



OPEN LETTER ON UFOS TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT

Versailles, France, 14 April 2008

Following is an English translation of an open letter from several authors, headed by French Navy Rear Admiral Gilles Pinon, to M. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France. This translation by Robert D. Morningstar, editor of *UFO Digest*, has been slightly edited for publication here. — Editor.

Preamble

In the absence of any hostile intent, the intrusion of an extraterrestrial civilisation could jeopardise our environment, comprising all natural, social and cultural conditions constituting the theatre of human activities.

The Charter of the environment, which has constitutional authority, provides that although uncertain in the state of scientific knowledge, when acknowledging an injury that could cause severe and irreversible

environmental effects, public authorities shall, by applying the precautionary principle, have an obligation to work for the implementation of risk assessment procedures.

The UFO phenomenon

These unusual aerospace phenomena regularly appear in our airspace. They are commonly known as UFOS. The CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales—National Centre for Space Studies) prefers to give the phenomenon the name of PAN (*phénomène aérospatial non-identifié*—unidentified aerospace phenomenon).

Before trying to give UFOS an interpretation, we must recognise the obvious and simple fact: they exist. While much is the result of misconceptions, fantasy or hallucination, an irreducible part seems to show significant, unknown, physical laws and participation of an intelligent principle.

They gave birth to a discipline, ufology, which comprises two distinct

activities: first, data collection; second, their interpretation.

By convention, we will identify later in this letter the generic term "UFO phenomenon", all sides of which, after review, have not received any rational explanation with regard to our scientific knowledge.

The data

A study group from CNES in France, the GEIPAN (Group d'Etudes et d'Information sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés—study and information group on unidentified aerospace phenomena), has had the official mission to collect, analyse and archive data on UFOS.

Thanks to this organisation and obstinate independent investigation work, we now have databases containing several thousand observations.

Their statistical study highlights the complexity and incongruity of the phenomenon, which covers dozens of types of events from the most banal, simple, abnormal light in the sky to the more surprising recorded radar

objects with inexplicable kinematic performance. But it also shows an internal coherence and general characteristics, and rarely denied, relatively stable physical reality and intelligent behaviour—not hostile, but discreet, stealthy and blurred/garbled.

The interpretation

The most widespread interpretation among ufologists maintains that the UFO phenomenon is governed by one (or more) non-terrestrial intelligence(s). In this case, we must accept the idea that conceals a potentially hostile plan, a program supported by a strategy.

What is this program? Who are the authors? What is their strategy? These are the questions that we have to ask ourselves in facing an unknown.

Therefore, the study of the UFO phenomenon resorts to methods for assessing complex situations involving intelligence games, ambiguous designs and scarce, sporadic and garbled information.

Hypothetical-deductive methods

What are these methods? From a military conception, they have emerged during the last global conflict at the same time as operational research. They are taught in war colleges (in France, the Defence Intelligence College) and are used by the staffs of the major powers. Large companies exposed to economic and political constraints and facing a competition where misinformation is commonly practised have adopted and adapted them to their needs. This explains the presence of metaphor and military terminology in the speeches of leaders of society.

As operational research, they are designed to overcome the lack of intuition and apply common sense to situations with confusing parameters, depending on many factors and relevant objectives and subject to

random natural events.

But unlike operational research, they take into account the interference of a foreign intelligence, endowed with will and capable of jamming and arbitrary, seemingly irrational, behaviour. They are particularly relevant in the presence of disinformation and in asymmetrical conflicts between adversaries with different logic, divergent ethics and modes of dissimilar thinking, as in the fight against terrorism or, if the case arises, an extraterrestrial intrusion.

With what kind of reasoning are these methods involved? They are the hypothetical-deductive kind. They must make assumptions, prior to the riddle of ethical probabilities or technical, economic and operational likelihoods, which are deduced from the consequences, past and future, and which could be verified through observation and intelligence. If they find an experimental verification, they are validated. Otherwise, they are either rejected or revised to make them compatible with experience. They are constructions that are both iterative and adaptive. They demand formal and rigorous thought. All things considered, they are a fairly

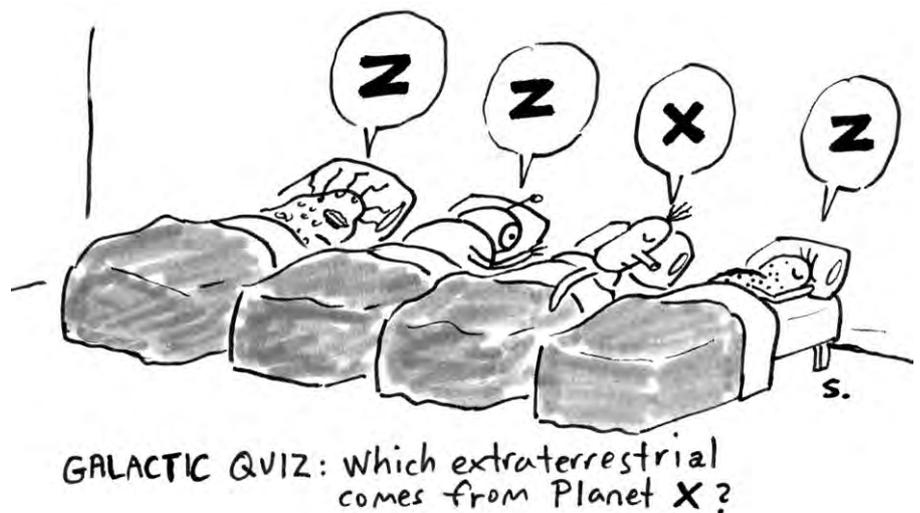
faithful application of the scientific method of Karl Popper. They oppose the inductive thought process that goes from specific to general, which claims a general statement from a limited number of observations.

Regarding ufology, the inductive method is inappropriate because of sharply depreciated information. This unfortunately has led to two pitfalls: on the one hand, scepticism or rejection of any attempt to interpret because the multiform faces and absurd events that have been at large for 60 years do not justify a general statement; on the other hand, by improper extrapolation, to the elaboration of hazardous interpretations and the development of conspiracy theses.

Possible extraterrestrial intrusion

If we depart from the *a priori* hypothesis, not scientifically refutable, of an intelligence transcending the perceptible world, we must admit that we are dealing with a possibly alien intrusion, i.e., the unwanted presence of intelligent beings belonging to one or more planets in the Milky Way or another galaxy.

For hypothetical-deductive methods



to be applied, we must again verify assumptions that these beings can be reasonable. The difficulty comes, then, between their civilisations and ours, with gaps in knowledge and developments and some difference in terms of science and technology, with some likely biological, social and ethical developments.

A new form of incommensurability

Everything comes back to the question of knowing whether intelligent beings, with unequal levels of knowledge and far-removed mental and biological developments, would be able to understand each other. On this condition alone, presuppositions will have a meaning and may be admitted as heuristic assumptions.

A proposition is now in favour among some ufologists who, like Carl Sagan, claim that differences in knowledge and developments would be really insurmountable obstacles, making our understanding, even our perception, of an intrusion impossible.

While it is true that the language gap between man and animal is forever impenetrable, it would not be an impediment between our civilisation and those of other worlds which were technologically and perhaps psychologically superior. In effect, exobiology holds that all intelligent beings in the universe have capabilities of inference and time management and that their mental patterns are, in all likelihood, probably similar if not identical.

It would seem that it is legitimate to apply hypothetical-deductive methods to the UFO phenomenon and therefore seek to discover, beyond their modes of travel in space, just what the intentions of any intruders are towards us.

Presuppositions/assumptions

Presuppositions must focus on the nature of these beings, on their free or serf arbitrators, on their social and political organisation, their collective ethics, their intentions and their activities.

Is alien life also of radically different forms? Do these biological extraterrestrial beings of gifted intelligence have a physiology similar to that of men? Do they erect civilisations in their societies? In the event that some have acquired control of space, what social and political organisation would they have to reach such a level of knowledge?

What would be their ethics? Do they recognise moral truth? What strategy do they adopt towards civilisations visited? In the service of what mission? Will they adopt a precautionary principle? What approach procedures apply? Would signs of their presence be perceived?

Disinformation and jamming

Since one holds that alien intrusion is plausible, we must ask ourselves about its origin, its mobility and dangers:

- Are we in the presence of only one civilisation or several civilisations operating in concert or independent ways?
- Is it a simple remote monitoring, a selective intervention or an attempt to influence or take control?

It is futile to hope that an overt, unveiled demonstration of the UFO phenomenon may emerge one day soon to answer these serious questions because the phenomenon is discreet, stealthy and disguised and seems unwilling to reveal itself. It is well established that a study based on induction will not come about, since its origin is the subject of operations of travesty and because of distortion of the truth:

- disinformation put out by fantasists with obscure interests and by government agencies motivated by strategic issues and the need for secrecy;
- embellishments, more or less voluntary, by some witnesses and investigators;
- interference and camouflage by the intruders themselves.

Disinformation and interference are so prevalent that it becomes difficult to distinguish between reality and fiction and to reconstitute reliable and credible information only from the accounts of witnesses.

The proposed hypothetical-deductive methods are supposed to remove these difficulties.



A risk of global ethnocide

Even though it may not show hostile intentions, an alien intrusion presents the danger of chaos that could lead to ethnocide if, by accident, it manifested in broad daylight without leaving any doubt as to its origin.

In the absence of prior psychological action [in preparation], men could lose confidence in their ability to control their future. The balance of the world would be upset.

While genocide is the extermination of an ethnic group or religious group, "ethnocide" is the destruction of its culture. This disorder is not unique to physical systems. Chaotic developments are to be encountered as well in other complex natural systems, composed of several sub-systems that interact strongly. The external events that economists call "shocks" could play a decisive role in triggering irreversible twists. But can we conceive of a culture shock more violent, more destabilising, than impromptu contact with extraterrestrial beings who have the world under observation?

The risk of ethnocide cannot be ignored or neglected. It must be taken into consideration at the highest level of government. Again, only hypothetical-deductive methods can provide valuable assistance in the decision.

Call for comprehensive study

Given the general considerations above, and considering:

- that France has an official body, GEIPAN, for collecting and analysing data on the UFO phenomenon,
- that GEIPAN and its steering committee have not been tasked to interpret the UFO phenomenon,
- that were they charged with this mission and have to conduct it, GEIPAN does not have the competence, the means or the method,
- that the UFO phenomenon is possibly a manifestation of the

intrusion or invasion of one or more extraterrestrial civilisations,

• that, if the intrusion is not scientifically proven, GEIPAN's strong presumptions work in favour of extraterrestrials' strategy, as was written in a recent book in his own name, M. Yves Sillard, chairman of the steering committee of GEIPAN, former Director-General of CNES and former Delegate-General for Armaments,

• that an extraterrestrial intrusion necessarily proceeds from a policy regarding ethical elements and involves a program served by a strategy,

• that a strategy of a foreign intelligence with uncertain motives could jeopardise our environment, understood as all conditions, natural, social and cultural, constituting the theatre of human activities,

• that there should be conducted, in a suitable manner, a risk assessment study, including the ethnocidal risk, by applying the precautionary principle in accordance with Article 5 of the Charter of the environment,

• that the only appropriate method to confront a vague threat is the method of assessing complex situations developed by the major states,

• that the UFO phenomenon is too serious to be left to only GEIPAN, ufologists, ufological associations and the public rumour mill,

• that (for all one knows so far) no formal study on interpretation of the UFO phenomenon has been conducted in France,

• that following the publication of the Condon Report, such a study was presumably carried out in the USA in confidence and that its conclusions would be sufficient to explain the disinformation that the country seems to have put in place to preserve its dominant position and, perhaps, avoid the risk of ethnocide,

[W]e, the undersigned, have the honour to ask that Mr President of the

Republic kindly order a comprehensive study of the UFO phenomenon under hypothetical-deductive methods borrowed from the major states. The study should gather high competencies in the disciplines directly concerned: political, military, scientific, sociological, philosophical and ufological. It would aim to deny or confirm the extraterrestrial interpretation and, if need be, highlight the strategy pursued by the intrusion and, if possible, its means.

Thus the Government of France would be able to set up, for audit purposes, specific actions of scientific investigation and intelligence, then build its own strategy, and finally stop the national policy enforced in defence, security, research, health and information control. It should also consider relevant factors in deciding the position to hold on the international scene and the information that eventually will be necessary to bring to the attention of institutions and public opinion.

[Signed]

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and

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