



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40 Yes

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)/12/3 ✓

Date

15 May 1985

Dear Mr Noyes

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 1985, addressed to Section 40 who, as I believe you now know, has left this division (now Sec(AS)). I am sorry that I have not been able to reply before now. Thank you also for sight of the extracts from your proposed book.

In his letter of 20 March 1984, Section 40 explained the MOD's position regarding Colonel Halt's reports on events near RAF Woodbridge in 1980, and I have little to add to the views expressed. I know from your letter that you are well aware of the limited extent of the MOD's interest in the subject. Nonetheless, there are, perhaps, one or two points which I should make. Firstly, whilst I cannot, of course, comment on the proportion of UFO sightings which are not reported, I can assure you that those which are reported to local police forces and to the Civil Aviation Authority should all be passed on to this division of the MOD. We treat all these reports seriously in case they show anything of defence interest. However, we have never found any reason to believe that, in the defence context, such reports warrant more detailed research. Equally, since our interest extends only as far as defence of the UK, there has never been any formal liaison with other Governments.

Turning to your specific questions about the Woodbridge incident, I can assure you that no unidentified object was seen on any radar recordings during the period in question, and that the MOD has no knowledge of the tape-recording or cine film you mention. As we have said in the past, the report sent by Colonel Halt was examined by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and since then there has been nothing to alter the view that there was no defence significance to the incident.

Yours sincerely

Section 40