

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 513TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09127

Section 40

Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003

14 June 1983

Dear

Section 40

I am pleased to be able to respond to your request for information dated 7 May 1983. As you may now know, the 513th Combat Support Group provides document management services for Headquarters, Third Air Force. After extensive effort, we are able to successfully answer your four separately directed requests for information concerning unexplained lights on 27 December 1980.

It might interest you to know that the US Air Force had no longer retained a copy of the 13 January 1981 letter written by Lt Col Charles I. Halt. The Air Force file copy had been properly disposed of in accordance with Air Force Regulations. Fortunately, through diligent inquiry and the gracious consent of Her Majesty's government, the British Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force, the US Air Force was provided a copy for you. We trust this adequately explains the initial inability to provide a favorable response.

As you also asked, we have attached such documentation as we had concerning the processing of your several FOIA requests as of receipt of your 7 May 1983 request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter W. Bent".

PETER W. BENT, Colonel, USAF
Commander

DOCUMENT # 4

625

From: Section 40, Defence Secretariat 8



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-525

Date

24 April 1984

Section 40

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 31 January. I am sorry to have taken so long before replying.

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organization in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identify of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds in investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognize that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things. There is certainly no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on the planet. Although we have not carried out our own studies, we are aware of independent studies into the UFOs, notably by the University of Colorado published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena.

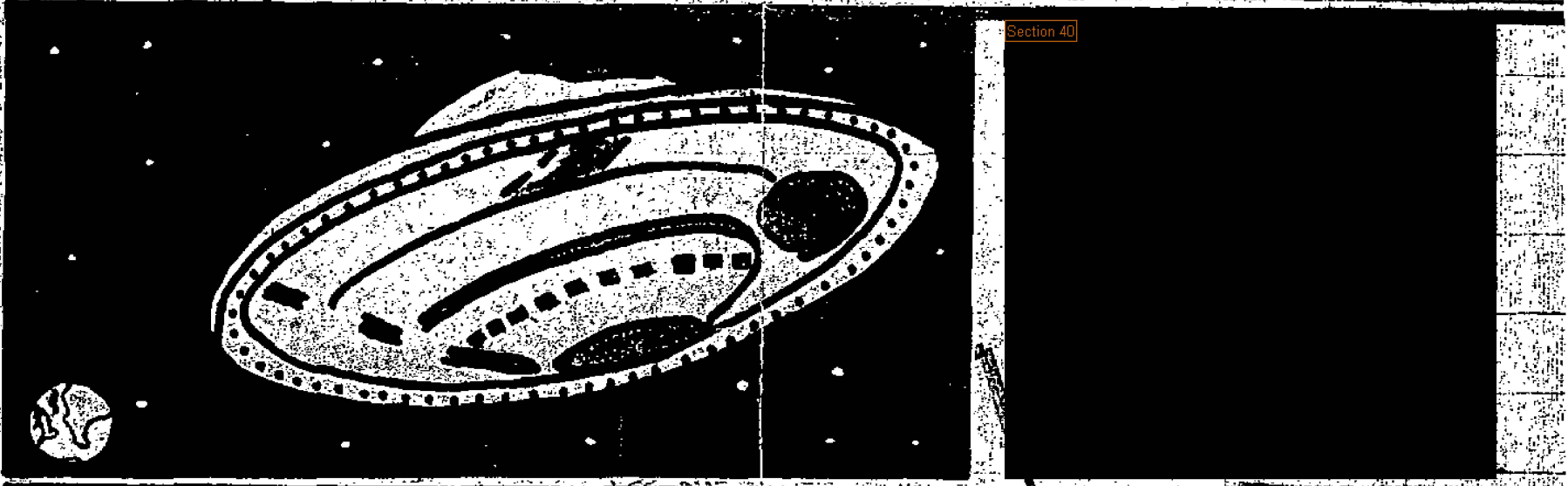
I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

(624)

WIGAN ARIEL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM:



DATE. JANUARY 31st 1984 To/ MOD, DEPT. 54 (AIR) main Building

REF. UFO Investigations.

212
FILE

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to UFO Investigations which your department have been dealing with from 1980 up to present time 1984. So could you kindly supply us with our following requests for information.

1. UFO Cases for Wigan 1980 - onwards.
2. Official Evaluation of the Bentwaters, Suffolk sighting 27/12/1980.
3. The overall opinion of your depts, Investigations (do UFOs exist?)
(Not flying saucers with green men inside.)
4. CONDON Committee report (USA) could you supply us with it/or where would we be able to obtain it from.
5. Any International Contact addresses you could supply us with.

Many thanks for your co-operation, time and trouble.

Yours sincerely

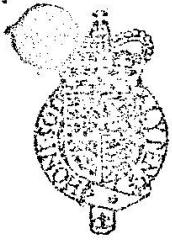
[Redacted signature]

Director - WAFIT - WIGAN

DIRECTORS: [Redacted] Council [Redacted]

file 616

From: Section 40, Defence Secretariat 8



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room Section 40
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-518

Date

24 April 1984

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 12 March. Since Section 40, my predecessor here, last wrote to you it has been decided not to publish the reports of alleged UFO sightings we receive. As you may know, we receive hundreds of these reports each year and to prepare them for publication would involve a great deal of editorial work, for which we have neither the money nor the staff. This would, in any case, fall outside our defence responsibilities. It is also not possible for you to be allowed privileged access to these reports. Although they contain no classified papers they are, like all Ministry of Defence files, subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files are, in general, to remain closed for 30 years after the last action has been taken on them.

You may be interested in the two attached Parliamentary Questions on the MOD's interest in reports of alleged UFO sightings.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(E15)

Section 40

Dear Sirs,

We have corresponded on many occasions in the past regarding your low-key investigation into UFO sightings. I am fully conversant with your policy and appreciate the difficulties under which you labour.

You will realise, if you check back through my records, that I have no grand illusions about UFOs. I do not believe you are covering up evidence of an alien invasion. Essentially, I believe that 90% (plus) of sightings are readily explicable. As for the rest, the solutions lie in terms of novel atmospheric and psychological phenomena. Some of these phenomena have decided scientific value, and since they represent the harnessing of radiating energy have (both in my view and that of a number of scientists who work with me) potential to offer economic advantages to those who study them.

For this reason I have been urging the department since 1978 to release the files you hold to the scientific community, since the problem (as you freely admit) is one much more of a scientific nature than of a defence concern.

In October 1982 you wrote to me advising that a decision had been taken to release data and you were currently contemplating the best way by which this might be achieved. I kept this to myself at the time, since I did not wish to prejudice your decision with receipt of numerous claims. However, you gave me a statement to make public some months later and several sample reports from South Wales. These were in lieu of the case I specifically requested.

Recently, I was approached by the Sunday Observer, who planned to do an article on the MOD and UFOs. I gave them full cooperation, to the maximum of my ability, since I felt this was the right kind of influential source to discuss the matter publicly. I had no control over Martin Bailey's conclusions (which I think were reasonably fair), but it is difficult to do this when I have incomplete data. Had I been in possession of more documents I could have possibly helped the paper give an even more fair appraisal.

In February 1983 myself and Section 40 published an article "The Neglected Science of UFOs" in New Scientist. You may peruse this, since it adequately reflects my position on the matter. I think this demonstrates that I am not making outlandish claims, and that cooperation between us could be to mutual advantage. You must realise the problems caused when unscrupulous sources wrongly promoted the essence of the Woodbridge Air Base (December 1980) sighting, in the News of the World last year. This generated public relations headaches I am sure. And the real truth was in no sense given. After a lot of work on the case I know that a UFO and aliens were not responsible for the events of that night.

Following our New Scientist article Section 40 and I were approached by a scientific publishers (Blackwell) and commissioned to write a book that reflects the history of science and its dealings with the UFO phenomenon. A section of this deals with official government policy towards UFO science (in the USA and here). In this way a few thousand words on the British MOD policy have been included.

2..

I have brought this to your attention before, in a letter that did not receive a reply. We feel that this book will be influential, reaching as it does the scientific community (ie it will not be a mass market paperback). It would be an ideal opportunity to help one another. That is, you offering data to us, and we offering a good public relations job for you. This we would be delighted to do.

Whilst the book is largely complete we can delay a little while, if there is promise of significant new data.

When I first discussed the document release with your department, almost 18 months ago, I requested privileged access to the files. I suggested that I would be happy to sign the official secrets act, or any other waiver you may require to protect the identity of the people who have written to you, which you explained to me as the main problem in clearing the data for release. Surely such a commitment on my part would be sufficient?

I supported my application with reference to **Section 40**, who acts as my opposite number in Australia (we are coordinators of national investigations). Prior to the granting of the Freedom of Information Act in Australia he was offered access (on terms similar to those I suggest) to all the cleared documents. He was then encouraged to report on this as widely as possible in the UFO media. This he did, very fairly I might add. His reports (which I have if you wish to see them) have had a number of significant advantages.

- (1) They have effectively demolished the 'cover-up' myth, by showing in detail the full truth of the file content.
- (2) They have eased the burden of enquiries that the government would have received by presenting this material, through Bill, to the people who required it.
- (3) They allowed a person with the UFO background knowledge (that your team do not have) to act in a public relations capacity for the government. In other words all enquiries are deflected to him, and he is in a position to respond to them.

This is an effective system that has worked well. Of course, I realise it was precipitated by the imminence of Freedom of Information there. No doubt the Australian government wished to avoid what took place in the USA, where law suit after law suit (using the F.O.I. act) has been tabbed in order to obtain perceived documents. **Section 40**

I asked [redacted] to endorse my claim for similar treatment, which he did.

One problem you raised was that there are many UFO groups here, and that sponsorship of me might leave you open to requests from the others. But surely you are able to make a value judgement and appreciate that most groups lack knowledge, experience, and a credible public relations position. I have been a full-time worker in this field for six years and have established a public relations position. I also have hopefully demonstrated that I am capable of expressing the situation objectively, without wild suppositions or illogical assumptions.

I am in the position to report to the UFO community, as **Section 40** did. In this way I could help you. What is more, via the book [redacted] and I could truly provide a beneficial service to both science and yourselves. **Section 40**

You did say that if a substantial delay, further to the one already in effect in late 1982, were to take place, then you would seriously consider this proposal. As it would now appear that you have concluded (I think reasonably) that there is

3..

just too much information to release it all, then this might make the suggestion even more advantageous.

Can I please ask you to contemplate such a move. It is in my interests to present the realities of the UFO problem to the scientific community, and to try to educate the UFO enthusiasts (based upon the facts). It is in your interests to ease the public relations burden, whilst being as open as possible. It will not be easy to demonstrate that you are not withholding vital information. To do so effectively we must start now. There may not be a Freedom of Information Act here at the present, but as you must know it is feasible. If it comes, it would be well to have prepared, just as they did in Australia. In which case I believe that my proposition must have merit.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS8/10/209⁴⁶⁷

10 Apr 84

AD MOD Sy 1

CORRESPONDENCE FROM Section 40

1. I attach a letter and attachments we recently received from a Section 40 for your information and whatever action you think necessary.
2. As you will see, Section 40 has sent us a copy of a letter which purports to be a report of landing of a UFO crewed by several "entities" near RAF Bentwaters in 1980. This letter is clearly a forgery. Although it is written on MOD headed paper it is most certainly not an official document. I do not want to be too alarmist about what could be simply a harmless joke, but this could prove rather embarrassing if it ever found its way to a newspaper. The News of the World ran a very sensational story in October last year, alleging that a UFO had landed near RAF Bentwaters. They based this on a report by a USAF Colonel, of some unexplained lights near the base, which they had managed to get hold of. They would no doubt seize on this letter as further "proof" that something had happened. There could also be Parliamentary interest. Sir Patrick Wall MP has recently asked 2 questions on the MOD's interest in UFO reports and might ask questions about this. In the worst case, then, this letter could cause a good deal of unnecessary and unwelcome bother.
3. Section 40 addressed the letter to Section 40 my predecessor in this post, because he had spoken to her shortly after the News of the World story appeared: my phone number has become fairly well known amongst UFO spotters. The reference to DS8 in the text of the letter is also easily explained; anyone who has received a letter explaining our policy on UFO reports would know that DS8 are the responsible division, although we do not, contrary to what the letter suggests, carry out investigations.
4. By way of background, I attach a note explaining the limited extent of our interest in UFO reports and the 2 recent PQS. I should, of course, be happy to speak to you about this.

Section 40

DS8

Section 40

(E13)

Section 40

Solicitor

Section 40

DS17

Section 40

OUR REF: HH/SL

YOUR REF:

RECORDED DELIVERY

30th March, 1984

For the attention of Section 40

Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

re: UFO Matters and Rendlesham Forest Sighting.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I received in January, together with a copy of the front of the envelope which contained the same, and would be grateful to receive your comments thereon.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

U.K EYES 'B'



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) **Section 40**

(Switchboard) **Section 40**

THE MAJORITY OF REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Dear [REDACTED],

As you know, OSI has completed a report on the landing of a craft of unknown origin crewed by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980.

Interestingly, OSI reports that the entities were approximately 1½ metres tall, wore what appeared to be nylon-coated pressure suits, but no helmets. Conditions on the night were misty, giving the appearance that the entities were hovering above ground level.

Tape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesized version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975. (See attached - Flag A)

According to OSI, entities had claw-like hands with three digits and an opposable thumb.

Despite original reports (Flags B - G), OSI said the craft was not damaged but landed deliberately as part of a series of visits to SAC bases in USA and Europe. Reports that craft was repaired by US servicemen or was taken on to the base are not confirmed by OSI.

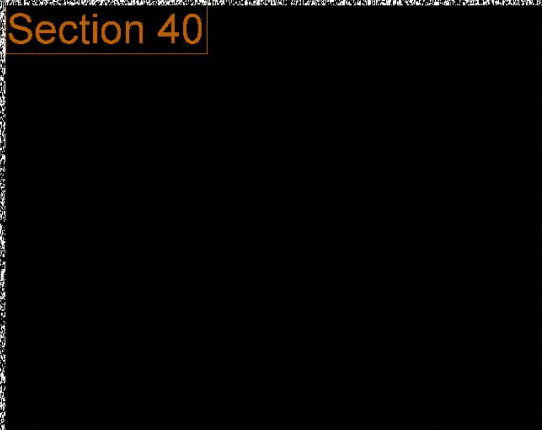
Landing is not considered a defence issue in view of the overt peaceful nature of the contact, but investigations by DS8 are to be continued on [REDACTED] authority. Precautionary plan for counter-information at a local level involving [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED], is strongly recommended.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]



Section 40



The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organization in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive, which we are grateful for, are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognize that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things. There is certainly no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on the planet. Although we have not carried out our own studies, we are aware of independent studies into the UFOs, notably by the University of Colorado published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena.

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [*pursuant to his reply, 9 March 1984, c. 728*]:
For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United States Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.



RAF LIAISON OFFICE

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Woodbridge

Section 40

10/209

GIR
FI

Section 40

Defence Secretariat Div 8a
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Your reference

Our reference

BENT/6/AIR

Date

30 March 1984

Dear

Section 40

Further to your letter D/DS8/10/209 dated 17 November 1983, enclosed is the pre-advertising for a book on the "Rendlesham UFO". Most of the advertising is erroneous but it will no doubt stir up another hornet's nest!

Section 40

Squadron Leader
RAF Commander

Copy to: HQ 3AF/SRAFLO

This book will explain the meaning of that significant statement.

Furthermore, the authors have been given dramatic information and documentation by the British Defence Ministry, who for the first time have come clean about their involvement in the UFO subject.

This could be the book which finally ends the cover up.

In view of the sensational, but absolutely verifiable and documented, evidence presented, there can be no way **Sky Crash** can fail to attract excitement, controversy and huge sales.

The British edition will be published in the summer of 1984, and the ripples following publication will spread across the world.

The World's First
officially confirmed
Close Encounter

SKY CRASH

ORDER FORM

Send no money now, but return this today to:

Neville Spearman Limited,
The Priory Gate,
Friars Street,
Sudbury, Suffolk.

We will advise and bill you when copies of **Sky Crash** are available.

..... cut here

I would like to receive my copy/ies of **Sky Crash**. Please advise me immediately when I will send you my remittance.

My Name is.....

My Address is.....

.....

.....

Date.....

A
Cosmic
Cover-Up

Brenda Butler, Dot Street & Jenny Randle
(Author of **Alien Contact**, etc.)

'Are UFOs physical craft flown by beings of superior intelligence? Do the governments of the world know this fact, absolutely and certainly? Have their representatives met with and talked with these aliens elsewhere? And is this incredible truth slowly, but finally, about to be told?

These are strong words, and they are meant to be. For this book promises to be perhaps the most important ever written about the UFO phenomenon.

But the implications of this TRUE account go far beyond our personal beliefs or disbeliefs. This investigation poses questions of the greatest importance to the future of the world.

The case begins with an unidentified blip on a radar screen at a joint civil and military air base near Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk in the last few days of 1980. This recording is taken by US Air Force Intelligence Officers who tell (in confidence) a fantastic story. From this comes trickles of independent confirmatory information out of a strategic base which lies in the fore of Europe's defence. Gradually this trickle grows to a torrent, and the various accounts come together. It is clear that an event, unsurpassed in the history of the UFO phenomenon, has occurred on British soil under the eyes of numerous military personnel from the US Air Force, including some of very high rank.

As the investigation continued to bring new witnesses and information to light, a point was reached where the number of individuals (both civilian and military) described two major close encounters within three days. The evidence was overwhelming. This has become one of the best documented UFO incidents of all time. And it involves two protracted encounters with an incredible, and undeniably physical, craft which had come down into the woods not, it would seem, for the first time!

Its pilots, however, were not of this world. They were aliens.

One, at least, of the military encounters offers irrefutable evidence of a landing lasting three hours, during which the entities held a long conversation with a high-ranking officer. Their craft had been damaged and was placed under military guard while the aliens made hasty repairs enabling them to take

off again. In their wake they left strong pieces of evidence, including symmetrical trace marks, radiation, damage to surrounding trees, and several pieces of visual and auditory documentation which were immediately placed under strict secrecy. The traces themselves were subsequently destroyed by the authorities in a calculated manner.

All of these events took place within half a mile of the perimeter fence of a front-line NATO air base. This joint US Air Force and RAF operation is always on alert and is staffed by anti-tank bombers. It is shielded by one of the tightest radar networks in the world.

Of course, this story alone would be of the highest significance. But it represents just one major facet of this historic book. For the events have received official confirmation from the governments of both Britain and the USA. Documentation to prove this will be shown. The extent of this confirmation surprised even the investigative team. **For the first time ever, a terrifying UFO close encounter is officially confirmed by the Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon.**

Having established beyond all reasonable doubt the reality of the events, the book moves on to examine its implications. Various alarming scenarios will be presented and these will span across witchcraft, drugs, space warfare and a near nuclear holocaust! But it would seem that the facts make the real truth abundantly clear. And that truth may be more horrific than any of these alternatives.

All documentation and discussion will be supported by a full analysis of official papers on UFOs which have been forced out of the US Government by recent legal action. The hundreds of reports, transcripts and research memoranda have been reappraised in the light of the incidents at Rendlesham Forest. And suddenly they make sense.

The continued and long-standing involvement of the CIA, the FBI and many other security agencies makes it certain that, as one of these agency documents actually says: **'The problem transcends the level of individual departmental responsibilities and is of such importance as to merit cognisance and action by the National Security Council.'**

From: **Section 40** Defence Secretariat 8

File 610



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Air Commodore **Section 40** MVO RAF
Air Attache
British Embassy
Bonn
BFPO 19

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-340

Date

21 March 1984

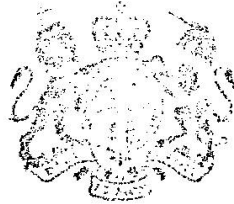
Dear Air Commodore **Section 40**REQUEST FOR UFO INFORMATION

1. Thank you for your letter of 2 March. I do apologise for not having replied to your earlier letter which enclosed a request from the editor of the CEWAP Journal for information on last October's "News of the World" report about alleged unidentified sightings outside RAF Woodbridge.
2. The report mentioned in the newspaper article was, indeed, sent to MOD but I am afraid that much of the story printed by the "News of the World" was, to say the least, exaggerated. There was no question of any contact with "alien beings", no unexplained radar contacts and no evidence that anything had landed in the forest.
3. It may help if I explain the very limited interest which MOD has in so-called UFO reports. Our sole concern is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (intruding aircraft, for example) and we do not pursue our investigations beyond the stage at which we are satisfied that there are no defence implications. As far as the Woodbridge incident is concerned, the Department satisfied itself at the time that there was no reason to consider that the alleged sightings had any defence significance.
4. MOD has never denied that strange things may be seen in the sky, but we believe that there are perfectly normal explanations for these, such as falling satellite debris, unusual cloud formations or aircraft lights. If **Section 40** followed articles printed elsewhere in the British press after last Autumn's report in the "News of the World" he will have seen a number of attempts to explain the alleged sightings in more down to earth terms. As I recall, one favourite possibility was that the light seen came from the Orfordness lighthouse.
5. I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful. I am afraid that there are no official photographs of RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge of the type sought by **Section 40**

Section 40**Section 40**

(AOC)

From: Section 40 Head of Defence Secretariat 8



Section 40

- 1.
- 2.
- 3. File

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40

(Switchboard) Section 40

D/DS 8/10/209 ✓

R N Noyes Esq
9 Oakley Street
London SW3 5NN

20 March 1984

Dear Ralph,

I do apologise for not replying earlier to your correspondence about the alleged unexplained sightings at RAF Woodbridge in 1980. As Section 40 may have explained when you spoke to him, we have had staff changes in the relevant section of DS 8 and have been under a lot of pressure generally. However, that does not excuse the delay for which I hope you will accept my sincere regrets.

I am afraid, however, that there is very little information I can give you in answer to your questions about RAF Woodbridge. I am not sure whether DS 8 had responsibility for the MOD interest in UFO matters in your day but, if it did, you will remember how very limited MOD's interest is in such reports. Our sole concern is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (intruding aircraft, for example) and we do not pursue our investigations beyond the stage at which we are satisfied that there are no direct defence implications.

As far as the Woodbridge incident is concerned, John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces confirmed in answer to a written Parliamentary Question from Sir Patrick Wall MP on 24 October last year, that MOD had, indeed, received the USAF report to which you refer. The Department satisfied itself at the time that there was no reason to consider that the alleged sightings had any defence significance.

That is not to say, however, that Colonel Halt and the other personnel mentioned in the report were ~~as you suggest~~ suffering from hallucinations. Speaking personally, I can accept that people do from time to time see things in the sky which they find difficult to explain. I am sure you ~~will~~ ^{with hardships} agree that in many cases normal explanations come to light, such as falling meteorites or satellite debris, unusual cloud

will

The press has carried
formations or aircraft lights. ~~If you followed the press
articles on the Woodbridge incident last autumn you will have
seen the results of a good deal of investigative journalism
which turned up rational and down-to-earth explanations for
what was seen. As I recall, the light from the Orfordness
lighthouse was one favourite possibility. What the true
explanation is, I do not know; as I said earlier, MOD does
not attempt to investigate reports to the point at which a
positive identification can be made. I can assure you,
however, that there is no evidence of anything having intruded
into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge.~~

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Section 40

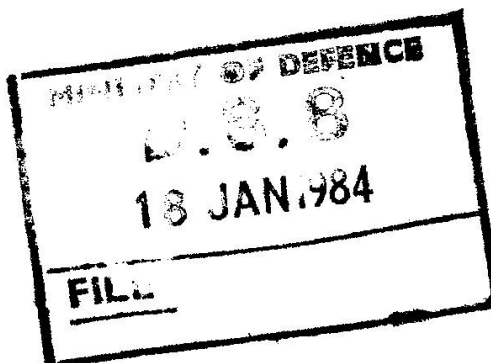
Section 40

(E8)

17th January, 1984

Section 40

Head of DS8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall SW1



Dear Section 40

I wrote to you on 7th November last year about an incident alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. I sent you a reminder on 2nd December. I have not received a reply or an acknowledgement to either of these letters although nearly two and a half months have elapsed since I first wrote.

I trust it has not become the policy of the Ministry of Defence to reply only to questions pressed by an MP.

The matters raised in my letters seem to me of public importance. I am not alone in thinking so. I hope I shall now shortly receive your comments.

In case my previous letters have been subject to some mishap in the post I am sending this to you by recorded delivery.

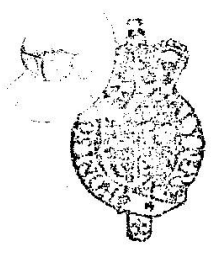
Yours sincerely,
R.N. Noyes

(R.N. Noyes)

Defence Secretariat Division 8a

file

(E113)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-1986

Date

7 December 1983

Thank you for your letter of 14 November.

I have made further enquiries about the date of the alleged sightings at RAF Woodbridge in 1980 but as the incident is now almost three years old we can only rely on the dates given in Lt Col Halt's letter dated 13 January 1981. We have no knowledge of any local constabulary involvement.

I can confirm no investigations were carried out by the Ministry of Defence until Lt Col Halt's report was received and there is no truth in the story that radar records have been confiscated. In fact, no unidentified object was seen on radar during the period in question.

As regards the star-like objects referred to in Lt Col Halt's report, I have already explained that once the Ministry of Defence was satisfied that there was nothing of defence interest in the sightings no further investigations were conducted.

I hope this will help to clarify the points you raised.

Section 40

for

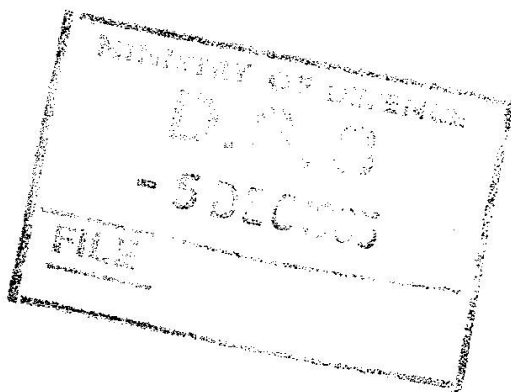
67

Section 40
[Redacted]

2nd December, 1983

Section 40
[Redacted]

Head of DS8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall, SW1



Dear [Redacted] Section 40
[Redacted]

I wonder whether you can yet let me have a reply to my letter to you of 7th November about an alleged incident at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980 ?

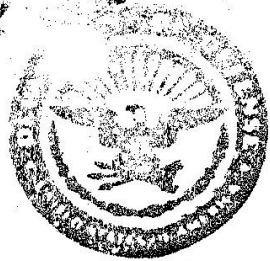
Since I wrote to you I have been shown a copy of a letter issued by the US Department of the Air Force in June this year. I attach a photocopy. This indicates that the Ministry of Defence have for some time been aware of the report made by Lt.Col. Halt, of which I sent you a copy with my previous letter.

If I may again say so, Lt.Col. Halt's report really does seem to require some comment by the Ministry of Defence, considering the Defence importance of RAF Woodbridge and its USAF element.

Yours sincerely,
[Handwritten signature]

(R.N. Noyes)

Attachment: Photocopy of US Dept. of the Air Force letter of 14 June 1983



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 513TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09127

Section 40

Andover, Pennsylvania 19003

14 June 1983

Dear Section 40

I am pleased to be able to respond to your request for information dated 7 May 1983. As you may now know, the 513th Combat Support Group provides document management services for Headquarters, Third Air Force. After extensive effort, we are able to successfully answer your four separately directed requests for information concerning unexplained lights on 27 December 1980.

It might interest you to know that the US Air Force had no longer retained a copy of the 13 January 1981 letter written by Lt Col Charles I. Halt. The Air Force file copy had been properly disposed of in accordance with Air Force Regulations. Fortunately, through diligent inquiry and the gracious consent of Her Majesty's government, the British Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force, the US Air Force was provided a copy for you. We trust this adequately explains the initial inability to provide a favorable response.

As you also asked, we have attached such documentation as we had concerning the processing of your several FOIA requests as of receipt of your 7 May 1983 request.

Sincerely,

PETER W. BENTY, Colonel, USAF
Commander

[* The document referred to is not attached. A copy was enclosed with Mr. Noyes's letter to Section 40 d/d 7 November 1983]

From Squadron Leader D H Moreland RAF



RAF LIAISON OFFICE

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Woodbridge **Section 40**

Section 40

Defence Secretariat Div 8a
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Your reference

Our reference

BENT/19/76/Air

Date

30 November 1983

Dear

Section 40

10/209

The enclosed letter was sent to the Base Commander here, and I forward it for any action you consider necessary.

They didn't teach me about the Sub-Dwarfs Solar System when I studied Astro Navigation at Navigation School!

Section 40

D H MORELAND
Sqn Ldr
RAF Cdr

Encl.

Dear Sir

16 Nov. 83

E100/12

I hope you will forgive a letter from a complete stranger but wish to express to you a very serious matter.

Around your Base and several more in Suffolk and Norfolk you have seven different peoples from outer space planets watching every move that is made by your forces. These seven peoples from these planets are very kind and advanced cultures and would and would like to meet you all from each Airforce base to speak to you about many dangers that face our whole planet. I know three of these creatures, or peoples very well. Two of them come from the main Sequence - Sub-Dwarfs Solar System, a neighbouring Solar System in the vicinity of our own Sun. One of these peoples are named the Krxyzcs from the second planet out from the Star Kruger 60B and the next is the Cock-Et--Tarros the third planet out from the star Barnards and one is from our own solar System Pluto; The Plutonions I know well.

Now within the next 3 months perhaps possibly before that they will give you a kind of a demonstration to prove to you all that they are serious with regard to meeting some of your High Ranking Officers. The way they will prove to us is by speaking through your sophisticated Radio systems and at times abducting High Ranking Men from your Bases, and they will be doing the same in other countries including Russia.

Sir, I beg of you not to make fun of this letter as it is the truth as Heaven is my Judge and this matter I can help you with.

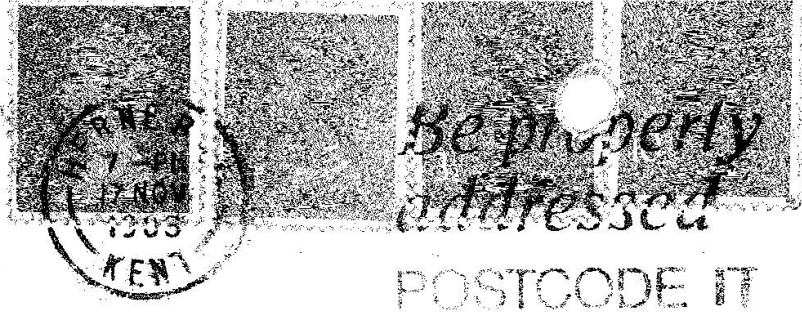
10/20/91

Section 40

THE BASE COMMANDER
U. S. AIR FORCE
R. A. F. WOODBRIDGE
SUFFOLK

yours faithfully

Section 40



THE BASE COMMANDER
U.S. AIR FORCE

R.A.F. WOODBRIDGE

SUFFOLK

E104

Squadron Leader D H Moreland RAF



RAF LIAISON OFFICE
Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Woodbridge **Section 40**

Section 40

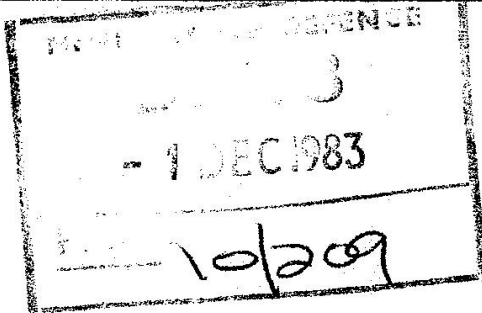
Defence Secretariat Division 8a
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Your reference

Our reference
BENT/19/76/Air

Date

25 November 1983



Dear

Section 40

Thankyou for your letter and enclosure concerning the unexplained lights seen at Woodbridge during December 1980. The incident is now almost 3 years old and no one here remembers it clearly. All we have is Lt Col Halts' letter dated 13 January 1981.

A study of this letter shows that the first sighting was at 0300 hrs on 27 Dec 80 and that the second sighting was on the night of 29 Dec 80.

I have no knowledge of any local constabulary involvement.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Defence Secretariat Division 8a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

File
[Handwritten signature]

Sqn Ldr D H Moreland RAF
RAF Liaison Office
RAF Bentwaters
Woodbridge
Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-1873
Date

17 November 1983

Dear Squadron Leader

I attach a copy of a letter received from a member of the public following publication of the News of the World reports on the Woodbridge "UFO" sightings.

Section 40 has written twice before on this subject and now alleges that the date given in Lt. Col. Malt's report of the initial sighting as being on 27 December 1980 is inaccurate. I would be grateful for your comments on this.

I would also be grateful if you could discover whether the second sighting mentioned in the report took place on the same night or a subsequent night, and if so, the date of the second sighting.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
[Redacted signature]

E 100/1

Your ref #/DS8/10/209

Section 40

Section 40

MoD
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

16 NOV 1983
FILE 10/209

1983 November 14

Dear Section 40

In response to yours of Nov 10, I have confirmed with Suffolk Constabulary that they were called to the scene of the Woodbridge UFO at 4.11 am on December 26, 1980. They said that all they could see was the lighthouse. They were called out again at 10.30 am on Dec 26 to examine the reported landing marks. There seems little doubt that the date of Dec 27 given in Col Halt's letter (of which I have a copy) is wrong. This also casts doubt on the second date he gives for the later events. If your investigators were looking into events on Dec 29 and 30, as I understand was the case, they were almost certainly concentrating on the wrong day(s). Perhaps the whole case needs re-investigation.

I had hoped not to trouble you again on this subject, but there are a couple of points that perhaps you could clarify for me. Firstly, it is being said that an investigation including confiscation of radar records began before the Halt memo was even written. Do you know this to be true? Secondly, I should be interested to know what your own investigators thought was the probable cause of the "star-like objects" that Col Halt reported in the final para of his letter.

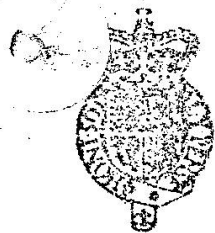
Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Defence Secretariat Division 8a

File

E98.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-1843

Date

10 November 1983

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 26 October and your notes on the Woodbridge UFO case.

My only comment on your explanation of the incident is the date on which the sighting took place. I can only confirm that the date given on the report sent to us by Lt Col Halt was 27 December as stated in the News of the World article. There is, however, little substance in much of that article; there is no confirmation that a UFO landed, there was no question of contact with "alien beings" and no unidentified object was seen on radar.

The report was handled in the Ministry of Defence in accordance with normal procedures ie it was passed to staff concerned with air defence matters who examine such reports to satisfy themselves that there are no defence implications. In this instance MOD was satisfied that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sightings.

As regards the question of releasing files, I explained in my letter of 19 October that Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Provisions of the Public Record Acts and are not therefore released to the public until 30 years have elapsed after the last action taken on them. I am not aware of any precedent set in the past with regard to the release of UFO files in this country. I am sorry, therefore, that we cannot accede to your request.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

C66

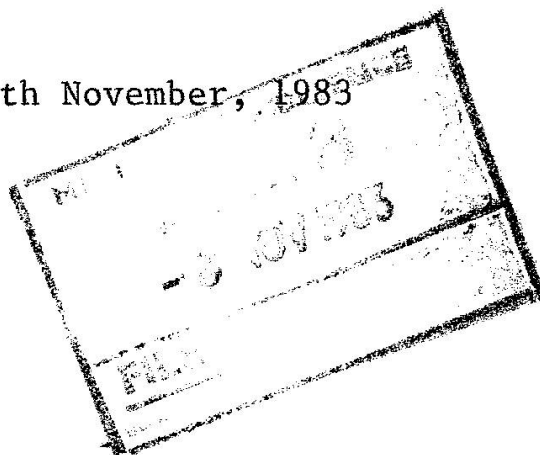
Section 40

Please speak!

Section 40

9/11

7th November, 1983



Section 40

Head of DS8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall, SW1

Daw

Section 40

You'll find if you check your records that I occupied that 'hot seat' of yours in DS8 from 1969 to 1972 (subsequently retiring as AUS(L) in 1977). So I'm not writing to you in any frivolous expectation that you'll have much time to spare for what may well strike you as a relatively unimportant enquiry - I well remember the rate at which more urgent stuff crosses that desk of yours ! But if you can help, I'd be grateful.

I'm currently in touch with Lord Hill-Norton (former CDS) and Patrick Wall MP about that odd report of some alleged 'UFO' nonsense at RAF Woodbridge and thereabouts in late December 1980. You may have seen the (characteristically) sensational cover which THE NEWS OF THE WORLD gave to this elderly event in their issues of 2nd and 9th October this year. (And for all I know, you were the luckless chap who drafted the written Answer which was given to Patrick Wall on 24th October - if it wasn't DS4 ??).

I merely come into the picture because I'm currently writing a book (pretty cool and sceptical) about the UFO 'thing': it's certainly a phenomenon, at least to the extent that the public continue to work themselves up about it from time to time; my own treatment of it is that it's a pretty example of modern myth in the making (among some other current myths); and I think I've hooked a publisher for this modest essay.

But Peter Hill-Norton has rather set me back on my haunches by taking the Woodbridge 'event' with a degree of seriousness, and I've since seen the full text of the report made by Lt.Col. Halt, Deputy USAF Base Commander, on 13 January 1981. This was released in America earlier this year under the Freedom of Information Act by the Department of the Airforce. The releasing letter astounded me (and Peter Hill-Norton et al.) by saying: "The Air Force file copy had been ... disposed of... Fortunately, through ... the gracious consent of ... the British Ministry of Defence ... the US Air Force was provided with a copy ..."

I wonder if you'd be kind enough (within security limits) to let me know what you can in answer to the following questions.

- a. Did the MOD indeed get a copy of Lt.Col. Halt's report of 13 January 1981 ?
- b. If so, did it correspond with the attached photocopy which has been released in the US ? (Sorry for atrocious copy !).
- c. The report implies either that Halt (et al.) was the subject of hallucinations or that something not explained in the report intruded

into British airspace and 'landed' in British territory on 27 and 29 December 1980. Which of these alternatives does the MOD embrace ?

- d. Neither alternative is particularly comforting. None of us would wish our respected colleagues in the USAF (with control of vital weapons) to be deceived by illusory phenomena; equally, none of us would welcome evidence that British airspace and territory can be intruded upon with impunity. Whichever of the two views the MOD adheres to, what steps have been taken since Lt.Col. Halt's report was received ?

My apologies again for troubling you with these questions. My immediate interest is the one I've mentioned: I'm writing a book. But it seems to me that broader questions are involved. Somebody or other may well decide to press them further in the public arena. I hope (and, as a former Head of DS8, I believe !) that ~~that~~ reasonable answers can be given.

Sincerely,

Ralph Noyes

(R.N. Noyes)

Enclosure: Photocopy of report dated 13 January 1981

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
 THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 WINDSOLOFTON ROAD, WINDSOLOFTON, WILTSHIRE, WINDSOLOFTON, WILTSHIRE, WINDSOLOFTON, WILTSHIRE

DATE TO
 BE IN USE

CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

REF: KAF/CC

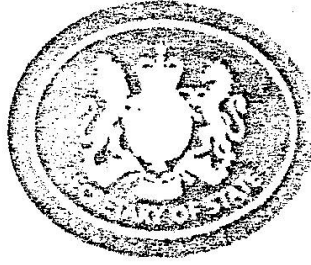
1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


 CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
 Deputy Base Commander

DOCUMENT #5



Section 40

EQ
+3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE Section 40
DIRECT DIALING

D/S of S/210/83

November 1983

Handwritten signature

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
D.S. 8
- 4 NOV 1983
FILE 16/209

Internals:

~~Head of DS8~~
D of Ops (A Def) (RAF)

Thank you for your letter of 19th October enclosing the one attached from your constituent, Section 40

I can assure you that there is not a grain of truth in the allegation that there has been a "cover up" about alleged UFO sightings.

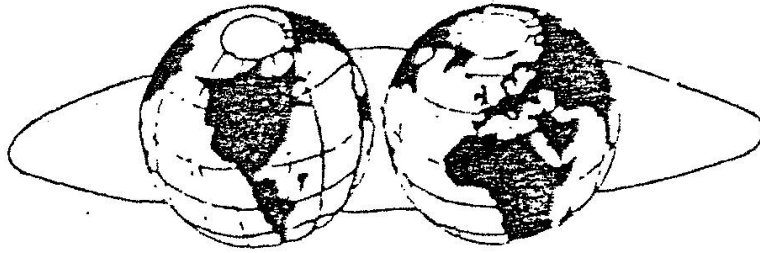
As you will recall from your time as Minister for the Royal Air Force, reports of alleged sightings are examined by operations staff to see whether there is any interest from a defence point of view. No such interest was found in the case of the incident reported in the "News of the World" of 2nd October, or in any of the other sightings reported in the UK. In the "News of the World" incident there was in fact no question of any contact with "alien beings", nor was any unidentified object seen on radar.

My Department's interest remains solely in the implications for the air defence of the UK, as you may have seen in John Stanley's answer in the House on 24th October (copy attached) to a question about the "News of the World" report.

Handwritten signature of Michael Heseltine
Michael Heseltine

The Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION



E96

Mr Merlyn Rees M.P.
c/o House of Commons,
Westminster,
London.
10/10/83.

Section 40

Dear sir,

As an investigator for the Yorkshire UFO Society I have been investigating the UFO phenomenon for the past two years in and around the Batley-Morley area.

I have recently read with great interest the articles which appeared in the News of the World on October 2nd and October 9th regarding a UFO which landed in Suffolk and was "covered up" by the ministry of defence.

These two articles only confirm what has been widely believed for some time, and that is that the M.O.D are involved in a tremendous "cover up" on all UFO phenomenon in the British Isles.

It is on this matter of a "cover up" that I urge you to raise the question of why the M.O.D are "covering up" information pertaining to UFOs, in the House of Commons at the first opportunity on my behalf.

As a public organisation the Yorkshire UFO Society believes that the general public have the right to know the truth about UFOs, and I feel it is about time the M.O.D came clean and stopped this silly charade when saying they have no official interest in UFOs, but they still continue to hide the truth from the public.

Only when more voices are aired against the M.O.D cover up, then and only then will they release all the information they have been suppressing for years.

Hopefully you will be able to help me with my request for the release of information and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

DATA RESEARCH,
The Yorkshire UFO Society.

ES

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

695

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United States Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

(291)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 D.S.B
 31 OCT 1983
 FILE 10/209

Section 40

Section 40

MoD
Whitehall SW1A 2HB

1983 October 26

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of October 19. In reponse I enclose a paper summarizing my own investigations into the Woodbridge UFO case. You will see that I have painted a rather different picture from that in the News of the World. If anyone has any comments on this paper, I should be pleased to hear them.

I appreciate that it is not normal practice to release MoD files, but I understand that the precedent has been set with regard to one or two files of UFO cases. In view of the continuing public interest in the Woodbridge case, plus the need to prevent an awful lot of wasted time if there really is a straightforward solution, I would hope that an exception can be made. I for one would accept a censored account of the conclusions. If your office does reconsider lifting the veil of secrecy over this case, I do hope you will let me know immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

E90

X
1983 October 18

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

AN EXPLANATION OF THE WOODBRIDGE UFO - A SUMMARY

On October 2, 1983, the News of the World reported the alleged landing of a UFO outside RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk at Christmas 1980. Prime documentary evidence of the event consists of a letter from the deputy base commander, Charles I. Halt, which was published by the News of the World. The News of the World also interviewed an eye witness, a former security guard given the pseudonym of Art Wallace.

In outline, the story is that two patrolmen reported seeing unusual lights in the sky at 3 a.m. Subsequently they reported seeing a strange object among the trees of a nearby forest that pulsed and "illuminated the forest with a white light". Next day, three depressions in the ground were found. Later that night, the colonel himself was witness to a "sun-like light seen through the trees" and three star-like objects in the sky.

The facts of the matter are these:

1. The date of December 27 given in the NoW is evidently wrong. Police records reveal that they were called to the scene at 4.11 a.m. on December 26. They have no record of any further calls on December 27 or thereafter.
2. Records of the British Astronomical Association's meteor section show that at 2.50 a.m. on the morning of December 26, 1980, a brilliant fireball (a piece of natural debris from space) burned up in the atmosphere over southern England. Witnesses reported it as being comparable in brightness to the Moon, which was then three-quarters full. Anyone seeing this spectacular event could easily conclude that an object was crashing to the ground.
3. Shortly after publication of the NoW story, local forester Vincent Thurkettle realized that a line drawn from the back gate of RAF Woodbridge through the alleged UFO landing site points directly towards the lighthouse at Orford Ness. On the night of October 6-7 1983, Section 40 visited the site with Section 40 and confirmed that the pulsating lighthouse beam does indeed appear to hover among the trees near ground level and lights up the forest with a white light. Although the lighthouse is 5 miles away, it is so brilliant that it appears much closer. An observer moving through the forest could easily conclude that the pulsating lighthouse was also moving. If a UFO had been present as well as the lighthouse, the witnesses should have seen not one but two pulsating lights in their line of sight.

continued -

Section 40

Woodbridge UFO

2

The flashes from the lighthouse were videotaped by a BBC camera crew for an item transmitted on Breakfast Time TV. In an interview in The Times on October 3, Section 40 noted that the site was covered with 75-ft-high pine trees 10 ft apart at the time of the alleged landing. He attributed the indentations in the ground to rabbits.

4. When local police arrived at the scene on the night of the alleged landing they found nothing untoward. According to the police account, the only lights they could see were those of the Orford lighthouse. Next day they examined the indentations in the forest and concluded that they were probably made by an animal. Air Traffic Control received reports of "aerial phenomena" over southern England that night. By coincidence, in addition to the 3 a.m. fireball, the Russian Cosmos 749 rocket had re-entered the atmosphere over southern England at 21.07 on the night of December 25, and was widely seen.

5. Although it is not clear from the NoW account, it seems that the last paragraph of Col. Halt's letter refers to events on the following night. He says: "A red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed." Either this is the lighthouse again, or we are asked to believe that a second UFO landing occurred on the same site. Col. Halt's "star-like objects...10 degrees off the horizon" were probably just that - stars. The reported "angular movements" are attributable to movements in the observer's eye (the autokinetic effect, familiar when watching a stationary star) and the "green and blue lights" are an effect caused by simple twinkling when a star is low in the sky. The object to the south that remained visible for 2 to 3 hours and which "beamed down a stream of light from time to time" is almost certainly Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. red, /

Conclusion: Observers who interpreted the 2.50 a.m. fireball as a craft descending into the forest outside RAF Woodbridge might subsequently regard the unexpected appearance of the lighthouse as the same object that had landed. Once they were convinced that something strange was happening, the witnesses could then easily misinterpret other natural phenomena as UFOs. Such behaviour is common in UFO cases. In short, the details of this case for which a reliable account exists are subject to straightforward, rational explanation.

NB: These notes are for private circulation only and are not for publication or quotation without the express permission of the author.

Section 40

1983 October 18

10/209
E89
+2

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

Reference ..PQ..... 7607c
KLE (888)
+1

M1

PRIORITY

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.

3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.

Section 40

Office of Minister(AF)
Room Section 40 in Building
Extension Section 40
21-10-83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7607C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7608C and PQ 7609C.

Section 40

21 October 1983

Head of DS.8

Section 40

FOR NON ORAL ANSWER

ES7

PQ 7067C

SIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)

Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

Yes.

C86

Background Note

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

A BBC investigation into the incident following publication of the News of the World Article concluded that a possible explanation for the lights seen by the USAF personnel was the pulsating light of the Orfordness lighthouse some 6 - 7 miles away.

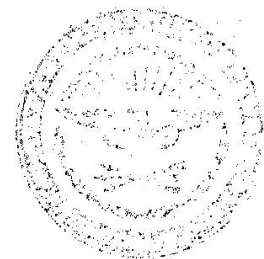
The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). MOD investigations are not pursued beyond the point at which we are satisfied that a report has no defence implications. No attempts are made to identify and catalogue the likely explanation for individual reports.

Last year, Lord Long, during a debate initiated by the Earl Clancarty, said that he would look into the possibility of publishing such reports as are received by the Ministry of

/...

Defence. US of S(AF) has now decided to release compilations of reports. They will be published on a quarterly basis and will be available to members of the public, at a small charge to cover costs. US of S(AF) had planned to make an announcement shortly in the House of Lords through an arranged PQ. Pending arrangements for an announcement in the Lords, US of S(AF) has agreed that we should indicate the decision in the Commons.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights


TO:

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

284

UFO Sighting Reports: Security

The Earl of Cork and Orrery: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the 2,250 sightings of UFOs reported to the Ministry of Defence in the years 1978-81 were, and still are, classified for reasons of security.

Viscount Long: None, my Lords.

The Earl of Cork and Orrery: My Lords, I thank my noble kinsman for that Answer. May I ask him two questions? First, what did he mean when he said in his Answer on, I think, 4th March that reports of sightings that were considered to be of interest to defence were in fact classified? Secondly, what procedures may be open to individuals or organisations who would like to see the reports?

Viscount Long: My Lords, with regard to the latter part of my noble friend's supplementary question, there is no reason why he should not come and see the reports. Not many of them come in because not many people actually report sightings. There is no cover up in that respect. As for the first part of my noble friend's supplementary question, I stick to what I said earlier.

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, can my noble friend say why, when I previously asked a supplementary question, he said that the figures had got lost on the way to the Ministry, whereas today he says that they are there and available for anyone to see? Can he therefore place them in the Library for all of us to see?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I will look into that and find out whether it is possible for your Lordships to see them. I should like all of your Lordships to see them in the Library, if possible.

Lord Strabolgi: My Lords, may I ask the Government whether they think that any of these UFOs are manned spacecraft coming from a planet outside the solar system, as is believed by the "ufologists"?

Viscount Long: My Lords, the noble Lord can believe that; anything is possible.

Lord Shinwell: My Lords, do I understand that the noble Viscount the Minister in his reply to the original Question does not deny that UFOs exist? Is it possible—I use the word "possible" very carefully, but deliberately—that all the information is well-known to the Ministry of Defence, but that for diplomatic and other reasons it is not prepared to make an announcement?

Viscount Long: No, my Lords, it is not prepared to make an announcement because it has not got the facts to make an announcement with authority behind it.

Lord Beswick: My Lords, the Question asks about 2,250 sightings. The noble Viscount says that there are very few sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence. Does that mean to say that the figure in the Question is incorrect?

Viscount Long: No, my Lords, it was on the original assumption that there are probably many sightings that are not reported to the Ministry of Defence. That is what I was really referring to. Therefore, at this stage what we have said is that we have got.

Lord Beswick: My Lords, I should like to clear up that point. The Question refers to 2,250 sightings "reported" to the Ministry of Defence. The Question I was asked was, "Is that figure correct, or not?"

Viscount Long: That is correct, my Lords, up to this moment.

Lord Wade: My Lords, may I ask which Ministry is responsible for UFOs?

Viscount Long: None, my Lords. Reports come into the Ministry of Defence, and anyone can take them from there.

Viscount St. Davids: My Lords, has anybody yet found an empty beer can marked, "Made in Centaurus", or any similar object? Until they have, will the Ministry deal with these matters with very considerable scepticism, please?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I am not the Minister for conservation, if it is a question of beer cans.

Lord Morris: My Lords, if something is said to be unidentified, how can it possibly be said to exist?

Viscount Long: A very good question, my Lords.

Lord Leatherland: My Lords, can the Minister tell us whether any of the unidentified flying objects are Ministers who are fleeing from the Cabinet just now?

Viscount Long: No, my Lords.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether he is aware of a Ministry of Defence document concerning UFOs, which was published in the July 1978 issue of a journal called *Viewpoint Aquarius*? Furthermore, he is aware that under the heading of "Contacts" there were listed 18 names, and alongside each name there was given the town which was the location of the supposed occurrence? There were also given classifications and a date and time relating to each name. Is the noble Viscount aware that there was a tremendous distribution of the document to other Government departments, and to NORAD and the CIA? I should like to ask whether in this case the word "contacts" means close encounters?

Viscount Long: Yes, my Lords, I have the document here, and it has nothing to do with the Ministry of Defence. It is made up to look rather like a Christmas menu. Its existence in the Ministry of Defence has been denied on television. Someone else has made it up. It is not a Ministry of Defence document—not the way it is made up. Like a Christmas menu.

House of Lords

Thursday, 4th March, 1982.

The House met at three of the clock (*Prayers having been read earlier at the Judicial Sitting by the Lord Bishop of Derby*): The LORD CHANCELLOR on the Woolsack.

British Citizens: Overseas Supplements

Lord Hatch of Lusby: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the first Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens received British Expatriates Supplementation Scheme or Overseas Service Aid Scheme supplements in 1979 and in 1981 and what further changes are planned.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Trefgarne): My Lords, the average number of British citizens receiving British Expatriates Supplementation Scheme or Overseas Service Aid Scheme supplements in 1979 was 4,083. In 1981, the comparable figure was 2,975. The numbers have fallen steadily since 1970 and reductions are expected to continue at about 10 per cent. per annum over the next few years. No changes in terms of service are planned at the moment.

Lord Hatch of Lusby: My Lords, may I ask the noble Lord the Minister whether he has read the Answer given by his colleague to a similar Question which I put in December? The Answer, which I paraphrase, was that the numbers had fallen because local indigenous people had now become sufficiently trained to take those positions. If the noble Lord has looked since at these figures, would he agree that this is not an adequate answer and that this is a deliberate policy by the Government to reduce the number of British citizens who are given supplements to work overseas? Would the noble Lord further agree that this is causing very great difficulty to universities, to technical colleges and to a whole range of national activities in the Commonwealth?

Lord Trefgarne: No, I do not agree with that, my Lords. I have indeed studied the Answer which my noble friend Lord Skelmersdale gave to the noble Lord, Lord Hatch of Lusby, at the end of last year. The reasons which my noble friend then gave remain correct.

Lord Hatch of Lusby: But surely the figures which have been given this afternoon, if I heard correctly, have reduced the number by about 25 per cent. in two years. Does this not entail a great reduction in British influence all over the Commonwealth? And is the noble Lord aware that particularly in universities it is causing very great anxiety and difficulty over the recruitment of the requisite trained staff?

HL 15 M2

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, the numbers have indeed declined, as I described in the original Answer and as was referred to at the time of the earlier Question at the end of last year. But one has to remember that these schemes are operated in the closest consultation with the various Governments concerned, and they sometimes choose to use the aid funds for other purposes.

Unidentified Flying Objects: Sightings

3.4 p.m.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports have been received by the Ministry of Defence on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in each of the last four years, and what action has been taken in each case.

Viscount Long: My Lords, in 1978 there were 750 sightings; in 1979 there were 550 sightings; in 1980, 350 sightings; and in 1981, 600 sightings. All UFO reports are passed to operations staff who examine them solely for possible defence implications.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, while thanking the noble Viscount for that Answer, may I ask him whether or not it is a fact that over 2,000 authenticated UFO reports were published last year in the national press? If so, were they accepted or passed on to the Ministry of Defence? And what happened to them?

Viscount Long: My Lords, they did not all get to the Ministry of Defence. I have just informed your Lordships of the numbers sighted. If the noble Earl is suspicious that the Ministry of Defence is covering up in any way, I can assure him that there is no reason why we should cover up the figures which he has mentioned if they are true. The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest—for example, a Russian aircraft or an unidentified aircraft—which might have breached our security systems. That is the sole reason why we are interested in the reports.

Lord Wynne-Jones: My Lords, does the Answer given mean that since there has been a Conservative Government the UFOs have done a U-turn and departed?

Viscount Long: Not according to my reading, my Lords.

The Earl of Kimberley: My Lords, as my noble friend said that 600 UFOs had been officially reported or acknowledged by the Ministry of Defence in 1981, may I ask him how many of those sightings still remain unidentified and were not subject to security, or were Russian aeroplanes, or anything like that?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I do not have these papers. They disappeared into the unknown before them.

Lord Strabelgi: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether the present Government adhere to the view of the previous Government which I put forward when I replied to the debate three years ago in your Lordships' House, that most of these so-called sightings can be accounted for as natural phenomena?

Viscount Long: Yes, my Lords, they can be. Many of them are accounted for in one way or another, but nobody has got a really constructive answer for all of them.

Lord Hill-Norton: My Lords, may I ask the noble Viscount whether or not it is true that all the sighting reports received by the Ministry of Defence before 1962 were destroyed because they were deemed "to be of no interest"? And if it is true, who was it who decided that they were of no interest?

Viscount Long: My Lords, my reply to the noble and gallant Lord—I was wondering whether he was going to say that the Royal Navy had many times seen the Loch Ness monster—is that since 1967 all UFO reports have been preserved. Before that time, they were generally destroyed after five years.

Lord Paget of Northampton: My Lords, can the noble Viscount tell us whether, out of these thousands of sightings which he has mentioned, there has been a single one which suggested any menace to our defences? In the circumstances, is not an awful lot of time being wasted on this nonsense?

Viscount Long: My Lords, I think Her Majesty's Government are waiting for an invitation from them to discuss these problems.

Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky: Representations

3.9 p.m.

Lord Renton: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware that Anatoly Shcharansky has for the past 15 months been undernourished, tortured and frequently placed in punishment cells, and in October 1981 had his prison sentence increased by 3 years for his refusal to plead guilty to a charge of which he has always maintained his innocence; and whether they will request the Soviet Government to state whether they intend to keep him in those uncivilised conditions until he relents or dies.

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, Her Majesty's Government remain gravely concerned about the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky and are disturbed by recent reports of his ill-treatment. We have raised this case with the Soviet authorities on many occasions, both

in direct bilateral contact and at the Madrid review meeting. We shall continue to take a close interest in Mr. Shcharansky's case, and to make representations as suitable opportunities arise.

Lord Renton: My Lords, may I thank my noble friend not only for that Answer but for the action which he and the Foreign Office have been and are taking with regard to Shcharansky's plight? May I ask my noble friend whether or not the Soviet Government's failure, as shown by the treatment of Shcharansky and others, to honour their Helsinki undertakings diminishes their credibility in relation to all other matters in which they say they are seeking agreement and on which they would like to be believed?

Lord Trefgarne: If I may say so, my Lords, my noble friend has put his finger on the nub of the problem. How can we believe what they say in negotiations such as the IMF negotiations, the MBFR negotiations as they are called in Vienna, or in any other forum for that matter, when they do not do what they said they would do at Helsinki in 1976?

Lord Shinwell: My Lords, in view of the rumours, which are probably well founded, that Mr. Brezhnev is about to retire, could a message from your Lordships' House be sent to him through the Soviet Embassy wishing him for the remainder of his life—and we hope he has many years left yet—peace and contentment and asking whether, as a gracious act upon his retirement, he will ensure that Mr. Shcharansky is treated as a civilised person?

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, I would certainly be willing to send another message to the Soviet Union about Mr. Shcharansky if I thought it would have any effect. As to the future of Mr. Brezhnev, I believe that that is a matter for them to decide for themselves.

Viscount Mountgarret: My Lords, would it not help if the western nations ceased providing wheat to the Soviet Union, at a time when they are finding themselves short, until they cease to carry out such inhuman activities against individuals and sovereign States?

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, the failure of the Soviet agricultural industry is now plain for all to see, but I am not sure that the interests of the West are served by starving them out.

Lord Elwyn-Jones: My Lords, in view of the fact that the treatment of Shcharansky seems to be a serious violation of human rights, has the matter been raised before the sub-commission on human rights at the United Nations?

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, I am not certain that the matter has been raised before that particular body but certainly it has been raised before all the others I mentioned. There could be a good opportunity for doing as the noble and learned Lord suggests.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, is the Minister aware that Mr. Shcharansky is a very distinguished computer scientist? Will he therefore consider a reduction in