists of over 170 papers which were not originally on one file, but were gathered together sometime after these events. Some papers are contemporary and others, later correspondence between members of the public and the MOD. A copy of the Rendlesham Forest file was released to a member of the public in May 2001 following a request made under the Code. Since then, 22 others have requested and been sent copies of the file.

On the 29 November 2002 the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. This is the first step in the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which will gain full public access in January 2005, when it will supersede the Code. The FOI Publication Scheme has given us the opportunity to make the Rendlesham file more generally available to those who may not have previously been aware of its release. If you would like to view the Publication Scheme, please go to www.foi.mod.uk. A search under 'Rendlesham Forest' will take you straight to those documents, or alternatively, if you search under 'UFO', you will be able to find all the UFO classes of information in the scheme.

In your letter you also asked a number of questions regarding these documents and I will answer these in the same order as your letter.

1. No, these documents were not "kept secret from the public". As explained above, MOD files are generally closed for 30 years, but requests for information can be made in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

2 & 3. All the known MOD documents on these events have been released and can be accessed on the website mentioned above.

4. We were recently sent a copy of extracts of an audio recording alleged to have been made by Lt Col Halt, but such a recording is not part of our contemporaneous records of the incident.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

See also D/Sec(RS)64/4 Part D Enc 23.

Section 40

Bath
Section 40

MOD
Secretariat (Air staff) 2a,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

Dear Sirs,
For years and on numerous occasions in the past (From 1994 onwards) I have corresponded with this department and the secretary of defence about an unidentified flying object incident in Dec/Jan of 1980/81 Out side of the Bentwaters military base near Rendlesham forest.

Over this period of time I have asked if any documents and statements exist in MOD files other than the Halt memo, and were told that this was all that exist in your files. I asked many times if the covering letter from the base commander was available with no positive response.
A recent article in the UK UFO Magazine detailed how new documentation has now been made available including this covering letter.

I would like to obtain copies of all the available new documentation, please could you tell me how I can achieve this.

Also could you answer these questions for me?

1. Was the covering letter and other documentation kept secret from the general public?

2. Is there ANY kind of evidence/material in document form or other formats being withheld from the public in relation to this incident?

3. It has been stated by the MOD and the secretary of defence in letters to me in the past that 'those with responsibility' and 'my officials' studied ALL the available evidence at the time. Does a listing of this evidence exist? Does a report of the investigation or any internal documentation exist that shows how the conclusions by the MOD were reached? If the answer is yes, how and when will a copy be available for the general public? My communication from the secretary of defence (John Spellar - 30th October 1997) mentions 'departmental records'.

4. Does the MOD have a stance on the Halt audio recording that is available in the public domain? Does this form part of any corroborative evidence looked at by the officials?

I look forward to any clarification you can give me on this interesting event.

All the best...

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

Section 40

Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
19 December 1997

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent undated letter addressed to the Prime Minister concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest/ RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, which has been passed to the Ministry of Defence for reply.

2. The MOD's position with respect to these alleged events was explained to your MP, Don Foster, in a letter from the Under Secretary of State for Defence dated 30 October, which you should by now have seen. I am afraid there really is nothing further that I can add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UFOs

MINISTERS' CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS)

Ref No 2870 /1997

Date 25 NOV 1997

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days.**

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

(C) - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 48/97; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 1
25 NOV 1997
FILE

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

13 October 1997

Dear Correspondence Secretary,

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

We have a regrettable and unprecedented backlog of some eight weeks' correspondence here. We are doing what we can to rectify this but are making little inroad into it – mainly due to the Prime Minister's postbag being double that of his predecessor.

To this end we shall be forwarding letters on to departments in the normal manner but, *until further notice*, we shall not be acknowledging nor recording any letters which come to you from this office for treat official action from today on, unless notified to the contrary. I would be very grateful therefore, if you would ensure that a reply is always sent on our behalf. What this may mean for your department is that you receive a larger batch than normal in the initial stages of this exercise. You will be receiving those letters received here in both August and September. Please deal with them in date order as far as possible. The folders which we send to your department will be clearly marked as to the dates received in this office.

The Prime Minister is very keen that his correspondence is replied to as quickly as possible and I would be very grateful if you could try, within your own probably stretched resources, to meet his request.

Can I please ask you to ensure that all those within your department who deal with Prime Minister's treat official correspondence are made aware of this temporary arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

The Correspondence Secretary

MOD.

Section 40
Bath
Section 40
Tel: Section 40
Email: Section 40

PRIME MINISTER'S
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

3/10

No acknowledgement has been sent. It is important that some form of acknowledgement is sent by your Department, and a FULL REPLY IF NECESSARY

2870

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in hope that you and your new Government may be able to help me get some information that has been denied under a previous one.

I have been corresponding with the MOD about an event that happened outside of a Military Facility in DEC 1980. I have enclosed a pack of correspondence between them and myself for your viewing. I have also prepared a similar set for my local member of parliament.

As you can see by my enclosed letters and covering sheet, I am only asking some very basic questions about a highly unusual incident. I am not interested in harming the MOD or the country in any way. But still the MOD will not answer the questions.

The MOD say they investigated the incident at the time, when I enquired they only had one sheet of paper on the incident (the Halt Statement), surely this is wrong if they investigated fully because as Col Halt says in his official report " Numerous individuals witnessed the activities in paragraph 2 and 3"

I can not see how an full investigation could have been made without all the witness statements, and if they were taken why do the MOD tell me they have only the one paper the Halt statement. How could this be?

If there were no statements taken would it be possible to look at the investigation report. If not would it be possible to access a copy of the original cover letter that accompanied the halt statement, which was written by the Base Commander, of which the MOD also do not seem to have.

If you could help clarify this situation or help in getting answers to my questions it would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely... Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
24 NOV 1997
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Section 40

18 Sep 97 12:23

E109 (A)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

B

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 2182140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

[redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/12/3
Date
7 November 1994

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State, which has been forwarded for reply to this office as the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for unexplained aerial phenomena, often characterized as "UFO" reports.

2. I can confirm that no new information has come to this office's attention in respect of the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. You asked at what level the decision was taken that the UK's security was not compromised that night. The decision was, quite properly, collectively reached by officers within the MOD/RAF sections with responsibility for air defence matters; their judgement was based on the available evidence. Furthermore, it is not our policy to enter into detail about the procedures the MOD adopts for making threat assessments. The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge at the time of the event, Lt Col Halt, made an official statement regarding the incident, but significantly made no recommendation that a further investigation should be carried out.

3. Nothing has subsequently emerged which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

4. Your letter goes on to mention RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. RAF Rudloe Manor is the Headquarters of the RAF Police, which does serve as a focal point, amongst other things, for flying complaints. In the past, Rudloe Manor was the RAF coordination point for reports of unusual aerial sightings. However, once such reports were received they were simply forwarded to this office for appropriate action. Nowadays Rudloe Manor, along with other RAF stations, forward such reports directly to this office.

5. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

C.

Section 40

M.O.D,
Secrearíat (Air Staff) 2A.
Main Building Whitehall.

I am writing with some questions pertaining to Unexplained aerial phenomena, often referred as UFO's.

I am hoping that you could clarify your position on the 1980 (DEC) incident between Rendlesham and Woodbridge Air bases.

In earlier letters it was mentioned that Lt Col Halt made an official statement regarding the incident and that he made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out.

Could you clarify when and how Lt Halt recommended this action as it is not mentioned in his official report?
Could you let me know when and how the M.O.D was informed of Lt Halts recommendations as they are not included in his report?

If as procedure would have it Lt Halt was debriefed by Defence Intelligence it possible to obtain any briefing notes/statements so that I may clarify this point?

Does the M.O.D have an interest or opinion in the latest revelations by Lt Halt, in which he claims there was an absolute defence threat, high level involvement, and cover-up by Defence Intelligence, or other Intelligence departments?

I was also told in a letter that "the decision was taken that the U.K's security was not compromised", are there any notes/documents that support this statement from the people who made this decision?

It was also wrote in the letter that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you please clarify this point for me :
1. If the Halt statement is the available evidence,
2. If its all the evidence.
3 or if there is other evidence that accompanies the Halt statement in any form?

Another point I feel needs to be clarified is Paragraph 1. Of the Halt statement. Lt halt uses the word "they" meaning other than him and later states "That three patrolmen proceeded on foot".

Who are the three patrolmen?, as they were the best and nearest observers to the phenomenon why were their statements of the nights occurrences not taken?
If they were is it possible to see them?

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
30 October 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 8 October.

2. May I first correct the misunderstanding in Paras 3 and 4 of your letter. In para 2 of my letter to you of 7 Nov 94 I said that:

> "The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge at the time of the event, Lt Col Halt, made an official statement regarding the incident, but significantly ***made no recommendation*** that a further investigation should be carried out."

Nowhere in my letter do I state as you suggest that Lt Col Halt:

> "... made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out".

3. I attach for your information a Hansard extract of the responses given by Mr Soames the Minister(Armed Forces) to two Parliamentary Questions tabled by Martin Redmond MP in July of this year about the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

(1).2

HANSARD EXTRACT

Written Answers

24 July 1996, Columns 423 & 424

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

(E.)

Section 40

Dear Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a.

Many thanks for your letter of 30 th Oct. 1996.
Also thank you for pointing out my error over the quote from the 'Halt' statement.

I am writing again with some questions on the 1980 (Dec) incidents, between the Rendlesham and Woodbridge airbases.

1: In reference to the letter of 7th Nov. 1994 from yourself, it mentioned, 'that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you clarify 'Available evidence'?
A: was the Halt statement 'the evidence'?
B: Is it the only evidence?
C: If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2: A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who are the patrolmen?
Were there statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3: 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement, 'Numerous individuals witness the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
Is it possible to see these statements?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the M.O.D would have to have at least interviewed, or asked the other witnesses for statements.
If this is not the case please could you tell me why they weren't?

Thank you again for taking the time to help me try to understand the events of the nights in question.

All the best...

(F.)

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
19 November 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your undated letter which we received on 13 November.

2. The MOD position regarding the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is that the events were judged by those with responsibility for air defence matters at the time to have no defence significance. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 15 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assèssment made by this Department was incorrect.

3. I am afraid there is nothing more that I can add to the comments I have previously provided.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

9.

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thankyou for the last letter received from you in Nov 1996.

I am enquiring about the incident of Dec 1980 between the Woodbrige and Rendlesham air bases.

I am not asking about any new information, as I already know the MOD standpoint on this. I also know the MOD standpoint that the event was of "no defence significance"and I thank you for clarifying that with me in your last letter.
All I am asking is for a reply to the questions below so as to help me understand the event in question.

The questions I have are:

In the letter from you dated 7th Nov 1994 it mentioned, "that the decision was based on the available evidence"
A. Was the Halt statement' the evidence'?
B. Is it the only evidence?
C. If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2. A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who were the patrolmen?
Were their statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3. 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement,'Numerous individuals witnessed the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
If so is it possible to see them?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the MOD would have to have at least interviewed, or had statements fro all the other witnesses involved, if only to show that Halt wasn't halucinating in any way.

Also Is it possible to see the cover letter that was attached to the Halt statement, when it was sent by the Base Commander to the MOD?

I thank you in advance for any help you can give me.

All the best...

(4)

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
BATH
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 June 1997

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 21 May concerning events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

2. I am afraid that there really is nothing further I can add to the information I have given in previous correspondence on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 52

Section 40
Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
19 November 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your undated letter which we received on 13 November.

2. The MOD position regarding the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is that the events were judged by those with responsibility for air defence matters at the time to have no defence significance. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 15 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

3. I am afraid there is nothing more that I can add to the comments I have previously provided.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

cretariat(Air Staff)2a,
Room 8245.

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for your letter of 30 th Oct. 1996.
Also thank you for pointing out my error over the quote from the 'Halt' statement.

I am writing again with some questions on the 1980 (Dec) incidents, between the Rendlesham and Woodbridge airbases.

1: In reference to the letter of 7th Nov. 1994 from yourself, it mentioned, 'that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you clarify 'Available evidence'?
A: was the Halt statement 'the evidence'?
B: Is it the only evidence?
C: If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2: A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who are the patrolmen?
Were there statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3: 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement, 'Numerous individuals witness the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
Is it possible to see these statements?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the M.O.D would have to have at least interviewed, or asked the other witnesses for statements.
If this is not the case please could you tell me why they weren't?

Thank you again for taking the time to help me try to understand the events of the nights in question.

All the best...

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
30 October 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 8 October.

2. May I first correct the misunderstanding in Paras 3 and 4 of your letter. In para 2 of my letter to you of 7 Nov 94 I said that:

> "The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge at the time of the event, Lt Col Halt, made an official statement regarding the incident, but significantly ***made no recommendation*** that a further investigation should be carried out."

Nowhere in my letter do I state as you suggest that Lt Col Halt:

> "... made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out".

3. I attach for your information a Hansard extract of the responses given by Mr Soames the Minister(Armed Forces) to two Parliamentary Questions tabled by Martin Redmond MP in July of this year about the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

HANSARD EXTRACT

Written Answers

24 July 1996, Columns 423 & 424

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

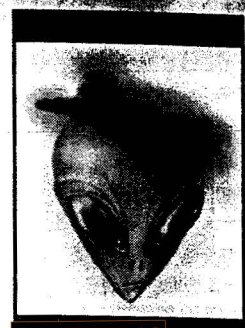
(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Section 40

We can answer this enclosing the PQ response from July:

Section 40



Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 OCT 1996
FILE 643

M.O.D,
Secrearíat (Air Staff) 2A.
Main Building Whitehall.

I am writing with some questions pertaining to Unexplained aerial phenomena, often referred as UFO's.

I am hoping that you could clarify your position on the 1980 (DEC) incident between Rendlesham and Woodbridge Air bases.

In earlier letters it was mentioned that Lt Col Halt made an official statement regarding the incident and that he made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out.

Could you clarify when and how Lt Halt recommended this action as it is not mentioned in his official report?
Could you let me know when and how the M.O.D was informed of Lt Halts recommendations as they are not included in his report?

If as procedure would have it Lt Halt was debriefed by Defence Intelligence it possible to obtain any briefing notes/statements so that I may clarify this point?

Does the M.O.D have an interest or opinion in the latest revelations by Lt Halt, in which he claims there was an absolute defence threat, high level involvement, and cover-up by Defence Intelligence, or other Intelligence departments?

I was also told in a letter that "the decision was taken that the U.K's security was not compromised", are there any notes/documents that support this statement from the people who made this decision?

It was also wrote in the letter that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you please clarify this point for me :
1. If the Halt statement is the available evidence,
2. If its all the evidence.
3 or if there is other evidence that accompanies the Halt statement in any form?

Another point I feel needs to be clarified is Paragraph 1. Of the Halt statement. Lt halt uses the word "they" meaning other than him and later states "That three patrolmen proceeded on foot".

Who are the three patrolmen?, as they were the best and nearest observers to the phenomenon why were their statements of the nights occurrences not taken?
If they were is it possible to see them?

In paragraph three near the end Lt Halt mentions that "Numerous individuals witness the activi-[redacted]".

1. Who were these individuals?
2. Were they interviewed or had they given statements ?

As Lt Halt didn't" recommend no investigation" in the Halt statement then someone must have collated statements to save disintergration of evidence in the case of further investigation.
Who? And are they available?
If not please could you tell me why?

The halt statement is dated 13th Jan. 91, can you give an explanation why it took almost 2 weeks to write a statement that could have been an intrusion of defence, and for it to be investigated? Did the decision that the incident was no defence threat occur before or after the Halt statement?

I would appreciate it if you could please help in the clarification of these points, because I do not have all the relevant facts it gives the impression that the M.O.D Investigation procedure was sloppy and I would like to help clear this image up and present a clear picture of those nights in question.

All the bes[redacted] Section 40

10.96.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE 13 NUMBER

Section 40

BATH
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 June 1997

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 21 May concerning events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

2. I am afraid that there really is nothing further I can add to the information I have given in previous correspondence on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

21 May 97

Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thankyou for the last letter received from you in Nov 1996.

I am enquiring about the incident of Dec 1980 between the Woodbrige and Rendlesham air bases.

I am not asking about any new information, as I already know the MOD standpoint on this. I also know the MOD standpoint that the event was of "no defence significance"and I thank you for clarifying that with me in your last letter.
All I am asking is for a reply to the questions below so as to help me understand the event in question.

The questions I have are:

In the letter from you dated 7th Nov 1994 it mentioned, "that the decision was based on the available evidence"
A. Was the Halt statement' the evidence'?
B. Is it the only evidence?
C. If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2. A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who were the patrolmen?
Were their statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3. 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement,'Numerous individuals witnessed the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
If so is it possible to see them?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the MOD would have to have at least interviewed, or had statements fro all the other witnesses involved, if only to show that Halt wasn't halucinating in any way.

Also Is it possible to see the cover letter that was attached to the Halt statement, when it was sent by the Base Commander to the MOD?

I thank you in advance for any help you can give me.

Section 40

All th

Section 40

From: Section 40
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)
(GTN) Section 40

11

Section 40
Cambridge
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
17 December 2002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 December, which has been passed to me, as this department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence about UFOs.

The recent press reports about the release of information concerning the "Rendlesham Forest" incident refers to the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme which was launched on 29 November and includes classes of information on UFOs. If you wish to look at the scheme, please see **www.foi.mod.uk**. A search under **UFO** will take you to all the UFO material in the scheme and a search on **Rendlesham Forest** will take you directly to the Rendlesham documents.

You mentioned the release of these and other documents to Section 40 and their appearance in UFO Magazine earlier in the year. I can confirm that Section 40 requested a copy of the Rendlesham Forest file under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) in May 2001. Since then 22 others have requested and been sent copies of the file. Section 40 also requested a copy of the Flying Saucer Working Party – Report No.7. At the time of this request no copy could be found and it was thought not to have survived. However, during a routine review of files which had been retained in the MOD for more than 50 years, a copy of the report was found on an unrelated file. As we were aware of Section 40 interest in this document, he was informed that a copy had been discovered and it was duly released to him. Both of these sets of papers have been included in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme which has given us the opportunity to make them more generally available.

You also asked if the MOD holds other classified material on 'UFO' matters and whether it plans to release any further documents in the future.

The MOD holds approximately 250 files concerning UFO matters, the vast majority of which are unclassified reports and correspondence with members of the public. These files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The MOD, however, also operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it

would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information held in these closed files can therefore, be requested and will be supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code. We will be keeping the FOI Publication Scheme under review and material released in response to individual requests, may be added to the scheme in the future.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in the future, please write to the address at the top of this letter, or e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) P+P **TO Ref No** 6592 **/2002**

Date 4 Dec 02

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Ministers

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 December 2002 09:20
To: 'Ministers@defence.mod.uk'
Subject: Rendlesham UFO documents

Hello MoD

The press has been carrying reports that the MoD has released documents related to the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident.

Earlier this year, UFO magazine published several pages of previously secret documents pertaining to Rendlesham. These docs were obtained by Section 40 Section 40. I gather that these documents are the one's the MoD has decided to release.

Section 40 also obtained a copy of a 50yr old report by the Flying Saucer Working Group. It is my understanding that an MP was told that no such document existed. But exist it does.

* Are you able to confirm the existence of any other classifed documents or other classified materials held by the MoD or its agencies related to the UFO/ET subject?
* Wouldn't it be a boon for the government that introduced the FOIA to demonstrate its commitment to the Act by disclosing all currently classified UFO information?
* Does the MoD plan to release any further UFO documents?

My address is:-

Section 40
Cambridge
Section 40

Sincerely
Section 40

Section 40

tel: Section 40
fax: Section 40

UbiNetics Ltd
www.UbiNetics.com
email:
Section 40

10

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Barrow in Furness
Cumbria
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3

Date
16 December 2002

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your e-mail dated 4 December 2002, which was passed to this office. We are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

With regard to your request for a disclosure of records, it might be helpful if I first explain that Ministry of Defence files are subject to the provision of the Public records Act of 1958 and 1967 and remain closed for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all MOD 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, as a result of growing public interest the files have been routinely preserved since 1967 and released to the Public Record Office. Any from the 1950s and early 1960s that survived are pen for public viewing and if you (or a representative) would like to look at these files they are held at the following address:

The Public Record Office
Ruskin Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU

Tel: 020 8876 3444
Fax: 020 8878 8905

Files from 1972 onwards will be opened annually as they reach their 30-year maturity point.

With regard to the files that are less than 30 years old, I can inform you that the Department receives, on average, about 400 sighting reports from members of the public each year and a similar number of letters, some of which may also contain sighting reports. The information

is filed manually in the form it is received on Branch files and therefore contains the personal details of all those contacting and corresponding with the Department. MOD has a duty to protect this third party confidentiality and the 30-year period is deemed appropriate for this purpose. Before access could be given to the material, staff would need to be diverted from their essential defence-related tasks to receive the material from archives and scrutinise and remove all of the personal information from many thousands of documents. The latter action would be necessary because the alternative, to contact everyone providing the information to secure their agreement to the release of their personal details, would be unworkable. I regret, therefore, that your request for copies of all this material is refused under Exemption 9 of the Code of practice on Access to Government Information (voluminous or vexatious requests) and Exemption 12 (Privacy of an individual). We would, of course, be happy to look to see what information might be made available if you could be more specific about the period, or reports of particular sightings that you are interested in. This would then enable us to consider whether a more focused effort on a limited amount of material might be possible.

If you are unhappy with the decision to refuse your request for full access to MOD files and wish to appeal, you should write in the first instance to the Ministry of Defence, Directorate of Information (Exploitation), Room 819B, St Giles Court, 1-13 St Giles High Street, London, WC2H 8LD requesting that the decision be reviewed. If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied, you can ask a Member of Parliament to take up the case with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) who can investigate on your behalf. The Ombudsman will not, however, consider an investigation until the internal review process has been completed. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA)P+P **TO Ref No** 6622 **/2002**

Date 5 12 02

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

[redacted]inisters

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Sent: 04 December 2002 11:13

To: Ministers

Subject: resent message

To whom it may concern.

I am and have been greatly interested in foo fighters all my life and have seen a number over the years.Would it be foolish of me to ask for disclosure of records?

Regards

Section 40 [redacted]

My full postal address is:Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Barrow in Furness

Cumbria

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 16 December 2002 10:56
To: Section 40
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs
Signed By: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail concerning the press reports about material released by the MOD concerning UFOs. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD for matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the UFO matterial released. A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you to the Rendlesham Forest papers specifically.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 11 December 2002 12:05
To: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail concerning the press reports about material released by the MOD concerning UFOs. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD for matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the UFO matterial released. A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you to the Rendlesham Forest papers specifically.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

Low Flying

From: Ministers
Sent: 09 December 2002 09:02
To: Low Flying
Subject: FW: UFO reports
Signed By: ministers@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 07 December 2002 12:06
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: UFO reports

Section 40

if possible please send me the latest Reports on the UFO phenomena recently reported in the Press
Regards Section 40

DAS-LA OpsPol2

From: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Sent: 12 December 2002 11:34
To: Section 40
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs
Signed By: das-laopspol2@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dea Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail dated 3 December concerning the MOD Rendlesham Forest file released in the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000, Publication Scheme. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD on matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk . A search under UFO will take you to all the released information on UFOs. A search on Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to the Rendlesham Forest papers.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs

Dea Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail dated 3 December concerning the MOD Rendlesham Forest file released in the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000, Publication Scheme. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD on matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk . A search under UFO will take you to all the released information on UFOs. A search on Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to the Rendlesham Forest papers.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA) P+P **TO Ref No** 6590 **/2002**

Date 4.12.02

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

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Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

Parliamentary-Asst Clerk3

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 03 December 2002 15:22
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: UFOs

Sir: How can I receive a copy of the Remsdlesham UFO incident? Couldn't locate it on your website. Send any data to: Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted] East Chicago, In., 46312, USA. Thanks! /s/ Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol2

7

From: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Sent: 12 December 2002 11:33
To: Section 40
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs
Signed By: das-laopspol2@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 December concerning the MOD Rendlesham Forest file released in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Publication Scheme. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD on matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the released information on UFOs. A search on Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to the Rendlesham Forest papers.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

D[redacted]-LA OpsPol1

To: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 December concerning the MOD Rendlesham Forest file released in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Publication Scheme. Your message has been passed to me because this department is the focal point within the MOD on matters concerning UFOs.

The MOD Publication Scheme can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under UFO will take you to all the released information on UFOs. A search on Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to the Rendlesham Forest papers.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Lon Ply /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS(LA) PAP **TO Ref No** 6560 /2002

Date 4 Dec 02

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

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Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

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Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Parliamentary-Asst Clerk3

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 03 December 2002 14:29
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: UFO Documentation

Dear Sir / Madam,

I believe that according to the Freedom of Information Act, documentation relating to UFO sittings in the UK has at last been released to the public and that they were to be posted on your web page. I can not find these, can you please tell me when this will be made available and where I can find them.

Kind Regards

Section 40 [redacted]
Section 40 [redacted]
Esher
Surrey
Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol2

From: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Sent: 12 December 2002 11:32
To: Section 40
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs
Signed By: das-laopspol2@defence.mod.uk
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

The Lord Chancellor's Department have forwarded to me your e-mail of 29 November concerning the UFO papers released by the Ministry of Defence concerning UFOs. This department is the focal point within the MOD for matters concerning UFOs.

If you wish to view the documents released under the MOD Freedom of Information Act, Publication Scheme, please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 11 December 2002 11:55
To: DAS-LA OpsPol2
Subject: MOD Released material on UFOs

Dear Section 40

The Lord Chancellor's Department have forwarded to me your e-mail of 29 November concerning the UFO papers released by the Ministry of Defence concerning UFOs. This department is the focal point within the MOD for matters concerning UFOs.

If you wish to view the documents released under the MOD Freedom of Information Act, Publication Scheme, please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in future, please e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying/UFO

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LN) P1b **TO Ref No** 6735 **/2002**

Date 10th ~~November~~ December 2002

The ~~Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS~~/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the ~~PM/Minister/~~Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

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Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT
ROOM 6.24, SELBORNE HOUSE
54-60 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON
SW1E 6QW

Transfer of Public Correspondence

We received the attached correspondence. After consideration, the subject matter is more appropriate to your department.

( ) The correspondent has been informed of the transfer.

( ) The correspondent has not been informed of the transfer.

( ) The correspondents have been informed of the transfer.

( ) The correspondents have not been informed of the transfer.

If your department is no longer responsible for the issue(s) raised, please forward the correspondence to the appropriate office, do not return it to this department.

Thank you.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 December 2002 16:01
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information (IT and E-Government Policy)

Section 40

Could you please treat this as a Treat Official.

Thanks

Section 40
Private Secretary to Yvette Cooper MP

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 03 December 2002 11:04
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information (IT and E-Government Policy)

One for Section 40

Thanks

Section 40
-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 29 November 2002 05:24
To: coopery@parliament.uk
Subject: Freedom of Information (IT and E-Government Policy)

This message has been sent from the House of Commons WebSite Constituency Locata Service Your email address will not be divulged unless you reply by email to this message

I am please to hear that the Government Policy is to be relaxed in the near future on certain classified UFO sightings. I would be very interested in perusing any such documents, especially if made available on the internet. When any such documents are released, could I please be informed with details of how to access them. I presume that some form of database will be opened to the public. If so, then could you please e-mail me the link addresses. Regards, Section 40

The sender left the following as their name and address:

Section 40

Section 40 Peterlee Co. Durham Section 40

Message Ends.

5

DAS-LA OpsPol1

From: Section 40
Sent: 16 December 2002 13:31
To: DAS-LAOpsPol1@defence.mod.uk
Subject: RE: Released material on UFOs, Reply

Importance: High

Thank you. 12/16/02 7:30 am CST

Regards,

******
Section 40 President
Section 40
Private Investment Banking Consultants
Chicago, Illinois
DIRECT Section 40
CELL Section 40
FAX
******

-----Original Message-----
From: "DAS-LA OpsPol1" <DAS-LAOpsPol1@defence.mod.uk>
Sent: Mon, 16 Dec 2002 11:53:08 -0000
To: 'Section 40
Subject: Released material on UFOs

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 December concerning the release of MOD documents relating to an alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. Your message has been passed to me as this department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to UFOs.

I have not seen the article in the NY Times, but if it states that the released material contains photographs, then this is incorrect, as the MOD does not hold any photographs of this alleged incident.

If you wish to view the released documents, please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search on Rendlesham Forest. If you wish to look at all the material on UFOs included in the MODs Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme, please search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in the future, please send your e-mails to das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40
Subject: Released material on UFOs
Security Label: Signed

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 December concerning the release of MOD documents relating to an alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. Your message has been passed to me as this department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to UFOs.

I have not seen the article in the NY Times, but if it states that the released material contains photographs, then this is incorrect, as the MOD does not hold any photographs of this alleged incident.

If you wish to view the released documents, please go to www.foi.mod.uk and search on Rendlesham Forest. If you wish to look at all the material on UFOs included in the MODs Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme, please search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to contact me in the future, please send your e-mails to das-laopspol1 @defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1

Low Flying

From: Section 40
Sent: 09 December 2002 03:03
To: lowflying@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Request for Assistance, re; The [so-called] Rendlesham File and related photos.

Hi There, 12/7/02 9:00 pm CST

I have read in todays NY Times, section 4, pg.7 about the recent release of the so-called Rendlesham File, i.e., the UFO photos. I have also, this evening, registered with your web-site. For the life of me I am unable to locate or should I say navigate to the actual photos. Would you be so kind as to provide me with a link, or other such guidance, in order to facilitate my ability to view. I am not a so-called "UFO buff" or a conspiracy theorist but rather just an ordinary guy who has read about the recent posting of these photos and, well, I am curious & would like to (as it is said) take a gander. Your assistance is appreciated. Should you desire the article that I have referred to, i.e., "The Word for Word" article I would be more than happy to send it to you via any number of methods/web-sites. Please advise and thanks.

Regards,

******

Section 40 President
Section 40
Private Investment Banking Consultants
Chicago, Illinois
DIRECT Section 40
CELL Section 40
FAX
Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

4

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) P+P **TO Ref No** 6626 **/2002**

Date 5th December 2002

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

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Ministers

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Sent: 03 December 2002 20:26

To: 'OPCA.Enquiries@ombudsman.gsi.gov.uk'; 'public@ministers.mod.uk'

Subject: Rendlesham Files Information Release

Thank you Section 40 [redacted] and the Ministry of Defence for seeing to the public release of the "Rendlesham Files". It is too often that one of the strangest enigmas of modern times is continually met with derision, fear and ignorance. This may have been appropriate during the "dark ages" of a few hundred years ago, but it's uncalled for today. Like many other unexplained phenomena before, this too will one day be solved, and the more information that is credible and made public, the quicker the solution will be in hand.

Thanks again from "across the pond",

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Anchorage, Alaska USA

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40
Subject: Rendlesham Forest Papers

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter in which you requested a copy of documents concerning the alleged UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.

The Ministry of Defence file on this incident has been including in the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme and can be viewed at www.foi.mod.uk. A search under Rendlesham Forest will take you directly to these papers. Alternatively, if you wish to see all the material on UFOs included in the Publication Scheme, please search under UFO.

I hope this is helpful. You may wish to note that our branch has reorganised and we are now at the following address;

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Alternatively, you can e-mail me at das-laopspol1@defence.mod. uk

Section 40

Section 40

Northern Branch

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD)
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1 A2HB

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to request a copy, under the terms and regulations of the freedom of information act, of any documents relating to unidentified flying objects in the UK, and in particular the Rendlesham forest UFO incident.
If your department is unable to fulfil this request, I would be grateful if you could transfer my request to the appropriate department or office on my behalf.

Yours Faithfully

Section 40
Investigations Co-Ordinator
Section 40 Northern Branch
And member of BUFORA

Section 40 Denton Burn, Newcastle Upon Tyne
Section 40 United Kingdom.
Tel: Section 40
Email: Section 40

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40
Subject: Reports of sightings of UFOs
11 December 2002

Dear Section 40

I am writing in reply to your e-mail of 3 December, which has been passed to me as this department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence about UFOs.

You asked why the MOD does not publish any reports of sightings of UFOs on the MOD Website and it may help if I first explain the MODs position with regard to UFOs.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. Any reports made to the MOD are examined solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of identification service and we could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to publication of these reports, all the reports we receive contain the name, address and personal details of those who have corresponded with the MOD. Before publication these would have to be removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Given the MOD's limited interest in these matters we do not believe the expenditure of cost to do this on a continuous bases, for no defence purpose, could be justified. The MOD does, however, operate in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade on an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions of the Code. I note that you have requested "recent records of sightings inside the UK". If you would like to be a little more specific about the information you require, (for example, a particular period or location) we will see what reports can be made available to you. In addition, you may like to look at the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at www.foi.mod.uk. This shows all the material published by the MOD and a search under UFO will take you to directly to this class of information.

Finally, you say you have written "tons of times" but never received a reply. We have no record of previous correspondence from you, so if you wish to contact us in future, my e-mail address is das-laopspol1 @defence.mod.uk. Alternatively you can write to me at the following address;

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

I hope this is helpful.

Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Low Flying /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) P+P **TO Ref No** 6591. **/2002**

Date 4.12.02

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days** of the above date. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An *Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information* came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under *Service First*, all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Room 222, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
Section 40
Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

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* Delete as appropriate.

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** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Parliamentary-Asst Clerk3

From: Section 40

Sent: 03 December 2002 14:32

To: public@ministers.mod.uk

Subject: PLEASE READ ME AND REPLY

DEAR SIR/MADAM

I AM WRITING TO ASK WHY YOU DONT PUBLISH ANY REPORTS ON SIGHTINGS OF U.F.O'S IN YOUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MOD.UK
THERE ARE SO MANY SIGHTINGS EVERY YEAR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND GOVERMENT SERVENTS !
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU FOR THE RECENT RECORDS OF SIGHTINGS INSIDE THE UK PLEASE. AS I KNOW THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION CAN BE GIVEN OUT TO THE PUBLIC BY THE MOD !
I DONT REALLY THINK THE MOD WILL REPLY TO THIS EMAIL BY POST AS I WROTE TONS OF TIMES AND NEVER GOT NO WHERE ! MAKES YOU THINK DONT IT !

LAST PLEA FOR A REPLY !!!!

YOURS SINCERLY

Section 40

Section 40
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE
Section 40

TEL : Section 40

DAS-LA OpsPol1

To: Section 40
Subject: UFO Papers

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your e-mail of 2 December in which you gave a description of something you saw but were unable to identify over Washington on 4 October 2002. Your message has been passed to me as this department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence about UFOs.

It may be helpful if I explain that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/Flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. Any reports we receive, are examined solely to see if there is any evidence that UK airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is posssible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and we could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond or specific defence remit. I am therefore unable to help with identification of your particular sighting.

You also mentioned that you had read the article on CNN.com about the Ministry of Defence papers on UFOs which have been released under the MOD Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme. If you would like to view these papers, they can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. A search on Rendlesham Forest will take you straight to the papers on this particular incident, or a search on UFO will find all the information on UFOs included in the Publication Scheme.

I hope this is helpful. If you wish to e-mail me in the future, my address is das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy1

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Law Ryry /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (LA) P+P TO Ref No 6562 /2002

Date 4. 12. 02.

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

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* Delete as appropriate.

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

Ministers

From: Section 40
Sent: 02 December 2002 19:37
To: public@ministers.mod.uk
Subject: I was reading the ufo story


ufo.bmp

I was reading the ufo story on the CNN.com site I think I saw part of the samething here in the USA.
Here, is what I saw.

had something happen to me on Oct,4.2002
It happen on October Friday the 4th 2002 around 8:30 PM. PST. I was hearing something like bat noise but not a high low pitch, but a double low pitch noise of the same kind of like a bird call. It was foggy at the time, as they where circling counter clockwise over my head about 50 feet, I counted five of them. My X-wife came over to drop of my son off, I told her to look at this, We watch this happen for about an hour. They where giving of light white and a blue like nucleus type center. I made a drawing of it to try to show you what I saw. I guess Washington State is very active in this kind of thing I wish I had something to record or trace it with. here is a pic. of what it looked like when it lite up and about the size of a seagul.

From: Section 40
Section 40,
Everett, WA. 98204
Section 40