

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☒

Considered by CS(RM) for
permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☒

PART 3. **Section 40**

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Date: 28/6/04

PART 4. DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 8/95)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFOs
Parliamentary Questions and EnquiriesReference:
(Prefix and Number):

D/Sec(AS) 64/4

Part: A

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

RESTRICTED — STAFF IN CONFIDENCE

Date of last enclosure:

3 OCTOBER 1996

Date closed:

3 OCTOBER 1996

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)Destroy after _____ years ☒Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years ☐

FOR PERMANENT RETENTION.

No recommendation ☐

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review

Date of 2nd review

Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's
Signature:Reviewer's
Signature:

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW

(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). ☐b. (i) To be retained for indefinite years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):LEGAL ☒☐ DEFENCE POLICYCONTRACTUAL ☐☐ ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERSFINANCE ☐☐ OTHER (Specify)AUDIT ☐☒☐☒Public Interest
For Permanent retention by agreement
with The National Archives.

(Continued overleaf)



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

3 Oct 96

PE Unit

(thro **Section 40** ec(AS)2)

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3761/96

1. The attached is the second "UFO" PE received from Ieuan Wyn Jones in four weeks on behalf of **Section 40**. A further "UFO" PE was received from the MP in March 1996 written on behalf of an unnamed constituent who lived in Llanfaes, and it is more than likely that that PE was also on behalf of **Section 40**. This enquiry concerns a "UFO" report which was allegedly made to RAF Valley nearly six years ago on 16 October 1990.
2. According to the letter, the phone call to RAF Valley would have been made at approximately 1940 hrs and thus 'out of hours'. RAF Valley have advised that any record of the event would have been detailed in the Station Duty Officer's Report. These Reports are kept for a few years and are then routinely destroyed. The earliest such reports held by Valley date back to 1992. The CRO's office can find no trace of any "UFO" reports dating back to 1990 still held at the Station.
3. Although Sec(AS) has records of two reports of "UFO" sightings for 16 Oct 90, both were in the London area.
4. In the two previous PE replies to Mr Wyn Jones it has not been necessary for us to spell out the Department's specific interest in "UFO" reports, but on this occasion it is felt appropriate that we do. I attach a draft response for USofs' consideration.

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/3761/96

October 1996

Thank you for your letter of 24 September (ref: IWJ/2/96/ 36) addressed to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** of **Section 40** Beaumaris, on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Enquiries have revealed that as **Section 40** telephone call to RAF Valley was made outside routine working hours, a

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

record of his call would have been logged in the Station Duty Officer's Report. However, Station Duty Officer's Reports are not kept indefinitely but routinely destroyed and Reports for 1990 are no longer available.

You may wish to be aware that we do not routinely contact or reply to every witness who reports a "UFO" sighting to us (on average the Department receives 200-300 such reports annually). Such contact is only necessary if what has been seen has a defence interest and it is necessary to interview the witness further.

The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through the continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force. I should wish to assure **Section 40** that my Department takes its responsibilities for the effective Defence of the UK very seriously indeed and we remain vigilant for any potential military threat.

THE EARL HOWE



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

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) **Section 40**



Royal Air Force Valley
Holyhead

Attn: Flt Lt **Section 40**
Community Relations Officer

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date

30 September 1996

== by fax ==

For 16 Oct 90
2 reports
received
(over London).

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: IEUAN WYN JONES

1. Further to our exchange of correspondence last month about an alleged "UFO" sighting near RAF Valley, USofS has received a another Parliamentary Enquiry from Ieuan Wyn Jones, again on behalf of **Section 40**

2. The letters enclosed with the MP's relate to a "UFO" report allegedly made to RAF Valley six years ago on 16 October 1990. Centrally, Sec(AS)2 has records of two sightings reported for this date, but both were in the London area. Is there a record at Valley of such a telephone call having been received or, as the letter suggests, of any action having been taken. The presence of a Wessex may of course have been pure coincidence.

3. I should be most grateful for any light you may be able to shed on this matter, to assist me with drafting a response for USofS to send to the MP. It would be most helpful if I could receive a reply from you by the end of this week. With thanks for your assistance.

Section 40

Received a telephone call from
Flt Lt **Section 40** A/CRO Valley.

The Sbn Duty Officer's Reports
only go back as far as 1992.

Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1

Encs. If the report was made
'out of hours' then would have been recorded on file.
She could not locate any UFO reports on-site for
1990. Her opinion was that they would not send a
Wessex up on the basis of one phonecall from a member
of the public.

Classification:

F Sigs 927

(Rev 2/95)

Caveat:

Covering:

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: 	Transmission: Date: 30 SEP 96 Time:	Document Reference: 64/4
		Total number of pages including this one: 1 + 4
From: Sec(AS)ZA	Fax Number: Section 40	To: Community Relations Officer RAF Valley
Tel Number: Section 40		Fax Number: FILE Lt Section 40
Authorised by: Rank Name Appointment EO Section 40 Sec(AS)ZA1	Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number AO Section 40	
Signature: Section 40	Signature: Section 40	

Subject: PE: US 3761/96 - IENAN WYN JONES

Please see attached.

* PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS *

Classification:

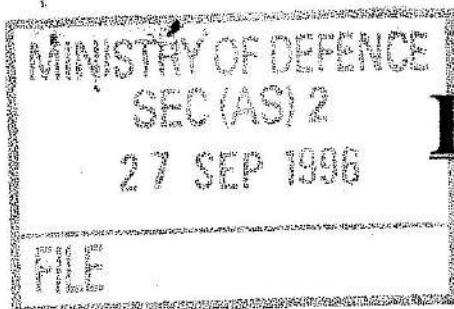
Caveat:

Covering:

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax **Section 40****** Transmit Conf. Report ****

30 Sep '96 10:35

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)--->	
No.	1673
Mode	NORMAL
Time	2'07"
Pages	5 Page(s)
Result	O K



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS) 2aPE REF NUMBER: US3761/96MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 8/10/96DATE: 27/9/96 FROM: Section 40PE Unit TEL: Section 40**GUIDANCE NOTE**

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies.

Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about"

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start: "Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James

Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"

Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing.

Alternatives are:

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40 PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sec (AS)
Used.
UFOs

Our ref: IWJ/2/96/36

24 September 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Secretary of State for Defence
The Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose correspondence I have received from **Section 40** of **Section 40** in my constituency, enclosing a copy of a letter he received from **Section 40** of **Section 40** also a constituent of mine, regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO.

I would be pleased if you could let me have your response to the allegations made by **Section 40** so that I can reply to **Section 40** **Section 40** in due course.

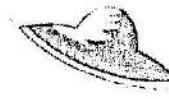
Yours sincerely

Section 40

W IEUAN WYN JONES
MP for Ynys Môn



WALES FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT UFOLOGISTS



TEL

ADDRESS

24 SEP 1996

Section 40

Beaumaris
Anglesey

22 September 1996

Your Ref: IWJ / 2 / 96 / 36

TRH Ieuan Wyn Jones MP
Plaid Cymru Offices
45 Bridge St
Llangefni

Dear Mr Jones,

I am passing on to you the enclosed UFO-related statement at the witnesses' request.

No doubt, Whitehall will issue the usual bland statement that the incident was of no defence significance. Given the close proximity of a nuclear power station, I would dispute that.

In the first instance, I feel that the RAF or the MOD should send a letter to **Section 40** thanking him for his public spiritedness and apologising for such a long delay. Perhaps they would also be kind enough to let him know what the helicopter pilots saw as well.

If possible, I would also like to interview the pilots involved as they are in effect witnesses.

On the 13th October, there is a meeting of The Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists to be held at the Canolfan Beaumaris Leisure Centre. The agenda will concentrate on recent UFO sightings over Anglesey. The time will be between 6 and 9pm and admission is free. Invitations have gone out to the Station Commander at RAF Valley and to the Chief Constable of North Wales Police. I would feel it a privilege if you could attend or send a representative.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

Anglesey
Section 40

September 13/1996

Section 40

GLOBAL UFO INVESTIGATION SYSTEMS

The following is a report of what was witnessed on the evening of ----
October 16 1990, Approx time 7:30pm, Weather conditions extremely calm, quiet

Myself and my friend Section 40 were returning from Cemlyn and walking up the path to Section 40 my home address, when we noticed two pairs of white lights hovering noiselessly out to sea in the vicinity of Wylfa Power Station and Skerries Light House, we watched it for a minute or two by which time my wife Section 40 had come from the house and joined us.

None of us could fathom out what they might be as neither pair of lights moved, made no noise, just hovered in one place.
It was fairly obvious that there were two of these objects as one pair of lights was lower and further than the other.

We must have watched them for maybe five to ten minutes before deciding to inform the R.A.F. base at Valley of what we were witnessing.
I have no recollection of being given the name of who answered the phone at Valley but I did give my name and address to whoever in order that they could contact me if more information was needed at a later date.
I was asked if it was a distress flare I was seeing to which I replied no.
He then asked me to wait while he checked I presume, the RADAR, and shortly afterwards came back to the phone to say that he wasn't picking anything up and that they did not have anything of theirs flying in that vicinity and would send someone out to investigate.
Shortly afterwards we watched the Helicopter, a Wessex, coming towards our end of the island from R.A.F. Valley direction, as it flew over Llanfechell towards Tregele area the lights on the two crafts still hovering out to sea went off for a very short time, then a more blueish coloured flashing light came on before the two crafts moved off at an astonishing speed.
The furthest one went westerly while the other went north easterly passing the back of our house but out to sea.
We heard no noise from these craft even when they were moving and the time taken to cover the distance from Skerries to a northerly point to my house was no more than two seconds!! (Distance estimated as 5 to 6 miles) Both craft vanished leaving the helicopter to circle the area once and turn her course for home.....

No one from R.A.F. Valley contacted us

Section 40

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

GROUP	WFIU	WALES	YEAR	NUMBER	INVESTIGATOR	CASE SUMMARY	
	NORTH WALES				Section 40	DATE	
INVEST REF:	FEDERATION OF IND:				coordinator for	TIME	
	UFOLOGISTS				Isle of Anglesey	LOCATION	
RETURN FORM TO: Section 40						EVALN	
Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey						UFO CLASS	
						CLOSED	

UFO SIGHTING ACCOUNT FORM

SECTION A PLEASE USE BLACK BIRO OR A BLACK INK PEN

Please write an account of your sighting, make a drawing of what you saw and then answer the questions in section B overleaf as fully as possible. Write in BLOCK CAPITALS using a ball point pen.

See adjoining sheet
signed by the three witnesses

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

DRAWING*

relationship to you of other witnesses

Your full name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)

Section 40

Age

Section 40

Address

Section 40

Section 40

Anglesey

Telephone No

Section 40

IST

Section 40

Occupation during last two years

Disabled

Any professional, technical or academic qualifications or special interests

Qualified Plasterer

Yes/No

Today's Date

13. September 1996

Signature

Section 40

* If preferred, use a separate sheet of paper.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

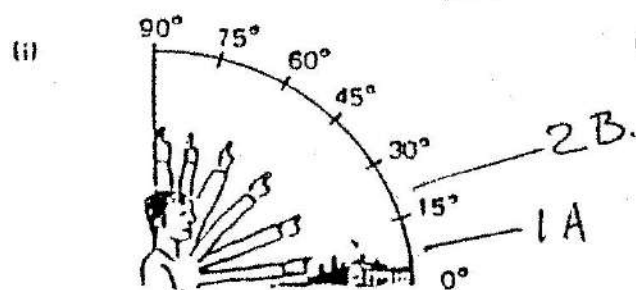
WFIU (N).		YEAR	NUMBER

SECTION B

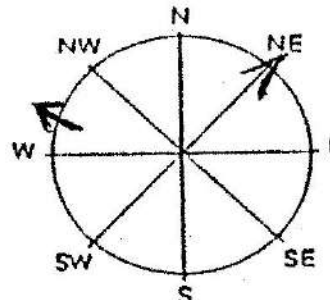
Section 40

1. Where were you when you saw the object(s)? Exact location Anglesey
 Nearest town/village Section 40 County/District Llanbadrig
2. What was the date of your sighting? 16 day of October 1990
3. At what time did you see the object(s)? 7.30 *am/pm/midday/midnight. *Delete which ever does not apply. How did you know the time? Clock
4. For how long did you observe the object(s)? If not certain please state - for not less than 15 min and for not more than 30 min
5. If each of the following objects were held at arm's length which one would just cover the object(s) you saw, i.e., have the same apparent size? (underline) Pinhead/halfpenny/penny/two pence/golf ball/tennis ball/other

6.



(iii)



5a

Compare object to size of full moon.

Place an 'A' on the curved line in diagram (ii) to show the altitude of the object(s) above the horizon when you first noticed it/them and a 'B' when you last noticed it/them. Also place an 'A' on the outside edge of the compass in diagram (iii) to indicate the direction in which you first observed the object(s) and a 'B' when you last saw it/them.

7. Did you see the object(s) at or near ground level? Not very high above the sea
8. How did the object(s) disappear from view? Very fast in opposite directions
9. If you took a photograph or made any measurements, give details (including camera type and film).
No photos.
10. If you noticed any unusual effects on people, animals, plants, objects or equipment nearby: Describe these
Cannot say & did.
11. What was the main feature of the sighting which made you feel that the object(s) was/were not natural or man-made?
The quietness + speed it moved off.
12. How many other people at the same time saw the object(s)? 3 Give the names, addresses, age and relationship to you of other witnesses.
Section 40 My wife
- friend.
13. Give a brief description of the object(s) under the following headings:-
 (a) Number of objects 2 (b) Colour just lights (c) Sound No sound
 (d) Shape White light car headlights was this sharply defined or hazy?
 (e) Brightness Coloured light - welding flash (compared to star, venus, moon, sun etc.)
14. What were the local conditions? Please tick in box where applicable.

Clouds	Temperature	Wind	Precipitation	Astronomical
Clear Sky <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cold <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stars <input type="checkbox"/>
Scattered cloud <input type="checkbox"/>	Cool <input type="checkbox"/>	Breeze <input type="checkbox"/>	Fog or mist <input type="checkbox"/>	Moon <input type="checkbox"/>
Much cloud <input type="checkbox"/>	Warm <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rain <input type="checkbox"/>	Planet <input type="checkbox"/>
Overcast <input type="checkbox"/>	Hot <input type="checkbox"/>	Strong <input type="checkbox"/>	Snow <input type="checkbox"/>	Sun <input type="checkbox"/>

Other conditions if any Very quiet evening.

Names and addresses are never given to the Press, unless you specifically say you want it to. The overall majority of UFO reports never get to the Media at all.

Section 40



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)

0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)



D/US of S/FH 3295/96/M

12 September 1996

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August to James Arbuthnot
enclosing a further one from Section 40

Section 40 Rolveden, Cranbrook who believes that
questions in his previous correspondence about UFO sightings over
Belgium in 1990 have not been fully answered. I am replying as
this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Section 40 suggests that his letters have not been dealt
with in a satisfactory manner but I hope he will be assured that
this is not the case. As you know, we have gone to great lengths
over a considerable period of time to reply to the numerous
points he has raised about this matter.

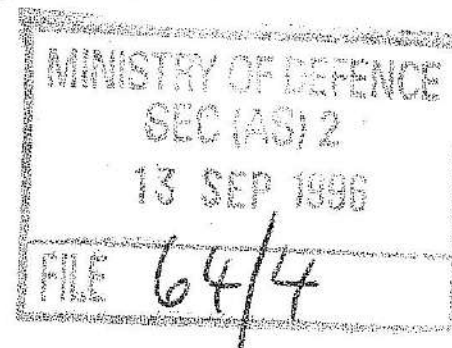
Section 40 latest questions were dealt with in the
letter from Malcolm Rifkind to Lord Hill-Norton in June 1994. In
the letter Malcolm explained that the Belgian authorities did not
notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no
evidence of any threat and because they occurred over central
Belgium. However, he went on to say that when we subsequently
became aware of the sightings, our own experts confirmed that
they would not have been concerned with the reports and saw no
reason why the Belgians should have informed us. Malcolm further
explained to Lord Hill-Norton that notification of NADGE radar
detections is at the discretion of the operators and does not
occur automatically.

I am afraid there really is nothing more to say on this
issue.

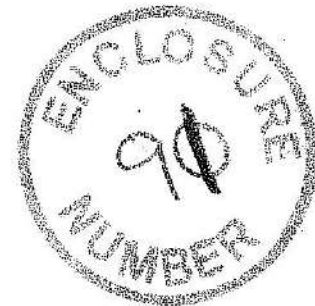
Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Sir Keith Speed RD MP



Recycled Paper



D/Sec(AS)/64/4

5th September 1996

PE Unit

PE3295 - SIR KEITH SPEED

1. I attach a draft reply for USofs to send to Sir Keith Speed in response to the latest in a long line of letters from his constituent, **Section 40** about UFO sightings over Belgium in 1990. A summary of previous exchanges with **Section 40** was provided in September last year (D/Sec(AS)/64/1 of 15 September). Neither **Section 40** nor Lord Hill-Norton, whose help he enlisted in 1994, have raised the matter again until now and a further copy of the summary is therefore attached for information.
2. **Section 40** assertions that his questions have not been properly answered are without foundation. The Department has gone to great lengths to be as helpful as possible and provided as much information as is available. The view of the Belgians at the time was that there was no threat to the UK or, for that matter, anyone else and that it was not necessary to pass on the information from their radar returns.
3. It was then, and continues to be our policy not to make further investigations into unsubstantiated sightings where no threat is posed to the UK Air Defence Region. **Section 40** seems unwilling to accept this and persists in his attempts to prove a threat existed. It is unlikely he will be persuaded otherwise particularly since he appears to be writing a book on the 'Belgian sightings'.
4. Mr Speed says that he has no intention of passing on **Section 40** **Section 40** letter to the Ombudsman. **Section 40** cannot ask the PCA direct to take on his case but he can ask another MP to act on his behalf. If **Section 40** is unsuccessful in persuading another MP it may be that he would ask Lord Hill-Norton to do so. However, official advice is that it would be most unusual for a Member of the House of Lords to approach the PCA.
5. In the event that **Section 40** case is represented to the PCA it is by no means certain that they would entertain his claim. They would need to be convinced that there was a case of maladministration to answer. It remains our view that **Section 40** **Section 40** questions have been fully dealt with. However, given the MP's clear advice that he has no intention of involving the PCA the draft does not address this issue but simply reiterates the fact that we have provided full answers to his constituent's questions and there is nothing further we can add.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

PEs/3295speed

MB8247

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

FAX : Section 40

D/USofS/FH 3295/96

Thank you for your letter of 23rd August to James Arbuthnot enclosing a further one from **Section 40**

Section 40 Rolveden, Cranbrook who believes that questions in previous correspondence concerning UFO sightings over Belgium in 1990 have not been fully answered. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

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I am afraid there really is nothing more to say on this issue.

THE EARL HOWE

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

- NOA

IF Section 40 gets
this to the Ombudsman
Screening Panel (via another
MP) and we hear about
it we should pass a
copy of the MP's note
saying he had no
intention of passing it
through to the 'Omb.'
off to them quickly.

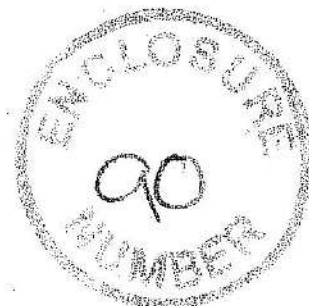
Section 40

5/9



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION



TO: SEC(AS)2

PE REF NUMBER: US 3295/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USOFS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 10/9/96

DATE: 30/08/96 FROM: Section 40

PE Unit TEL: Section 40

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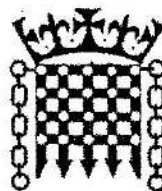
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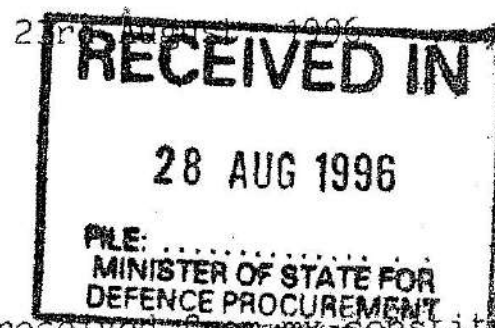
From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

US of S
Sec (AS)
Radars

3295



Dear James,

I enclose a letter I have received from my constituent
Section 40 regarding Belgian radar detections.

This man has an obsession on this subject, and I have
no intention of passing his letter to the Ombudsman.

I would be grateful for any comments you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Keith Speed

James Arbuthnot, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for Defence Procurement,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB



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

ack 14/8/91
Section 40

Section 40

Rolvenden

Cranbrook

Kent. Section 40

10th August 1996.

Dear Sir Keith

In response to a question put on my behalf on the 17th May 1994 by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton to the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP, and in answer to the same question put by myself to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, Secretary of State for the Armed Forces. T J H Laurence, Commander, Royal Navy, Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence. And the Ministry of Defence on the 12th November 1993. I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer.

The question is indeed, a simple one.

Both the Minister (on the 11th June 1994) and Ministry of Defence (on the 12th November 1993) have stated that, at 22h 47m (GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990, they had no knowledge (because they had not been informed of them) of the unidentified Belgian (NADGE) radar detections, that were six minutes from Dover, on a converging course with United Kingdom air space.

If Belgian (NADGE) radars are not able to identify a detection, it is declared hostile.

A necessary prerequisite before the Belgian Air Force are able to attempt interceptions is that an unidentified radar detection must be declared hostile. The Belgian Air Force made 13 interceptions where radar lock-on was achieved.

This is proof of the hostile classification of the NADGE radar detections.

Bearing this in mind, the question is simply 'How were the the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP. The Secretary of State for

the Armed Forces the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley. The Personal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Commander T J H Laurence. And the Ministry of Defence, able to state, that at 22h 47m(GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990, their Air Defence Experts did NOT consider these detections a threat, when they have admitted that they did not know about them?"

I would also request clarification of an anomaly in the reply by the Minister to Lord Hill-Norton. The Minister stated on the 11th June 1994, that advice of radar information to other radar stations was at the discretion of the Belgian operators and did not occur automatically.

Lord Hill-Norton has stated that in the NADGE radar system (a system of 80 European radar defence stations of which we are part,) other radar stations are notified - probably automatically - because that is how the system works!

This was confirmed by Wilfrid De Brouwer, Head of the Operations Section of the Belgian Air Force who has said (22nd December 1994), that in the event of a hostile radar classification, transmission of radar information would have been automatic to UK NADGE radar at Neatishead in Norfolk.

I am in possession of a copy of an American Defence Intelligence Agency report which indicates that an intelligence notice was issued on various press reports, by the American Military attache in Brussels. It was circulated on 26th March 1990, four days BEFORE the events of the 30/31st March. One of the recipients of this report was the London office of the Defence Intelligence Agency which is in the Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall.

You are aware by the correspondence that has passed between us, that I have never received a clear and distinct answer to any of these questions. Indeed it is now patently obvious, by the increasing evidence on this subject and the evasions of the issues, that there is something most odd going on.

As all avenues have now been apparently closed, because of the enormity of the issue and my intention to find out what is going on, my only recourse

must be to an independant authority that is above these political
issues; namely the office of the Government Ombudsman.

I would consequently ask that you forward this letter to the office of the
Government Ombudsman for their guidance and clarification.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

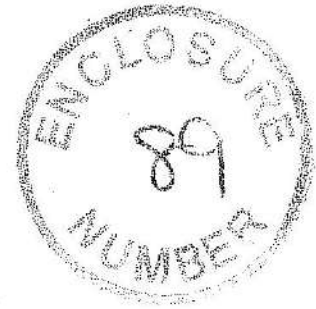




Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

Sec (AS) 2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)



D/US of S/FH 3105/96/A

22 August 1996

Dear Ieuan

Thank you for your letter of 9 August (reference: IWJ/2/96/36) to Michael Portillo enclosing one from **Section 40** Beaumaris, Anglesey on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying on behalf of Frederick Howe who has responsibility for this matter.

Section 40 should by now have received a letter from my officials in response to his queries, which was despatched on 12 August 1996. I attach a copy of the reply for your information.

I hope the reply answers any queries he may have in this connection.

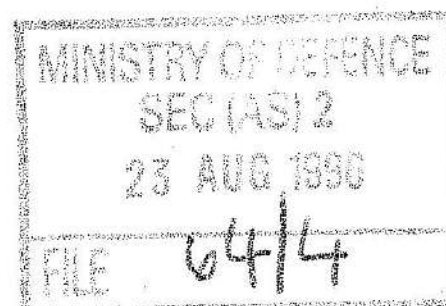
Yours ever

Section 40



JAMES ARBUTHNOT

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP



Recycled Paper



From: **Section 40** Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
 (Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
 (Fax) **Section 40**

Section 40

Beaumaris
 Anglesey
 GWYNEDD

Your reference

Our reference
 D/Sec(AS)/64/3
 Date

12 August 1996

Dear **Section 40**

1. Thank you for your letter of 23 July 1996 on the subject of "UFO" sightings. This office is the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence of this nature.
2. The MOD has no interest or role with respect to the wider debate over the existence or otherwise of "UFO/flying saucers" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial lifeforms exist.
3. Perhaps it would be useful if I were to explain the limited role that the MOD has with respect to "UFO" reports. We examine any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.
3. As we make no attempt to investigate a sighting for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the MOD to provide a general aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

4. I have contacted RAF Valley who have confirmed that there are no incidents of unidentified craft "buzzing" the tower at RAF Valley within the memory of staff or recorded in the Air Traffic Log Books spanning the last 5 years. Certainly such an incident would have been notified to the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer had it occurred. Military aircraft from a variety of RAF establishments regularly undertake low flying training sorties over the North Wales area, and it is likely that a routine military low flying training sortie could account for the observation.

6. I hope the above is of some help.

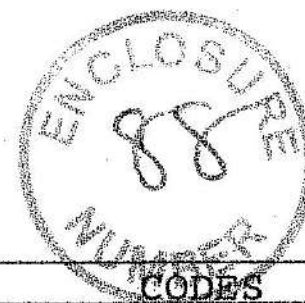
Yours sincerely,

Section 40



64/4

Thu 15 Aug, 1996 17:33 mailbox log Page 1



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
15/08/96	Parliamentary Enqu	US 3105/96	[]

Sent: 15/08/96 at 17:32
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 788
Subject: US 3105/96

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by **Section 40** (G7)

The attachment referred to in the draft will be walked down first thing Fri morning. A copy of the attachment is to be forwarded with the reply to the MP.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Aug 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3105/96

1. The constituent's letter to this Branch dated 23 July 1996 was answered on 12 August 1996, and I enclose a copy of our response. The reply set out the MOD's role and responsibilities in connection with "UFO" reports, and responded to **Section 40** specific query about an alleged incident involving an unknown craft "buzzing" the RAF Valley control tower. The RAF Valley CRO has confirmed that there is no record of such an incident having occurred.

2. I attach a draft response for USofS' consideration.

[original signed]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

MB8247 **Section 40**

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/3105/96

August 1996

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 1996 (ref: IWJ/2/96/36) addressed to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Beaumaris, Anglesey on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Section 40 should by now have received a letter from my officials in response to his queries, which was despatched on 12 August 1996. I attach a copy of the reply for your information.

I hope the reply answers any queries you may have in this connection.

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

THE EARL HOWE

Enc.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Aug 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3105/96

1. The constituent's letter to this Branch dated 23 July 1996 was answered on 12 August 1996, and I enclose a copy of our response. The reply set out the MOD's role and responsibilities in connection with "UFO" reports, and responded to **Section 40** [REDACTED] specific query about an alleged incident involving an unknown craft "buzzing" the RAF Valley control tower. The RAF Valley CRO has confirmed that there is no record of such an incident having occurred.

2. I attach a draft response for USofS' consideration.

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Sec(AS)2

MB8247 **Section 40** [REDACTED]

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofs/3105/96

August 1996

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I hope the reply answers any queries you may have in this connection.

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

THE EARL HOWE

Enc.



From: **Section 40** Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
 (Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
 (Fax) **Section 40**

Section 40

Beaumaris
 Anglesey
 GWYNEDD

Your reference

Our reference
 D/Sec(AS)/64/3
 Date
 12 August 1996

Dear **Section 40**

1. Thank you for your letter of 23 July 1996 on the subject of "UFO" sightings. This office is the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence of this nature.
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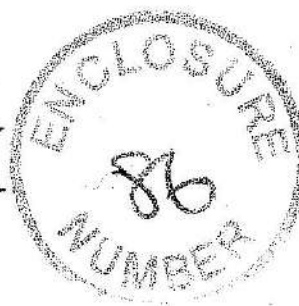
Yours sincerely,

Section 40





PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY



FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2A

PE REF NUMBER: US 3105 /96

MINISTER REPLYING: US 075

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 23 / 8 /96

DATE: 14/8/96 FROM: Section 40

PE Unit TEL: Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies.

Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Opening and closing All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about"

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start: "Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James

Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

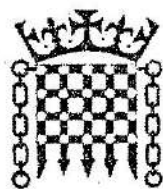
Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply.

Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40 PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

USJF.
Sec (AS)
WFO's.

Our ref: IWJ/2/96/36

9 August 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Secretary of State for Defence
The Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose, for ease of reference, a copy of a letter sent by Section 40
Section 40 Beaumaris, to your
Department regarding alleged UFO sightings in Anglesey.

I would be pleased if you could let me have your response to
the points made by Section 40

Yours sincerely

Section 40

RP IEUAN WYN JONES
MP for Ynys Môn

Section 40

Beaumaris
Anglesey
23 July 1996

Dept Head,
Sec(AS)2a
MOD

Dear Sir,

I have recently been informed by an extremely reliable source of there having been at least one UFO incident at RAF Valley in the last twelve months.

On one such occasion, two RAF tornadoes were scrambled from another RAF base and took some time to reach Anglesey (apparently this was slightly embarrassing for the RAF). The planes were scrambled in response to the Valley control tower being buzzed by a craft of unknown design and origin. The person on the control tower was apparently very distressed by the incident.

My source also informed me that several other RAF bases up and down the country had experienced similar incidents.

As you may be aware, these types of incident are not unprecedented. For example, the recently released UFO briefing document funded by the Rockefeller Institute in New York makes reference to several bold incursions in 1975 over military airfields such as Malstrom AFB in Montana USA.

I am a member of The Global UFO Network and would be extremely grateful if you could furnish me with an official report on the incident(s) at RAF Valley for publication in the local newspaper and the Global UFO Network's own newsletter. In the interest of anonymity, please do not publish the names of the people involved in the incident.

In return, I would like to offer RAF Valley my services as a civilian adviser / scientist in the event of these incidents reoccurring.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Telephone No Section 40 office hours)

DEFENCE**Plutonium**

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US-UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the impact of (a) his policies and (b) the work of his Department in helping small businesses in the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors the impact and the statistical results of such monitoring. [39141]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the form of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

My Department supports the DTI's small business measures and initiatives. I am the Minister within this Department for small businesses and I attend or am represented at the DTI's regular meetings.

The Defence Suppliers Service assists companies, including small businesses, in making contact with appropriate contracts branches. It also arranges for details of many forthcoming tenders to be published in the fortnightly MOD *Contracts Bulletin* which is available to any interested party on subscription. This enables small businesses either to seek to tender directly for specific requirements or, more commonly, to become sub-contractors to larger companies.

Since the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence moved to the new procurement headquarters at Abbey Wood near Bristol earlier this year, the Defence Suppliers Service is in contact with the Bristol chamber of commerce and DTI's business links, whose South-west regional supply network office has become their national focal point for the defence industry. Other areas of the country can reach my Department, and be reached by us, through the business links network.

As much of the assistance provided by my Department to small businesses tends to be in the sub-contractor sector, it is not possible to establish suitable performance parameters and therefore no statistics are available.

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt

relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled and (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

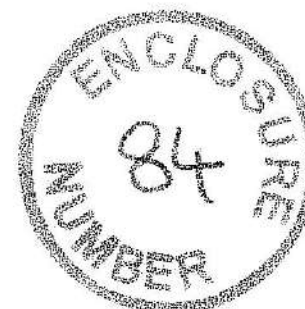
Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996-97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: Martin Redmond(Labour)(Don Valley)

PQ REFERENCE: 1988H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 1200 Tuesday 23 July 1996
(Extended to 1600)

QUESTION: To ask the S of S for Defence, on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER:

In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom Air Defence Region.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Signed Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23/07

Sec(AS)2ab Signed Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23/07

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AOAD1
DI55

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 1988H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess.

2. Prior to the demise of the Soviet Union in December 1991, RAF aircraft were regularly scrambled to intercept and investigate uncorrelated radar tracks penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. These were frequently identified as Soviet aircraft. The two occasions referred to in the answer involved Russian aircraft connected with the NATO Exercise NORTH STAR. Since September 1991 there have been no such incidents. Aircraft have, however, been tasked with intercepting aircraft since that date but their identity has been known and they are not therefore included in the answer.

3. Since Mr Redmond has not specified a timescale in his question, we have provided figures covering the last five years.

* Possibly
Observing
Ex North Star
not participating in it



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

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APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40

Tel: Section 40 Date

Sec(AS)2ab

Section 40

Tel: Section 40 Date

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
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Possibly observing not participating in it.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

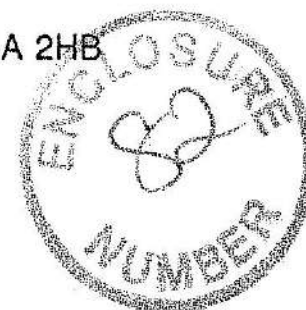
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)

0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

file
Sec (AS) 2



D/US of S/FH 2569/96/A

25th July 1996

Dear Mr. Hughes.

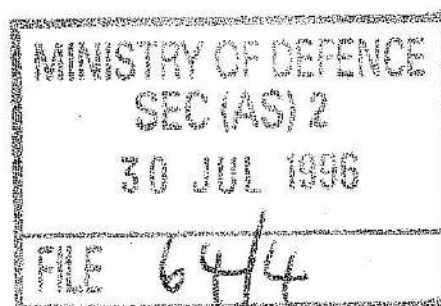
Thank you for your letter of 8 July to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** Newport, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are aware **Section 40** has recently been in contact with my officials and has been advised of the Ministry of Defence's role and responsibilities in respect of reports of "unidentified flying objects". Following my official's letter of 28 May which **Section 40** copied to you, he wrote again on 8 June. He will by now have received a reply, dated 20 June, providing further clarification of the Department's interest in this subject. Nevertheless, it would perhaps be helpful if I took this opportunity to explain the Department's role concerning "UFO" sightings.

I can assure **Section 40** that we take our responsibilities for ensuring the effective defence of this country very seriously indeed. The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, as my officials have explained to **Section 40** unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

As we make no attempt to investigate sightings for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each

Roy Hughes Esq DL MP



Recycled Paper



year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the Ministry of Defence to provide a general aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Finally, there is no question that the Ministry of Defence would seek to cover-up any information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects". The Department remains open-minded about the existence of extraterrestrial life, but to date we know of no evidence which proves that this phenomenon exists.

I hope this explains our specific role and responsibilities in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE



Recycled Paper



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)

0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

File
Sec (AS)



D/US of S/FH 2530/96/A

25th July 1996

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for your letter of 5 July enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** [redacted] Leatherhead, about Government interest in the "UFO" phenomenon.

As **Section 40** [redacted] is aware, my Department looks into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance, namely is there any evidence to indicate that the UK Air Defence Region may have been compromised? If there is no evidence in a sighting to suggest a matter of defence concern, and to date no "UFO sighting" reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We believe, however, that rational explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to such matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. We are not aware of any other Government Department conducting research into the "UFO" phenomenon.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours faithfully,
Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker CH MP



Recycled Paper



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1994H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5th November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North Sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement. [39245]

at many times the speed of sound. Such an aircraft could only be 'black', and it would be expensive.

The role of Groom Lake as a secret airbase began in 1954. The CIA gave the giant Lockheed Aircraft Corporation the contract – and this land in the middle of nowhere – to develop a spy plane capable of greater altitudes than anything then available. In 1984 another 89,000 acres was grabbed by the government, and there was a further attempt to expand in 1993. Access to the base is strictly forbidden. There are warning signs everywhere, some featuring the threat 'Use of deadly force authorised'. It is still possible to see into the base from three local vantage points – White Sides Mountain, Freedom Ridge and Tikaboo Peak. Local computer programmer Glenn Campbell, from Rachel, a nearby hamlet, has compiled a visitors' guide, complete with information on how to evade security patrols – the 'Cammie Dudes' – and even what to do if you're caught.

Sightseers regularly witness mysterious lights over Area 51 at night and are regularly watched by military personnel in unmarked black helicopters. It was in 1989 that the lights and rumblings often associated with UFO sightings were noticed for the first time. Witnesses reported hearing a pulsing noise and seeing ringed contrails, which gave rise to speculation that a radical new type of engine called Pulsed Detonation was in use. It is in the S-4 section of Area 51, 10–15 miles south of Groom Lake, beside Papoose Dry Lake, that engineer Bob Lazar claims he worked in the late 1980s on reverse-engineering and testing alien craft. It is impossible to prove that Lazar is telling the truth, but on the other hand, it is impossible to prove he isn't.

There is some evidence that Aurora, if it exists, has been operating over Britain. A report sent to the Ministry of Defence tells of two men out walking at Calvine, a remote area twenty miles north of Pirllochry near Blair Atholl in Tayside. It was 4 August 1990. The two men became aware of a low humming

sound and turned to see a large diamond-shaped object which hovered for about ten minutes before flying off vertically at great speed. What was really intriguing was that a Harrier jet also made a number of low-level passes, as if the pilot had seen the object as well and was homing in for a closer look. One of the men on the ground had a camera and sent the photographs he took to both the ministry and the *Scottish Daily Record*. The Harrier remains untraced; the object unidentified. I kept a blow-up of one of his photographs on my office wall until one day my Head of Division noticed it and took it away.

Expert analysis had revealed that the photographs were not fakes, but neither the experts nor I accepted the Aurora theory. And even if it exists, it is most unlikely that Aurora could function in the way described in the encounter. It seemed to me to be the perfect way for UFO sceptics to explain away a difficult sighting. The Calvine report remains one of the most intriguing cases in the Ministry of Defence's files. The conclusions, however are depressingly familiar: object unexplained, case closed, no further action.

Calvine was not the only possible Aurora sighting. On 5 November 1990, a patrol of RAF Tornados was flying over the North Sea when they were overtaken at high speed by what the pilots could only describe as a large aircraft of some sort.

In 1991 came the most peculiar reports. The United States Geological Survey recorded on their earthquake-monitoring equipment a series of strange sonic booms. They were able to calculate from their data that an airborne object had been travelling at a speed of at least Mach 3. In other words, it was moving at three times the speed of sound, some 2,100mph. And it was heading for the Nellis Air Force Base in the middle of Area 51. At around the same time, an RAF air-traffic controller reported having tracked a target in the vicinity



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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PQ REFERENCE: 1988H
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MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

32|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on how many
 occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted
 from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar;
 and if he will make a statement. [39218]

DD A/c DEF - Gp. Cpt [Section 40]

1. We speak re. the above.
2. Grateful if you could indicate whether we can
 provide information on the number of 'uncorrelated
 targets' over the last 5 years.

[Section 40]

22/7/96

X [Section 40]

F4X
[Section 40]

2 by RAF.

There were 8 interceptions of Russian aircraft which penetrated the UKADZ between Jul and Sep 91, mainly associated with the NATO ^{maritime} exercise ~~exercise~~ North Star. Some of these ~~Tomado FS,~~ aircraft were intercepted by RAF ~~aircraft~~, others by Sea Harrier of HMS Invincible, F14s from USS America and by Norwegian forces.

There have been no interceptions of Russian aircraft since Sep 91, after their described for the Adm Kutnetsov passage.

From: AOADI. Gp Cpt

Section 40

23/7/96

Section 40

*arrived after on last
left yesterday.*

Mon 22 Jul, 1996 17:54 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
22/07/96	AOAD1	PQ	[]

Intended:

Sent: 22/07/96 at 16:41

Delivered: 22/07/96 at 16:46

To: SEC(AS)2B

CC:

Ref: 494

From: AOAD1

Auth by:

Subject: PQ

Text: Please find attached CHOTS copy of Redmond question on AD interceptions.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge []Attachments [2]
Codes []

Sent: 22/07/96 at 15:26

Delivered: 22/07/96 at 15:26

To: AOAD1

CC:

Ref: 229

From: GE1

Subject: PQ

Text: Please find attached a draft reply to the PQ - If we include reference to the Customs and Excise dimension, I believe that it should be classified CONFIDENTIAL

Priority: Urgent

Page 1 of

D/DAO/9/3



Jul 96

AOAD1

RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 1988H

'To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement'.

Draft Answer

- Over the past 5 years, there have been no occasions when aircraft have either been scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar.

PO 1988H - Background Note

- Prior to the demise of the Former Soviet Union, aircraft were scrambled some 200 times annually to intercept and investigate uncorrelated tracks penetrating the UK Air defence Region (UKADR) from the north; these invariably proved to be Anti-Submarine or Long Range Reconnaissance aircraft of the then Soviet Air Force, some of which had already been intercepted and identified by adjacent Air Defence systems or intelligence sources. The last scramble of this kind took place in Sep 91.

- Aircraft are occasionally detected on radar in the air approaches to the UK which cannot be correlated against known flight plan information but which do not merit investigation by live-armed aircraft. These are obvious civilian light aircraft of no military significance transitting the southern area of the North Sea which have deviated slightly from either planned routes or times; such aircraft are identified through experience of track behaviour and/or by SSR interrogation and no further action is initiated.

- Aircraft have been scrambled on several occasions over the past 5 years although their missions were against known air activity such as:

- Aircraft flown off the Russian aircraft carrier Kutnetzov.
- Shadowing hijacked aircraft through UKADR.
- Assisting HM Customs and Excise in Sea Search.

- You may be aware that the UK Air Defence system has occasionally assisted HM Customs and Excise in monitoring activity in certain areas for limited periods to detect drug-running activities. The existence of this sensitive activity has never been publicised and, to date, has not resulted in any successful seizures of forbidden substances.

Response drafted by:

Wg Cdr
MB4227

Section 40

Section 40

ADGE 1, DAO,



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1989H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON TUESDAY 23
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MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a
statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to
his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in
the early hours of 31st March 1993. [39246]

— that whatever it was it was not, on that particular occasion, anyway, hostile.

Over and over again, I pondered the significance of the date. The odds against such a phenomenon occurring coincidentally on the same night three years apart are high. That suggests that the date was not random, but was deliberately chosen and planned. Furthermore, it was chosen by an intelligence fully familiar with human frailties. Newspaper reports of incidents occurring that night would run on 1 April, the day when every national and many provincial papers carry an April Fool story. Who was going to take these stories seriously? Predictably, only the UFO community ran articles and asked questions, and followed up as best they could. The public at large just smiled wryly over their breakfast cereal. Isn't this exactly the reaction an alien force might hope to achieve by capitalising on a time when the world is unreceptive, when everyone expects bizarre stories and dismisses them out of hand? It was absolutely the best date to choose to minimise the risk that any sightings might be taken seriously.

And something else rang bells for me, too. It wasn't just the date, the precise three-year gap since Belgium, it was that business of the Russian rocket re-entry. A similar re-entry had happened on the same night as another dramatic sighting. But it wasn't over Belgium. It was here, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, at a place called Rendlesham Forest.

Rendlesham lies between the Rivers Deben and Alde, a straggling tract of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest framed by the joint RAF/USAF airbase at Woodbridge and the neighbouring military base at Bentwaters, three miles away (curiously, a scene of UFO activity in 1956). Woodbridge was, in the days of the Cold War, one of the busiest airfields in the

OFFICIALS, CLOSED MINDS

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inspirer of prejudices, and opted instead for 'uncorrelated target' and 'unknown craft'. Government bureaucracies are sometimes accused of inventing jargon for the sake of it, but here I felt it was necessary, it paid off. The report was passed up the chain of command until it reached the assistant chief of the air staff himself.

Simultaneously, I contacted the American embassy and asked them whether an unusual prototype aircraft of American construction was operating over Britain and might explain the various sightings. There had been rumours for months in the corridors of power that an aircraft called Aurora, which would make the Stealth bomber look like a Sopwith Pup, was in production. There had been consistent denials everywhere, however. A high-tech, radar-evading craft capable of great speeds and manoeuvrability, the sort of machine Clint Eastwood flies in *Firefox*, belonged to fiction. Aurora, we were told, did not exist. The Americans were as nonplussed as we and the Belgians were by the sightings.

The assistant chief of the air staff noted my report – there was little else he could do. By now I had tried all possible lines of inquiry. There were no other avenues left.

So the official findings (mine) read: 'Type of craft – unknown; origin of craft – unknown; motive of occupants – unknown.' And, although it appears nowhere in the official documentation, I would have to add: 'Conclusion – unsatisfactory.'

The 30–31 March sightings brought about a marked change in my own attitude. I would play no further part in bland platitudes about UFOs being 'of no defence significance'. I sensed that some of my colleagues thought UFOs were only of defence significance if they aimed laser beams at cities. But any craft, conventional or otherwise, that can do what that triangle did is of *extreme* defence significance in itself. Our radar couldn't trace it, our jets wouldn't be able to catch it. We can all thank our God – or our lucky stars

would it be seen flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest, because the debris didn't come down anywhere near Britain; neither can a piece of even the smallest space debris hover – it falls with the speed dictated by gravity.

I took an unprecedented step and ordered a number of radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. As these tapes are usually wiped for reuse, it was important to work fast. There were a few returns which fitted the times and locations when sightings were made and after several hours of scouring the standard VHS videos I could isolate and identify these. At first, the results were disappointing. The blips faded in and out all night, like ghosts in the morning light. RAF radar experts explained these conventionally enough. Ground clutter, they said, tall trees picked up now and again around one particular radar head. But the frustration turned to fear: there were too many visual sightings, and the reports were from witnesses too trustworthy to ignore. Whatever it was that zigzagged Britain on 30 and 31 March 1993, that probed our fields and raced our cars, it was not picked up by radar. And consequently, with no radar track to set the procedure in motion, we hadn't even got our aircraft into the air. Was this the same triangle that had been seen over Belgium three years earlier? And could it now evade radar altogether?

Over the coming weeks I tried to find an explanation, but every avenue led nowhere. Whatever it was had come and gone. It was time to take the whole problem 'upstairs'. Frankly, I didn't hold out much hope that my bosses would listen. As I have said, my hands-on approach and my firm views that we were facing in UFOs a genuine phenomenon that needed serious and urgent research had not met with popularity in Secretariat (Air Staff). Subtlety was the key word, I felt. I drew up a carefully constructed report of the 30–31 March sightings and sent it to my head of division. I deliberately avoided the emotive word 'UFO',

something in the fields and hedgerows. The sighting was not a second's glimpse, but lasted for five minutes, long enough for the witness to estimate the size of the craft to be about that of a Jumbo jet. But as he and I knew, Jumbo jets don't hover and they don't scan the countryside with searchlights. He heard the same low frequency hum the family from Rugeley had heard.

What could I say to this man? He was a trained observer, considerably more familiar with the night sky than I was. A patronising lecture on aircraft lights seen from unusual angles seemed wholly out of place. On the phone I agreed with him that there was only one conclusion: whatever he had seen was unknown. What I didn't discuss with him was the fear I felt at his description of that probing beam searching the fields. It implied intelligent occupants of the craft, and it also implied that they might be searching for what is usually in the fields on a mild, spring night – cattle.

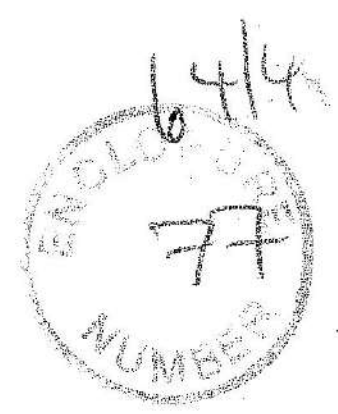
I carried out my usual checks, looking for the explicable, hunting for the mundane. I needed to cover my own back, to be ready for the media deluge. What were the ministry's answers? There was no unusual civil or military aircraft activity that night that came remotely close to fitting anything that had been seen. There were no weather balloons in the area of the densest sightings and no unusual planetary activity, said the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Then RAF Fylingdales came up with something. It confirmed that debris from a Russian rocket, Cosmos 2238, had re-entered Earth's atmosphere that night and might just have been visible from the United Kingdom. So that was it, the doubters said, orthodox science had triumphed again. But of course, it hadn't. A piece of re-entering space debris would burn up, like a meteor, and produce a flaming trail which would last only seconds. This couldn't account for the five-minute sighting from RAF Shawbury or the low hum heard there and in Rugeley; neither

An important report came in from a military patrol guarding RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. This was dynamite. An unidentified craft in any British airspace was threatening enough, but over a high security military establishment? There was better to come. One of the sightings in Wales was from a man with vast experience of aviation and mathematics. He had watched the object flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire and had timed its passage between two points on the shoreline whose distance from each other he knew. From that information he was able to calculate its speed at that point to be about 1,100mph an hour – the same, at that moment at least – as the top speed of an F-16.

In Rugeley, Staffordshire, five members of the same family saw a huge diamond-shaped object flying steadily over their heads. They estimated its height at less than 300m and the diameter of the craft was about 200m. They also reported a low, humming sound of the frequency you'd experience standing in front of the speakers at a pop concert, feeling the sound waves passing through your body. It wasn't pleasant, but they decided to jump in the car and follow it anyway. Either they lost the UFO, or it lost them; either way, the chase was unsuccessful. They thought it was going to land in a field beyond the road because it was flying so low. They screeched to a halt by the gate, but when they clambered out, the craft had gone. They saw nothing after that. They were disappointed, but perhaps they had had a lucky escape.

Perhaps the most interesting report came from RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, to the north of Shrewsbury. The meteorological officer there saw the most astonishing sight of that whole amazing night. An object in the sky, at first stationary, moved erratically towards him at a speed of several hundred miles an hour. At one point it fired a beam of light at the ground, which swept the countryside from left to right, as though it were looking for



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1987H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

37|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4th August 1990; who removed it from an office in Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

at many times the speed of sound. Such an aircraft could only be 'black', and it would be expensive.

The role of Groom Lake as a secret airbase began in 1954. The CIA gave the giant Lockheed Aircraft Corporation the contract – and this land in the middle of nowhere – to develop a spy plane capable of greater altitudes than anything then available. In 1984 another 89,000 acres was grabbed by the government, and there was a further attempt to expand in 1993. Access to the base is strictly forbidden. There are warning signs everywhere, some featuring the threat 'Use of deadly force authorised'. It is still possible to see into the base from three local vantage points – White Sides Mountain, Freedom Ridge and Tikaboo Peak. Local computer programmer Glenn Campbell, from Rachel, a nearby hamlet, has compiled a visitors' guide, complete with information on how to evade security patrols – the 'Cammo Dudes' – and even what to do if you're caught.

Sightseers regularly witness mysterious lights over Area 51 at night and are regularly watched by military personnel in unmarked black helicopters. It was in 1989 that the lights and rumblings often associated with UFO sightings were noticed for the first time. Witnesses reported hearing a pulsing noise and seeing ringed contrails, which gave rise to speculation that a radical new type of engine called Pulsed Detonation was in use. It is in the S-4 section of Area 51, 10–15 miles south of Groom Lake, beside Papoose Dry Lake, that engineer Bob Lazar claims he worked in the late 1980s on reverse-engineering and testing alien craft. It is impossible to prove that Lazar is telling the truth, but on the other hand, it is impossible to prove he isn't.

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sound and turned to see a large diamond-shaped object which hovered for about ten minutes before flying off vertically at great speed. What was really intriguing was that a Harrier jet also made a number of low-level passes, as if the pilot had seen the object as well and was homing in for a closer look. One of the men on the ground had a camera and sent the photographs he took to both the ministry and the *Scottish Daily Record*. The Harrier remains untraced; the object unidentified. I kept a blow-up of one of his photographs on my office wall until one day my Head of Division noticed it and took it away.

Expert analysis had revealed that the photographs were not fakes, but neither the experts nor I accepted the Aurora theory. And even if it exists, it is most unlikely that Aurora could function in the way described in the encounter. It seemed to me to be the perfect way for UFO sceptics to explain away a difficult sighting. The Calvine report remains one of the most intriguing cases in the Ministry of Defence's files. The conclusions, however are depressingly familiar: object unexplained, case closed, no further action.

Calvine was not the only possible Aurora sighting. On 5 November 1990, a patrol of RAF Tornados was flying over the North Sea when they were overtaken at high speed by what the pilots could only describe as a large aircraft of some sort.

In 1991 came the most peculiar reports. The United States Geological Survey recorded on their earthquake-monitoring equipment a series of strange sonic booms. They were able to calculate from their data that an airborne object had been travelling at a speed of at least Mach 3. In other words, it was moving at three times the speed of sound, some 2,100mph. And it was heading for the Nellis Air Force Base in the middle of Area 51. At around the same time, an RAF air-traffic controller reported having tracked a target in the vicinity

File 64/4
ENCLOSURE
76
NUMBER**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1985H & 1986H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: [1985H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement.

QUESTION: [1986H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt detailing events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: ~~All~~ The ~~evidence~~ reported was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40

Tel

Section 40

Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab

Section 40

Tel

Section 40

Date 23.7.96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS

DPR(RAF)

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BACKGROUND - PQs 1985H & 1986H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess, two of which follow up earlier answers he received about an alleged "UFO" incident which occurred outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 (Hansard extracts attached).

2. The alleged incidents to which Mr Redmond refers occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

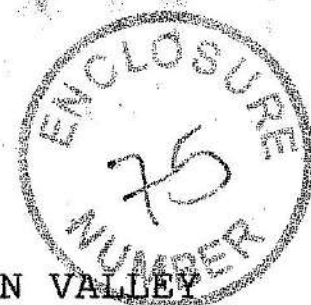
3. Our line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. The only documents on the subject held by the Department are the report itself, limited official comments on the report, and correspondence from members of the public enquiring about the alleged events. The wording of the draft reply is in line with that used in responses to previous Parliamentary Enquiries on the subject (see attached).

5. There is no requirement for the Department to contact or reply to a witness following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have

been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and it was necessary to interview him further. As this was not the case no response was appropriate or necessary.

file

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1989H, 1994H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: [1989H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31st March 1993.

QUESTION: [1994H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5th November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North Sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER:

Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40

Tel: Section 40 Date 23.7.96

Section 40

Sec(AS)2ab

Tel: Section 40 Date:

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS

DPR(RAF)

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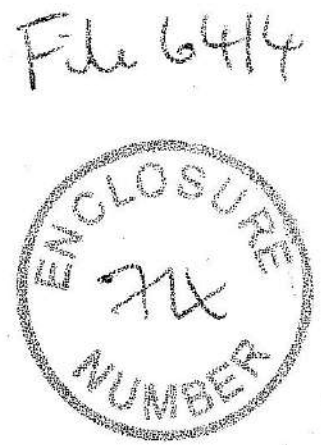
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BACKGROUND PQs 1989H, 1994H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess. The two incidents to which he refers are specifically cited in this publication.

2. The sighting on 31 March 1993 was one of a number reported from the West Country and South Wales that day. These were examined in the usual manner and included a check with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities, which revealed nothing. The report by Tornado aircrew on 5 November 1990 suggested that they may have seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1987H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4th August 1990; who removed it from an office in Secretariat(Air Staff)2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40

Tel:

Section 40

Date

23.7.96

Section 40

Sec(AS)2ab

Tel:

Section 40

Date

23/7/96

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BACKGROUND PQ 1987H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess. The incident to which he refers and the removal of a photograph of the "UFO" are specifically cited in this publication.

2. Details of the sighting and the associated photograph were examined by officials, including photographic experts, and revealed no evidence to indicate anything of defence significance.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1994H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)

COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

35|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5th November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North Sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement. [39245]