

Science, Secrecy, and Ufology

By Richard M. Dolan

Few UFO books have made quite as legitimate a splash as Richard M. Dolan's *UFOs and the National Security State*. Filled with historical data, it serves as a resource for his ongoing contributions to *UFO Magazine*, such as the following trenchant piece on the mechanisms of the UFO cover-up.

Secrecy permeates the UFO field. What does this mean for ufology as a science? Answer: the field cannot really be handled scientifically within the public domain. The great model is the Manhattan Project. When a project is undertaken at highly classified levels, you will find nothing of value about it within the mainstream. This was true during the development of the atomic bomb in the 1940s; it is true regarding UFOs.

Missing the Obvious

Some things are so obvious that they are invisible.

Segments of the intelligence community have been intensely interested in UFOs since the problem emerged after World War Two. Moreover, they have monitored and infiltrated the UFO field. Conversely, the "mainstream" (as opposed to "classified") scientific community has ignored UFOs altogether. Ask yourself a simple question: why this discrepancy?

What passes for ufology has spun its wheels for 50 years. Not only have even its most important researchers been unable to force recognition of the problem by official powers (not very surprising, after all), but some of these same researchers have not even taken a definite stand on what UFOs might represent. That is, they have been working without a hypothesis (!) and so in many cases have merely

piled up sighting after sighting for years and years, and then expected this pile of "evidence" to do the trick. But in any intellectual endeavor, piling up evidence is never enough. The researcher has to organize and analyze his findings through hypothesis or supposition. Without this effort, there is no research, only what Gore Vidal calls "scholarly squirreling" of data in a hole in a hollow tree. What can we say about such researchers, some of whom having been in the field for decades, or even in some cases, generations? What have they been doing?

A young innocent who wants to learn more about this topic—a subject of the utmost seriousness and importance—can easily become bewildered by the confusion. Should one side with Klass, Shaeffer and Korff, or Hynek, Ruppelt and Keyhoe, or Friedman or Randle? Does one follow the line of the conservative J. Allen Hynek Center of UFO Studies (CUFOS), the paranormal leanings of MUFON, or the coverup themes of *UFO Magazine*? On the Internet, should one haunt the tepid world of listserves like Project 1947 or UFO Updates, or dive right into John Greenwald's Black Vault?

Four centuries ago, Rene Descartes established a very simple principle of knowledge: one must create a strong skeleton—that is, a foundation of unquestionable facts—and build an edifice upon it.

So let us be Cartesian, and review the obvious.

Secrecy and the National Security Crowd

In 1946, a year before the great deluge of reports here in the states, Americans monitored "ghost rockets" over Europe. Two prominent American generals conferred with the Swedes, and censorship over the Swedish press followed. The Greek Army also investigated, according to Dr. Paul Santorini, a key scientist in the development of the atomic bomb. The Greeks concluded the objects were not Soviet, nor were they missiles. The American military then pressured them into silence.

In 1947, UFOs appeared over American skies in large numbers. Some incidents were quite serious, such as the repeated violation of air space over the Oak Ridge Nuclear Facility in Tennessee. Oak Ridge housed some of the most sophisticated technology in the world and was highly classified: one did not simply fly over such a place. Yet Army Intelligence and the FBI monitored dozens of intrusions over Oak Ridge well into the 1950s. Similar violations occurred over sensitive sites in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Hanford, Washington, and over many military bases. All of this was classified, of course. Americans knew nothing about them at the time.

In a classified memo, General Nathan Twining wrote of the possibility—based on the careful evaluation of military personnel—that "some of the objects are controlled." Controlled by who was the \$64,000 question, and America's national security establishment set out to answer it, far removed from the prying eyes of the public.

In 1949, an FBI memo stated that:

"Army intelligence has recently said that the matter of 'unidentified aircraft' or 'unidentified aerial phenomena' . . . is considered top secret by intelligence officers of both the Army and the Air Forces."

In 1950, Robert Sarbacher, a physicist with the DOD Research & Development Board, privately told Canadian official Wilbert Smith that UFOs were "the most highly classified subject in the U.S. government."

After an extraordinary UFO encounter near Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1951, Air Force officer Edward Ruppelt attended a two-hour meeting chaired by General Charles Cabell, the Director of Air Force Intelligence (and later Deputy CIA Director). The meeting was recorded, but the tape "was so hot that it was later destroyed. . . . To be conservative, it didn't exactly follow the tone of the official Air Force releases."

The CIA, meanwhile, had monitored the problem since at least 1948. After the UFO wave of 1952, the Agency sponsored the Robertson Panel, which convened in January 1953—the final weekend of the Truman presidency. The panel debunked UFOs, and its recommendations resulted in the gutting of Project Blue Book (already a public relations burden) and heightened surveillance of civilian UFO organizations.

Clearly, this was an issue considered to be of the utmost seriousness. As a result, it was not a topic that ordinary citizens could simply waltz into and get easy answers. Observe what happened to the most dangerous of all civilian organizations: the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). Founded in 1956 with the goal of ending UFO secrecy, it was quickly and secretly infiltrated by "ex-CIA" officers involved in CIA psychological warfare operations. The most important of them, Colonel Joseph Bryan, was the key player in the ouster of Director Donald Keyhoe in 1969. A succession of CIA men then ran NICAP into the ground. Need-

less to say, no one outside the Agency knew of their CIA connections.

One might complain this all took place a long time ago. Does the military still take UFOs seriously? Does the intelligence community still infiltrate UFO organizations? After all, if UFOs are still important, then intelligence operatives would presumably still need to monitor and influence the key organizations. Is there any reason to believe this is so?

In a word, yes. The military still encounters UFOs, as many reports continue to prove. Moreover, secrecy orders about UFOs remain in effect. In 1975, the late Senator

Barry Goldwater stated that UFOs were still classified "above Top Secret." As one of my Navy acquaintances recently said to me: "If I were to tell you what I knew about that subject, I would probably go to prison."

In the mid-1980s, UFO researcher William Moore admitted to working covertly with the intelligence world, to the shock and dismay of his colleagues. But stuff like this is surely the tip of a large iceberg. Ufology is dominated by men and women connected to the world of intelligence, usually through prior experience in the military or CIA. Why is this

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cessfully than were the Soviet authorities. Many times, it was they and not the Soviets who were the true target of secrecy—for instance, in such cases as the U-2 flyovers or mind control experiments.

Thus, the Manhattan Project possesses staggering historical importance for so many reasons, not the least of which is that it has served as a model ever since for conducting expensive and covert operations. Hiding the money, keeping the real talk classified, and steering the public discussion—all of these were successfully tackled by the national security world of the 1940s.

If it's important, it's probably secret. This was true during the development of the atomic bomb in the 1940s; it is almost certainly true regarding UFOs.

Implications

Those of us without a "need to know" about UFOs can still learn a few things. Enough information exists within the public realm that we can put many of the pieces together. It is, frankly, what I have tried to do in my recent study.

Do the math. For more than 50 years, millions of people have experienced a global phenomenon from agencies unknown, possessing what appears to be fantastic technology. We have on record hundreds of military UFO encounters and reports, with undoubted interest and infiltration by the intelligence world. Compound this with disturbingly strong claims of abduction (and even worse) on the part of these others, and you have powerful reasons for abject silence on the part of our erstwhile leaders.

The math is not higher calculus. No, it is simple addition, and when you add it up the conclusion is forced: this is a fundamentally covert event of awesome magnitude.

But we should not fool ourselves into thinking that we can "get to the bottom" of this. That is, as mere citizens of what some would call an oligarchic empire that masquerades

as a democracy, we are unlikely to get official confirmation regarding something as important as an alien presence. And even if we did get such "confirmation," could we truly depend on the accuracy and completeness of the information? I think you know the answer.

Knowledge may give us an edge in some way. Or, our situa-

tion may more closely match the American natives of 500 years ago. Either way, we on the outside are on our own where this phenomenon is concerned, and it behooves us to become as educated about it as we can. Otherwise, we experience our fate—for good or ill—in the dark.

—©Richard M. Dolan

*Having attended Oxford and the University of Rochester, Richard M. Dolan eventually gave up academia to become a business writer. In 1994 his interest in the UFO problem accelerated to the point where he spent most of the closing years of the century immersed in an overwhelming amount of UFO information. His chronology of relevant events turned into the critically acclaimed **UFOs and National Security State**.*

Leer mensaje

De: "Richard Dolan" [Añadir Libreta Direcciones](#)

Tema: Your Paper

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CC:

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Thank you for sending your paper, "The Principle of Cosmic Elusiveness" which I received today. I will make sure I take the time to review it, and will gladly give you my comments.

Meanwhile, you may feel free to look at my new Website, which is about the UFO Controversy in the United States (as well as discussing several world-wide events) at

<http://home.rochester.rr.com/keyholepublish>

I look forward to communicating with you again.

Sincerely,

Richard Dolan

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