

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

2001

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRA
Sec(AS)2a

SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects
UFO's

Parliamentary questions & Enquiries

Part No. 12/14 A
RECEIVED 7 JAN 2002

Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date
<u>12/14 PART A</u>								
<p>CLOSED</p> <p>No Further Action to be taken in this FILE PART Continued on PART B</p> <p>Last enclosure B 143</p>								

Section 40

A 82 - 2B12-7-4

File Ref: SEC(AS)12/4

Part: A

Sent Out Date: 25 Jan 2002

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file
12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Sec(A5)2

A dinner I
attach a copy of the
Harwood extract for the
debate in January 1979
about UFOs. Lord T
would like to say that
his view remain the
same.

Section 40

3/6

public. Finally, I should like to thank your Lordships for your kind attention, and I beg to move for Papers.

7.29 p.m.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, I am bound to say that I face making this speech with some trepidation. I had wondered whether we could justify the holding of what is in effect a full debate on this matter; but having seen the audience we have tonight, and indeed having heard the speech of the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, I can see that that sort of thought would not go down too well. I may well be shouted down before I finish anyway, but let us see if we can avoid that right at the start.

The noble Earl asked us in his Motion to support a proposal particularly for an intra-governmental study—I suppose he means, as indeed he has described, between Governments. No doubt he would wish to see the co-operation of the United States. But I should not want to support that kind of proposal. I do not think the time has yet come when we can view this matter with sufficient certainty to justify the expenditure of public money on it.

I certainly agree that the numerous voluntary bodies, including those with which the noble Earl is associated, ought to be encouraged, and indeed I should not be opposed to informal links between those bodies—or, at least the responsible ones—and others, such as the Ministry of Defence. But I am ashamed to say, in the midst of all this faith, that I am not myself a believer in UFOs described, as I believe they are, as objects or vehicles from another planet or from another universe.

I have some 2,500 hours as a pilot. I have flown across the Atlantic a few times as a pilot. But, unlike with the aircraft reported by the noble Earl, I have never seen one. I presume—indeed, I believe—that a good many of the sightings can be explained by logical scientific theory and I am, so far at least, convinced that those that cannot so far be so explained could be, if our knowledge were more advanced or if we had more information about the sightings in question. It is these unexplained sightings upon which ufologists rely so heavily in asking us to accept their theories. But I believe,

as I say, that these unexplained sightings could be—and, indeed, would be—explained, if we had more knowledge about them; for example, better photographs. How many clear photographs of UFOs have your Lordships seen? All I have seen are hazy, fudgy photographs which could, or could not, be genuine.

Ufologists often rely upon radar information for evidence in their case, but I must tell your Lordships that radar plays more tricks even than the camera, and I do not believe that radar information, in this context, is valid. For example, the recent sightings in New Zealand, which were widely reported just before Christmas, including some rather strange-looking photographs which appeared on television, were also said to have been confirmed by radar information which was available to the aircraft in question. But I know from my own experience that radar is frequently used, and, indeed, is so designed, for detecting anomalies in atmospheric conditions and in weather patterns, and I am not persuaded that radar is a valid supporting argument in this case.

Since time immemorial, man has ascribed those phenomena that he could not explain to some supernatural or extra-terrestrial agents. Eventually, as scientific wisdom has advanced, these phenomena are understood more fully, until now, today, no one takes witchcraft seriously and there are no fairies at the bottom of my garden. It is not so long ago that magnetism, as it occurs naturally in the form of lodestone, was thought to be the work of the Devil, as indeed were some of the hot springs found in Iceland, Australia and elsewhere.

An eclipse of the sun or the moon, now fully understood, was once thought to be an expression of the Almighty's displeasure. Perhaps this derives from the description in the Gospels of the events following the Crucifixion. I recall the 44th and 45th verses of the 23rd chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, and I shall read it if I may:

“And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst”.

St. Matthew described it rather well also:

“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent”.

[Lord Trefgarne.]

No one would now seriously doubt that those happenings were, in fact, an eclipse of the sun and an earthquake respectively. I would not deny that there may have been divine intervention in respect of the timing of those events, but certainly I would say that they were caused by terrestrial forces which we now fully understand.

Without wishing to pre-empt anything that the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Norwich may say, perhaps I may pose the question as to whether the existence of another race or races outside our universe is compatible with our Christian principles. I speak only as a simple member of the Christian faith, but I think I believe that He loves us and us alone. I am not aware that there is any suggestion in the words of Christ or in the words of the Almighty, as recorded that we must share his goodness with people from another universe. There is no suggestion that there is, indeed, any other such people. I acknowledge, however, that, for example, the works of Darwin were once thought incompatible with the Christian faith, and so perhaps my view of the credibility of these things, from a Christian point of view, is open to correction. Perhaps the right reverend Prelate will be able to help us when he comes to speak.

I emphasise that I do not for a moment doubt the sincerity and conviction of those who believe in these objects, who believe that they are visitors from another universe or, at least, some supernatural force beyond our reason. I simply do not happen to agree with them. I certainly do not agree with the learned professor, speaking on the radio the other morning, who said: "Anyone who believes in UFOs is a loony". But as for the suggestion that an international study group should be set up, I do not think that I could countenance that as a serious proposal at this time. I emphasise, however, that I would be happy to encourage informal links between, for example, the RAF and the very worthy groups who believe differently from the way I do.

Before I sit down, I should just like to say how much I am looking forward to the maiden speech of my noble friend Lord Oxfuird, who is to speak later in the debate. His name has, of course,

appeared on the Order Paper before today, and I hope that it appears on the list of speakers a good many times in the future. The noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, has done us a service by bringing this matter forward, but I would counsel caution and care.

7.38 p.m.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY: My Lords, as the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, has said, the majority of noble Lords in this Chamber will be greatly indebted to the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, for raising this fascinating and controversial subject this evening. Before I begin, perhaps I should say that I have an interest in it, because I am a director of a company which is to make an identified flying object—a thermo skyship, which is saucer shaped. I shall not get that muddled up. But in spite of sceptics, such as the noble Lord, Lord Wigg, the other day in a newspaper, and Sir Bernard Lovell from Jodrell Bank, who says that UFOs do not exist, we must agree that they do, because otherwise there would be no unidentified flying objects. Furthermore, we should not have throughout the world radio telescopes listening to try to pick up signals from intelligences in outer space.

As the noble Earl, Lord Clancarty, said, UFOs are not products of the 20th century imagination. They have been observed here for years—by the North American Indians, by the monks of Byland Abbey in 1290, who were terrified by the appearance of a huge silver disc. Right through history up to today, millions of people have seen UFOs, and I will go so far as to say that I am the first to admit that the very large majority of them can be explained as natural or man-made phenomena—meteorites, satellite debris, weather balloons, military flares, *et cetera*. But there are still many which are completely unexplained.

It has been reported that the United States and the USSR signed a pact in 1971 to swap UFO information, but the pact stated that they were to keep the rest of the world in the dark. I believe that the pact was signed so that neither super-Power would make mistakes about UFOs being atomic missiles. I am also led to understand that quite recently the three United States balloonists who crossed the Atlantic were followed for up to 12

[The Lord Bishop of Norwich.]
which can cause serious distress to them and to their personal life. That is my anxiety. I may be wrong, but I put it forward with some care, having thought about it and studied it a good deal. Therefore, my third anxiety—and I am sorry to be negative but it is important to share both the light and the dark sides—is the danger of the religious aspect of the UFO situation leading to the obscuring of basic Christian truths. When all is said and done, Christ himself is the agent of God in the creation of the world. I quote from *Colossians*:

“Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation: for in Christ all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible—whether thrones or dominions, or principalities or authorities . . . All things were created through Him and for Him”.

This fascinating chapter in *Colossians*, which is perhaps one of the highest levels of Christological teaching, speaks of Christ being before all things: “by him all things consist”, as the Authorised Version put it. All things hold together; He is the great unifying, holding-together principle of God’s universe.

I say this in this debate recognising the danger of, as it were, preaching a sermon. However, I do not think that is true in this case because the very subject we are debating is helping to widen our horizons—and the noble Viscount, Lord Oxford, stressed this point of looking far out in his maiden speech. I believe that Christ has not only a terrestrial, not only a cosmic significance but literally a galactic significance. I believe that He is God’s vice-regent concerning His great creative world. It is good that our minds and eyes should be stretched further out because I do not believe that at any point of the universe we get beyond the hand of God. Therefore, it helps us to understand the majesty of the Godhead when we begin to stretch our minds to reach out to the far corners of creation.

Lord TREFGARNE: My Lords, will the right reverend Prelate allow me to intervene? Is he actually offering ecclesiastical authority for the existence of another race of people in another universe? Is he saying that the existence of UFOs, together with their inhabitants such as are so often described to us, is compatible with Christian faith?

The Lord BISHOP of NORWICH.
My Lords, I thank the noble Lord, Lord Trefgarne, for his interjection because it shows that he must have been listening carefully, because the next thing on my notes is, “Say something about Lord Trefgarne’s remarks”. However, there are about 20 seconds to go before I get to the noble Lord. Perhaps in the meantime he can have a glass of water from Lord Davies of Leek, or something, but I am almost with the noble Lord. I am glad for that interjection because I obviously was not getting right what I was trying to say. I believe that all the far corners of the creative world, right out further than we can ever see or even know by radio, are within the plan of the Creator. I believe they are within the majestic purposes of God. I believe that Christ, as Creator under the Godhead, is concerned with it all.

Now may I come to the noble Lord’s particular question a few minutes ago. His question went something like this: “Do we believe in the existence of another race? Is it possible that there is another race further afield?” I must say that I do not know. I believe there is a place for reverent Christian agnosticism concerning what is not revealed to us in scripture and by our Lord. Having said that, I believe that God may have other plans for other worlds, but I believe that God’s plan for this world is Jesus. That at least is how I view the question. The emphasis in scripture is most interesting on the fact that there never seems a point beyond the revelation of scripture where there is not God.

I quote, if I may follow Lord Trefgarne once more before finishing what I had to say, from the most majestic opening letter to the Hebrews.

“In these last days, God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. He reflects the glory of God. He bears the stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power”.

My point is that the danger of getting the UFO thing linked with the religious thing is that it obscures the fact that Christ is the image of the invisible God, and that all God’s purposes and plans for humanity are in and through his Son, our Lord.

This is not popular. This is not agreed by dozens of people. Plenty of people

[The Earl of Cork and Orrery.]
of ... If this represents all that the Conservative Party can produce in the way of thinking on what is undoubtedly a serious subject, whatever your opinion about it may be, then this is deplorable.

If the noble Lord really thinks that there is no serious interest or belief taken nowadays in witchcraft, perhaps he does not read the right newspapers, but I can assure him that this is far from true. He is not a believer in unidentified flying objects. "I am no believer in UFOs", he said. I do not know how you can not believe in UFOs. You can take it for granted, if your mind takes a leap ahead, that by an unidentified flying object something is intended that is supposed to have originated in outer space, and you can say you do not believe in that. But I do not know what it implies to say that you do not believe in an unidentified flying object. You do not believe in the object? You do not believe in its flying? You do not believe it is unidentified? There are things that are unidentified. Perhaps we are not trying. I do not think it is reasonable to say that they do not exist. Nobody, except my noble friend Lord Hewlett, has seriously contended that they do not exist. The question is, what are they?

Lord TREFGARNE: I am pleased my noble friend has allowed me to intervene, my Lords, because he has been very caustic about what I had to say. I do not deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. I simply say that most of them are identifiable, that some are not objects at all but simply a trick of the light or a meteorological phenomenon—I think that is so in many cases—and that I agree one cannot deny the existence of unidentified flying objects. It is simply a question of how we identify them.

The Earl of CORK and ORRERY: My Lords, I take my noble friend's point. I am anxious not to misquote him, but he also said that ufologists—it is difficult not to use that word—referred to unexplained sightings which would be explained if only we had better evidence; that was the gist of one part of my noble friend's argument. In other words, if we had better evidence we should be able to explain those sightings. That is the sole point on which the noble Earl initiated

this debate. That is what he is asking: he wishes evidence to be collected, collated, examined, evaluated and reported on as to what these things are, and it is notable that he himself did not say what he thought they were. Other noble Lords have spoken as though he had said they were fairies or I do not know what, when in fact he said no such thing. I believe he is a leading authority on these matters—certainly he has studied them more closely than anyone else of whom I have heard—and he must have exercised very great restraint in this matter, and he is to be congratulated on that as well as on initiating the whole debate.

I once had an ancestor—I still have him in a sense, in that he is still my ancestor although he is dead—called Robert Boyle who founded a society called the Royal Society. I feel that if he returned to the rooms of that enormously prestigious society now and found that the present Royal Society contained Fellows of such erudition and charm as the noble Earl, Lord Halsbury, he would feel entirely at home; a man of the most agreeable and totally non-sceptical nature, even if he did write a book called *The Sceptical Chemist*.

The noble Earl has done a service by displaying before our very eyes the scientist-philosopher who knows precisely the limits of science and makes no effort to go beyond them. Nor does he point the finger of scorn at anyone else. He must know, as others know, that it is impossible to prove anything by negative evidence. If you wish to prove that something is not so you can do it only in logic—by proving the existence of something that is so that makes that first premise impossible. Thus, you cannot prove that any particular type of flying object does not exist, and with respect to my noble friend, the fact that the Jodrell Bank telescope has not seen something not only does not prove, but is not even particularly good evidence, that it was not there. I am prepared to accept, if told, that the Jodrell Bank telescope has been operating on a frequency suited to the observation of UFOs of one kind or another for the last 30 years, but, until I am told that, I shall be sceptical in that matter.

Lord HEWLETT: Let me be quite clear about this, my Lords. I did not say other than that Jodrell Bank had made

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

2 Jul 85

APS/US of S(AF)

UFOs: LORD HILL-NORTON

In the light of Lord Hill-Norton's response to US of S(AF)'s letter of 19 June you may consider it prudent to have the attached additional note on UFOs for the Second Day of the House of Lords Defence Debate.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

X
UFOs: RAF WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT - 27 DEC 80

Our concern, naturally, is the defence of the UK and more specifically any possibility of infringements of UK airspace. In this particular incident the report, received 2 weeks after the event, was carefully examined and as I have previously said, it was concluded that there was no Defence interest.

[Indeed the high visibility of the phenomenon reported - multi-coloured bright lights - is totally inconsistent with a covert entry into the UK.]

I can assure Noble Lords that sightings of unidentified objects are not a matter [the Ministry of Defence][we] take lightly. I am however confident that the judgement of the time was correct. Nothing since casts doubt on that assessment.

That is not to say, however, that Colonel Halt and the other personnel mentioned in the report were 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 your Lordships will agree that in many cases normal explanations come to light, such as falling meteorites or satellite debris, unusual cloud formations or aircraft lights. The press has carried the results of a good deal of investigative journalism which turned up rational and down-to-earth explanations for what was seen. What the true explanation is, I do not know; MOD does not attempt to investigate reports to the point at which a positive identification can be made. I can assure ^{Noble Lords} ~~you~~, however, that there is no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge.

BRIEF FOR H. OF LORDS DEFENCE DEBATES.
PROVIDED FOR US of S (AF) 19/6.

UFO's

Noble Lords may recall that this subject was discussed in detail during a debate in this House on 18 January 1979. I have seen nothing, since that time, to alter my views.

file
12/4

We have to recognise 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.

The sole interest of HMG in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the MOD appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. Reports are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine them 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.

RAF Woodbridge incident 27 Dec 80. We have nothing to add to what has already been said. We were satisfied, at the time, that there was no Defence significance to the report and we have seen nothing to alter this view.

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

Section 40

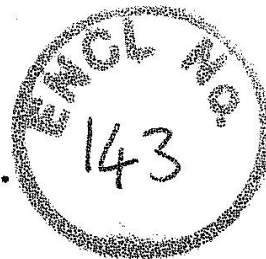
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Section 40

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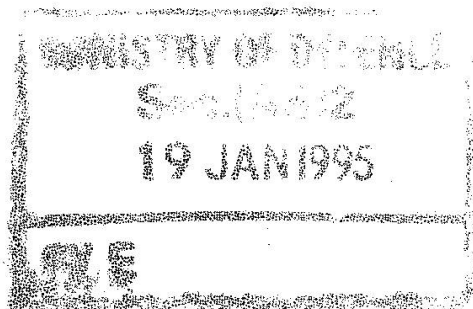
A copy for your information.

for PS/US of S

Section 40

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Section 40 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/OH 0074/95

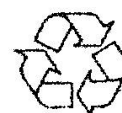
19 January 1995

Thank you for your letter of 4 January to Malcolm Rifkind enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** **Section 40** about alleged alien abductions.

I should first like to correct the misconceptions on which the Press article which **Section 40** encloses are based. First, the Ministry of Defence has not agreed to formal discussions with **Section 40** **Section 40** had expressed a wish to meet staff to discuss information he had with respect to "UFO" sightings, but he was advised that whilst a meeting would not be appropriate he could if he wished drop any information he had in connection with "UFO" sightings at the foyer of the MOD Main Building, whereupon it would be staffed in the normal way.

Secondly, no discussions with respect to alien abductions have taken place between my officials and either **Section 40** or **Section 40** **Section 40** the author of The People article. The subject of alleged alien abductions falls outside this Department's responsibilities. I should perhaps at this point explain that the Ministry of Defence has only a limited interest and role with respect to reports of unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the United Kingdom's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena. In pursuing this Department's responsibility in this respect, we are not aware of any evidence which would substantiate the existence of lifeforms or craft of extraterrestrial origin.

Sir Ralph Howell MP



Recycled Paper



In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that there has been no agreement to a formal meeting between my officials and **Section 40** **Section 40** and that my officials have received no information or 'evidence' from **Section 40** with respect to 'Rebecca', or alien abduction generally.

So ever
Henley

LORD HENLEY



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

18 Jan 95

APS/US of S

D/USofS/OH/0074/95; SIR RALPH HOWELL, MP - UFOs/ALIEN
ABDUCTIONS

1. The background to the newspaper article in question, and its references to the MOD, is important and is therefore set out below.
2. My staff were contacted by **Section 40** in early November. He requested a meeting in the New Year - when it was his intention to make a trip to London - to discuss some information he had with respect to various "UFO" sightings. He was advised that it would not be appropriate for such a meeting to take place, but that if he wanted to call in at the Main Building Foyer he could hand in any evidence he wished us to look over, and that this would be taken away and staffed in the normal way. **Section 40** followed up his telephone call with a letter in which he expressed the hope that early in the New Year he could make an appointment to discuss his findings of reported objects near military bases.
3. My staff heard nothing further until we received a call from **Section 40** of The People, asking if there was any truth that the MOD had agreed to hold formal discussions with **Section 40** **Section 40** on the subject of "UFOs". My staff explained the situation to **Section 40** and this was reaffirmed, I understand, in a conversation he had with the Press Office. Whilst speaking to my staff **Section 40** made no reference to the alien abduction aspects of **Section 40** story.
4. In the light of the fact that **Section 40** appeared to be touting his story to the Press, we wrote to him expressing our surprise that he had chosen to represent his discussion with my staff as agreement to hold formal talks when this was clearly not the case.
5. The story subsequently appeared concentrating solely on alien abduction claims - a subject we have never discussed with **Section 40** or **Section 40** nor would we as the subject quite clearly falls outside our remit - and even alleging that the

MOD were looking at the evidence relating to 'Rebecca', when no such evidence has ever been discussed or submitted. The article in The People is, therefore, a fabrication. To date **Section 40** **Section 40** has not contacted this office again to advise when he will be dropping off his alleged evidence of "UFO" sightings.

6. I attach a draft reply to Sir Ralph Howell's letter.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0074/95

January 1995

Thank you for your letter to Malcolm Rifkind of 4 January enclosing one from **Section 40** **Section 40** concerning alleged alien abductions. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should first like to correct the misconceptions which underly the Press article which **Section 40** encloses. First, the Ministry of Defence has not agreed to formal discussions with **Section 40** **Section 40** had expressed a wish to meet staff to discuss information he had with respect to "UFO" sightings, but he was advised that whilst a meeting would not be appropriate he could if he wished drop any information he had in connection with "UFO" sightings at the Foyer of the MOD Main Building, whereupon it would be staffed in the normal way.

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Sir Ralph Howells MP

look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the United Kingdom's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena. In pursuing this Department's responsibility in this respect, we are not aware of any evidence which would substantiate the existence of lifeforms or craft of extra-terrestrial origin.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that there has been no agreement to a formal meeting between my officials and **Section 40** and that my officials have received no information or 'evidence' from **Section 40** with respect to 'Rebecca', or alien abduction generally.

I hope this is helpful.

THE LORD HENLEY



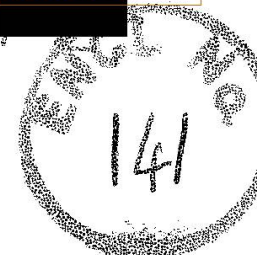
PARLIAMETARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PARLIAMETARY ENQUIRY

Section 40

For action please!

Section 40



Reference D/US of S/OH 0074/95 (to be quoted in all correspondence)

For action by: Hd Sec (AS)

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 20 January 1995

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

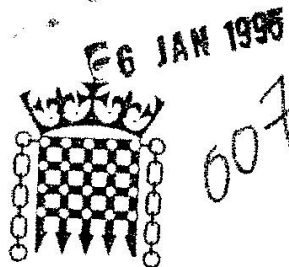
The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 Please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension Section 40

Section 40

for the Private Secretary



E6 JAN 1995

0074

Sir Ralph Howell, M.P.

US 25.
PE: SA (AS)

House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

4 January 1995

Tel: Section 40
Secretary: Section 40

Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Dear Malcolm

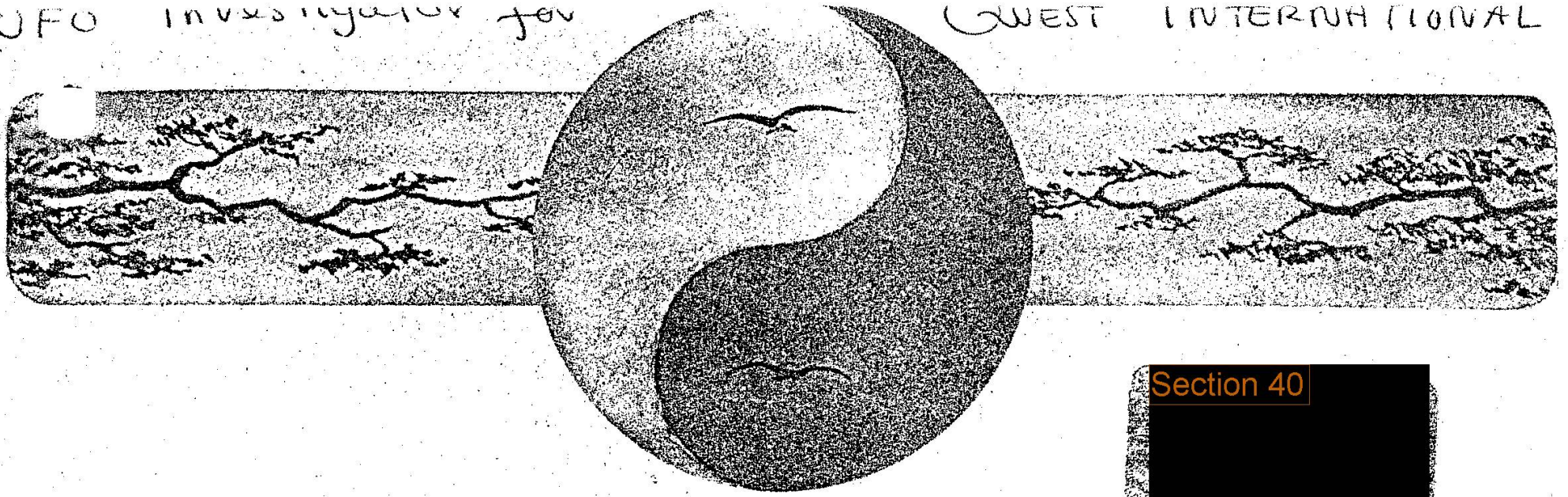
I am enclosing copy of a letter and press report which I have received from a constituent, Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 regarding alleged alien abductions.

According to the press report, this matter is being investigated by the Ministry of Defence. If this is the case, I would be most grateful for any information you can give me which I can pass on to my constituent.

Yours ever
Ralph

UFO investigator for

QUEST INTERNATIONAL



Section 40

Dec 12 1994

Dear Ralph Howel,

Could you please let me know if there is any truth in the content of the enclosed cutting. I am of course aware that tabloids are notoriously inaccurate.

I want to know if there is any truth in the fact that the M.O.D. are enquiring officially into the weird scenario of 'Alien Abductions'.

I hope they are and I hope they will tell us quickly what is happening, even if the news is not too good for us humans.

I have on my books four women who live in Norfolk who are confused. They have come to terms with their experiences of being taken aboard spaceships and being experimented on by small slant eyed beings who have total control over them. But they want to know what is happening and so do I and my husband. Section 40

Is this a world wide mass hallucinatory nightmare that thousands of men and women are having? The stories are monotonously similar and points to a creation of Alien Hybrids using human eggs and sperm.

Could this be mass hysteria? If so the human race is going through a very unstable stage of evolution.

The only thing I can say for sure is that the "Abductees" are not lying or hoaxing. They are frightened & confused and want an answer.

please please make a few phone calls to the MOD and let me know their answer
THANK YOU Section 40 x Section 40

'ALIENS WANT MY BABY' PROBE BY MoD

ASTONISHING claims that alien creatures are breeding with humans in a bizarre experiment to save the planet are to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

UFO watchers have earned out lengthy interviews with "victims" of alien kidnaps. Their findings are to be examined by Government officials.

Eric Morris, director of the British UFO Studies Centre, said last night: "The MoD has agreed to look at our evidence next month. It's very rare to be granted a meeting like this, and shows how impressive our case really is." One of the people in Eric's dossier has told *The People* about her amazing experience.

Rebecca, a 39-year-old professional woman from Cheshire, claims to have had contact with aliens since she was a child.

My abductions started with me spinning down a long tunnel and falling into an empty chamber," she said.

"I saw lots of other people walking out of this chamber and a series of other tunnels that lead off it. At the end of each tunnel was a different room where the alien entities conducted experiments on people.

"At the end of one tunnel was a kind of tram that took me through pitch dark into a vast area - so big it seemed I was out in the open.

"It was a kind of artificial space with a gigantic black object in the middle, the size and shape of an aircraft carrier. That's where the aliens' experiments on humans and animals went on."

By MIKE SMITH

Rebecca is too traumatised by the sexual nature of the tests to describe them in detail, but she believes eggs have been taken from her which the aliens will try to cross-fertilise with.

Rebecca added, "I know they are not here to harm us. We're like children to them. They've been interested in us for thousands of years.

"They want to breed with us and they have got a very important message for everyone. 'Don't destroy your planet with materialism.'"

Rebecca says the aliens look human. "But they have very high cheekbones and large pupil-less eyes which stretch from the front of their face to their temples," she added. "They are beautiful with long, blond hair and

perfect figures. They wear tight one-piece outfits with bands around the neck and wrists and communicate by telepathy.

"Even now I find it hard to accept that I've been abducted. I'm afraid I will have fun poked at me if I go public.

"But I do feel I'm beginning to find out why they are here."

Eric Morris, who has conducted hours of interviews with Rebecca, is convinced her story is true. "I've been a psychiatric nurse for years," he said. "I can quickly tell if someone is lying or is suffering from delusions. Rebecca is for real."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said to be dealing with Rebecca's claim was unavailable for comment.

A/2/4

D/US of S RMC

Section 40

Sec (A S) 2a

A copy for your information



for PS/US of S

Section 40

Date:

Copied to:



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
16 JAN 1995

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/OH 0058/95

16 January 1995

Thank you for your letter of 17 December to Roger Freeman enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40**

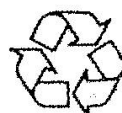
Section 40 concerning unidentified flying objects.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence has a limited interest and role with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the UK's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence, we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

From the reports which we receive it is quite clear that there are many sights in the sky which are not immediately identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. Nevertheless, we do accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these as essentially it is outside the Department's remit to investigate further.

I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin. That said, the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

Stephen Dorrell Esq MP



Recycled Paper

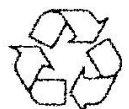


Finally, **Section 40** asked for a point of contact in this Department with whom he could correspond with any further enquires he has on this subject. The MOD focal point which looks at reports of unexplained aerial phenomena, for the reasons I have explained above, is as follows:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room **Section 40**
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure **Section 40** **Section 40** that there is certainly no attempt to cover up information on this subject.

LORD HENLEY



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

➤ D/Sec(AS)/12/4

12 Jan 95

APS/US of S

LETTER FROM STEPHEN DORRELL MP

1. A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Dorrell's letter of 17 December is attached.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0058/95

January 1995

Thank you for your letter to Roger Freeman of 17 December enclosing one from **Section 40**

Section 40 concerning unidentified flying objects.

I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence has a limited interest and role with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We look at such reports purely in the context of our responsibilities for ensuring that the integrity of the UK's air defences is maintained. Our only concern is to establish whether any evidence exists which would indicate the presence of a physical threat to our air defences. If we are satisfied that there is no such evidence, we make no further attempt to investigate or establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

From the reports which we receive it is quite clear that there are many sights in the sky which are not immediately identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. Nevertheless, we do

accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these as essentially it is outside the Department's remit to investigate further.

I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extra-terrestrial origin. That said, the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

Finally, **Section 40** asked for a point of contact in this Department with whom he could correspond with any further enquires he has on this subject. The MOD focal point which looks at reports of unexplained aerial phenomena, for the reasons I have explained above, is as follows:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room **Section 40**
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

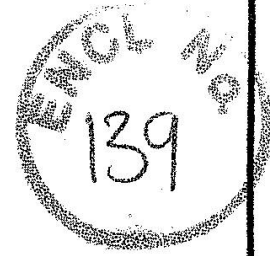
I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure Mr Barker that there is certainly no attempt to cover up information on this subject.

Stephen Dorrell Esq MP

THE LORD HENLEY



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 0058/95 (to be quoted in all correspondence)

For action by: Sec (AS) 2a

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 18 January 1995

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

**If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder
please telephone Main Building extension Section 40**

Section 40

for the Private Secretary

0058

03 JAN 1995

Stephen Dorrell, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

MINISTER (DP)
RECEIVED
03 JAN 1995
ACKNOWLEDGED

17th December, 1994

The Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman, M.P.,
Minister of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HB

Dear Roger

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from my
constituent, **Section 40**

Section 40 on the subject of UFOs.

I would be grateful for your comments on the points raised in
Section 40 letter.

Yours faithfully
Stephen

Stephen Dorrell

Enc.

-6 DEC 1994

Section 40

5th Dec 1994.

Dear Mr Darrell,

As an individual who has been very interested in the UFO phenomena for a number of years, it is a well known fact that the British government and the intelligence-military authorities, take this matter very seriously indeed, if only from a defence point of view, which has been the case since the dawn of the modern UFO enigma, the 1930's-40's onwards to the present day. Exactly the same situation applies to the US government / intelligence and military authorities today, and its predecessors, as well as a number of others around the world.

As you may be aware of, this matter is one which has always been considered a very sensitive issue, and as in the U.S.A., is very much covered-up, presumably on the grounds of national security, and in public it is treated with the time honoured ridicule and outright scepticism. Basically, in a nut-shell, the

politicians (in general) laugh at it, the intelligence service stay quiet and the military always have an explanation and that it does not really exist. Hundreds of people right around the world know the opposite is true.

People the world over have the right to know the truth about the UFO phenomenon, despite the most incredible impact that the acknowledgement of the existence of intelligently controlled vehicles/craft and people originating from worlds other than our own, would have on our very existence and cultures etc.

I know that the human race has plenty of its own problems and issues which have to be dealt with and you will say that the UFO phenomena is not on the list of priority. That would be a fair point, but nonetheless it is an issue which should not be treated with the usual "little green men syndrome".

You will have said by now, what has all this got to do with me? Well the point of this letter is to ask if you could possibly probe into this matter yourself if you have any spare time at all, although I realize you are busy with other more urgent matters. Or

2

can you possibly put me touch with individual ministers and/or any ministerial bodies which deal with this subject and enquirers like me. Are there any individuals and/or departments within the intelligence service and/or military whom I could get in touch with to take my enquiries further, or simply a contact point in order to glean information of this kind.

Anyway, may I thank you for your time and patience in reading this letter. Let me assure you that this is NOT a prank letter. I am a person who is just genuinely interested in all aspects of the UFO enigma as I have been since I became aware of it whilst still at school. I am one amongst literally thousands of other like-minded people. The sheer weight of objective evidence is so great now that it simply can not be brushed under the "doesn't exist" carpet any more.

Thank you once again, and I do hope you will write back to me. Any help would be very much appreciated,

Yours faithfully,

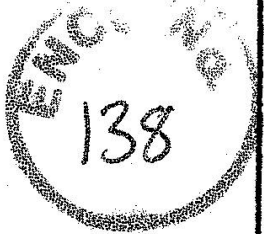
Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS/LORDS

For answer on by PQ No.

Draft reply required by **49686**
FILE

ACTION DIVISION:		SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)	
Draft approved by	Signature or initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to
Section 40	Section 40	Section 40	
Section 40		Section 40	
Secretary of State			
Minister(AF)			Answer copied to:- As above plus: AUS(C) PSO/ACAS
Minister(DP)			
US of S			

Type of Question:- First Order Oral (No.....); Non Priority Written; Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

LORD MASON OF BARNSELY, Lab; To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent official records are kept of sightings of unidentified flying objects, especially those sightings that may have a bearing on the Air Defence of this country; whether units of the Ministry of Defence, especially RAF units have standing instructions to report sightings of unusual flying objects; whether reports are logged; and whether these can now be made public.

DRAFT ANSWER

The Ministry of Defence evaluates reports of unexplained aerial phenomena solely in order to establish whether they may have any defence significance. Reports are received from a wide range of sources, including the police and general public, as well as the RAF, which in the context of its air defence responsibilities has standing instructions to report all sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena to the MOD. All such reports are placed on departmental files in the normal way and are therefore subject to the Public Records Act. Several files on this subject are however available for viewing at the Public Record Office.

PQ4968G - Unidentified Flying Objects

Background

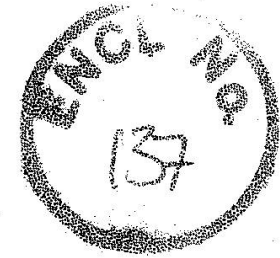
There are commonly held misconceptions regarding the MOD's role and responsibilities with respect to unexplained aerial phenomena. We have a very limited interest - our only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence of a threat to our air defences.

Generally reports of sightings are made to police stations, RAF bases and air traffic control centres. These establishments are required to forward details of the reports to the MOD. The MOD focal point, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, in consultation with RAF air defence colleagues, consider all available information and decide if there is any evidence a threat.

With regard to our records, unfortunately most of the "UFO" files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in public interest, files have been preserved. These, however, in line with all government files, fall under the terms of the Public Records Act which states that government files should generally stay closed for 30 years after the date of the most recent paper. However, a few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office in Kew.

If we are asked about specific sightings we can and do provide details, such as a copy of the report (which would be sanitized to protect the witness's personal details). We would not however wish to advertise this too widely, as we would risk inundation by such requests from the extremely active 'ufology' community.

Sent by
CHOTS to
US of S Typist 1



LOOSE MINUTE

→ D/Sec(AS)/12/4

23 Nov 94

APS/US of S

LETTER FROM NICHOLAS WINTERTON MP

1. A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Winterton's letter of 4 November is attached.
2. I attach for your information a copy of the Hansard Extract which is referred to in the draft.

Section 40



Sec(AS)2

Section 40



Enc.

1. Hansard Extract: 13 Mar 84 (Coloumns 132 and 133). (Walked Down)

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH 0902/94

November 1994

Thank you for your letter of 4 November enclosing one from **Section 40** concerning unidentified flying objects.

I should perhaps first explain that the Ministry of Defence's interest and role with respect to unexplained phenomena relates solely to the identification of any potential threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Once we are content that a reported sighting does not represent a threat, or suggest that our security has been compromised, we do not pursue the matter further or seek to establish the precise nature of the sighting/phenomena.

In his letter **Section 40** makes specific reference to the Parliamentary Question posed in March 1984 by Sir Patrick Wall MP. **Section 40** clearly misrepresents the answer given to Sir Patrick by the then Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, Mr John Lee (Hansard 13 Mar 84 Cols 132 & 133). As the answer states, the figures relate to reports of aerial sightings for which the observer had no explanation, received by the MOD in the years in question. They do not relate to reports of alleged landings, and they should in no way be taken

to represent sightings of alien spacecraft of extra-terrestrial origin.

Section 40 goes on to misconstrue the comments of the MOD division responsible for these matters, Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, regarding reports which remain unexplained. Whilst we believe that for the majority of reported sightings a simple and mundane explanation could be found, we do accept that a few cases, perhaps 10%, defy immediate explanation. However, once we are satisfied that nothing of defence significance has occurred, our interest in the sightings ends. As it is outside my Department's remit to investigate further, we remain open-minded on these.

As such, and contrary to **Section 40** assertions, the Ministry of Defence does not conduct formal research into 'UFO sightings'. I can confirm that to date it remains the case that we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of craft or lifeforms of extra-terrestrial origin. That said, the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

With respect to our records, which relate to reported sightings and not 'UFO' research, unfortunately most of our old files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in

public interest, files have been preserved. These, however, in line with all government files, fall under the terms of the Public Records Act which states that government files should generally stay closed for thirty years after the date of the most recent paper. A few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/9321	PREM 11/855
AIR 20/9322	

I hope this is helpful in explaining the role of this Department with respect to 'UFO' sightings and I can assure you that there is certainly no attempt to cover up any information on this subject.

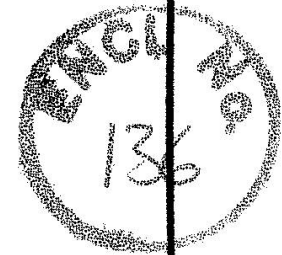
Nicholas Winterton Esq MP

THE LORD HENLEY

file: 12/4.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 0902/94 (to be quoted in all correspondence)

For action by: Sec (AS) 1 - Please Retain this Folder

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 24 NOVEMBER 1994

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40 please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

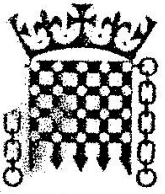
If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension

Section 40
Section 40

for the Private Secretary

07 NOV 1994

NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON, M.P.
(Macclesfield)



Private office: **Section 40**
Secretary:
Assistant:

The Lord Henley,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

4th November, 1994

Dear Oliver,

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

I enclose, for your attention, a letter which I have received and upon which I shall be most grateful to have your comments.

Your acknowledgment of receipt of this correspondence would be appreciated.

*Yours ever,
Nick Winton*

Section 40

Nicholas Winterton MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 November 1994

Dear Mr Winterton

I am writing to you concerning, in my opinion, an extremely important subject that has, alas, been severely abused and discredited by the popular press. I do hope you will read my letter before dismissing it out of hand.

On 9th March 1984 Sir Patrick Wall MP, asked the Secretary of State for Defence "How many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively?" John Lee, Defence Under Secretary for Procurement replied five days later in the House of Commons: "350, 600, 250 and 390 respectively."

The standard government response released by the M.o.D. and Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a is that approximately 10% of sightings cannot be explained due to insufficient information. This means that between 1980 and 1983 there were an average of 39 breaches of air security per year that could not be explained. Relevant research by Timothy Good in 'Above Top Secret' (Harper Collins - 1993) suggests that the M.o.D. has spent large amounts of money and time studying these cases without resolution. Furthermore, in many of these cases the information gathered suggests that these sightings cannot be anything else but a manifestation of the activities of extra terrestrial visitors.

This seemingly fantastic conclusion is confirmed by people such as: Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hill Norton GCB Chief of Defence Staff 1971-83 amongst others; and suggests that there is an official cover up of all information relating to extraterrestrial life. This cover up is in place, suggests Lord Norton "because Governments believe this (UFO confirmation) would cause such public alarm and

1 Good, Timothy: 'Above Top Secret' ; Harper Collins 1993; p.100

despondency as to have far reaching social and political effects”²

I am hoping that you can clarify the position of the M.o.D. relating to the existence of Extraterrestrial life and current U.F.O. research; and could you confirm any date that the M.o.D., will be releasing files to the public concerning this research. I would also appreciate it if you could bring the topic of this alleged cover up to the attention of your peers in the House of Commons.

I would also be grateful if you can supply me with the names and addresses of any relevant people concerned with this topic you think I should contact.

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Section 40

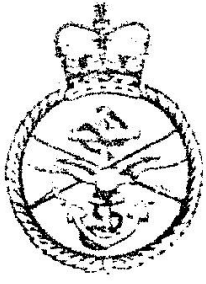


Section 40



² Good, Timothy: 'Above Top Secret'; Harper Collins 1993 p10

COPY TO E135



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40**

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 9/18G

14 July 1994

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26th June to the Secretary of State for Defence, concerning UFO sightings over Belgium. You have asked two specific questions, both of which have been answered before, however I will try to answer them again as fully and clearly as possible.

First, why were we not advised of the sightings. It remains the Ministry of Defence's view that the Belgian authorities were best placed to make a judgement on these reported UFO sightings. In view of their location and the lack of any indication that any threat was posed, the Belgians decided not to notify any other countries. It is correct therefore that the UK was not made aware of these detections. They occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region and there is no record of detections having been made on any British system. The Belgians took the decision that, in the light of the circumstances, there was no threat to the UK. The relevant British authorities are content that this decision was correct.

Second, why are we not concerned at the lack of a radar detection by our own radar defence system. There is no evidence that any sightings or radar contacts occurred within the expected coverage of our own systems. We would not, therefore, have expected to detect anything and were neither surprised nor concerned at the fact that no contacts were detected.

Section 40



Recycled Paper

The sequence of events has been explained in previous letters, and the various questions which you have raised on this issue have been dealt with at some length. I do not therefore see any useful purpose in a continuation of this correspondence.

yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Commander Royal Navy
Private Secretary

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

13 Jul 94

APS/S of S

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S

LETTER FROM Section 40 [REDACTED] - BELGIAN UFOS

Reference: MO 9/18 dated 4 July 94

1. At Reference you asked us to draft a PS reply to Mr Section 40 [REDACTED] latest letter on UFO sightings over Belgium, and I have attached a draft.

Section 40 [REDACTED]

PP

Sec(AS)2

Section 40 [REDACTED]

DRAFT REPLY FROM PS/S OF S TO Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June to the Secretary of State for Defence, concerning UFO sightings over Belgium.

The Belgian authorities were best placed to make a judgement on these reported UFO sightings; in view of the location, and the lack of any indication that any threat was posed, they decided not to notify any other countries. While it is correct therefore that UK Air Defence was not made aware of these UFO sightings which occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, they have confirmed that in the light of the circumstances there was no threat to the UK.

The sequence of events has been explained in previous correspondence, and the various questions which you have raised on this issue have been dealt with at some length. I do not therefore see any useful purpose in a continuation of this correspondence.

E133

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

CLASSIFICATION: u/c

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: M09/18

Head of Sec (AS)

Section 40

AS 2
See note 5 at
Foot of page

Section 40

BELGIAN UFOs

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

1. I should be grateful for your advice on the attached communication from Section 40 dated 26th June 94, together with a draft reply, if appropriate. Other Departments or MOD Divisions should be consulted as necessary and the attachment should be placed on a Departmental Registered file.

2. Please submit your advice by no later than 14 July 94. In addition to the hard copy, drafts should, where possible, be prepared on CHOTS and sent by electronic mail to S of S PA Group Role.

3. I am sending copies of this minute, together with the attachment, to:

.....
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.....
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.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd. Sec (AS)
609
S. P. H. B.
FILE

4. The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4th April 1994. You should ensure that all replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with the procedures as set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 112 /94; further information is available from Man S(Org)1 telephone extension MB86081.

5. Could you have a go at a PS reply which might terminate this exchange, thanking Section 40 for his interest and concern, reiterating our view that there was no threat to UK and suggesting an end to the correspondence? Section 40
Date: APS/S of S
4/7/94

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

14.

Section 40

Dear Mr Rifkin.

26th June 1994.

Admiral Lord Hill-Norton has advised me of your reply to his letter of the 17th May.

The actual presence of flying objects above Belgium in 1989/90 is not in doubt: neither is the fact that they were unidentified. These facts were confirmed to me by Guy Coeme the Belgian Minister of Defence at that time, and endorsed by Leo Delcroix the present Belgian Minister of Defence. This being so - and the actions of the Belgian armed forces would confirm their apprehensions - as they did not know what these flying objects were, how could they possibly state that they did not constitute a threat?

There now also seems to be a subtle alteration to the chronology of these events that I do not understand.

Section 40

On the 26th November 1993, in a letter Ref D/Sec(AS)12/3, [redacted] of the Ministry of Defence stated in his last paragraph 'In answer to your specific question, Air Defence experts concluded that the Belgian UFO sightings posed no threat to the UK because there was no evidence of any such threat. Section 40 does not say that the reason that there was no evidence of any threat was because our Air Defence experts were not aware of these detections at the time.'

Your letter Ref MO 9/18M of the 11th June 1994 to Admiral Lord Hill-Norton confirms this fact by stating that 'our Air Defence experts were not notified at the time of the Belgian radar detections': in fact you state that they only became aware of these sightings through UFO literature and approaches by members of the public.'

This establishes beyond doubt that our Air Defence experts could not possibly have been in any position to ascertain the nature of these phenomena at the actual time of these detections.

FIVE radar stations (a mixture of Array type and Multi-purpose impulsion systems): four in Belgium; Glons, Bertem, Semmerzeke, St Hubert - and one at Vedem in Germany - all established confirmed radar detections by highly skilled operatives over Wavre SW of Brussels. These unidentified detections - possibly hostile - although 100 miles from our national boundary, were closing on our air-space at speeds in excess of 1000 kts. This represented a contact time of only six minutes.

It is obvious that we do not wait until an unidentified intruder is only six minutes from our national boundary to be advised by another country if they consider this intrusion to be a threat to our national security! This being so - and the observations of Admiral Lord Hill-Norton (who held the highest military office in the UK and NATO) that 'it was inconceivable that we were NOT informed through NATO of these radar detections' - I would ask again WHY we were not advised of these detections and WHY you were not concerned at this lack of radar detection by our own radar defence system?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

D/US of S RMC 6488

5 July 1994

Dear Mr. Cann,

Thank you for your letter of 8 June to Malcolm Rifkind, in which you asked about the UFO sightings that occurred near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. As the responsible Minister I have been asked to reply.

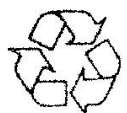
I think it would be helpful if I began by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen. It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

... The details of the UFO sightings in Rendlesham Forest are set out in a report submitted by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, and I have attached a copy of this for your information. I am aware that a number of strange claims have been made about these sightings in subsequent years, but have to say that the report was examined carefully at the time; no evidence of any threat was found.

Yours sincerely
Robert Cranborne

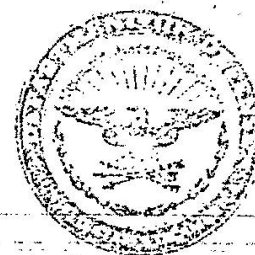
The Viscount Cranborne

Jamie Cann Esq MP



Recycled Paper

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



REPLY TO
 ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81

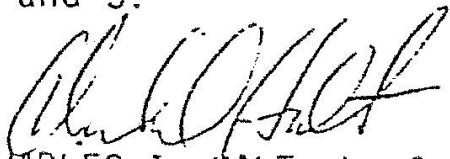
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

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

M2APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Jamie Cann MP.

2. Although RAF Woodbridge does not fall within Jamie Cann's constituency, it is only a few miles away. The UFO sighting that occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, still fascinates UFO researchers; it has been highlighted in a number of books and magazines, and we still receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The draft reply reflects the standard approach, including the release of Lt Col Halt's report, which is taken in responding to this correspondence.

3. It is not known what has prompted this specific enquiry, although we are aware that Central TV's forthcoming documentary on UFOs will focus on the Rendlesham Forest sightings; they have done some filming and interviewing in the area, and it is possible that this has led to some local press reports.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

23 June 1994

D/US of S RMC 6488

Thank you for your letter of 8 June to the Secretary of State for Defence, in which you asked about the UFO sightings that occurred near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. As the responsible Minister I have been asked to reply.

I think it would be helpful if I began by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen. It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

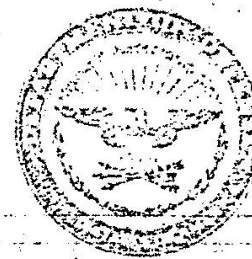
The details of the UFO sightings in Rendlesham Forest are set out in a report submitted by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, and I have attached a copy of this for your information. I am aware that a number of strange claims have been made about these sightings in subsequent years, but have to say that the report was examined carefully at the time; no evidence of any threat was found.

I hope this is helpful, and has explained the position.

THE VISCOUNT CRANBORNE

Jamie Cann MP

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

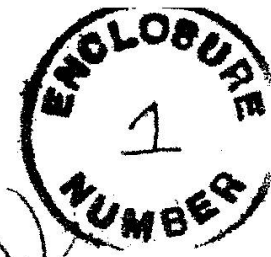
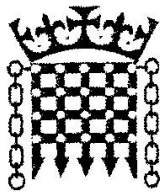
1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight 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.

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

JAMIE CANN MP FOR IPSWICH



PE -> Sec (AS)

In correspondence, please
quote ref: JCC/GD/346C

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind QC MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
The Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB.

LETTER ADM...
US of S
JUN 1994

8th June 1994.

Dear Mr Rifkind,

RE: POSSIBLE U.F.O. INCIDENT IN RENDLESHAM FOREST - 28/12/80

Queries have been raised recently regarding the above.

It would be helpful if you would let me have full details of precisely what was seen on 28/12/80 in the vicinity of the Woodbridge Air Base.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

JAMIE CANN MP

PLEASE REPLY TO: CONSTITUENCY OFFICE, 33 SILENT STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP1 1TF.

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S
DDGE/AEW
Sec(AS)2

Section 40

Section 40

Self's office have added somewhat to our draft, but looks OK to me

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40

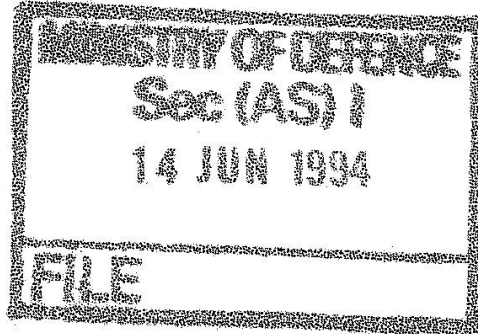
Section 40



SECRETARY OF STATE

to be all right. The file's file are being very clear, they have misread the H-N's position / June 1994

Section 40



MO 9/18M

Dear Lord Hill - Norton,

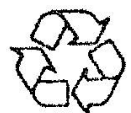
Thank you for your letter dated 17 May concerning the UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in March 1990.

I am grateful to you for alerting me to this problem, and I am aware that Section 40 may attempt to create a public fuss. However I am satisfied that correct procedures have been followed, that all relevant information has been passed to Section 40 and that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him.

You will know that our sole reason for examining reports of UFO sightings is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. The Belgium authorities have indicated that they did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat, and because they occurred over the central part of Belgium. I should add that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators, and does not occur automatically.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Section 40



Recycled Paper

We subsequently became aware of these sightings through the UFO literature and through approaches from members of the public such as **Section 40**

Section 40 On the basis of the information now available our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that they would not have been concerned with these UFO reports, and that they saw no reason why the Belgians should have notified any UK authorities. I am sure it goes without saying, however, that any unauthorised penetration of the UK Air Defence Region would be detected by our Air Defenders, and dealt with as appropriate.

It is clear to me from the papers I have seen that the position has been explained in great detail to **Section 40**. I am aware of one television programme on the subject, a Central TV production to be shown on 18 October. The MOD desk officer responsible for UFOs was interviewed for this programme and was able to set out the MOD's policy on UFOs.

I hope this has explained the situation satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Rifkind

Malcolm Rifkind

M2APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Sir Teddy Taylor MP.
2. It is possible that this Parliamentary Enquiry was prompted by the document that each MP received on May 23 from a UFO lobby group, as notified to Ministers in our D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 10 May 1994.
3. Sir Teddy Taylor mentions the involvement of an EC Committee; this is a reference to a report considered by the European Parliament's Energy, Research and Technology Committee last year; some of the Committee's members had wanted a study carried out into UFO reports, but this proposal was not accepted. Sir Teddy Taylor raised a PQ about this with the Department of Trade and Industry last year.

Section 40


Sec(AS)2

Section 40


14 June 1994

D/US of S RMC 6382

Thank you for your letter of 26 May, in which you asked about UFOs.

I should explain first of all that although the Ministry of Defence does receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that there is, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. We believe that explanations could be found for most of them, but do accept that there will always be a few sightings that appear to defy explanation. We are open-minded on these.

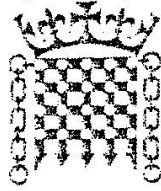
We are, of course, aware of some of the more exotic stories that circulate about UFOs, but most of the reports that we get refer to little more than a vague light or shape in the sky. We are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life, and we are not covering up any information on this subject.

I hope this is helpful, and has explained the position.

THE VISCOUNT CRANBORNE

Sir Teddy Taylor MP

20. Dec 75
Sir Teddy Taylor M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



US of S

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, QC., MP.,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

26 May 1994

Dear Malcolm,

There seems to be an increase in the number of people writing about flying saucers and alleging that there is a great issue here which the Government is keeping quiet about.

It is not something which worries me personally but I sometimes wonder if in fact there have been genuine reports about UFOs. I know that there was an E.C. Committee that wanted to look into the whole issue but I think that this would be an error because we would inevitably have a mountain of UFOs in consequence. Is there really an issue here at all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teddy".

X

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

8 Jun 94

PS/Minister(AF)

Copy to:
 APS/S of S
 APS/US of S
 PS/CAS
 DA Brussels

BELGIAN UFOS

Reference: D/MIN(AF)/94/94 dated 6 Jun 94

1. Thank you for your Minute at Reference.
2. The quote attributed to Colonel DeBrouwers is correct, although it should be noted that he was not the Belgian CAS but the Chief of Operations in the Belgian Air Staff.
3. The quotation was made at a press conference dealing with the wave of UFO sightings reported over Belgium in 1989/90, particularly on 30/31 March 1990, and was simply stating the facts as known. We understand informally that although it is possible that the radar returns were spurious, the Belgians do not consider that to be the case, and believe that a craft of some sort was involved.
4. Given that the Belgians found no evidence of any threat, when media coverage of these UFO sightings became too intrusive they decided to pass all the information to a civilian research group, and not to answer any further questions on the subject. The sightings remain unexplained, and the Belgians remain open-minded as to what occurred.
5. In the absence of any identified threat, and given that the sightings did not occur close to the UK Air Defence Region, the Belgians saw no requirement to notify UK Air Defence authorities of these events. They have confirmed this in writing (copy attached). Our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that under these circumstances there would have been no reason for the Belgians to have informed them of the sightings.
6. Given the formal Belgian position, and our clearly stated policy that our sole reason for examining UFO reports is to ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the defence of the UK, I believe that we should maintain our line on these sightings. They are a matter for the Belgian government, not for us.

Section 40

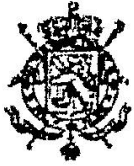
pp

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

J U. UZ 37
N° VSRP 574.

FORCES ARMEES



ETAT-MAJOR GENERAL
Etat-Major de la Force Aérienne
Section Relations Publiques

Quartier Reine Elisabeth
Rue d'Evere - 1140 BRUXELLES

Tél. Section 40
Fax. Section 40

Reference: Your D/Sec (AS) 12/3 dated 12 November 1993

Dear Sir,

Your letter in reference concerning unusual sightings over Belgium was received, through the office of Group Captain Section 40 on 25 January 1994.

Relating to your questions I can confirm that 2 F-16 have been scrambled on 30 March 1990, as a reaction to both visual and radar observations. The scramble was co-ordinated with and authorised by the Sector Commander of the NATO Air Defence System.

Reports to other agencies or adjacent countries have not been made since the events took place in the central part of Belgium and no presumed activities of any hostile or aggressive nature were registred.

A press conference on the findings of the radar observations has been given in July 1990. At a later stage, since no more additional military interventions took place and with the intend to contain the growing aggressiveness of the media, the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the General Staff decided on an information stop on the subject.

I hope that the above information will be helpful to answer the question on the non-involvement of the UK Air Defence System.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Lieutenant-Colonel
Chief Public Affairs

Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2 a, Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
UNITED KINGDOM