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Section 40

16 May 1986

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter in which you asked for the Department's views on the incident at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980.

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.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I recall you also asked when you telephoned me if I could give you the number of reports we have had of 'sightings'. During 1985 the Ministry of Defence received 160 reported sightings of aerial phenomena or 'UFO's', the majority of these being in the Welsh, Yorkshire and Thames Valley/London areas.

Up until the end of March this year we had received 39 reports. I trust that this information is of some use to you.

Yours sincerely