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4a Sec 40

Section 40

As I believe you know [redacted] intended to discuss that (along with the Hill Norton letter) with you today; he is however side

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I have now received advice on the questions posed by Minister(AF) from DA Brussels, Gp Capt [redacted]

The quote attributed to Colonel DeBrouwer is correct, and was made at a press conference dealing with the wave of sightings. He was not, however, the Belgian CAS, but Chief of Operations in the Belgian Air Staff.

Gp Capt [redacted] has spoken to DeBrouwer, Lt Col [redacted] (an expert on the sightings, and the one who wrote to me on the subject) and the pilots who were involved in trying to intercept the object. The consensus is that they think it very unlikely that the radar returns were spurious. They do believe that there was a craft of some sort involved, and they have no explanation.

Media pressure led to the Belgians refusing to answer any further questions; all information was passed to the civilian group SOBEPS.

I have attached a draft response to PS/Minister(AF), which answers the specific questions posed, and deploys the basic lines about there being no indication of any hostile activity, and about the distance from the UK Air Defence Region. Clearly we will have to be very careful about suggesting to anybody that the radar returns might have been spurious. We might need to consider the Hill-Norton background note in the light of this.

Section 40



MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

6 June 1994

Sec(AS)2 ✓

Copy to:

PS/CAS  
DA Brussels - fax

BELGIAN UFOs

You have kindly provided draft replies on a number of occasions in response to letters from a **Section 40** (forwarded through Sir Keith Speed). I attach (for you only) the PE folder for convenience.

2. Mr Hanley has received the attached handout about UFOs (it has been sent to all MPs). You will see that on page 1 the handout prays in aid a statement alleged to have been made by the Belgian CAS about the sightings over Belgium between December 1989 and April 1990.

3. The Minister would be grateful if you could investigate whether the quote ascribed to the Belgian CAS is accurate, and if so what his purpose was in saying this.

**Section 40**

PS/Minister(AF)

**Section 40**



Recycled Paper



X

Sent to all mbs



# ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

Section 40

## ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, Section 40

Operation Right to Know - joint UK/USA  
May 23rd 1994 End UFO Secrecy Protest

Noon UK - The Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London  
Noon USA - The Pentagon, Washington DC  
2:00pm UK - The House of Commons, London

Can you check the veracity of the Belgian cut's quote

'We call on the military in the United States and Britain to tell the truth about UFOs. And we call on the US Congress and the British Parliament to go after the truth.'

Circulation - hand delivery to MOD Buildings and House of Commons ( every UK member of Parliament ) on May 23rd. To all UK National Press, Radio and TV representatives.

### ARE YOU AWARE

**That** in excess of 3500 documented reports from military and civilian pilots world wide, have confirmed the operation in the Earths atmosphere of intelligently guided UFOs, of a nature and technology clearly non-human.

**That** UFOs have now left over 4000 documented landing traces world wide, and in addition have generated hundreds of reports of electromagnetic interference of car engines, radios and other electrical devices.

**That** on the night 30th/31st March 1990, the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F16 interceptors in response to radar images of a UFO and visual observations of the UFO reported by civilians and confirmed by the Police, This documented interception of a purposely operated structured UFO was one of several such encounters which occurred over Belgium between December 1989 and April 1990, On July 11th 1990, Colonel W DeBrouwer, Chief of the Belgian Air Staff made this statement:

"On the night 30th and 31st March, we had an observation on the radar and in addition a visual observation on the ground by the Police - What the pilots detected was well outside the normal flying envelope of an aeroplane. Sometimes they had what we call lock-ons, which gave a parameters varying from speeds between 150 knots to 990 knots, an acceleration which occurred in a few seconds. The speeds would be impossible to tolerate for a human being, that's the first point. The second point is, the visual observations always describe a system, a machine, which hangs and hovers above the surface at quite a low altitude without making any noise. Now with the current technology that would be impossible"

And in the European Parliament document 'Report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology - On the proposal to set up a European centre for sightings of unidentified flying objects' (DOC EN/RR/241/241196) Rapporteur Mr Tullio Regge had this to say in his paragraph titled 'Military Secrets' (Page 5)

"However, the Belgium Air Force says that the Stealth Bomber was not involved in the spate of sightings which have taken place in Belgium"



On page 7 he also had this to say:

"It is not the job of Parliament to pass judgement on UFOs. on the other hand. Parliament must take prompt steps to ensure that the information imparted to the public is correct"

**That** in Mexico City on July 11th 1991. during the total eclipse of the sun. tens of thousands of witnesses observed a UFO. and 17 independently operated camcorders. at varying locations. recorded the event for a total of 25 minutes. Upon enhancement each camcorder had recorded the same silver disc-shaped object. At a time when all eyes would be focused on the sky. this was undoubtedly an attempt to raise human awareness to the reality of the UFO.

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Then  
why  
don't they  
land  
at  
Heathrow?

**That** there are over 200 primary and secondary witnesses to the retrieval of a craft evidently of non-human origin. from the New Mexico desert. near Roswell. in 1947. Many of these witnesses gave testimony to having seen alien bodies recovered from the crash site. Because many new witnesses are coming forward. the General Accounting Office has recently launched a full investigation. GAO spokeswoman. Laura Kopleson said Congress Investigator Rep. Steven Schiff has asked the GAO

"to see if there is any evidence that information regarding UFOs had been suppressed." following the Roswell incident.

**That** documentation exists on a world wide phenomenon commonly known as 'animal mutilations' involving the surgical removal of genetically relevant tissues. Veterinary surgeons have confirmed that the procedures. carried out in the fields. are un-reproducible by any known technology. Farmers and ranchers have testified to the existence of UFOs over fields where such incidents have occurred. In the USA it is known that investigations into these on-going UFO animal interactions have been conducted by the FBI and the Governor of Colorado has spoken publicly and officially on the matter.

These six points constitute only a small fraction of the currently available evidence, which wholly suggests the presence of alien beings.

The public have a right to know the truth about the UFO/Alien reality.  
The public now have a right to be made aware of this truth through their representatives.

It is now time to act.

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AAC AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Contact International (UK). Andover Unexplained Phenomena Investigation Network. South Wales UFO Group. Mansfield UFO Group. The Organisation for Scientific Research into Peripheral Information. Centre for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence - Nottingham & Yorkshire.

AAC/ORTK - UK Contact **Section 40**



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

8 Jun 94

APS/S of S

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

LETTER FROM LORD HILL-NORTON ON UFOS

References:

- A. MO 9/18 dated 23 May 94
- B. D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 10 May 94

1. At Reference A you asked for advice on the letter from Lord Hill-Norton concerning UFO sightings over Belgium, together with a draft reply.

2. Lord Hill-Norton is raising concerns put to him by **Section 40** **Section 40** a UFO researcher who is very well known to this division. **Section 40** first approached us in January 1993, and my staff have now written ten letters to him. I have attached (NOTAL) copies of this correspondence, together with copies of the three Parliamentary Enquiries that have been generated by **Section 40** **Section 40** approaches to Sir Keith Speed MP. I think it is clear that although we have done our best to answer all **Section 40** questions, the correspondence had reached the point where nothing could usefully be added.

3. A detailed summary of the case is set out in D/MIN(AF)/94/94 dated 14 March 1994; essentially, a wave of UFO sightings was reported over Belgium on 30/31 March 1990. As well as visual sightings, some radar returns were noted, and as a result the Belgians decided to launch two of their aircraft to investigate. These aircraft did attain some radar lock-ons. As with the returns recorded by ground based radar, this does not necessarily mean that any structured craft was present, although we understand, informally, that the view of the Belgian Air Force is that a craft of some sort was involved and that they maintain an open mind on the sightings, which remain unexplained.

4. The key point in all this is that the MOD's only role as far as UFOs are concerned is to ascertain whether there is evidence of any threat to the defence of the UK. The Belgians have confirmed to us in writing that they found no evidence of any threat, and that as a result they saw no requirement to inform any other countries or agencies. Given this, and given that these sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, the whole question goes beyond our remit.

5. Notwithstanding Lord Hill-Norton's comments, it is not the case that the UK would necessarily be informed of unidentified



returns picked up on NADGE radars in Belgium. Only if radar operators believed there was evidence that a unidentified craft was moving towards the UK would such action be taken.

6. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in UFOs, and has approached the Department on this subject before, in 1985, when he wrote to the then S of S about a well-known UFO sighting. He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party UFO Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject.

7. **Section 40** is writing a book on these Belgian UFO sightings, and is doubtless keen to build up a large file of correspondence to be used as part of this enterprise.

8. We believe that Lord Hill-Norton's comments about a public uproar seriously overstate any likely reaction. The Belgian sightings are well-known among UFO researchers, and while they are likely to be mentioned in any documentary on UFOs, they are, effectively, old news. Lord Hill-Norton mentioned the demonstration against perceived government secrecy about UFOs, held outside Main Building and Parliament on 23 May (notified to Ministers at Reference B). This was a low key affair; there appeared to be only around a dozen protesters, and there was little media coverage of the event. Although every MP was given a document, which among other points mentioned the Belgian sightings, we have only received one Parliamentary Enquiry since then, and it is not clear whether this was prompted by the lobbying. I should add that in informal contacts with my staff a number of UFO groups and researchers have disassociated themselves from the group which arranged the demonstration.

9. Lord Hill-Norton also mentions two television programmes on the subject. One of these is a Central TV production, due to be shown on ITV on 18 October. The desk officer responsible for UFO matters was interviewed for this programme, and was able to set out the MOD's policy with regard to UFOs. The Belgian sightings were briefly raised during the interview. We understand that Lord Hill-Norton has also given an interview. We cannot positively identify the second programme, but it may be either the James Whale show (whose recent request for an MOD representative to appear in an item on UFOs was declined), or a programme in LWT's Strange but True series.

10. The attached draft reply is self-explanatory, and has been cleared with D Air Def's staff. Given Lord Hill-Norton's familiarity with our policy on UFOs and with the specifics of this particular exchange of correspondence, I have kept the draft reply short, and avoided going into detail over points which have already been explained in previous letters.

**Section 40**

Sec (AS) 2

**Section 40**



DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

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

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 Belgian 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.

We subsequently became aware of these sightings through the UFO literature and through approaches from members of the public such as **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**, and I share the view that there is nothing further to be said on the subject.

I hope that this has explained the position.

~~Head of Sec (AS)~~

Section 40

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Section 40

I have attached the Hill - Norton letter:

(I've negotiated a 24 hour extension to the deadline) together with the advice to Min (AF) re the Belgian position on these <sup>sightings</sup>.

Section 40 is ill, and will not be in today, but he cleared both drafts yesterday, and made a couple of abridged points on the phone this morning, which I've incorporated.

Happy to discuss further as necessary.

Section 40



MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

CLASSIFICATION: *ulc*

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: *MO 9/18*

*Head of Sec (As)*

*UFOs*

*Please produce a first draft, after consulting DHO/Def AS 2 as necessary, & let me see it, with all the relevant papers.*

*I take a personal interest in this myself but we could give the reply as per the correspondence and be based on a technical basis as I recall. I hope I am mistaken. I have checked a lot.*

Section 40

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Section 40

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 *Lord Hill-Norton* dated *17 May 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 *7 June 94*. In addition to the hard copy, drafts should, where possible, be prepared on MOAST and sent by electronic mail to "SofS\_PA2".

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

- .....
- .....
- ..... *24 May 1994* ..... *520* .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

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 *Section 40*

Date: *23/5/94*

*Section 40*

APS/S of S

*Section 40*

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES



Prerogative Papers  
please

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Section 40

Section 40

PERSONAL

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW14 2HB

17 May 1994

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been approached by a Section 40 who has asked me to help him to obtain a satisfactory response from your Ministry to an enquiry he initiated a year or more ago. I enclose a copy of his letter to me dated 16 March 1994, which sets out his request and his complaint. This is a small part of a quite lengthy correspondence.

He had earlier approached his Member, Sir Keith Speed, and I have seen several letters which have been exchanged between Sir Keith and Mr Hanley and also your officials. These letters do not answer Section 40 enquiries, and he finds them unsatisfactory. I am bound to say that I share that view, in the light of all the circumstances.

There is no need for me to rehearse all that has already been written in these exchanges. In short, detections were made by three NADGE radars in Germany and Belgium in March 1990, air defence aircraft of the Belgian Air Force were scrambled to intercept but although the objects were detected and held on the radar of these aircraft as well, no identification, or visual contact was made. There is no dispute about these facts, which have been confirmed by the Belgian Minister of Defence in public statements, repeated in writing to Section 40. I have advised Section 40 that, unless the procedure has been changed since I was Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it is inconceivable that the UK would not be informed (probably automatically) of a possibly hostile, certain unidentified, detection by NADGE radars.

Section 40 has been brushed off with the standard MOD response to all reports (of which I have seen a great many) of UFO activity, which briefly put amount to "..... no threat was perceived to the UK so no notice was taken or record made of the incident .....". In this instance this has, in separate letters, been complicated by written statements by your Ministry that no report of the Belgian detections was ever received in the UK.

Section 40 asks, reasonably enough, "If, as Ministers assert, they had no knowledge of the Belgian events how could their Air Defence experts possibly conclude that the phenomenon did not constitute a threat, as they had no knowledge of it?"



I fear that **Section 40** may well make a damaging public uproar about all this. He has already had a petition to the European Parliament upheld, and his dossier has been formally remitted to the relevant Euro Committee. A public demarche, so he tells me, is planned for the MOD, the House of Commons, and simultaneously at the Pentagon on 23 May. At least two television programmes in this country will carry his story within the next few months, and this may well not be the end of it.

I strongly recommend that you should take a personal interest in having the whole matter re-examined, so that a more satisfactory and convincing reply may be given to **Section 40** question, before the matter gets out of hand.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ari-Mueller*



Section 40

16th March 1994.

Dear Admiral Lord Hill-Norton

I have been informed of the following facts in a letter dated 26th May 1993 from Leo Delcroix the Belgian Minister of Defence.

That on the 15th and 16th December 1989, radar detections were made by Semmerzeke (Belgium) and Vedem (Germany) of flying objects over Eupen in Eastern Belgium.

On the night of 30/31st March 1990, detections were made by Semmerzeke and Glons CRC (NADGE) radars of the Belgian Air Force, and Vedem in Germany, of an apparent airborne intruder in the vicinity of Brussels in Belgium. Aircraft of QRA J Wing of the Belgian Air Force were involved. These detections followed visual observations by many thousands of witnesses, of whom 75 were members of the Belgian Gendarmerie.

A report was received dated 15th August 1993. It was made by Major **Section 40** VS/3 Ctl-Met 1 of the Belgian Air Force. It states that the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F-16 interceptors (Nos AL 17 and AL 23) from the base at Bevekom.

These fighters were vectored to their targets by Glons CRC NADGE radar. This incident caused a major security alert. It lasted for over 1 hour. At 22h 39m an interception occurred during which radar 'lock-on' was achieved by both aircraft. This lasted for 45.9 secs.

At this time the target was travelling on a Westerly heading towards UK airspace at speeds in excess of 1000 knots.

The Belgian Minister of Defence at that time Guy Coeme, stated in the Belgian Parliament on the 21st December 1989 that; - 'All hypotheses can be excluded, the Minister could not tell what these flying objects were.'

A report has been submitted to the European Parliament for an enquiry into these incidents. It is No 990/93. It has been accepted for consideration by the Petitions Committee.

NATO and the Belgian agencies have provided conclusive proof of these detections. How is it that I was informed by **Section 40** of the Ministry of Defence in a Letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 13th October 1993, that there is no record in the UK of this incident and, despite the track having come to within six minutes of Kent, it could not therefore have been considered a threat to the security of the UK?

Your comments would be appreciated

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



E122/1



Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Copy to: Sec(As)2

Section 40

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)  
(Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)94/94

21<sup>st</sup> April 1994

*Sir Keith,*

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40 of Section 40

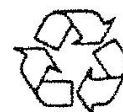
The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

In the circumstances, I am afraid that there is little else that I can say in this subject.

*I really believe this correspondence should end.*

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



Recycled Paper



From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd April, 1994

Dear Jeremy,

I enclose a further letter from **Section 40** regarding the UFO sightings declared over Belgium some 4½ years ago. Could you please answer the question in his last paragraph.

Yours sincerely,  
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

**Section 40**

*K* Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,  
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB

*ACKNOWLEDGED 6/4*

*PE FL 94/94  
Sec (As) 2*

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JL.

Adw  
✓ 2-4-94

Section 40

23rd March 1994.

Dear Sir Keith

Thank you for your prompt reply and the enclosed letter D/MIN(AF)/94/94 from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

The Minister makes an itemised reply of the 9 letters sent to his Department. He does not comment that his ministry were evasive on the issue of radar detection. Five letters were written before his Department would admit that radar would only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance. I would suggest that for your interest, you request copies of replies sent to me by the Ministry and form your own conclusions. On the question of false radar signals, the Ministers Department confirmed (D/Sec(AS)12/3 29th September 1993) that skilled radar operatives could easily distinguish between true radar signals and false ones.

Taking both of these facts into account, it would seem that detections by skilled MADGE radar operatives at Semerzeke (Belgium), Glons CRC (Belgium), and Vedem (Germany) were definite detections of objects of opacity and substance.

The Minister states that the Belgians did not consider these sightings as posing any sort of a threat. This is not commensurate with the facts. The Belgian Minister of Defence confirmed Belgian Air Force radar detections, by admitting the presence of flying objects over Liege (Leo Delcroix 9/IM-RT/16 26th May 1993) and stating that 'all hypotheses could be excluded, the Minister could not tell what these flying objects were.' The ground rules for the Belgian Air Force are quite clear. Visual sightings by individuals, of intrusions into Belgian air space must be confirmed by the State Police. These must be confirmed and coordinated by



Belgian radar. If positive radar detections are not identified, the detection is classified as hostile. The Belgian Air Force is alerted.

I can assure the Minister, that two fully armed F-16 interceptor aircraft, vectored to their targets by positive detections of three main NADGE radar stations, achieving radar 'lock-on' on fifteen occasions over a period of an hour, did indeed constitute a major security threat. It was considered so by the Belgian armed forces.

The Ministers comment that the Belgians did not notify any other countries of these detections would again appear to be wrong. Apart from the fact that German radar at Vedem had also registered these phenomenon, I understand from a NATO source that under the NADGE defensive system, it would have been inconceivable that UK radar would not have been advised of these detections.

Bearing in mind the discrepancies in the Ministers comments, I would once again, for the third time, reiterate the simple question that the Minister and his Department still continue to evade:- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATO AND BELGIAN DETECTIONS OF THIS PHENOMENA, IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30-31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY, AT 22h 39m ON THE 30TH MARCH 1990, WITH THIS PHENOMENON ONLY SIX MINUTES FROM UK AIR SPACE, DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

\*Note. I wrote to the Belgian Embassy one year ago. On their advice I contacted the Belgian Air Force. They supplied me with all the information that I have.



Section 40 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

*Copy to Sec (As) 2*

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)94/94

21<sup>st</sup> April 1994

*Sir Keith,*

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40**.

The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

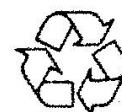
In the circumstances, I am afraid that there is little else that I can say in this subject.

*I really believe this correspondence should end.*

*Quite right!*

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



Recycled Paper





PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

D/US of S/RMC 5690

22 April 1994

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** **Section 40** had expressed some concerns about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that our involvement with this subject is limited; while we do receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

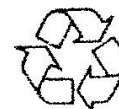
It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, weather balloons, satellites in orbit or satellite debris entering the atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. We accept, however, that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these.

We are aware from UFO literature and from the media of some of the claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life. I hope this is helpful, and has explained our position.

*Yours ever,  
Robert*

The Viscount Cranborne

David Faber Esq MP



Recycled Paper

M8APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the latest letter from Sir Keith Speed MP.

2. Just as was the case with our own correspondence with **Section 40** I fear this correspondence is now going round in circles. We understand that **Section 40** **Section 40** is writing a book on these Belgian UFO sightings; doubtless the exchanges of correspondence provide a useful way to fill some space.

3. I have attached, for your information, an exchange of correspondence that we had with the Belgians on this subject.

**Section 40**

15 April 1994

Sec(AS)2

**Section 40**



D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 2 April, enclosing a further letter from your constituent Section 40

The Belgian authorities have advised that since the sightings took place in the central part of Belgium and there was no evidence of any threat, reports to other countries were not made. Our own Air Defence experts have also confirmed that they do not regard these Belgian UFO sightings as having posed any sort of threat to the United Kingdom.

I hope this has explained the position.

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

FORCES ARMEES

N° VSRP 511



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

Quartier Reine Elisabeth  
Rue d'Evere - 1140 BRUXELLES

Tél.: Section 40  
Fax: [redacted]

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



FROM: Section 40 SECRETARIAT (All Staff), Room Section 40



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Col Section 40  
Defence Attaché  
British Embassy  
Rue d'Arlon 85  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

12 November 1993

Dear Col Section 40,

I understand that during 1989 and 1990 there was a wave of sightings of unusual objects in the sky over Belgium. I have also been told that as a result of a wave of sightings on 30/31 March 1990, F-16 aircraft were scrambled and vectored towards the area concerned. Apparently there were a number of strange radar returns, involving ground-based radar and radar systems on the F-16s.

We have received a number of letters about this, and although our basic position is that this is a matter for the Belgian authorities, we have been drawn into a debate about whether there was a potential threat to the UK, and whether or not the Belgians would have notified UK Air Defenders about what was happening in their airspace.

I would be grateful if you could give me some indication of the official Belgian position on this matter, together with any other background information that you may have.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40



Recycled Paper

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2nd April, 1994

Dear Jeremy,

I enclose a further letter from **Section 40** regarding the UFO sightings declared over Belgium some 4½ years ago. Could you please answer the question in his last paragraph.

Yours sincerely,  
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

**Section 40**

*KS*  
Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,  
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB

*Acknowledged 6/4*

*PE FL 94/94  
Sec (As) 2*

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.



Ack  
 ✓ 2-4-94

Section 40

23rd March 1994.

Dear Sir Keith

Thank you for your prompt reply and the enclosed letter D/MIN(AF)/94/94 from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

The Minister makes an itemised reply of the 9 letters sent to his Department. He does not comment that his ministry were evasive on the issue of radar detection. Five letters were written before his Department would admit that radar would only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance. I would suggest that for your interest, you request copies of replies sent to me by the Ministry and form your own conclusions. On the question of false radar signals, the Ministers Department confirmed (D/Sec(AS)12/3 29th September 1993) that skilled radar operatives could easily distinguish between true radar signals and false ones.

Taking both of these facts into account, it would seem that detections by skilled NADGE radar operatives at Semerzeke (Belgium), Glons CRC (Belgium), and Vedem (Germany) were definite detections of objects of opacity and substance.

The Minister states that the Belgians did not consider these sightings as posing any sort of a threat. This is not commensurate with the facts. The Belgian Minister of Defence confirmed Belgian Air Force radar detections, by admitting the presence of flying objects over Liege (Leo Delcroix 9/IM/RT/16 26th May 1993) and stating that 'all hypotheses could be excluded, the Minister could not tell what these flying objects were.' The ground rules for the Belgian Air Force are quite clear. Visual sightings by individuals, of intrusions into Belgian air space must be confirmed by the State Police. These must be confirmed and coordinated by

Belgian radar. If positive radar detections are not identified, the detection is classified as hostile. The Belgian Air Force is alerted.

I can assure the Minister, that two fully armed F-16 interceptor aircraft, vectored to their targets by positive detections of three main NADGE radar stations, achieving radar 'lock-on' on fifteen occasions over a period of an hour, did indeed constitute a major security threat. It was considered so by the Belgian armed forces.

The Ministers comment that the Belgians did not notify any other countries of these detections would again appear to be wrong. Apart from the fact that German radar at Vedem had also registered these phenomenon, I understand from a NATO source that under the NADGE defensive system, it would have been inconceivable that UK radar would not have been advised of these detections.

Bearing in mind the discrepancies in the Ministers comments, I would once again, for the third time, reiterate the simple question that the Minister and his Department still continue to evade:- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATO AND BELGIAN DETECTIONS OF THIS PHENOMENA, IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30/31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY, AT 22h 39m ON THE 30TH MARCH 1990, WITH THIS PHENOMENON ONLY SIX MINUTES FROM UK AIR SPACE, DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

\*Note. I wrote to the Belgian Embassy one year ago. On their advice I contacted the Belgian Air Force. They supplied me with all the information that I have.



M2

APS/US of S

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

Section 40  
[Redacted]

15 April 1994

Sec(AS)2  
Section 40  
[Redacted]

D/US of S/RMC 5690

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40** had expressed

some concerns about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I should explain first of all that our involvement with this subject is limited; while we do receive some reports of UFO sightings, our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, 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. However, we believe that explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, weather balloons, satellites in orbit or satellite debris entering the atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. We accept, however, that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these.

We are aware from UFO literature and from the media of some of the claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

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

The Viscount Cranborne

David Faber MP



DAVID FABER MP

FC: Sec(LAS) /



ENCLOSURE  
1

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

X

24th March 1994

Dear Robert

RE: Section 40

Section 40

I have received the enclosed letter from my constituent, Section 40 who has recently joined the British Unidentified Flying Research Association.

He believes in extra-terrestrials and is particularly concerned about a Sunday newspaper report of an incident in Dartford where a woman was abducted and raped allegedly by such creatures.

Section 40 wishes to know the Government's position and feels that the UFO issue should be debated in Parliament to allay any fears the public may have.

I would be most grateful for your authoritative response to my constituent's concerns.

Yours ever

David

Viscount Cranborne  
PUSS  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Section 40

23 February 1994

Dear Mr Faber

May I begin by belatedly congratulating you on your success on becoming Westbury's MP in the last General Election.

I am very much interested in the ever increasing reports of local, national and international sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects(UFOs). So much so that I recently became a member of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association(BUFORA) to learn more.

I personally believe that extra-terrestrials (ufonauts) do visit Earth, for various reasons, make contact and abductions take place. Recent revelations in a Sunday newspaper regarding the abduction, terrifying abuse and rape of a women from Dartford, Kent (my neighbouring home town) has finally caused me to write and ask whether this topical and emotional subject is likely to be debated in the House of Commons? This would go some way to allay the fears of the general public to hear that this disturbing phenomenon is being taken seriously and fully investigated by the appropriate authorities. I recall that the House of Lords debated UFOs many years ago.

It is understood that Ministry of Defence experts are responsible for investigating UFO sightings and abductions. I appreciate that this subject very much impacts upon national security and therefore any positive findings are likely to be shrouded in secrecy.

I would appreciate your assistance in raising my views with fellow members of the House and in obtaining the official view on the UFO phenomenon.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

David Faber MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1



→ Sec(AS)2



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 5649

// April 1994

*Dear Roger,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 March, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** had raised a number of points about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

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

We are aware from UFO literature of some of the bizarre claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

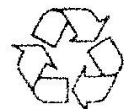
Most of the points that your constituent raises are of course matters for the Americans. It would not be proper for me to comment on the official US position, although I suspect it is similar to our own.

I hope this is helpful.

*Yours ever,*  
*Robert*

The Viscount Cranborne

The Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP



Recycled Paper

M2APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from the Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman MP.
2. We are not aware of the television programme that **Section 40** mentions, but there are many bizarre claims made about the US government's role in relation to the UFO phenomenon. There are a number of colourful characters involved in UFO research, some of whom are scientists, and some of whom claim to have links with the intelligence community.

**Section 40**  


Sec(AS)2

**Section 40**  


30 March 1994



D/US of S/RMC 5649

Thank you for your letter of 21 March, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40** had raised a number of points about the UFO controversy, and you asked for my comments.

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

We are aware from UFO literature of some of the bizarre claims that have been made on this subject, but I can assure you that we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Most of the points that your constituent raises are of course matters for the Americans. It would not be proper for me to comment on the official US position, although I suspect it is similar to our own.

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

The Rt. Hon. Roger Freeman MP

THE RT. HON. ROGER FREEMAN M.P. FOR KETTERING



PE: See (25)

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Section 40

Viscount Cranborne  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

15.  
March 21st, 1994  
Ref: RNF/11,184

Dear Robert,

Section 40

I enclose a recent letter which I have received from my constituent, Section 40 about unidentified flying objects.

Before I respond, I would much appreciate your kind advice and comments.

Yours ever,

Roger Freeman, MP

Enc.

29 March 1994  
Ack



14.3.94.

17 MAR 1994

Section 40

ROGER FREEMAN. M.P. KETTERING.

Section 40

No reply  
?

Dear Sir.

I would like your comments on the following?  
 On January 14<sup>th</sup> a documentary entitled "UFO SENSATION" was shown by BBC 2, from 2pm and lasting fifty five minutes, based upon American classified material released at a thirty year period much involving American Air Force! This film was presented by Americans from CIA officials, nuclear physicists, and scientific personalities not UFO amateurs, and detailed facts kept from the American public and the Planet at large - showing that Planet Earth has been for about fifty years visited by beings from other galaxies - the Americans having at least five space ships in their possession, - on which no doubt they have developed their spy plane - 'Stealth' which is at present causing devastation in weather patterns all over Planet Earth. The story that it is painted with a special paint which makes it invisible to RADAR is pathetic.

Can you answer me as to why, neither your Party - Labour or Liberal have asked one question in the so-called Motions of Parliaments, about this matter - or is like the other revelations now being the light of day - 'Against the Public Interest'?

Since we have to bear the catastrophic results of these in power who they think have a divine right to lie to us, then as an ordinary citizen of Pathetic Britain - I am entitled to an answer?

Yours faithfully

Section 40





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES  
D/MIN(AF)/94/94

14<sup>th</sup> March 1994

COPY TO **Section 40**

*De Kitter,*

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Section 40** first letter was forwarded to us in January 1993. He asked what we knew about a wave of UFO sightings that had occurred over Belgium in late 1989 and early 1990. My official explained that our involvement with the subject of UFOs is very limited, our only interest being to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. They also pointed out that this was, of course, a matter for the Belgians and not for us. In an attempt to be as helpful as possible, it was suggested that **Section 40** contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of UFO societies who were actively researching these UFO sightings.

Over the next few months **Section 40** wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. **Section 40** continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. **Section 40** expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. **Section 40** asked whether the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.



Recycled Paper





I can assure you that every effort was made to be as helpful as possible to **Section 40** [REDACTED]. However, by the time he wrote his tenth letter in December 1993 it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received.

Clearly these sightings were very interesting for UFO researchers. However, given that there was no evidence of any threat, and given that the sightings occurred outside the UK this is not a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

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

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



M5APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Sir Keith Speed MP.

2. Although the draft reply provides, as was requested, a synopsis of our dealings with **Section 40** I have attached copies of all the previous correspondence - ten letters, as opposed to nine, as originally advised. I think this makes it abundantly clear that we have done our best to be as helpful as possible to **Section 40**, but that we have long passed the point where there is anything else that could usefully be said to him. I leave it up to you whether or not you pass this correspondence to Sir Keith Speed MP.

**Section 40**

14 March 1994

Sec(AS)2

**Section 40**



D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Section 40** first letter was forwarded to us in January 1993. He asked what we knew about a wave of UFO sightings that had occurred over Belgium in late 1989 and early 1990. My officials explained that our involvement with the subject of UFOs is very limited, our only interest being to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. They also pointed out that this was, of course, a matter for the Belgians and not for us. In an attempt to be as helpful as possible, it was suggested that **Section 40** contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of UFO societies who were actively researching these UFO sightings.

Over the next few months **Section 40** wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. **Section 40** continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. **Section 40** expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. **Section 40** asked whether the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The

fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.

I can assure you that every effort was made to be as helpful as possible to **Section 40**

**Section 40** However, by the time he wrote his tenth letter in December 1993 it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received.

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

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed MP



From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

0068 15

1st March, 1994

Your Ref: D/MIN(AF)/94/94

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 20th February about my constituent **Section 40** and his query on UFO sightings over Belgium. While I appreciate your Department's patience may have run out after 9 letters, I myself would appreciate a synopsis of the replies, since I have no idea, apart from your letter, what your Department's view about this matter is. Perhaps you could let me have such a synopsis as soon as possible, so that I may reply fully to my constituent.

You refer to my letter of 31st January, this was of course a follow up to my original letter of 16th November, which apparently went astray in your Department.

Yours sincerely,  
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

  
Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP, **Acknowledged 3/3**  
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB

PE FL 94/94  
SAC ASZ

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES  
D/MIN(AF)/94/94

14<sup>th</sup> March 1994

COPY TO **SEC (AS) 2**

*Dear Kitt,*

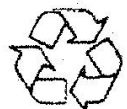
Thank you for your letter of 1 March, in which you requested a synopsis of the correspondence between my Department and your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40**

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Over the next few months **Section 40** wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the UFO phenomenon, and again, my officials provided him with full and helpful answers to all his questions. **Section 40** continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the UFO sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. My officials explained that there are a number of circumstances such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. **Section 40**

**Section 40** expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. **Section 40** asked whether the Belgians informed us about these UFO sightings, and if not, why not. The fact is that the Belgians did not regard these UFO sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.



Recycled Paper





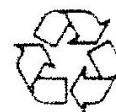
I can assure you that every effort was made to be as helpful as possible to **Section 40** ██████████. However, by the time he wrote his tenth letter in December 1993 it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received.

Clearly these sightings were very interesting for UFO researchers. However, given that there was no evidence of any threat, and given that the sightings occurred outside the UK this is not a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

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

JEREMY HANLEY MP

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

0062 11

1st March, 1994

Your Ref: D/MIN(AF)/94/94


Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 20th February about my constituent **Section 40**, and his query on UFO sightings over Belgium. While I appreciate your Department's patience may have run out after 9 letters, I myself would appreciate a synopsis of the replies, since I have no idea, apart from your letter, what your Department's view about this matter is. Perhaps you could let me have such a synopsis as soon as possible, so that I may reply fully to my constituent.

You refer to my letter of 31st January, this was of course a follow up to my original letter of 16th November, which apparently went astray in your Department.

Yours sincerely,  
dictated by Sir Keith and signed in his absence

**Section 40**

 Keith Speed

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,  
Minister of State for the Armed Forces,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB

PG FL 94/94  
SEC AS 2

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

20<sup>th</sup> February 1994

Copy to:  
Sec(AS)2

*Sir Keith,*

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing  
correspondence from your constituent **Section 40**  
**Section 40** **Section 40** had asked  
about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990,  
and you asked for my views on this.

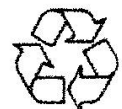
My officials have already exchanged a number of letters  
with **Section 40** on this subject over the past year, and wrote  
most recently to him on 9 December 1993. There really is little  
that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware that  
there were some unusual occurrences, as your constituent says,  
this is a matter for the Belgians and not for us. There is no  
evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence  
of the UK.

*Furthermore - 9 letters should be enough.*

*Yours ever,*

JEREMY HANLEY

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



Recycled Paper

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

17/2/94



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January, 1994.

006772

Dear Private Secretary,  
radar detections and airborne interceptions in 1990.

Sir Keith wrote to Mr Hanley on the 16th November sending a copy of a letter he had received from **Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Section 40** **Section 40** is in constant touch with Sir Keith on this matter and annoyed that he has not received a reply yet. Sir Keith requests that an answer is sent as soon as possible please.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Keith Speed

private Secretary to  
Jeremy Hanley Esq., MP.,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall.  
London.  
SW1A 2HB.

Acknowledged 9/2 9/2  
PE 94/94  
Sec (AS)

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.



4 FEB '94 12:41

Letter dated 7th November. c.c. Robert Ramsay, DG, European Parliament. On 30th March, 1990 there was a major security alert over Belgium when interceptor aircraft went after unidentified flying object. Object was heading west towards British air space at speeds in excess of 1000 knots. Wants to know were MoD aware of this, did our armed forces or those of NATO deem there was no security risk, and if so on what premise was this decision made.

16th November, 1993

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your recent letter about airborne interception of unidentified objects over Belgium. The questions you pose are not suitable, for technical reasons, to be tabled, and in any event they cannot be tabled before 25th November. I have, however, written to the Minister at the Ministry of Defence, with a copy of your letter, and as soon as I receive a reply I shall be in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

Keith Speed

**Section 40**

PAGE.002

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

Please reply to:

Strood House,  
Rolvenden, Cranbrook,  
Kent, TN17 6JJ

16th November, 1993

Dear Minister,

**Section 40**

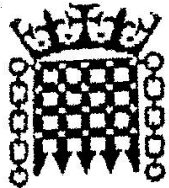
Yours,  
signed for Sir Keith in his absence

**Section 40**

Private Secretary

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,  
The Minister of State for the Armed Forces,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HB

FROM THE RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4/2/94

FOR THE ATTENTION PLEASE OF THE assistant Private Secretary **Section 40**  
from Private Secretary to Sir Keith Speed. Fax **Section 40** (Three pages).

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your telephone call. **Section 40** has sent a number of letters mainly about tabling questions, and I have tried to condense the relevant parts. As you know his original letter was forwarded on the 16th November. Hope this is helpful Thank you

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

~~Please send this out as a PS; treat this as a letter for Sir Keith Speed. As this follows on Sir Keith's original letter of 16 Nov - I don't see how we can find a way to get a prompt response. I would recommend you ask NPS whether they have any idea should answer it right now!~~

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ. Tel. **Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

PAGE.001



Section 40

Section 40

has corresponded with  
at MOD  
D/SEC (AS) 12/3.

Section 40

Section 40

26th December 1993.

Reference: Question to Minister of Defence - CC European Parliamentary  
Petitions Committee.

Dear Sir Keith

I apologise for a degree of persistence.

I specifically requested a question to be tabled in the House because I am not satisfied with the obvious evasions that I am getting from the Ministry of Defence.

It is obvious that any answer from the Minister will be as a direct result of consultation with the Ministry of Defence whose answers are not commensurate with the facts.

I attach uncorrected pages 114/115/116 of a book manuscript that I am writing on the Belgian Phenomena: this is a copy of a letter written on the 6th December 1993 to the Ministry of Defence. \*

Their contradictions form part of this book.  
I trust they will give you some idea of the complexity of the situation.

If the reply given by the Minister is as indicated, I would then request a tabled question as originally sought.

It is essential in my application to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament that I obtain a clear and detailed explanation on the positive NADGE major alert in Belgium and the opinion of the British Ministry of Defence Air Defence Experts that there was no risk to our own national security.

Could you please advise me what the 'technical reasons' are for not raising a question in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

9 December 1993

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December.

I am afraid that there is nothing that can usefully be added to the replies you have already received on the points that you raised.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40



Recycled Paper



Section 40

6th December 1993.

Reference: Your ref D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 26th November.

I note your observation that I am being selective with quotes from your letters. On the contrary, I would suggest that in your last letter, the selectivity is yours.

Allow me to refresh your memory. Whilst you have previously stated all the reasons quoted in your letter to illustrate that a radar return does not necessarily indicate the presence of a structured craft, you have omitted to say that you qualified these reasons at the conclusion of the paragraph by stating (your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3, 18/2/93) *'it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns, and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.'*

As the very first line of your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 29/9/93) states *'I agree that radar will only detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance,'* I can hardly be accused of selectivity, these words are yours and not mine.

The detections made by the NATO Air Defence Ground Environment radars at not one, BUT THREE! - radar stations at Semmerzeke and Glons CRC in Belgium, and Vedem in Germany, were made by highly skilled operatives well able to distinguish between the anomalies that you quote and true radar reflections. Indeed two F-16 interceptors of the Belgian Air Force would hardly have been scrambled on fifteen separate occasions if the radar operatives had not been SURE of their detections (these were also confirmed on 13 occasions by radar lock-on by the pursuing aircraft.)

The overwhelming evidence of the NADGE detections prove your point *that skilled operators are able to distinguish between false and true returns and must be taken as positive confirmation of the presence of unidentified flying objects of opacity and substance.*

In view of the above, I do not understand your consequent retractions which are not commensurate with the facts.

The fact that these radar detections were confirmed by NATO, the Belgian Minister of Defence and the Belgian Air Force, would prompt me to ask *'IF NADGE CONSIDERED THE RADAR DETECTIONS ABOVE BELGIUM ON MARCH 30/31st 1990 TO BE CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF OBJECTS OF OPACITY AND SUBSTANCE AND A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE BELGIAN STATE, WHY DID YOUR AIR DEFENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UK?'*

Cont;

In view of the conclusive proof now obtained from the NATO and Belgian Agencies, the answer from your Air Defence experts that *'there was no threat to the UK because there was no evidence of any such threat'* simply will not suffice. NATO and the Belgians say that there was a threat, and your Air Defence experts say that there was not.

I would request a detailed answer that takes into account the NATO and Belgian detections and observations.

Your statement in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 12th November 1993 that *'Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK,'* is your comment and not mine.

I would refer you to the whole context of your letter which discusses why your ministry did not know of the Belgian sightings, it quotes *'that they did not occur within UK airspace. Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK, we would not have been notified unless the Belgians believed there was a threat.'*

As stated at the beginning of this letter, the question of selectivity does not arise, I am only able to comment on the words that you have written. The wording of your letter could only be interpreted by the world at large as a clear indication that there was a detection of an entity of opacity and substance in the skies above Belgium; if you now choose to amend them, then that is your prerogative, but this now strongly implies evasion on the point at issue.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40



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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

26 November 1993

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November.

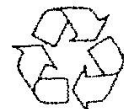
I have to say that the extracts that you quote from my letters are selective; for example, you will recall that I have explained to you on a number of occasions that a radar return does not necessarily indicate the presence of a structured craft; radar returns can be caused by clouds, computer error, interference between two radar systems, Anomalous Propagation, or even by flocks of birds.

In view of the above, your assumption that we have accepted the Belgian UFO sightings as being "unidentified flying objects that are of opacity and substance" is not correct.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Recycled Paper

Section 40

Reference: Your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 12/11/93.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 12th November.

I note your observation that we have now reached the point where there is little more that you can provide on the questions that I have posed to date.

I suppose that to a degree you are correct. We have come a long way since your original letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 24th February 1993 in which you stated *'the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sightings cannot be positively identified'*

Your admission in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 29th September 1993 that *'radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance'* confirms that the NADGE radar detections above Belgium in 1989/90 by Semmerzeke, Glons, and Vedem radars, were indeed confirmation of an unidentified aerial phenomena of opacity and substance. A simple telephone call to NATO would confirm that fact.

Your recent statement in letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 12th November 1993 that *'Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK'* finally qualifies the fact that the Ministry of Defence-when these two statements are taken in conjunction-have now accepted (as have the Belgian government), the authenticity of the Belgian phenomena as being unidentified flying objects that are of opacity and substance.

Having, by a slow process of reason, finally reached this conclusion-and as I am quite sure that this is not a question that would contravene national security-I would ask my penultimate question.

It is simply *'By what premise have your specialist Air Defence advisers reached the conclusion that these phenomena are NOT a threat to national security?'*

I would advise that you should inform the Secretary of State for Defence of this correspondence. I have requested Sir Keith Speed MP to table this same question to the Minister in the House of Commons.

For your interest; I have been advised by Egon Klepsch, President of the European Parliament, that my report asking for an enquiry into the Belgian phenomena has now been forwarded to the Petitions Committee for their consideration.

Your reply would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



FROM

Section 40

Section 40

417



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct Dialling)

(Switchboard)

(Fax)

Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

12 November 1993

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October.

You asked why the Ministry of Defence did not know about the Belgian UFO sightings, and had not seen any official documents relating to them. The simple answer is, as I have explained before, that they did not occur within UK airspace. Although these UFO sightings did indeed occur close to the UK, we would not have been notified unless the Belgians believed there was a threat. For obvious security reasons, I will not enter into any discussions about the range and capabilities of our Air Defences. What I can tell you is that I have sought specialist Air Defence advice when answering your letters, and have been assured that there is nothing that you have described that would be regarded as a threat to the UK.

Although I would be happy to answer any new questions you may have, I think we have now reached the point where there is little more that I can provide on the questions that you have posed to date.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40



Recycled Paper

Section 40

23rd October 1993.

Reference: Your letter D/Sec (AS) 12/3 of 13th October 1993.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your reply of the 13th October on behalf of yourself and the Secretary of State for Defence.

I would like to comment on the main paragraph of your letter.

I wonder why the Ministry of Defence did *NOT* know of the Belgian sightings when they were so widely reported in the continental press?

I also wonder *why* the Ministry of Defence have not seen any official documents relating to these incidents? I have obtained an abundance of these without any problems from the Belgian Defence Minister, the Belgian Ministry of Defence, and the Belgian Air Force.

I find the fact that the Ministry of Defence have not been passed any information relating to these detections as extremely odd. Glons CRC (NADGE) radar was on a major alert involving F-16 interceptor aircraft. *WE ARE PART OF NADGE (NATO Air Defence Ground Environment)*. This object was six minutes from our air space and closing at + 1000 kts. Not only would I have thought that notification of some kind was obligatory, but I wonder why the Ministry of Defence do not *NOW* query this omission?

Although a NADGE detection was involved in a full alert only six minutes away, by what premise was it that NATO considered that there was *NO* threat



to the UK?

It would seem that NADGE considered the detection serious enough to involve military pursuit aircraft in Belgium, but not serious enough to inform either the RAF or the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom.

Your statement that;- 'I can only assume that the appropriate military authorities did not believe that there was any threat to the UK' causes me some apprehension. Do you not KNOW whether this is so?. This would indicate that you are *NOT* advised on all radar detections unless they are considered a threat to the UK by *the military authorities?*

Whilst I have no grounds whatsoever to doubt your honesty, I sincerely trust that you will accept my observation that *your statements simply do not fit the facts.*

It would seem that your position as a Ministry of Defence spokesman on radar matters is seriously compromised by other organisations.

*One wonders whether the Nato Air Defence Ground Environment is more involved in this situation that they would care to admit?*

Your comments would be appreciated,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

13 October 1993

*Dear*

Section 40

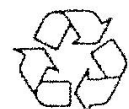
Thank you for your letter dated 2 October, copied to the Secretary of State for Defence. Please treat this reply as the response to both letters.

I was interested in the information that you provided, but I have yet to see any official documents relating to these UFO sightings. We have no record that the Belgians (or anybody else) passed us any information relating to these sightings, and I can only assume that the appropriate military authorities did not believe that there was any threat to the UK.

I can assure you that the Air Defence of the UK is taken very seriously; you may recall from the days of the Cold War that Soviet aircraft used to test our defences on a regular basis, by attempting to penetrate the UK Air Defence Region. You may also recall the very effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted these aircraft.

*Yours sincerely*

Section 40



Recycled Paper



*Copy to Minister of Defence.*

Section 40

2nd October 1993.

Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 29th September 1993.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your very welcome letter of confirmation that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance.

This is also the opinion of the Belgian Air Force and the Belgian Minister of Defence.

As you apparently have no knowledge of the Belgian incidents, I trust that you will not think it patronising if I give you details of one of these.

On the night of the 30/31st March 1990 at 23h.00. (local time) in the vicinity of Wavre (SW of Brussels), many witnesses reported a configuration of lights in the sky.

As a result of these reports and their confirmation by members of the Belgian Gendarmerie, the Belgian radar stations at Semmerzeke and Glons were alerted. They confirmed a strong signal where indicated by witnesses. This was also confirmed by the German radar station at Vedem.

These confirmations by three main radar stations were considered to be a threat to Belgian national security.

The Belgian Air Force were alerted to scramble two F-16 aircraft to intercept these targets.

These two aircraft were vectored to their targets by the two Belgian radar stations involved.

13 interceptions were made. Radar lock-on was achieved on each occasion, times varying from 0.1 sec to 45.0 secs.

Video film is available of on-board radar confirming these interceptions. Acceleration figures were recorded of this object from 150kts to 1000kts in +/- 1/2 sec, and a rate of descent from 10,000ft to 4000ft in 2 secs.

Pursuit and interception continued for over 1 hour.

2600 witnesses provided statements. 75 of these were Belgian Police officers.

The Belgian Minister of Defence Guy Coeme, admitted the existence of these flying objects; he stated in the Belgian Parliament that ALL hypotheses could be excluded—he did not know what these flying objects were. This was confirmed on the 26th May 1993 by Leo Delcroix the present Belgian Minister of Defence.

At one period of interception, both F-16 aircraft were in pursuit of this unidentified object which was on a Westerly heading towards UK airspace at speeds of +1000 knots per hour.

This incident was regarded by the Belgian authorities as a major alert

Actual time to infringe UK airspace would have been less than six minutes.

I note your observation that because the Belgian detections were outside UK airspace they were beyond your area of remit.

Whilst I acknowledge that this was so, I do not see how it is possible to ensure UK security by such rigid parameters.

When an unknown object of some substance-treated as a threat to national security by the armed forces of a fellow member state-is only six minutes from our national boundary and is being pursued at speeds in excess of 1000 kts per hour by two interceptor aircraft, then it is not practicable or possible, in the interests of security, to impose statutory limits involving national boundaries.

I have discussed your observations with a NATO colleague, and find it difficult to accept that-as you say in your letter-even though we are part of NATO Air Defence Ground Environment and are covered to some extent by AWAC aircraft, that there are occasions when we are not advised by the NATO 80 radar station complex, of possible intrusions into our airspace.

It would seem however, that because this incident was regarded by the Belgian military as a major alert, that we should have been notified by Glons CRC(NADGE) of their radar detection.

There would seem little point of a radar defence system that did not do this.

It would seem incredible that the Ministry of Defence were not aware of this imminent infringement of our national security, particularly when an event of such magnitude was being enacted only six minutes away.

Your comments would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40



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

Section 40  
[Redacted]

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

29 September 1993

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 September.

I agree that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance, although it is important to remember that a radar blip does not necessarily correspond to the location of an object; as I explained in my letter dated 18 February, the phenomenon of Anomalous Propagation can give an indication that an object of some sort is in the air, when in fact there is no such object; the radar will be picking up a natural feature such as a coastline.

I am not aware of instances where radar operators have detected an object, judged it to be solid, and not been able to identify it; if there have been such cases then they probably relate to weather balloons. The point I was trying to make in my 18 February letter was that we have never detected a structured craft flying in UK airspace, that has remained unidentified.

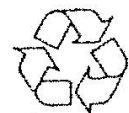
Although, as you point out, there is a chain of radar stations stretching across NATO, it is not the case that they all automatically exchange data, so it is not correct to say that the Ministry of Defence must have been aware of radar detections that occurred during the 1989/90 UFO sightings in Belgium. When I said, in my letter dated 24 February, that I remembered only one reference to radar sightings, I made it quite clear that this was a personal recollection of comments made in Timothy Good's book, "Alien Liaison".

I really must stress again that while the sightings that you are researching are doubtless very interesting, they occurred outside UK airspace, and as such lie outside our remit.

I wish you the best of luck with your continuing attempts to get to the bottom of this mystery.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40  
[Redacted]



Recycled Paper

Section 40

27th September 1993

Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

Ministry of Defence,

Main Building,

Whitehall,

London SW1A 2HB.

Dear Section 40

You may remember that earlier in the year we had some correspondence concerning unidentified radar returns.

Your observations refer; 'There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified' (Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3) and on the subject of Anomalous Propagation of radar 'it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns, and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.' (Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3)'

I was recently invited by BBC radio, to discuss an application that I have made to the European Parliament for an enquiry into the Belgian incidents of 1989/90.

A direct result of that broadcast were several letters and telephone calls from airline pilots, who had indeed been alerted by radar stations, of objects that had been detected on converging courses, and who had witnessed



together with other crew members, the detected object/objects passing where indicated. A telephone conversation with a radar operator also confirmed similar incidents.

A conversation with a radar technologist also confirmed that 'radar will act in much the same way as a wavelength of light. It will only detect another radar signal or its own reflection from an object of reflectability in the latter case an object of some substance or opacity'

Note\* This must be the case-or there would be no point in radar detection.

I have had considerable correspondence with the Belgian Air Force, the Belgian Minister/and Ministry of Defence, and the Belgian Prime Minister. Their comments are, that because the credibility of the Belgian armed forces and Ministry of Defence are involved, that my report be forwarded to:

Egon Klepsch.

President of the European Parliament,

Belliarstraat 97-117,

1047 Brussels, Belgium.

I have also been informed that detection was made by Belgian-Semmerzeke radar(array type-military), Belgian-Glons radar( multipurpose impulsion type) and German-Vedem-radar. All observations were made by skilled operatives.

These radar stations are part of an 80 station radar complex that extends throughout Europe and are part of the North American Treaty Organisation Air Defence Ground Environment.

All of the detections of these radar stations are coordinated.

We are part of the North American Treaty Organisation Air Defence Ground Environment and of the same radar complex. =

The Ministry of Defence must therefore have been aware of the many radar detections by these three radar stations, and of the 13 contacts made by the F-16 interceptor aircraft which were vectored to their targets by the three main radar stations involved.

In view of:- 1) the statement by the radar technologist involved stating that radar will only positively detect a radar wavelength or an object of opacity and substance.

2) The statement concerning - on two occasions - prior warning by radar to a civil airliner, of an object that was witnessed by three aircrew members

3) I would be interested in your observations as to whether you agree with statement 1). Whether you will confirm that the MOD have never had an unidentified radar return as advised in statement 2) And how you would qualify your comments in your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of the 24/2/93) that-concerning the Belgian incidents and the detections by three NATO radar stations that - *'there was only ONE reference to radar'*

Your comments would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: **Section 40** Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room **Section 40****MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Your reference

Our reference  
D/Sec(AS)12/3Date  
4 March 1993

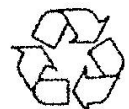
Dear

**Section 40**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February. The answers to your nine specific questions are as follows:

1. Yes.
2. We actually co-ordinate UFO reports. Radar returns may or may not be a feature of this, although in my time in this job (over a year now) they have not been.
3. Yes.
4. Yes, although you will wish to bear in mind the factors that I listed in the third paragraph of my letter dated 18 February.
5. Yes, although the only security angle to this question is the fact that we do not want to give out any information relating to the range and effectiveness of UK radar systems.
6. Yes.
7. No UFO sighting to date has been judged to present a threat to national security. We look at sightings on a case by case basis, and the situation is therefore kept under constant review.
8. Yes, with the exception of the files that I told you about in my last letter. The Public Records Act does not require files to be kept; it lays down the rules relating to public access to files that are kept. There was a wave of UFO sightings in 1967, and this led to increased public interest in the subject. I suspect that prior to 1967, due to the low level of interest in UFOs, it was felt that retaining these files was not justified.
9. Yes.

Finally, you mentioned Viscount Long's decision about releasing UFO reports. I have managed to track down the Hansard extract relating to the comments that Viscount Long made about UFO reports during questions raised in the House of Lords in 1982 - I apologise for the poor quality of the photocopy. The position



Recycled Paper

with regard to the files is as I described in my previous letter. We are able to respond to specific requests from individuals or UFO societies about particular UFO incidents (if we have the files in this office - ie files from approximately 1985 onwards) and to offer them such information as we have on these incidents.

I hope this is helpful, and has answered your questions.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40



1529

1360

British Citizens:

1370

# 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.

## 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 the fact that over 2,000 authentic 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 give any indication 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?

1371

Unidentified Flying

[LOR.]

Viscount Long: My Lords, I do not have those figures. They disappeared into the unknown before we got them.

Lord Strabolgi: 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 She' (HANSARD)

3.9 p.m.

Lord Renton: My Question which stands on the Order Paper.

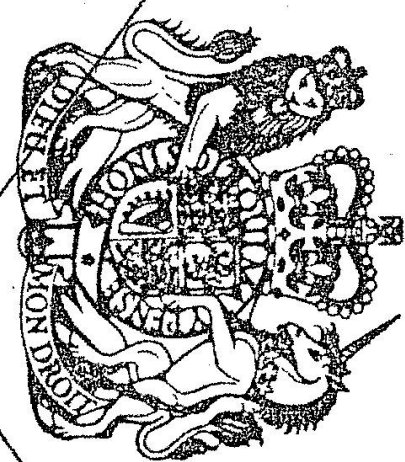
The Question was.

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware that Anatoly Shecharansky, who in 1975 and 1976 was frequently placed in the Tower of London, in 1981 had his prison sentence extended for his refusal to give evidence, and whether they will request that he be released on any conditions until he has always maintained his innocence.

Lord Trefgarne: My Lords, may I ask the Government to remain gravely concerned about the reports of his ill-treatment with the Soviet authorities?

Vol. 427  
No. 51

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



Thursday  
4 March 1982

12/4

Section 40

28th February 1993.

Your reference D/Sec(AS)12/3 dated 24th February 1993.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your explanatory letter of the above date and the helpful information contained therein.

It would be of great assistance to me to summarising your previous correspondence, and I would ask for your confirmation of the following facts:-

- 1) That the Ministry of Defence does receive and co-ordinate reports of UFO sightings; there were 147 such reports in 1992 of which there were a small percentage that would seem to defy explanation.
- 2) Although you co-ordinate unidentified radar returns, you do not have any figures on these.
- 3) There have been instances of ghost returns where blips have appeared on screens for short periods of time but it is easy for a skilled radar operator to distinguish between these and true readings.
- 4) That radar, as a general rule, behaves as a wavelength of light and will only provide a return from an object of some opacity.
- 5) You are not able to state, because of the time factor and for security reasons, whether the spate of UFO sightings over Northern Belgium in 1989/90 were detected by British radar.
- 6) On the subject of national security, the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sighting cannot be positively identified.
- 7) As Unidentified radar blips, unidentified objects, unidentified lights in the sky, cannot be classed as evidence, then there cannot possibly be a threat to national security.
- 8) Despite the Public Records Act which ensures that public records are protected for 30 years after their last use, all UFO files prior to 1967 were apparently destroyed.
- 9) Some files from the fifties apparently were not destroyed and seven of these are held at the Public Record Office at Kew.

As these above factors now confirm that these phenomena are NOT a matter of national security and are consequently NOT classified, could you please answer and comment on my enquiry, that a decision to release MOD files on UFO reports was made by Lord Long in 1982, but implementation of this was delayed by the Falklands war. This war has now been over for some years and I would enquire if it would now be possible for me to have access to any files that I would require from 1967 onwards?

Thank you for your help,  
Yours sincerely,

Section 40



E65  
+1From: **Section 40** Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room **Section 40****MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Your reference

Our reference  
D/Sec(AS)12/3Date  
24 February 1993

Dear

**Section 40**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 February.

In answer to your question about national security, the key consideration is evidence, without which a threat to national security cannot be judged to exist. Reports of lights or shapes in the sky cannot be classed as evidence, even if the sighting cannot be positively identified. It is not our practice to name or give details of those individuals or departments involved in looking at UFO reports.

You mentioned sightings that took place at RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters in 1956. I am unable to comment on the point you make because, while I recall reading about this in Timothy Good's book, "Above Top Secret" I am not aware of any official papers concerning this alleged incident. This ties in with your point about access to our UFO files; it was generally the case that before 1967 all UFO files were routinely destroyed. After this date, files were kept, but - like all government files - they are covered by the terms of the Public Records Act, and remain closed for 30 years after the last action. A few files from the Fifties did escape the destruction process, and are available for viewing at the following address: Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DV. The references of these surviving UFO files are as follows:

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

I think we will have to agree to disagree about detecting the Belgian sightings on radar; from what I recall reading about this in Timothy Good's book, "Alien Liaison", there were many visual sightings, but only one reference to radar. The definitive position on this will have to come from the Belgian government.

With regard to any questions about civil aircraft's radar returns, I suggest you write to the Civil Aviation Authority, at the following address: CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TE.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Recycled Paper



Section 40

21st February 1993.

Ref: Your letter D/Sec(AS)12/3 of 18th Feb.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative letter and various enclosures.

I appreciate and agree with your comments that the vast majority of UFO reports may be attributed to natural phenomena. I am however, interested in those that are not. I am pleased to note that you do have on record instances that appear to defy explanation.

I would appreciate a reply to my question(e) in my letter of the 7th. I would repeat this question; 'I am most interested in your comments on national security. As to date it would appear that there is a general admittance that although a phenomenon of some kind exists, nobody knows what it is (Your letter 1/2/93 'Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that seem to defy explanation') This being so, how can this phenomenon be assessed as to national security, when it is not known what it is?

I would like to add a further question on this point. Who and what department is it that on this matter would presume to issue dictates on matters of national security?

Your comment that 'There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified' I would draw your attention to the RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters incident on the 13th and 14th of August 1956 which would seem to contradict your statement.

I would query your observation on whether the Belgian sightings were detected on UK radar. You say that it is not possible to say, this long after the sightings! These occurred less than three years ago and continued for a period of six months! They were witnessed by thousands, were recorded on Belgian radar, were shown by the media and were discussed in the Belgian parliament. I find it difficult to relate your comments to sightings of this magnitude.

Would you please give me your comments on the above queries and advise me if records of on-board radar returns on civil aircraft are recorded by any civil authority?

I have been advised that a decision to release MOD files on UFO reports was made by Viscount Long in 1982, but implementation of this was delayed by the Falklands war. This war has now been over for some years and I would enquire if it would now be possible for me to have access to any files that I would require?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

18 February 1993

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February in which you asked some further questions about UFOs and unidentified radar returns.

Firstly, you asked if I could let you have details of some UFO reports that do not appear to be easily explainable. I have attached a few examples from our files, which should give you an indication of the sort of reports we get. Most of the reports we get do relate to little more than a light in the sky. Many of these reports would appear to have fairly simple explanations: sightings involving green and red flashing lights, for example, will almost certainly be attributable to aircraft lights. Even when a report would appear to defy explanation, it does not of course follow that what was seen was anything other than an ordinary object or phenomenon, perhaps seen from an unusual angle. It is simply that it is not possible to be certain what was seen. While all UFO reports are looked at, we do not attempt to investigate sightings in the absence of any evidence of a threat to the defence of the UK.

With regard to your second question in which you asked for examples of unidentified radar returns, I am not able to provide any data. There are certainly no instances where solid objects have been detected but not identified, although there have been instances of "ghost returns" where blips have appeared on screens for short periods of time. This phenomenon is known as Anomalous Propagation (ANAPROP). These blips can be caused by a number of factors: some result from changes in air density which can result in an object outside the usual range of the radar being seen. An aircraft, or even a natural feature such as a piece of coastline, can therefore produce a situation where a blip is seen which does not correlate with the position of an object. Clouds, under some circumstances, can also give a return, and on some occasions a return can be caused when two or more radar systems interfere with each other. Having said this, and in answer to your third question, it is easy for skilled operators to distinguish between these sort of returns, and the track made by a solid object such as an aircraft.

You asked whether the Belgian UFO sightings were detected on UK radar. It is not possible to say, this long after the sightings, whether or not anything was detected. Radar tapes are routinely wiped and re-used, and any tapes dating from the same time as the Belgian sightings will not have survived.



Recycled Paper

In response to your final question, the only point that I had made about security is that I did not want to get into any discussion about the range and capability of the UK's radar systems. There is certainly no national security angle to the UFO controversy, and I apologise if I have given this impression.

I hope this has clarified our position.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40



REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

A. Date, Time & Duration of Sighting	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan, approx 9.50 pm, 3-5 seconds
B. Description of Object (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness)	One pale green light, which then split into three. Had first thought it was a meteorite or plane.
C. Exact Position of Observer Location, indoor/outdoor, stationary/moving	Outdoors. Stationary.
D. How Observed (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie)	Naked eye
E. Direction in which Object first seen (A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing)	Witness looking ESE, saw object heading west. Ultimately disappeared into clouds, heading out to sea.
F. Angle of Sight (Estimated heights are unreliable)	15/20'. No idea of height.
G. Distance (By reference to a known landmark)	N/k
H. Movements (Changes in E, F & G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed)	Speed seemed constant, but impossible to judge. After splitting, 3 lights twirled around - definitely 3 distinct objects.
I. Met Conditions during Observations (Moving clouds, haze, mist etc)	Some cloud, height N/k. Force 3 wind - objects heading into direction of wind.
J. Nearby Objects (Telephone lines, high Voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or night lighting)	Not stated. Witness was by the sea.

K. To whom reported (Police, military, press etc)	<p style="text-align: center;">Sec (A5) 2a  <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">REDACTED ON ORIGINAL</span></p>
L. Name & Address of Informant	<p style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED]</p>
M. Background of Informant that may be volunteered	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
N. Other Witnesses	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
O. Date, Time of Receipt	<p style="text-align: center;">121313 Z Jan 93</p>
P. Any Unusual Meteorological Conditions	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
Q. <u>Remarks</u>	<p style="text-align: center;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">REDACTED ON ORIGINAL</span></p> <p>Given [REDACTED] details of UFO groups, and undertake to write to him if we received any reports that might be in.</p>

Section 40

Sec (A5) 2a





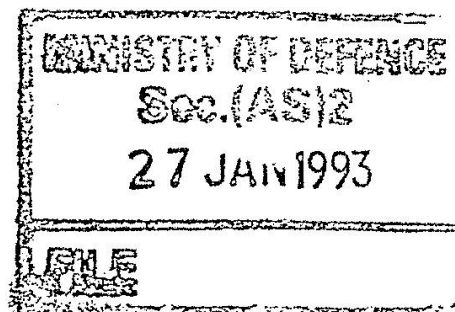
U N C L A S S I F I E D

CBJ051 26/1222 02600686

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 260810Z JAN 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR



U N C L A S S I F I E D  
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 251900Z JAN 93 ONGOING
- B. SINGLE VERY BRIGHT LIGHT ABOVE GATWICK AIRPORT, NOT A STAR
- C. INDOORS AND OUTDOORS STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS
- E. TO THE SOUTH WEST
- F. APPROX 10000 FEET (HEIGHT)
- G. SEVEN MILES.
- H. STILL
- J. CLEAR
- K. NOT KNOWN
- L. GATWICK AIRPORT
- M. [REDACTED]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

PAGE 2 RBD AID 0001 UNCLAS

N. WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPLANATION

O. DAUGHTER

P. 251905Z JAN 93

BT



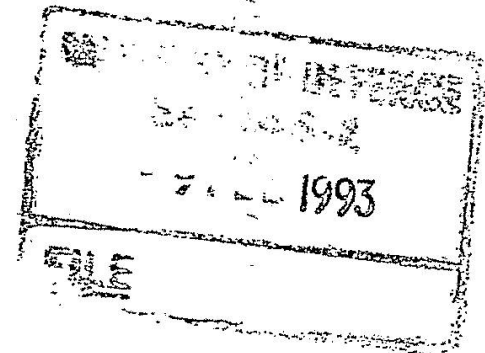
UNCLASSIFIED

CWB088 09/1225 040C0995

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 090835Z FEB 93

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUK AIR



UNCLASSIFIED

SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 312130Z JAN 93, 20-30 MINUTES
- B. 1, HALF EGG SHAPED, BLUE AND DULL
- C. OUTDOORS, STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. N/K
- F. N/K
- G. N/K
- H. STEADY
- J. CLEAR
- K. N/K
- L. POLICE
- M. [REDACTED]
- N. NIL

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

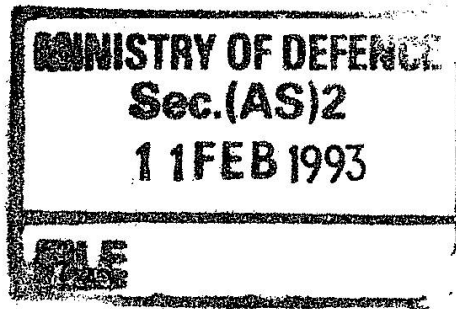
PAGE 2 RBD AID 0001 UNCLAS

O. NIL

P. 081955Z FEB 93

BT





Section 40

7th February 1993.

Your Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your interesting reply to the four parts of my previous letter.

Whilst in the first instance I am particularly interested in actual unidentified Radar returns, your observation that you have some UFO reports that would seem to defy explanation are of great interest to me.

a) Would it be possible for me to obtain details of these?

As you apparently take appropriate action on any unidentified Radar return of potential significance,

b) would it be possible for you to quote/send me an example, of where an actual Radar return has not been identified and defies explanation?

We must agree to differ on my observation that Radar will only detect something of substance. As Radar is purely an ultra short radio wavelength of either an orbital or linear origination, it will behave in much the same way as any wavelength of light and will not reflect back from any object that is transparent-glass being an example. Other anomalies that could be construed as false signals is the scatter induced from inclined surfaces as with the stealth aircraft and false returns from other extraneous sources.

c) Would you agree that any normally proficient Radar operator could easily distinguish between a true return and a spurious one?

I feel that my question as to whether the Belgian phenomena were detected on our Radar is not really a matter of national security and purely a simple 'yes' or 'no' would suffice, particularly as Radar returns could have been registered by any civil aircraft in the near vicinity.

d) Do you have any further observation to add to this?

I am most interested in your comments on national security. As to date it would appear that there is a general admittance that although a phenomena of some kind exists, nobody knows what it is (Your letter 1/2/93 'Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that seem to defy explanation').

e) This being so, how can this phenomenon be assessed as to national security, when it is not known what it is?

As it is important that I have true and accurate information for my book, whilst I am most appreciative for your kind consideration and prompt replies, I trust that you will not take offence if I feel that in order to attain these ends I must pursue these points through the Minister and my local member of parliament.

Thank you for your help,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

1 February 1993

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter in which you asked a number of questions about radar and our handling of UFO reports. I will answer your questions in the order in which they were posed.

The Ministry of Defence does receive reports of UFOs; last year, for example, we received 147 reports. Having said this, we believe that nearly all of these sightings can be explained in terms of known objects and phenomena. Examples that spring to mind include aircraft lights, lasers or searchlights reflecting off clouds, meteorites and satellite debris entering the atmosphere. Clearly there are a small percentage of reports that would seem to defy explanation; we hold no definitive view on these.

I do not have any figures concerning unidentified radar returns, but any return of potential significance is looked at, and the appropriate action taken. I am sure that you are aware that from time to time aircraft have flown towards UK airspace, and have been intercepted by the RAF.

It is not strictly true to say that a radar will only detect something of substance, because there will always be spurious returns.

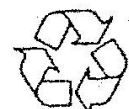
Any questions that you have about radar systems should be directed to this department. I am sure you will understand, however, that for security reasons we are not able to go into much detail about the range and capability of our equipment.

All UFO reports are examined carefully by us and by departments responsible for the air defence of the UK. Sightings are then assessed on the basis of military expertise and an analysis of the available information. To date, no reports that we are aware of have been judged to present a threat to the defence of the UK.

I hope this has answered your questions, and helped explain our position on the subject. If you require anything further, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Recycled Paper



Section 40

Your Ref; D/Sec(AS)12/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for prompt and most helpful letter of the 26th instance.

I have already been in contact with the Belgian Embassy and-through them-am in contact with a Belgian press agency to obtain all information on the sightings as discussed.

Your suggestion that I contact SOBEPS (who have produced a lengthy report on the wave of sightings) is particularly helpful and I will be writing to them shortly.

I find your letter intriguing and would request clarification on several points.

- a) The fact that your office has been established in the Ministry of Defence to co-ordinate sightings would imply that there are in fact sightings to co-ordinate, would you confirm this?
- b) I wonder if you could give me some general indication as to the number of genuine UNIDENTIFIED radar detections over the last five years?
- c) Would you confirm that Radar will only detect something of substance?
- d) The actual distance to the area of the Belgian sightings is only 130 miles. As our radar would seem able to detect incoming intercontinental missiles, could you please advise me of the appropriate department in the Ministry of Defence who could give me the appropriate information that I require?
- e) As the MOD's only interest in unidentified flying objects is to insure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK, I would be interested as to how this is ascertained?

Your kind assistance on the above five points would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference  
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date  
26 January 1993

Dear

Section 40

Your letter to RAF West Drayton concerning the wave of UFO sightings over Belgium in 1989/90, has been passed to this department, as we receive and co-ordinate sightings and enquiries about UFOs.

I am afraid that we do not have any relevant information, as we are only concerned with UK sightings - the MOD's only interest in UFOs is to ensure that there is no threat to the defence of the UK. I would think that your best course of action in trying to obtain an official view on the sightings would be to approach the Belgian Embassy for advice; their address is as follows: 103 Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9AB.

I am aware that a Belgian UFO group, SOBEPS, has produced a lengthy report on the wave of sightings. Their address is Section 40  
Bruxelles, Belgium.

You might also like to contact some of the UFO groups in this country, who may have some information. I suggest the following organisations:

British UFO Research Association

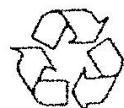
Section 40

Tel no. Section 40

Contact International (UK)

Section 40

Tel no. Section 40



Recycled Paper



Quest International

Section 40

Tel no. Section 40

I am sorry not to have been able to provide you with any material myself, but I hope that the addresses I have given you will prove useful. I wish you the best of luck with your project.

*Yours sincerely,*

Section 40

Section 40



17th January 1993.

Dear sirs,

I am an established author and at present am in the process of compiling data with a view to writing an account on the Belgian sightings of unidentified flying objects that took place throughout Eastern Belgium during the period from November 1989 to April 1990.

I am anxious to obtain a complete record, not only of actual newspaper cuttings but of television reports and details of the statement made by the current Belgian Minister of Defence to the Belgian government at that time.

It would appear that these objects were registered on Belgian radar, both onboard and ground based. I would like to enquire whether you had any radar tracings of these sightings (either onboard or ground based), if not I would appreciate details of either the correct government department for me to contact obtain this information, or any agency that could fulfil these requirements.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40





→ Sec(AS)2



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/RMC 2547

17 February 1994

Dear David,

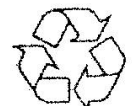
Thank you for your letter of 3 February, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** had copied you some correspondence with one of my officials, and you asked for my comments.

As I explained to you in my letter dated 10 March 1993, our involvement in the subject of UFOs is very limited. There is, therefore, little that I can offer, other than to assure you that we are not covering up information on this subject. I am aware that your constituent is corresponding with my officials on this subject, and I can assure you that they will continue to do their best to answer any further points he may have.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,  
*Robert*  
The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry Esq MP



Recycled Paper



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/94/94

20<sup>th</sup> February 1994

COPY to:  
SEC(AS)2

Sir Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing correspondence from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** had asked about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990, and you asked for my views on this.

My officials have already exchanged a number of letters with **Section 40** on this subject over the past year, and wrote most recently to him on 9 December 1993. There really is little that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware that there were some unusual occurrences, as your constituent says, this is a matter for the Belgians and not for us. There is no evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence of the UK.

Furthermore - 9 letters should be enough.

Yours ever,

JEREMY HANLEY

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



Recycled Paper



M4APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from David Curry MP.
2. Since the Parliamentary Enquiry at E1, we have dealt with one official action letter from **Section 40** and another addressed directly to the UFO desk officer (copies placed opposite).
3. We know very little about ORTK Britain, and it is entirely possible that **Section 40** is the only person involved. In the US, Operation Right To Know is a somewhat militant campaign, run by people who are convinced that the US government is aware of the existence of extraterrestrial life, but is not informing the public. They have organised a number of demonstrations outside the White House and NASA headquarters.

**Section 40**

17 February 1994

Sec(AS)2

**Section 40**

D/US of S/RMC 2547

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40** **Section 40** had copied you some correspondence with one of my officials, and you asked for my comments.

As I explained to you in my letter dated 10 March 1993, our involvement in the subject of UFOs is very limited. There is, therefore, little that I can offer, other than to assure you that we are not covering up information on this subject. I am aware that your constituent is corresponding with my officials on this subject, and I can assure you that they will continue to do their best to answer any further points he may have.

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry MP



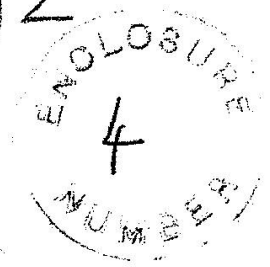
DAVID CURRY MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

57 FEB 1994

PE: Sec (AS) 2



3rd February 1994

Our Ref:DC/am/feb3.

Dear Robert,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent **Section 40**  
**Section 40**

I would be grateful if you could let me have any advice regarding his points about secrecy which I might be able to pass on to **Section 40**  
**Section 40**

Yours ever,  
David

DAVID CURRY

Viscount Cranborne  
Under-Secretary of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB





# ALIEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAMPAIGN

## ORTK BRITAIN

THE AAC, Section 40

Mr David Curry MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

February 2nd 1994

Dear Mr Curry,

I enclose copy of a letter received from Section 40 in reply to my letter to the Viscount Cranborne of Dec.12th 1993.

To keep you updated and informed I enclose a copy of my reply to Section 40 and would be very grateful for any comments or suggestions as to how the AAC/ORTK aim of ending UFO secrecy can be realized.

Thank you for your reply of Dec.15th 1993

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(AAC convener - ORTK Britain contact)

---

END UFO SECRECY NOW !



M3APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a self explanatory draft reply to the letter from Keith Speed MP.
2. **Section 40** has been a persistent questioner on the subject of a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990. My staff have already written him nine letters on this subject, and our final response said simply that there was little that could be added to the points that we had already made. **Section 40** has written one book about extraterrestrials, and is writing a further one on the Belgian sightings.

**Section 40**

Sec(AS)2

**Section 40**

17 February 1994

D/MIN(AF)/PE 94/94

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, enclosing correspondence from your constituent **Section 40**

**Section 40** **Section 40** had asked about a wave of UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in 1990, and you asked for my views on this.

My officials have already exchanged a number of letters with **Section 40** on this subject, and there really is little that I can add to this correspondence. While we are aware of the events to which your constituent refers, this is a matter for the Belgians, and not for us. There is no evidence that these UFO sightings posed any threat to the defence of the UK.

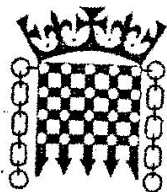
JEREMY HANLEY

Keith Speed MP



From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

17/2/94



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January, 1994.

006772

Dear Private Secretary,

radar detections and airborne interceptions in 1990.

Sir Keith wrote to Mr Hanley on the 16th November sending a copy of a letter he had received from [redacted]

Section 40

[redacted] is in constant touch with Sir Keith on this matter and annoyed that he has not received a reply yet. Sir Keith requests that an answer is sent as soon as possible please.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Keith Speed

private Secretary to  
Jeremy Hanley Esq., MP.,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall.  
London.  
SW1A 2HB.

Acknowledged 9:20 9/2

RECEIVED  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
LONDON SW1A

PE 94/94  
Sec (AS)

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4/2/94

FOR THE ATTENTION PLEASE OF THE assistant Private Secretary **Section 40**  
from Private Secretary to Sir Keith Speed. Fax **Section 40** (Three pages).

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your telephone call. **Section 40** has sent a number of letters mainly about tabling questions, and I have tried to condense the relevant parts. As you know his original letter was forwarded on the 16th November. Hope this is helpful Thank you

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

*Please send this out as a PS ; treat this as a letter for Sir Keith Speed. As this follows on Sir Keith's original letter of 16 Nov - I don't see how we can find a way to get a prompt response. I would recommend you ask NPS whether they have any idea should order it right now!*

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ. Tel **Section 40**

**Section 40**

PAGE.001

4 FEB '94 12:41