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Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a

Room Section 40

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Section 40

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16 April 1985

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 1985 addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence. We have looked into the sightings reported in your letter but have no records which would offer any explanation of what you saw. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organization 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. 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.

Yours sincerely

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