

ESD

Section 40

5 March 1986

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 1985; I am returning the stamped addressed envelope which you provided. . You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (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. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

On the specific question of the circles found in fields in southern England, I can confirm that the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop have submitted a report on one such occurrence at Clatford. A copy of this report is attached for your information. As you will see, no mention is made of a "white jelly" and I can assure you that to the best of our knowledge no such substance was found at the scene.