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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

See S.T.F. response attached

SEP 2 1993

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

AUG 25 1993

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174

Dear Ms. Murray:

This is in reply to your inquiry to the Secretary of Defense in behalf of Mr. Michael C. Atkins regarding events occurring near Roswell, New Mexico, in July, 1947.

The Air Force possesses no records regarding this incident. We are not aware that any other governmental department or agency, other than the National Archives, possesses any records pertaining to UFOs.

As information, the Air Force began investigating UFOs in 1948 under a program called Project Sign. Later, the program's name was changed to Project Grudge and, in 1953, it became known as Project Blue Book. On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book. The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on a number of factors, including reports and studies by the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as past UFO studies and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

As a result of these investigations, studies, and experience, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: 1) no UFO 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.

Similar information is being sent to several Members of Congress in response to their inquiries.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

THOMAS W. SHUBERT, Lt Col, USAF
Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

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Office of the Secretary
Department of the Air Force
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Dear Colonel Shubert: Feb. 11, 1994

Mr. Michael C. Atkins has sent me a copy of your letter of August 25, 1993, to Senator Patty Murray of Washington State, concerning UFOs. I am writing to inform you that whoever provided the information in the letter has provided both inaccurate information and misleading information as will be established below.

Perhaps I should add that I have had a serious professional interest in UFOs since 1958, have lectured on the subject "Flying Saucers ARE Real" to more than 600 colleges and 100 professional groups in all 50 states, provided testimony to the congressional hearings of July 29,1968, (Well worth reading) and written 62 papers about UFOs in addition to coauthoring Crash at Corona a book about the US Government's recovery and coverup of crashed saucers in New Mexico in 1947.

To simplify the exposition, I will use the term USAF to include both the Air Force and the Army Air Force which was the proper name until September, 1947. I will also use the term "you" rather than "the letter to Senator Murray".

1. USAF began its investigation into flying saucers (the term UFO was invented by USAF Captain Edward Ruppelt after 1950) at least as early as June, 1947, NOT in 1948 as you state. There were many newspaper articles throughout the US indicating great government concern with the well over 1000 flying disc reports made in more than 40 states shortly after the publicity given to pilot Kenneth Arnold's sighting of 9 objects in Washington State on June 24, 1947. Ruppelt's comments will be enclosed.

A. Serious USAF investigation focused on the crashed saucer recovered outside Roswell, NM. in early July, 1947. USAF Colonel William Blanchard, Commander of the 509th Composite Bomb Group and Roswell Army Air Field, ordered his Intelligence Officer, Major Jesse Marcel, to accompany a rancher, who had brought very strange wreckage into the office of Roswell Sheriff Wilcox, back to the site of the discovery of the wreckage with a Counter Intelligence Corps (later OSI) Officer on July 6, 1947. Not incidentally, the 509th dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and in Operations Crossroads in the Pacific in 1946. Colonel Blanchard eventually became a 4 Star USAF General and USAF Vice Chief of Staff. All officers of the 509th were hand-picked. The 509th was part of the 8th Air Force.

B.When Major Marcel returned to the base on July 8 with a vehicle loaded with pieces of the very strange wreckage, Colonel Blanchard ordered USAF Lt. Walter Haut to issue a press release indicating that wreckage of a flying disc had indeed been recovered. He also ordered Major Marcel to get a B-29 Crew to take the major and some of the wreckage to Wright Field in Ohio with a stop at 8th AF HQ in Ft. Worth, Texas.

USAF General Roger Ramey, Commander of the 8th Air Force, received instructions prior to Major Marcel's arrival to cover up the story and never to talk about the wreckage again through his Chief of Staff. Colonel T.J. DuBose (later a USAF General) who got them directly from USAF General Clemence McMullen, who was basically acting as Commander of the USAF SAC under USAF General Kenney. Testimony from both Marcel and Du Bose (both deceased) is on file and readily available. General Ramey ordered Marcel to say nothing and told the press (which was waiting because Haut's press release went out on the newswire about noon NM time), that the wreckage they were observing was that of a radar reflector from a weather balloon.

Ramey had replaced the real wreckage with the radar reflector foil like material. and got away with this intentional deception for 31 years until I got involved. An FBI memo (enclosed) indicates the wreckage was NOT that of weather balloon and was shipped on a special flight to Wright Field.The notion that Blanchard and Marcel couldn't recognize the wreckage of a radar reflector from a weather balloon is absurd, as is the notion that pieces of one could cover an area 3/4 mile long and hundreds of feet wide and that the wooden sticks couldn't be broken, burnt or cut and would have strange pastel symbols. General Ramey's cover story went out about 4 hours after Haut's. Both releases were too late for morning papers. Haut's made it in to Evening papers from Chicago West. I will enclose copies of several of these. Some include the text of the release.

The Roswell Story is told in detail in the three books and about 8 long papers that have been published. Walter Haut is alive and well (in Roswell) as is Jesse Marcel,Jr., MD, Pilot, flight surgeon. member of military aircraft accident investigating teams who also handled the very unusual material. Both have given notarized testimony.

C. General Nathan Twining's Sept. 23, 1947, formerly SECRET letter (enclosed) concerning UFOs clearly indicates that significant effort had been put into the flying saucer problem by then long before Sign, Grudge, Blue Book.The National Archives copy of the original lists 5 top technical men from AMC as contributing to the letter.Twining was head of the Air Materiel Command and later went on to become Vice Chief and then Chief of Staff of the USAF and eventually served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

2. The notion that Project Blue Book and its predecessors Sign and Grudge were the sum total of Air Force UFO investigations as implied in your letter is easily demolished.

A. A Jan. 31, 1949, FBI memo states that Army and Air Force Intelligence (NOT Sign and Grudge or later Blue Book) consider the subject of flying saucers TOP SECRET. I certainly couldn't find any TOP SECRET or TS plus files in the Blue Book Material.

B. The problem of unidentified aerial objects is directly related to the mission of the Air Defense Command with its continent wide radar net, computers, closed communications system, instrumented aircraft ready to be scrambled to identify and monitor the characteristics of uncorrelated targets. Whether one is seeking Soviet aircraft and missiles, or flying saucers, matters not. The technical effort is the same. Project Blue Book had a major, a sergeant, a few secretaries, a bunch of filing cabinets, and a once a month visit from a quiet astronomer. There were no computers, radars, instruments, closed communications system. Perhaps of most importance, it had no need-to-know for Air Defense Command data. It accepted and occasionally investigated civilian reports. Of far greater interest are reports from military personnel.

C. According to the very memo that resulted in the December, 1969, closure of Project Blue Book (The October 20, 1969, memo from USAF General Carroll Bolender- copy enclosed) "Moreover reports of UFOs which could affect National Security are made in accordance with JANAP 146 or Air Force Manual 55-11 and <u>are not part of the Blue Book system</u>.....However, as already stated, reports of UFOs which could affect national security <u>would continue to be handled through the standard AIR FORCE procedures designed for this purpose...</u>" It should be noted that Blue Book had not even been on the distribution list for these reports. Any reasonable person would certainly expect that objects which could affect national security would be of far greater significance than mere civilian uninstrumented observations. It is obvious that any USAF Claim that all Air Force Investigations were subsumed under the heading of Blue Book, Sign, and Grudge is false.

D. I do have on hand copies of two formerly TOP SECRET Air Force Intelligence UFO related documents. Neither had anything to do with Blue Book, Sign, and Grudge. Both relate, as might be expected from item 2B above, to Air Intelligence. Copies are enclosed. There are surely more where these came from, just waiting to be released.

3. The conclusions of Project Blue Book as noted in your letter make no more sense today than they did in 1969. They are very well written propaganda:

A. Penguins in Antarctica have also "given no indication of being a threat to our national security." They are certainly real. The best question about UFOs is are <u>any</u> of them intelligently controlled extraterrestrial spacecraft. The evidence, including some very interesting data from Project Blue Book Special Report 14, clearly indicates that some are.

B. If any of the functions noted "reporting, investigation,

evaluation" were performed by some other agency such as the CIA, DIA. ONI. NRO. this first statement could be technically true,but totally meaningless. This same limitation applies to the statement about the evidence "submitted to or discovered by the Air Force". In addition, such information would almost by definition be extremely highly classified and could not be disclosed. After all, a country which has an annual Black Budget of $34. Billion, according to a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, must have cover stories to protect "black" programs. Obviously, I should also note as a scientist who worked on a host of far out, exciting, eventually cancelled, highly classified R and D programs, that trips to the stars do NOT represent Technological Developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge.. any more than a trip to the moon was beyond the range of scientific knowledge in 1947. It just took a huge effort and tons of money to go from principles to practice.

Conclusion 3 is frankly absurd. Anybody who studies the large scale scientific studies noted in my enclosed paper "The Case for the Extraterrestrial Origin of Flying Saucers" will find that the conclusion that SOME UFOs are ET spacecraft is inescapable . For example. USAF Project Blue Book Special Report 14 (essentially never mentioned in official USAF statements.. for obvious reasons) demonstrates that 21.5% of the 3201 sightings investigated could NOT be identified completely separate from the 9.5% which were labeled insufficient information. The probability that the Unknowns were just missed Knowns was shown to be less than 1%. It was found that the better the quality of the sighting the more likely to be an UNKNOWN. It is clear that the combination of appearance and incredible flight behavior rule out an Earth origin for those pre- 1955 UNKNOWN sightings. If any terrestrial source could duplicate that flying behavior back then, we earthlings would no longer be building F-16,F-17, F-18, MIG 29, Mirage 5 etc aircraft.

The press release which was very widely distributed when BBSR 14 was completed, like your letter, was totally misleading including this statement by the then Secretary of the USAF "On the basis of this report. we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States. Even the Unknown 3% could have been identified as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data been available." The fact is that the UNKNOWNS were, as noted above, 21.5% of the total, not 3%, and were completely separate from the Insufficient Information cases.

Parenthetically, I should note that it is hilarious for the USAF over and over again to suggest that ONLY 500 or 600 sightings couldn't be explained. Fewer than 1% of naturally occurring isotopes are fissionable or of chemicals cure diseases. or of people are 7' tall, or of the matter in a ton of good grade gold ore is gold. Would any rational person say no isotopes are fissionable, or no chemicals cure disease or none is 7' tall, or the ore is worthless???

4. Your Paragraph 2 makes this incredible statement. "We are not aware that any other governmental department or agency other than the National Archives, possesses any records pertaining to UFOs." If the USAF is not so aware, it certainly should be.Let me educate you. The CIA admitted finding over 900 pages of material concerning UFOs and released a list of 57 documents originating with other agencies, including the State Department and the DIA and 18 from the NSA. The NSA, when taken to court and forced to do a search, admitted finding 239 UFO documents with 79 originating with other agencies including 23 from the CIA which somehow hadn't found them when doing its initial search.

Of course the NSA refused to release any of its 160 UFO documents even to Judge Gerhardt Gesell on the grounds of national security. Everybody and his brother has been collecting UFO data. I should add that, as described in the enclosed piece the Cosmic Watergate, the CIA also hadn't found the 200 UFO documents referenced internally in the 900 released ones.. none of which were classified above SECRET. I have been to 15 archives. There should have been loads of TS material.Also Maxwell AFB had quite a number of documents relating to UFOs,but NOT part of the Blue Book system. The US Army had numerous CIRVIS Reports relating to UFOs. Somebody needs to do some homework.

5. If the Air Force has no unreleased UFO related data, than why did the USAF Office of Special Investigations instruct its many units to violate its own procedures should they receive a Freedom of Information request about UFOs from me? Their memo is enclosed.The only "reasonable", if unethical,reason is the intent to hide data from the public. It probably violates all kinds of rules and regulations.

In summary, Colonel Shubert, an apology is in order to Senator Murray and the other members of Congress to whom your office provided such false and misleading information. It is time to at least get educated about the facts and to stop misrepresentation to the American People and their elected representatives. I have my finger on the pulse of the country after all my lectures. Perhaps you need information from somebody like me who has been on the hot seat? The GAO should certainly be given the data about Roswell. It may well be that you don't know where it is. Perhaps Majestic 12 or some such organization does? As former President Nixon found out, misrepresentation to the American People can eventually have serious consequences.

Most cordially, and looking forward to your response,

Stanton T. Friedman

Stanton T. Friedman (CV Enclosed)
Enclosures
CC Senator Patty Murray, Congressman Steven Schiff, others