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5 December 1985

Thank you for your letter requesting information on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Therefore, I am afraid we do not have a great deal of information available to send you. However, I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports together with a copy of the proforma we use to record reports, which you may be interested in.

I enclose details of 3 magazines which publish articles on UFOs and the address of the British UFO Research Association. I am not sure whether any of these will be able to help you but it might be worth writing to them. I am sorry that I cannot be of more assistance.

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