

JW MADD

author William Steinman, Sarbacher wrote a provocative letter, "Relating to my own experiences regarding recovered flying saucers, I had no association with any of the people involved in the recovery and have no knowledge regarding the dates of the recoveries. . . . Dr. Vannevar Bush was definitely involved, and I think Dr. Robert Oppenheimer also. . . . I did receive some official reports when I was in my office at the Pentagon but all of them were left there as at the time we were never supposed to take them out of the office. . . . About the only thing I remember at this time is that certain materials reportedly have come from flying saucer crashes were extremely and very tough. I am sure our laboratories analyzed them very carefully. There were reports that instruments of people operating these machines were also of very light weight sufficient to withstand the tremendous deceleration acceleration associated with their machinery. I remember talking to some of the people at the office that I got the impression these 'aliens' were constructed like insects we have observed on earth. . . . I still do not believe the high order of classification has been given and the denial of the existence of these devices."

Author Good reported that in 1950 none other than the Secretary of State Gen. George C. Marshall admitted a friend that there had been at least three UFOs in the area that "proved disastrous for the occupants."

Another fascinating story involved the late co-author Jackie Gleason. According to Gleason's second wife Beverly McKittrick, he returned home visibly shaken one night in 1973. Gleason, who was known to have a great interest in UFOs, said his friend President Richard Nixon had arranged for him to visit Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, where he viewed the remains of small alien beings under tight security. This story was continued

by Warren, who said Gleason met with him in May 1966 to hear Warren's account of a UFO experience in the Florida Keys. During their conversation, Gleason related the non-aliens story and said the experience traumatized him. "You could tell that he was very sincere," said Warren. "He took the whole affair very seriously, and I could tell that he wanted to get the matter off his chest, and was why he was telling me all of this." Before his death in 1987, Gleason was asked about this incident but declined to comment, a most interesting circumstance, since it was an opportunity to refute the story if it was false.

Marilyn, and the UFOs

Even more bizarre story concerned a UFO connection between President John F. Kennedy and Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe—for years the subject of rumors linking the two actresses romantically with both John and Robert Kennedy.

In 1994, Los Angeles private investigator Milo Radford, who wrote three books about Monroe's controversial death, obtained a poorly reproduced copy of what is said to be a CIA report dated August 3, 1962—just days before the actress died of a reported drug overdose. The report stated that, through a telephone wiretap, he had listened in on a conversation between the actress and reporter Dorothy Kilgallen and a close friend of hers, Marilyn Wood. The friend talked about a breakup between Wood and the Kennedys and said the actress was having parties hosted by Hollywood's "inner circle," and she was threatening to hold a press conference and reveal "secrets" she had learned from both John and Robert Kennedy.

According to the report, these secrets included her

knowledge of "bases" in Cuba—perhaps a reference to Soviet missile sites that led to the crisis a few months later—and Kennedy's plans to kill Fidel Castro.

But the first listed "secret" was a "visit by the President at a secret air base for the purpose of inspecting it from outer space." Kilgallen did not seem shocked by this statement. In fact, according to the CIA report, she replied that she might know the source of such a visit: a crash in New Mexico in the late 1940s. She stated that in the mid-1950s, she had learned from a British government official about a secret effort to identify the origins of crashed spacecraft and dead bodies.

Spiriglio, a court-certified document expert, declined to reveal the name of the person who provided the report, saying that at least two federal agencies were investigating the matter, although no official word has been forthcoming. But he added that several ex-CIA contacts had reviewed the document's contents. "It appears to be a summary designed to be transferred to other agencies," commented researcher Vic Golubic, who investigated the document for more than a year and still could neither confirm nor deny its authenticity. "I have checked with many people and 50 percent say it's authentic and 50 percent say it's not. Either it's a very clever hoax or it's legitimate."

The document appeared to be signed by none other than James Angleton, former chief of CIA counterintelligence. Adding to suspicions about the document's legitimacy was a reference to Project Moon Dust and a smudged imprint at the bottom that appeared to read "MJ-12."

However, there is some intriguing support for the notion that the story might be true. First is an article by Dorothy Kilgallen published in 1955. Under the headline "Flying Saucer Wreckage Assures Britons of Reality," she wrote, "I can report Sunday on a story which is positively

not to mention chilling. British scientists and air-traffic controllers, after examining the wreckage of one mysterious flying saucer, are convinced that these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions, but are actually flying saucers that originate on another planet. The source of my information is a British official of cabinet rank who insists to remain unidentified. 'We believe, on the basis of our inquiries thus far, that the saucers were staffed by alien men—probably under four feet tall,' my informant says. 'It's frightening but there is no denying the flying saucers come from another planet.' This official quoted me as saying a flying ship of this type could not possibly have been constructed on Earth. The British government, I learned, is withholding an official report on the flying saucer examination at this time, possibly because it does not wish to frighten the public. In the United States, no such explanation has been advanced. But no responsible official of the U.S. Air Force has yet intimated that mysterious flying ships actually vaulted from outer space."

Considerable support for Kilgallen's story came during the same period, when British Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, commander in chief of RAF fighters during the Battle of Britain, told the *London Sunday Dispatch* knowledge, "I am convinced that these objects [UFOs] do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on earth. . . . I think that we must resist the tendency to assume that they all come from the same planet, or that they are actuated by similar motives. It might be that the saucers from one planet wished to help us in our evolution from the basis of a higher level to which they had attained. Another planet might send an expedition to ascertain what have been those terrible explosions which they have observed, and to prevent us from discommoding other

people besides ourselves by the new toys with which we are so light-heartedly playing. Other visitors might become bent solely on scientific discovery and might regard us with the dispassionate aloofness which we might regard insects found beneath an upturned stone."

Further support for high-level knowledge on UFO came from a former steward aboard *Air Force One* who told of a cryptic remark by President Kennedy. Bill Holden, who also served as loadmaster for *Air Force One*, traveled with Kennedy to Europe in the summer of 1964. He said a UFO conference in Bonn, Germany, prompted a discussion of the subject aboard the President's plane one morning.

Holden said he turned to Kennedy and asked, "What do you think about UFOs, Mr. President?" He said Kennedy became quite serious and thought for a moment before replying, "I'd like to tell the public about the situation, but my hands are tied."

Spurred on by such tantalizing bits of evidence, researchers even claimed that Kennedy's assassination was to prevent him from revealing the news of extraterrestrial visitation to the public.

Not only do these accounts appear to provide substantiation for the recovered saucers story, but the government letters make it plain that Project Aquarius is the subject of the telex that started the whole document controversy—actually exists.

When a researcher sent a Freedom of Information request to the National Security Agency (NSA), Dr. Chadwick, chief of information policy, responded, "I have been advised that Project Aquarius does not deal with unidentified aerial objects." Chadwick added, "Since we do not have any information on this subject, we cannot indicate in your letter that you will not be paying a \$15,000.00 fee to search for records pertaining to

Aquarius, this response completes our action on your request." Undaunted, the researcher inquired further and on April 15, 1986, received this intriguing reply from Julia Wezel, the NSA's director of policy: "The document located in response to your request as stated in your 7 March letter has been reviewed by the Agency as required by the FOIA and has been found to be currently and properly classified . . . and remains TOP SECRET. . . . The document is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. . . ." While confirming the absence of TOP SECRET Project Aquarius, the NSA gave no indication if it involved UFOs. Considering past government reliance on semantic ambiguity, some researchers believed the denial that the project concerned "unidentified aerial objects" left open the question of unidentified objects on the ground.

It was ironic that as the government's official line that UFOs simply don't exist hardened, such documentation as we have along with official reports and anecdotes increased both in quality and quantity. Something definitely was going on, but the public would not find out what through official government channels.