

# JUST

# CAUSE



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## EDITORIAL

Well, we are one year old and going strong. While UFO activity is still at a low level currently (at least as far as we can tell from media coverage), the book of government UFO history has been cracked open a bit. CAUS has been sifting through it and has learned much from the available information.

However, we are encountering some difficulties in dealing with several agencies with regard to FOIA requests. There is a clear trend toward less cooperation with citizens interested in the government's UFO involvement. For a governing body to gain the respect of it's people, it must show respect to these same people and their right to be informed. CAUS will never give up it's right to know about the UFO phenomenon. There's simply too much to learn to ignore it.

On another matter, we have heard bits and pieces of a story about a UFO sighting in China. According to recent press accounts (around July 29), on June 11 this year a Chinese Civil Aviation Administration Boeing 747 encountered a six-mile-wide UFO while flying over the Ganzu provincial capitol of Lanzhou. The UFO was seen at 10:40 pm and remained visible through about 25-30 miles of the plane's course. The only physical description of the object was that it had

an extremely bright spot radiating from the center.

Barring the possibility that this object could be attributed to, perhaps, a Soviet missile launch, which is not an unreasonable suggestion at this stage until we get more facts, we have seen a number of "huge UFOs" in recent times, like the Kuwaiti UFO of 1980, the Pacific mystery cloud, etc., all of which are very provocative and bear further investigation. We suspect that, as with regular UFO sightings, we are probably hearing about only a fraction of actual sightings.

Our point here is that the media has embraced this type of UFO as it's "darling" for the time being. We only wish that the media would be less trendy and report the UFO subject in it's overall scope. Only in this way can the public understand what is going on.

## CONVERSATION WITH DR. SARBACHER

The August 1985 issue of OMNI carried a story in it's "UFO UPDATE" section about inside government information on UFOs as reported by Dr. Robert Sarbacher. For those not familiar with his connection to UFOs, Dr. Sarbacher was reported to be the source of the information contained in the now-famous "Smith memo" of Nov.21,1950



(see CLEAR INTENT, pgs XVI-XV) asserting the reality and high security classification of UFOs by the U.S. government.

CAUS has received a copy of a letter which Dr. Sarbacher had sent to UFO researcher William Steinman. In the letter, dated November 29, 1983, he told Steinman that meetings of the old Research and Development Board under Dr. Karl Compton, had occurred. The R&DB was part of the National Military Establishment, which is now the Department of Defense. The particular meetings Sarbacher referred to revolved around the recovery of a crashed UFO. He said he was not directly involved in the meetings but was told of some of the discussions. As a result, specifics have eluded him over the years. He recalled that Dr. Vannevar Bush was involved along with Dr. John Von Neumann and possibly Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer.

More interesting still were statements later in his letter which relate what he did recall about the crash/retrieval information:

"About the only thing I remember at this time is that certain materials reported to have come from flying saucer crashes were extremely light and very tough. I am sure our laboratories analysed them very carefully.

There were reports that instruments or people operating these machines were also of very light weight, sufficient to withstand the tremendous deceleration and acceleration associated with their machinery. I remember in talking with some of the people at the office that I got the impression these 'aliens' were constructed like certain insects we have observed on earth, wherein because of the low mass the inertial forces involved in operation of these instruments would be quite low.

I still do not know why the high order of classification has been given and why the denial of

the existence of these devices."

Remarkable statements indeed! They still do not amount to proof of crashed UFOs as they must be considered second-hand accounts of the meetings. However, neither do we ignore them. Your editor made several attempts to call Dr. Sarbacher in the past without success. Sarbacher also did not answer a letter sent to him so I thought it might be a lost cause to get through, as has happened so often in the past with government-oriented contacts on UFOs.

This situation abruptly turned around when on 8/5/85 Attorney Robert Bletchman of CAUS managed to make contact with Sarbacher. Bletchman informed me that Sarbacher was available so with that I called and finally made connections.

First, and most importantly, Sarbacher confirmed to me that the information in the Steinman letter was based on his recollection and was not a hoax. Hoax letters and documents have plagued us in the past and many potential "blockbusters" have fallen by the wayside because what at first appeared to be sensational UFO incidents ended up as crude attempts to mislead investigators.

Sarbacher's involvement in this subject came about due to his connection to the Research and Development Board. He was primarily in charge of National Scientific Laboratories, a private company which supplied experts for various projects. At the time of the R&DB meetings, Sarbacher was closely involved in an attempt to set up a radar monitoring system near the North Pole to detect missiles launched from the Soviet Union. Sarbacher's company supplied 300-400 people, mostly engineers, to General Electric for their task of putting the system together. As various problems developed along the way, Sarbacher would



be in touch with the engineers from his Washington office to solve the problems. This required his constant attention and kept him from devoting time to the UFO-related meetings of the R&DB. Sarbacher's role with the R&DB was as Chairman of the Guidance and Control Panel of the Guided Missile Committee of the R&DB.

The R&DB meetings were not necessarily UFO meetings per se but were part of their regular schedule and UFOs came up among other subjects under discussion. Sarbacher told me that since he did not attend the meetings, he had only heard snippets of stories which others more closely involved in the meetings had heard. This included the information in his 11/29/83 letter to Steinman. The crash/retrieval data originally came from Wright Field, as Sarbacher recalls.

Sarbacher also received UFO reports from time to time aside from the R&DB meetings. These consisted of regular UFO sightings which went to Project Blue Book plus reports of objects which fell into water and subsequent failed recovery attempts. He said that the budget was limited for such recoveries so, to his knowledge, nothing was actually retrieved from the water. I asked him why he received these sightings and he said that since his company collected data on missile guidance & control, the people receiving the information (Wright Field) passed them along to him for information purposes. Sarbacher said some files were at National Scientific Laboratories but the company was sold long ago and he has lost track of their whereabouts or even whether they exist anymore.

Curiously, Sarbacher seemed genuinely surprised to hear about the Smith memo as he was not aware that the information he gave to the Canadian Embassy had been written up by Wilbert Smith and then rediscovered by UFOlogists later.

What can we say about all this? Clearly, Dr. Sarbacher was near to, but not in on, high level discussions on UFOs. I note with interest his remarks about UFOs entering the water. I mentioned the Puget Sound case to him (see JUST CAUSE, Sept. 84, Mar. 85) but he did not react to this. His reminiscences fill in a few gaps about his involvement, particularly on why he received UFO information in the first place. Most notably, his statements point directly to the Research and Development Board as a source having very detailed knowledge of the UFO phenomenon, including impressive physical evidence. The records of the R&DB are being sought and we have names and a time period to focus upon. CAUS feels it is close to some very seminal early UFO research by the government. We hope to have good news to report to you in the near future on the discovery of these files.

#### AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE FILES NOW AVAILABLE

CAUS has just issued two special reports on the recent U.S. Air Force Intelligence file release.

- Document Volume One: A selection of summary reports of UFO sightings as telephoned to and logged by A.F. Intelligence. The sightings occurred largely around Washington, D.C. during the great UFO wave of 1952. Included is the original transcript of "The Cupless Saucer" which appeared in the June 85 issue of JUST CAUSE. These summaries are appearing for the first time in 33 years. 12 pgs.

- Document Volume Two: A selection of documents representing the administrative activities of A.F. Intelligence in dealing with UFOs between 1950 and 1953.



Sightings and policy statements are reproduced, including emmos signed by General John Samford, the Air Force's spokesman during the huge Washington, D.C. press conference of July 1952.

12 pgs.

We are offering these two document volumes for \$3 each including postage, to our subscribers. Postage of 50¢ will be added to non-subscriber orders.

Make checks payable to:

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Box 176  
Stoneham, Ma. 02180

### HBO DOCUMENTARY ON UFOS

A documentary on the UFO phenomenon will appear on the cable TV network, HBO, in September. The program will feature reports on the Cash/Landrum case, which we understand will soon be argued in court in an attempt to recover financial losses resulting from medical expenses incurred by the witnesses in their UFO encounter. Also shown will be segments on the Roswell incident and a report on government UFO secrecy with Larry Fawcett.

Times for the documentary are as follows:

Sept. 10 - 10pm  
Sept. 11 - 5:05am  
Sept. 18 - 11:50pm  
Sept. 21 - 6pm  
Sept. 23 - 11:15pm  
Sept. 24 - 5am  
Sept. 26 - 10:30am, 10pm  
Sept. 29 - 11:30am, 10:15pm

### A 1968 FLORIDA ENCOUNTER

An individual, whom we will call Ben Miller, passed the following story to us:

During a 4-year stint in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970, Ben spent 2½ years of his time at Stewart AFB at Newburgh, New York.

Stewart AFB was the combat center for the SAGE aerospace defense system (Semi-Automatic-Ground-Environment). It was a system which provided instantaneous information needed for waging air battles, built around a type of digital computer. Most of the data input coming into Stewart was first screened through 26 Directional Centers around the country.

One night in 1968, Ben, a computer technician, and his team members were monitoring the system, which was in Air Defense mode. Their display screen showed that unusual activity was taking place off the west coast of Florida.

An object flying above 40,000 feet at 35 knots was tracked. The Air Force scrambled an F-106 after it. Using readings from the system, they could determine the object's speed by the length of the vector on the screen and by using a "light gun firing on the head of the vector" they could read direction, altitude and other conditions.

As the F-106 approached, the object suddenly shot away in excess of 2500 mph and disappeared from the screen off the southern tip of Florida. It appeared again a few minutes later near the Florida panhandle. The F-106 was called back to base, obviously unable to effectively pursue the UFO.

The SAGE system, according to Ben, was changed after the closure of Stewart in 1969 to the BUIC (Back-Up-Intercept-Concept).

Any authorities out there who can comment on the information related to the SAGE system in this account?

### TEASER

Look for an interesting article on "MJ 12" in the next issue of JUST CAUSE. We hope you enjoyed this issue and please let us know what is happening out there.