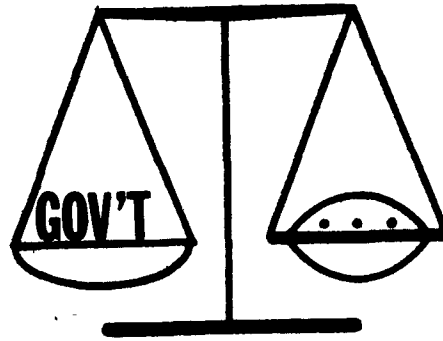


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CIA FINDS 1,000 PAGES OF UFO DOCUMENTS: FOIA SUIT PAYS OFF

The Central Intelligence Agency disclosed on Aug. 10 that "approximately 1,000 pages of additional materials concerning UFOs have recently been surfaced and are currently under review." The discovery seems to have been prompted by the amended complaint in the Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) suit, which had been authorized by a federal judge on July 7, 1978.

The CIA disclosure was made in a letter to CAUS Director Todd Zechel (who also is GSW's research director), replying to Zechel's FOIA request of July 13, which among other things requested documents related to the reported recovery of an extraterrestrial spacecraft or landing craft by the U.S. Government. (See story on pp. 18-20 of this issue.)

(Continued next page)

CIA Information & Privacy Coordinator Gene F. Wilson asked Zechel to suspend his request until after he has reviewed the 1,000 pages of UFO documents the CIA apparently is going to release. CAUS thinks this to be a CIA stall tactic since the documents are thought to have little or no connection with Zechel's July 13 request.

Although GSW's initial complaint, filed on Sep. 21, 1977, mainly related to the Ralph Mayher incident and the Durant Report of the CIA Robertson Panel, an agreement was reached during the July 7, 1978, status conference to allow GSW to amend its complaint to include requests for virtually all CIA UFO-related records. (See JUST CAUSE, July 1978, pp. 1-2.) CAUS Counsel Peter A. Gersten, representing GSW, submitted an amended complaint in early August that included requests dating back to 1973--to all of which CIA had failed to respond satisfactorily.

On Aug. 17, Assistant U.S. Attorney (District Columbia) William H. Briggs telephoned Gersten and asked him to submit a stipulation that would go far beyond even the amended complaint in scope. CIA wanted Gersten to identify broadly all categories of UFO documents to enable CIA to search for all of its UFO records at once. Gersten, based on a draft by CAUS Director of Research Brad Sparks, prepared and submitted a stipulation requesting CIA to conduct "a reasonable search" of the following CIA components: CIA Strategic Warning Staff; CIA Operations Center; CIA Office of Legislative Counsel; National Foreign Intelligence Board (NFIB); National Foreign Assessment Center components as follows: Imagery Analysis Service; NFIB Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation Staff; Foreign Broadcast Information Service; Office of Current Intelligence; Central Reference Service; Directorate of Science & Technology (DDS&T) components as follows: Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center (Office of Weapons Intelligence); Office of Electronic Intelligence; Office of Research and Development;

Office of Development and Engineering; Office of Scientific Intelligence; National Photographic Interpretation Center; Office of Technical Service; Directorate of Administration (DDA) components as follows: Office of Security; Office of Joint Computer Support; Directorate of Operations (DDO) components as follows: Covert Action Staffs; Domestic Collection Division; Counterintelligence Staff; Counterintelligence and Foreign Intelligence Staffs of DDO (including area divisions).

Perhaps almost unbelievably, the CIA has agreed to abide by the stipulation and, evidently, has initiated a search of the specified components. U.S. District Court Judge John Pratt made the stipulation an official order of the court on Sep. 7, and he gave CIA 90 days from the date of its final approval in mid-September to complete the search (i.e., until mid-December 1978).

Meanwhile, discussions between Gersten and the assistant U.S. attorney Briggs, and between Todd Zechel and Charles E. Savige (Wilson's deputy in CIA), have established that the 1,000 pages of material are mostly Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) files from the 1950s. This material was first requested by Brad Sparks for APRO in early 1975. From Sparks' 1975 interviews with OSI officers in charge of the UFO files from 1949 to 1956, CAUS thinks it has a fair idea of what the files contain: Mostly Air Force and Navy reports of UFO sightings plus some records of unauthorized CIA domestic UFO investigations in 1951-1952.

CAUS requests that UFO researchers refrain from submitting FOIA requests until after the documents have been received and analyzed, in order to avoid slowing down the process of reviewing and releasing the documents CIA has located.

It also should be noted that the forthcoming documents may be fragmentary and lacking in historical context. Conclusions reached by people unfamiliar with

this context may lead to confusion or to the promulgation of erroneous assumptions. --WTZ, with BCS.

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FBI INTERROGATES UFO RESEARCHER: GOVERNMENT MAY CONFISCATE DOCUMENTS -- Two FBI agents visited UFO researcher Robert Todd on the evening of July 28, 1978, CAUS learned in exclusive telephone interviews. Todd, age 24, was interrogated about his letters to the National Security Agency (NSA) for more than an hour at his parents' home in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. Todd specializes in sending FOIA requests to the U.S. Government about UFOs.

An Air Force major advised Todd by telephone late in the day, Friday, Aug. 4, to seal in an envelope all copies of a statement about a Cuban Air Force jet allegedly destroyed while trying to shoot down a UFO in 1967. (See JUST CAUSE, July 1978, pp. 11-12, for a full account of the incident.) Maj. Gordon B. Finley, Jr., told Todd "someone may be around" to retrieve the envelope, but he did not say when. Todd refused to comply with Finley's request.

"Assuming the security analyst's statement is true," Maj. Finley told Todd, "it does contain classified information." When Todd told Finley the FBI had said it was "SECRET or above," Finley remarked: "I don't know about the 'or above' part, but that it is SECRET--that sounds about right."

Al Hendry of CUFOS interviewed Maj. Finley by phone on Aug. 8, and Finley confirmed everything he had said to Todd on Aug. 4. However, Hendry could not pin Finley down as to what in the security specialist's statement was classified, i.e., the NSA information or the UFO incident, or both. Finley is Chief, Torts and Freedom of Information Branch, Air Force Judge Advocate General's Office.

The FBI men questioned Todd about the sources for his requests to NSA

concerning the Cuban jet mishap and the records of a former NSA employee now active in UFO research as Director of CAUS and research director of GSW, W. Todd Zechel. Robert Todd said he then did not know of a widely disseminated UPI dispatch of Jan. 12, describing the Cuban incident.

"I explained to them," recounted Todd, "a researcher had obtained this statement, the researcher had passed it on to the reporter ... (who) passed it on to me." Todd said he "finally broke down" and told the FBI the reporter was Robert V. Pratt of the National Enquirer. He refused to disclose the name of the "West Coast researcher" to the FBI. That researcher, physicist Stanton T. Friedman of Hayward, Cal., was quoted about the Cuban incident in the UPI story.

FBI spokesmen John Perks and Tom Coll (in Washington, D.C.) and Paul B. Lorenzetti (in Philadelphia) refused "at this time" to confirm or deny the interview or the FBI interest in Todd. However, Special Agent Roger Midkiff of Philadelphia (whom Todd later learned was one of the FBI agents who interviewed him) obliquely confirmed the interview by suggesting to CAUS research director Brad Sparks that he might be interviewed by the FBI.

(One of the FBI agents asked Todd, "Do you know a Todd Zechel?" Todd had asked NSA, by letter of July 10, if W. Todd Zechel was ever employed by NSA, as was claimed in an interview published by the International UFO Reporter in May 1978, pp. 7-9, a copy of which Todd enclosed. The FBI men confirmed that they had received this letter from NSA with the IUR article, Todd said. And Zechel mentioned Sparks by name in the IUR article in such a way as to suggest association. Thus Midkiff's remark to Sparks, "if there is something that might concern you directly, then, I'm sure that it would be brought to your attention at the appropriate time.")

Charles Sullivan of the NSA Policy Coordination Staff, at Ft. Meade, Md.,

refused to comment on NSA's reported role in the UFO incident or in the FBI investigation of Todd.

Todd said the FBI men read his rights to him. Then they "tried to intimidate me," said Todd, "by citing the espionage laws and advising me of the penalties involved, namely, life in prison, or death." He added, "I was shook."

Todd sent a flurry of FOIA requests about the Cuban incident to the Air Force, CIA, NSA, and the Navy, from February to July 1978, all without success. However, on Mar. 10, CIA information and privacy coordinator Gene F. Wilson suggested Todd "check with the Cuban Government for records on this incident."

Todd notified both NSA and the Air Force, on July 14, that since neither agency wished to cooperate, he would contact the Cuban Government for further information. Since he thought both agencies hinted he might have classified data, Todd asked that they "provide advice as to what information in the attached statement should not be transmitted to the Cuban Government." He gave them a 20-day deadline for replies.

"And in response to that," observed Todd, "two FBI agents knocked on my door."

CAUS heard a report in late August that Todd, who figures he has submitted about 1,000 FOIA requests about UFOs since 1974 mostly at his own expense, will be quitting the UFO field when his pending FOIA requests are completed. CAUS wishes to praise Todd for his enormous accomplishments in the FOIA/UFO field, more of which we hope will come to light in the next several months. Meanwhile, CAUS recommends letters of encouragement be sent to Robert Todd at 2528 Belmont Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003. --BCS.

* * *

REF ID: A16

FBI DESTROYS UFO DOCUMENTS

FBI field offices nationwide destroyed their UFO files earlier this year, according to reliable information obtained by CAUS.

An agent at one FBI office told CAUS' confidential informant he was familiar with Dr. Bruce Maccabee's request for UFO files because of communications that agent had had with FBI Headquarters. The agent reportedly said Maccabee had not had enough money to buy copies of all of the FBI's UFO documents. Maccabee would have had to pay \$1,000 (i.e., 10,000 pages at 10¢ per page) to get all of that one field office's UFO files, the agent boasted. But it was too late, anyway, since the files had been destroyed on Apr. 1-2, 1978, as part of a general file destruction program at all FBI field offices.

CAUS has learned that the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) authorized the FBI field office file destruction program on Mar. 26, 1976. The NARS Office of Federal Records Centers/Records Disposition Division permitted the destruction of field office closed-files containing investigative reports, inter- and intra-office communications and related evidence. FBI Headquarters issued orders to all field offices, in October 1977, to begin the obliteration of all such records. UFO files are just one of the categories slated for the incinerators and/or the shredders. Certain old organized crime files are another category, to the chagrin of many FBI agents.

FBI is awaiting permission from NARS to perform an even broader housecleaning of the Headquarters' files. This FBI request of May 4, 1977, was submitted by NARS to Congress, where Sen. James Abourezk's Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (Judiciary Committee) has reportedly taken an interest. The destruction request must be cleared with Congress because Congress might have an investigative interest in the files, as a result of inquiries about Watergate, CIA, etc.

FBI Headquarters spokesman Tom Coll told CAUS on July 31, 1978, that the FBI had not yet received authorization from NARS to begin the HQ-file destruction.

CAUS urges its members to protest the FBI UFO-file destruction to Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the U.S., NARS, Washington, D.C. 20048, and to demand that UFO records be exempted from destruction in the future. CAUS understands that if there is sufficient public or news interest certain records will be preserved.

(References: The Nation 4 Feb 78 pp. 108-111, 25 Mar 78 pp. 325-326, 3 Jun 78 pp. 653-655; Los Angeles Times 13 Mar 78 part II p. 8.)

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BOLIVIAN DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY STATE DEPARTMENT: MYSTERY CONTINUES -- In earlier issues (May pp. 10-12 and June pp. 10-12), JUST CAUSE reported an incident that was said to have occurred in Bolivia on or about May 6, 1978. UPI disseminated a story about a week later reporting that a UFO crashed near the Bolivian mountain village of Padcaya (21°52'S. 64°46'W); that the U.S. space agency, NASA, was investigating the crash and had sent personnel to Bolivia.

CAUS queried NASA repeatedly to determine if the UPI report was factual. NASA officials denied adamantly any involvement other than receiving messages from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. NASA said the messages contained mostly news reports from Bolivian newspapers and radio stations.

NASA referred CAUS to Col. Robert P. Eddington in the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) Advanced & Applied Technology Affairs (APT) Office of Technology Policy and Space Affairs (SA), or OES/APT/SA for short. Eddington said his office "kept track of launches," and he indicated fallen space objects were within his purview. He told CAUS his office had not determined whether the news stories were based on a real event or not. But Eddington said he had received unsubstantiated information that

an egg-shaped, four-meter diameter object had been recovered. He speculated that, if the report was accurate, the object might be a fallen propellant tank from a rocket.

CAUS sent an FOIA request to the State Department, on June 21, 1978, asking for all documents related to the Bolivian incident. Within a week, Mary Spruell of State's FOI Staff replied that unless the information sought was of interest to a broad segment of the public, rather than to a limited or specialized group, her office would charge search fees of \$11 per hour. Spruell's statement apparently was a State Department interpretation of subsection (4)(A) of the amended FOIA, which reads: "Documents shall be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge where the agency determines that waiver or reduction of the fees is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public."

Spruell argued that CAUS's request "does not appear to fall into this category." CAUS vigorously protested that recent public opinion polls and the popular successes of "Close Encounters" and "Project UFO" clearly showed the information sought is of interest to a broad segment of the public.

Evidently, the rather pointed letter by CAUS Director Todd Zechel, in response to Spruell's refusal to waive search and copying fees, convinced State that UFO material appealed to a "broad segment of the public." On Sep. 1, 1978, Spruell wrote that: "A search of our files has revealed 6 documents relevant to your request. The enclosed 5 documents have been reviewed by the appropriate officials of the Department of State and there is no objection to their release. One document is still under review and will be the subject of further correspondence." No mention was made of search or reproduction fees; State obviously decided to waive them after all.

Of the five documents released, three originally were UNCLASSIFIED, one was classified CONFIDENTIAL, and the other was SECRET. The earliest of the messages was sent on May 15 at 1909Z (3:09 p.m. EDT) from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz to the Secretary of State, with the action copy to State's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and information copies to CIA, NSA, NASA, and other units inside and outside State. It carried an IMMEDIATE precedence, a designator reserved for situations "gravely" affecting the national security, intelligence "essential" or "vital" to the national security, etc., and it read as follows:

"Subject: Report of Fallen Space Object. 1. The Bolivian newspapers carried this morning an article concerning an unidentified object that apparently recently fell from the sky. The papers quoted a 'Latin' correspondent's story from the Argentine city of Salta. The object was discovered near the Bolivian city of Bermejo (2245S-6420W) and was described as egg-shaped, metal and about four meters in diameter. 2. The Bolivian Air Force plans to investigate to determine what the object might be and from where it came. 3. Request the Department check with appropriate agencies to see if they can shed some light on what this object might be. The general region has had more than its share of reports of UFOs this past week. Request a reply ASAP. Boeker." (Note: Paul H. Boeker is U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia.)

State replied to Boeker on May 18, in an IMMEDIATE message, classified SECRET, and drafted by Col. Eddington of OES/APT/SA:

"Subject: Report of Fallen Space Object. Ref: La Paz 3804 (Note: Quoted above). 1. Preliminary information provided in referenced cable and FBIS (Note: Foreign Broadcast Information Service, a CIA unit that monitors foreign newspapers, publications, radio and TV broadcasts) cables Panama 142357Z (Note: May 14 at 2357Z) and Paraguay 161913Z (Note: May 16 at 1913Z) has been checked with

appropriate government agencies. No direct correlation with known space objects that may have reentered the earth's atmosphere near May 6 can be made. However, we are continuing to examine any possibilities. 2. Your attention is invited to State Airgram A-6343, July 26, 1973 which provides background information and guidance for dealing with space objects that have been found. In particular any information pertaining to the pre-impact observations, direction of trajectory, number of objects observed, time of impact and a detailed description including any markings would be helpful. Vance." (State 126725.)

At about this time, Project MOONDUST got involved. MOONDUST is a foreign-space-debris analysis program of the Air Force Systems Command's Foreign Technology Division (FTD/SDM) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. FTD originated a CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN (means "No dissemination to Foreign Nationals," in this case Bolivians, it would seem) cable on May 19 that evidently referred to Latin American press reports and raised the question of MOONDUST involvement. (The FTD cable was not released to CAUS. We suspect it is the 6th document under State's FOIA review and we have sent a special request for it to FTD.)

On May 24, the U.S. Defense Attache Office (USDAO) in La Paz transmitted a CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN cable to FTD/SDM and to HQ USAF WASHDC/INYSA (Air Force Intelligence Science & Technology Branch, or AFINYSA for short), with info copies to DIA/DC-4B/DT-3B (Defense Intelligence Agency DC-4B is Guidance & Requirements Branch, Human Resources Division, Directorate of Collection Operations; DIADT-3B is Technical Data & Foreign Materiel Branch, Directorate of Scientific & Technical Intelligence), NORAD COC/DOFS (North American Air Defense Command Combat Operations Center/Aerospace Defense Command Space Operations Division), and the State Department. It read as follows:

"Subject: Moon Dust (U) (Note: "U" means subject title is unclassified).

Ref FTD CONF NOFORN 191830Z May 78, subj, as above & SECRET State 126725 (Note: Quoted earlier). 1. (C/NOFORN) (Note: This begins CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN part of cable) This office has tried to verify the stories put forth in references to the FTD msg and those which appeared in the local press. The Chief of Staff of the Bolivian Air Force told DATT/AIRA (Note: U.S. Defense Attache's Air Attache) this date that planes from the BAF (Note: Bolivian Air Force) have flown over the area where the object was supposed to have landed and in their search they drew a blank. Additionally, DATT/AIRA talked this date with the Commander of the Bolivian Army and he informed the DATT that the Army's search party directed to go into the area to find the object has found nothing. The Army has concluded that there may or not (sic) be an object, but to date nothing has been found. 2. (U) (Note: Remainder of message UNCLASSIFIED) Will keep you informed if anything factual turns up. GDS 31 Dec 84." (Note: Under the General Declassification Schedule, this cable ordinarily would not have been declassified until Dec. 31, 1984.)

From what CAUS can determine, the May 24 USDAO message was based on an expedition of Bolivian Army soldiers and scientists that returned from the suspected impact area on May 21. CAUS has reliable information from an American source that this expedition did not get to Cerro Bravo (Bravo Mountain), the suspected crash site, because the slopes were too steep to negotiate.

After the first expedition returned, a young Bolivian astronomer, who had been part of that team, flew over Cerro Bravo in a BAF plane with a BAF pilot, making five or six passes to observe a rockslide he had noticed earlier from the ground. He became convinced something had struck the side of the mountain, causing the slide.

A second expedition consisting of three BAF officers and a guide set out on horseback on May 23, reaching the rockslide on foot on May 25. The officers told

the American source they believe something crashed into the mountain but they could not find any debris. The officers reached this conclusion because: the rockslide appeared to be recent; it had created huge monolith-like boulders three meters (10 ft) tall and two meters (6 ft) in diameter; they found a 100-meter trench running parallel to the slide three to four meters (10-13 ft) wide at the top; some of the large rocks appeared to have been burned, having a whitish appearance as though seared by extremely high heat; and the grass around the sides and the top of the slide area was brown and withered for about 100 meters, whereas grass further away was green. K

At present, it is not known if the information gathered by the second expedition--which returned on May 27--ever reached the U.S. Government. (The latest document released was dated May 26 and it merely promised to pouch on May 29 a copy of State Airgram A-6343 to Bolivia as requested on May 19.) Strangely, none of the State Department documents even alludes to the type of detailed and significant information given to CAUS by a reliable American source. Whether this denotes a coverup or a simple foulup is yet to be seen.

CAUS research director Brad Sparks has devised a possible explanation for the Bolivian incident: For the last eight years, the Soviets have occasion have placed heavy (20-ton) maneuverable payloads into high-energy orbits. These satellites are each equipped with a rocket stage (weight included in the 20 tons) to enable them to maneuver in space. (One theory has it that these are orbital tests of the Soviet version of our Lunar Module.) The report in the Salta, Argentina, newspaper (mentioned in Ambassador Boeker's May 15 cable) of an "egg-shaped" metal object about 4 meters in diameter is consistent with the 4-meter-diameter upper stages of the so-called "D" class Soviet satellite launchers that lift these maneuverable payloads into high orbits. Then there are the low-altitude Soviet ocean surveillance satellites (such as the one that reentered over Canada recent-

ly), launched by "F" class rockets, and fitted with 2-meter-diameter station-keeping rocket stages to keep the payloads from reentering too soon.

Suppose one of these satellites failed and reentered the earth's atmosphere before consuming much of its propellant. The fuel and oxidizer tanks might have survived reentry because of their strong high-pressure design--and the Soviets are known to use more and denser metal (usually steel) for their sturdy rockets than seems necessary when compared to U.S. rockets.

During the fiery descent, the tanks might have leaked (even caught fire), thus accounting for some reports of course-changes and aerial blasts (JUST CAUSE, June 1978, p. 10). On impact with the mountain slope, the tanks still may have been leaking fiery propellant, thus accounting for the scorched rocks. Such fires might have been extinguished by a final rupture or explosion of the tank(s) at the end of the 100-meter slide, thus spraying propellant over a wide area. Ice-cold (cryogenic) fuel or oxidizer sprayed over the ground might explain the unburned dead grass.

"Catastrophic decays," as the deep-space reentries are called by NORAD, and even routine decays are observed by certain highly classified sensor systems, and the decay locations anywhere in the world can be fixed to within a precision of tens of meters. This raises the possibility that such a decay of a Soviet space vehicle occurred on May 6, 1978, that the U.S. recovered the remains (say, by May 11 or 12), and that the U.S. let everyone think it was surprised about the event when news leaked to the local press by May 14. This would obviate the need for the U.S. to return this useful intelligence materiel to the Soviet Union as required by treaty--"officially" the U.S. would know nothing about the material. Stranger things have happened in the realm of the U.S. Intelligence Community, e.g. the Glomar Explorer and the conflicting stories about how much of the Soviet submarine was retrieved, or even who ran the operation (CIA, NSA, or NSC).

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There are, of course, problems with this theory and discrepancies. If the rocket came down tumbling, its burning or leaking propellant could not point in any preferred direction so as to cause a course-change--but that observer-report might be erroneous. Soviet propellant tanks are not likely to be "egg-shaped," or even round, since they can use enough excess steel to simply section off the cylindrical rocket into two tanks. Even if the Soviets made bathysphere-like tanks for the "D" class maneuverable stage, the tanks would be shaped more like squat pumpkins, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters high by 4 meters diameter, than like eggs. And the "F" class maneuverable stage tanks would be shaped similarly, but only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ meters high by 2 meters diameter. But the "egg-shaped" 4-meter-diameter report might, after all, be erroneous, too.

Further, this theory might not account for the 100-meter-long trench dug in the mountain slope, depending on how deep it was. The width (3-4 meters) is about right. Another possible problem is the Col. Eddington cable of May 18--but clever weasel-wording and hedging might eliminate it: Eddington said there was no "direct" correlation with "known" space objects that might have reentered at about the right time--leaving open the possibility of indirect correlations of known objects or of direct correlations of temporarily unknown earth-satellites. Then the hedge: "However, we are continuing to examine any possibilities." Still, public records of orbiting objects have enough continuity and completeness to make it difficult for the U.S. to conceal a reentry of a large object for very long, what with the British, Swedes, Germans, Soviets, and others, watching the skies to double-check them.

And so the Bolivian mystery lingers. --WTZ, with BCS.

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NICAP TARGET FOR KGB OPERATIONS -- CAUS has developed reliable information that a KGB officer or agent thought to be Gennadiy I. Fedosov, First Secretary for Public Cultural Exchanges, Soviet Embassy offices, Washington, D.C., attempted to recruit NICAP President John L. "Jack" Acuff in May 1977. The purpose of the operation is not clear at present: One theory is that the Soviets noticed NICAP had developed confidential sources who were providing the group with classified UFO reports, such as the NORAD message about the 1975 flap and the Iranian, Moroccan, and Tunisian UFO reports of 1976--parts of which were published in the NICAP newsletter, UFO Investigator. In that case, the Soviets either were interested in the sources of the classified data or in the UFO data, or both.

Another theory contends NICAP was targeted because of certain covert CIA employees who hold or held important positions in the organization. Still another theory explains the attempted recruitment as a continuation of the KGB operations aimed at the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers (SPSE) from 1967 to 1970, when Jack Acuff was its Executive Director.

The KGB operations against SPSE began rather innocuously: The Soviets ordered books about--presumably--photometry and photogrammetry from SPSE, sending checks for them through the mail. The FBI intercepted the checks and/or monitored the bank accounts, then phoned Acuff to inquire as to their purpose. From then on, Acuff made a point of notifying one particular FBI agent whenever Soviet checks came in. Eventually, Acuff's relationship with the Bureau reached the point where he would meet Soviet personnel at the secret request and guidance of the FBI. The Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of the Washington FBI office told Acuff he thought the KGB was trying to "get through to some of the people who are doing classified work" in the SPSE.

In May 1970, Acuff became President of NICAP, and left SPSE. This made no

difference to the FBI, but it did to Acuff: The FBI asked him to initiate new contacts with the Soviets, but Acuff declined. Apparently, there was no further communication with the Soviets until May 1977, when Fedosov phoned Acuff to try to arrange a meeting. Fedosov said he was interested in UFOs personally and he wanted to discuss the subject with Acuff.

The NICAP head cleared the meeting with the FBI and met Fedosov for lunch in a downtown Washington restaraunt. The Soviet never once mentioned UFOs, despite his earlier professed interest. Instead, Fedosov made a rather intriguing offer to Acuff, one that could be interpreted as part of a cultural exchange, or as part of something more ominous: "You will have a lot more money soon. You'll have a lot more space. You're going to have to learn a foreign language because you'll be traveling abroad."

Afterward, Acuff dutifully reported the Soviet offer to the FBI. The agent told Acuff, "We think they will offer you money; what we want to know is what the strings are." Evidently, Acuff never did learn what were the "strings," since Fedosov never contacted Acuff again, as far as CAUS can determine. The Soviets did attempt to recontact Acuff in late July or August 1978, when another KGB officer or agent came to NICAP headquarters in Kensington, Md., but Acuff was out of the office at the time.

Though the reasons for the KGB interest in NICAP are not yet clear, it is known that the founder and original Chief of the CIA's Psychological and Political Warfare Staff, Colonel Joseph Bryan, 3rd, (USAF-Ret.), is a prominent member of the NICAP Board of Governors. (JUST CAUSE, April 1978, pp. 8-9.) Some observers suspect the CIA's interest in NICAP stemmed from the Agency's concern about the dangers of Soviet psychological exploitation of NICAP's vociferous charges of government coverup, which Donald Keyhoe and others hurled repeatedly throughout

the late 1950s and early/mid 1960s. Whether or not Bryan's involvement with NICAP was related to this CIA concern, and whether or not he took part in some sort of plot to neutralize the organization, is not yet known. But more information is coming to light all the time, with 1978 being the most fruitful year of all since Brad Sparks' discovery of the Bryan-CIA connection in December 1974. More may be revealed when documents are released by the CIA. --WTZ.

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SUBPENAS FOR CRASHED SAUCER WITNESSES: CAUS PLANS FOIA SUIT AGAINST AIR FORCE ET AL.

Much has been said about so-called crashed saucers in recent months (and during the past 29 years), but not much constructive action has been taken, other than making charges and staging news conferences. Todd Zechel, Director of CAUS, has investigated a dozen or so such cases and has found only one that seems to have substance.

In that case, Zechel obtained the first lead while working in a National Security Agency communications center in 1964. He has since tracked down five people who have knowledge of the incident: A former NSA colleague, two of his colleague's uncles (one a retired Air Force Colonel and the other an NCO still with NSA), a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and a now-deceased career Navy officer.

All of the people involved are reluctant witnesses, as one might expect. But in piecing together what they have told Zechel and their friends and relatives, it has become evident that some sort of extraordinary vehicle crashed near the Texas-Mexico border in the late 1940s and it was recovered by U.S. armed forces.

More recently, Zechel tried to bring this evidence to the attention of the White House and NASA. The President's national security advisor, through another White House official, informed Zechel that the Air Force denied any such incident

took place. Although NASA repeatedly asserted its willingness to investigate UFO physical evidence, it offered no encouragement to Zechel that it would either meet with the officers or investigate their claims. NASA evinced no interest in actively seeking out physical evidence of extraterrestrial visitation (seemingly its primary mission if one believes its own statements), but said it would consider such evidence if delivered to its laboratories. (Should there be more than a few tons, transporting this to NASA could become a problem.)

Zechel submitted detailed FOIA requests to the CIA and Air Force on July 13 and 14, 1978, asking for records of the incident. CIA did not deny it has such information categorically, but it suggested Zechel contact the Air Force as this type of incident would come under its purview. Col. Jack Morris, executive for Air Force Intelligence (AFIN) and director of AFIN Command Management Support, replied on Aug. 17. Morris denied AFIN had any records related to such an incident.

While waiting for other Air Force units to respond to his elaborate July 14 request, Zechel filed an FOIA appeal with AFIN on Sep. 7, threatening to file an FOIA lawsuit if the Air Force does not produce the records demanded. The Air Force now has 20 working days to respond to the appeal, after which Zechel is free to file suit--unless the Air Forces supplies the documents.

CAUS would like to raise a retainer fee of \$5,000 to pursue the FOIA action against the Air Force. Legal fees and expenses for the GSW suit have thus far come to nearly \$8,000, but Peter Gersten has been forced to do most of the work on his own time, rather than during company hours, because GSW lacks funds to pay the entire amount. A retainer of \$5,000 would accelerate the litigation by allowing Gersten to devote most of his company time to the FOIA suits.

It is essential to note that both GSW and CAUS expect to be reimbursed by

the U.S. Government for their legal costs, in accordance with subsection (4)(E) of the FOIA: "The court may assess against the United States reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this section in which the complainant has substantially prevailed." GSW, soon to win the release of a large number of UFO-related documents, will submit that it has prevailed substantially and ask for an assessment.

In an action unprecedented in the history of the UFO controversy, CAUS intends to subpoena all of the military officers who know of the recovery of an extraterrestrial vehicle and a number of government officials thought to have knowledge of the incident. By compelling officials to testify, CAUS hopes to either prove or disprove the occurrence of such an event, to lay the crashed saucer rumors to rest in one way or another.

The CAUS suit depends on the support of the UFOlogical community and the general public. Many people have been looking forward to an opportunity such as this to discover "the truth" for a very long time. We hope the UFOlogical community will realize this is a unique chance to see if physical evidence exists. Judging from the reaction to the recent MUFON Symposium, many thousands of people believe in such a possibility. If these UFOlogists and UFO buffs would each contribute a small donation, we could collect the needed sum in short order.

The goal is \$5,000 by the end of October. It is a "put your money where your mouth is" challenge. If you decide to meet the challenge, please make checks payable to Peter Gersten/CAUS, 191 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY 10451. Please specify the money is for the FOIA retainer. If the suit is not filed for any reason within the next six months, your donation will be returned to you, unless you indicate otherwise. --WTZ.

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In This Issue....

CIA Finds 1,000 Pages of UFO Documents:	1	Bolivian Documents Released by State Department:	8
FBI Interrogates UFO Researcher:	4	NICAP Target for KGB Operations:	16
FBI Destroys UFO Documents:	7	Subpenas for Crashed Saucer Witnesses:	18