

JUST CAUSE

Address:

CAUS
Box 176
Stoneham, Ma. 02180

Rates: \$15 US, \$20 Foreign

Editor: Barry Greenwood

NUMBER 47

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy

March-June 1996

NOTE

A while back when Larry Fawcett retired I had to skip an issue so that Just Cause's dating has been three months behind. It is being brought up to date with this issue. No one will miss anything, I am merely adjusting the date to reflect the issue's release more correctly.

NEW NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY RELEASE

The National Security Agency (NSA) has released 240 pages of UFO records from their holdings. A few statistics are necessary here.

Fifty-four pages consisted of material relating to the 1980 lawsuit of CAUS vs NSA and associated publicity in newspapers and magazines, leaving 186 pages not directly related to the lawsuit and pre-dating 1980.

According to the NSA's 21-page top secret In Camera affidavit of October 1980, the one giving the NSA's reasons for withholding their UFO files in the original lawsuit, they had located a total of 239 documents, of which 79 had originated with other agencies. This left 160 NSA-originated documents withheld.

Not knowing how many pages constituted the 239, we can break down the new release as follows:

NSA - 104 pages (plus 54 pages of lawsuit data).
Army Intelligence - 7 pages.
Defense Intelligence Agency - 75 pages.

The best way to summarize this is to say that we now have 104 pages of the 160 documents the NSA said it had in 1980. And we have 82 pages of the 79 documents originating with other agencies. A few of these had been released in the original suit but much is new. So 16 years later an undetermined percentage of the goals of the CAUS suit against the NSA have been satisfied. An accurate percentage can't be given unless we have total page numbers from the NSA.

Credit for this release goes to Richard Giordano of Massachusetts, an independent researcher who has privately investigated UFO history since his early days as a member of NICAP (now defunct). I have worked with Giordano for many years in exploring military-oriented UFO incidents and, as has been true with other associates of CAUS, he has preferred to work quietly in unearthing such information. More than once I have heard of such UFO

history-chasers referred to as "dinosaurs," in other words they are anachronistic, pursuing things that are so old and unrelated to today's crazes (abductions, conspiracies, dead aliens, New Age UFOlogy) that somehow no one cares anymore. WARNING: One can not understand this subject unless one knows its genuine roots. That is why CAUS and its supporters engage in such paleolithic activities.

Another thing demonstrated numerous times in CLEAR INTENT is the fact that following through on a FOIA request is frustration in capital letters. Giordano discovered this first hand.

His initial request was filed on June 8, 1992. It was received by the NSA on June 16th. Giordano heard nothing for months so he placed a phone call on November 18th that year, five months later. He was told by an NSA official that he was in a backlog of 477 requests. 50 requests were ahead of his, including 10 UFO requests. The official estimated that it would take six more months to fulfill Giordano's request.

Nine months later, with no word, Giordano called the NSA again on August 27, 1993. Getting the same staffer, he was told that there were now only 10-20 requests ahead of his, including 4-5 UFO requests.

Another year and two months passed with nothing. Giordano spoke with another staffer (the first one had left his position) on October 1994. He was told this time that the 21-page top secret NSA affidavit that was among the requested documents was being reviewed for possible partial declassification along with portions of the withheld 239 documents. But..... there were still requests being considered ahead of his, now with no guarantee of a response time!

Another year and a half passed, finally forcing Giordano to lodge an extremely angry complaint letter with NSA officials. He very quickly received a phone response on March 23, 1996, informing him that action was being taken on the request. The NSA official told Giordano offhandedly that the NSA maintained a UFO file that was regularly updated. This was not really reflected in the document release to Giordano however as there is nothing from recent times. This is reflected in a February 3, 1992 release to a researcher (desiring anonymity) when the NSA released 15 pages of news stories stored on NSA computers dating from recent times, oddly not included in Giordano's release. Why? There is no need to withhold such material from Giordano as it has already been made available. And it is not particularly sensitive. The most likely explanation is a bureaucratic foul-up which then makes one wonder what other material has been overlooked through bureaucratic mishaps.

During much of the time that CAUS had filed requests with agencies it was always believed that belligerence in dealing with agency officials was not helpful. Confrontation with those officials, even if justified, was considered to be a good way to have the request handled in a less-than-diligent manner, perhaps being put to the bottom of one's list of priorities. Generally that is true, but in Giordano's case he was subjected to such an outrageous delay that an angry outburst solved his administrative problem rather quickly. Surely trying to explain to Congress a 3½ year delay in a FOIA request was not something that the NSA wanted to do.

So what was found?

Army Intelligence - IIR 2 727 1030 68, UFOs over China, 7-17-68.

IIR 2 221 0123 70, UFOs over S. Korea, 1970.

IIR 2 727 1227 68, UFOs over Taiwan Strait, 8-12-68.

Report 2842074464, UFOs over China, 1960.

Defense Intelligence Agency -

Message 10-31-90, Swedish Radar Intelligence.

IIR 1 856 0138 68, UFOs over Laos, 11-28-68.

IIR 1 865 0011 67, UFOs over Morocco, 1967.
 IIR 5 804 0048 65, UFOs over Antarctica, 6-23-65.
 IIR 2 884 0188 67, Fallen Object, Saudi Arabia,
 10-67.
 IIR 2 218 5506 67, UFO in USSR.
 Report 2217023564, UFO over E. Germany, 1963.
 IIR 1 869 0015 67, B. Cathie UFO Theories (file).
 IIR 1 845 0016 65, Fallen Object, Indonesia.
 IIR 1 842 9999 67, UFO over China, 1965.
 IIR 1 838 0030 67, UFO over Guatemala, 4-23-67.
 IIR 1 818 0201 66, UFOs over Taiwan, 7-10-66.
 IIR 1 817 0046 65, UFOs over Chile, 1965.
 IIR 6 846 0392 78, UFOs over Iran, 7-78.
 IIR 6 846 0380 78, UFO over Iran (photo), 1978.
 IIR 6 889 0174 74, UFOs over Spain, 1973-74.
 IIR 1 901 0007 68, Russian UFO Interest, 1968.
 IIR 1 900 0031 66, UFO in Uruguay, 4-8-66.
 IIR 1 817 0057 65, UFOs over Chile, 9-6-65.
 IIR 1 900 0079 65, UFOs over Uruguay, 1965.
 IIR 1 804 0123 68, UFOs over Argentina, 1968.
 IIR 1 865 0069 67, UFOs over Morocco, 4-67.
 IIR 1 809 0112 67, UFOs over Brazil, 1967.

National Security Agency -

Document - UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions.
 Memo - Report on 1978 MUFON Conference.
 File - 1976 Iranian Jet Chase.
 Article - Communication with Extraterrestrial
 Intelligence (no source).
 Document - Report Bibliography (various UFO
 publications from the U.S. government).
 Document - Exploitation Report: Fragment Metal
 Recovered in the Republic of the Congo.
 Document - Subject: UFOs (deletion).
 Document - Memorandum and Order (From NSA suit).
 File - Publicity on the NSA suit.
 Document - 21-page, top secret NSA affidavit.
 Document - UFO report (no source).
 Document - UFO report (assorted 1955), filed
 with the Northeast Air Command.
 Document - IR 4-58, UFOs over Panama.
 Document - IIR 5 366 0524 68, UFO over Cuba,
 8-10-68.
 Document - Assorted State Department Airgrams
 on UFOs, 15 pgs.

Small amounts of the 21-page affidavit used by the NSA during the CAUS lawsuit in 1980 that were previously censored have now been made public. They answer nothing about UFOs but much about the NSA's reasons for withholding. Some relate to an explanation of acronyms identifying sources of information. One discusses the fact that a "serious short-coming" existed in the NSA's communications intelligence interception and reporting procedures. The UFO phenomena was chosen to illustrate the nature of this technical problem. Since open discussion of the problem would have compromised NSA's activities, the information was withheld. It was also explained by the author of the affidavit, Eugene Yeates, that if an employee of the agency advances a "novel theory," apparently a reference to the use of the UFO phenomena to explain a technical issue, that

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

REQS: [REDACTED]

TEXT:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

(UFO) ON [REDACTED]

AWARE OF

VARIOUS UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS IN [REDACTED]

UNIDENTIFIED SILENT LIGHT MOVING [REDACTED]

THE LIGHT WAS A SATELLITE NOT AN AIRCRAFT [REDACTED]

UNIDENTIFIED LIGHT [REDACTED]

THE LIGHT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS AT LEAST ONE AIRCRAFT.

THREE STRANGE LIGHTS (NFI) [REDACTED] ONE WAS A STATIONARY, BLINKING
TWO LIGHT; THE TWO OTHER, MOVING, LIGHTS CROSSED PATHS. [REDACTED]

THE UFO WAS AT AN ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 300 [REDACTED]

METERS [REDACTED]

IN THE AREA. [REDACTED]

AIRCRAFT [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

Sample document from
NSA release.

making such information public might stifle the candor agency employees might exercise in problem-solving. The employee, it was thought, may suffer professionally if his/her theorizing in a brainstorming session is found to be wrong, and subsequently laid open to public scrutiny.

It is clear from the entire tenor of the affidavit's newly released portions that the overriding concern of the NSA's secrecy on UFOs was to protect sources and methods of monitoring electronic information.

Even from the scant new information available in the affidavit, I think I can make a psychic prediction about the rest of the censored material. Upon its release one day, we may see more new UFO cases and the administration of such ---- but no answers that would satisfy the UFO community.

AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE UFO FILES SURFACE

Thousands of pages of UFO case files have been extracted from the National Archives recently, adding greatly to our knowledge of the UFO investigative activities of the Air Force's 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron (AISS) during the mid-1950s. The 4602nd essentially served as an investigative arm for Project Blue Book using intelligence personnel stationed at various air force bases to check UFO sighting reports in their areas. This expedited Blue Book's ability to respond quickly to UFO events since prior to this time the small staff at Blue Book had to send someone from Wright-Patterson AFB at Dayton, Ohio to check stories of consequence. While the 4602nd's investigations were sent to Blue Book, their in-house records, including cases not sent to Blue Book, were never made a part of the National Archives Blue Book holdings.

The documents were surfaced as a result of a search at the archives by Project 1947 coordinator Jan Aldrich, and took place only a matter of months after a series of Air Force histories, including some on the 4602nd, had been unearthed at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. This information thus constitutes the raw material for the statistical information on the 4602nd's investigations during the 1954-56 time frame. Such a retrieval would have been quite difficult without an on-site search and would certainly have cost much more than it did. A debt of gratitude is owed Aldrich for his perseverance on this.

Several important things are evident in this group of files. While much of the paperwork is in the Blue Book files, some wasn't. A portion of the sample examined so far reveals case write-ups that are completely new. At least two case files contained in the sample, Frederick, Ok. 3-3-56 and Oklahoma City, Ok. 5-29-56, are listed in Blue Book as "Case Missing." The Frederick sighting was noted as having no investigation authorized by the 4602nd. However two pages of specifics are included with the file, obviously never forwarded.

We have a clearer understanding of why Blue Book had "Case Missing" listings and what became of them. They are not actually suppressed files as one might infer from material said to be missing. They are records for which the 4602nd had detail and had forwarded a line listing to Blue Book for statistical purposes. And since an investigation was listed as "not authorized" in some cases for whatever reason (time not available, report not compelling enough, etc.) nothing else was sent to Blue Book offices. The Blue Book indexers, finding nothing more than a summary card on these reports, had no choice but to indicate that the case was missing, perhaps for good.

Due to Aldrich's work we can now account for a number of Blue Book's missing reports, an important historical development which will drop the paranoia index on this matter a few notches.

Another important accounting evident in these records is the fact

GO AHEAD

012110Z DE 56
3W
OPS

EN0005

AD WU045 LONG GOVT PD FARGO NDAK DEC 1 1212PMC
COMMANDER AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO SPGS
UFOB PART ONE. A. ROUND B. SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN A BASEBALL
AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES C. RED TO ORANGE D. ONE E. NA.
F. NA. G. RED STREAK AT INTERVALS H. NONE PART W. A. POLICE
CHECK. B. ALTITUDE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 FEET: C. ALTITUDE
APPROXIMATELY 1,000 FEET D. RAPID MOVEMENTS UP AND DOWN
AND SIDE TO SIDE ALSO HOVERED. E. UPON APPROACH OF POLICE
CAR OBJECT RAPIDLY DISAPPEARED TO THE WEST. F. APPROXIMATELY
15 MINUTE. SECTION 3. A. GROUND VISUAL. B NA. C. NA SECTION
R. A. 0720Z-12-1. B. NIGHT SECTION 5. VALLEY CITY AIRPORT
NORTH DAKOTA SECTION 6. BERNARD KRACHT 720 5TH ST NORTHWEST
VALLEY CITY NORTH DAKOTA POLICEMAN AGE 33. SECTION 7. A.
VERY CLEAR VERY LITTLE WIND OR CLOUDS. B. NA. C. NA. D. NA. E
NA. F. NA. SECTION 8. NONE. SECTION 12 NONE. REMARKS
ADDITIONAL OBSERVER LOREN ANDERSON CITY HALL VALLEY
CITY NORTH DAKOTA POLICEMEN. THE OFFICERS REPORTED THAT
WHEN THEY TRIED TO GET CLOSER TO THE OBJECT THEY LOST RADIO
CONTACT WITH THE STATION AT VALLEY CITY AND ALSO AT
JAMESTOWN THIS WAS CONSIDERED VERY UNUSUAL AND HAS HAPPENED
ONLY PREVIOUSLY DURING SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS THE RADIO
STATION IN VALLEY CITY WAS ALSO WITHOUT CONTACT WITH JAMESTOW
ALL RADIO OPERATORS WERE ON DUTY AS TELEPHONE CHECK WAS
MADE WEATHER WAS CLEAR IN JAMESTOWN ALL CONTACTS WAS REGAINED
WHEN OBJECT LEFT THE AREA

COMMANDER DETACHMENT ONE 4672ND GOS FARGO NDAK
UFOB 1,000 1,000 15 3 4 0720Z-12-1 5 6 720 5 33 7 8 12
4672 GOS
141PM

4602D AISS UFOB REPT... 478
DATE-TIME GROUP 01/0720Z DEC 56
VALLEY City, N. DAK.

0120 CST

RGR AND THNAKS

Sample document from
4602nd release.

Fargo ND 2/270/25
0720Z-12-1 3/280/29
4/290/30
5/290/35
6/300/39
7/310/43
8/320/44
10/310/46
15/320/65

that we may be able to answer to another group of missing UFO files: those of the Ground Observer Corps. Even a superficial scan of early UFO case files shows that numerous reports were made by volunteers assigned to the Ground Observer Corps, a body designed to provide the military with insurance skywatching coverage in the event of an enemy aerial attack. The volunteer watchers, most often average citizens trained to recognize airplane types, would relay any unusual observations to "Filter Centers" which would in turn decide if the Air Force was to be alerted to respond to potential intruders with fighter aircraft.

Previous efforts to locate the whereabouts of the Ground Observer Corps UFO files were fruitless as there seemed to be no central collection point for them. Scanning the 4602nd's records shows that many Ground Observer Corps sightings exist there but are identified as having come from "housewives" or "clerks" or similar civilian occupations. It is not at all clear that the reports were filed while the observer was on duty as a skywatcher unless one reads the body of the report in detail. GOC sightings did not seem to be held apart as a separate body of reports by the Air Force.

It will take some time to study the 4602nd's files, several thousands of pages in bulk, but with these and other recent releases we are getting an increasingly detailed look inside early government UFO investigations, a trend which will with luck continue.

REVIEW: HIGH STRANGENESS-UFOs FROM 1960-1979

Jerome Clark has checked in with yet a third volume in his "UFO Encyclopedia" series by Omnigraphics (Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, Mi. 48226). At \$95 the volume is quite expensive but it is thick with information that is available in few other single sources. However one views UFOs or whether or not they agree with Clark's interpretations, a great deal of research effort was put into the book and resulted in an overall reasonably balanced reporting of the UFO field between 1960 and 1979. It should be said that in collecting vast amounts of information as Clark has done, few people can truly appreciate what it takes to pull it together. The author is generally surrounded by foot-high, multiple piles of papers for months on end. He agonizes over how to make the material coherent, whether it reads well and especially whether or not he goofs-up on a small detail that a nit-picker, or book reviewer, will notice and exploit for all it's worth.

In compiling such a volume, particularly an encyclopedia, it is inevitable that over time some of the information will prove to be wrong, usually by way of new data that surfaces after the book appears. So information in a book is as good as the date it was published. As such I found this volume up-to-date and not stilted or biased in case conclusions. Many of the case discussions were based upon substantial inside information rather than upon other writers' interpretations of stories. Even in the general discussions, Clark, a pro-UFO writer for many years, resisted the temptation to attack UFO critics and was quite often himself critical. For example, in his discussion of the Condon Report, Clark, rather than overkilling the faults of Condon's handling of the project, as most UFOlogists are inclined to do, he chose to quote a piece by Allen Hynek asking that Condon's place in scientific history be recognized apart from the UFO study which was not one of the highlights of Condon's career.

The encyclopedia will probably irritate some readers too. Clark will be seen as too favorable to UFOs by saucer critics and too critical by many UFO believers. The rest in between will find numerous things of use. I judge the value of a book by how many times I return to it and Clark's will keep me busy for a while.

I am not as enthused as Clark about the future of UFOlogy, particularly if aliens don't overtly land soon. In his "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"(movie) entry, Clark is much too dismissive of the notion that the media can generate UFO waves. Support for the idea that this can happen is self-evident in the coverage during the waves. The exposure alerts the public that (1) something unusual is happening and (2) they can contribute to it by reporting, thus feeding the situation. Most sightings in a wave would have to be proven to be exotic to define a UFO wave, i.e. "unidentified" flying objects, otherwise how would a few early mistaken, misinterpreted observations sustain themselves without the publicity? If one or only a few reports were exotic, then that could hardly be called a "wave." More interestingly still is how does a wave stop? After the July 29, 1952 press conference in Washington, D.C., responding to an unprecedented flurry of UFO reports, reports in August were cut significantly. Did the UFOs decide to go away after the press conference, convinced that they were debunked, or did the publicity affect public perception of, and consequently the reporting of UFOs? It is more reasonable to opt for the later and think that the wave was affected by publicity. Can't they be similarly started by enterprising newsmen who decide for whatever reason to throw a UFO story on the wires. Were all of the initial sightings in the Michigan wave of 1966 truly inexplicable, exotic reports or is that just people's perception of them as such? I don't think that anyone can make an absolute assertion that all or even some of the Michigan reports were exotic. If not, then what started the wave? The media.

See how Clark's UFO Encyclopedia: Volume 3 can stimulate vigorous debate? If one can afford it, it won't disappoint.

MORE ON THE 1949 GENERAL MILLS INCIDENT

Professor Charles Moore has offered a response to the article on his UFO sighting in the last Just Cause:

"I find no fault with it but I wish to make the point that, as I remember the object that I saw through the theodolite, my memory is that its edges were sharp and not diffuse. When I wrote in the report that I could not get a hard focus, I meant that I could not tweak the focus to sharpen the image. But, since I had been looking at the distant balloon before I abandoned it, I am reasonably sure that the theodolite was more-or-less in focus for my eyes to look at distant objects. I have no memory of any trail behind the object."

"Further, my memory is that a tilted portion of the object was yellowish in color and appeared to be in shadow."(a sketch was enclosed - ed.)

"I think you are providing a worthwhile examination of the many reports that have been made."

NOTES

The movie "Independence Day" has generated a substantial media wave of interest in UFOs. While feature stories abounded, there has been no evidence of an increase in UFO sightings. Not that we expected it because the movie is pretty standard fare for an alien invasion film. While visually spectacular, these aliens were just about the dumbest things seen in a flying saucer movie in a long time. They could not detect infiltrators, could not fathom morse code, had a hard time with F-15 aircraft one-on-one, could not deal with a computer virus, allowed a suicidal fighter pilot to down a 15-mile wide spaceship, did not know about Area-51, despite years of publicity in the tabloids, until it was too late. Whew! Idiots! No wonder they crashed at Roswell!