



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)/12/3 ✓

Date 10 July 1985

Dear

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Thank you for your letter of 4 June 1985, addressed to the Prime Minister, which has been passed to me for reply. I have also received your earlier letter to Sec(AS)2. Since the letters cover essentially the same subject, I will reply to them both here.

As you say in your letter to the Prime Minister, you are familiar with official policy on UFO matters. I can confirm that there have been no changes to this policy as a result of transfer of responsibility from DS8 to Sec(AS)2 and that the sole interest of the MOD is to establish whether reports have any bearing on the defence of the country. I should immediately point out that Sec(AS) is the only branch within MOD which is responsible for receiving reports of UFO's from both military and civilian sources (including the Police and CAA). The reports we receive are referred to those in the Department responsible for air defence of the UK in order to establish whether they hold any defence significance. As you mention, there has been no evidence to date which would suggest a defence interest. For this reason, and in view of our limited interest, we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. I can assure you that there is no question of "Top Secret research" being carried out.

With regard to your request for information on the number of reports received since 1959, I'm afraid we could not justify the time and effort involved in obtaining these figures for the years before 1978. However I attach figures which show the total number of reports received from all sources for each year from 1978 to 1984.

You also mention in your letter of 18 May the fact that you have obtained a number of Air Ministry reports from the Public Records Office. I am sure you will appreciate that I cannot go into the detailed arrangements for the disposal of our files. Nevertheless given the length of time since these documents must have been passed to the Air Ministry's archives (I assume before 1955), it is quite possible that some may have been retained prior to the setting up of the Ministry of Defence, even though we have no record of this.

Yours sincerely

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