

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING DOCUMENT

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

UNITED STATES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT
IMPLICATION FOR NATION SECURITY
AND
HUMAN SURVIVAL

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENT AND DOES NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR ITS EMPLOYEES NOR DEPARTMENT HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. CONTENTS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN ADVISORY AND NO CLASSIFICATION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

INTRODUCTION

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In the years 1946-1955 I compiled information for a descriptive analysis of the United States intelligence community that had evolved in the decade since World War II. My attention focused primarily upon the Central Intelligence Agency. The result of my efforts, Central Intelligence, UFOs and National Security, was widely read in 1956. More than 20 years have passed since I collected all available material on "the UFO problem and the CIA" and timorously published it.

My purpose was to explore a major terra incognita of American government, the national intelligence community, the original role of which was to bring the main facts of the outside world of UFOs to the attention of policy makers. It was apparent that in this role the institution would be of crucial importance and great potential influence in decision making. Because of this, I felt that such an institutional phenomenon required as much description and analysis as its secret nature would permit.

A number of questions about such a study and its publication were raised then, as they will be now. It is possible to write a scholarly work on a largely invisible intelligence establishment the archives of which are tightly closed, whose directors and employees cannot be systematically interviewed and the product of which is almost always top secret. Is it in the "national interest" to collect and publish UFO material that is available assuming that this might give some future aid or comfort to present or future adversaries of the United States? What good purpose can be served by publishing this information? It was at once apparent that the CIA's new world role after World War II would demand a new system for decision making informed by a vast UFO/secret weapon information-gathering organization. It was also apparent, and most crucial in the context of the ideological confrontation between United States and Soviet powers, that the CIA and NSA was expected to enter into the back alleys of espionage and covert intelligence collection action. The proper UFO policy organization and system for control of this kind subsumed under an intelligence organization were bound to confront the United States with problems which would not be easily solved.

My assumption—bias if you will—about "the UFO problem and the CIA" should be stated at the outset. I believe that in the ?? contemporary world of an intelligence and code breaking system ?? required for effective decision making. The secrecy of the ?? apparatus abets its power and intelligence, is a source of increasing influence in any classified UFO intelligence system. As a source of great influence, intelligence analysis ?? operational systems demand the close attention of senior ??? policy makers. Too little attention has been given to, and inadequate controls have been exerted over, the intelligence establishment since 1947.

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No pretense is made that the following pages and sections give a full and complete "inside story" of the CIA's UFO intelligence collection and evaluation system, particularly of the overseas espionage and covert action operations. Of these, I shall perhaps never see more than the top of the iceberg, at least in this generation. But diligent compilation of less classified materials has allowed me to reveal the transparent structure and some of the unorthodox methods of a pervasive UFO intelligence system at work in Washington and around the globe.

Formidable difficulties exist for an astronomer on call who sets out to describe the history, structure and principal methods of UFO intelligence without compromising my secret involvement in the invisible world of the NSA. What I been allowed to do is to perform careful library intelligence that has permitted me to overcome many of these difficulties. I have never been an active member of the professional intelligence guild. Were I privy now, or had I been in the past, to top secret information about the intelligence system, security inhibitions would impinge upon my profession.

Fundamental problems exist in even attempting an accurate historical survey of certain kinds of intelligence experience because military archives remain closed to certain documents or have been destroyed systematically for security reasons. This problem is illustrated by Project Blue Book staff and the Air Technical Intelligence Center about the intelligence experience in investigating the New Mexico flying saucer radar detection near Los Alamos and White Sands facilities from 1944-1949. The files I have seen recounts how "Top Secret" intelligence digests containing the most up-to-date operational radar intelligence were destroyed as soon as they had been evaluated during certain periods of intense and reliable flying saucer incidents in that state. And even though two digests were kept for the record, one U.S. Army Headquarters, and one in U.S.A.F. Intelligence Headquarters, when Project Sign was terminated both copies were destroyed for security reasons not known to me. While one is prompted to wonder whose security may have been at stake, this practice was so common as to make unlikely an objective review of the UFO intelligence system and performance in many important past events. At any rate, this illustrates one aspect of the difficulty of scholarly research in this field. Nonetheless, the subject is far too important to be left unexplored. And on the question of whether this briefing document will aid the CIA's adversaries if it is published outside of normal channels or not, I am convinced that you know far more about the United States intelligence system than most observers outside the system will ever know.

While there have been a number of publications on the subject during the 1950's and 1960's, authentic works remain scarce, and bibliographic indebtedness will be detailed in footnotes and bibliography in the revised draft, but reference should be made to some groundbreaking treatises on UFO intelligence which influenced the development of serious scholarship in this and on my own writing on the subject.

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Included are George S. Pattee's The Future of American Secret Intelligence (Washington, 1946), an analysis of World War II deficiencies, with suggestions for the structure of an intelligence system. Sherman Kent's Strategic Intelligence, written shortly after the Central Intelligence Agency was established, is an incisive discussion of intelligence as a kind of knowledge for specific UFO sighting evaluation, a type of organization and a unique activity. Dr. Vannevar Bush's Modern Arms and Free Men (Simon and Schuster, 1949), written for policy makers and defense science regarding technology's role in preserving democratic institutions and he is believed to be now heading up the classified UFO study program. Roger Hilsman's Strategic Intelligence and National Decisions (Glencoe, Ill., 1956) remains the only attempt to explore the nature of intelligence doctrine among policy makers in Washington.

My original book, "Central Intelligence, UFOs and National Security", was the outgrowth of materials prepared for use by the Defense Policy Seminar of the Defense Studies Program, Harvard University, and thus my debt remains to the faculty and guest lecturers who participated in those seminars. This is true also for my Defense Program colleagues, notably Professor W. Barton Leach of the Harvard Law School, and including Edward L. Katzenbach, Jr. and Maury D. Field. Others who assisted me in various ways were Donald Menzel, Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter (ret.), and General Charles P. Cabell (USAF, ret.). Special gratitude is expressed for Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomer and consultant to the Air Force's UFO program and advisor to the CIA's Robertson Panel Report on UFO's and national security implications.

Office of Scientific Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
December 1976

L.C.R.

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 1958
 No. 1

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