

At the request of Major [REDACTED], I would like to confirm the existence of two USAF documents which were recently denied by an official USAF representative. These are:

1. An intelligence summary on UFOs prepared in 1948 by the organization which later became the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB.

2. An intelligence analysis on specific aspects of UFO data which I prepared in 1952 while acting as UFO program monitor for Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C.

Since both documents were classified when I last saw them, I am not at liberty to reveal their contents. I would also like to add a qualification about #2: I completed it in rough form just a few hours before my departure from Washington (following my release from active duty) and turned it over to one of my associates in the Directorate of Intelligence. Therefore, I never saw it in its published form. However, since I had prepared it - as well as other reports which I recorded on tape - at the specific request of my Branch and Division Chiefs, I am certain that it was published.

Another word of caution is necessary on the latter document: I prepared it primarily as a weapon for use against the apathy and/or bias on the subject which prevailed in certain official quarters. Although the processes of logic employed would stand up under ordinary circumstances, they become somewhat tenuous and difficult to defend completely when applied to the task in question. The important point should be, therefore, that such a document did exist - not that it did or did not establish anything about UFOs.

There is also a question about the report prepared by the panel of civilian scientists convened in January 1953 to examine the UFO data. I met with this panel during part of its deliberations; this was during the week when I was being processed off active duty. Since I had departed by the time the panel adjourned, I did not see any report which it may have prepared. However, since it was convened for the specific purpose of reviewing all available data and making recommendations on the UFO program, it must necessarily have left some sort of report, undoubtedly written. (I have since been informed that it did, although let me repeat that I never saw it.)

Dewey J. Burnot, Jr.
Dewey J. Burnot, Jr.
Baton Rouge, La.
May 4, 1958

702 RED OAK DR.
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28739
MAY 25, 1992

Dear Mr. Melusine :-

I have your letter of 4th Feb before me and find that, once again, I must begin my response with an apology for being so late in responding. Your letter arrived while I was in the midst of making final preparations for our trip to Australia, and I simply didn't have time before departure to write. We were gone a number of weeks, and I've finally gotten caught up with all the things that required attention after our return. (This was the trip that we had to postpone for three consecutive years, starting in 1989, because of a series of health problems to one or the other of us. Since my wife is Australian, we try to return there for a visit every 2 or 3 years, but it had been 5 years this time because of these past postponements.)

The UFO "Estimate of the Situation" that you inquire about, as mentioned in Ed Ruppelt's book, did indeed exist. It (or a copy of it) was in the UFO files that I inherited when I became program monitor. It was prepared with the intention that it would proceed through channels to the AF Chief of Staff (I believe, Gen. Vandenberg at that time). I think the time was early or mid-1948^{or later 1949} but I'm not at all certain about this. It recapped all seemingly unexplainable UFO reports received by the AF to that time. It very explicitly mentioned that absolutely no artifacts had been

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recovered. It then went through all logical explanations for these sighting reports and concluded that the objects must be extraterrestrial in origin. Apparently this estimate was killed in channels or else failed to gain a favorable reaction at the top of the command chain because it sat there in the files, and no one had ever called it to my attention -- I discovered it only during my research into the UFO background material. I'm sure it was still labeled Secret or Top Secret when I saw it, but this would have been a natural byproduct of the manner in which its conclusion was reached. There was deplorably little UFO sighting data at the time the estimate was prepared, and the conclusion reached was, in my opinion, the result of extreme extrapolation -- possibly the objective was to stir up enough interest in USAF Intelligence to promote an organized and complete investigation, which was totally lacking at the time. In any case, I've never given that estimate much weight in the overall USAF UFO program simply because it occurred too early in the investigation. I don't remember the color of the cover except that it was nothing unusual -- there were generally scores of these "estimates" floating around then at any particular time. And my recollection is that this one wasn't especially thick, maybe 25 or 30 pages.

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Re your last question: Have I ever written on UFOs in unpublished form? The answer is a firm "no", neither published nor unpublished. I did have a small, unorganized collection of material on UFOs, mostly as samples of some of the things that occurred but nothing that would encourage any sort of research because it was all disappointed. I turned all of this material over to Bill Pitts of Fort Smith, Arkansas before I moved to North Carolina. Bill is one of the few people that I've come across in the UFO field in recent years who has both feet on the ground and doesn't have some sort of an axe to grind. Now, if I receive any unsolicited UFO material, I offer it to Bill. One of the only things I have retained is an autographed copy of Lt. Ruppelt's original book, and even that is out on loan, to my daughter, I think.

I hope this has helped your efforts in some way, however small.

My best to you.

Dewey Fournet
Dewey Fournet

702 RED OAK DR.
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28739
MON. 7/27/92

Dear Mr. Melissine:

I received your last letter a few days ago and will answer your questions to the best of my recollections.

The report of which you sent me a copy is definitely NOT the often referred to "Estimate of the Situation". This was strictly a "study" within the USAF Intelligence organization (apart from a copy for OMI), as is clearly indicated by the ~~the~~ report's title and its distribution. A copy was undoubtedly in the UFO files in my office, and I most probably scanned it at the very least, but I can't say that I remember it, perhaps because its conclusions were rather unacceptable by late 1951 -- we had generally concluded by then that they could not be of foreign origin (e.g. the Soviets).

On the other hand, the Estimate of the Situation (its actual name) was intended for dissemination up through channels to the USAF Chief of Staff. Whether it ever made it to that level, I'm not sure. It could have been disapproved and bounced back at any intervening edition of command. Its conclusion was that the most logical explanation was an extraterrestrial source, but I re-emphasize that this was quite tentative at that stage and based on a very limited number of reports -- generally same order of magnitude as those cited in the Study you sent me.

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The assumption that Al Chop would have seen either of these reports is incorrect. Al saw only those things that we thought he should see to handle public info requests. In very unusual and highly publicized cases, he was brought into the picture in detail and very early in the game -- e.g. the Newhouse movie. This was intended to enable him to handle the bulk of the inquiries without having to refer each one to us. As far as I know, Al never saw either of the reports under discussion, simply because ~~neither~~ neither was public knowledge until Ed Ruppelt's book was published, as far as I know.

I'm not terribly surprised to hear that your efforts on the Newhouse film have been generally fruitless. The Naval Photo Lab had analyzed the original footage and reported that the emulsion had been completely burned off wherever an object appeared and, therefore, no details at all were discernible. Sorry to hear you've been unable to locate Newhouse -- he could well be dead by now.

For your records, I did not retire from the USAF. I had been recalled to active duty for the Korean conflict, and my tour of duty expired in January 1953. At that time, I resigned my commission for reasons totally unrelated to my UFO assignment. When I departed in 1953, the basic UFO files were still in Ed Ruppelt's office (Blue Book) as part of the Air Technical Intelligence

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Center at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. The less detailed files that I had inherited in Washington remained, as far as I know, in the Air Technical Intelligence Branch files augmented possibly by closely related files in the Current Intelligence Branch. I have no idea at all what may eventually have happened to any of these files.

Re your final question: How was I selected as Blue Book program monitor? I suspect a number of elements were involved -- but I did not volunteer nor was I consulted beforehand; at some point I was simply told that henceforth, I would take on the job of overseeing "flying saucer" investigations and analysis (both being handled by Ruppert's group) "in addition to my other duties", which was a continuing technical analysis of air material of a few foreign countries, none of which were the Soviets or China or a major European power. To understand this properly, let me provide a little background. I was an officer in WWII for almost 4 years, the last 2 1/2 of which I was in a brand new type of activity, air technical intelligence (I was an aero engineer). I retained this MOS as a reservist after WWII. It was considered a critical MOS for the Korean conflict, so I was recalled to duty in 1951, going first to Air Command and Staff School at Maxwell AFB, then to my assignment with the Air Technical Intelligence Branch in the Pentagon. As the newest assignee in the Branch, I was given one of the least

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demanding areas of coverage initially. After 2 or 3 months, the UFO coverage was added when the Lt. Colonel who had been handling it was reassigned on normal "rotation". I suspect I was chosen because (1) I had extensive field investigative and analytical experience in AWT and (2) my normal assignment was one of the least demanding in the Branch. In the Spring of 1952, with the horrendous UFO 1952 "flap" beginning I was relieved of my regular assignment in Tech. Intel and moved to the Current Intelligence Branch on nothing but UFO coverage. The reason for the move was to put me in the mainstream of USAF intelligence communications because there was some fear that the growing volume of UFO reporting traffic could possibly mask a Soviet air attack on the U.S. I remained in that assignment until my relief from active duty in 1953. My assignment in the D of I was never considered a part of Blue Book per se. As I told you earlier, Blue Book was a part of AFIC at Wright-Patterson and therefore a part of Air Material Command. A more direct link with USAF D of I was needed, so this so-called Blue Book program monitor position was created. Although Ruffelt and I worked closely together, we had no direct line relationship. I would make suggestions, and generally he would follow-up unless there was too much other activity. We also worked together on the report I presented to the Robertson Panel. Hope this helps. Sincerely, Seymour Tarrant



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With regard to Mr. Fournet, I told you that I had talked with the gentleman responsible for the analyses performed on the Utah and Montana films. The gentleman's name is Mr. Harry Wing Woo, formerly with the Navy's Photo Intelligence Center and the Central Intelligence Agency. He has since retired.

Mr. Woo was contacted by the Naval Intelligence Command in my behalf and was asked if he would contact me regarding the matter of his analysis. He phoned me and we talked about his analysis and other matters relating to UFOs. During our conversation I asked him if he had ever seen the ATIC 1948 Estimate of the Situation. He told me that then Major Fournet had showed it to him.

Major Fournet, so said Mr. Woo, was less than pleased with the way in which the Air Force was conducting their investigations. At least he didn't seem to be satisfied with the conclusions reached. Neither, apparently, was the Navy. Mr. Woo told me that the Navy had seriously considered starting their own investigation into UFOs but didn't for the lack of nationwide facilities equal to those of the Air Force.

Mr. Woo stated that he had also been invited to a secret Pentagon briefing where a gun camera film shot by an Air Force pilot had been shown. (It is interesting to note that Mr. Woo thought that all this information was still classified and was somewhat reluctant to speak about it. I did, however, tell him that the CIA had declassified the Robertson Panel report and that all documentation was supposed to have been declassified.)

Mr. Woo's address and telephone number follow:

Mr. Harry Woo
8104 Whittier Blvd.
Bethesda, Maryland 20034
Telephone: 320-5273

ROBERT TODD
2528 BELMONT AVENUE
ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA 19003

CONFIDENTIAL

9 January 1976

Mr. Sherman J. Larsen
President
Center For UFO Studies
P.O. Box 11
Northfield, Illinois 60093

Dear Mr. Larsen:

By now you have received the copies of correspondence I have received over the past year or so, and have had time to review the contents. As you will notice, a copy of JANAP 146 (E) was to be supplied to me. I have finally received that copy.

I notice that the copy of JANAP 146 your Center is selling consists of only six pages. I was wondering if this is because your Center thought it better to limit the number of pages, or because you did not have a full copy of this publication. In case you don't have a full copy, I must tell you that the information contained in the pages not offered by your Center are much more interesting than those you include. JANAP 146 contains a detailed list of information to be reported--information which could only apply to UFOs.

If your Center hasn't obtained the full copy, please let me know and I will send you one.

Regarding the "Estimate of the Situation." My requests have failed to surface a copy of this document. However, I am positive that it did exist. Additional substantiation of its existence was provided by a Mr. Harry Woo. Mr. Woo was the photo-analyst to whom then Major Dewey Fournet took the Utah and Montana films within the Navy's Photo Intelligence Center. Mr. Woo, in a telephone conversation with me, confirmed the fact that he was shown a copy of the "Estimate" by Major Fournet. Since Mr. Woo did not work for PIC until at least 1952, the Estimate survived long after it was supposedly ordered destroyed. (Mr. Woo, by the way, went to work for the CIA sometime around 1955--as a photo-analyst. He said he did not perform analysis on any UFO photographic materials for CIA.)

Mr. Woo also informed me that he had been invited to a special Pentagon briefing where a gun-camera film of a UFO was shown. He stated that the film was of poor quality and

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Mr. Sherman J. Larsen

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showed only a blurred image. Even more interesting, however, was his reluctance to discuss the subject of UFOs. He seemed to feel that all this information was still highly secret. He was particularly reluctant to discuss his participation as a "witness" before the Robertson panel.

Mr. Woo also informed me that the Navy had seriously considered starting their own UFO investigating program. He said they didn't because of a lack of facilities.

Because I do not know if Mr. Woo would mind having his name mentioned, I have classified this letter "Confidential."

Regarding the matters of Major Fournet and Mr. Woo. I noticed that Mr. Dewey Fournet was slated to be a guest at the Ft. Smith, AR, UFO conference. I assume you would be able to get in touch with Mr. Fournet and confirm this information on your own--if you are not aware of it already.

If you would, please contact Mr. Fournet and ask him where he last saw a copy of the "Estimate" and what date it was. This may give me some clue as to where it is now. Also, if possible, ask him if there was any information contained in the Project Blue Book files on the CIA. It might also be interesting to know if the administrative and policy papers of Blue Book were as few when he was associated with the Project as they seem to be now. Masses of correspondence are missing. This, as I'm sure you know, is particularly true of the Project Sign and Grudge records.

I would also like to know if the "source" you alluded to in your letter of November 22, 1975, can obtain classified Air Force Intelligence documents. If so, I have a suggestion.

I am still working on obtaining CIRVIS and MERINT reports. My requests are very much up in the air--no pun intended--at the present moment. Could your Center benefit from photographic materials submitted along with CIRVIS reports? (What a stupid question!) I don't think there would be any way around paying for material of this type, source or no source.

I do not know how extensive your Center's files are. Do you have any information on a sighting at Luke AFB, Arizona, where gun-camera film footage was taken? (It occurred in March of 1953.) Also, do you have any information on a sighting at Osceola, Wisconsin, in July 1952? Film was also taken in this case.

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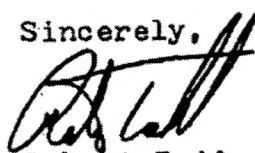
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Various other requests have the potential of supplying valuable information. Unfortunately I cannot determine their worth until I see them. And Freedom of Information Act requests take an inordinate period of time to process.

I really would appreciate your cooperation on the matters to be asked of Mr. Fournet. I've tried to obtain his address from the Air Force, but the Air Force is slightly less than cooperative. As a matter of fact, in response to my request the Air Force used the word "alleged" while referring to his association with Blue Book. As a fact I'm sure Mr. Fournet would find humor in.

Sincerely,



Robert Todd

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAR 29 1967

Dear Mr. Hennessey:

This replies to your letter requesting information on certain documents pertaining to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). At present, I do not have any information to send you on the September 23, 1947 letter about which you inquired.

Regarding the 1948 "Estimate of the Situation," the late Captain Ruppelt in his book, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, provides the answer. The Top Secret Estimation was working its way up to the higher echelons of the Air Force. It got to the late General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, then Chief of Staff, before it was "batted down." The General wouldn't "buy" interplanetary vehicles. The report lacked proof and the Estimate died a quick death. Some months later, it was completely declassified and relegated to the incinerator. I am sorry, but we have no copies of this document.

I have attached two more copies of the 1953 Panel's conclusions; I am sorry that our copies are of such poor quality. Regarding a photostat of the original signatures, I can only repeat what I stated in my February 23 letter, since this was not an Air Force report, we do not have a photostat of the Panel's original conclusions bearing their signatures.

Sincerely,

George P. Freeman, Jr.
GEORGE P. FREEMAN, JR.

Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Attachment

Mr. Julian J. A. Hennessey
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