

The UFO Program to the American Society of Newspaper Editors 22 Apr 67

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THE
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PROGRAM

presented to the
American Society of Newspaper Editors
on
22 April 1967
by
Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.

SMC

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THE AIR FORCE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE UFO PHENOMENON AS A PROJECT IN 1947. DURING THIS PERIOD, A POLICY LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF WHICH DIRECTED THE COMMANDER, AIR MATERIAL COMMAND, TO SET UP A PROJECT WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO COLLECT, COLLATE, EVALUATE, AND DISSEMINATE TO INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND CONTRACTORS ALL INFORMATION REGARDING UFO SIGHTINGS. INITIALLY THE PROJECT WAS CLASSIFIED, HOWEVER, THIS SECURITY CLASSIFICATION WAS DROPPED IN MARCH 1952. THE UFO PROJECT HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED SINCE THAT TIME.

DURING THE PERIOD 1948 TO 1955, THE AIR FORCE MADE THREE COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES OF THE UFO REPORTS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THEM. THESE REPORTS ARE KNOWN AS THE "SIGN" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY OF 1948, THE "GRUDGE" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST OF 1948, AND THE PROJECT "BLUE BOOK" REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MAY 1955. THE REPORTS CONCLUDED THAT "THE PHENOMENA PRESENTED NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF SIGHTINGS WERE MISINTERPRETATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL OBJECTS." THEY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT "IT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE

THAT ANY OF THE UFO REPORTS EXAMINED IN THE STUDIES REPRESENTED TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF PRESENT DAY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE. THIS WAS IN 1955, AND SINCE THAT TIME, PROJECT BLUE BOOK HAS CONCERNED ITSELF WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SIGHTINGS, EVALUATION OF THE DATA, AND RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION TO THE NEWS MEDIA. THIS INFORMATION IS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF NEWS RELEASES AND BLUE BOOK BROCHURES.

TODAY, THE OPERATIONAL PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS STILL LOCATED AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT IS STILL THE SAME TODAY AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, AND THAT IS TO DETERMINE IF UFO'S PRESENT A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

I WOULD EMPHASIZE AT THIS POINT THAT, ALTHOUGH WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO COLLECT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON A SIGHTING AND TO REACH A CONCLUSION AS TO WHAT STIMULUS CAUSED THE SIGHTING, SUCH AN EXPLANATION IS WHOLLY SUBORDINATED TO THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF BLUE BOOK -- THE DETERMINATION IN EACH CASE WHETHER THERE IS A THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

MY OFFICE IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL UFO REPORTS WHICH ARE REPORTED TO THE AIR FORCE. EACH AIR FORCE BASE COMMANDER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPOINTS AN OFFICER TO BE THE UFO INVESTIGATING OFFICER FOR HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS COLLECT INFORMATION FROM OBSERVERS AND CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE SIGHTING, ACCORDING TO THE SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM AT THE BASE LEVEL. THE INFORMATION AND THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION ARE SUBMITTED TO THE WRIGHT-PATTERSON OFFICE VIA TELETYPE OR THROUGH LETTER REPORTS. THESE REPORTS ARE THEN PLACED IN CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO THEIR CHARACTERISTICS. IF A UFO REPORT EXHIBITS AIRCRAFT CHARACTERISTICS, WE GO DIRECTLY TO THE FAA, LOCAL AIRPORTS, SAC HQS AND ITS SUBORDINATE UNITS, AND TO THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND ITS SUBORDINATE UNITS. UFO REPORTS WHICH EXHIBIT BALLOON CHARACTERISTICS CAN BE CHECKED BY CONTACTING THE U.S. WEATHER STATIONS, LOCAL AIRPORTS, AIR FORCE WEATHER STATIONS, THE HOLLOMAN BALLOON CONTROL CENTER, THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH, AND VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN BALLOON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

IN CHECKING REPORTS WHICH EXHIBIT SATELLITE CHARACTERISTICS WE GO DIRECTLY TO THE SPACE DETECTION CENTER AT COLORADO SPRINGS. THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRACKING ALL SATELLITE ACTIVITY. WE ALSO GO TO THE SPACE DETECTION CENTER FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SATELLITE DECAYS.

FOR REPORTS WHICH WE SUSPECT WERE CAUSED BY MISSILE FIRINGS WE GO DIRECTLY TO CAPE KENNEDY, VANDENBERG, POINT MUGU, WALLOPS ISLAND, EGLIN, GREEN RIVER, AND OTHER MILITARY UNITS WHICH MIGHT BE ENGAGED IN SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

FOR ANALYSIS OF RADAR REPORTS WE USE AN ORGANIZATION AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON OR CAN USE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

FOR PHOTO ANALYSIS WE USE ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON.

FOR PHYSICAL SPECIMENS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED TO THE PROJECT OFFICE, WE HAVE USED THE SERVICES OF THE AIR FORCE MATERIEL LABORATORY, BATTELE MEMORIAL, PURE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, LIBBY OWENS AND CORNING GLASS, THE NORTHWESTERN GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, AND THE INSTITUTE OF PAPER CHEMISTRY.

FOR SUSPECTED ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS WE USE THE SERVICES OF DR. J. ALLEN
HYNEK, ASTRO-PHYSICIST AND PROJECT BLUE BOOK CONSULTANT, ALSO DR. CHARLES P.
OLIVIER, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY, AND DR. ROBINSON, AN ASTRONOMER
FROM WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB. WE ALSO, FREQUENTLY REFER TO OPEN LITERATURE
SUCH AS SKY & TELESCOPE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON COMETS, METEORS, AND
AURORAL DISPLAYS.

ALTHOUGH MY OFFICE STAFF IS SMALL, WITHIN THE WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB
COMPLEX, I HAVE THE SERVICES OF PHYSICISTS, CHEMISTS, ASTRONOMERS, METEOR-
OLOGISTS, AERODYNAMIC ENGINEERS, AND PHOTO ANALYSTS. THESE PEOPLE ARE
AVAILABLE TO THE PROJECT WHENEVER THEY ARE NEEDED.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADD, THAT I HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT ORGANIZATIONAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM ALL ECHELONS IN THE AIR STAFF. THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE AIR FORCE MUST EVALUATE SUBJECTIVE
INFORMATION WHICH CANNOT BE DUPLICATED IN A LABORATORY. WE ARE EVALUATING
AN OBSERVER'S INTERPRETATION OF AN EXPERIENCE OR EVENT. WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF METEORITES, WE HAVE NEVER RECOVERED ANYTHING TANGIBLE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL
ORIGIN.

I AM SURE THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF YOU ARE AWARE OF THE AIR FORCE CONTRACT SIGNED LAST YEAR WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. THIS CONTRACT, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$300,000, IS BETWEEN THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE UNIVERSITY.

IT CALLS FOR AN 18-MONTH STUDY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. EDWARD U. CONDON, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND NOW A PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE POINT VERY CLEAR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CONTRACT. THE ONLY INVOLVEMENT OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK WITH THE COLORADO CONTRACT IS TO PROVIDE THEM DUPLICATES OF ALL CURRENT UFO REPORTS AND SUCH MATERIAL FROM OUR FILES AS THEY MAY ASK FOR. AS A MATTER OF INTEREST, TO DATE I HAVE SUPPLIED THEM WITH AT LEAST 400 CASE HISTORIES.

DR. CONDON IS CONDUCTING A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT STUDY.

IN CONCLUSION I WANT TO READ TWO PARAGRAPHS FROM THE CURRENT PROJECT BLUE BOOK REPORT:

"TO DATE, THE FIRM CONCLUSIONS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK ARE: (1) NO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTED, INVESTIGATED, AND EVALUATED BY THE AIR FORCE HAS EVER

GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY; (2) THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO OR DISCOVERED BY THE AIR FORCE THAT SIGHTINGS CATEGORIZED AS UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS OR PRINCIPLES BEYOND THE RANGE OF PRESENT DAY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE; AND (3) THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT SIGHTINGS CATEGORIZED AS UNIDENTIFIED ARE EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES.

"THE AIR FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE ALL REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL PHENOMENA OVER THE UNITED STATES. THE SERVICES OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED TO INVESTIGATE AND ANALYZE THESE REPORTS, AND PERIODIC REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE MADE.

"THE AIR FORCE TAKES NO STAND ON WHETHER OR NOT EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE COULD OR DOES EXIST. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THE UNIVERSE CONTAINS LIFE ON PLANETS OTHER THAN OUR OWN. THE AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO EXTEND AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE WHO FEELS THAT HE POSSESSES ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES OPERATING WITHIN THE EARTH'S NEAR SPACE ENVELOPE TO SUBMIT HIS EVIDENCE FOR ANALYSIS."

Newbold

ROBERT C. NOTSON
PORTLAND OREGONIAN
PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J. OGDEN
PROVIDENCE JOURNAL-BULLETIN
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

VINCENT B. JONES
GANNETT NEWSPAPERS
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NORMA ISAACS
COURIER-JOURNAL
LOUISVILLE TIMES
SECRETARY

NEWBOLD NOYES, JR.
WASHINGTON STAR
TREASURER

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

OFFICE OF THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

NEWBOLD NOYES, JR.
WASHINGTON STAR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003

May 3, 1967

Major Heeter Quintanilla, Jr.
TDET/UFO
Headquarters FTD (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Dear Major Quintanilla:

I was out of the office all last week; hence the unconscionable delay in getting this letter off to you. But I (all of us) do want you to know how very much we appreciate your appearance before the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

I'm sure you must have been able to sense the great interest of the editors in what you had to say. I myself heard many favorable comments on your performance.

As we had anticipated, the scientists got what little heat there was from the questioners. But it meant a great deal to me as producer of the show to have that handsome Air Force uniform up there on the platform, and you were a good sport to take part and give us the official word.

Once again, thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule to help educate the press. You did us much good.

Faithfully yours,

Newbold Noyes
Newbold Noyes

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OFFICE OF THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
NEWBOLD NOYES, JR.
WASHINGTON STAR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

April 12, 1967

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
TDET/UFO
Headquarters FTD (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Dear Major Quintanilla:

Just a line to suggest that if you have a text of your prepared remarks for the ASNE next week, and can get it mimeographed, it would be helpful to have a dozen or so copies for the press room at the Shoreham.

Not necessary, but it does insure that if the reporters want to quote you they will do so accurately.

Faithfully yours,


Newbold Noyes

NN:gcg

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CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

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TEXARKANA GAZETTE

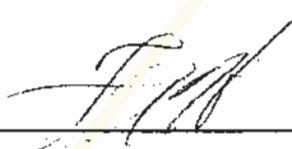
C. A. MCKNIGHT
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ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

VERMONT ROYSTER
WALL STREET JOURNAL

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1 TO	TDC	INITIALS	CIRCULATE		
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REMARKS					
Maj. Quintinella UFO News Paper Editor, request file.					
					
FROM				DATE	7 APR 61
				PHONE	

DD FORM 95 1 OCT 60 Replaces DD Form 94, 1 Feb 50, and DD Form 95, 1 Feb 50, which will be used until exhausted. GPO 16-78279-2



FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Date 17 Apr 67

*Q-70916
Mudry*

MEMO TO: Dr. Cacioppo

Tony -

Think it might be useful for you to monitor session 20 - 21.

Let's look at the briefing I want for LeBailley on this.

RAYMOND S. SLEEPER, Colonel, USAF

*5/11/67
Dundell - 1/4
Boon - 1/2
talk - 1/2
CDDC
Puckett*

Reference attached

Frid - Sat

SUSPENSE:

20 Apr 67 5/12 OK

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FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Date: 17 Apr 67

MEMO TO: Dr. Cacloppe

Tony -

Think it might be useful for you to monitor session 20 - 21.

Let's look at the briefing I want for LaBulley on this.

RAYMOND S. SLEMPER, Colonel, USAF

Reference attached

SUSPENSE: 20 Apr 67

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FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Date 12 Apr 67

MEMO TO: Dr. Caspary

Re: -

Think it might be useful for you to review session 10 - 11.

Let's look at the briefing I did for the Region this.

Dr. Caspary, 1001, 1002, 1003

Refer to attached

SUSPENSE: 1001, 1002, 1003

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NEWBOLD NOYES, JR.
WASHINGTON STAR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003

March 6, 1967

Col. Stanley
SA For
0430
OK - 55809
57793
May 1967

Major General Eugene B. LeBailly
Director of the Office of Information
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear General LeBailly:

As program chairman for this year's meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which takes place here at the Shoreham April 20-21-22, I am trying to organize a serious seminar on the subject of UFOs.

I've been discussing the problem with Dr. Condon, Dr. Hynek, Dr. Menzel and the like, and trying to keep Major Kehoe and his gang at arm's length. I'm wondering whether it might be possible to have one of the Air Force's Project Blue Book officers, preferably Major Quintinella, take part in such a session.

What I hope to come up with is a non-kooky, balanced panel representing both total- and not-so-skeptics, and to have Dr. Condon act as moderator and also talk briefly about the problem of the press in handling this sort of material. He has indicated an interest in taking part if I can work out such a presentation.

If you think this is a possibility, I can of course approach Major Quintinella directly, but thought I'd better sound you out first.

As you probably know, the ASNE is composed of about 700 newspaper editors from all over the country, about 500 of whom (including all the important ones) will be at this meeting. It provides one of the major forums for serious public discussion by interesting people in and out of government, and the proceedings are of course very widely reported.

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2- General LeBailly

March 6, 1967

I do think it would be a good thing for this influential group to get some reasonable perspective on this, after all, rather puzzling business.

Faithfully yours,

Newbold Noyes

Newbold Noyes

NN/gcg

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

Maj Acuntanilla
WPAFB

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAR 23 1967

Dear Mr. Noyes:

We appreciate your invitation of March 6 to participate in a UFO panel as part of the annual ASNE meeting to be held this year at the Shoreham, April 20-22. We believe having an Air Force representative take part in such a panel before such a distinguished audience could be of great benefit to us, and we will be happy to work with you toward this end.

While we have no objection to making Major Quintanilla available, his job is administering the UFO reports made to the Air Force, and he has limited dealings with the press. Our offices here shoulder the brunt of dealings with the press and public on this subject and you might wish to consider having one of our people on the panel in addition to Major Quintanilla.

Another man you might like to consider adding to the panel, particularly since the theme of the panel centers on press problems, is Herb Strentz, a teacher at Bakersfield College, California. He did an article for the fall 1966, COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW, on how different papers in the same locale cover the same story -- in this case, two Detroit and four Chicago newspapers' coverage of the 1966 southern Michigan UFO sightings. We're sending along a copy of this article for your information.

We look forward to working with your people on this panel and ask that you contact Lt Colonel Jacks of our Public Information Division to work out further details. He, or Capt Rhoads in his absence, can be reached on 695-5809 or 695-7793.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

E. B. LeBAILLY
Major General, USAF
Director of Information

Mr. Newbold Noyes, Jr.
WASHINGTON STAR
Washington, D.C. 20003

Atch
Article

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PRIORITY

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ZNR UUUUU

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FM OSAF

TO RUEDFIF/FTD COMDR WPAFB OHIO

INFO RUEDTAA/AFSC

RUEDFIF/FTD IDET WPAFB OHIO MAJ QUINTANILLA

BT

UNCLAS SAF-OIPC 75716 MAR 67.

FOR CMDR AND IO, WE HAVE APPROVED REQUEST OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS TO HAVE MAJOR QUINTANILLA APPEAR ON A PANEL BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP TO DISCUSS THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PHENOMENON. MENZEL, HYNEK, CONDON AND LIKE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH UFO ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. THE NATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE SHOREHAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C., 20-22 APRIL, WITH EXACT DATE AND TIME OF PANEL YET TO BE DETERMINED. REQUEST MAJOR QUINTANILLA BE PLACED ON TDY TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR HIS PERIOD, REPORTING TO THE PUBLIC INFORMA-

no action
2-6C-3
1-6
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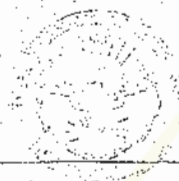
PAGE 2 RUEDHQA 1829 UNCLAS

TION DIVISI, SAF-OI, PENTAGON, ROOM 4C922, THE DAY PRIOR TO PANEL PRESENTATION FOR DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM. NEWBOLD NOYES OF WASHINGTON STAR IS ASNE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN AND WILL CONTACT MAJOR QUINTANILLA WITH FURTHER DETAILS. MAJOR GEN LEBAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION APPROVES THIS REQUEST.

BT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAR 31 1967

Dear Mr. Noyes:

Confirming your recent conversation with Lt Colonel Jack
of my staff, we are making arrangements to have Major Quintanilla
Quintanilla of Project Blue Book appear on the American Society
of Newspaper Editors panel to discuss the unidentified flying
object phenomenon.

We would appreciate it if you could contact Major Quintanilla
directly at the following address as we would:

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
EOD/10
Headquarters AFM (ADIC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Also, I would like to Colonel Jack to continue working with
you so we may keep abreast of such developments as date, time,
place, and fellow panelists.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

J. B. PARMENT
Major General, USAF
Director of Information

Mr. Newbold Noyes
WASHINGTON STAFF
Washington, D.C. 20033

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RESUME OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN:

4 April 1967

COLONEL STANLEY (in Col Jack's office, SAFOI)
COLONEL HOLM

Col Stanley said he had talked to General Giller whose concern simply was that Major Quintanilla would get caught in cross-fire. General Giller had told him that both he and Col Jacks had discussed the problem with Col Holm.

Col Stanley stated that Dave Noyes is President of the Washington Story. He is going to have this panel whether or not the Air Force participates. Participation on a panel of this sort is a departure for SAFOI. They are aware of the pitfalls, but the SAFOI staff has taken action to reduce the dangers of getting involved.

Col Stanley said Major Quintanilla will be given the same treatment as many others who have gone on a press conference, such as Dr. Brown, for instance. The decision to have him participate was not an accident. Two colonels with 30 years' experience in the information business will be holding his hands. They will work him over--ask him every leading dirty question he might get. He will be ready for them. It has got to be Hector. *(Blue book)* Panel meeting won't last more than 1-1 1/2 hrs with questions.

Hector has two things going for him:

(1) As stated, he will be brainwashed thoroughly before he goes on. We are not going to throw Quintanilla out in the cold pool by himself.

(2) Man named Phil Glass will be on the panel, also. He is utterly convinced that UFO's are electromagnetic ~~phenomena~~. He has a book in Random House and is anxious to be on the panel to promote his book, and will be eager to debate with MacDonald. SAFOI figures Major Quintanilla will probably be able to just sit back and listen to them debate.

Another thing, MacDonald wrote to Dr. Price in AFOAR saying that he will be in Washington on the 17th and has an appointment with Naval Research on the 18th. Told them they dare not turn him down. MacDonald will have talked to Price. Hector will have the argument, "Dr. MacDonald, you had an entire afternoon to present any information you had to AFOAR." Think we have him fireproofed.

Col Stanley says Air Force has had three things this past year in its favor:

1. Contract with Condon. Want to be able to say that man is free.
2. Movement of Blue Book out of vaulted area.
3. Situation has developed to point where a number of newsmen are taking a real hard-nosed look at the problem.

Col Stanley would like to hear from Col Sleeper ASAP on Friday, 7 April.

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April 3

He advised me to call

Gen. Giller - I am very much
disturbed by the request for Maj. Quintanilla
to appear on Security of News Editors Panel. - April

~~For instance Mr. Noyes &~~
~~Guy's like Dr. McDonald will crucify him.~~

Not Blue suit job on this
Firing line

If Contract Personnel cannot
~~appear~~ - it really shouldn't be
done. -

Condon don't believe they are
dear enough into this problem
yet. -

ROBERT C. NOTSON
PORTLAND OREGONIAN
PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J. OGDEN
PROVIDENCE JOURNAL-BULLETIN
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

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April 4, 1967

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
TDET/UFO
Headquarters FTD (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Dear Major Quintanilla:

I am delighted to hear from General LeBailly that you will be able to appear before the American Society of Newspaper Editors on Saturday, April 22, when we present a panel discussion of the UFO problem.

First, as to the physical arrangements, the meeting is at the Shoreham Hotel here in Washington, and this Saturday morning session will be in the Empire Room. We will get under way with your panel at 9:30 a.m. If you have not been previously contacted by a member of our program committee, the rendezvous point for speakers is something called the Directors' Room. I think it would be wise if you and other panelists were there by 9 a.m., so that we can meet one another, have a cup of coffee, and proceed to the meeting room in plenty of time.

Please let me know whether you want us to arrange accommodations for you at the Shoreham for the night of April 21. We will be glad to do so at our expense, if that is proper in the circumstances, and also to reimburse you for expenses you may incur personally in connection with the trip.

At present, we are certain of three panelists. The other two are Dr. Donald Menzel of Harvard, and Dr. James McDonald of the University of Arizona. Dr. Condon, I'm sorry to say, has reported that he feels he should not take part in the discussion, although he's much interested and has given me several ideas as to procedures. He might show up at the last minute, if he's in the East.

I am still working on a possible fourth person for the program. This would be a non-kooky citizen who thinks

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he has seen a saucer, and who (if we can get him) would simply open the program with a ten-minute description of what he thought he saw. There is no intention that this "sighting" should become the whole focus of the discussion -- merely that it could provide an example of the sort of thing we are contending with to which the other panelists could refer to the extent that they found it useful.

I am trying to line up, for this job, a man named William C. Powell, a pilot for the Sears Roebuck company, who reported a UFO incident last May 21. Perhaps you may know of it. If not, I attach a copy of a report I received from NICAP. I do not know whether Mr. Powell will agree to appear -- if not, I think we will simply go ahead with the present three panelists.

The main burden of the "debate" on this issue should be borne, I'm sure you'll agree, by our two scientists. As I envision the program, we will open with a statement of about ten minutes from Powell, if he's available. Second (or first if Powell is out) we'll have Dr. McDonald, the man who believes UFOs are there, and are of extra-terrestrial origin -- about 20 minutes. Then we'll follow with Dr. Menzel, who thinks all UFO sightings can be explained by natural phenomena -- another 20 minutes, roughly. Then you, to describe how Blue Book works, and add any comments you might care to make -- 10 minutes or so. Then questions and comments exchanged between panelists. We have to wind up by 11:15.

The panelists will be introduced, and the proceedings moderated, by J. Q. Mahaffey, editor of the Texarkana Gazette and Daily News. He is a very amusing and good-natured fellow, and I hope will be able to keep the discussion from becoming too heated -- which I understand is something of a problem with both Menzel and McDonald!

If you have any problems or questions in regard to all this, please call me. In any event, we'll look forward to seeing you on the 22d.

Faithfully yours,


Newbold Noyes

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HISTORY OF PROJECT

Following the Kenneth Arnold sighting on 24 June 1947, wide news coverage of public reports of "flying discs or saucers" created sufficient concern at high military echelons to authorize AMC to conduct a preliminary investigation into these reports. Early correspondence indicates that U. S. Military Leaders were concerned that the objects reported were an aircraft configuration more advanced than those possessed by the United States Armed Forces. A letter, 23 September 1947, from Lt. General Twining of AMC to the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, expressed the opinion that there was sufficient substance in the reports to warrant a detailed study.

On 30 December 1947, a letter from the Chief of Staff directed AMC to, . . . "set up a project whose purpose was to collect, collate, evaluate and distribute to interested Government Agencies and contractors all information concerning UFO sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere which can be construed to be of concern to the National Security. . ."

The Technical Intelligence Division of AMC issued Hq AMC Technical Instruction No 2185, 11 February 1948, and the project was inaugurated with a code name of "SIGN." The code name "SIGN" was changed to the code name "GRUDGE" on 16 December 1948. A report released in February 1949 covering analysis of the first 273 incidents concluded that, while no definite and conclusive evidence existed, evaluation of reports of unidentified objects was a necessary activity of Military Intelligence Agencies.

After the Project "SIGN" Report, work continued along the same lines and a Project "GRUDGE" Report was published and released in August 1949 by AMC. This report contained analysis of 244 cases and concluded that Unidentified Flying Objects reports resulted from: a) misinterpretation of conventional objects, b) mass hysteria or "War Nerves", c) hoaxes and/or d) Psychopathological persons. Based upon these conclusions AMC recommended that investigation and study of this type of report be reduced in scope. Major portions of this work were performed under contract by Ohio State University, Professor Hynek (Present Consultant to AF on Project Blue Book), The Rand Corporation, Dr. G. Valley, Dr. Paul Fitts, Air Weather Service, 3610th Electronic Section and the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Following publication of the "GRUDGE" Report, the Air Force continued to investigate sightings, inasmuch as it is an Air Force responsibility to identify and analyze Aerial Phenomena that could possibly be a menace to the United States. Much of the Scientific and Technical work during 1950 and 1951 centered around Project "Twinkle" and the Green Fireball studies of Dr. LaPaz in the Southwestern United States. Project "Twinkle" Final Report was completed on 27 December 1951. During December 1951 Colonel Kirkland and Lt. Ruppelt made a visit to a private industrial firm to discuss the feasibility of a scientific study from the data collected since the program's inception. Thus, Project Blue Book's Special Report #14 came into being.