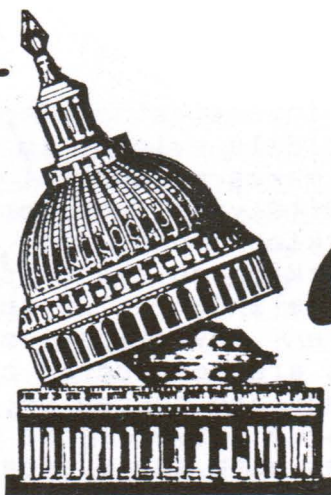


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OUT THERE

In 1987, seventeen members of the American intelligence community gathered in the manner of a blue-ribbon panel to discuss whether intelligent life existed in outer space. The reason for the gathering - a number of mysterious events, including UFO sightings involving NORAD and the Defense Intelligence Agency's experiments, dubbed "Project Aquarius," which purports to be an attempt to use psychics to perform intelligence activities by "remote sensing." These experiments partially dealt with determining the locations of submarines at any given time by simply having a person with gifted sensing abilities look at photographs of them. One of these sessions accidentally detected a UFO!

So says OUT THERE by Howard Blum, a former New York Times journalist twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize (an award we at CAUS would dearly like to win!!). Blum brought with him a string of credits such as WANTED! THE SEARCH FOR NAZIS IN AMERICA, which precipitated Congressional hearings on the topic, and I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE WALKERS: AN AMERICAN SPY FAMILY.

It was with great anticipation that we awaited publication of OUT THERE. Rare was the situation that a reknown journalist would seriously pursue the UFO phenomena, given the decades-long stigma of preposterousness attached to it. However, as we were to find upon it's release, the book itself contains a good dose of preposterousness. As Blum is saying that he is only reporting what is being told to him, like the good soldier he is doing his job. But he cannot be left completely off the hook for some of the absurdities. Blum could have greatly benefitted from the advice of

In the winter of 1987, following a series of puzzling events, seventeen members of the U.S. intelligence community were summoned to the Pentagon. Their Top-Secret mission: to determine if there was life...

OUT THERE



HOWARD BLUM

Author of *Wanted!* and *I Pledge Allegiance*

an iron-fisted, no-nonsense UFO investigator with a lot of experience in the field to overcome the pitfalls evident in the text.

Some of what Blum reports makes no sense in the context of a sophisticated government operation with vast funds and resources available to it. For example, the "UFO Working Group" (the name Blum states identifies the intelligence group working on these issues) wrestles with the problem of choosing a UFO case which holds the most promise for yielding positive results after an investigation (pgs 149-50). The famous Gulf Breeze UFO incidents are considered but rejected after the UFOWG discovers that the sightings are caused by, in their investigation, a classified, low-flying, Air Force surveillance plane. End of Gulf Breeze!

As much as we have problems with the events in Gulf Breeze, this singular, blanket dismissal of all of the reports by the UFOWG is laughable. Even the most ardent skeptics of the sightings who have followed the controversy have not seriously entertained the idea that Ed Walters' UFO was a surveillance plane. Hoax, yes. Aircraft, no. How does the UFOWG propose to explain why a classified aircraft repeatedly posed for a civilian businessman and his family to take numerous photos and a video tape to be shown to the world? And why it continued to appear for photos after national attention, and a bevy of UFOlogists, flocked to the scene to record the events? The lack of knowledge by the UFOWG about Gulf Breeze is also evident in Blum's remark that "there was even a blurred film of what many responsible observers swore was a UFO." In fact, there were numerous photos and they weren't that blurred, in some cases quite clear.

The UFOWG moved on to the mid-1980s Hudson Valley, New York so-called "boomerang" reports. They almost decided to investigate these events, but upon the basis of a press story they dismissed the reports as formations of small aircraft. Investigation dropped. UFOlogists long ago learned not to treat press stories as any more than raw information because of countless examples over the years of gross mistakes, false reporting, misinterpretations; etc.

Finally, the group decided upon their choice for the most promising case that they could lay their hands on. (Pass the envelope please!) It's the various close encounters over the small town of Elmwood, Wisconsin!! While you recover from the breathless anticipation experienced in leading up to this revelation, Elmwood is known in the UFO field mainly for a minor classic sighting in 1976; the Wheeler story, which involved a local policeman who was "zapped" by a blue beam from a UFO (Ed Walters was not the first!). More recently, Elmwood has been known for it's annual "UFO Days" parades commemorating the various UFO sightings over the town, and for an effort to build a two-square-mile UFO landing pad at the cost of \$50,000,000.

It is all well and good for a local community to promote such things in a good-hearted way, as long as they do not rip people off. It is another thing altogether to believe that this, above and beyond all possible UFO cases to investigate, should dominate the attention of the U.S. intelligence community's interest in seeking life in space. Yet a great chunk of Blum's book focuses on Elmwood.

The UFOWG's priorities and methods, as described by Blum, would make some of the most amateurish UFO groups seem skilled by comparison! As much as civilian groups have been maligned, the UFOWG could learn a great deal from a typical, good investigative field manual. There is little evidence that the UFOWG knew much of anything about UFO investigation, as is painfully displayed throughout the book. One investigator who has studied the Elmwood reports in detail; Don Schmitt of the J.Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, thought it curious that the government would find Elmwood so fascinating, prompting him to suggest to Blum in a TV

appearance on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" September 7th that he may have been fed "disinformation" on these matters.

Another large portion of OUT THERE is devoted to a discussion of MJ-12, mostly about Bill Moore's escapades with alleged government operatives. Moore is presented as a civilian caught, willingly, in a web of intrigue. Strangely, Blum, in describing Moore's background, seemed to know very little about Moore's THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT, co-authored with Charles Berlitz. He describes the book as a "novel" (it isn't) telling a "shrewdly provocative story about a voyage to a futuristic world." The book is actually an attempt to document the circumstances around the alleged disappearance and reappearance of a U.S. Navy ship in 1943. Blum's explanation more appropriately describes the movie THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT with Michael Paré and Nancy Allen cavorting through a fictional tale of time travel. Sadly, Blum's gaffe here puts the accent on the fear of literary authorities that movies and television are presenting a totally twisted idea of what authors have written in their books.

The MJ-12 story is presented as a clash between two adversaries: Moore and Philip Klass. Both score points against each other, but, in the end, the whole issue is still unresolved. Ignored by Blum is the very large dissenting view of MJ-12 reality by many pro-UFOlogists.

And what happens when the UFO Working Group takes up the MJ-12 issue? True to form, they are presented as clumsily groping about for answers, unable to decide who to investigate and what conclusions to draw. Blum quotes an FBI agent in regards to the MJ-12 papers:

"All we're finding out is that the government doesn't know what it knows. There are too many secret levels. You can't get a straight story. It wouldn't surprise me if we never know if the papers are genuine or not."

Heaven help the United States of America if Blum's depiction of the government's intelligence apparatus is accurate! We may be pledging allegiance to Saddam Hussein next year!

Blum said that the FBI investigation of MJ-12 was a "Priority One" investigation. CAUS has not seen any evidence of this. However, we did report that a preliminary inquiry by the FBI indicated that the MJ-12 papers were not genuine and that a prime Moore source for MJ-12 information, Richard Doty, was under suspicion in another document hoax (the Ellsworth UFO shoot-out). See our Just Cause, March 1989, page 3 for details. How it is that the UFO Working Group did not know this is beyond explanation. We would like to think that it is because we have better sources than they do!

The rest of the book deals with the history of government UFO interest and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Actually, this editor rather enjoyed Blum's discussion of the SETI program and his insight into Frank Drake's activities as a senior SETI scientist. This is probably because the SETI discussion was more firmly grounded in provable fact than the rest of the book. Unlike the vast majority of people in the UFO research field, this editor is a supporter of the government's SETI research and scientifically-based attempts to detect life in space. More than 40 years have passed without that decidedly confirmed case that would settle the UFO debate. Have UFO researchers thought how much their stock would shoot up if the SETI program is able to confirm the presence of intelligent signals in space? It certainly wouldn't hurt the idea that vehicles might have visited the Earth if extraterrestrial intelligence could be verified in the remote way that the SETI researchers plan to do.

Blum also discusses other behind-the-scenes UFO cases and administration which are difficult or even impossible to check. One curiosity

appears on page 219. For some reason, Blum describes arch-UFO skeptic Philip Klass as having a "pencil-thin figure," when seen at UFO conferences. No one here at CAUS can ever recall Phil as having a pencil-thin figure, or even being remotely petite. We may be mistaken as Phil at one time may have pirouetted with the best of them in a Swan Lake ballet. Of course he would have to prove this to us with a demonstration at the next annual MUFON Symposium before an assemblage of his "peers" in full regalia, including tights and tutu! Sorry Phil. We'd just as soon believe that Billy Meier was in touch with God than that you were pencil-thin.

We see in OUT THERE another manifestation of the familiar "Project Aquarius." Once it was part of the MJ-12 controversy and completely unverified; once, as a project of the National Security Agency, though undescribed; and now as a Defense Intelligence Agency project to remotely sense, by way of psychics, intelligence information. The NSA project has been admitted officially so we have the problem of two different agencies simultaneously using the same code name when such is not supposed to be the case. Code words are drawn from a pool contained in Joint Army Navy Air Force Publication 299 and, once activated, cannot be used by others until deactivated, this to avoid confusion in identifying projects obviously.

One more thing should be added. If one accepts that Blum's reporting relates true events, then it is very difficult to believe that stories of crashed UFOs have any validity. Why would a top secret UFO Working Group be necessary to determine whether or not there is life in outer space in 1987 when the issue should have been settled many decades ago by the crash, recovery and study of flying saucers by the government? By Blum's scenario, participating members of the UFOWG, high-ranking people from the Army, three Air Force generals, DIA scientists, three NSA officials and a team of CIA personnel, are all oblivious to the "fact" that saucers and bodies are on hand. We have the image of an elite, top secret government group relying upon William Moore, a civilian/public figure/outsider, for their information on MJ-12, something about which they should already know by way of their inside connections. Or could it be that our intelligence community deliberately leaks secret information to an outsider, to be deliberately leaked back to another group of insiders with the intention of having it re-leaked back outside in a different form to discredit the original information, and thus protect the secret! Boy, these people are smart! Either that or the U.S. government is being run by the Keystone Cops!

We can see no good reason for the group to exist except for perhaps two things:

- 1) There are no crashed UFOs.
- 2) The group was created, either in reality or as a "paper phantom," to feed someone like Mr. Blum false information as a distraction away from genuine crashed saucer investigations.

Of course, if Blum's story is not correct, then the above is academic and we are back to the same old questions. It is unfortunate that the hottest information in OUT THERE does not rise above the level of someone-told-someone-else. The only reproductions of documentation appearing in the book are the tired, old MJ-12 papers, material which Blum now, reportedly, feels are hoaxes. We had the nagging feeling while reading OUT THERE that we were eating Chinese food - it looks like a lot, but after a half an hour you are hungry again!

EDITORIAL

We have received a number of comments from our readers that they are fed up with our critical coverage of MJ-12. Some say we have "sold out" to the government debunkers, while others feel that the story has been so totally annihilated that any more mention of it would be a waste of time.

Nothing has changed with regards to our stance that important UFO information is being withheld from the public and that the UFO topic is a worthy area of research. The fact that UFO papers are being withheld for reasons of "national security" is a matter of record. The reasons for this are debatable. Skeptics, represented by Philip Klass, feel that national security is invoked not because of the UFO sighting information, but because legitimate, non-UFO security information may be contained in those same documents. We agree that in some cases this may be true but we reject this as a blanket argument. Neither UFO skeptics nor UFO believers know what is contained in the documents. Judging from early reporting in books, like Captain Edward Ruppelt's THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, sensitive information about the UFO sightings themselves was suppressed. According to the 1969 Bolender memo, UFO reports of national security importance were not part of the Air Force's Blue Book system - again significant reports are withheld. CLEAR INTENT documents many more examples.

With regard to the MJ-12 issue several things should be clarified.

Recently, Fate magazine quoted Budd Hopkins as saying that he wanted to form an abduction research group, the Intruders Foundation, and that he was patterning it a bit like CAUS. By this he meant that he wanted a single-issue UFO group to focus all it's energy into a specific area of research: abductions.

We are indeed a single-issue group, concentrating on government UFO involvement. This is why we have not addressed other UFO-related issues outside of this area. For example, we do have definite opinions on the Gulf Breeze UFO activity. But we have given this large issue precious little space in Just Cause because it does not fall within our particular subject area. The UFO topic has become so large and expansive that special interest groups are necessary to cover these issues adequately.

We are not ashamed to say that our publication is an "insiders newsletter." There is a certain amount of space and a certain amount of money which we can use to reach interested parties. We must work within our limitations and our philosophy, or we become an entity unlike that for which we were initially formed.

The amount of coverage we give to an issue is directly related to the importance we ascribe to it. In the case of MJ-12, we had regarded this as quite an important story. However, we can see it is now important for the devastating effect it has had on legitimate government document research on UFOs. Recall that in 1987, this was a world-wide news story. Even the staid New York Times gave a fair amount of space to MJ-12. It was, and is, imperative for us to point out the flaws in the story, document in as much detail as we could what went wrong, and try to correct the situation. There is no question that because of the MJ-12 story, the credibility of that with which CAUS deals has been seriously damaged.

We had expected, and received, emotionally-charged responses, and still do. The point is that when signs of fraud and deception obscures the path to reality, and especially when this activity crosses into CAUS' very reason for being, one best be warned that we will not stand idly by and let it happen.

FUND RELEASES MJ-12 REPORT

The Fund for UFO Research has released the "Final Report on Operation Majestic 12" by Stanton Friedman. This report was financed by contributions to the Fund totalling \$16,000 and was paid out to Friedman over approximately a year long period.

Predictably, Friedman has concluded that the three major documents in the MJ-12 collection, the Hillenkoetter briefing paper, the Truman "Executive Order," and the Cutler/Twining memo, are all authentic, and that "a small group within the U.S. government has managed to withhold from the people of planet Earth the proof that man is not alone." Friedman also states that none of the arguments offered against the existence of MJ-12 "passes scientific screening as to their worthwhileness."

We have seen nothing new or compelling in the report which would change anything favorably for MJ-12. Our own objections to these claims have been documented in detail over the last three years. One remark in Friedman's report about this editor says that I was strongly opposed to the Eisenhower briefing paper though I had never seen a copy. This apparently to paint me as an inept investigator who dismisses evidence out of hand. The problem is that the statement is not true. I had issued no statements in public strongly-opposing the briefing until after I had a chance to examine the document. I was never even questioned about what I did or did not have in my hands when I originally discussed the material with Martin Bailey of the London Observer in 1987. I had the Cutler/Twining memo at that time and clearly discuss it in the news story.

Much of the rest of Friedman's material has already been dealt with since 1987. To say that the report was not worth the amount spent on it would be an understatement. To call it scientific would be an overstatement. However, the report really wasn't a surprise. What was a surprise was the way it has been presented by the Fund for UFO Research.

A press release by the Fund, dated July 7, 1990, aimed primarily at the media, announced the availability of Friedman's report and stated its favorable conclusions. After saying that the Fund is a "scientific research organization," the release goes on to state that "to settle the controversy" they have awarded the \$16,000 to Friedman for producing a "final" report.

Question: How is it that the Fund, which professes to be a scientific organization, can expect to "settle the controversy" over the documents by awarding a large cash sum to perhaps the single most vocal proponent of their authenticity from very early on?

We wonder how many media representatives perceived this release as an attempt to "stack the deck" in favor of the MJ-12 papers? At the very least, there is something ethically wrong with this action and we reject such an outrageous attempt to characterize the report as the final word on the matter.

We have always supported the ideal of a fund to help researchers perform various functions and publish materials that would have been otherwise prohibitively expensive. And the Fund for UFO Research has offered, and continues to offer, interesting research publications. This recent action, to us, taints the Fund's activities as displaying bias for a sensationalist point of view.

NEW PERIODICAL

Normally, we do not advertise or endorse other pursuits in the UFO field, leaving it up to the individual persons to do what they wish as far as making themselves known. However, we have seen a new publication that we can't resist mentioning. It is called Independent Aerial Phenomena

Research, published and written irregularly by Phillip Robertson. The IAPR essentially takes a second look at old UFO cases from the very early years in UFO history. Robertson explores the intricate details of those sightings and has very often come up with sensible explanations for sightings which have long been classified as UFOs. Other sightings Robertson has examined continue to be unexplained after close scrutiny. What is very different about IAPR, in relation to most other UFO publications, is that it is remarkably free of drum-beating for a particular point of view on UFO origins, occupants, and purposes. Robertson sticks to case details, is able to relate his reasoning logically and performs a service to the UFO community by pointing out contradictions in what most other UFO researchers would regard as classic, unassailable cases. Many UFO reports invariably end up as judgement calls on what the causes may have been, but Robertson usually gives a good reason for any judgement call he makes.

IAPR has been priced at \$30 per year but at the present frequency we are not sure how many issues are covered by this. Seven issues have been released since 1989.

Phillip Robertson can be contacted at:

963 Jefferson Ave.
San Bernardino, California 92410

We also recommend Mr. Robertson's publication because he uses the same kind of typewriting that we use, proving that he has good taste!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES TO INCREASE

Due to an increase in our printing costs and the proposed substantial increase in postal rates to 30¢ per 1st class ounce, we will be forced to hike our subscription rates beginning January 1990. The new rate will be \$15 per year U.S., \$20 per year foreign. We have kept our present rate steady for six years but the economy was threatening to run away from us. In this age of information it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the information due to the high price tags being put upon it. It is something which certainly does not bode well for the future.

CAUS LIBRARY RESEARCH YIELDS RESULTS

In a continuing effort to upgrade our resources, CAUS has been locating numerous references to the UFO subject in government and military reference books and periodicals. We are currently scanning such publications as the Armed Forces Journal, Air Force Times, Stars and Stripes, Army Navy Air Force Register, Air Force Magazine, and many others. From time to time we will reprint items discovered in these searches.

UFO MATERIALS FOUND AT FBI ACADEMY

Apparently as part of a general monitoring of public UFO information, the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia has been collecting an assortment of press clippings dealing with the UFO subject. The clips are stored on microfilm and the collection appears to have begun around 1978.

On page 8 we reproduce a sample page from the FBI collection. Most notable is the curious heading under which the clippings are filed: **"TRANSPORTATION!"**

Transportation

(Phoenix) Arizona Republic, January 12, 1979

CIA documents unveiled on UFO reports

By CHARLES KELLY

The Central Intelligence Agency apparently feared in the early 1950s that unidentified flying object sightings could mask Russian air attacks, according to information reportedly acquired in a lawsuit against the CIA.

The CIA also was worried that UFO sightings could be used by the Russians for "psychological warfare."

The information, part of hundreds of documents supplied to Ground Saucer Watch by the CIA in December as the result of a freedom of information suit, was given to The Arizona Republic by William Spaulding.

Spaulding, a senior engineer at AiResearch, is head of GSW-West, the western branch of the UFO investigation group.

He will deliver a talk

at 7:30 tonight at the Adams Hotel on the CIA documents and other information about UFOs developed by his organization.

One of the documents supplied to The Republic consists of three typewritten pages with obliterated notations at the top and bottom of each page. Spaulding said the pages are part of a CIA report written between 1950 and 1956.

The pages contain the assertion that it is "against fact and logic" to believe UFOs are spacecraft or devices developed by Russia or the United States.

However, "there is a fair proportion of our population which is mentally conditioned to acceptance of the incredible," the document says, adding that this poses two problems.

"Our air warning system will undoubtedly al-

ways depend upon a combination of radar scanning and visual observation," it says. "We give Russia the capability of delivering an iar (apparent misspelling of "air") attack against us, yet at any given moment now, there may be current a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial. At the moment of attack, how will we, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom?"

The document also noted that no reports of UFO sightings had surfaced in the Russian press, despite worldwide sighting reports.

"This could result only from an official policy decision and of course raises the question of why and whether or not these sightings could be

used from a psychological warfare point of view either offensively or defensively," the document says.

Spaulding said he took that to mean the Russians might pretend UFOs were super-craft developed by their country.

Among other documents are what appear to be U.S. State Department correspondence and reports from U.S. embassies and military personnel regarding UFO sightings in various parts of the world, including the United States, Canada, Morocco, Tunisia and Iran.

One detailed report concerns a sighting on Sept. 19, 1976, near Tehran, Iran, in which two F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers pursued a large UFO that seemed to send out smaller craft. The planes lost power in their communications systems from time to time during the pursuit, and one plane lost power in its weapons panel when the pilot tried to fire a missile at one of the UFOs.

Spaulding said the documents provide "absolute proof" that the CIA has been involved in probing UFOs since 1949.